

The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
OREGON CITY:
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1855.

Agents for the Argus.

J. B. McBRIDE, Lafayette.
C. A. REED, Salem.
MORGAN RUDOLPH, Sublimity.
Wm. BARLOW, Molalla.
H. C. RAYMOND, Forest Grove.
FRANK W. BROWN, Corvallis.
AMOS HARVEY, Plam Valley.
SOLOMON ALLEN, Amity.
J. E. LYLE, Dallas.
JOHN McKINNEY, Culapoina.
REV. WILSON BLAIN, Union Point.
L. A. RICE, Jacksonville.
H. HARRIS, Cincinnati.
JUDGE SMELLING, Yreka, Cal.
JNO. B. PRESTON, Will Co. Ill.
R. A. N. PHELPS, Galesburg, Ill.

Law Concerning Newspapers.

If subscribers order the discontinuance of their papers, the publisher may continue to send them until all arrears are paid.
If subscribers neglect or refuse to take their papers from the post office, or other place, to which they are sent, they are held responsible until they settle all arrears, should there be any.
If subscribers remove to other places, without informing the publisher, and the paper is sent to the former direction, they are held responsible.
It is not sufficient for a postmaster, when a paper is not taken out of his office, to return one with "not taken out" written on the margin, but he must write a letter to the publisher, giving the name and post-office, and stating that the paper is not taken from the office. Otherwise the postmaster is held responsible.

Indian Difficulties.

Little else is heard, and little else is sought after, just at this juncture, but news from the scenes of Indian difficulties. It is now as it always has been whenever there has been a popular excitement, creating a demand for news, we have an abundant supply. It seems impossible to overstock the market. No report, however insignificant, is started, but what it finds an abundance of impostors from multitudes of people, who, in their wild excitement are ready to "keep the ball rolling" until what at first may be only an insignificant atom, comes down upon us as an overwhelming avalanche.

That we are in the midst of a general war with the savages on our borders, we have abundant evidence to believe. And that there is now an offensive alliance of large numbers, from all the tribes, from the ocean on the southwest of our Territory, eastward, and northward to the British line, forming a continuous belt of watch fires encircling the settlements of Oregon and Washington Territories, we have good reason to believe. We also have reason to believe that the present alliance of these border tribes is the result of conferences, councils, and negotiations, that have been carried on for many months by means of runners and extraordinary messengers, who have visited the lodges of these several tribes in order to excite them to a general outbreak. That these runners have repeatedly visited, and are now visiting, all the Indians in this Valley, and endeavoring by promises and threats to induce them to go out and join in the war, and that all the Klickitats, with perhaps two or three exceptions, have already gone out and joined the enemy, we have abundant evidence of. But that there is any immediate danger of an attack upon the settlements of the Willamette Valley, as is feared by many, or that the Indians are already on their way hither, as has been reported, we do not believe.— Whether they entertain any such idea as being able to cut off all the whites in the country, we know not. If they are even emboldened to cross the Cascades, it must be by some remarkably successful stroke in the beginning of the war, which shall decide those who are yet vacillating, and result in a universal rising of all the tribes on the frontier. In such an event we are unable to say what force they could muster in the field. It would not probably exceed some four or five thousand warriors, unless the Snakes should become their allies, in which case their number could be easily doubled. It seems that by arrangements already made by the Governor we shall soon have a force of some nine hundred men in the field against the Klickitats and Yakimas, and about six hundred and fifty in the South to attend to the Rogue River and Shasta Indians. We feel quite confident that with this number of men, consisting mostly of volunteers, we shall be able to teach the red skins what they ought to have learned a long time ago. We sincerely hope that a lasting peace will be "conquered" this time, instead of being bought with a few blankets. Our policy, hitherto, with the Rogue River and Snake Indians has been such as to produce anything but respect for us, or fear of us. We have heard little else for the last five years from the Rogue river Indians than a series of outbreaks and petty depredations upon weak and defenseless individuals. We predicted in 1851, when we passed through Rogue river valley, and became conversant with their treacherous character, and the physical features of their country, affording every facility for hiding

from their pursuers, that the country could never be settled with safety, short of an extermination of the Indians who held it in possession. The history of the last four years and a half, much of which has been written in blood, we think has fully justified our convictions.

