

# The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OREGON CITY:

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1856.

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## Law Concerning Newspapers.

17. If subscribers order the discontinuance of their papers, the publisher may continue to send them until all arrearages are paid.  
17. 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.  
17. If subscribers remove to other places, without informing the publisher, and the paper is sent to the former direction, they are held responsible.  
17. 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.

## From Washington Territory.

From the *Puget Sound Courier* of Feb. 15, we learn that the Indians are still committing depredations. The dwelling house, block house, and barn of L. M. Collins, of King county, were all burned to the ground by the Indians during his absence from the premises. The barn had a large quantity of grain stored in it. His stock, consisting of sixty head of cattle, together with hogs and sheep, were all driven off. His orchard, which is said to have been the largest and best in the Territory, was cut down and mutilated by the Indians before they left the premises. Mr. C. had previously fled with his family to Seattle for protection.

Mr. Swans who had been sent to the Indian Camp to see whether the savages were sincere in their pretensions to a desire for peace has returned. He reports the camp to be about 150 strong, and situated in a large swamp near Green River, almost inaccessible and affording great facilities for the escape of the Indians by means of a trail leading into the mountains. The savages appeared to be nearly out of provisions and ammunition, and quarreling among themselves. Leschi their chief was anxious for peace, provided that a new reservation could be given his people, and they could be forgiven for what they had already done.

Mr. Fields informs us that a subscription is now on foot for erecting a free bridge across the Tualatin near his ferry below Moore's Mill. We have spoken of the importance of this road before, and we now hope that those who are interested in Oregon City, and the country adjacent, on the other side of the Willamette, will embrace the present opportunity of doing something for themselves, and the country, by subscribing liberally for this bridge. Let us have the bridge first, and the rest of the road will be easily worked.

The weather has been delightful for some two weeks past. Not a cloud obstructs the horizon either night or day. The heavy frosts of nights is the only objection we have to the weather.

## Worth Imitating.

Mrs. SARAH A. MCKEEN of "Rural Cottage," Yamhill County, has sent us a note containing ten dollars in payment for this volume of *The Argus*, with the next volume and *Life Illustrated*. Although a stranger to us, we are well assured that she is a lady of much intelligence.

The grass in the Willamette valley is as short as we have ever seen it at this time of the year. The cattle look rather consumptive. In visiting our ranch this week we saw two cows over whose remains the ravens were holding a genuine Locofoco "caucus."

In passing through the country we are sorry to learn that more than nine tenths of the wheat sown last fall has been winter killed. We shall be in the short rows next fall if our farmers do not stir themselves to get in spring wheat. Farmers, if you want to make a "speck" there is a splendid opening now, by putting in about fifty acres of spring wheat. Will you do it?

Of late part of our impression has made a very dull appearance. This is owing to causes known only to printers. Hereafter this difficulty will be obviated.

We have had no Southern mail this week.

## Oregon War.

MARION COUNTY, Feb. 15th, 1856.

Mr. Adams—I do not profess to be well versed in all the intricate windings and crooks of locofoco legislation in Oregon; therefore, I will ask a few plain questions, and ask the "knowing ones" to answer them, inasmuch as a great majority of our people are deeply interested in some of these matters.

1st. By an act of the Legislature of Oregon, the volunteers now in service against the Indians in this Territory, are allowed, each man, ten dollars per day for himself, and two dollars per day for his horse, while in service. From whence will this money be drawn, and when will it be paid to the volunteers?

[Ans.—The money "will be drawn" either from the treasury of the United States or from the Treasury of Oregon; and will be "paid to the volunteers" probably as soon as such debts are generally paid.]

2d. Are the Oregon volunteers under a regular and legal military call from the United States, subject to the laws and discipline of U. S. soldiers? And if under such laws, are they entitled by a "higher law" to exercise the elective franchise in civil elections in Oregon?

[Ans.—Our Oregon volunteers were called out by GEORGE L. CURRY, as Commander-in-Chief of the Militia of Oregon Territory. They are still under his control as Commander-in-Chief, and subject to the militia laws of Oregon, instead of "regular U. S. discipline." They are still citizens of Oregon Territory, and are, and of right ought to be, allowed to vote, whether in the field or at home.]

3d. By what authority, and by whom paid, are horses, flour, grain, rifles, saddles, and other munitions of war, valued and taken into the use and service of the Oregon army now in the field?

[Ans.—By the "authority" of the Legislative enactment you referred to in query first, horses, guns, ammunition, provisions, &c., are taken from all who tender them, and who are willing to risk Uncle Sam or Oregon Territory for the "pay."]

