

The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OREGON CITY:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1856.

Agents for the Argus.

J. R. McBRIDE, *Lafayette.*
C. A. REED, *Salem.*
MORGAN RUDOLPH, *Sublimity.*
WM. BARLOW, *Molalla.*
H. C. RAYMOND, *Forest Grove.*
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AMOS HARVEY, *Plum Valley.*
SOLOMON ALLEN, *Amity.*
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JOHN MCKINNEY, *Calapooia.*
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JUDGE SNEELING, *Yreka, Cal.*
JNO. B. PRESTON, *Will Co. Ill.*
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WILLIS WARRINER, *Cumden, Mo.*

Law Concerning Newspapers.

IF subscribers order the discontinuance of their papers, the publisher may continue to send them until all arrearages 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 arrearages, should there be any.
IF subscribers remove to other places, without informing the publisher, and the paper is sent to the former direction, they are held responsible.
IF 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.

To Correspondents.

We have a lot of communications on hand which must lie over till next week.
"Probationals" has sent us a piece of an article. By some mistake the page he sent us opens in the middle of his subject.
In answer to several communications we will say that the "Money to Loan" does not belong to us, but to a blind man in this city. It can be had at two and a half per cent. a month. Who ever heard of an editor having money to loan?
"M. T." can get the books here, for \$12.
"W. W." is informed that the case was argued by Hon. F. P. Stanton, late Member of Congress, from Memphis, Tenn., and the desired information can be obtained by writing to him. We know nothing more about the matter. The result of the suit we have not been able to learn. You had better direct your letter to Washington City.

Our Future—Reduction in Price.

Nine weeks more will close the first volume of THE ARGUS. In answer to many inquiries which are made of us as to whether we should be able at the beginning of the next volume, to redeem our promise to reduce the price and enlarge our paper as soon as possible, we are glad to say that we are able to do both. We have met thus far with better encouragement than we dared at first to hope. Even at our present price our subscription list is constantly increasing, and we are continually receiving assurances from almost every section of the country, that our efforts to make a good family paper are appreciated by the intelligence and true democracy of the country. The prospect is, that at our present price our subscription list would soon compare favorably with those of the oldest journals in the Territory. But although we might have a larger circulation than any other paper, and might receive a better compensation for our labors than any other publisher in Oregon, we should never feel that we had accomplished the purpose that lies near to our heart, so long as the price of our paper placed it beyond the reach of hundreds of families who ought to have it. That a good paper is worth five dollars a year, or even twice that sum, to any family, is too plain for argument, and that the great majority of men in Oregon are able to pay that sum, is equally clear. Yet as many men, without reflection, doubt the truth of either of these facts, and as they are generally impressed with the belief that a paper can be printed for less, and that it ought to be, we have concluded to obviate every objection and strip every man of all excuses for not subscribing, by reducing the price of THE ARGUS to the lowest possible notch, after enlarging it to the amount of two columns and a half additional. This, of course, must be invariably in advance, and cash at that. Where we take trade of any kind, we must have the old price. Our terms for the next volume, (beginning in April,) will be: For a single subscriber, \$3.50; a club of ten or more at one office, \$3.00 each.

To those who wish to take a States paper, we will state that Fowlers & Wells have written to us, wishing us to put their works in with THE ARGUS, such as may wish them. Any person who wishes, can have the papers upon the following terms: For THE ARGUS and LIFE ILLUSTRATED, \$5.00; For THE ARGUS and the WATER-CURE JOURNAL, or the PARENTHOOD JOURNAL, \$4.00; or for all of them together, \$7.00. Those who intend to take any of the above works of Fowlers & Wells will please send us the money immediately, so that we may order them on at an early day.

At the price for which we propose to publish our paper, it will be necessary for us to

nearly double our present subscription list in order to keep up. Whilst we return our friends a thousand thanks for their exertions in our behalf thus far, we hope that they will not only continue, but increase, their exertions, as we diminish the price. All of your neighbors ought to both take it themselves and send another copy to some friend in the States, at that price.

