

The Oregon Argus.

W. H. ADAMS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
ORIGON CITY:
SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1856.

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It is not sufficient for a postmaster, when a paper is not taken out of the 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.

Col. Kelley's Reception.

The news was telegraphed from Portland to this city on last Wednesday morning that our fellow-citizen, Col. KELLEY, was in that city awaiting the departure of the *Jennie Clark*, to come to this place, where he would arrive on the eve of the same day.

The following gentlemen met as a committee in behalf of Clatsop county, at W. C. Demant's, to make arrangements for receiving the Colonel in a manner becoming the occasion—A. McKinlay, Wm. Holmes, A. E. Hodges, A. L. Laidley, A. Hallcock, W. C. Demant, W. L. Adams, Dr. Wilcox, John Cochran, A. E. Wall, Forbes Barclay, A. H. Steele, and Thomas Johnson.

At the hour when the *Jennie Clark* was expected in sight, the preparations were all complete, and the citizens awaited with anxiety the arrival of the boat. At 4 o'clock the *Jennie* bore in sight, with two American flags flying the stars and stripes, floating to the breeze, whilst her cannon on board made the hills echo with an eloquence that seemed to move sensibly upon the feelings of the crowds that lined the shore. Groups of fair women, and warm-hearted friends, might be seen, either upon the banks of the river below, or crowning the apex of some lofty "basaltic formation" upon the bluff in the rear; some busily engaged in waving their white handkerchiefs, some in swinging their hats, and shouting "welcome," whilst others eagerly plied the match to the young officers eagerly plied the match to the young officers, and made the ancient foundations of the city tremble.

As the boat touched the landing, a crowd of nearly all the male citizens of the place gathered in, whilst Gen. Lovejoy stepped forward, and extended the hand of welcome to the Colonel in behalf of the citizens. This done, and all hands pitched in to rally what had been done by Gen. L., with their own "grip." Col. Kelley was immediately escorted by the crowd to the "Oregon House," where he was appropriately addressed in behalf of the people by A. E. Wall, Esq. The Col. responded in a speech containing a cursory glance at the whole campaign, which was received with much applause.

Dinner was then announced as being ready, to which all were invited to sit down. Cochran & Spenger, the enterprising proprietors of the Oregon House, had fully anticipated the importance of the occasion, and their long tables groined under an abundance of the very best that the country affords. They deserve much credit for so promptly and fully seconding the wishes of their fellow-citizens, in making their part of the entertainment fully equal to the occasion. All seemed to enjoy themselves hugely. The best and kindest feelings seemed to prevail all, and every body seemed to be happy. At the conclusion of the feast several toasts were offered.

The health of the brave volunteers who are now in the field was drunk standing. Col. Kelley in his speech plied his encomiums of praise upon the officers and men in the field, and said that there was "not a coward among them."
"Three cheers for Bush's position," was proposed, and responded to with a zeal that must have echoed the "groanings of the Hospital of Sebastopol."

The California Safe.

The Steam Ship *California*, which it was apprehended had met with some disaster, arrived safely at San Francisco Dec. 10, after a passage of 15 days from Steilacoom. She encountered terrible gales while out, during which her engines were disabled, so that she was dependent upon her canvas. She arrived in port with all hands safe, except Mr. Dennis, one of the officers, who was lost overboard during the gale.

There are several California wheat buyers in the country at this time. We understand that wheat is worth \$1 13 at Portland.

THE WAR IN THE SOUTH.

We learn from the *Sentinel* of Dec. 20th, that the war is still being carried on against small parties of Indians with considerable success.

When Maj. Bruce found it impossible to reach the camp of the Indians at the Meadows, on account of the snow, he divided his men into small companies for the purpose of protecting the more exposed portions of the country, and operating against small parties of Indians in the mountains. A camp of Indians on the north side of Rogue River, below the mouth of Big Butte, and four miles from the river, were discovered, and a detachment of 34 men from Capt. Rice's company made a night's march upon them, attacking them at daybreak when off their guard. They fought six hours, killing 18 Indians, wounding three others, and taking 20 squaws, and several children prisoners. The ranch was burnt, and one horse captured. Not a white man was wounded. Lieut. J. S. Miller, and John Folan were pretty badly frozen. The Indian camp was well supplied with provisions, mostly plunder. Not a female was injured, excepting one who was shot by an Indian, nor a male too small to bear arms. We must say that the boys did nobly on that occasion.

