

# The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OREGON CITY:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1855.

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## 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 residence, 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.

## The Northern Indians.

"With sturdy papers discovered in the mission building, was a letter written by the priest, Pandozy, for Hamianca, the head chief of the Yakima tribe, addressed to the officer in command of the troops, a copy of which is communicated with this report. There was also found an account book kept by this priest, Pandozy, which is now in the custody of Maj. Rains. This book contains daily entries of Pandozy's transactions with the Indians, and clearly demonstrates the indisputable fact that he has furnished the Indians with large quantities of ammunition, and leaving it a matter of doubt whether gospel or gunpowder was his principal stock in trade. The priest had abandoned the mission, but it gave unmistakable evidence of being cared for, and attended to, during his absence, by some Yakima Indian missionaries."

The above, which we clip from Col. Nesmith's report to Gov. CURRY, fully bears us out in the position we took a month ago in reference to the connection of the Catholic priests in the Indian country with the present war. It will be recalled that at that time we stated several very strong circumstances which forced the conviction upon our mind, that these priests had another mission to accomplish among the Indians than that of preaching "peace on earth and good will to men." The fact that in this, as well as the Cayuse war, these priests have been detected in the very act of transporting large quantities of powder in the direction of the camp of the enemy, together with the protection they receive from the savages, when added to the evidence contained in Col. Nesmith's report, forces the conviction upon the mind of every impartial man that one of these priests, in becoming the future historian of Oregon, in speaking of this war, might very appropriately quote the language of Enes to Dido in reference to the sack of Troy, *Et cujus pars magna fuit*.

Notwithstanding these Jesuits have been deprived of over a hundred pounds of powder, which was taken from one of them in transit from the Dalles to the Walla-Walla, yet from the testimony of Pandozy's account book, it seems that these priests have been able to smuggle into the Yakima country, and sell to the savages, such "large quantities of ammunition," as to make it very plain to many that "gunpowder" has entered more largely into Pandozy's "stock in trade" than the "gospel" has. The letter which was found upon the priest's table, purporting to have been written by this Pandozy as ambassador for Kamaikain, the whole tenor of which is said to be of an intimidating kind, and aimed to frighten or discourage our soldiers, (whose character this Pandozy has shown himself to understand about as well as a Feejee would be expected to,) fastens the conviction upon our mind that the priest, if he was not the original instigator of the war, is now engaged heart and soul in "aiding and abetting" the savages who thirst for the blood of our citizens. We are told by some that although Pandozy might have left the Indians before the war broke out, as he should have done the day he became apprised of the hostile intentions of the savages, yet it is now entirely out of his power to do so, and the fact of his having written the letter in obedience to the command of Kamaikain, is no positive proof that Pandozy endorsed the letter, or approved of it. In reply to this we oppose the fact, that, as Kamaikain did not understand writing, Pandozy could have written what he pleased. If he was forcibly detained by the Indians, and if he preferred to leave them and join the whites, he could easily have stated this on paper, and made every necessary arrangement by which the officers in command could have effected his release. Taking all the circumstances together, although it Jesuitically pretends to be Kamaikain's letter,

it is an epistle of Pandozy's, which ought to be "known and read of all men" in Oregon; and that they may have an opportunity of doing so, we respectfully request Gov. CURRY to send us a copy of it for publication. Pandozy, undoubtedly, was the "author and finisher" of it, and it ought to "foist" him. There is not a shadow of a doubt but he endorsed every word of it, and he ought to shoulder the responsibility of it, although he sneakily endeavors to shift it off upon the shoulders of his brother Kamaikain. If Catholic priests, or any other priests, are to be permitted to live among the Indians, instigate them to a butchery of the whites, whenever there is a prospect of the country becoming settled by Anglo-Saxons, to furnish them with arms and ammunition, and become members of the Chief's Cabinet, it is about time that we knew it, and prepared ourselves for this wily foe. Pandozy is now Kamaikain's Secretary of State. Perhaps Gov. CURRY would do well to send up an "envoy extraordinary" to negotiate a treaty with Secretary Pandozy. We venture the prediction that no treaty will be worth a farthing unless it has Pandozy's signature. From all the information we can gather, all the Indians north who are engaged in the war are such as are under the control of the Catholic priests, whilst all the Nez Perces, together with such of the Cayuses as still adhere to the Protestant teachings of Whitman, Spalding, and Walker, and refuse to adopt the "lamachin" of the Catholic priests, are firm friends of the whites. If this is not literally correct, we should be glad to be set right, as we wish to take no advantage from a wrong statement of facts.

