

# The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OREGON CITY:

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1856.

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## The San Francisco Press and the present Indian War.

"The Legislature of Oregon has sent a Memorial to the President of the United States, asking the removal of Major General Wool, from the command of the Department of the Pacific. The Memorial is filled with false charges, the object being to deceive and divert public attention from one of the boldest schemes ever concocted to plunder the Treasury of the United States, not of a few hundred thousand dollars, but of several millions. The Legislature charges the General with inactivity; that he left the inhabitants of Oregon exposed to the ravages of Indians; and that he refused to send the forces under his command to protect the people in Northern Oregon. These charges are, in every particular, false. There has been no war in Oregon except in the Rogue River country. In no other part of the Territory have the inhabitants been exposed or attacked by the Indians. If the volunteers were required at all for the defence of the inhabitants of Oregon it was in the valley of the Rogue River, and nowhere else. Governor Curry, however, instead of sending all his troops to suppress Indian hostilities in that region, at enormous expense commenced a crusade against the Indians occupying the Territory of Washington east of the Cascade Mountains. He not only went beyond his own jurisdiction, but made war on the Walla Walla, from whom the Oregonians had no danger whatever to apprehend. His sending a regiment against this tribe was wholly uncalculated for and under no circumstances can be justified. The result of his measures has only contributed to complicate our difficulties with the Indians, whilst it has added several tribes to those who commenced the war. Had he sent this regiment to Southern Oregon there might have been some excuse for his immense outlay in equipping volunteers against the Washington Indians, which he and his Legislature are determined shall be defrayed by the United States. It is this attempt to impose on the United States that General Wool has condemned as unjust and wholly uncalculated for. Hence it is that the Legislature assails him with false charges and demands his removal from the command of the Department of the Pacific.

"It is but due to General Wool to say, that as soon as he heard of the defeat of Maj. Haller he sent a company to reinforce each of the posts of Ft. Lane, Ft. Vancouver and Steilacoom, at the same time applied to the Government for at least a regiment. The regiment arrived early in January, and passed on to Vancouver and Steilacoom, eight companies to the former and two to the latter. The winter has been very severe in the north, so much so that it has been impossible to operate in the Indian country east of the Cascades. The volunteers at Walla Walla lost all their horses for the want of forage or grass. The General will prosecute the campaign against the Indians as soon as practicable, and we doubt not with complete success."

"The foregoing, which we clip from the San Francisco Herald of March 4th, is of a kind with a number of articles which we have noticed of late in the San Francisco papers. Our Oregon readers will feel their cheeks crimson in behalf of the individual who penned the above article. If the writer knew the falsehoods he has uttered, and if he has any conscience, his own cheeks would reveal now and then a purple streak which would cross them, although he might try to silence his conscience by rattling a pocket full of 'government deposits.' We sincerely hope, for the credit of humanity, that the author believed what he wrote, and that his faith was founded upon street rumors, rather than upon the cool representations of even one of Gen. Wool's private pages. Perhaps the Herald took it for granted that the Memorial is filled with false charges, as it came from our Legislature. That would certainly be a natural conclusion with those people in California and the States who have become acquainted with the history and true character of that body. The truth the Memorial contains is perhaps owing to the fact that it was drawn up and reported by Col. KELLEY, of the Council, who had abundant opportunities during his connection with the volunteers to watch the motions of Gen. Wool, and who has not yet drunk in the spirit of the 'party' to a sufficient extent to see his conscience and disable him from speaking the truth.

It seems hard to us, who have had to

bear the whole brunt of the war, to leave our families, our business, and our farms, to protect the settlements and fight the Indians, without clothes, without provisions, and without the necessary arms and ammunition, at two dollars a day in government scrip, (which is less than one dollar a day in cash)—we say it seems hard to be charged by our California brethren with being parties to a "bold scheme to plunder the Treasury of the United States!"

