

Job Printing.

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 additional orders to all the requirements of the locality. HANDBILLS, POSTERS, BLANKS, CARDS, CIRCULARS, PAMPHLET-WORK and other kinds, done to order, on short notice.

LAFAYETTE, O. T., Jan. 11, 1856.

Editor Argus—Sir: Having read your paper from its beginning with an expectation of finding fault, and with some intention too to expose those faults, I take great pleasure in announcing that I have been much deceived for the better, and am now resolved to continue your paper so long as you continue to advocate those consistent and conservative principles, which alone can be relied on to sustain the general and local governments, in all their freshness, purity, and integrity.

Sir, I had expected that you would pitch into abolitionism, head and shoulders, from having heard you called an "abolitionist." But I am indeed gratified to learn that you are only anti-slave—that is, you prefer having Oregon a free State when it comes into the Union—and you do not wish to meddle with the institution of slavery in the States where it now exists; leaving them to continue or abolish it as seemeth good to themselves.

Then, also I had expected that you would skin the public men of our party (democratic) right or wrong; but I find that you award justice to all, regardless of the party to which they may chance to belong; which is so extraordinary in Oregon, it is cooling, encouraging, refreshing, and animating; it is like an oasis in a desert. Indeed, sir, there have been so little magnanimity and self-respect displayed by the newspaper journalists in this far western land, that I had despaired of anything from that quarter to revive the spirits of the good, or reinvigorate the moral sentiment which, I am informed, to the praise of the first settlers, once and for many years prevailed here. And some with whom I have conversed, (being older settlers,) have informed me that there was no depreciation, no shrinking, dilapidation, flagging, or diminution in the apparent moral tone of society, until the political war became so fierce, nor immediately after it began; but in the course of one or two years many had fallen fifty per cent. from their moral sensibility and high self-respect, which had previously characterized them. About that time, too, whiskey became a common beverage, having been unchained to "go out into the four quarters" of this Palestinian land, "to deceive," and spread a vitiating moral pestilence, to the great injury of the country in many respects. And to these two causes may be attributed the present state of society among us.

Here is ample scope for the moralist, the philosopher, and the divine. And but for my unofficial and humble position in society, I would indulge in a few reflections, on the subject. But I forbear, for the time being, but promise to prove in some future number of your valuable paper that the use of ardent spirits as a beverage is a great pecuniary loss to any community; and that it is as discreditable to the moral and intellectual phases of community, as it is blasting, withering, and destructive in a physical and pecuniary point of view.

One more thing, and I shall be at the bottom of the page.

I was pleased with your manly course towards Gen Wool, although many of us who belong to his own party are not at all pleased with the conduct of Wool; and I must say that I fear he is not the genuine merino as I am told that the same sheep will not produce the same kind of wool in different latitudes. He produced a fine coat in the south, for which you gave him full credit; but evidently he has withdrawn the very aid which it was the design of the government should give to the citizens of Oregon—on the ground of a military technicality, as I suppose. What would Gen. Jackson have done had he been governed by such principles down south.

The best military "technicalities" between heaven and earth, the most scientific, philosophic, and sensible, are a conquest over a belligerent foe—though some other

The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, Editor and Proprietor.

AMERICA—Knows nought of golden promises of Kings, Knows nought of Coronets, and Stars, and Stripes!

SUBSCRIPTION, Five Dollars a Year.

VOL. I. OREGON CITY, OREGON TERRITORY, SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1856. NO. 41.

officer should secure to himself a small slice of applause by it. It would be to every patriot a rich and sumptuous feast; and as a very jocular relative about three sheets in the wind once said to me of whisky, "It is meat, and drink, and pretty good clothes." So of a conquest in war; make it, regardless of starched and primed "technicalities," and it will be military enough, legal, scientific, and sensible.

But, sir, I believe he will yet redeem his standing; and float and wave gloriously, high up in the breeze of popular favor.

Your paper is becoming popular wherever it is read in this county; and many will soon become subscribers who had not any idea of taking it until they had an opportunity of seeing their neighbor's paper, (yours) which fully satisfies many of its characteristics of a newspaper. A. B.

Injury to the Cause of Prohibition by Injudicious Advocates.

LAFAYETTE, Jan. 12, 1856.

