

THE PROPRIETOR OF THE ARGUS IS HAPPY to inform the public that he has just received a large stock of JOB TYPE and other new printing material, and will be in the speedy receipt of additions suited to all the requirements of the locality.

MOUNTAIN MUSINGS.

On lowland meads and marble domes, Still craves vernal gales; But never yet on mountain-top Was born or dwelt a slave.

The scholar hath a quiet look

Within his cloistered cell, He poreth o'er some goodly book, Till peals the vesper bell.

The trickling rill that cools your lips,

Soft flowing through the glen; Or else the spring that burst from rocks, Like beads from rugged men;

For the Argus.

Friend Adams—Do not be startled by the caption of this article.

The great questions brought to mind by the association of those two words should receive profound and serious attention. You may, however, feel some little surprise when you learn that "The Argus" has not breathed quite such a spirit on the slavery question as some of your readers had anticipated.

Oregon and Slavery.

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The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, Editor and Proprietor. AMERICA—Knows nought of golden promises of Kings—Knows nought of Coronets, and Stars, and Strings. VOL. 1. OREGON CITY, OREGON TERRITORY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1855. NO. 33.

olly. And the first effect of the introduction of the discussion will be to relieve THE ARGUS to some extent from the charge of undue coldness on this great question.

In favor of the agitation—yes, agitation—of this subject, it is urged that if the people can be set to thinking, and investigating the claims of slavery preparatory to the adoption of a State constitution, this is important.

But once again—this is the question, the great political issue now before the American people. Old parties are tearing up and replanking their platforms preparatory to the Presidential contest in '56, but amid all other jarring elements this one overrides every thing else, and stands out in bold relief as THE QUESTION.

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The foregoing letter was received some two weeks ago, but for want of time to attend to the difficulties presented by Mr. Blain we have laid it by till this moment; not that we expected to enter into a lengthy discussion exculpatory of ourself, for our time and space are too precious for a long article in self-defense, especially when ninety-nine out of a hundred of our readers will be ready to exonerate us from the charge before they read our reply.

But our paper "has not breathed quite such a spirit on the slavery question as some of our readers had anticipated" we became aware of some months since, by carefully perusing sundry letters from Bro. McKean.

Some of them have already shed rivers of tears over the danger of our soon pitching head first into such dreadful "objectionableness," as amalgamation, voting a colored ticket, and advocating a dissolution of the Union.

But we must confess that we have been taken somewhat by surprise by the foregoing letter from friend Blain. If he has any

just cause of complaint we have not been able to see it. In fact, we are left to infer just how far he would have us go in discussing the question.

Now we have not taken the time to look over our file to see whether a "paragraph" can be found taking up those precise propositions and arguing them at length, neither do we recollect to have seen a paragraph just of that sort in a single one of our exchange papers for the last seven months, although we have a large number of strong anti-slavery papers among our exchanges.

The next difficulty is, that we published an extract from Silas Wright's speech, denouncing sectional agitators, &c. Now it so happens that we took the extract, together with the "recommendation," from America's Own, one of the strongest anti-slavery papers in the Union, and America's Own used it as a club to rap Southern fire-eaters and South Carolina States Rights disunionists over the head with; and if in drawing his weapon in order to belabor them well, he gave Garrisonian fanatics a back lick, what harm was there in that!

The letter of Dr. Breckonridge was published during our absence. But upon looking it over carefully, we see nothing objectionable in it. It seems to have been written in a kind and conciliatory manner, and we are in the habit of publishing productions from the pens of all parties and all creeds occasionally, without taking the trouble to point out every thing in them that we do not endorse.

Mr. B. thinks that our news from Kansas is such as is contained in the N. Y. Herald, and is unfair. We hardly ever read the Herald, and are unable to say. But if the Herald gives pretty much such a version of matters in Kansas as we have given, it must have improved a great deal of late.

After burying them as well as circumstances would permit, we proceeded to the house of Mr. King, or rather where his house was, which we found burned to ashes, and where the most horrible spectacle of all awaited us.