On the 25th Dec. Capt. Alcorn's company fell in with a party of Jake's band, on the north fork of Little Butte creek, and commenced firing upon them at daylight, having them completely surrounded. Eight Indians were killed, and the balance more or less wounded, (one squaw accidentally.) Two squaws with their children were taken prisoners. Thirty bushels of wheat, some salmon, four horses, and four guns, were taken from them.

On or about the 27th of Dec., twelve men under Lieut. Armstrong, and seven men with Capt. Bushey, struck an Indian trail on Thompson's creek, and after following it two or three miles through a thick brushy ravine, they came suddenly upon a camp of Indians about 40 yards distant. The party opened a fire upon them killing three and wounding several. All their camp-equipment, two horses, saddles, blankets, and other articles were taken, and their ranch was burnt. The fight lasted two hours, but not a white man was killed or wounded. The only provisions found was a quantity of wheat, and from appearances, the Indians had been subsisting on mule's flesh. "It will be seen by this, that there are some of the boys who have not gone into winter quarters as was reported. The forces are now busily engaged in scouring the hills and ravines of the country."

The War South.

From Col. Kelley, and others who have just come down from the Dalles, we have gathered a few particulars, which, in the absence of anything of stirring interest by way of "big fights," we offer to our readers. Col. Cornelius, with about 450 men, is camped on the Walla-walla. He expects to remain there until he can build a boat with which to ferry his men across Snake river, as there is no timber on Snake river, other than brushwood. The lumber for the boat will be sawn with a whip saw, which is the only one in possession of the volunteers. As soon as the boat is constructed it will be hauled to the Sho-shone or Snake river, distant some forty miles. Here the army will be crossed under cover of a howitzer which they have in their possession. It is said that the Indians have taken up a strong position upon the opposite bank of the river, which they are determined to defend at all hazards. Since the death of their kingly chief (Ka-mai-a-kin), whose will was unassailable law, whose mandates emanated from the highest oracle they feared or venerated on earth, and who was looked upon by them as the embodiment of the wisdom and prowess of the nation, the whole tribe is said to have become so reckless of life that they express their determination to fight till the last man perishes. They affirm that in the death of their Chief and the loss of their home and property, they have nothing left worth living for.

It will be recollected that their chief, who was retained as a prisoner by Col. Kelley, was slain in attempting to cut his way through the guards, one of whom he wounded in the arm, in order to escape to his own people during the early part of the engagement which took place on the 7th of Dec. The news of his death never reached his tribe until the close of the fourth and last day's battle, although they had repeatedly inquired after him, of the half-breeds under Captain Conroy, whom they had on several different occasions approached sufficiently near to converse with. Capt. Conroy's men intimated to them that Pee-peu-mox-mox was still safe. During the whole engagement their great solicitude seemed to be for the recovery of their leader. The sub-chief that led them to the charge could be seen rushing to and fro along their lines, urging them on to battle; and his voice was often heard by our interpreter above the roar and confusion of the battle, urging his men to

make a desperate effort to take alive two white Captains, that they might be able to exchange them for Pee-peu-mox-mox and one other Indian, (name not recollected) who were already sleeping the sleep of death in the volunteer's encampment. It was in vain that he assured them that these Indians were worth twenty common Indians, and that it was desirable to capture two white men, even if twenty Indians kissed the ground in the attempt. They found our boys had positive objections to their taking any of their comrades as prisoners, or even to their taking a scalp from the head of a single white man after he was dead.

Col. Kelley informs us that the cattle left by the Indians are fat and make excellent beef. There are no less than 2,000 head of these cattle ranging at large in the Walla-walla country. As there are no Indians in the country it is considered best to let them run until they can be gathered in and driven to the Dalles—which will be done before long. The grass immediately in the vicinity of the camp is needed for the horses belonging to the volunteers. Consequently the cattle are not brought upon the range, only as they are wanted by the butcher.

The cattle formerly belonging to Brooks & Bamford are not driven off by the Indians, as was reported, but are mostly safe, and will be gathered in by their owners. Wm. McKay is also engaged in selecting his stock from the herd. The loss of these gentlemen will not be as heavy as was anticipated. The grass is said to be excellent in the Walla-walla country.

Gov. Stevens reached the camp of the volunteers the same day that Col. Kelley left, bringing in U-ma-how-litz, one of the principal of the Cayuse chiefs, whom he had taken as a prisoner. He is reported to have been captured by the Nez Percés, and delivered over to the Gov. It is said that the Nez Percés have offered to furnish Gov. Stevens all the fresh horses he may need to prosecute the war. Such an arrangement as this would be just what is needed in order to enable the volunteers to pursue the Indians in their flight, which they are unable to do with their own jaded steeds, already worn to skeletons by long continued hard usage.