Editor of the Argus—Dear Sir: I have been much interested from time to time with the discussions upon a variety of topics connected with the well and advancement of the public interests, which have made so conspicuous a feature both in the department of your correspondence and the editorial chair in the career of THE ARGUS. Discussion between persons of mind and intelligence is calculated to effect untold good; it winnows out the chaff which an ingenious sophist may seek to impose upon the world for the "prime and golden grain," and among honest minds is every way adapted to the detection and exposure of error as it is to the strengthening and confirming of the principles of truth.

And like every thing else that possesses power for good, it may be so conducted as to be potent for evil only. A good thing may be very injudiciously advocated, upon improper ground, and supported by foolish and flimsy reasons, such as its friends can neither acknowledge nor approve. In such a case the advocate does harm instead of good, for his friends have then to labor as much perhaps to correct the misapprehension arising from the indelicacy of the imprudent advocate, as would be necessary to convince mankind of the truth and soundness of the cause they plead.

I am induced to make those reflections at this time particularly on account of the injurious tendency of certain opinions promulgated by one who calls himself "Prohibitionist," and the author of several articles which have lately appeared in THE ARGUS. I do not appear at this time, a la McKean, to dub "Prohibitionist" a fanatic and a wild advocate of an "objectionableism"; on the contrary I have entire sympathy with his main argument, and his ostensible object, the passage of a prohibitory law. And it is only one or two errors, begotten by a sincere wish to promote his principal aim, no doubt, that I purpose exposing, because of their especial tendency to weaken the cause of prohibition. He sets out in his article of Dec 29th with a "flourish and then a strike with his mallet" at the system of license laws. Now I am bold to say that I am, have been, and till we can get a prohibitory law, intend to continue, an advocate of the license system. And I advocate the license system for precisely the same reason that I favor prohibition—because it circumscribes and restricts the evils of intemperance. Who does not believe that were it not for the tax of \$200, as formerly, and of \$50, as it is at the present, there would be three doggeries in our land, to where now exists, dispensing misery and death? No one, I believe, who has ever seen the effects of the nominal license or "free whisky" system. It takes the traffic out of the hands of a large class of low ruffians who would never engage in any thing else, if it were only without restriction. It confines it, if you please, to a higher and more honorable (for there are degrees of respectability even in the lowest employment) set of men.

But, says "Prohibitionist," "it gives the lowest and most degraded of all callings the protection of the law, and makes it honorable." If that were the effect and object of the license law, the objection would be just; but it is neither. Every man has the right to sell, so our Courts have long since decided, where some local or municipal regulation does not interfere and prevent the exercise of the right; and we cannot be chargeable with protecting the traffic which we deny to all who do not first furnish the community with an indemnity in advance for the wrong which anyhow and without

it they would have the right to commit. License laws leave them, so far as protection is concerned, just where they were, and simply impose on the dealer the additional burden of the license tax. The license system was originated by wise and good men, for the purpose of restricting and mitigating the evils of the vice of intemperance, when the state of public opinion would not sustain anything more rigid, and its general adoption and beneficent influence sufficiently attest that it is not entirely without merit. To be sure, I wish it may be superseded by provisions suited to the entire extirpation of the traffic; but until that can be done, I shall advocate the law; much less would I detract from its merits that I might hoist another favorite plan into its place.

We wish to tear up the deadly Upas of the liquor traffic by the roots, and entirely to eradicate it, with all its consequences; but we find upon trial that it will not yield to our efforts, that time and perseverance alone can give us the victory. Should we then give up in despair? No. We try the license system, and by its aid we guide the sturdy monster, we lop off its limbs and boughs, and trim it from stump to top, save now and then an unconquerable branch that stoutly resists our efforts; we strip it of its pride, contract its dreaded shade, and measurably destroy its influence; and when with busy hands and faithful hearts we have accomplished this, and pausing for a moment, gaze upon the disfigured plume and decaying trunk of this once flourishing tree, and console ourselves for all our toil with the hope that soon we will be able to rive it asunder and annihilate it forever.

"Prohibitionist" steps up and coolly tells us that all our work is but as the pruning of the orchardist, only adding to the beauty, attractiveness, and power, of the monster, and exhorts us to renew an effort to eradicate it at once, which we know can only result in fruitless disappointment. We should reply, as I have been endeavoring to do in this article, "Trust the evidence of your senses, and see how much we have already accomplished by our plan of attack; soon we will have so reduced his power that we can uproot him wholly, but we cannot abandon the plan we have been operating upon, which is doing so much, for if we do he will soon recover his former strength, and be entirely invincible.