There are other matters connected with this whole transaction that show the "cunning craftiness" of Jesuitism, to which we have not time at present to allude. The whole case seems to be a plain one, although we have thought we noticed a studied non-committal policy on the part of every other journal in Oregon. We have openly and fearlessly spoken our honest sentiments on this as upon all other questions affecting the public good. We always like to see a public journalist be either a "man or a mouse," and we always respect a man who with a becoming dignity defends what he believes to be right, and exposes what he believes to be wrong. But there is a general impression among editors that the man who would be sure of his bread and butter must run up a large subscription list, by covering enough "grounds" to please the crowd that travels the "broad road."

## Oregon Winters.

This makes our eighth winter in Oregon, and it comes about as near being an average one as any we recollect to have seen. The oldest settler in this country never saw two winters alike; we believe there has never been a winter known here in which the land suffered with the drought. Rain we always expect, and rain we always get in quantities that justify us in concluding it has "set in," some time between the middle of October and the tenth of November. Some winters we have a great deal of snow, and some none. Twenty-one days is the utmost limit that we have ever known the ground covered with snow; and in our long residence in Oregon we have never known the thermometer down to zero but once. In the noted cold winter of '48-'49 the mercury stood four degrees above zero on the coldest day. The next spring, as we were on board of an English vessel bound for California, together with some hundred and upwards of our Oregon neighbors, who had got the gold fever, and went off cursing Oregon, we referred a dispute upon a proposition as to whether Oregon was as cold as the States, to the captain of the vessel. Some fifty of our passengers swore that Oregon was colder than New England. The captain, after being informed of the state of the mercury in '48, decided that they were right; as he had never known the mercury fall to zero Fahrenheit in Nova Scotia during many winters he had spent there. We are still inclined to believe, however, that our climate is not quite as severe as that of Nova Scotia.

Our coldest weather may generally be looked for between the 20th of December and the 20th of January. About this time our almanacs ought to say, look out for snow; or tremendous, heavy, cold, driving rain, at least. We have had one winter which all came and went in November. The ice froze some two inches thick. The frost ruined a good many potatoes that were dug and remained uncovered. The first thaw that came brought continued mild weather, and we hardly had even another white frost during the winter. During what is termed a "mild winter," we are blessed with a clear sky and a warm sunshine, perhaps one half the time from the first of Nov. to the first of April, which embraces the Oregon winter, or "rainy season." As a general thing, we may look out for rain such as raised the streams in the time of Noah, "about this time." We had heard so much in the States about Oregon "mists" that wouldn't wet a laborer's shirt sleeves through in a whole day, that after we came here we neglected digging our potatoes for a time or two, till after the "mist set in," thinking it would be pleasanter to encounter the cooling mist than the hot sun. We thought our experience wasn't quite equal to the "anticipation," as all day long we waddled through the mud, determined to save our "murphies," although the cold rain fell on our banded back at such a rate that it only took about ten minutes for the old "swallow fork," that served as a roof, to convey enough water down into our boots to take up what room there was vacant. That took about a gallon; for in that early day we were all dependent upon the Hundson's Bay Company for boots, shoes, and other clothing. This, it was said, was all made up in England, by Dr. McLaughlin's measure, and sent over here with the express understanding that nobody should go naked for not being able to get into the boots and breeches. This, by the way, was a benevolent idea, which would hardly ever have got into a Yankee merchant's head. Now as we weigh something less than 140 lbs., and the "good old English gentleman" exceeds 200 lbs., it may be guessed what a figure we cut, "cum dig-in-a-taty," in a pair of the Dr.'s boots and a pair of heavy English corduroys made up after his pattern. At all events we have a very distinct recollection of trying to straighten up occasionally, with a very vivid impression that what, between what was in the boots, what had soaked into the corduroys, and what stuck to the old "swallow fork, (we brought that from the States,) we bore about our body something less perhaps than half a barrel of water.

We haven't time just now to say any thing more about Oregon winters, but shall resume the subject hereafter. It has been raining for the last three weeks after the good old fashioned "mists" in which we "prospected" in the potato patch.

The reader is referred to our advertising columns for the terms upon which the publications of FOWLER & WELLS can be had. If a man has just three dollars which he wishes to invest to the best possible advantage in periodicals printed east of the Rocky Mountains, we should advise him (if at liberty to do so) to send for *Life Illustrated* and the *Water Cure and Phenological Journals*. With the Bible to regulate the inner man, and these works to teach him how to take care of the temple of the soul, a man might be set adrift upon the ocean of life with a better outfit to make the passage safely and pleasantly than many now have those libraries embrace hundreds of volumes. We have heard these works enquired after a great deal in this country. You will now know where to find them.

