

The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR. OREGON CITY: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1856.

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On the outside this week will be found some original articles on temperance and the State question. Here is a field open for discussion, and we invite the lance-breakers into the arena. We think that A. G. H. may safely double his estimate of expenses under a State government; at least the three thousand office-seekers who will support a Convention in hopes of getting an office, would be very sorry to think that the public pile was to be reduced to such a figure.

There is, we notice, much talk among politicians about the matter not coming as a "party question." By this we understand that they mean to say that the people are left free to vote just as they think best, that is for the highest good of the Territory.

The idea is also carried, that if it was a "party question," the people must obey the orders of the wire-workers of the "parties," and vote the party ticket, right or wrong; thus not only sacrificing their personal liberty, but the pecuniary prosperity of the whole Territory.

Let us not of demagogues deceive you, by calling this, that, or another measure, a Democratic, Whig, or Know Nothing measure. By this policy, the people in Oregon have unwittingly been led to support men who are fast steering our financial and social interests into a whirlpool of bankruptcy and ruin.

Our seat of government has been carted and wheeled from this place to that place; the state house fund has, under the management of the party, been divided out among favorites, and gradually frittered down, till what was left standing at Salem to show for some has been overtaken by the judgments of Heaven, and licked up by fire to drive out the unclean birds who polluted its walls last winter.

Prof. NEWELL gives a concert of vocal and instrumental music in the hall over Dr. Steele's Drug Store, next Wednesday night. The popularity of his efforts hitherto in this city and other places will doubtless draw a full house.

arrivals acquiescence to the demoralizing, virtue-killing principles, advocated by it, refusing but a few days ago, to let the people vote upon the temperance question, and thrusting the petitions of the people that are at war with the principles of Oregon democracy, and unsuited to the brutal appetites of two-legged, democratic decans.

The administration of the government is rapidly covering the body politic with a spotted moral and social leprosy. Public confidence is being lost in our rulers and partyism has at last sided with the savages, by lashing the Governor down upon his narrow bones before the main-spring of the last Legislature, and plunging its reeking blade into the backs of some of our best citizens who have been engaged in defending their country from the inroads of savages.

Religion, temperance, virtue and enterprise receive no fostering care from their hands, but milder, wether, and die under their dynasty. Yet in view of all these things, strange to say, there is now and then a good, honest man in the country who wants "nothing to do with politics."

After the nominations were completed, the caucus unanimously adopted the following resolution: Resolved, That M. M. McCarver, commissioner general, be informed that the condition of his election as chief of the commissary department is, that he shall not employ in his department S. E. May, or any other person of like notorious political character.

On motion the caucus adjourned sine die. We publish the above in order to show our readers the kind of spirits we have to deal with in our efforts to prosecute the present war. We will state, however, that the instructions to Gen. McCarver, as reported by the Statesman in the above, were not adopted by the "caucus."

It is certainly a matter much to be regretted that the bill was stolen from the Council and its passage defeated, for several reasons. One is that you and "the gentleman from Linn" had decreed that it should pass in order to create a new office and father a nice little nest for Pat Malone as "superintendent," in order to reward him for his services as your personal page, and for other little party jobs, the "dirt of which enters the soul," such for instance as trying to kill off the Standard by plunging his slanderous steel into the vitals of his wife's character.

It is positively a disgrace to Oregon, that our southern friends are not relieved, and that immediately. These Indians could have been subdued in 1849 in half the time we have been tinkering with them, although they were then much more numerous, than at present, and we were much weaker.

Now they say that the petition only contemplated the removal of Know Nothings, and not of Whigs. The petition itself gives the lie to this assertion, unless they mean by Whigs such traitors to the country as have supported them in their measures.

The Phrenological and Water-Cure Journals will come at one dollar instead of two dollars as we stated last week. This will enable us to furnish THE ARGUS, Life Illustrated, and both Journals at \$6.00 in advance, instead of \$7.00 as we before stated.

Democratic Caucus. Caucus convened in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Tuesday evening, January 29, in pursuance of previous adjournment, for the purpose of nominating the members of the Territorial officers to be elected by the Legislature in pursuance of the provisions of law.

Mr. Straight of Clackamas was called to the chair, and Mr. Elkins (Clerk of the House) was chosen secretary. Whereupon the caucus proceeded to nominate and vote for candidates for the several offices, which vote resulted in the nomination of the following gentlemen for the several offices, to wit:

For Brigadier Gen'l, J. K. Lamerick. " Surgeon " Dr. M. C. Barkwell. " Comm'y " Gen. M. M. McCarver. " Commissioner to audit war claims, Philo Callender, " Penitentiary Commissioner, Messrs. Weatherford, Fitch and Doland.

Mr. D. contended that the gentleman nominated by Mr. S. ought to have applied to him; and Mr. S. insisted that the penitentiary, though located at Portland, belonged to the Territory at large, and that the sentiment of the legislature and the country was that the penitentiary fund had not been properly husbanded, and that reform was necessary.