4th. Under the laws and usages of Congress and under the present call here, are the U. S. bound to foot the expenses of this Indian war—and if not, are the people of Oregon bound to foot the bill?

[Ans.—The United States are "bound to foot the bill," if they agree to; but if not, Oregon is "bound to foot it," because she has agreed to.]

5th.—Would the adoption of a State Constitution change our position, or better our condition, with respect to this matter of the war bills, or would it more effectually rivet upon us these bills of the present war?

[Ans.—The adoption of a State government will in no wise change our position in reference to the present war debt. Our Legislature has already "riveted" that upon us so tight that whether Oregon is a Territory or a State our citizens are bound to pay the debt, if Congress refuses to do so. Whether we should be any more likely to induce Congress to pay it by having two Senators and a Representative to urge our claims at Washington, instead of a Delegate, as we now have, is a question that is open for argument.]

6th. Had Major Haller a legal right to call for four companies of mounted volunteers, and had Gov. Curry a right under that requisition to order out eight companies?

[Ans.—Maj. Haller had a right to call for just as many companies as he thought were necessary to get him out of his "snap" among the Yakimas; and Gov. Curry had a right to call for just as many companies as he thought were necessary to whip the Indians, and protect the settlements.]

And lastly, where is the seat of government of Oregon Territory?

[Ans.—The seat of government last winter, and for all future time, so long as the "clique" holds the power, and we send jackasses to the Legislature instead of men, will be the stool that Bush sits on.]

## From the North.

Our communications from the camp are too late for this week's paper. The news is not very important.

Ka-mai-akin is said to be with the Indians across Snake river. He is also said to have sent a messenger to Col. Cornelius telling him that he should come over and give the boys a fight if they waited much longer before they made their attack upon his forces. A report is credited in camp that fifteen hundred Blackfoot Indians have joined Ka-mai-akin. This is extremely doubtful. White skins and red skins both, on this coast, have a wonderful facility of exaggerating things mightily.

We are sorry to learn that Maj. Chinn's health is quite poor. The hardships of camp service are said to have brought on the consumption. He is now in Portland, under medical treatment.

We are under particular obligations to Messrs. Johnson, Baldwin, and Graham, for numerous telegraphic favors.

From a statement in the *Times* it appears that "the number of persons known to have been killed by the Indians at the South, since the breaking out of hostilities, amounts to one hundred and twenty-eight! Eighty old buildings have been burned—thousands of stock have been killed and driven off—and an immense amount of other property destroyed and stolen by these Indians."

ASTORIA, Jan. 31st, 1856.

W. L. ADAMS, Esq.—DEAR SIR: Although you have barred me from your paper, I hope you will not take it unkindly in me in addressing you a few lines by way of remembrance.

Although my first to you was a little epistle, I am not certain but you have profited by it. A little rebuke sometimes is of use. I think I can notice a marked improvement in your paper.

My opinion of your unfairness, as the conductor of a neutral paper, was formed from the fact of your evident sympathy for everything in opposition to the Democratic party. Witness your editorial at the time the candidates made their last speech at Oregon City, previous to the last election, in which you say you must add one thousand votes to your former estimates of Gaines' majority. Now in this I do not give you credit for candor; I did not believe that you so thought yourself. I have noticed that my communication in *The Argus* has attracted the attention of writers besides yourself. Of this I do not complain, except I have thought you sometimes coupled my name with subjects rather discursive, inasmuch as you had denied me the privilege of defending myself through the same medium in which you published them.

I have been induced to write at this time from reading an article in *The Argus* of Jan. 26th, signed "J. R. M." With the sentiments contained in that article I fully concur, except in the matter of the license system. I cannot agree, that to legalize the traffic by legislative enactments will have a tendency to lessen the evils of intemperance, nor that the small tax paid for the license is any remuneration to society for injuries done; on the contrary it enables the dealer to fit up costly establishments without fear of competition, thereby holding out many more inducements to the uninitiated to partake of the dangerous draught. If we cannot prohibit the use and traffic in strong drink, why not prohibit drinking houses? This would do away with more than half the evil of intemperance. "J. R. M." formed a very correct opinion of "Prohibitionist." In whatever community he, "Prohibitionist" may reside, he can do no good. His ultraism will make him a dead weight to any cause.

I perfectly agree with "J. R. M.," that to succeed in any measure we must first prepare the public mind. I doubt whether the people of this Territory are yet prepared for a prohibitory liquor law, and if they are not, it would be folly to pass such a law, for it could not be enforced. I signed a petition to the Legislature for a law to test the minds of the people, by voting yes or no at the next election, for or against such a law. The result would serve as instructions to a future Legislature.

