

# The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OREGON CITY:

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1856.

## Exciting News from the Cascades!

### The Houses Burned, and Twenty Whites Reported to be Killed!!

Our citizens have been considerably excited for two days past from reports that the Indians had taken the Cascades and burnt the houses.

From an Extra Oregonian issued yesterday morning we gather the following particulars: On last Tuesday night a party of Chieftains supposed to number 800 attacked the Cascades when Capt. Kilborn and some other men succeeded in escaping with the women and children down the Columbia in an open boat. Upon the receipt of the news at Portland, some 40 men volunteered to go to the rescue on the *Fashion* which left Portland last Thursday morning. The *Belle* also took up about 40 regulars and a few volunteers from Vancouver on the same day. The *Belle* reached the Cascades on Thursday, at 10 A. M., and landed her forces under cover of a howitzer. The Indians are said to have resisted their landing in large numbers.

Mr. Slater, *Purser of the Belle* soon left in a canoe for assistance. The block house at the Cascades was still defended by about 25 men. Those who went up on the *Belle* could render no assistance to those in the block house. They found the steamer *Mary* had been captured and burned. The forces that went up from Vancouver landed on the Oregon side, and could see the houses still burning across the river. Lieut. Sheridan was sent across the Columbia who soon returned reporting that they were still fighting at the block house, and that about twenty were already killed. Capt. Wells went over with a company to render assistance to the fort, when they were attacked by the Indians, from the brush. About 40 shots were fired, when the whites withdrew to open ground. One U. S. soldier was killed, and two Indians were supposed to be killed. At this juncture Mr. Slater took a boat and came down with some friendly Indians to Vancouver for reinforcements.

A letter from Vancouver states that the Indians are within six miles of that place. They have taken possession of the trails and cut off all communication between the Cascades and the Dalles. The regulars are nearly all at the Dalles. Another company of volunteers was being enrolled yesterday at Portland to proceed to the scene of difficulties.

### Arrival of the Mail.

The *Columbia*, Capt. Dall, reached Portland on last Thursday morning. Through Wells, Fargo & Co. we received our usual file of papers. The news is of some importance.

A few days since a man by the name of Torrence Quinn was dangerously if not mortally cut with a knife, by a man named Whitaker, living five or six miles east of Portland. It seems that in passing the house of Whitaker, Quinn was met by Mrs. Whitaker, who begged him to come in the house and stay awhile, as her husband had severely beaten her and in a drunken fit was threatening to take her life and that of her child. Quinn readily complied with her request and went in, where after staying several hours, and thinking all danger passed proceeded on his way, when Whitaker followed him and stabbed him in the side. Whitaker is in custody. If an *Indiana* under the influence of rum had committed these outrages, our citizens would have hung the rascal on the highest tree, and blown off a tremendous amount of indignation at the man who sold him the liquor. Lionberger, Quinn, and the family of Barris have, within a short time, all had the fatal steel driven to their vitals by arms nerved with rum—and that within a few miles of Portland where the liquor probably came from—and who thinks of blaming the liquor dealer?

In Washington Territory the regulars and volunteers seem to be making a business of ferreting out and cutting off the Indians. As many as one or two Indians are slain every week. The whites propose to starve them out by erecting wire nets on the rivers, so as to prevent the salmon from running up.

### Artichokes.

The Hon. W. W. Buck has laid us under obligations for a sample of the Jerusalem Artichoke. Mr. Buck we believe has the only roots now in the Territory. He has been at considerable expense and trouble, in sending to the States for the roots, and he will have a quantity to sell next fall.

We are under obligations to W. C. JOHNSON, Esq., for favors.

## The War in Washington Territory.

From a letter written by Gov. Stevens, to Capt. J. W. Percival, and dated March 2, 1856, we learn the following facts:

The Washington volunteers number about 700, and are enlisted for six months, and they are acting in conjunction with the regular troops stationed at Vancouver and Steilacoom. They will be compelled to abandon the field in three months, unless supplies are obtained from California. But four companies of regular troops are stationed at one point on Puget Sound, to defend the settlements from some 7000 Indians. The mails have to be guarded from the Columbia River to the Sound by armed settlers. No man is safe one mile from a fort or block house, and one half of the citizens at least are now under arms.

