

The Oregon Argus.

W. A. ADAMS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OREGON CITY:
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1855.

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Law Concerning Newspapers.

It is the duty of the publishers of newspapers to see that their papers are printed in conformity with the laws of the State. If any person publishes a paper which contains any libelous or defamatory matter, he is liable to prosecution. It is also the duty of the publishers to see that their papers are printed in conformity with the laws of the State. If any person publishes a paper which contains any libelous or defamatory matter, he is liable to prosecution.

Our Correspondents.

Ladies and Gentlemen:—You have wondered a thousand times, no doubt, at the stupidity of the human family which makes it necessary in conveying instruction to give "line upon line, line upon line, precept upon precept, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little" instruction, in order to beat into the human understanding the simplest truths. Now if it is a matter of wonder that the "common run" of the human family are so slow in receiving instruction, how must we be astonished at an exhibition of a similar dullness in that literary horde, who attempt to enlighten their fellow pilgrims through the press! We have abundant evidence, in something less than two barrels and three pecks of communications now on hand, that the hints we have occasionally thrown out have never been taken by many who read our paper. We have some correspondents who are "apt to learn," and who keep within our rules as to give us but little trouble. For the benefit of those who are yet unacquainted with the rules, we shall lay down a few suggestions, which, if attended to, will save us much trouble, besides ensuring the publication of some articles which we shall otherwise be compelled to cast to the moles and bats:

1. Write on only one side of your paper.
2. Make your articles as short as possible. Over four pages is seldom admissible, but if an article is racy, argumentative, and full of interest, you may add another page or two. Not one writer in a hundred is able to keep up a sufficient interest to ensure a reading, after he goes to the fifth page.—The trouble is, the dull, prosy writers, like that kind of sermonizers, think themselves very interesting, and imagine that every body else reads their productions with the same gusto they do themselves. Others, like us, are long winded, and they never see the end of their subject. Bro. McKean says we can "blow longer" than any body he ever saw; consequently we want a great deal of room for our own use. Bro. Me has one virtue which our correspondents would do well to imitate, and that is brevity, which, in a witty production, is the "soul of wit," but in such articles as his, (and some of ours) is, to say the least, one of their best recommendations.
3. Write in a plain, legible hand. If like many literary men, you were not born with enough of mechanical genius to make a decent penman, get somebody to copy your articles before you send them in for publication. We have taken the trouble to copy many scraps, so as to enable the compositors to set them up correctly; but we have by far too much writing of our own to do, to copy correspondence till midnight, and we talk of quitting it altogether in a short time.

We are always glad to receive well written communications upon any and all subjects of public interest. Our friends in every part of the Territory would confer an especial favor by sending us all items of news that come to their knowledge, that would be of interest to the public. If you feel the postage tax to be too great a burden, we will forward stamps to any person who will engage to use them in forwarding occasional items of news. Do you know of a marriage, a death, a birth, an accident, or a streak of good luck by a fellow creature, or even an interesting "adventure," such as Don Quixote was wont to fall in with, send it along. But, especially, we should like to hear what is being done in behalf of education, temperance, religion,

internal improvements, agriculture, &c., &c.; in short, every thing that will illustrate Oregon life, Oregon resources, together with her history and prospects. We are sending many papers to your friends in the States who are deeply interested in these matters, and who are constantly expressing their gratitude for being permitted to read our paper regularly.

Another thing we came near forgetting. Whenever you write, if just as convenient, put your real name to your article. This is not always necessary or expedient, but we are almost sick of anonymous communications. A man ought never to write an article that he is ashamed of; besides, our article over a real signature carries more weight with it than a dozen over a false name. Some articles would do more execution over a fictitious name than they would over a real one. We should like to have it optional with us whether to use the real name of the author, or some substitute.

Errors of grammar we do not mind,—these we can easily correct,—so you write legibly, sensibly, and to the point.

New Paper.
 We have received the first No. of the *Table Rock Sentinel*, a new paper started at Jacksonville, O. T., on the 24th ult., by TYVAULT, TAYLOR, & BLAKEY. Its principal object seems to be to promote the interests of Southern Oregon. If it does so, morally, socially, and physically, we congratulate our Southern brethren upon their good luck in having their wants supplied.—The paper presents a fine appearance, and we see nothing in the present number that would indicate a disposition to take "grounds" that would defeat the abovementioned objects. Success, gentlemen, to your enterprise, as long as you keep on the right tack.