Ka-mai-a-kin Said to be for Peace.

Col. Kelley reports that a priest at the Dalles informed him that a young Indian, who had been to the camp of Ka-mai-a-kin on a visit to his father, brought back word that Ka-mai-a-kin had recently been to the camp of the defeated Indians in order to see if they were willing for him to treat for peace. He proposed to turn out property to us sufficient to pay all the expenses of the war; to deliver up the murderers of Bolon; and if the whites had lost more men in battle than the Indians, he would deliver up enough Indians to be killed by the whites to make the loss equal on both sides.

The Indians to whom he made the proposition answered emphatically, "No. You first killed Bolon and brought on the war, you used every argument in your power to induce us to take up arms; we at your solicitation have made common cause with you and rendered the war a general one; we have already lost our chief, our property, our homes, and our all that is worth living for; we are now by your influence into the war, and whatever may be your intention, we will fight till we die."

This story the priest gave as coming from the young Indian, and remarked that while he could not vouch for its truth, it might be taken for what it was worth.

New State.

The Yreka Union is out in favor of a new State, embracing the country between the Calapooya mountains on the north, and the Trinity mountains on the south. This feeling of office-seekers to make a State out of every two or three counties on the Pacific coast, has needed "scratching" by the people for some time, and we suggest, as an effectual method of curing it, to "scratch" their names off the ticket, whenever they offer themselves for office.

Obituaries.

We have received the Oregon States for 1855 from the "Territorial Printer," A. Bush, Esq., for which he will please accept our thanks. It has a very decent appearance on the outside, and would have on the inside, if it were not for some villainous engravings it contains, in regard to the "Territorial printing," "stray laws," and a number of other defects, which we shall probably notice hereafter.

By the way, Esquires Bush, why have you stopped exchanging with us?

As we learn from Col. McCracken that ASHLEY BEHN has been elected Public Printer; NOAH HUBER University Land Com.; J. D. BOON Treas., and PROF. HORT Librarian.

It is said that the Sec. of war will soon order all the disposable military force from Cal. to Oregon, and authorize the enlistment of volunteers for the purpose of suppressing Indian hostilities among us.

Murder in Rogue River.

We learn from the *Table Rock Sentinel* that Mr. Alexander Williamson, a gentleman well known and much esteemed in that region, was murdered at Illinois valley on the 22d ult., by a Spaniard who was in his employ. The Spaniard stabbed Mr. W. several times in the abdomen whilst he (Mr. W.) was standing by the fire, causing his death in a few hours. No provocation had been given, and the cause of the bloody act was entirely inexplicable. The Spaniard was taken and hung on the spot.

Potatoes.

There has been quite a panic among our citizens, produced by the destruction of potatoes during the late freeze. They are held just now at \$1 00 per bushel, but we are inclined to think that they will be cheaper before spring. There were several imprudent farmers who lost their entire crop, but upon inquiry, we find that the loss was not as general as was anticipated, and the market will doubtless be abundantly supplied in a short time.

We are informed that Frank W. Brown, our former agent at Corvallis, has left "hook and line for California, carrying off what money he had collected for us.

The Weather.

For the last week has been quite mild, with occasional showers of warm rain, and considerable fog. Business is quite active again since the river opened.

To Correspondents.

We have a lot of communications on hand which are written on both sides of the sheet, and which we have not time to copy.

We are indebted to Wells, Fargo & Co., and J. W. Sullivan, for express favors.

Miss Pellet.

Miss Sarah Pellet, who made a flying trip through Oregon as a temperance lecturer last fall, has left California for the States. It will be seen by the following extract from a letter we received by the last mail, that the political aspects of the country are still engaging her attention:

ON BOARD STEAMER NEW WORLD,

Dec. 12, 1855.

My Dear Sir—I much regret that I have no intelligence as yet from Oregon, except through the papers. I left the Rogue River country just as the war was commencing; escaping the attack by a few minutes only. I have not as yet heard directly from the war there. I have written to you once, but it occurs to me to write again. The political aspect of California is still rather dark. It is not certain yet what will be done by the Legislature. A Senator may be sent to Congress, but it is doubtful. Foote and Crabb, and a half score of others will contest the ground. There is a strong sentiment in Southern California in favor of slavery and State Division, but the revolution of such a wish on the part of a candidate for the Senate will not procure him votes, I think, even in the K. N. Legislature. But I will not write much this morning—an rest in the mood. Writing you much sooner, I am very respectfully,
SARAH PELLET.

News from the States.

