

THE OREGON ARGUS.

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For the Argus.

The Progress of the Pilgrims.

LAFAYETTE, O. T., Feb. 18, 1856.

Dear Adams—A company of travelers set out on foot for the kingdom of National Prosperity. They had one horse joint property, which carried their baggage. They proceeded by easy stages, willing the time with pleasant conversations, exhibiting the greatest degree of good nature and confidence in each other. They had not proceeded many miles when they fell in with a straggler, who carried a heavy pack, and seemed weary and care-worn. He begged their assistance, and as they were kind-hearted men, they readily consented to let their horse carry his baggage, whilst they bade him cheer up, and gave him all the encouragement in their power. In return he related to them the persecutions which he had undergone—how for many years he had been upon that road traveling towards the country of National Prosperity,—that he had started as the guide of several large parties going that way, but had never got farther than where they picked him up—that his company always became dissatisfied with the road and gradually dropped off, some joining other parties, and some striking out for themselves, until he was left quite alone. The sympathies of the pilgrims were awakened—they were even affected to tears by the past sufferings of their new found companion. After a few days, Growler (for such was his name) began to exhibit a spirit of arrogance and haughtiness which they did not think accorded well with his situation as their pro-legy; he assumed to know the only road which led to National Prosperity, and he soon began to speak contemptuously of any one of the company who suggested a turn either this way or that, and they soon came to see the true reasons why he had been abandoned by his former companions. But as they were anxious above all things to get forward on their journey, they submitted with the best grace possible to the dictation of him they had so lately found in such distress.

About this period they one morning found a man lying in a gutter beside the road in a woful plight. When they had pulled him from the gutter, and scraped the filth from his face and mouth sufficiently to permit him to speak, he related to them how he had just been thrown from his mule, which had gone on and left him as they saw. He also earnestly begged to accompany them, which request was conceded, notwithstanding the strong opposition of Growler, who said that he knew him of old, that his name was Soft Soap, and that he was too treacherous, filthy, and mean to be admitted into any company of gentlemen; but the pilgrims had learned to regard Growler as a mere bag of wind, and he had been so loud and boisterous in condemning every thing that it was even fatal to the truth for him to espouse it. Now Soft Soap was a man of much cunning, and though he was in fact traveling towards the kingdom of Self-Aggrandizement, he soon learned the views of our travelers, and proposed to accompany them even as far as the kingdom of National Prosperity, the roads to which he pretended to be well acquainted with. Now this was a great relief to the pilgrims, who snatched at anything that might possibly relieve them from the assumptions and dictations of Growler, who had grown almost intolerable. Soft Soap determined to turn all this to his own advantage, and had soon decided in his own mind that the pilgrims should carry all of the luggage, whilst he rode their horse to the kingdom of Self-Aggrandizement. When they were coming near the forks of the road, Soft Soap fully represented the left hand prong as the nearest and best, which he well knew would be opposed by Growler, who was never satisfied even with his own way, was never satisfied by another. Though if it was proposed by another. Though most of the pilgrims were in favor of going to the right, they decided in council upon

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W. L. ADAMS, Editor and Proprietor. AMERICA—Knows nought of golden promises of Kings—Knows nought of Coronets, and Stars, and Stripes. VOL. 1. OREGON CITY, OREGON TERRITORY, SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1856. NO. 46. SUBSCRIPTION, Five Dollars a Year.

turning to the left, in hopes of getting clear of Growler, being led by Soft Soap to believe that though a little further around it would eventually lead to National Prosperity. But Growler readily found an excuse to go with them, saying that he could not consent to see his countrymen led off to destruction without an effort to save them; and following behind, he rated them all in unmeasured terms, not even sparing the poor old horse, who, frightened at the clatter, kept quivering in pace.

Now Soft Soap began to think of putting the balance of his plans into operation, which he began by awakening sympathy for the poor old horse, and he persuaded them that as the roads were very muddy it would be well for him to ride and pick the best way for the poor beast, the pilgrims never suspecting in their honesty but that Soft Soap was putting himself to great inconvenience for their benefit, and thinking that the poor horse would really be better able to accomplish his long journey through his skillful riding and guidance. Growler was so wroth with this arrangement that he fell to swearing so savagely that the horse snorted through fear, and seemed anxious to be off at his best pace, which at once convinced our travelers of the superior management of Soft Soap, when in reality the additional speed was owing to Growler.