**Gen. Wool for the Presidency.**  
A Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Times says that the recent American victory in California is considered the opening gun in the campaign of 1856 for Gen. Wool. California accepts him in opposition to the Democracy. This correspondent says, "the relations between Gen. Wool and the Administration have been cold and distant, if not positively hostile, for more than a year. The recent correspondence between Gen. Wool and the War Department betrayed upon the part of the former, a feeling of personal grievance, not the less deep seated because official etiquette confined the expression of it within the limits of courtesy and moderation."

Oregon would probably be as well satisfied with the Gen. as any body else.

**The Japanese Treaty, Again.**  
It will be recollected that some two months since we stated that Commodore Rogers, in negotiating with the Japanese authorities in behalf of Reed and Dougherty had been unsuccessful in his efforts to bring the Governors of Simoda and Hakodadi, to see the justice of his interpretation of the clause in the treaty which gave to "temporary residents" certain privileges. As we never had seen the treaty, we made up our opinion of the case from the official reports we saw published in the S. F. HERALD. The arguments of Com. Rogers there published, and based upon particular portions of the treaty quoted, were ingenious and we thought at the time conclusive. Consequently we thought the Administration ought to compel the Japanese government to acquiesce in the construction put upon the treaty by Com. Rogers, as sensible and just.

Last week we stated that the Administration had approved of the Japanese construction, and nothing would be done to enforce a proper regard for the treaty. This week we have to state, that a careful reading of the reasons by which the Administration justifies the Japanese construction by a critical examination of the whole treaty, seems to present the thing in a very different light from the one in which it presented itself to our mind when examining the quotations from the treaty made by Com. Rogers. The arguments are too lengthy

for our space; but a careful perusal of the whole treaty will probably justify the action of the Administration. We state this as a Clerk. R. P. BOSS, DeLazon Smith and A. R. BURBANK were chosen a committee on credentials. The Democrats had a caucus on Monday night to elect officers in secret conference to be put through openly on Tuesday. Dr. Henry was at Corvallis, and it is said wished to address the members on Monday night in reference to the Southern war. The Council was to organize at 3 o'clock P. M.

## Important from the South.

Mr. T. J. McCARVER, Asst. Com. Gen., who left Roseburg on last Saturday, has handed us a letter from his father, Gen. McCARVER, which overtook him by express the night after he left Roseburg, and from which we gather the following news, with some particulars furnished by T. J. McCARVER:

A man by the name of Rice, who lived on the south side of South Umpqua, not far from the mouth of Cow Creek, was murdered, together with his whole family, excepting a lad some 12 or 15 years of age, on the morning of Dec. 1st. Mr. Rice saw the Indians approaching about daylight, and sent his son out of the back door to alarm the neighbors and get help. The boy states after he had got a short distance, he looked back—saw about 100 Indians around the house, heard some 15 or 20 guns fired, and soon after saw the house in flames. An express reached Roseburg later in the day, which brought word that several other houses in Rice's vicinity were in flames.

The news has created great consternation in Umpqua. Remnants of Capts. Gordon, Bailey, and Chapman's companies had been ordered out from Roseburg to pursue the Indians. Roseburg is on Deer Creek, about six miles beyond Winchester, and about 15 miles from the scene of Indian depredations. Mr. McCARVER also brings word that Maj. Stratton, express messenger, reached Roseburg on Friday, the 30th ult., bringing word that Maj. Martin, with some 3 or 400 men, had found a camp of Indians consisting of 22 lodges, at Little Meadows on Rogue River, and had one of his men killed, and five wounded by them, without being able to get at the Indians. The Indian camp was on the other side of the river, and Maj. Martin, with a part of his force went up the river to draw the attention of the Indians, while a portion went to a bar below, where the river was very narrow, to construct a raft. The Indians opened a fire upon these men from the brush upon the opposite bank, which were so thick that not even the smoke of their rifles could be seen when they fired. The men immediately laid down flat behind the rocks which they piled up as a defense, and lay there till night. A Mr. Lewis, of Capt. Jonathan Keeny's command, received a ball in the neck, through an opening in the rocks, and died in five hours. Two of Capt. Williams', one of Capt. Keeny's, one of Capt. Rice's men, besides one of some other company, were wounded. The men left the bar at dark, leaving a large beef which they had tied up on the bank on the day of the fight, and which the Indians had killed in shooting across the river, together with a lot of blankets, and a part of their guns and ammunition. The next morning, upon visiting the bar, the beef, guns, and all, were missing. The Indians had crossed over in the night and appropriated every thing to their own use. Martin had sent to Roseburg for reinforcements and forty days' provisions. He thought he would stay there and watch the motions of the Indians till help arrived, and then give them battle. The Indians are said to have their women and children in camp, which will probably impede their progress in a flight. The forces sent for by Maj. Martin, are retained to fight Indians in Umpqua, and will not be sent to his assistance. The probability is, the Indians will not be seen any more till they turn up in some other direction.