It is not necessary to state perhaps that we intend to try more and more to improve our paper, as a public journal. We think, ourselves, that we are now beginning to "get the hang of it." Not very much could be expected the first year from one who had for nearly nine years been following the plow, and handling the ax and spade, instead of driving the quill. We have always belonged to the hard-handed democracy, and we have ever tried to publish a paper to suit them, instead of pettifoggling politicians and white-livered city soap-locks. We are now enlisted in the war; you all know the flag we carry at our mast-head; we have shown our hand; our principles are not hid up in a corner; our "ground" is "high" enough, perhaps; if not, we will come up a little higher. Truth is our motto, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; and, with all due respect for the opinions of others, we calculate to drive the plowshare of truth deep through the great moral vineyard in which we are laboring, plowing up moral and political brambles and thorns, and trying to make it bud and blossom with fruit-yielding shrubs and plants.

One word in conclusion to our old patrons who are behind the times. Try to pay for soon for the first volume; if you pay for the next will then come easy. We are mighty in need of the money to pay what debts we owe. Our expenses must be paid up in about nine weeks. We shall then want every dollar that is due us. Shall we have it? Say yes or no!

Gen. Wool—Gov. Curry—The Oregon and California Press.

The people of California and the States, and many honest enquirers after truth in our own Territory, after reading the papers that have so warmly joined issue upon the important cause now pending, of Gen. Wool versus Gov. CURRY, or of the U.S. Regulars versus Oregon Volunteers, will undoubtedly understand one thing very clearly, and that is, that there has been unfortunately a clash between the representative authorities of the two military bodies now in the tent, or in the field. That there must have been a cause for this collision, every man who has much "causality" must immediately conclude; but if he is able to get at the true cause, and thus be able to form a correct opinion upon the case, by what has yet transpired in the presses before alluded to, he must have the faculty of bringing order out of "confusion worse confounded."

We have endeavored thus far in the history of this imbrüglio to stand aloof as much as possible from an affair which we have heretofore considered, from the best lights we had, as rather an improper and unpropitious opening for a public journal, deeply interested in the issues of the present war, and anxious that the wayside and fireside talk of irresponsible men should not be elevated to an importance next to official correspondence, by finding a place in type, thus unwisely widening the breach which we have sorrowfully witnessed to be gradually widening, until it has at last, by the aid of a few indiscreet "pitchers in," become a yawning gulf, which threatens to either swallow up many of our interests, or give us a vast amount of trouble in bridging it.

As the case may have stood heretofore, the time has already passed when, in our judgment, the case assumed an aspect that justified us in breaking silence. We approach the subject with a full desire to do justice to all parties concerned, and if, from a want of access to official authority, we should make a single mistake, we shall be glad to make the correction hereafter; and we ask every man to forego his judgment till he reads to the bottom of this article.

The San Francisco papers which came by the last mail, during our absence from home, represent that they had been posted by an officer from Washington Territory in reference to the war question. This "officer" is supposed here to be Gen. Wool himself, but, in the absence of proof, we will suppose, for the sake of being charitable to the gray-headed general, that it was one of his subordinate officers. This "officer" gives the information that "if Gov. CURRY had not been so anxious to monopolize all the glory, and political as well as pecuniary patronage of a big war, the volunteers and regulars could have co-operated with good will and energy in the common cause." The same paper also learns that Gen. Wool is blamed in Oregon "for not sharing the exposure of a winter campaign, with part of Gov. CURRY's volunteers, which he, the Governor, contrary to the advice of the Colonel of Volunteers and the old mountaineers, thought fit to send unskinned into

Washington Territory to endure a great deal of unnecessary hardship."

Here will be found the root of the whole difficulty between the "regular" and volunteer departments. Maj. Rains wished our volunteers to be drilled into the regular service; Gov. Curry, by the advice of "Generals Nesmith and Barnum," said no Gov. Curry wished to fight the Indians in the winter; Gen. Wool, who arrived after the forces were in the field, withdrew his troops, and by his conduct gave us to understand that he was looking forward to a summer campaign.