The very fact that our demands are honest, and our claims upon the General Government just, we will admit darkens our prospect of being paid. Schemes of "plunder" and villainy are more likely to succeed in Washington than in Oregon, and we believe in Washington City, than those of good old-fashioned honesty. However, we have some hopes that although our claims are just, our "attorney" in Washington will be able, from his long experience, to get them in such a shape as will insure the sympathies of the jurors who sit upon the case.

As to what the Herald says about the impropriety of sending the most of our volunteers into Washington Territory, instead of protecting our own settlements in Rogue River, we shall merely state, that the documents which will be forwarded to Washington by Gov. CURRY will set this whole matter right, and we doubt not, furnish an exculpatory excuse, if not a full justification of the Governor's conduct.—The settlements in Middle Oregon were threatened with destruction, the property of many of our citizens had been destroyed, and the lives of those living even at the Dalles were menaced by the savages, before the volunteer forces were sent into the northern field.

The representations that were made by the miners and settlers in Rogue River, at the breaking out of the war, induced the Governor and every body else to believe that hostilities could be speedily suppressed in that quarter by the miners and citizens, with the aid of two or three companies from the north, and we now believe, and shall believe, that if Col. Ross's company had not been disbanded the power of the Indians would have been badly crippled if not entirely broken in that quarter long ere this.

The Herald's idea that it is "due to Gen. Wool to say, that as soon as he heard of the defeat of Maj. Haller, he sent a company to reinforce each of the posts of Fort Lane, Fort Vancouver, and Steilacoom," is decidedly rich. Now, dear Herald, as we don't wish to pluck a feather or even a lock of wool from the old veteran's head, we are disposed to give the General what you claim to be his "due." We are not able to say how the additional company at Ft. Lane, or the three additional companies at Steilacoom, have defended those forts, but we know exactly how the nine companies have succeeded in defending Ft. Vancouver. The deeds of prowess and daring heroism of those nine companies have shed a new lustre upon American arms. The savages were hundreds of miles distant when the regular forces took possession of the fort, and during the whole of the past winter they have been very careful to keep out of reach of its guns, although several hundred of them are said to have starved for the fort, and at last accounts were within fifty miles of it, committing depredations upon the settlements at the Cascades. Although it was rumored a few days ago that the regulars had been panic-struck, and were about to abandon the fort and move into the Willamette valley for protection, yet we are glad to learn that the Stars and Stripes are still proudly floating over heroes who, like Reverdy Johnson's Mexican warriors, are "covered all over with glory," and will probably defend Ft. Vancouver just as long as Uncle Sam is able to buy good wine, turkeys, ham and eggs, and "chicken fixins."

Arrival of the Mail.  
The steamer Columbia, Captain Dall, reached Portland on last Tuesday morning. The news is of great importance, as will be seen by reading the whole of this paper. We are under obligations to Wells, Fargo & Co., and J. W. Sullivan, for liberal favors.

We know that most of our readers will be rejoiced to hear of the election of Banks. The Tribune says that it has always happened, that at every Presidential election yet, a President has been elected of the same politics with the Speaker of the House at the time. If the rule fails this time it will be the first failure in the history of the government.

Col. Meek reached Portland last Tuesday. He is just from the seat of war, and we learn brings a requisition for ammunition.

The Gov. has issued his proclamation calling for three new companies of volunteers for the South. We have not learned what counties are required to furnish them.

## From the North.

Our Dalles correspondents must excuse us for giving an abstract of intelligence, as our crowded columns will not admit of lengthy communications at this late hour. The Indians captured the whole of B. F. Dowell's pack train on its way out to the volunteer camp. No lives were lost.—They also stole nine horses from Col. Kelley while on his way out. Two horses were also captured by the Indians during an attack on Hubbard's wagon train near Wild Horse Creek. The Indians drove off about 150 head of horses last Saturday night, belonging to citizens near the Dalles. Maj. Haller is camped upon Joslyn's farm at the Cascades. No Indians are in sight of that place now.