The *Advocate*, at Salem, still seems to be occupying its old "grounds" on temperance, so far as its editorial department is concerned. Serving "God and Mammon" was decided to be entirely impracticable in New Testament times, but that was a "long time ago," and "Bro. Pearne" seems to be making an experiment to see whether the thing would work in the nineteenth century. His correspondents, in writing on the temperance question, seem to have got entirely ahead of him, and now and then one, like Rev. Mr. Hines, makes a center shot, or would make one, if "Bro. Pearne" didn't jog his elbow a little just as he was "drawing a bead." The next time "Bro. Pearne" cuts a paragraph out of your communication, because of its being a "little too steep," just send it along to us, friend Hines; you shall be heard in *The Argus*.

"Bro. Pearne," it is now a long time since we invited you to publish the resolutions which you, as chairman of the Committee on Slavery, reported to the Conference which met in Oregon City last August.—Dare you publish them, or dare you not? Let us know soon, or we shall have to print them for you. Recollect, "Bro. P.," that there is a "wool" to such men as are spoken of by "all men," and if you do incur the displeasure of "Bro. Bush," you won't lose more than seven or eight hundred subscribers by it.

Resignation of Col. Nesmith.
 The *Times* of last Saturday contains a note from that gentleman offering sickness in his family, together with pressing private business, as an excuse for his resignation.—The old "war horse" is of course excusable, and we think, under any circumstances, the people would willingly have let him off.—The fact is, his character for prowess, which has gained for him such titles as the "old war horse," "gallant Col.," &c., with which he has been dubbed by the able correspondents of the *Times* and *Standard*, are now considered by some to have materially operated as a barrier to bringing the war to a speedy close. If we expect ever to catch the Indians, we must not send out men of such notorious titles, which of themselves are suggestive to the poor cowardly savages of all sorts of horrors connected with a war of extermination. We presume the Indians are hardly done running yet, that took a stampede east when they first heard the "old war horse" was after them.

Oregon Fruit.
 The *Alta California* was perfectly struck down by the displays of Oregon fruit taken down by the Columbia cutter last trip, and which was offered for sale at the fruit stores at "extravagant prices." Pears and apples weighing over a pound and a half ranged from \$1 to \$3 each. The *Alta* thinks that the size and quality of our fruit establishes the fact that the Pacific climate is one of the best in the world for fruit growing. Why not say the Oregon climate!

Bacon.
 Several loads of bacon have passed through this city within a short time, en route to Portland. There is an *apple* for it in Oregon City.

Some weak person over the signature of "A Catholic Citizen" devotes about two columns of the last *Standard* to exalting Pandozy from the crime of having aided and abetted the Yakima and Cayuse Indians in the present war. Col. Nesmith and *The Argus* are dreadfully castigated by this anonymous author. We are inclined to think, from its tone and character, that it was written by one of the "Sisters of Charity" in the French Prairie. As she promises to inflict a series of letters upon the public, we shall probably wait till we see the result of the last three, before we pay any particular attention to her case.

Correction.
 Mr. Lawrence Hall has written us a communication correcting several statements of our informant in reference to the fight we spoke of some time since, occasioned in his neighborhood by the firing of revolvers.

Mr. H. says the firing took place "at the hour of midnight." "The bridge was not guarded." "There is no old lady with the rheumatism in that neighborhood." We publish these corrections made by Mr. H. in justice to him and his neighbors as we are not able to get in his whole communication.

We understand that Lieut. SLAUGHTER, together with three of his men were killed by the Indians at Ft. Steilacoom on Puget Sound a few days since. It is said that the Indians crept up and fired through a window of the Fort, killing these men.

San Francisco Markets.
 The papers of Dec. 7th represent the produce trade as firm, with an upward tendency. Flour rates from \$4 50 to \$5 75 per hund.; Oats \$5a90 cents per bushel. Butter \$14a17c.

The Legislature adjourned in committee of the whole from Corvallis to Salem on last Wednesday night. The grog shops in Salem are said to be making money.

J. W. DAVIS, Esq., Telegraphic operator at Portland, will please accept our thanks for his kindness in transmitting to us the latest intelligence by lightning.

We are under particular obligations to A. HOLZNER, Esq., for valuable documents per last steamer.

JACKSONVILLE, Nov. 24, 1855.