The war with these savages has broken out at an exceedingly favorable time. It is yet early enough, with prompt and decided action upon the part of the Executive, and a co-operation by the people, to get our forces upon the field, with a sufficient amount of provisions for the men and provender for the animals, before the setting in of winter, to enable our soldiers to make a comfortable and efficient winter's campaign. We expect the Indians to retreat speedily to their mountain fastnesses upon the approach of our men, or soon after they have started a little sulphur, at least. Nothing short of the snows in the mountains will probably drive them into the valleys, where we can engage them. If the winter should be hard, the Indians will be unable to bring their horses into the field. Our horses can be kept up by proper feeding so as to give us great advantage over them in this respect.

The Indians are in possession of horses, cattle, and other property enough, to pay the whole expenses of the war, and we think they will be compelled to foot the bill. We speak now of the Northern Indians. What amount of property the Southern Indians have, we know not. Every Indian should be treated as an enemy unless he furnish good proof to the contrary; and we should be willing to take no proof short of his assistance in prosecuting the war against our enemies.

In conclusion, we think it but an act of justice to Gov. CURRY to say that he has acted promptly in this matter, and ought to have the credit of having done his duty. We think he hits the nail on the head when, in his proclamation calling for Rogue river volunteers, he informs us that the war must be so prosecuted as to "secure indemnity for the past, and conquer a lasting peace for the future."

Mr. Brown, of this city, who left the Dalls on last Sunday, informs us that he saw Maj. Haller's command after their return from the fight. In conversation with the soldiers he learned the following particulars:

The ground upon which Maj. Haller kept the Indians at bay for some fifty hours, without water, was an elevation covered with scattering brush and timber. The Indians were all mounted, and kept charging and firing, as is the custom of Indians in battle all the time under rapid motion, and taking good care to keep at a respectable distance. The regulars found their mountain howitzer of great service, as by means of a good use of it they were enabled to frighten the savages badly. They had no correct idea of the number of Indians that fell upon the battle field, but think there could not have been less than forty or fifty. They saw a good many fall, which were immediately carried from the field. As they charged through the Indian lines, upon their retreat, they saw vast quantities of blood upon the ground, which gave evidence that some execution had been done. The Indians pursued the soldiers as long as they were in the timber, but as soon as they reached the open country the savages immediately abandoned the pursuit. The soldiers could give no correct idea of the number of Indians engaged, but said that the woods were swarming with them, and there must have been fifteen hundred at least.

Wonderful Disclosure.

The Standard informs us that the Indians in Oregon have driven such a brisk trade with the whites for guns and ammunition, for the last twelve months, that great difficulty is experienced by our volunteers in procuring arms. This may possibly be true, but we doubt it very much. The law imposes a fine of \$200 upon a white man for selling or giving an Indian a gun or even a load of powder. We have never known of an instance in which one of our citizens has violated the law, though some such may have occurred. But that the traffic has been carried on to the extent the Standard thinks it has, we cannot believe. The difficulty he speaks of in procuring guns is owing to the fact that many of our volunteers are young men who do not own guns. The heads of nearly all the families of the country keep guns, but at this particular crisis they are not willing to give up their only means of defense, provided the war should be transferred to their firesides. We believe all of our volunteers are now supplied with arms.

At the Dalls there are something over one hundred men (besides the troops) and about an equal number of women.— The settlers in middle Oregon are rapidly gathering in to the Dalls for fear of the Indians. Their effects are safely lodged in a blockhouse constructed on a hill, for purposes of safety.

The Clackamas Company

Of volunteers organized last Sunday by electing its officers, and started down to Portland on Monday. They are a fine looking body of men, and we have no doubt will give a good account of themselves in the day of battle. Annexed are the names of the officers and men:

James K. KELLY, Captain; Adolphus B. Hannah, 1st Lieutenant; Joseph A. Pownall, 2d Lieutenant; Samuel B. Stafford, 1st Sergeant; Casper D. Hinkle, 2d Sergeant; William Mitchell, 3d Sergeant; Almond Holcomb, 4th Sergeant; George Holmes, 1st Corporal; Charles W. Noble, 2d Corporal; Frederick C. Mack, 3d Corporal; Joseph Draper, 4th Corporal.