Now this could not last always, for the poor brute was taxed far beyond his strength, and soon began to fail, upon perceiving which Soft Soap commenced shifting the load by litters on to his companions, who were naturally so good-natured that they were readily imposed upon by the plausible stories which he told them, whilst the bitter snarling and opposition of Growler only set them stronger on doing whatever Soft Soap proposed, who continually excited their hopes by drawing high pictures of the ease and happiness which they were to enjoy when they reached the kingdom of National Prosperity, where he assured them that every man would receive a handsome farm, fenced and cultivated, with a set of negroes to work it, and, better still, frequent donations of money from the king of that country, who was so rich and generous that he did not require or expect any of his subjects to work; in fact, he assured them that all these were kings except the niggers, (who were much happier and better off than they could be in any other situation.) Our friends were so well pleased with all this, which accorded with their wishes, and they and Soft Soap were abused so loudly by Growler, who they all agreed was influenced more by malicious spite than by his judgment or reason, that they hardly noticed the increase of their loads, or that they were verging far to the left of National Prosperity, as it was laid down on the chart of Conservatism by which they set out to travel.

Finally, when one day the poor old horse died from exhaustion and starvation, Credulous, who was one of the biggest men among them, made no objection to receiving the bridle in his mouth, and the saddle upon his back, into which Soft Soap lightly mounted, assuring them that it was quite necessary that he should be upon the lookout, as they were now approaching a country infested with divers great giants, who had slain, devoured, and dispersed many companies of travelers. Among other names, he mentioned those of Antinebraskabill, whom he represented as a monster having seventeen black heads; Coldwaterpledge, a giant sixty feet high, who, armed with a huge syringe twenty-three feet long, demanded of every man who passed through his dominions "to sign away his liberty" to him, and upon those who refused he squirted copious streams of a fluid called cold-water, which Soft Soap was assured was a deadly poison, although he frankly confessed that he never had tasted it; and this was the only question that arose during the whole journey in which Growler completely agreed with him. They were both amply provided with an antidote which was given to them by Rogutrednose, a powerful king and the natural enemy of Coldwaterpledge, and doubtless if they should meet this monster they would make common cause against him.

The pilgrims of course were greatly frightened at these dangers described by Soft Soap, who daily became more useful to them, as he had worked upon their fears until they were perfectly bewildered and dare not stir a step without he was mounted upon one of them and in the lead, lest they should walk into the clutches of Nebraskabill or Coldwaterpledge.

Now Soft Soap advised that they should proceed through the land of Sophists, as Squattersovereignty, its king, was his intimate friend, and would doubtless escort them through the country of Nebraskabill. This plan was at once opposed by Growler to the bitter end, who raved like a maniac, and swore that Squattersovereignty was the most unprincipled, blood-thirsty monster in the world, and that if they should fall into his hands he would be sure either to eat them or make them slaves for life; and went on at such a rate swearing and striking at all who came near him that they were convinced he had gone crazy, and agreed among themselves that they would put a straight-jacket upon the poor fellow, and leave him whenever he reached the castle of Moderation, which Soft Soap assured them he would pass by. In the mean time, Growler kept close at their heels, in hopes, as he said, that he might yet save them from destruction, but, as they believed, for the purpose of gratifying his spleen and morbid appetite for slang which nature and disappointment had rendered as necessary to him as bread.