Friend Adams—Just you should think from my long silence that I had been slain by the Indians, or some other calamity befallen me, I snatch upon a leisure moment to give you a few items of interest. Jacksonville is improving. It has this evening issued its first number of a weekly paper entitled the *Table Rock Sentinel*. It is quite a respectable sheet, and will of course be devoted to the mining interests. In this you Walla Walla can get the war and gold news, without depending upon faithless correspondents. Jacksonville still continues to do business and to prosper, notwithstanding all her surrounding difficulties and the late fire. Before proceeding further, permit me to correct a mistake which I am told some of you valley folks are laboring under. That is, that the present war has been brought about by designing politicians and unprincipled traders, for the purpose of making political capital, and of selling a large amount of goods and surplus provisions to government at exorbitant prices.—A great mistake indeed. Our government was never more completely driven into a war, than upon the present occasion. We have borne with the Indians until forbearance ceased to be a virtue. Our miners could not travel from one part of the country to another, without being shot down by the wily savages in ambush. Our teamsters and packers, on whom we depended for supplies, were treated in like manner, and defenseless families were inhumanly butchered in their own houses by the Indians.—Houses were laid in ruins, whole herds of stock were slain, and our country in many places presents a scene of general devastation. That the white man (as is argued by some) has been the aggressor is not true. If some (not very conscientious) men, have killed now and then an Indian, it was but in retaliation for past injuries. These Indians have never been true to their treaties. They never kept a treaty until the blankets which bought it were worn out. But thank Providence, Lane is not here this time, and I think the next treaty that is made with them will be kept *always*.

The news from head quarters is not very exciting just now, but is nevertheless full of interest. The Indians are all pressing down Rogue river to a point known as the Big Meadows, where a general fight is anticipated. I learn that a union of the Regulars and Capt. Judah has been effected with the Southern battalion of Oregon mounted volunteers, and the command given to the aforementioned officer. Capt. Judah is highly esteemed and has the reputation of being a good Indian fighter. The troops are pressing down the river to the Meadows to overtake the Indians. The Indians have had the best of it so far. Our boys got badly used up, on Grave Creek some

three weeks ago. The Indians have had a decided advantage over our volunteer troops which were drawn up in haste, equipped with such firearms as they could pick up, whilst the Indians who have been preparing for a year, are supplied with the best U. S. rifles. There seems to be quiet in our camp now and little political feeling manifested which was far from being the case a few weeks ago. Our Surgeon Major for the Southern battalion is Dr. Barkwell, one of the democratic members elect from Jackson county to the lower house of the Legislature. How he can legislate at Corvallis and attend to the duties of his office here is more than I can divine. Yet as this is an age of wonders the thing may be done. I am informed that a gentleman from Polk county on a former occasion represented in part his county and held two other offices at the same time. Such being the fact the Dr. stands a good chance to make it "pan out well." Dr. Green is Hospital Surgeon at this place and Dr. Freyman and others assistants in the field. The people seem well satisfied with the course of Gov. Curry, but in regard to the disposition of the troops and the appointments to office, there is no doubt some latent feeling in the bosoms of the disappointed but no public opposition to his course. Bush's appeal to the people for aid in the matter of those "petitions" met with a weak response here. We look forward with great anxiety to the close of the war.

People have left their farms, and mining claims, to fight our common foe and the resources of their country being for a time undeveloped, we must expect hard times and dull prospects. For the present adieu.

ARRIVAL OF THE MAIL.

Success of the Know Nothings
 In New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, and Louisiana.

The P. M. S. S. Columbia arrived last Wednesday, bringing news from Europe and the States. We received files of California and States papers from J. W. Sullivan, Wells, Fargo & Co., and the Pacific Express.

NEW YORK.—The Americans have carried N. Y. For Sec'y of State, J. T. Headley, Am., has 12,578 plurality over King, Repub. The rest of the State ticket was also carried by the Americans.

MASSACHUSETTS.—The returns from 319 towns (all but nine) elect GARDNER, American, by a plurality of 14,923. The vote stands as follows:
 Julius Rockwell, Repub., 26,530
 H. J. Gardner, Am., 59,931
 S. H. Walley, Whig, 13,083
 E. D. Beach, Dem., 34,623

The Americans have elected the Lieut. Gov., Sec'y of State, Treasurer, Auditor, and Atty Gen., by about 10,000 plurality. Chaffee, Am., is elected to Congress from the 4th dist. by about 4000 plurality. The House stands—Liberals 3, Whigs 18, Dem. 39, Repub. 71, Am. 179. The Senate, so far as known, stands—Am. 23, and of all others 17.

MARYLAND.—The latest returns from this State make it certain that the Know Nothings have elected their whole ticket in Baltimore, and their Congressmen in the 3d, 4th, and 5th dists.

LOUISIANA.—A despatch dated New Orleans, Nov. 6, says "the Know Nothings have carried this city by a large majority.—We have no indication yet of the result in the State, but the chances are in favor of the Know Nothings."

NEW JERSEY.—The result of the election in this State is considered to be a Democratic victory. The election was an important one, being confined to the choice of legislative Representatives and county officers. In the Senate the Democratic majority is 2—in the House 14, a gain of two since last year to the Dem.