Privates—Joseph Dickens, E. L. Bradley, A. Kirk, T. H. Bell, J. Sweet, Edward Conner, G. N. Smith, B. F. Drakes, S. B. Price, C. P. Fleming, A. B. Church, A. Q. Church, W. E. Elliott, Joseph Slover, Wm. G. Moore, Alex. Strow, Homer McKinney, Henry Hawkins, Irving E. Gleason, Joseph Bull, Newton Buff, I. H. Stephens, Austin Hiett, Wm. Moreland, Lewis Hersey, John Tharber, Daniel Ford, Robertson Ford, T. H. B. Donaldson, J. B. Williams, Robert F. Rains, David Leutz, Isaac Greer, A. A. Thomas, Wm. Meullin, J. E. Taylor, Nelson McConnell, Leonard Hook, D. Telybeer, J. M. Fleming, R. M. Williams, G. W. C. F. Felton, Edmund Sheppard, John Huntley, Wm. Moffitt, James Donahoe, Wm. H. Williams, Wm. O. Flaherty, Jabex Huelat.

From Walla Walla.

Diek Harley, who was in company with Mr. McKinley, reached Oregon City night before last. He left McKinley at Ft. Walla Walla, where he purposed to remain a day before he came in. Harley in company with two other men came in from the Umatilla alone. He says they saw no Indians except a flock of along the road, and never heard of the war till they reached the Dalls. He saw a great many tents on the north side of the Columbia, and the probability is that the Cayuse warriors have all moved north over the river.

Startling.

It is reported that the Indians on Tillamook Bay, immediately west of this on the coast, have cut off nearly or quite the whole settlement. The houses are said to have been all burned and the inhabitants massacred. The appearance of these Indians has been suspicious for some time past.

Report says that a large body of Indians is camped at Summit prairie, about forty miles east of Foster's on the emigrant road. Very doubtful.

We hear that about two hundred Indians have crossed the mountains through the Santiam pass, and are now camped on the head waters of the Santiam. A company of men have gone out from Marion county to see whether this be true.

Suspicious.

We learn that one hundred and five pounds of powder were taken from a Catholic Priest a few days since at the Dalls.— The priest was on his way up to his mission establishment, and persisted in keeping the powder, as he intended it for the Spokans to hunt with. During the Cayuse war, one of these gentlemen was caught in the act of taking powder to the Indians. How happens it that whenever a war breaks out with the savages, the priests hasten down for a supply of powder? And how happens it, that amidst all the slaughter of white people, the catholic priests escape, as at the time of the Wallatpu massacre?

Philip Foster came into Oregon city on last Tuesday, considerably excited on account of the supposed danger of his location. He says the Indians are almost constantly passing to and fro upon the emigrant road leading past his house, through the Cascades. The traveling is done in the night, and mostly between bed time and day light. The Clackamas county volunteers started day before yesterday, intending to reach the Dalls by the wagon road across the mountains. They will stand a chance to catch a few Indians runners, if Mr. Foster is correct in his conjectures.

The Marion county Company of Mounted Volunteers, under the command of Captain BENNETT, passed through our city last Thursday morning, on their way to Portland. The Company numbered 79 men, and, like every thing else in Old Marion, is hard to beat. 395 "Injuns" would stand a poor chance against these men in an open field.

We have no room for much States news this week. The public mind is all engaged with the war news in Oregon just now. We have a correspondent in the army, and hope to keep our readers regularly posted up with the earliest news from the seat of war, whether it be of running or fighting, or even making "treaties."

The Mail steamer is due next Tuesday night.

Oregon City Indians.