Late Acting Gov. Mason and present secretary of the Territory, is now in Washington city and Gov. Stevens has assurances from many members of Congress that the General Government will not fail to make speedy appropriations for the further prosecution of the war. It is admitted in Washington city, that sufficient reasons exist for employing the volunteer force to defend the immense territory where there are only 1700 white men to oppose 20,000 Indians. Ex-Gov. Mason has been sent to Washington on a special mission, to bring before the General Government all the facts in the case, and the authorities at Washington fully approve the action of the U. S. Federal Officers of the Territory. During the first three months, the expenses of the war, amounted to \$100,000 per month, but is now costing \$150,000.

It seems that Gov. Stevens is on good terms with the regulars, and everything is moving on harmoniously towards a successful termination of the war, and a final payment of the debt by the General Government. We wish our Oregon officers were as unembarrassed as those of Washington, but as we have a Delegate who intends "to pass a law" expressly to meet all the difficulties of the case, we of course ought to feel as independent as a hog on ice.

### Assault.

A case came up before Mayor Johnson yesterday, in which Michael O'Laughlin was charged with having made an assault upon S. K. Remick, with intent to maim or kill. Mr. Remick states that on last Wednesday he crossed the ferry at this city, and paid the ferryman O'Laughlin the amount of his ferrage. O'Laughlin told him he must pay two dollars more, (which it seems was an old debt), or leave his coat. Remick replied that he had already paid him all the money he had with him, but if he would come up to the store of Dement, he would pay the whole charge. Upon Remick's refusing to leave his coat, Michael drew a pole and succeeded in inflicting several blows upon him, before Remick wrested the stick from his assailant's hands. Remick's hand and arm were considerably injured. Mayor Johnson decided that as it was an aggravated case, he should require him to enter into a recognizance of \$500 for his appearance at the District Court.

### States Subscribers.

We have now a large list of names in the States on our books to whom we are sending THE ARGUS per order of their friends in Oregon. Many of these are marked paid, and we are not now able to recollect who ordered them sent. All such shall erase from our book at the expiration of the time they are paid for, unless the subscriptions are renewed. All those who wish to send a paper to the States can have it done for \$3.00 in advance.

The following is part of a private letter we have received from FOWLER & WELLS, Editors of *Life Illustrated* and the *Phrenological and Water Cure Journals*: "We believe great good to your Territory would result from a more general circulation of newspapers throughout the old States. Through them the people would obtain such information as they might need before emigrating, and we have no doubt thousands would thereby be induced to go to your Territory to settle. Why not suggest to your Legislature the propriety of adopting some means by which a few millions of copies of Oregon Newspapers be circulated throughout the Eastern States?"

Alas! Alas! How little do our friends know of the character of our Oregon Legislature! If it was left to our Legislature to circulate "Oregon papers" every body here knows exactly what paper would be circulated. There is already a large quantity of those papers taken at the "Points." Whether they are ordered by residents of that place, or whether they are sent by our Legislators to their former chums and sweethearts, we are unable to say. But if that paper is to be circulated throughout the States in order to induce emigrants; while the States would be benefited by the loss of the "emigrants," what would become of poor Oregon?

The suggestion of FOWLER & WELLS that more Oregon papers should be sent to the States in order to induce an emigration, which we very much need, is a good one. Our citizens are already sending some to

their friends, and they are able to send many more especially when an Oregon paper can be had for \$3.00. It was but lately, that we received a letter from a young lady in York State, who expressed herself as beginning to take quite an interest in Oregon affairs, since she had had the privilege of reading THE ARGUS which some person sent into her neighborhood. Her neighbors she says are already getting the "western fever." For the benefit of our Eastern readers, we intend to take more pains during the coming year, to post them up in reference to the best country on the globe.