Kama-akin is said to have united with the Chief of the De Chutes, (Stuck Whiteley) and with about 2000 warriors is encamped near Priests Rapids, awaiting the motion of the whites. Kama-akin is said to have enlisted about 400 warriors from among the Thompson River Indians to assist him. Col. Cornelius is probably across Snake River by this time, and a fight may be looked for soon. By an express from Colville, the news is brought that the Spokans "kiss ticky bostons," and are determined to remain on our side. The miners are said to be making from \$5 to \$10 per day, and are much encouraged at the prospects ahead.

## From the Mouth of Rogue River.

From the Crescent City Herald we have more particulars of the Rogue River massacre. It is supposed that there are about 300 hostile Indians in the field on the coast, who are led by a Canadian Indian named Eneas. The number of whites massacred will not fall much short of thirty. The names are as follows: Capt. Ben. Wright, Sub Indian Agent, H. Braun, E. W. Howe, Mr. Wagoner, Barney Castle, George McClusky, H. Lawrence, W. R. Tullus, Mr. Bossman, Capt. John Poland, Mr. Smith, Mr. Seaman, Mr. Warner, Jno. Geisell, and 5 children, P. McCollough, S. Heidrick, Jos. Loroc and 2 sons, Mr. Wilson, besides several others whose names are not known.

Mrs. Geisell and a daughter, are prisoners in the hands of the Indians. The inhabitants at the mouth of Rogue river have all gone to the north side of the river and fortified. They number about 130 men, and are said to have less than 100 guns among them.

The Indians at the Meadows, in Rogue River, report the death of the three captive white women they took at the outbreak of hostilities. Two of them died of disease, and the third was killed to avenge the death of a squaw they had heard had fallen at the hands of the whites. The poor creatures are sleeping where "the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest." Better a thousand times be dead than exposed to the mercy of the savages. We shall always think that Oregon is disgraced and ought to suffer punishment for permitting those women to remain, suffer, and die among the Indians, without making greater efforts to rescue them.

We are sorry to learn that much of our Government Scrip is passing into the hands of speculators, at from thirty to fifty cents on the dollar. Those who hold scrip had better retain it, unless they are determined to injure themselves and ruin the Territory.

The Columbia on her last trip up, touched at Crescent city and Port Orford, landing a detachment of U. S. troops (90 men) at the former place, and 42 men at the latter post. Great excitement exists among the citizens of these places, on account of Indian hostilities. The people are constantly under arms during the day, and all fort up of nights.

The last Standard devotes over two columns to exposing the character of "Delusion Smith." The Standard charges him with all sorts of falsehoods and villainies, besides accusing him of pocketing money paid him as Agent for the Standard.—Its readers are "cautioned against paying him any money on account of the Standard, lest he retain it."

The Standard considers him "a dangerous element in the Democratic party of Oregon."

If the clique get to telling tales on each other, we will stand back, and expect some rich disclosures.

The steamer Gazette, which was launched below the Willamette Falls last spring, is now being refitted at Ft. Vancouver expressly for the Upper Columbia trade. She is to be called "Gen. Wool," and we have intimations that she is to enjoy a monopoly of carrying Government transports.

A Division of the Sons of Temperance has been organized in this City under auspicious circumstances.

The Washingtonian Temperance Society meets at the M. E. Church on next Monday night.

## From the South.

Gen. Lamerick has called upon Gov. Curry for more volunteers for the South.—Gen. McCarver informs us that it seems to be impossible to raise the men. The history of this war from the beginning, the disbanding of Ross's command, the continued triumphs of the Indians in the South, the disgraceful flight of our men from the Meadows, the humiliation of our Governor before the Legislature, the disgraceful conduct of that body in thrusting its own members into the militia offices armed with the "party rapin hook," instructed in secret caucus to use it, the opposition of Gen. Wool, the slanders of the California press, the clamor of Tories through the "Points" organ at home, and the dull prospect of being fed and clothed whilst in the field, or of ever getting pay for their services, seem to have discouraged many of our citizens from volunteering, and thrown a dark and gloomy cloud over our horizon. We hope our citizens will not give up the ship.

The prospect for pay is not half as dark as some of them suppose.