The license is the stepping-stone to the prohibitory system, and, unless in very extraordinary cases, must precede it. No great reform can be made in the simple time that it takes to conceive the system. All such things must be gradual. Public opinion cannot be made by law; it must be followed. And although the sooner license laws are repealed, and a prohibitory one passed, if public opinion will sustain it, the better, yet, as one who ardently hopes for the change, I would as soon be heard slandering the pious pretensions of the bark that had borne me safely across the mighty ocean, impelled only by sails, now that such languid steamer as the present age has launched have consigned the old packets to the dock, as detract from the license system the merit of having circumscribed intemperance, and hastened its ultimate and final overthrow. And upon the same principle on which all license laws are based rests the cause of prohibition. If you want to transfix the "personal liberty" doctrine, and drive a nail to the heart of the liquor traffic, show your opponent that the license system to which he submits prohibits every man utterly from dealing in the article, who does not first pay for the right; and show him that he must necessarily admit that if four-fifths are prohibited the right, yes, forty nine-fiftieths, that we certainly have the right to prohibit the remaining portion for the same reason that we do the first.

One more idea on this point, and I leave it. "Prohibitionist" impresses me with the belief that he belongs to that class of ultra reformers of which Lloyd Garrison, though on a different subject, is the prototype. When once told that his demands were too extravagant, his reply was, that "he must ask for a whole loaf in order to get half—deery every other means except the one, that he may get something done." In other words, applying it to our case, he would down with all license laws, hoist the flag of "free whisky" and the floodgate of intemperance, and let it devastate and desolate with its burning tide the budding prosperity of our land—for what? That the people might see its evils and apply the proper remedy. He and the opposers of prohibition remind me of the fable of the men who

hated each other so much that they started to travel in opposite directions, till they might get so far apart they never more would meet, and ignorant of one important truth, the rotundity of the earth, found themselves again face to face. So "Prohibitionist," in advocating the doctrine of prohibition, runs so far in one direction from the liquor traffic that he is found almost in contact with it in another. Certainly he and "free whisky" men harmonize beautifully.

I am confirmed in this view of his opinions by his oblique sneer at the idea of expecting vice for sacramental purposes, out of a prohibitory statute. Such doctrines, or rather truths carried to such extremes, serve to disgust instead of convincing; and it is to counteract the effects which they might be supposed to have, if uncontradicted, upon those who are favorable to prohibition, but are not firmly anchored to its support, that I have been induced to claim your indulgence for so long an article.

Very Respectfully, J. R. M.

Nicaragua.

Walker, the filibuster, seems to be on the high road to renown as the founder of a new State. His control of Nicaragua is represented by the latest intelligence as more solid and secure than ever. Corral, the last man who might have headed a movement against his authority, has been convicted of treasonable correspondence with some relies of the opposite party, and shot. By every arrival from California reinforcements swell the army of the chief, and if he continues to manage his affairs with the same discretion which he has hitherto exhibited, no power can expel him from his position.

We must admit that since his triumph the conqueror has exhibited a great degree of political sagacity. The Presidency was in his grasp, but he preferred that Dan Pacifico Rivas, a prominent native Nicaraguan, should be put into that office, at least for the present. By this means Walker saved the government from that revolutionary and alien air which in his own hands it would have worn. The Nicaraguans would certainly be very ungrateful to refuse their allegiance to an administration with one of their own number at its head. Besides, had he become President, foreign governments would have been slow to form relations with the new regime; but there could be no reason why they should not recognize Rivas, who had been in high office before, and had borne a decent character in the world's eyes. The showiness of this plan is justified by the result. The minister of the United States has already exchanged congratulations with the new chief magistrate, and the others are likely to follow. When the revolution is thoroughly legitimated by the recognition of several powers, Walker will be ready to make himself nominally dictator, as he already is in reality, and to carry his great project step toward its consummation.—New York Tribune

The N. Y. Sun gives the following:

WALKER'S PLAN IN CENTRAL AMERICA.—A plan has already been started for the revival of the old Central American confederation, which is likely to be successful. Honduras and San Salvador have, on the invitation of Gen. Walker, sent commissioners to Nicaragua inviting propositions to that effect, and Walker has accepted them. This invitation is to be extended to Costa Rica and Guatemala, and unless they accept it, the forces of the three other combined States, is said, will be used to compel them. It is to be regarded as an act of hostility if they refuse. Walker's plan already extends to all Central America.