Mr. B. and child we found in the well, her head downwards—the mother was stabbed to the heart—the knife entering the lower part of the left breast, and also in the back and back part of the head. She had apparently started to run with her child (an infant about ten months old) in her arms—was overtaken and pitched into the well.

Mr. B. was found in the house, literally cut to pieces. The left hand had two cuts, as though he had grasped a knife, and had it pulled out, cutting the hand to the bone.

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present limits, we close right here, by saying, our paper is open to discussion. We will always "hear" before we strike.

Indian Barbarities on White River. We ask our readers to peruse the following account of Indian barbarities on White River, in Washington Territory, as contained in a letter written by Capt. Hewitt to the Pioneer & Democrat, and then read the communication below signed "HUNTER," which we take from the Corvallis Statesman, and which was undoubtedly written by the editor of that sheet. It seems to contain a very full synopsis of the editor's positions, views, sympathies, and feelings, as heretofore set forth in editorials, forming a history of his "course" in reference to this Indian war since its commencement.

Who ought to have been "vigilant(e)ized" for provoking the Indians to commit the White River barbarities? Who ought to have been tied to a whipping post and "vigilant(e)ized" for instigating the fiendish deeds that were perpetrated last fall on Snake River? And will the Corvallis Statesman inform us whom his vigilante(e)ized committee should have sacrificed in order to appease the wrath of the Cayuses before they imbrued their hands in the blood of Whitman and his family?

After two day's hard work, we reached the house of Mr. Cox, which we found robbed—confirming our suspicions that greater mischief had been done to the settlements near the river. We then proceeded to Mr. Jones' place, where we found our worst fears more than realized. The house was burnt to ashes, and Mr. Jones (who was sick at the time) was burned in it.

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Portland people have just flash for being obliged to stay where they are so exposed to Indian depredations. I am perfectly astonished that men will talk so foolishly and simple about a few worthless Indians as those are in this valley.

I have been 25 years in and near Oregon, and for my life I cannot yet believe but the people are joking, they appear to put such confidence in every exaggerated story they hear. I feel sorry for the poor women who have been frightened by their cowardly husbands, and suffering abuses and tortures a thousand times worse than death, and of property destroyed by the flames; we say we ask those citizens who they relish the rebuke for not having "vigilant(e)ized" the men who have been "constantly abusing the Indians"!

Mr. Bush, one thing more I wish to say about the northern volunteer snap; I believe it to be unnecessary. Gov. Curry, I am sure, will be sorry he ever went up there. The regulars, with a few scouts, are all that was necessary to subdue the Indians who wished to war with the Americans.

My opinion is that 400 good men will whip and put to rout all the Indians within 200 miles of the Dalles to-day; time will correct me if wrong; and good management is required to make us as well off as when we chose this war.

Parkinson is just such a man as you say he is, only he will steal. The man who will take your course to put down the present excitement, deserves much credit, etc., etc.

Ferguson has got back all safe. I expect when the truth is found out, Maj. Haller's five men will come up some day driving the forty lost mules. A HUNTER. November 1, 1855.

Presbyterian Meetings. The Presbytery of the United Presbyterian Church of Oregon, held its Fall Meeting at Union Point, on the 3d and 4th days of October.

The meeting was full and the members manifested an active interest in the great work in which they are engaged. This Presbytery is wholly an Oregon organization—having no ecclesiastical connection with any other body of Christians. It adopts as the exhibition of its doctrinal sentiments the Westminster Standards, but embraces only a "Summary" of those doctrines in its "Manual of Doctrine and Discipline."

The following will give a tolerably correct idea of the present strength of this body: Congregations, 8; Ministers, 6; Members, 200; one Minister without charge—and another, David Thompson, is Principal of Union Academy, at Union Point.

The several Ministers are laboring, in connection with the Churches and Congregations as follows, viz: Willamette, Linn county, Samuel G. Irvine; Albany, do., John E. Hancock; Kendall's Bridge, do., Thos. S. Kendall; Union Point, do., Wilson Blain; Camp Creek, Lane county, James Worth; Mohawk, do., J. M. Dick.