A part of the regulars have at last taken up their line of march for the north. They will probably be in the field in a few days. We suggest to Gov. CURRY that he now order our whole northern force in, and send them to Rogue River. We hope he will consider the necessity and policy of this move.

We had the pleasure of attending a meeting of the young Ladies' Literary society in Portland, on Thursday evening of last week. We were considerably interested in the reading of a paper published by the members of the society, called "The Young Ladies' Wreath." The original part of it, was creditable to the talents of its fair contributors. The only defect we noticed in the editorial, was an apparent failure to take sufficiently strong "ground" on temperance. The ground however was higher than that previously taken by any other paper published in that latitude, and probably as high as would suit the locality.—The only temperance article we recollect was the following, which the young ladies will pardon us for extracting from the "Wreath." We quote from memory—

"A young lady being requested to join the Daughters of Temperance, excused herself by saying, that she was about to join one of the 'Sons.'"

Sublimity, O. T., Feb. 25.  
Friend Adams—We were much rejoiced when we saw in THE ARGUS the prospect of having it enlarged, and reduced in price. This will meet the approbation of many in this vicinity, who believe it is one of the very best family papers in the Territory. I believe your subscription list will be increased so as to remunerate you for all your trouble. What a blessing it is to a family to have a good paper in which they can confide, one which they can read with confidence, and be benefited by it. My own individual opinion of THE ARGUS is, that it is the best paper extant. My better part is so taken with it that she says she would not exchange it for a dozen of the P. C. A., and all the rest, nor be deprived of it one year for ten dollars. Now, friend Adams, I have not done for THE ARGUS what I should have done. In the first place, I knew not exactly the position you would take on several subjects of vast importance; so I stood a little back, thinking I could see full as much—so delayed action to learn—but when ready to act a variety of reverses of fortune have so perplexed me with cares and troubles that I have not had time even to contribute a word now and then upon the great subject of temperance, which lies so near my heart. But I shall try for the future in some degree to discharge my duty, notwithstanding my great pecuniary embarrassments. Please send me a prospectus.

Your friend and brother in the great cause of temperance,  
R.  
The foregoing was sent us as a private letter from an intelligent friend in the Methodist connection, who lives in Marion County. We know he will excuse us for inserting it, as it gives us an opportunity to say a word or two to our friends in reference to our paper. The reduction in price which we propose, together with the addition of two inches to the length of the columns of THE ARGUS, which will give two columns and a half more of reading matter, will necessarily add to the expense of printing. The price which we propose to furnish it at to those who take it in clubs of ten at one office, is so low that it will be ruinous to us unless our subscription list is materially enlarged. It has been upon the assurances of our friends in the country that our list could be doubled that we have ventured upon the experiment.—If our friends would use half the diligence that the vast number of Methodist preachers have used in circulating the Advocate, we should soon have a larger circulation than any paper in Oregon. We intend to renew our exertions next year in making an acceptable paper to our readers. If our friends will lend a hand in extending its circulation, we will try to do our duty in making a good paper. We are thankful for the prayers and kind wishes of our friends, but what we most need just now is money to pay our honest debts, besides several

hundred dollars to meet the demands of legalized villainy.

Our friends will please to send us no names hereafter who do not pay in advance, unless you know the individual to be good. Every honest man, of tried integrity, we consider good. Our price for next year will be \$3 in advance to a club of ten at one office, or \$3.50 for a single subscriber; \$2 for six months. If the money is not paid in advance, but is paid within six months we shall charge \$4 a year; if not paid till after the expiration of six months, the price will be \$5. Four weeks more ends the present volume. What our friends do, they will please do quickly.

Gen. Wool came up on the Columbia, and went up to Steilacoom in W. T. If he now redeems his character, we shall be forward in doing him justice for his future conduct.

The P. M. of this city will accommodate the Portland friends hereafter by forwarding delinquent southern mails immediately. The Parkersville mail is sent to Fairfield every week in the Fairfield bag.

Butter is now scarce, and selling at 50c.; eggs, 20c.; potatoes, \$1.25.