The elections in Louisiana and Mississippi resulted in large Democratic majorities.— One Know Nothing elected to Congress from each State.

Nothing new from Harney or the Plains. Texas Legislature unanimously re-elected Rusk U. S. Senator, both Democrats and Know Nothings voting for him.

Hon. Benjamin Fitzpatrick, Dem., has been re-elected to the U. S. Senate from Alabama.

In New York the Know Nothing vote as compared with that of last year, has increased upwards of 24,000, and the Hard vote about the same, while the Soft vote has fallen off more than 60,000. The whole Know Nothing State ticket, with the exception of one Judge, has been elected by a plurality of over 12,000.

Our Government has determined not to become a party to the Congress of Nations called at Copenhagen, by Denmark, to consider the question of the Sound Dues. The statement that Denmark does not propose a Congress of Nations, but merely a conference of Baltic States, is clearly erroneous.— for the Circular received by the President from Denmark distinctly invited our participation in the proposed Congress. There is reason to believe now, however, that the affair will result in a mere conference of Baltic States.

Don F. Manigo has been appointed Minister to the United States from Mexico, in place of Gen. Almonte.

Politicians are speculating much upon the organization of the House of Representatives, without being able to form any very definite conclusions as to the probable result. The following statement shows the relative strength of parties and factions in the House: Democrats, 81; Southern Whigs, 9; Union Know Nothings, 60; Free Soil Know Nothings, 15; Northern Whigs or Republicans, 68; Vacancies, 1. How any fusion can be made with such elements is difficult to conceive; and yet without fusion somewhere there can be no organization.

The Chicago Democrat says it is estimated that the losses by recent disasters on the lakes exceed a million of dollars.

The Missouri Legislature, after a

warm discussion, decided to go into the election of a United States Senator on the last Monday of Nov.

Later dates from Texas have been received. A desperate fight had occurred near Fort Belknap, between parties of Delaware and Comanche Indians, and seven of the latter were killed. The Indians continued their depredations on the frontier.— A treaty had been made with the Comanches in New and Northern Mexico.

The *St. Louis Intelligence* says the recent disaster on the Pacific Railroad has brought the affairs of the road to a crisis, and that it is utterly broken down in means and credit.

Ex-Postmaster Kendall, of New Orleans, has just been tried there for embezzlement. The jury failed to agree. There were eleven for acquittal. His counsel requested an immediate second trial, but the prosecuting attorneys had it postponed to the April term of the court.

Additional returns of the recent State election in Wisconsin indicate the success of Bashford, the republican candidate for Governor, beyond a doubt.

A fire occurred at Alexandria, Va., on the 10th Nov., during the progress of which seven men were killed by the falling of a wall. Five of the victims were firemen. The building burnt was occupied by James T. Dowell as a crockery store.

The Pacific brings letters to Washington from London, that Sir Charles Fox and Dr. Black of that city, have contracted to build the proposed Honduras Railroad to connect with the Atlantic and Pacific coast, usually known as the scheme of Mr. Squiers.

LATE FROM EUROPE.

The War News Unimportant.

Great Excitement in England in Relation to the War with the United States.

The following is from the summary of the *New York Herald*:
The greatest excitement prevailed throughout England, amounting almost to a panic, on the subject of a war with the United States.

Our Liverpool agent telegraphed to Mr. Buchanan, the American Minister, who promptly and courteously sent him the following explicit contradiction of the rumor:—"London, Night of the 2d. It is not true that the American Minister has demanded his passports from the British Government. There is no foundation for such a report."

The agent, not feeling at liberty to make use of this information, gave it no publicity in England, where, as yet, the rumor of a rupture remains uncontradicted.

The London Times, in a series of malicious editorials, started the subject, which, exaggerated by the provincial press, speedily attained such dimensions that reports were issued announcing that the American Minister had demanded his passports. The utmost astonishment and regret were excited by the announcement, and energetic protests were heard against the Government forcing the nation into so dangerous a war.

A report comes by way of Paris that Russia has granted letters of marque to some American ships as privateers.

The War.

There is nothing important from the seat of war except that the Allies were in expectation of an attack from the Russians. It is unlikely, however, that any further operations will take place this season, as both armies are making preparations for the coming winter.

Some trifling successes have been gained by the fleets, which have now sailed towards the Gulf of Perekop.

Gen. Codrington has received the appointment of Commander in Chief of the British army in the Crimea, in the place of Gen. Simpson.