It will be recollected that Maj. Rains, then in command of the Regular forces, under date of Oct. 9th, 1855, made a call for four companies of volunteers, to assist him in subduing the "Clickatats, Yakimas, and some smaller bands," who had already surrounded Maj. Haller, who had previously been sent into the Yakima country with a force of 102 men, for the purpose of avenging the death of Bolon, Indian Agent, and other citizens said to have fallen at the hands of these savages. Under date of Oct. 11th, Gov. Curry issued his proclamation calling for eight, instead of four companies, as every hour was darkening the gathering storm, and from information gathered from Indian runners, and other sources, we were threatened with a general war with the tribes combined all along our frontier, and it was thought best to raise a force sufficient to make a blow at first that would effectually conquer the savages. The forces called for by the Gov. were ordered to furnish their own horses, arms, and equipments, if possible, and rendezvous upon the east bank of the Willamette river opposite Portland. Multnomah County was the first that responded to the call, and on the 23rd Oct. Capt. Wilson of that company received orders from Gov. Curry, to proceed forthwith to Ft. Vancouver to receive arms, ammunition, and equipments, where he was informed he would be mustered into the service of the United States. Upon the evening of the same day, (Oct. 13,) the Gov. countermanded a part of his morning order to Capt. Wilson and told him, that as "the result of a conference this evening held with Generals Nesmith, and Barnum, and others of our friends" he had been induced to change his order, and now forbid him to allow his command to be mustered into the service of the United States. This move was of course calculated to prejudice the officers of the Regular forces against us, and would naturally make them think, in the absence of the whole facts, that Gov. Curry was either suspicious of their abilities to command or that he wanted to "monopolize all the glories of the war." Now men who fight for a trade may well be excused for stopping on the eve of a bloody struggle, and laying plans for securing "glory." But we, the people of Oregon, and our Governor, were all too much in earnest, too deeply interested in the safety of our firesides, our wives and children, to pause long enough to make mathematical computations of future dividends of "glory" or pecuniary profit. The Gov. acted no doubt just as his own judgment under the circumstances indicated as for the best. The volunteers all had a strong aversion to being drilled into the regular service, and with the views and impressions they then had, they would probably have revolted before they could have been made to take this step. We believe that if Gen. Wool had been here, and the true position that our volunteers would have been placed in towards the "Regulars" could have been pointed out, every difficulty to a harmonious action with them could have been obviated. Had they known that during this connection, they could have elected their own company officers, and been admitted to the privileges and comfort of the Regular Quartermaster's and Commissary's departments, being only subject to general orders from head quarters, and still exempt from discipline, as though they were wholly under the militia regulations of Oregon, as Gen. Wool informed us himself they would be, they would undoubtedly have yielded what objections they had to the step, in order to secure such privileges. If the volunteers had entered the Regular service we are not prepared to say whether Gen. Wool would have taken the field with them this winter or not. But from the fact that his apologists give as a reason for his inactivity thus far, that the winter is not the proper time to pursue the Indians, and from the fact that he has already disbanded the Washington volunteers who were drilled into the regular service, we are forced to the conviction, that our whole volunteer force would have been similarly treated, and the savages in Washington Territory who are now pillaging, murdering, and burning, also the northern tribes, who are threatening the lives of the settlers on Walla Walla, and only kept at bay by our volunteer forces, together with the Indians in Rogue River, would have been permitted to revel through the winter in blood, and escape to their mountain fastnesses in summer beyond the reach of either regulars or volunteers.

This being the case, the present circumstances clearly justify the wisdom of Gov. Curry in refusing to place the volunteers under an authority that would have counteracted all our efforts in subduing the Indians.