The "Points" Organ, says that G. W. Lawson has been removed from the Land Office at Winchester, and "Bill Martin" appointed in his stead.

The Grasshoppers are making their appearance in the South.

## From the South.

We learn that the Regulars had a fight with the Indians near White River a few days ago. The regulars had one man killed, and nine or ten wounded. One dead Indian was found on the ground after the fight was over.

## California Markets.

Flour (Oregon) \$9 per bbl., Oats \$1.30 per bushel, Potatoes \$3 60 per bushel, Bacon 15c, Butter 37c. Sugar, (crushed) 12 1/2c, Coffee 12c.

## Proceedings of Temperance Meeting.

The Washingtonian Temperance Society of Oregon City met at the call of the President on Monday eve, March 3d, in the M. E. Church.

After prayer by Rev. Mr. Cartwright, and a song from Mr. Harmon, the object of the meeting was stated to be to elect officers for the coming year, and transact other necessary business.

Accordingly the following officers were elected—Rev. J. D. Post, Pres't; W. L. ADAMS, V. P.; W. P. Burns, Sec'y; W. C. JOHNSON, Treas.

Short addresses were made by L. Holmes, Esq., Mr. Harmon, and the President, in which recent disturbances in the city, growing out of the sale of liquor to the Indians, were strongly denounced. J. N. BANKER, Esq., was invited to favor the public with a temperance address at next meeting. A committee of five was appointed to ferret out the persons and places engaged in sale of liquor to the Indians, and report to an adjourned meeting a remedy, with special view to ridding community of the vile wretches engaged in the traffic.

The following gentlemen were appointed the committee—L. Holmes, P. H. Hatch, Thos. Pope, Mr. Harmon, W. C. Johnson; and all good citizens were exhorted to aid the committee.

The meeting was favored with several spirited songs from Mr. Harmon.

On motion, the Society adjourned to meet on Monday eve, March 17th, at the M. E. Church. H. K. HINES, Pres't.  
Thos. Pope, Sec'y.

## For the Argus.

## State Government.

Mr. Adams—DEAR SIR: It is said by the advocates of a State government that it will cost the tax-payers of the Territory only \$60,000 more than they now pay.—Can these gentlemen point us to a single State in the Union whose State government is administered for this sum? Aggregate amounts based on the salaries of officers are deceptive and fallacious. No reliance can be placed upon such calculations, and he who makes them the basis of his action is certain to be deceived. No allowance is made for assessment and collection, for the per centage of intermediate officials, and for the appropriations of the Legislature for necessary purposes. Start out with sixty thousand dollars; make that the maximum; let it pay for itself, and what a magnificent affair this State, which it is expected will be hatched next April, will be! How unprecedentedly grand will be her tread in the highway of internal improvements, with an economical expenditure of the contingent sum which will remain of this sixty thousand after her public functionaries shall have been paid! Sixty thousand dollars annually for the fiscal operations of a sovereign and independent State! The very idea is ridiculous and absurd, and its statement ought to be its sufficient refutation. It would be a State without the necessary public buildings, without roads, bridges, or public ferries; it would be in fact, what I fear some desire it to be, an official State. What a pity it is that this economical discovery had not been made sooner. It would have saved nearly every State in the Union from almost hopeless indebtedness. Were the people so poor that they could not raise \$60,000 annually, or were they destitute of financing talent which saw its sufficiency with an intuitive flash! Who can tell!

But admitting for the sake of argument that the sixty thousand would be all sufficient, even in that case the loss to the Territory would be double that amount, to wit, \$120,000. The amount which is now sent here by the General Government to