Excuse this half sheet—I did not expect to write half so much when I commenced. If I was writing for publication I would follow your directions and write only on one side.

Wishing you success in all but your opposition to democracy.

I remain your friend,

SAM'L T. MCKEAN.

Although the foregoing purports to be a private letter, we have taken the liberty to give it an insertion, for several reasons. One is, that we fear if we laid it over Mr. McKean would at some future time reiterate the charge that he makes in this, viz: "You have barred me from your paper." We think he intended it for *The Argus*, provided we didn't see fit to "bar" it. What he means by our having "barred" him from our paper, we know not: according to our recollection we have published every communication he has ever sent us, "barring" perhaps one or two exceptional paragraphs. It seems that after having carefully (and with some degree of candor, we hope) read *The Argus* for almost a year, friend McKean has altered his mind entirely about its character. Has he at length endorsed our "objectionableness" as orthodox, or has he found out that the "objectionableness" existed only in his imagination? The result, at least, is just what we predicted it would be with him and every other sane man, who would honestly examine fifty-two consecutive numbers of our paper. It seems that Mr. McKean's "opinion of our unfairness" was formed from our evident sympathy for everything in opposition to the Democratic party. "Quite a compliment to the 'democratic party,' surely! Now we have always sympathized with 'whatsoever things were pure, whatsoever things were lovely, whatsoever things were of good report,' and whatsoever things were calculated to promote the good of the people of Oregon—By 'sympathizing' with these things, we have sympathized with every thing in opposition to the 'clique' which falsely calls itself the democratic party in Oregon. Such democracy as Thomas Jefferson, and hundreds of true democrats in Oregon, have endorsed, we have never opposed, and we challenge any man to show to the contrary. Modern democrats dare not publish the whole of even one of Jefferson's letters, in endeavoring to support their iniquitous measures. The writings of Jefferson are mutilated, garbled, and horribly butchered, whenever they wish to make him endorse the Union-dissolving and out-throat policy that constitutes the seal of sham democracy. It was only a few weeks ago that we were called upon to show up the manner in which demagoguism props itself up, by publishing the whole of Jefferson's letter to

Holmes regarding the Missouri compromise, alongside of a few garbled extracts paraded in *The Statesman*, as containing the sentiments of Jefferson upon that matter. What we understand by democracy is, a rule of the people. And the public servants of the people are bound to carry out the wishes of their constituents, or resign their offices. Modern "democracy" assumes, like the Papal See, to locate an infallibility of doctrine, and a right in rule, in the body—but at the same time the office-holders and wire-workers composing the "clique" are just as much superior to the masses of their constituents as the priests, monks, bishops, and Pope are superior to the plebeians who are in communion with their church, and who, so far from exercising a controlling voice in their councils, are not even permitted to know anything spiritual, except through their priests. Jo Lane, who belongs to the modern democracy, during his speech here in Oregon City last spring, publicly gloried in the fact that although the people of the Union might demand through their representatives the restoration of the Missouri compromise, the Senate was ready, as democrats, to resist their wishes; and even allowing that the Senate should yield their opposition, and listen to the voice of the nation, the President would veto the bill. Now if the President is to be made a political Pope, why not call the party a Papal Pope, instead of applying to it such a misnomer as "democracy"? But to come nearer home, we see our Legislature, calling itself democratic, passing the *visa voce* bill, with the avowed object of intimidating the people into a support of the party. They very well know that the people did not want the law, and even refused to submit the question to the people, for fear that they would shake off this chain, which the clique had locked upon their ankles. The last Legislature also decided that the question of a Prohibitory law should not be submitted to the people, as it was anti-democratic. Now Mr. McKean, who is a man of years, and a professed democrat, thought that it was democratic enough to let the people say whether they were in favor of staying the evils of drunkenness, or not; but we presume that when the "clique" tells him, that although ninety-nine men out of a hundred should desire the law, it is considered by them as anti-democratic, he will yield his assent, and thereby acknowledge that modern democracy has little or nothing to do with the people, but is an egg that must always be looked for in the nest of the clique, in the lumber-room of some grogshop. It is what we call emphatically a "bad egg"; and we hope that hereafter, because we refuse to shut our eyes and swallow it, no man will be foolish enough to whine about our "opposition to democracy."