It will be seen now that Soft Soap has come to have things pretty much his own way. Since the death of the old horse the pilgrims, far from being distressed about carrying him, quarreled almost every morning for the honor, and had upon several occasions even come to blows. One day when Soft Soap was mounted upon Credulous, the latter generously proposed that Growler might be allowed the privilege of carrying one leg in the ropes—that such a mark of confidence might do the poor fellow good. Growler, overhearing the request, pricked up his ears, and looking more good-natured and pleasant than he had appeared for many days, and spoke in such terms of kindness and praise of Credulous, that they all thought his reason was returning. But Soft Soap was too cunning to permit such an indulgence; he saw that his power was mainly sustained by the opposition of Growler; so, halting the cavalcade, he solemnly dismounted from the back of Credulous, and sternly bidding him to bend down, he administered several hearty kicks to his posterior in the sight of the whole cavalcade, telling him that he had taken the first step in treason, but that as he never threw away a good rifle because it missed once, he would suffer him to return to his honorable service upon promise of future good behavior, whereupon, with tears in his eyes, Credulous acknowledged that he had erred, but pledged himself to do so no more. The pilgrims trembled lest they should meet the same fate; Growler howled and frothed at the mouth; and thus his ascendancy restored, booted and spurred, Soft Soap remounted, and the cavalcade moved slowly on its way. HUM FUM.

For the Argus.

LEBANON, Feb. 7th, 1856.

Friend Adams—Our legislature, just adjourned, has appointed the first Monday in April next on which "to take the sense of the people" as to the present policy of a State Government, and as we have but two months left for preparation and decision, it is time we were casting about to see what will be our condition under the new state of things.

Your Lafayette correspondent H. F. thinks the question of "economy" worth not a moment's consideration. If not then we are abundantly able to bear all the expenses of a State government, and the question rests upon our preference for a full and independent franchise. Although, in Oregon (where none but Democrats in office is the rule) we have a Governor, Secretary, Marshal, Judges, etc., Federal officers, appointed by the President of the U. S., and probably as good men as we shall elect, yet all men prefer to choose their own officers.—So you see that the question "not worth a moment's consideration" is the one which is to claim the attention of the people of Oregon for two months. Let us see the figures and then we will see that the ipse dixit of H. F. is not worth a moment's consideration.

Hitherto we have had four main sources of wealth, viz: Gold mining, trade to California, immigrant capital, and the appropriations of Congress for the support of the Territorial Government. Now gold digging is followed desultorily by few of the Oregon people, the trade to California is almost confined to a very slim traffic in wheat, butter, and eggs, and immigrant capital is reduced to a moiety. The a-

mount received from Congress alone remains about the same. We expect no increase of "dust" nor any grand discovery of gold; California is independent of our beef, pork, flour, butter, and eggs, and Kansas or Nebraska is now the grand career of the emigrant. Shall we then conclude we have no need of "Federal Money."

Until the present we have imported hats, caps, boots, and shoes, clothes of all kinds, besides tea, coffee, sugar, and molasses, tobacco and whisky, etc., etc., and exported but little, except gold and our good name. Now that the bulk of our dust and credit is gone we are about to produce something, we shall export what we can, import what we must.

We are on the point of reformation truly; our eyes are open to the fact that unless we make our own clothes we shall go naked. But it requires money to build woolen manufactories and start tanneries and shoe shops. Shall we or are we able to dispense with federal support and tax ourselves double. Now, friend Adams, you understand the question of cost better than many of us do. Will you my dear sir, please to give us, in your next issue, the amount appropriated by Congress to defray the yearly expenses of the State of Oregon from the first year. Please allow, (in order to approach the truth) a full complement of State officials, with each a fair salary, for I am informed that the expenses of the State of Wisconsin increased in four years from \$30,000 to \$200,000. Take into your account the probable expenses of judicial cases that will stand recorded State of Oregon vs. A, B, C, D, and E, instead of U. States vs. the same, also, the expenses of county courts.

We are informed by advocates of State Convention that the change from a Territory to a State will increase the demand for and price of our produce and make times better in all kinds of ways. Now the modus of reaching such a result is wholly unknown to me. If you understand it, let us hear from you. Let us imagine the State of Oregon and that I had help to elect Mr. Curry to the gubernatorial chair, and all of the officers down to the shrievalty, and also that our Legislature had sent Jo Lane and Delazon Smith to the Senate and that Mr. ——— was representative; now although we should congratulate ourselves upon having been instrumental in placing such honorable men in high and lucrative offices, would the fact essentially alter the prices of produce and make better times? If so, answer quickly, and we can make the trial to prove that fat offices give good appetites.