The London Express, speaking of the new Commander in Chief, says: Gen. Codrington is an officer emphatically of the present generation. He entered the army in 1829, receiving his first commission as Ensign in the Coldstream Guards, obtained a Colonelcy in 1846, and was appointed Maj. Gen. in June, 1854. His age is believed to be somewhat under fifty; and he has served with the army in the Crimea from the moment of its landing.

According to Vienna letters the Emperor of Russia was desirous of holding a personal interview, at some place on the frontier, with the Emperor of Austria, King of Prussia, and probably other potentates, with the view of coming to some understanding for the conclusion of peace.

The Russians in the Crimea have constructed a road across the Paterl sea, communicating with Simpheropol, and by this road supplies and reinforcements may reach their camp.

Of the 1,910 British soldiers wounded in the assault on the Redoubt, 806 were shot or stabbed through the chest or upper part of the body.

The War in Asia.

The news from Asia is dated at Kara to Oct. 1, Erzeroum 9th, Trebizond 11th, and Samson 12th. According to these, the Russians had made no assault on Kara since their repulse by Gen. Williams, but they continued to blockade the city closely.— Cholera was making havoc in the Russian camp, and had appeared in Kara. Omer Pasha had his head quarters at Souchem Kale, and was concentrating his troops preparatory to marching into Georgia. His army was but 8,000 strong at the above dates, but reinforcements have since been sent from Constantinople and the Crimea.

Miscellaneous.

Gen. Canrobert has gone on a special mission to Stockholm. As admiral Dundas is there also, it is surmised their mission is to obtain permission for the Allied fleets to winter in Swedish ports.

Victor Hugo, with his son, and those who signed the recent protest of the French exiles, have been expelled from the Channel Islands.

It is said that Lord Hardinge is about to resign the command in chief of the British Army, and will be succeeded either by the Duke of Cambridge or Lord Seaton. Sir Hamilton Seymour will be appointed Minister to Vienna.

The Sound Dues.

The London correspondent of the *N. Y. Herald* says: "The next point of interest of European news to the United States is the question of the Sound Dues. I mentioned in a former letter that the Danish Government had turned its serious attention to the matter, and that in all probability a Congress would be held at Copenhagen for the settlement of a question which implied nothing less than war between the United States and Denmark on the one side, and a declaration, on the other side, by the maritime powers of the world, to refuse to pay the said dues, in case an exemption should be made in favor of American vessels. An important State paper on the subject has just been issued by the Danish Government."

Operations on the Dnieper.

The following telegraphic despatch from Nikolaieff had been received in St. Petersburg: "Nikolaieff, Oct. 23—8 P. M. The position of the enemy's squadron off Kiuburn has not been changed. Their steamers and floating batteries are in the Oczakoff roads, in the embouchure of the Bug, opposite the village of Parutino, and in the embouchure of the Dnieper, between Stanslay and Rybilchiz."

At the mouth of the Dnieper the enemy is actively engaged in taking soundings along the southern bank of the river.

The number of troops landed on the Spit of Kiuburn has not been increased. According to the statement of three English sailors, who, having ventured on shore, were made prisoners by the Cossacks, of one of our detachments, a part of the invading army of the enemy is still on board the vessels of the fleet; it amounts, including the troops disembarked, to about 15,000 men.

Movements of the Russian Armies.

Gen. Luders has issued an order of the day to the army of the south, dated from Nikolaieff, the 6th of Oct., announcing the arrival of twenty-three druschines of the governments of Smolensko and Moscow, as a reinforcement to the corps under his command. He states that these militia battalions have been formed about six months, and notwithstanding their long march, are already to some extent instructed in field maneuvers; but, as they are still very inferior in all respects to the old regiments who have completed their experience in the field, Gen. Luders impresses on the officers of every rank the necessity of instructing them in all their military duties, and intimates to the older soldiers that their young brothers in arms must not be treated with ridicule or contempt. The recruits of the militia have been distributed among the regiments of infantry of the army, the reserve, and those of the military depot. They are to be taught the most necessary portions of their duty as soon as possible. The Gen. says:

"They are not required to possess the exclusively scientific knowledge necessary for the service de front; it will be enough if they are taught the movements of the close column and the duty of chasseurs and skirmishers, if they know how to load their muskets properly and to fire at the target. A letter from Odessa, dated Oct. 18th, says: 'The Emperor Alexander himself sometimes appears in the trenches and encourages the soldiers. It is also related that he often visits the military hospitals, and speaks words of comfort to the sick. In one of the wards is an officer who received most frightful wounds at Sebastopol. The face of this poor fellow, which had been terribly burnt, was covered as the monarch passed, so that it might not be seen. The Emperor, however, lifted the cloth, and on