What is democracy in Oregon? is a question which has been often asked, and which many have had a curiosity to hear answered. We always had an idea that the term was not only indicative of the people's right to rule, but suggested certain settled principles of national policy, received by those who favor the most liberal form of a democratic government. We had seen enough in Oregon, however, to know that the word meant no such thing here. We had our curiosity satisfied by a conversation with the editor of *The Statesman*, in which we asked him by what authority he read out of the democratic fold such men as Dr. McBRIDE, Hon. AARON PAYNE, and a vast number of other sound men who were much older than he, and who, from their long experience and honest research, would naturally be thought to be pretty well posted as to what "democracy" was. We asked the young yankee by what test he tried a man's democracy. His reply was, "that if they did not support the 'party organization' in Oregon, they were not democrats." This was an honest confession, which sounds Oregon democracy to its bottom. If Jefferson was alive and now in our midst, holding the same principles that he cherished in his lifetime, if he refused (which he most unquestionably would) to support the young man for public printer, to hawl for Jo Lane for the Presidency, "the gentleman from Lin" and the Old Apostle for leaders of the party, besides endorsing the falsehoods *The Statesman* makes him utter in reference to the Missouri compromise—in short, if Jefferson refused to support a certain party calling itself democratic, which has long since buried every principle of Jeffersonian democracy, and practically paraded but seven principles in its creed, (five loaves and two fishes,) he would be denounced as a Know Nothing, and refused admittance to the least favor, or countenance, while the most ignorant half-breed, who votes the "clean ticket," would be considered a sound democrat. A man without any national principles, and without much natural sense even, is with these wire-workers an excellent democrat, (so long as he votes right,) because his igno-

rance makes him an excellent tool. Thus it will be seen that to be a democrat, with these midnight caucusers, is not being a believer in any national principles, but a supporter of a party which claims to be democratic, through all of its turnings and twistings, to follow the course pointed out by the hand that moves the political cards with a view solely to pocketing the "stakes."

If such be democracy, the Lord deliver us from its rule. As to Mr. McKean's opinion that we were not candid in our estimate of Gov. GAINES' majority, permit us to assure him that we were never more so. Our only regret is that the result did not justify our expectations, and we have every assurance that hundreds who voted against him, through a slavish fear of the party, inwardly prayed that he might be elected. The position we took at the time in favor of Gov. GAINES, we believed then was correct, and we have not yet seen occasion to alter our opinion. We supported Gov. GAINES because we considered him far the better man, in every point of view in which he can be looked at, and not because he was a Whig.

Those who think of taking Fowler's works will please forward us the money immediately, so that we can order them an early day. It will be three months before they get here, after we send for them.

## California U. S. Senator.

The Americans in caucus after about twenty ballots nominated Ex-Gov Henry S. Foote for U. S. Senator from California, but two members of the Senate, who were elected as Americans, joined with the democrats, and refused to go into an election, thus ignoring the whole action of the caucus. The principal contest was between Foote and Marshall. William I. Ferguson, Esq., member of the State Senate from Sacramento, and formerly of Springfield, Illinois, at one time received 18 votes.

Ex-Gov. GAINES paid our city a visit during this week. He left the city a few hours before we reached home from Yamhill. We are told he looks more robust than he has before for some years.

It is rumored that the regulars at Fort Vancouver, through fear of a sudden "descent" of the Indians, are about to move into the Willamette valley, where they will be under the protection of the citizens.

The news was telegraphed to this city on last Wednesday from Lafayette that an express messenger had arrived, bringing word that the Benton volunteers were attacked by the Indians in passing through the Canyon, and several of them killed. The report is for various reasons looked upon here as a sell.

A correspondent asks and answers the following highly important questions to the people of Oregon:

Q.—Where are Gen. Wool's headquarters?

A.—"In my saddle, sir."

Q.—Where is his saddle?

A.—Hanging up in the hen-roost at Fort Vancouver.

## The Rapping Mystery Unraveled.

As the sublime science of "spiritual manifestations" is now engaging the attention of our citizens a good deal, we have thought it best to throw whatever light we can upon the pathway of anxious inquirers; and for that purpose we publish below one of the most rational and satisfactory elucidations of this "spiritual phenomena" which we have seen for some time. We extract from correspondence of the *Cincinnati Commercial*; and in giving it to our readers, we think that every "medium," like us, upon "minutely examining into" the workings of the material elements that compose his own terrestrial organization, when under the influence of the "vibratory motion" that produces the "depression of the duodenum into the flandango," will be ready to admit that the following theory fully accords with his own experience.

Upon what other hypothesis can we explain the information, received here two weeks ago, over the spiritual telegraph line, that Pennington was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives on the 31st of December?