Among the subjects of discussion before Presbytery, Slavery came in for a liberal share. On the subject, a paper was adopted, with entire unanimity, the argumentative part of which concluded with the strong declaration, that "the whole system proclaims itself to be earthly sensual, and devilish."

The following is the substance of the recommendations to the members of the Church, under the watch-care of Presbytery, which were appended to this report: 1. To extend their sympathies to all the victims of this system of relentless cruelty and oppression.

2. To pray for the oppressed—and also, for their intimated oppressors. 3. To direct all their influences in private intercourse with their fellow-men, to the suppression of this evil.

4. To improve, in public, every opportunity when mingling in the primary assemblies, as citizens, by word, or act—and when called upon, to exercise the elective franchise to elevate, if possible, to office, men who will not only oppose slavery extension—but Slavery's very existence.

Lieut. Maury on the Lava. Mr. Maury, having achieved a success so signal upon the sea, has left that unstable element, and turned the rays of his illuminating genius upon the land. As he has enlisted a strong corps of salt-water people to do his bidding, to watch the flying of the spray, and eye the set of the under-currents, and, as it were, to seize old Neptune by the foretop and make him tell all he does, and, by these little acts of violence, doing much for the world,—so he now proposes to set on the agricultural population, so that new ideas may be developed through its agency from the skies that water and the earth that yields. In short, it is a system of Meteorology for Farmers which the gallant Lieutenant intends to inaugurate. We wish him joy of the experiment—no being doubting that in this he will succeed as well as he has in everything else, though not, perhaps, in equal measure.

It is proposed that the charges of temperature, the occurrence of storms, the prevalence of rains, the extremity of drought, shall be closely observed by a corps of volunteer Meteorologists, whose plan of operations shall be a system of thorough cooperation. The idea is very similar to that pursued in the investigation of the phenomena of winds and currents. The parties who may undertake the task are invited to report to the Government, and for payment's sake, will each be furnished with a copy of the results—after results shall have been calculated. The discovery of new truths, the development of secrets that yet remain securely locked up, the wisdom which the farming population will be in a way to acquire, the safeguards that the tiller of the land will place about him and his,—are the inducements held out to enterprising men to undertake this work. Headquarters for these land observations, as well as those which are made upon the sea, will be fixed at Washington.

The theory of such a plan of operating is very plausible. But does it promise practical results? If we are to accept Mr. Maury's exposition, it does. He cites the well-established law of the progression of storms—showing that every storm that occurs has a beginning, and necessarily an end—a fact which nobody will dispute—and goes further, to demonstrate that the laws which effect the changes of the atmosphere are uniform and certain—that we may by dint of study, unravel the mysteries of Atmospheric Currents as well as those of Gulf Stream and bolts of heated waters, and that the farmers, when once apprised of the rate of progress of a storm, may reasonably expect to be an unvarying almanac in himself, and so predict the periods of the advent of the floods. Hence, the benefits to the crops, and through them to the farmer's pocket.

An office of the reception of Meteorological observations is in existence at Washington—having been established by Mr. Calhoun, during his Secretaryship in the War Department. It now receives the returns from the military stations of the Government. Upon the basis of this organization, Mr. Maury proposes to erect his superstructure. His plan is in the market for an airing. Farmers are respectfully invited to communicate freely, work cheerfully, and so make us and themselves wiser and better men.—Ez.

HOW MEMBERS ARE "GOT UP" FOR THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE.—A Mr. Purple, a member of the Nebraska Legislature, informed a gentleman at Chicago a short time since, something how members are gotten up in Nebraska. He said: "Cummings, the Secretary, said to me one morning, 'Purple, we want a member from Burt County.' So I hurried up and took nine fellows with me, and we started for the woods, and when we thought we had got far enough for Burt County, we unpacked our ballot-box and held an election, canvassed the vote, and it was astonishing to observe how great was the unanimity at the first election ever held in Burt County. Purple had every vote! So Purple was declared duly elected, and here I am!"—Ez.

Hon. Thomas G. Pratt, U. S. Senator, has written a letter in favor of a new Union party, to be composed of conservatives, whigs and democrats.