It seems that whilst our citizens were met on last Monday night to take our internal Indian relations into consideration, the squaws were busy in replenishing their empty bottles with rum. The Indian liquor merchant must have taken in considerable change that night, as the savages laid in a good supply. At least on the night following the meeting, the red skins who are camped within a stone's throw of our domicile held a drunken jollification, which in the magnitude of its bluster, and in the seriousness of its character, out-Deviled any thing we have heard before. The whole of the fore part of the night was made hideous with the sound of angry words, and with the screams and moans of the miserable victims of drunken savage ferocity. One squaw was literally cut to pieces and gave up the ghost. At least so we were informed. Another one was dreadfully cut and mangled around the head and face.

These poor creatures, that so often suffer from violent hands in their drunken sprees, are generally slaves which have been stolen from other tribes. There has been a constant traffic kept up among the Oregon Indians, in slaves, consisting of women and children which have been stolen from other tribes. Nothing can exceed the cruelty with which these poor creatures are treated by their masters, especially in their drunken revels.

We have a law subjecting the man—(no we will take that back)—the creature, the incarnate Devil in human shape who furnishes these Indians with liquor, to the penalty of a heavy fine. In effect we might as well have a law imposing fines and imprisonments upon "the man in the moon." No body is able to find out who this mysterious "creature" is. Like the "Wandering Jew," he is every where, and nowhere. No one is able to ferret out his den, except the squaws. They all know exactly where to find him, and just how much change (or other commodity) it takes to constitute a *quid pro quo* for one bottle of grog. They not only procure their liquor from him, but have been his attentive scholars, and have taken lessons in the art of lying and deception until not a nod, a wink, or a look from them will serve as a guide to those who wish to find the liquor merchant. They give us abundant evidence on many nights of where the liquor goes to, but whence it comes, no man knoweth.

The citizens of the place are night after night deprived of their rest, our women and children lie quaking in their beds through fear, all caused by the demoniacal conduct of a perfect bedlam of some sixty or seventy drunken Indians, who have gathered in here from Klamath Lake for the purpose of begging, stealing, and getting drunk, and there is not power enough in Oregon City, now numbering over two hundred men, to devise a remedy. Some of these Indians are getting so smart that they have within the last few weeks drawn their knives and arrows in some of our citizens' houses, to frighten the women into giving them food.

Mr. Blanchard's wife, at Canemah, not long since, who was in child bed, and unable to rise, was ordered by an Indian to get and get him victuals, upon pain of being shot with an arrow which he stood pointing at her.— Now if, as some think, there is no danger from these Indians whilst they are sober, all will admit, we think, that while they are intoxicated any person is liable to fall a victim to their rage.— But even admitting that in their drunken revels that there is no danger of their hewing to pieces any body but their own squaws, does not humanity dictate that there should be a stop put to it? Besides, are we under no obligations to look after the peace and comfort of our wives and daughters, who amidst all the reports, gathering thick and fast, of Indian depredations are nearly distracted at the sound of hellish "revelry by night" which indicates that King Crochus has dethroned what little reason the savages have, and turned them into demons thirsting for each other's blood?

If the liquor cannot be removed from them we think it would not be a bad plan to remove them from the liquor, and send them back on Klamath to live on ants and snails, and drink river water, as they have been accustomed to.

Our vigilance committee would do well to look after this matter. If no clue can be got to the vendor of liquor, and if the Indians are to be permitted to remain the balance of their days, with as many more of their friends as choose to come, we can easily teach them, that after this they are to keep perfectly quiet during the night and let our citizens sleep.

The Yamhill company, consisting of over eighty volunteers, all mounted upon American horses, passed through Portland on last Wednesday. It is said to have been well armed, and to have made the most imposing appearance of any company in the regiment. The company from Washington county consisting of over one hundred men, has also started out.

Public Meeting.

The citizens of Oregon City convened on last Monday night in the Methodist meeting house, for the purpose of taking into consideration the necessity of looking after the peace and safety of the people, which are constantly threatened by drunken Indians in our midst. The meeting was large and highly respectable. A number of speeches were made, after which a committee was appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting.

In carrying out the sentiment of the resolutions reported by the committee, which were unanimously adopted, a vigilance committee consisting of nine persons was appointed to look after these matters, and an independent company of minute men was enrolled, whose duty it is to support the vigilance committee in their action, and do and perform all other acts which the safety of our citizens may require, as touching our Indian relations.