The only true and legitimate manner of accounting for the taps is the physiological defects of the membranous system. The obtuseness of the abdominal indicator causes the cartilaginous compressor to congregate into the diaphragm, and depresses the duodenum into the flandango. Now, if the taps are caused by the vocation of the electricity from the extremities, the tympanum would also dissolve into spiritual sinetum, and the orator would ferment and become identical with the pigmentum.

Now, this is not the case; in order to produce the taps, the spiritual retundum must be elevated down to the spiritual sphere. But, as I said before, the inferior ligaments must not subtend over the digitorum sufficiently to disorganize the stereoleum.

Another, equally learned, takes some exception to the assertion that the "depres-

sion of the duodenum into the flandango could, by any possibility, cause the olfactory ossificator to ferment and become identical with the pigmentum," and says:

"The vibratory motion communicated to the tunica albuginea by the partition of the alveola process, effectually disintegrates the pericardiac influence of the epigastrium, and produces a compound corpuscular movement of the lymphatic glands; which abnormal and diagnostic state of the nervous system, deteriorates a preponderance of the lactical fluid to the posterior portion of the cerebellum, and predisposes the patient to preternatural distention of the oracular orifice; in which case the rappings become painfully and distinctly audible."

REMOVED EVACUATION OF THE CRIMEA.—The Paris correspondent of the *New York Post* says:

"Marshal Pelissier demands permission to evacuate the Crimea forthwith. He declares that it is impossible to continue operations there, on account of the want of water for the horses of the army. The Russians have poisoned the wells, and he asks, what is the use of keeping an army of 170,000 men shut up in their intrenchments. It will be sufficient to leave garrisons at four or five points, but there is much fear here in regard to the moral effects of an evacuation of the Crimea. The matter is still undecided. It is probable, however, that the advice of Marshal Pelissier will be adopted. It is also said that England wishes next spring to undertake alone the maritime expedition against Cronstadt, reserving to herself, however, the privilege of demanding the aid of an army for disembarkation in case of necessity."

## COMMERCIAL INTERCOURSE WITH AFRICA.

T. N. CARR, Esq., U. S. Consul at Morocco, has addressed a letter to George Law, Esq., upon the commerce and resources of Africa, and urges the establishment of a line of steamers between this country and that Continent. The uses of these steamers are briefly proposed to be:

1. The transportation of free negroes from the United States to Liberia.
2. The carrying of the mail.
3. The transportation of merchandise.
4. The carrying of the pilgrims on their way to Mecca.
5. The carrying, on the return voyage, of the pilgrims, who now assume the names of Hajjis; the certain and expeditious transportation of the fruit and other products of the Mediterranean; and the greater facility afforded to passengers from central Europe to America, whose expense of travel will be greatly diminished by embarking at the south of France, instead of the usual western ports.

A resolution has passed both branches of the General Assembly of Florida, authorizing the inhabitants of West Florida to vote upon the proposition of seceding from that State and uniting themselves with the State of Alabama. It has not yet, however, received the sanction of the Governor.

A POLITICAL PLATFORM.—The democratic members of the Legislature of Florida recently held a meeting and appointed the second Wednesday in April next for the nomination of delegates to the Cincinnati Convention. These delegates will be instructed to insist upon the adoption of a platform of principles as the basis of a national organization prior to the nomination of candidates, and that said platform shall among other things, include in substance the following propositions:

1. The recognition and adoption of the principles established in the Kansas-Nebraska act and their application to the admission of new States.
2. That neither the Missouri compromise nor any other anti-slavery restriction shall hereafter be extended over any territory of the United States.
3. The prompt and faithful execution of the fugitive slave law, and its permanent continuance upon the statute book.

If these propositions shall not in substance be incorporated in the platform adopted by the Convention, the delegates from Florida will be instructed to withdraw.

## EXTRAORDINARY TELEGRAPHIC FEAT.—

The whole of the President's message was telegraphed to Boston on Monday night, and appeared in the papers of that city Wednesday morning. A trifle over two-thirds of the message was sent over the Morse Union wire, commencing at a quarter past nine P. M., and ending at about half-past five A. M. The other third was transmitted over the House wire, commencing at about half past ten P. M., and ending at twelve o'clock, midnight. The Union line, using two wires a portion of the time, was over eight hours in sending their portion, while the House line, with one wire, took up but one and a half hours in sending theirs, thus showing the capacity of the House system to be more than twice, as rapid as the Morse.

## An "Original" Problem, by Fono.

Bush of the *Statesman* sez he can mak a living with his present number of subscribers at \$5 per annum, & that if he reducez the pris to \$3 he will hav to hav 800 subscribers mor in addition to his present number. Kewer!—How many subscribers haz he now?

Will sum ov ovr skool children send a soluslan?