It seems that Gen. Wool entertains the same opinions in reference to a "winter's campaign" that Nesmith entertained a year ago last fall, and by whose advice, together with the concurrence of the Legislature, nothing was done towards punishing the Snake River Indians for their unheard-of butcheries. The California papers are informed by the "officer" they refer to, that Gen. Wool is sustained in his opinion by Col. Nesmith, and old mountaineers. Now we have it from tolerably good authority that Gen. Wool is fortifying his position against us, which will be taken in his representations to the department at Washington, with our papers, and letters, from our own camp. Can it be possible that he has leaked out a secret, in excusing himself at San Francisco by backing up his own opinion with that of the "Colonel of the volunteers, and the old mountaineers?"

The Daily Evening News of San Francisco, learns "Gen. Wool's dispatches to Washington will be to this effect, that there is no combination among the Indians for hostilities," and that "he attributes much of the excitement on the subject to have been prompted by parties interested in getting up the war. Now what paper in Oregon, can he support that position from, except THE STATESMAN? Can it be possible, that Gen. Wool has preserved a file of that sheet, in order to help defeat us in getting pay for our noble volunteers, who have spent their time, and many of them their all, besides enduring hardships and toils that would have wiled a Hercules, in fighting for us? Is it not enough that the "party" has stuffed this slimy vampire upon thousands and tens of thousands of our hard cash, for public printing, without lending the influence of his sheet towards such false representations of our position, as shall tend to weaken our cause with the government, and deprive our barefooted volunteers of their pay? What a contemptible farce is the "memorial" for removing Gen. Wool, coming as it does from a Legislature which has propped up and endorsed this sheet, by giving it all the public patronage, as the official "organ," when that "organ" has, time and again, either editorially or by its correspondence, given the lie to the most important allegations of that memorial!

We also have assurances that some of the officials in Oregon are in communication with such men as are drawing out of them aid and comfort, just at this crisis. An Indian agent from the Dalles expressed himself in this city a few days since, that "it was now a subject of doubt at the Dalles, as to whether the Indians were a greater curse than the volunteers." These things all go to show that there is something "rotten in Denmark," and that while the Gov. of Oregon, together with our citizens, are interested in bringing the war to a successful termination and securing justice from the home Government, that we have a foe among ourselves, artful, wily, and dangerous, which may yet bring us into difficulty that we have not anticipated.

If Gen. Wool and his Regulars had seen fit to burrow up at Vancouver, and keep their own bread from molding, without interfering with our business, he might have lain there till he became petrified as hard as an Egyptian mummy, without our pausing to make him our bow, whilst we were entreating our own dauntless heroes to push their conquests to the hole of the last digger, that wraps himself in a stolen blanket, or primes his rifle with Pandoy's powder. We have no doubt, that Gen. Wool, and his staff have, in their intercourse with our citizens, and perhaps with some of our editors and officials, seen and heard many things that have been wounding to their pride, and insulting to their dignity. We would to God they had smothered down their feelings, and like truly great and magnanimous men, overlooked it all, instead of laying it so grievously to heart, as to induce them to try to wreak vengeance on the whole Territory, by the course which the California papers would indicate their having taken. The San Francisco HERALD has kindly answered a question which has been asked a thousand times in vain here, viz: when will the Regulars be ready to take the field? The HERALD answers, (by authority of Gen. Wool, of course.) "When spring opens,—probably by the first of April." We hope that by that time, we, together with Gov. Stevens' force, shall have conquered a lasting peace.

Suppose that our volunteers, are called home now, and the Regulars take their places,—who believes that the war would not be ended by a "treaty" in less than three weeks. We all know the policy of the Indians to be, to halloo "enough," and call for treaty, the moment they are cornered. Our Regulars are so little acquainted with the Indian character, and so full of the milk of human kindness, brave as

they are, we fear that a treaty might be made without what we old Oregonians would consider a sufficient "indemnity for the past," and a proper guarantee for the future." As to the statements made by the California press that Gov. Curry has not preserved scarcely any vouchers for the expenses of the war, together with many other statements we have not time to notice, we shall leave them all for the official correspondence and proceedings relating to this war, to rectify, when they are communicated to the Government at home.