The following are the officers of the Washington company of mounted volunteers:

Thomas R. Cornelius, Captain; Hiram Willbur, 1st Lieutenant; Wm. H. Myers, 2d Lieut.; Richard S. Caldwell, 1st Sergeant; Geo. W. Ebbert, 2d Sergeant; John B. Hall, 3d Sergeant; John H. Smith, 4th Sergeant; Wm. Reeves, 1st Corporal; John M. Armstrong, 2d Corporal; J. Taylor McComas, 3d Corporal; Wm. T. Dayton, 4th Corporal.

This Company is recognized as Company (C) of the Oregon Mounted Volunteers.

The Yamhill Company arrived in Portland on Wednesday. The following is the list of officers:

Captain, A. J. Hembree; 1st Lieut., John Bible; 2d do., W. H. Wright; 1st Sergt., J. Post; 2d do., Albert Gates; 3d do., W. Ewing; 4th do., John Everetts; 1st Corporal, C. Stewart; 2d do., J. Maxwell; 3d do., A. Roberts; 4th do., J. G. Griffin.

Taking to the Brush.

We understand that the boys gathered in to *charivari* Mr. Luelline a few nights ago, as he (Luelline) had been lately married. The boys made such a "rumpus" that one or two families some three miles back of Milwaukie mistook the noise for the yells of savages, and thinking the Indians were attacking the settlements, they left their houses and took up their lodgings for the night in the brush.

We also learn that since that Mr. Luelline and consort have become so frightened with Indian stories that they have also slept one or two nights out in the brush.

Obituary.

We are truly pained to announce our fears that J. W. Sullivan, of San Francisco, California, the incomparably fast bookseller, departed this life just before the steamer left her wharf for Oregon. The time of his death will account for its not being noticed in the San Francisco papers. The only evidence we have of his death, is the fact that the never-before-failing bundle of nice exchanges from his establishment failed to come to hand by last steamer.

We are afraid there has been "foul play" somewhere, and we don't know whom to suspicion for poisoning him, unless it be Wells, Fargo & Co., the only competitors for speed and promptness that we know of his ever having had.

Mr. Durham's Saw Mill opposite Milwaukie, was burned to the ground a few days since. The men were burning a pile of rubbish near the mill, when the wind became sufficiently strong to carry the flames into the building.

Postponement of the Concert.

Prof. Newell requests us to state that on account of the present excitement growing out of the Indian war his concert will be indefinitely postponed.

New Paper.

We learn by the Yreka Union that Messrs. Taylor, T'Vault, and Blakely are to start a newspaper at Jacksonville, O. T., on next Thursday (Oct. 25.)

To CORRESPONDENTS.—"They ask if Sam's alive, Sir," next week.

"Hugo" ought to apply himself to Webster's Spelling Book for about six weeks before he undertakes to write for the press.— His ideas, like his orthography, seem to be mightily "mixed,"—as much so as machine poetry.

"So So or Cumtux" is refused. It contains some pungent truths, but comes so near "twitting upon facts" that we fear some might consider it "personal."

American Nomination for Governor in Ohio.

The American Party of Ohio met in Convention on the 9th of August, and nominated Gen. ALLEN TRIMBLE, of Highland county. Gen. Trimble was an early settler of Ohio, and has acted a prominent part in the politics of the State, but of late years has lived in retirement. He filled the office of Governor two terms, from 1824 to 1828.

Doctors Differ.

It will be seen by reference to the following, which we take from Congressional proceedings as reported in the Congressional Globe of January 26, 1855, that there seems to be a wide difference between the opinion of Joseph Lane, as reported in the following extract from a speech made by him upon the floor of Congress, and that of Mr. Palmer, in reference to the causes which have produced the former outbreaks among the Indians of Rogue River. After Lane gives the Rogue river Indians a particular setting down for all sorts of tricks, and treachery, and Mr. Edgerton cuts him short with the statement of Gen. Palmer, it is a little amusing to see Lane's ingenuity in dodging off to the Indians that murdered the Ward family. We thought it but just at this particular crisis of another difficulty with the "Rogue river," to publish the following in order that we may be guided a little for the future by the "lamp of experience." In order to be just, we shall let both lamps shine in upon this Rogue river corner, giving very different light as they do, but we shall leave our readers to judge which of them is to be regarded as the "true light." As to the causes which have produced the troubles with these Indians, Mr. Lane is certainly at issue with Mr. Palmer.