A new paper called *The Globe* has been started in San Francisco. It is democratic in politics, and advocates the nomination of James Buchanan for the Presidency.

The following is a list of the officers of the Oregon, Division No. 8, of the Sons of Temperance, recently organized in this city:

- A. Holbrook, W. P.; T. Pope, W. A.; W. L. Adams, R. S.; R. H. Broughton, A. R. S.; P. H. Hatch, T.; W. Whitlock, F. S.; W. P. Burns, C.; E. Cartwright, A. C.; J. D. Looey, I. S.; H. K. Hines, Chaplain; L. Homes, P. W. P.

### Modest.

"I shall endeavor to pass a law for paying Valunteers and expenses of our war with the Indians as soon as possible."—*Jo Lane, in his letter to the Times.*

If we have a Delegate who has power to "pass laws," what need have we for two Senators and a Representative in Congress, as urged by the advocates of a State Government? They certainly couldn't do that much for us. Is it possible that the Administration has become so much absorbed in pipe-laying for the next Presidency, that Pierce has "stepped Lane on the shoulder" and empowered him to go ahead with the legislation, and make all the laws!

### Estay Laws.

We noticed in an catalogue of acts passed by our late Legislature one concerning estays. We presume that the old act is amended so as not to require an insertion of estay notices in the *Corallia Statesman*, as formerly. The "printer" however will probably wait till the last hour before he publishes the law, in hopes he can steal a little more of the hard earnings of the people, by legalized villainy.

### The Claims of Canemah.

It will be seen by a card we publish today that Canemah is in the ring as a candidate for the suffrages of the people in "more permanently locating the Seat of Government."

Her claims we have not time or space to present just now, but we hope there will be an "open field and fair fight" between this crescent city and "Skinner's Landing."

"A friend writes us that he has 'a decrepit neighbor,' a democrat who would like to take the Statesman, but who has no means, and can scarcely even hope to pay," and asks what can be done for him?—*Statesman.*

Webster defines "decrepit" as in the last stage of decay." Just the sort of a man we should have supposed would have wanted your sheet. If he isn't too far gone in "decay," we presume that in answer to "what can be done for him?" you referred him to Dr. Czapsky's advertisement in your columns.

### For the Argus.

W. L. ADAMS—DEAR SIR: I sit down to post you up a little in reference to our Literary Institution, a matter I intended long since to have attended to but which from the pressing nature of my business I have neglected.

Monmouth University is situated four miles west of Independence, (which lies on the Willamette river,) in a neighborhood composed mostly of high-minded, energetic, moral citizens, who feel a deep interest not only in education, but in morality, temperance, and virtue. Our noble-minded citizens have donated 400 acres of land to the Institution. I. B. Smith, T. H. Lucas, and E. Davidson, 80 acres each; A. W. Lucas 20 acres, and S. S. Whitman gave 200 acres, the largest donation made by any institution by one man, to my knowledge, in Oregon. The body of the land donated is high, rolling prairie, and for beauty and fertility is not excelled in Oregon. The land is already laid off in lots, containing from a quarter of an acre, to 20 acres each, with a public square in the center. Twenty acres near the center are reserved by the Trustees as the *College Ground* which, in addition to the buildings, will be decorated with fruit and ornamental trees, and shrubbery. The money raised from the sale of lots, will be put out at interest and the per cent. applied to the support of teachers. (We expect to make it a free school.)

The location is in the centre of the district, hence the district and high schools, will be easily united. Lots have already been sold to about 150 persons, the purchasers binding themselves to build upon them within one year from date of purchase. Water is easily obtained anywhere on the premises by digging. The location is free from the strong chilling sea breeze, so objectionable in some portions of the valley. About one mile west of the location, sets in an extensive range of hills, covered with the best of oak for firewood.