WISCONSIN.—Partial returns from 13 counties show the following majorities on the vote for Gov.: Barstow, (Dem.) 8463; Bashford, (Repub.) 7420.

MISSISSIPPI.—Elects the whole Democratic State ticket by a majority equal to that of '53, which was 4700 votes, with large gains in the Legislature.

GEORGIA.—The Legislature of this State met Nov. 5th. The message of the Gov. was mainly devoted to State matters. He advises the Legislature to make provision for calling a State Convention to declare a dissolution of the Union, provided Congress refuse to admit Kansas into the Union as a slave State.

Reported Prospect of a War between Great Britain and the United States.
 We see in the N. Y. Herald a heading to European news similar to the above.
 Now the only reason the Herald seems to have for the inference that we are upon the eve of a war with Great Britain, is the fact that England has materially augmented her naval force at the West Indies, which was announced in an indirect article in the London *Times* as a formidable barrier between that government and the North American Continent, and intended for the prevention of piratical filibustering expeditions, which are com-

stantly being fitted out in the various ports of the U. S. and which our government is either unable or unwilling to suppress. The article of the *Times* is severely commented upon by the Liverpool *Times* and condemned as unauthorized by the intentions of the British Government, which has no disposition to either insult us, trample upon our rights, or engage in a war with us, so long as our present amicable relations can be honorably sustained. How our Government may consider our relations with Great Britain to be affected by this augmentation of naval force upon our borders, we are unable to say, but nothing has yet transpired that would justify the conclusion that a war between us and our English neighbors is any nearer at hand than it was six months ago.

LATE FROM EUROPE.

Russians Repulsed at Kars.

The most important news is the decisive repulse of the Russians upon the Turkish garrison in charge of Kars, the chief city in Turkish Armenia. That place has been for a long time invested by a powerful Russian army, who maintained the siege so closely that the Turks were almost reduced to starvation. About midsummer Omer Pasha returned from the Crimea to Constantinople, and was shortly after sent over to Asia with an independent command, to make a diversion in the rear of the Russians in favor of Kars. Gen. Mouravieff, hearing of his arrival, determined to decide the fate of Kars before Omer Pasha could march to its relief, and so, on the 30th of Sept. made an assault upon the city, in full force.

A letter from the battle-field thus describes the obstinacy of the combat:
 "The Russians invested Kars on all sides in full force. The batteries at Kars opened a murderous fire on the besiegers. Three times did the Russians gain a footing in the Turkish entrenchments, and three times were they driven out by the Turks at the point of the bayonet. Eight hundred Russians were slain before a retreat defied by four hundred Turks. The firing lasted seven hours and a half, when the Russians took to flight. The Turks performed prodigies of valor, and the European officers—Col. Lake and Capt. Teesdale and Tompson—distinguished themselves. The Russian loss was about 5000 killed and wounded. They lost besides this a great quantity of stores; and about three hundred prisoners were taken, amongst whom were many of fliers. Four guns are said to have been taken. The loss of the Turks is reckoned at about 750 killed and wounded.
 Gen. Mouravieff admits the disasters, but ascribes it to the number of generals and principle officers killed or wounded in the beginning of the action.

Surrender of the Fortress of Kinburn.
 Kinburn, situated at the mouth of the Dnieper, had been bombarded by the Allied fleets, and the garrison, amounting to 1300 men, surrendered themselves prisoners of war on the 17th Oct. All the stores and ammunition of the place were taken. The fortress of Oczakoff on the opposite of the river, was blown up by the Russians soon after they found Kinburn had capitulated. The capture of these two places opens the passage of the Dnieper to the Allied squadrons, and in consequence the road to the important cities of Nicolaieff and Kherson. The Crimea not to be evacuated by the Russians.

The following is given on the authority of a Berlin despatch in the London *Advertiser*:
 "An order of the day from Gortschakoff, dated Oct. 15th, declares that he will not evacuate the country confided to his defence, neither will he retreat before the invaders, but will defend the Crimea at all hazards. Yesterday, one thousand officers and men of the first regiment of light infantry of the British foreign legion, embarked on board the steamer Simoon for Balaklava.
 The *Daily News*, city article, says:—"The announcement that our fleet in the American waters was to be reinforced, has excited considerable discussion. The discount market is quiet. It was said that the aggregate of the loans which will be required by the British and French Governments during the early part of next year, will represent a very large sum. Some further small parcels of gold were to day sent into the Bank, the immediate demand for the Continent having apparently been satisfied after the Australian arrivals."