defray the expenses of a Territorial Government would be stopped, and its place supplied by renewed extortions from the already overtaxed industry of the country. And what substantial advantage is to be gained by this taxation upon taxation?—What grievous wrongs are to be redressed? What tyranny so fearful is threatened, as to require the free oblation of the life-blood of the country to stay? It is true, we would then elect our own officers. But what is this privilege worth, when we consider that the hand that dropped the ballot would be impoverished in the very act by which it asserted its freedom. If we were governed by men and not by law, then it would be an object to secure it at any cost. But this is not the case. Our fundamental rights as American citizens are secured by constitutional law. Our municipal rights as citizens of Oregon are in the keeping of a Legislature elected by our own untrammeled suffrages. The Governor executes those laws. What more would or could an elected Governor do! The same principles which govern the actions of the present Judges in the discharge of their official duties would govern those created by the State. Oregon is a minor living on the munificence of the General Government, and that Government is able and willing to support her child until proper age shall have matured its strength, and developed its resources. Children, in this fast age, too soon wish to assume the responsibility and ape the dignity of manhood. O. J.

## Bethel Institute.

BETHEL, POLK CO., Feb. 28, '56.  
Mr. Adams—The trustees of Bethel Institute met at Bethel on the 21st inst., and unanimously adopted the charter passed by the Legislature, after which the trustees were classed as follows: First class, Sanford Watson, A. H. Frier, and A. V. McCarty, whose term of service expires on the first Saturday of January, 1857; second class, John H. Robb, W. L. Adams, and S. M. Gilmore, whose term of service expires Jan., 1858; third class, G. O. Burnett, Amos Harvey, and J. W. Downer, whose term of service expires Jan., 1859. A. H. Frier was elected President, G. O. Burnett Secretary, and John H. Robb Treasurer. The regular meetings of the trustees will be on the first Saturday of each January and the Saturday preceding each Fourth of July.

At an early hour on the 22d inst., the people began to collect to witness the examination of the students, which was altogether creditable both to the teacher and pupils. At the proper hour Judge WILLIAMS delivered to the school and large assemblage one of the best speeches I ever had the pleasure to hear, followed by R. P. Boise, Esq., in one equally pointed and clear, and by a few very appropriate remarks from Elder Waller, of Salem. The hearty thanks of the large assemblage were then tendered to the speakers, after which the Secretary exhibited an account of the state of the finances of the Institution, which shows a balance in favor of Bethel of near \$4000, now at ten per cent. interest, forming the basis of endowment. The meeting adjourned to meet at 5 o'clock in the evening.

At the appointed time the large recreation room was filled with the citizens of the surrounding country, who listened with great interest to the reading of the young ladies, and also the speeches and other performances of the male portion of the school. We are at a loss to express how much we are indebted to our indefatigable teacher, Mr. T. R. HARRISON for his untiring efforts to impart knowledge to the different pupils of his school, and which showed so favorably in the various parts acted out by them.

By an act passed by the board of trustees there is a committee now engaged in fitting up in good style one of the large upper rooms, to be used as a female school; and I am happy to inform the public that we have secured the services of one of the most accomplished ladies in Oregon or out of it, who will take charge of that department the first Monday of April next, and will conduct it I have no doubt with ability. Yours, &c., G. O. BURNETT.

## Message in regard to Kansas Affairs.

A few days before the organization of the House a message was received from the President relative to the condition of things in Kansas. The message was ordered to be read, by a vote of yeas 108, nays 86.

The President says that circumstances have occurred to disturb the course of the government in Kansas, and produced a condition of things which renders it incumbent on him to call to it the attention of Congress, and urgently recommend the adoption of such measures as the emergency of the occasion appears to require.

He enters into a full history of the affairs of the territory—condemns the lawless proceedings of both parties, and regards the formation, recently, of a Free State constitution as illegal—a part of the people only taking a part in the proceedings. He declares that he will use every means in his power to suppress domestic insurrection in that territory, should any occur, and do all in his power to preserve the peace, and to secure to the people the full enjoyment of their rights.

In conclusion he recommends that Congress pass a law providing for the people of Kansas to call a Convention, with a view to the formation of a State Constitution, in a legal way; and also a special appropriation may be made to defray any expenses which may become requisite in the execution of the laws or the maintenance of order in that territory.

COL. FREMONT'S CLAIM.—The Government has determined to issue Col. Fremont a patent for his Mariposa grant, but delay is necessary to procure a duplicate survey from California, the original papers having been pulvined from the General Land Office.