In conclusion, we would state, that as the whole responsibility of terminating the difficulty seems to be thrown upon our shoulders, we sincerely hope that every encouragement may be rendered to our comrades who have already struck an effectual blow to the savages, in striking down the haughty and treacherous Chief of the Walla-Wallas, under circumstances that reflect much credit upon Col. KELLEY, as not only a brave but humane commander, but also in effectually routing the savages and driving their forces beyond Snake River. The death of this Chief, who with his own hands had pillaged the stores left by Gov. Stevens, and divided out the property among his men, besides burning the house of McKay, and destroying his property, and stealing and destroying the property of Brooks and Bumfort, and to cap the climax of his treachery, coming into our camp under a flag of truce, and under the pretense of taking our forces to his people to make a treaty, endeavored to lead the volunteers into an ambush, and eventually, after his people had made an attack upon us, endeavoring to cut his way through our guard in order to join his warriors; we say that the death of this Chief may be reckoned as a more effectual blow to the enemy than would have been the killing of a hundred Indians. Add this to the fact, that not less than seventy-five other Indians were slain, besides as many more wounded, and we shall be disposed to give Gen. Wool great credit if he accomplishes as much for the next six months. We don't wish to hurt the feelings of Gen. Wool or any of his brave men, but we wish they would just stand aside—while we—Hurrah for the Volunteers!

The Catholic Priests and the War—A Catholic Citizen's Attended to.

To the Editor of the OREGON ARGUS:
Sir—For the past month I have noticed several violent articles in each issue of your paper, all tending to impress upon the minds of your readers the idea that the Catholic priests were the head and front of the present Indian difficulties; and being fearful that your constant harping upon that one subject might render you a monomaniac, I am induced to submit to your ARGUS eyes a few facts in relation to the conduct of the Catholic priests prior to and during the present war. In your issue of the 5th inst., I find an article based upon the following extract from the official report of Col. Nesmith:

"With sundry papers discovered in the mission building, was a letter written by the priest, Pandoy, for Kamiacan, 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 Pandoy, which is now in the custody of Maj. Rains. This book contains daily entries of Pandoy'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 *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 parishioners."
You then proceed with great sang froid to pride yourself upon the correct "position" which you took about a month previous, relative to the above subject, and presuming upon the same "position" which you thus assumed, you say the priests have in a measure prompted the Indians to the late outbreak! A bold presumption truly, when we find the puny evidence which you have to back your "position." You further assert as a fact, "that in this, as in the Cayuse war, these priests have been detected in the very act of conveying large quantities of powder in the direction of the camp of the enemy." This, sir, is a fact which emanated from your own disordered imagination, as during the Cayuse war no priest was ever detected in any such position, and you know it; but then, it must be recollected that a little buncombe capital does not come amiss at this time, and if you can make it off of a poor priest by publishing a tissue of groundless falsehoods against him, why even that is "grist to your mill."

The foregoing is a portion of a communication which appeared in the Standard of Dec. 13th, over the signature of "A Catholic Citizen." The writer of that article, in endeavoring to blind the eyes of his readers, and his pretending to correct us in reference to certain statements we had made concerning a few things connected with the present Indian war, as also the Cayuse war of 1848, in which the Catholic Priests had by their intercourse with the savages created more than a suspicion in the minds of the community that they were culpably implicated in the crimson character of these tragedies, wisely intrenched himself behind a fictitious signature. He has thereby thrown the responsibility of some three columns of pointless verbiage, flimsy sophistry, and Jesuitical falsehoods, upon the shoulders of an irresponsible, intangible, ghostly apparition, probably very recently dismissed from some sepulchre at Rome, or from the carcass of an Irishman just swamped in the bogs of Ireland.

Seven or eight weeks have now elapsed since we called upon this Roman Catholic Citizen to emerge from his hiding place among the tomb stones, and if he was really incarnate with a body of flesh and bones, such as the rest of us have, to throw off the

mask, and not only give us a full view of his corporeal developments, but also to send us a copy of the book by which he cleared Pandoy, and justified himself in issuing from his sweat-house vatican, his bull of excommunication against us.