I can readily understand the advantage of a full representation in Congress; how our members there might "log roll" a light house to the mouth of the Columbia River, and expedite the collection of our war claims, but that it is in their power to increase the consumption of our produce in California and Australia, or regulate a direct trade with China or the Sandwich Islands, or other tropical climates, so that wheat should be eaten by their inhabitants instead of rice, I must be permitted to doubt.

Some time since I adopted Mr. Harbut's theory that the true office of government is to "conserve human rights," so that I don't expect to be enriched by any just legislation though we may establish laws, build light houses, or pay just debts.

Yours truly, T. W. DAVENPORT.

MUSICAL TEST OF THE FEMALE VOICE.

The influence of temper upon tone deserves much consideration. Habits of querulousness, or illnature, will communicate a cat-like quality to the singing as infallibly as they give a peculiar quality to the speaking voice. That there really exists amiable tones, is not an unfounded opinion. In the voice there is no deception; it is, to many, the index of the mind, denoting moral qualities; and it may be remarked that the low soft tones of gentle and amiable beings, whatever their musical endowments may be, seldom fail to please; besides which, the singing of ladies indicates the cultivation of their tastes generally, and the embellishment of the mind. For an instant compare the vulgarity of a ballad-singer, her repulsive tone of voice and hideous graces, to the manner of an equally cultivated singer in good society; or watch the treatment of a pretty melody from the concert room at the west end of London, until it reaches the ears from under the parlor window, and observe how it gains something new of vulgarity with every fresh degradation.—Ex-

For the Argus. State Government.—No. 2. LAFAYETTE, Feb. 14th, 1856.

Mr. Editor—In a former letter I gave three of the prominent pecuniary reasons why I should vote for a Convention on the first Monday of April next; any one of the three being sufficient in my judgment to justify every tax payer in the Territory in voting for it, as a matter of personal pecuniary interest. There are many considerations aside from those of a direct pecuniary character which should induce us to favor a State organization, some of the most important of which I now propose to notice very briefly. And first, its influence upon population, and improvements both local and general.

If any one will take the trouble to examine the progress of population in the States of Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Missouri, for the first five years before and after they became States, he will find a very large per cent. of increase in favor of the first five years of their existence as States. Now while it is possible that this difference may have been the result of other causes in one or more of these instances, it is not within the bounds of probability that a uniform result could have been produced by anything short of some general cause; hence it follows that the increase of population must have resulted from the State organizations; and there are very many reasons why this should be so, that will on reflection present themselves to every reflecting mind.

There has been but very little, if any, addition to our population for the last year, and I verily believe that if we remain a Territory for the next five years, our population will very sensibly diminish in numbers, and in every element essential to our prosperity as a people. The longer we hang on to the skirts of "Uncle Sam," the less inclined will we become to rely upon our own resources. The more we lean upon others for support, the less inclination will be felt to dispense with their aid, and in the very nature of things our ability to take care of ourselves will be actually diminished instead of being increased, by delaying a State organization. There is such an entire absence of stability, permanency, and independence, implied by the very terms "Territorial Government," that no man who properly estimates the value of self-government will submit to the vassalage one moment longer than his pecuniary necessities require.

The inquiry is now a very common one, Why is it that we have in Oregon Territory a bitterness of party strife and proscription not found in any of the States of the Union, where the people are called upon to support this or that party supremacy by their votes and influence? To my mind the reason is very apparent, and the evil only to be remedied by the organization of a State government. I need not say that every reflecting and patriotic man of all parties admits it to be a great and growing evil, and which now threatens to destroy that union of interest and good feeling so necessary to the welfare and prosperity of a republican people.

It is not because our people are not as kind, charitable, and patriotic, as any to be found in the States, neither is it because the leading politicians are more selfish and corrupt; for the same evil is to be found in all of our Territories, and it results from precisely the same cause.