Mr. LANE. * * * I resorted to every possible means to preserve friendly relations with the Rogue River Indians, and to prevent the massacre of our people. But their character, like that of most all the warlike tribes, is full of deceit. They feign good words and friendly demeanor towards those they intend to destroy. Time and again I have heard them recount their adventures, as they longed around their camp-fires, telling of their secret tricks and cunning, how they surrounded their enemies in the gloom of night, and murdered them while they lay asleep; and men, too, with whom they had smoked in peace and enjoyed the evening previous. They have done wrong, and, for their wrong doing, they ought to be punished.

These Indians, I say, made peace with us in 1851. Then I undertook, at great trouble and expense, to return to them their women and children who had been captured by Major Kearny, who commanded the force which invaded their country. On that occasion I was a volunteer and served in the ranks. Captain Stuart was killed in the war. Mr. Kenry said that he would take the women and children to California with him and return them by steam to Oregon. After journeying about one hundred miles, this gallant officer became satisfied that his plan was impracticable; and, partly at my own expense, I took these women and children back to their own people. I watched over them, fed them, and prevented any infringement upon their rights. On their return peace was made—a peace which lasted until 1853, when they again got it into their heads to murder white people.— They never give warning of their fell intentions. Jumping into the unsuspecting and unprotected settlements, they murdered and burnt all they could lay their hands upon.

Mr. EDGERTON. Let me ask the gentleman from Oregon the character of Joel Palmer, the superintendent of Indian affairs in Oregon?

Mr. LANE. He is an honest, sensible, and good man; and the people of Oregon are a law-abiding, honest, and gallant people.

Mr. EDGERTON. I propose, with the consent of the gentleman and the House, to read what Mr. Palmer says in his last official report of Indian murders and depredations. [Cries of "Read!"]

Mr. EDGERTON. He writes as follows:— "From the frequent recurrence of similar atrocities against the Indians in southern and southwestern Oregon, the conviction is forced upon me, that a premeditated and combined effort, on the part of reckless and evil disposed whites, roaming through that country, has been, and continues to be made, to plunge the Government into another Indian war, and to carry out their favorite scheme of annihilating these Indians.

"These miscreants, regardless of age or sex, assault and slaughter these poor, weak, and defenseless Indians with impunity, as there are no means in the hands of the agents to prevent these outrages, or bring the perpetrators to justice.

"There are many well-disposed persons in that district whose sense of justice and humanity revolts at such inhuman scenes; but, through fear, or some other cause, they are silent. It is presumed that many unite and take part in these deeds of horror as means of self-preservation, their fears being wrought upon by reckless and lawless persons, lest the appearance of opposition to their conduct might subject them to a doom similar to that which befalls the Indian."

This gentleman frequently, in his reports, alludes to massacres, on the part of the whites, which would justify retaliation on the part of the Indians.

Mr. LANE. Mr. Palmer is a good man. In the extract which the gentleman has read, he refers to the Indians who live west of the Cascade mountains, and for the purchase of whose land I inquired of the chairman of Ways and Means, whether an appropriation had been made to satisfy them.

The Indians who massacred Ward's party live four hundred miles to the east; and I am of the opinion that Mr. Palmer has not seen them since he passed through their country on his way to Oregon. He, I know would be as ready as any other man, to turn out and inflict suitable punishment upon these Indians for that dreadful massacre.— These are the facts. Let them go before the country; that is all I ask.

The census of New York has been officially declared. Our whole population amounts to 624,179, being an increase, since 1850, of 108,684. This amount falls far below the expectations of our citizens and journals, some of which latter had predicted a footing up of at least 750,000.

The population of Minnesota is estimated at fifty-five thousand six hundred,