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Col. Kelley also informed us that Dr. Barkwell assured him that he should make no political creed a test in selecting his medical staff. Dr. Groer, we are informed by our correspondents from Rogue river, is the most untrusting and efficient surgeon in the whole southern service.

Dr. McTeeny is the last man that we should have thought would have fallen under the ban of the "clique." But if a man happens to be disliked by the Statesman editor, he has only to intimate it to his tools, and the unlucky fellow is immediately dressed up in a garb similar to that which anciently placed upon condemned heretics, and then labeled with "know-nothing," and the tools fall in to pelting him with mud and stones preparatory to taking his head off.

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that they will not do it, we are disposed to wait and see whether they will do it or not. Whenever Toryism becomes so rampant, that under the cover of such a name as democracy, it proposes in time of war to create jealousies and divisions among the people, by kicking every man out of office that does not support the party, we think that a crisis has fully arrived where there is no security for the stability of our free institutions.

We can hardly be expected to fight for those who are worse foes to us than the Indians. If the heads of the militia departments should carry out the instructions of the clique, and remove all men from office who voted against Lane, it could be hardly wondered at if every white man in the army should shoulder his gun and return home, leaving the tory party and the Indian party to fight it out as a "party war," little caring which whips.

The Advocate has at last complied with our oft-repeated request, and given its readers the resolutions of the Conference on Slavery. This was probably done for the benefit of the General Conference in the States, which is about to assemble, to which Mr. Pearne is a delegate.

The newly elected Brig. Gen., J. K. Limerick has made a call for four new companies, to be raised in Linn, Benton, Douglas, and Linn counties, to supply the places of the companies already in the Southern field, whose term of service is about to expire.

The Advocate, probably at the suggestion of "the gentleman from Linn," has pretty much quit "meddling with religion or politics." It seems to be trying to steer between Scylla and Charybdis. It may yet find the old proverb true—"Incidit in Scyllam qui vult vitare Charybdis."

We notice the passage of a bill by the late Legislature styled, "An act to incorporate the Tualatin River Transportation and Navigation Company."

This company has been chartered for the purpose of improving the Tualatin river, and connecting it with the Willamette by means of a canal, rail or plank road, or otherwise, as they may see fit.

Consistency. The "Points" organ, a few weeks ago came down on the Standard most unmercifully in a sham communication for publishing the indecent advertisement of Dr. Czapyk.

Delicate Taste. The Statesman of this week has dropped the name of Jo Lane as a candidate for the Presidency. The young man tells us that it is not done because he has ceased to love Jo Lane, or appreciate his towering worth; but the name was "omitted as a matter of typographical taste."

to Portland for upon a plank road. This medium of communication would drain a large section of the choicest agricultural country, which produces its tens of thousands of surplus grain annually. It strikes us that this is truly an important move, and stock taken will yield a fair permanent dividend, as nothing can successfully compete with the company in prices of transportation.

The "Memorial to stay the Superintendent of Indian Affairs," &c., passed the House, and will be sent to Washington as a House memorial, the Council all refusing to adopt it, excepting Huber and Fulkerson. Boise, in discussing it, said that the members of the lower house were "fresh from the people," and were "supposed to be the more perfect reflex of the wishes and desires of the sovereign people" than were the members of the Council.

Huber it seems, although he was in the Council, was "fresh enough to support the memorial, after having voted for Bush as Territorial Printer, and signed the petition for removing all officers from the army who voted against Jo Lane.

Latest accounts represent matters to be in a horrible condition in Rogue River and Umpqua Valleys. The Indians are said to have blockaded the road leading through the Canyon, and thus cut off all means of communication with Jacksonville.

The following from the Table Rock Sentinel of Jan. 26 shows the estimation in which southern democrats hold the Statesman. Capt. Smith was exactly right in feeling that he "could not help put patronage and power into his hands without involving himself in the guilt of betraying the country."

The Statesman was put to the pap of the Treasury when first born, and has been there until it has forgotten that it is a mere pampered parasite, and regards itself as a natural member. Considering that it had taken sides with the Indians against the whites, and was using its influence to embarrass the efforts of the country to prosecute the war, Capt. Smith felt that he could not help to put patronage and power into its hands, without involving himself in the guilt of betraying the country, nor vote for it without endorsing its position.

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By the same rule of "taste" we suggest another improvement, by your hauling down your own name as "editor," and substituting that of Wiggins or Pat Malone.

Improvements in Yamhill. The citizens of Dayton are building a free bridge across the Yamhill river at that place. Another free bridge is being erected across the same stream near McMinnville, or Newby's mills.

Monmouth University. We notice the passage of a bill by the last Legislature for chartering an institution of learning in Polk county to be called the Monmouth University.

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