The river bottoms abound with fir, ash, alder, maple, Balm in Gilead, &c. All things considered, it is thought by men of close observation to be one of the very best locations in the Territory. The first session commenced on the 19th of Nov. last—number of pupils, from 35 to 48. The number would have been considerably augmented if boarding could have been obtained. We hope to be able to accommodate all applicants after a few months. Quite a number of purchasers expect to build upon their lots and remove their families upon them this season. Mr. Cowles is our present teacher, a gentleman so extensively known that nothing need be said concerning his qualifications. The Trustees and friends of Monmouth University are sanguine in the belief that they shall be able to offer such inducements to the public, as will make it to the interest of the community to render to our institution a large share of patronage.

JOHN E. MCKEVY,  
Polk County, March 20, 1856.

We are much obliged to our excellent friend for the information he has kindly furnished us. We wish we might have more such reports of schools scattered all over Oregon. Amid all the darkness and gloom that hangs over our Territory, we look upon our schools as so many stars of hope, shedding a holy, silvery light, along the pathway of our country's future greatness. We never picture to our mind a group of sprightly, happy, school children, and we never pass a neat, tidy, well filled school house, without stopping to pay the hallowed spot a tribute of homage, that involuntarily swells up from a heart moved by the affecting associations, of liberty, purity, and true religion, that cluster around these bulwarks of our free institutions.

We are always glad to hear of an interest being taken among the people in behalf of education, and all information upon this subject, will be gladly received from any quarter. Monmouth University begins its career under flattering auspices. Its responsibilities rest upon the shoulders of the right sort of men as patrons. We knew the most of them in the States, and we have known them long enough in Oregon to know that, unlike many others, they brought their virtues along with them, instead of leaving them on the Plains.

Our space will not permit of many things which we want just now to say—but we will say, that in beginning their village—we hope every man will put up a neat permanent building, and paint it well after it is up. Every poor man can afford to paint his buildings; nobody but a rich man can afford to lose money by letting the storms of heaven blacken them all over, and ruin them as they will be in a few years when they are not painted.

The old contractor on the Penitentiary has "gone in," and the Commissioners advertise for a new contractor. If we don't have that penitentiary finished during the next ten years we hope to hear that the whole clique have "gone in," and that its walls are sufficiently high to prevent their climbing out.

### Republican Convention.

The Republican Convention met at Pittsburg, Feb. 22. Every Northern State and eight of the Southern States were represented including Missouri, Kentucky, Virginia, Maryland, South Carolina, &c. F. P. Blair, of Maryland, was chosen President. The general convention for nominating a candidate for President takes place at Philadelphia on Tuesday, June 17th—the 31st anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill.

The Democratic State Convention of California have appointed delegates to the National Convention, to meet in Cincinnati in June, and instructed them in favor of Buchanan for President.

### California Prices.

Flour \$4 25a\$4 75 per hund.; Oats \$1 33 per bush.; Onions \$4 80 per bush.; Potatoes \$3 00; Sugar (N. O.) 11 1/2 cts.; Coffee 11 1/2a12 cts.; Butter 38 cts.

### To Correspondents.

There are several reasons why we do not publish all the communications we receive. One reason is, some of them are so long on the way in the mail bags, that they are too old when they get here. We have lately received one from Jacksonville dated 14th of April, 1855. Another reason is, that many of those we receive are not worth publishing. Some, however, that might be worth it, are crowded out. Others are written on both sides of the sheet, and generally poorly written, at that; these we have not time even to read, and barely time to cast them to the rats. Others are too long—whilst others, though short, are too personal.

We have now a basket full of communications laid aside, some of which we shall yet publish, if we can.

The commercial tonnage of this country has increased 410,000 tons during the past year. This increase is larger than the whole tonnage of Spain, Portugal and Russia combined.