A Wonderful Invention.

We have seen in several papers a notice of the new Electric Magnetic Printing Telegraph, invented by David E. Hughes of Kentucky. In the testing of one of these machines in New York, its powers were found so wonderful a character as almost to create a doubt in the claims set up for it. The Herald, on the testimony of persons known to be competent to form a correct judgment of what they saw and tested, gives the following account of its capacity: "It will print, as we are told, from three to five hundred letters, or from fifty to one hundred words in a minute, without the possibility of error. It will send two messages simultaneously, in opposite directions, over the same wire. It works with the most perfect secrecy—that is, it will send a communication from point of departure direct to its destination, without the possibility of any way office on the route receiving a copy, excepting at the will of the sender. This

is a feat which no other instrument now in use can perform; and one, the advantages of which must be apparent to every individual who is at all conversant with telegraphic matters. It is very simple in its operation. Any person who knows a letter of the alphabet when he sees it can write as correctly with this instrument as the most experienced operator; all that is requisite to insure absolute correctness being that the copy shall in the first instance be written plainly and correctly. The machine verifies itself—that is, at each revolution the operator can tell by means of an unerring test in his instrument, whether it is in unison or not with the instrument with which it is communicating in a distant city. But its most wonderful feat, and that which will test the reader's credulity the severest, is its power to start into operation a similar machine in a distant office, without the help or even presence of an operator, and compel it to write out whatever message it chooses to send in the same perfect manner in which they first started on their transit. Thus, for instance, an operator at Washington may, at any time, lock up his office and go to his meals, or his bed if he chooses, and on his return he may find on his desk a message perhaps from New York or New Orleans all fully printed out, and ready to be developed and sent to its address. These are some of the most prominent characteristics of Mr. Hughes' instrument."

If the powers here set forth are not exaggerated, this invention casts in the shade all previous inventions in scientific progress. With these machines, the company that is said to be forming for their use on the leading lines throughout the country, may claim a monopoly of telegraphing and set competition at defiance. Spiritualism will have to retire from the field.

THE NEW TELEGRAPH MACHINE.—This new machine says the Buffalo Republic, the invention of Mr. David E. Hughes, of Kentucky, and the announcement of which has interested all who are in the habit of telegraphing or being telegraphed, is a fixed fact. It does all it has claimed to do, and must, therefore, be regarded as the crowning invention in the world. One of these machines has been sent to Troy as a model, by which Mr. G. M. Phelps, the celebrated mathematical instrument maker, is to construct machines for the United States. The Troy Budget, speaking of the new machine, says: "Mr. Geo. M. Phelps, mathematician and telegraph instrument maker, No. 41 Ferry St., who has acquired an enviable reputation in the manufacture of the most perfect instruments for the Morse and House lines, has received the contract for constructing the new instruments for this country. No one, Mr. Phelps says, could have been more surprised than himself, when he was first informed what the new machine could accomplish, and it was with much doubt that he could entertain any favorable opinion of it until he saw its powers tested, and made an examination of its plan of construction. Finding the working of the instrument simple, and entirely different from anything ever before thought of, all doubts immediately vanished, and he was thoroughly satisfied it could accomplish all that was claimed for it by its inventor."

THE RATE OF INSURANCE ON GOLD.

The N. Y. Mirror says:—The shippers of gold from California to New York have paid between three and four millions of dollars to the New York Insurance Companies in the last five years; while the aggregate losses of the Insurers have not exceeded two hundred thousand dollars. Messrs. P. Sather & Co., of this city, have paid for insurance over \$300,000. We understand there is a combined effort making among the Bankers to get the rate reduced from 1 1/2 to 1 per cent., the latter figure being the rate at which the English companies offer to insure.

Important Regarding Saltpetre.

Boston, Nov. 24.—By advice per Canada, we learn that, by order of the Governor General of India, saltpetre can only be shipped from territories of the East India Company to London and Liverpool direct. The British Government have also ordered all vessels that were loading in England with saltpetre and nitrate of soda for the United States to be discharged. The ship Catherine, Capt. Edwards, which was loading at London for Boston, had been ordered by Government to discharge the saltpetre on board.

Never employ yourself to discover the faults of others, but be careful to mend and prevent your own.

News from the States.

Dates from New York to December 22.