We have thus far "harked" in vain for a sound "from the tombs." Like a true Jesuit, he not only still persists in keeping his name in the dark, and keeping the "book" we rightfully called for, in the dark, but attempts to enshroud the whole subject in total darkness, by making up his own case, from such parts of Pandoy's book as he chooses to have exposed, and then thrusting the whole manuscript into a dark corner of his dark-colored coat, and in order to darken what light we had already shed in upon the dark nest of Jesuits, among the dark-skinned, and dark-hearted savages, he most solemnly denies as false the most important of the dark charges we made against them, and then, after "darkening counsel" by a whole column of "words without knowledge," by which, like the cuttle fish, he darkens the waters to elude the hand of his pursuer, and then, under cover of all this darkness, he dodges into his dark little sweat-house, and issues his terrible bull consigning us to a very dark place, where the multitudinous of dark Jesuits that have gone before us have doubtless made it "as dark as a stack of black cats." But what makes the case still darker is, that whilst "Catholic Citizen" refuses to expose his personal outlines to our "Argus eyes," but intimates that as he is a member of the Catholic church, and of the democratic party, if we let off a broad side upon either of these societies, and wound either of their carcasses, the one bloated on the blood of saints, and the other on the juice of evn, we shall of course inflict a material injury upon him, upon the principle that "when one of the members suffers, all the members suffer with it." We say that in view of the fact that "Catholic Citizen" has claimed to be a member of both these organizations, the Corvallis organ of the Sag Nicths and Jesuits has what the razor of authority, and lopped him off, as a heretic member, and consigned him to the fires of damnation, because "Catholic Citizen" has intimated that the two bodies were not identical, thus wisely enveloping him in a dark cloud, and translating him far beyond the reach of our guns, makes the case terribly dark indeed.

"He (Catholic Citizen) displays the evn foot of either direct opposition to the democratic organization, or a head-on collision with that organization. * * * We can hardly conceive that the author of that communication is a Catholic, or a friend of the Catholic church."—Statesman of Dec. 25.

Thus it will be seen that the editor of the "organ" takes him by the top tuft, and applies the "rapin book" to his neck as a heretic, and not a genuine Catholic, because of his "sore-head-ism and disaffection with the democratic organization," thus unequivocally asserting that the church and the clique are identical, or so closely identified that in placing himself in opposition to the one, he proves that he is not a friend of the other. Now whether the action of the organ has been from a malicious desire to "bury him out of our sight" as an "unfruitful branch" of the Catholic and democratic trunk, or whether he intended in mercy to wrap him up in his Nesseean shirt, and hide him from our view by denying to him the only earthly position he assumed; it matters not particularly to us. We shall probably teach him, or his ghost, in due time, a lesson which we long since whipped into the tough and slimy hide of the biped who controls THE STATESMAN, and which he and his ilk would do well to read in the welts that checker his back, before they make their onslaughts upon us; viz: whenever we state a thing to be true, you may rest assured that it is so, and by calling it in question, you may be sure you will provoke the proof. We are not of that class of lying editors who make false charges which they are not able to sustain, and we have never yet vouchered for the truth of a statement, and been afterwards compelled to back out of it. Whenever we make a mistake, on account of bad information, we are sure to make the correction as soon as we are apprised of it, whether the statement affects the character or interest of friend or foe, or neither.

Your vile innendo, that we wished to make a little buncombe capital of a poor sniveling priest, is readily excused, knowing as we do your impressions from associating with political comrades who neither yield nor expect justice or decency from their political opponents, and presuming also that the moment you stepped your foot upon American soil with your little budget of Irish rags, some demagogue put a locofoco book into your nose, and led you off to the political pound to learn your catechism, so fast that the remaining half of the nether extremity of your old swallow-tail made a right angle with your stalwart frame. We know very well what sort of lessons you have learned out of that catechism; how you have been duped to believe that the