As a Territory we are entirely dependent upon the government at Washington, and consequently our parties are formed with exclusive reference to questions of national policy. We know no such thing as a local or State policy, the effect of which in the States is, to rally men belonging to the two great national parties around the same standards at the local elections, sustaining the same local interests, and struggling together for what they conceive to be the State's welfare and prosperity.—The natural tendency of this is to soften down the asperities of party feeling, and to demonstrate practically that we are all brethren of the same great republican family; with the same aims and ends; the same mission to perform, and the same political destiny to fulfill. In the absence of influences of this kind in our Territories, the people find themselves year after year arrayed against each other in a struggle for the ascendancy, until they begin to feel that they have separate and distinct interests, and finally imbibe the opinion as honestly as they form any other; that the party opposed to them are really less honest and

patriotic than themselves; and believing this, patriotism requires that they should fill all the offices of the government, local and general, with men men of their own party; hence arises the party proscription and vindictiveness so prominent at this time here in Oregon.

The remedy I propose is, for us to unite by acclamation on the first Monday of April next in the call for a Convention.—Let the conservative portion of all parties unite in the election of Delegates, so that no one party shall have a controlling influence in the Convention; thus removing all temptation to the formation of a partisan Constitution, by giving to all a fair and equal representation. This can be accomplished if the great mass of the people take the matter in hand, as I confidently believe they will do in the present instance. It is urged by some that it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to frame a Constitution that shall meet the approbation of the great mass of the people in the present state of party feeling; but I would ask those who urge this objection, Will any thing be gained by delay? On the contrary, is it not fair to presume, judging from the past, that this objection will gather strength by lapse of time? I believe the present is the most propitious time for the formation of a State Constitution that has existed since the question has been agitated, or that will occur for years to come. Who does not know that the two great parties of the nation are now broken up into factions; an Administration without a party, and the character and principles of the parties yet to be formed out of the chaotic elements beyond the ken of our wisest statesmen.—What better time could be desired, than the present summer, for laying the foundations of an independent State, that shall develop a policy of its own, upon which to found a healthy party organization. When this shall have been accomplished, a new era of prosperity will have dawned upon Oregon. Our people will cease looking to Washington as they now do, and look to Oregon as the great source from which a permanent pecuniary prosperity is to be derived; and hundreds that are now looking back to the States from which they came, indulging the feeling that Oregon is not their permanent home, will vow fealty to the new and rising State, and redouble their efforts in securing for her an agricultural, manufacturing, and commercial development, that will make her beautiful valleys the envy of the world. Men who now look upon each other with suspicion and distrust, from their long party opposition, will find themselves drawn together around the same party leader in a struggle for the success of some measure of State policy, that shall illustrate practically that both parties are alike patriotic, and in pursuit of a common interest, even when they travel different to the same goal.

It is very certain that remaining a Territory will not remove the evils complained of; while there is good reason to hope that a change of government will improve its administration, and give a new impulse to our prosperity. The only thing involved in the experiment is a few dollars and cents, which can be spared without injury, as it would only pass out of one pocket into another, of our own citizens. A. G. H.

Views of the British Ministry on the Peace Question.

What passes at Cabinet Councils is presumed to kept a profound secret and yet, somehow or other, things do ooze out, and become the subject of conversation in favored circles. Persons who have friends in the Cabinet, spoke very plainly last night, in the West-end, as to what they alleged to have taken place at the Cabinet Council yesterday. It is stated that a majority of the members of Lord Palmerston's Administration were in favor of actually intimating to Russia that the Western Powers were ready to receive proposals for putting an end to the war, and at the same time letting her understand that they were disposed to accept of such proposals as she need have no hesitation in offering. It is added, that Lord Palmerston decidedly refused to accede to either of these propositions, and took care to leave no room for any one present to doubt that, rather than become a party to the suggested course of procedure, he would prefer resigning at once.

We are further assured—and have no reason to doubt the accuracy of our information—that the noble Lord is even prepared that England should proceed alone with the war, assuming what is generally stated to be true—that Louis Napoleon is prepared to accept insecure and dishonorable proposals of peace. From the resistance offered to his Lordship's intended procedure by a majority of his Cabinet, it is the opinion of his personal friends, that he ought at once to resign. We hope he will. In that case, before the Christmas holidays are over, he will be borne back to the Premiership on the shoulders of the people, and become the most powerful and popular Minister of modern times.—London Advertiser.