THE SPEAKERSHIP.—The House of Representatives had not elected a Speaker up to the 22d of Dec. There had been 64 ballots, Banks having about 104 votes on nearly every ballot since our previous dates. A Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Herald, under date of Dec. 19, writes:

"Today's proceedings have changed the whole aspect of things, and it is conceded on all sides that Banks will be elected—it may be tomorrow, but surely this week.—Col. Richardson informed him today he considered it settled."

TRIPS FOR OREGON AND CALIFORNIA.

We learn that the U. S. Mail steamship St. Louis sailed from Hampton Roads on Dec. 15, for Panama, with about 800 troops attached to the Ninth U. S. Infantry, who have for some time been stationed at Ft. Monroe, under the command of Col. Wright. On their arrival at Panama they will embark on one of the Pacific steamers for San Francisco, and on reaching that port will proceed to the scene of the Indian disturbances on the frontiers of California and Oregon. The officers and men left in good health and fine trim for active and efficient operations in the "disturbed district." We shall, no doubt, in due season, receive favorable accounts of their valor in the distant field to which they have been assigned.—The St. Louis also took out a large extra mail for California and Oregon.—Ball Sun.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE PLAINS.

THE INDIANS SEEKING PEACE.—The St. Louis Democrat publishes the following extract from a private letter, dated above Ft. Pierre, 10th Nov., 1855:

"A few days ago, thirty or forty Sioux Indians came to Ft. Pierre to pay a visit to G. H. Harvey. He held a council, and had Campbell, the interpreter, to tell them that he wanted ten of the principal men of each band of the Sioux to come and see him within one hundred days; and should they listen to his words, and do as he wants them to do, it would be for their good, he would make peace with them. But if any of the bands should not come at the above time, he would then know that they wish to fight. He told them that it was immaterial to him how they acted, as he would just as soon fight as to have peace; that he was sent by their Great Father to fight them, but since he had killed the braves he had pity on them. All the Indians that have come to see him, say they wish to fight.—They want to live. He told them that 'he could not fight men that didn't want to fight.'"

THE KANSAS TROUBLES.—A dispatch from Independence, Mo., states that the misunderstanding between the free State men and the pro-slavery men in Kansas has been amicably settled. The first meeting agreed to recognize the Governor, deliver up offenders, obey the laws, and conduct themselves with propriety hereafter. It also states that the volunteers from Missouri have been disbanded and gone to their homes. All this is very probable, but we think it requires confirmation.—New York Herald.

THE QUESTION OF SLAVERY.—The whole subject of slavery will probably be brought before the Supreme Court of the United States this winter, in the case of Mr. Booth, the free soil editor in Wisconsin who was convicted in the U. S. District Court of aiding in the escape of a fugitive slave, and was subsequently liberated by the State Court on a habeas corpus. This is one of the most interesting and important cases ever brought before the Supreme Court.

LIGHT HOUSE ON THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA.

We learn that instructions are about to be issued by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, in conformity with an order from the President, for the reservation of land at Crescent City for the erection thereon of a lighthouse.—Wash. Union.

THE SCIT OF MRS. GAINES.—The Supreme Court at New Orleans on the 17th Dec. decided the case of Mrs. Gaines, reversing the decision of the Second District, and decreeing that Daniel Clark's will of 1813 be probated, and that Mrs. Gaines be put in possession of the property.

PRESIDENTIAL MOVEMENTS.—Cass and Douglas have publicly expressed their desires not to be considered as candidates for the Presidency.

A Washington correspondent of the Richmond Enquirer says:

"Letters have been received here from Gov. Wise, giving as his opinion in the present state of parties and attitude of the country, that the South should present no candidate for the Presidency in 1856. He thinks (it is said and believed) that there should be a coalition union of the party on Buchanan. Never have I seen the Democratic cause in finer spirits, or more confident of success in 1856, and the ultimate and perpetual triumph of sound principles. The names of neither Cass nor Judge Douglas will be presented to the Cincinnati Convention. Of this you may rest assured. I speak knowingly on the subject."

The N. Y. Herald remarks:

"Mr. Wise working for Buchanan, eh? Peace, in return for this extraordinary generosity, Mr. Buchanan will insist that Mr. Wise shall at least be the next Vice President. Very likely, too, Buchanan and Wise will be the ticket."

Robert Schuyler, the great New York lawyer, died lately in Paris.

The bill to give the choice of Presidential Electors to the people passed the House of Representatives of South Carolina on the 14th Dec., by a vote of 54 to 23.