We learn from Mr. DRYER, that news had reached Corvallis that Capt. Wright, with twenty men attacked a party of 30 or 40 Indians near Table Rock, and killed eight, with the loss of one white man killed, and four slightly wounded.

Col. Nesmith has made a long report to Gov. CURRY, commander-in-chief of the Oregon Militia, giving a full account of what was done by him from the time the volunteers left the Dalles for the Yakima country, up to the time they returned on the 19th ult. The report contains nothing new that we have not already published.

## Errata.

By some unaccountable oversight last week we failed to discover a mistake in our proof sheet, in reference to the Pennsylvania election. After "There were four candidates in the field who ran as follows," should have been inserted, "in Allegheny county," which may probably be set down as a fair sample of the way the vote ranged in the other counties of the State.

Col. Nesmith has resigned the office of Colonel. Reason not known.

## The Legislature.

The House of Representatives organized temporarily on last Monday. Frd. Wayne was put in the chair, pro tem., and James Elkins was chosen Clerk. R. P. BOSS, DeLazon Smith and A. R. BURBANK were chosen a committee on credentials. The Democrats had a caucus on Monday night to elect officers in secret conference to be put through openly on Tuesday. Dr. Henry was at Corvallis, and it is said wished to address the members on Monday night in reference to the Southern war. The Council was to organize at 3 o'clock P. M.

## From the North.

News from Ullilla up to Dec. 2d. The snow was falling on the volunteers. Col. Kelly reached Ullilla on the 28th ult. and took charge of the forces. It was the intention to make a forced march from Ullilla to Walla Walla on the night of the 3d ult. and give the Indians battle on the next morning early. He had about 350 men. The weather there was getting bad.

The Clackamas and Polk companies under Maj. Armstrong had been ordered to the head waters of John Day's river to look after the stock of the hostile Indians, which was said to be grazing there in large quantities.

## Temperance and Politics.

ASTORIA, NOV. 28, 1855.

W. L. ADAMS, Esq.—DEAR SIR: I have often wished for a personal acquaintance with you upon the temperance question. Your paper advocates the prohibitory principle. We have by hard labor and much sacrifice on our part at this place kept up a Division of the Sons of Temperance. There is temperance principle enough in Oregon to carry forward our object, and secure a prohibitory law, if the men who have assumed the leadership of the temperance ranks would go forward, and leave out of the question political party questions. All good men and all candid men can unite to secure a prohibitory law. Party politics should not interfere in the case. I know it is the interest of the Rum party to make this a political question, and so long as they can make an honest Democrat or Whig believe it is a party question they will manage to cheat us out of the benefits of a prohibitory law. This is good policy on their part, for while good men of both parties are contending about party ascendancy, the Rum party, which is distinct and united, are pursuing their business and reaping all the profits of the follies or quarrels of both Democrats and Whigs about this question.

The idea that the temperance question should become a Whig or a Democratic move is ridiculous, and none but designing demagogues of the Rum fraternity will advocate such a party distinction. I do not know what can be done, or how a move can be made to effect a united action upon this question.

Several Temperance conventions have already been held on the subject, but all appeared to produce but little or no results. The cause seems to be backward instead of forward. If there was an efficient Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance in Oregon, which we are entitled to if our Deputy does his duty, we might hope for action.

As the matter now stands, I would suggest that you make an effort to combine the feelings of the Territory on this question. If you are a Son of Temperance, let us know it, and let us know the number of Divisions, officers and members there are.—The Division No. 4, at Astoria, has about 45 contributing members, and has initiated since its organization some seventy. It keeps alive the question of prohibition, and makes the Rum influence squirm and curse a little. Still it needs the influence of a Grand Division to make its influence more fully felt.

I am induced to send you these disconnected thoughts on the subject of Temperance, because I find in a stray number of your paper that reaches me occasionally, that you are, as I believe, about right on the question of Prohibition. There are quite a number of substantial men in this county of the same opinion. Our present Representative goes to the Legislature with but one majority over the Prohibitory candidate.

Respectfully, Yours,  
W. H. GRAY.