Operations in the Crimea.
 The principle portion of the news from Sebastopol consists of obscure accounts of the manœuvres of the two armies in the field, the substance of which appears to be that the Allies are moving forward systematically in strong force, and that the Russians are retiring in good order, back upon their fortified positions.
 The British and French were engaged in clearing away the ruins of the city.
 The French and Serbians had advanced from the Tchernaya and Baidar line, and correspondence of the 13th says the French posts were within nine miles of Bakali-Serai,

also close to the Russian position at Aluat and Aigral, where, if at all, the Russians must make a stand.

The Russians have thirteen infantry divisions opposite the Allies line, namely, one division of Guards at the fortifications on the north plateau, two at Inkermann, two on McKenzie's ridge, and the remaining eight guard the series of plateaus from Bakali-Serai down to Alford and the river courses of the Bell's, Kutielga, and Alupa.

English correspondence to Oct. 12, supposes that the Russians from the north side of Sebastopol were falling back by detachments on Perekop. There was, however, no diminution of the fire from the forts and batteries on the north side of the harbor.—Their fire during the last four days had been very active, and was chiefly directed against the Malakoff and the French quarters in the western part of the south side. A Russian despatch of the 23d, via Berlin, says the Allies, forty thousand strong, had marched from Eupatoria towards Toulat; but on the 23d, perceiving our lancers on their left flank they retired behind Akatscheli.

The announcement that the Russians had blown up Fort Nicholas and their other works at Ochakoff, is confirmed.
 Nothing has occurred between Kinburn and Nikolaieff.

English letters say that the gunboats reconnoitred to near Nikolaieff.
 Maj. DeLafald, Maj. Murbeck, Jr., and Captain McLellan, American officers, had arrived in the camp. A British general order provides them with rations during their stay in the Crimea.
 Miss Nightingale had returned to Sebastopol.

General Wyndham, the Hero of the Redan, has the command of the Fourth British Division.
 The land strength of the Allies in the Crimea, including the sick, is officially reported at 210,000 men.

Attains to the Battle.
 The weather was bad, and the English fleet near Nargan was preparing to leave.
 The gunboats at Esmore had been ordered to England.

The coasting trade was again springing up since the removal of the fleet.
 Asia.

When the Russians in Asia heard of the fall of Sebastopol, they, on the 29th of Sept., made their attack upon Kars. The Turkish details of the affair are received.—The Russian loss is reported at two thousand. Two Turkish redoubts were lost and retaken four times. The Hungarian Gen., Keminty, commanded the Turks, in the absence of the English General, Williams. The Russian General, Mouravieff, with eighty guns, will continue the siege.
 The Russians have fortified all the passes leading to Tiflis.
 Omar Pasha was at Sonchem Kale.

Miscellaneous War News.
 The latest despatch from St. Petersburg, dated Oct. 26, says:—"The whole of the militia has been ordered on the march, to reinforce the army of the South under Gen. Luders. Two liners, sixteen frigates and some gunboats have entered the Dnieper." The Emperor Alexander had left Nikolaieff for Elizabetgood, one hundred and thirty miles northward. The usual story is revived, that his reason is affected.
 There is nothing more definite as to the resignation or recall of Gen. Simpson, than was brought out by the Arago. The London *Post* says that a new commander-in-chief is appointed, but does not give his name. Rumor mentions Sir De Dacy Evans, Cockington, Markham, Colin Campbell, and others.

Osman Pasha, who had been taken at Sinope, had been exchanged.
 The *Monitor* publishes a list of the stores found in Sebastopol, comprising a million shot and cartridges, and half a million pounds of gunpowder.
 A St. Petersburg letter of the 15th, says: "The Allied successes had caused despondency, yet everything indicates the intention of Russia to continue the war. Preparations were making for a fourteenth levy and enrollment of the local militia. Prayers were offered for the Emperor's safe return from the Crimea."

The attitude of Sweden was regarded in St. Petersburg with increasing suspicion.
 Moscow, October 6, 1855.

To The Commander-in-Chief—Dear Sir: The 24 day of this month I came back from Olympia to the Mission and found Indians from all the tribes united for the purpose of making war. I have had no opportunity to send an express to the Dalles, but have made many speeches for the purpose of peace. They have heard my arguments and wish me to write you a letter. They say—
 "Write to the soldiers: We were very quiet—the Americans were our friends—our heart was not for war—but in the Cayuse country the Governor has held a Council, and by his speeches he has turned our minds and dispositions, and we have resolved upon a general war that will only close with the death of all our people, or by the universal destruction (extermination) of the Americans: You shall remain quiet in your own country—we would agree to this demand, and we would live as friends