We presume that not one in a hundred will understand the precise "ground" on which friend Gray stands, after reading the above communication. That he is a prohibitory man all will admit, whilst few perhaps will be able to discover the policy on which he would act in endeavoring to secure his object. He applies his battering ram to "temperance as a party question" at pretty much the same angle of the structure against which Bro. McKean knocked his brains out. If he has torn any thing down, he has certainly failed to build up a substitute. In other words, if he has made out the case that temperance ought not to be made a plank in any party platform, and if he has shown that this is a tub which ought to stand upon its own bottom, he has failed to tell us whether this tub is to be made the platform of a distinct, temperance party, and compelling the temperance men to forsake their old party platforms in cleaving to this, or whether he would have the tub placed in such immediate proximity to the party platforms, that temperance men can rest the left leg on it, while at the same

time the right foot presses the whisky plank of their respective party platforms.

That the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of spirituous liquors is just as much a political question as that of any principle advocated by any party in existence, which relates to a wise, wholesome, and judicious government of our people in securing their peace, their protection, and their financial prosperity, is a proposition too plain for argument. Whether the affirmative or negative of this proposition be maintained, it matters not a single straw for our present purpose. That there is such a thing as a "rum party, distinct, and united," Mr. Gray has already informed us. Now will he or some other gentleman be good enough to point his finger right at that "party" in Oregon, and let us know whether it be the Whig, Democratic, Loco Foco or American party, or is it made up of individuals from all these parties, forming a fifth, "distinct, and united party"? At all events, Mr. Gray seems to have discovered that there is a "Rum Party" somewhere, without telling us exactly of its *locum tenens*.

Now, if after we find this "party," which has made the rum traffic a "party question," we oppose them with a temperance party, we necessarily make temperance a party question. If temperance is the only avowed principle of our party, it is none the less a party question but a little more so.

In the States, the temperance party and the liquor party, have appeared under different phases. In New York the Whig party was the Temperance party, and Clark was elected Governor upon a Whig platform, sanctified with a temperance plank.—The rummies ran a slimy plank into the Hard and Soft Shell platforms, upon which Bronson and Seymour slipped up and broke their necks. In Maine, we believe the question was made prominent by the popular voice, the great mass of the Whigs supporting it, while the most violent opposition came from such Democrats as stuck to their original platforms, and refused to endorse the measure. In other States the temperance movement has been either identified with some one of the existing parties, or been kept "independent" of them, with varied success. As to the policy upon which the matter should be urged, it is owing altogether to circumstances. The people in any given country must be their own judges, as to whether policy that would be wise in Maine or New York, would be wise in Illinois or Oregon. At the risk of being classed among "designing demagogues," we shall advance the "idea" that both Whigs and Democrats, and all other parties that love their country, and are laboring for its prosperity, ought to make temperance one of their "moves." If they would do so, and their organs would take the proper stand upon this question, we should soon be in the enjoyment of what we desire, without feeling like quarreling with the manner in which we came in possession of it.

It is folly to think of making a temperance move in any shape, without meeting strong opposition from the party which is led by the organ at Corvallis. That organ advocates whisky as a wholesome stimulus, and leaves no means untried, to vilify and ridicule temperance men who wish to make their influence felt at the polls. The professed temperance men in that party (like one of your "sons of temperance" at Astoria) who are all the time bawling "don't mix temperance with politics," will, when the issue is made up between that party and the temperance party, no matter under what auspices, support a liquor seller on their own party ticket before they will vote for any man running on a temperance ticket. It is not possible to get the matter before the people in any shape whatever, without encountering the determined opposition of the "clique." Suppose, for instance, that all men of all parties in the Territory agree that the question of Prohibition shall be thrown before the people next June, as a "separate and distinct" question, to be supported or opposed, by voting "for" or "against" Prohibit. Does any man suppose that the Corvallis Statesman would not use all its influence against prohibition up to the last issue before the election, and then, although it may have avowed during the whole canvass that "it was no party question," does any man opine that a single ticket printed in that office, wouldn't come out with "Democratic Ticket" for a head, and "against prohibit" for a tail? And how many "Sons of Temperance" who bow support this party would dare to "cut-tail" this beautiful ticket by marrying its neither extremity? How many "preachers of the gospel" (if) are there, who would not only vote the "clean ticket," but "rally all the Jews" and "Sag Nights" in town to vote it, and then take a wheel barrow, and cart up to the polls those who happened to be too drunk to get there on their own legs?

We present these facts to show that Prohibition will be brought before the people as a "party issue," in spite of us. The question now is, What is our best policy in Oregon? Our own opinion shall