## American National Convention

### Fillmore Nominated for President!

The American National Convention met at Philadelphia on the 20th of Feb., and was in session until the evening of the 25th. After several days of stormy discussion, the Convention repealed the platform adopted by the Convention held in June, 1855, at Philadelphia, by a vote of 138 to 51. They then adopted a substitute platform, by a vote of 108 ayes to 77 noes. This substitute platform is very long. The following is the seventh plank, and it contains the only expression of the Convention on the question of slavery, which was the cause of all their disputes:

Seventh: The recognition of the right of the native born and naturalized citizens of the United States, permanently residing in any Territory thereof, to frame their Constitution and laws, and to regulate their domestic and social affairs in their own mode, subject only to the provisions of the Federal Constitution, with the right of admission into the Union whenever they have the requisite population for one Representative in Congress; provided, always, that none but those who are citizens of the United States, under the Constitution and laws thereof, and who have a fixed residence in any such Territory, ought to participate in the formation of the Constitution, or in the enactment of laws for said Territory or State.

The passage of this resolution, and the implied refusal to take any decided ground in regard to the question of the Nebraska bill, led to great dissatisfaction among the southern delegates. Gov. Call, of Florida, said the party in the South would be powerless under that platform.

A resolution declaring that the National Council has no right to prescribe a platform in opposition to the nomination of any candidate not in favor of the restoration of the Missouri Compromise, was lost by a large majority.

Just before the balloting commenced, the delegates from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Ohio, and parts of the Illinois, Iowa, and Pennsylvania delegations, withdrew.

The Convention then proceeded to ballot for a candidate for President. MILLARD FILLMORE was nominated on the second ballot, the vote standing as follows: FILLMORE—175; LAW 24; RAYNER 14; McLEAN 13.

ANDREW JACKSON DONELSON, of Tenn., was nominated for Vice President.

The nominations were made unanimous, and the Convention adjourned.

## LATE FROM EUROPE.

### GOOD PROSPECT OF PEACE.

#### An Armistice Agreed Upon.

England and the United States.

The news from Europe is to Feb. 9th. The Peace Congress was to meet in Paris on the 20th of Feb. An armistice between the belligerent Powers, to last till March 31, had been agreed upon.

The difficulties between England and the United States attracted a good deal of attention and had caused considerable excitement both in political and commercial circles. It is the opinion of Lord Palmerston that the troubles can be amicably settled.

The following curious story is sent by the correspondent of the Associated Press at Liverpool:

We learn, on the authority of the London *Morning Advertiser*, that Sir Henry Bulwer had intimated the gratification it would afford him to act as a sort of official mediator between the British government and the American ambassador in London. It further states that he was to come from Brighton on the 5th of Feb., with the view of seeing what could be done toward bringing about a more friendly feeling between the two governments. The same paper again asserts that Sir Henry Bulwer, in concert with a member of Parliament of great diplomatic experience, was endeavoring to arrive at a solution which may be more acceptable to both countries than the plan of arbitration. This interference in a non-official capacity, it is said, takes place at the instigation of Lord Palmerston. An interview was to take place at the embassy, when Sir Henry Bulwer would explain at length to Mr. Buchanan the compromise which he is prepared to recommend.

The *Northern Bee*, of Jan. 26, (published at St. Petersburg,) contains the following passage: "May God grant us peace; but, should it not be concluded, Russia still has at her disposal sufficient means of resistance to repel her enemies with energy.—Russia desires peace, but she does not fear war." In the same number of the *Northern Bee* it is said: "As regards France, it may be positively affirmed that the French nation loves and respects Russia. The French prisoners, on their part, have been treated like brothers."

Count V. Esterhazy, the Austrian Ambassador, has become very popular at St. Petersburg. The prospects of peace are generally regarded with great satisfaction. Prince Paskievich is dead.

The peace negotiations will be conducted by representatives of Great Britain, France, Austria, Russia, Sardinia, and Turkey. It appears that Prussia will be allowed no part in the Conference.

Russia is said to have made it a condition previous to her acceptance of the propositions offered to her, that no indemnification shall be demanded, and no cession of territory exacted, except that required for re-construction, which being conceded, she agrees not to fortify the Aland Islands.

Iron coated floating Batteries, similar to those of the Allies, are being constructed by the Russians for the defence of Constantinople. Military students are invited to enter the army of Russia as officers.

GERMANY.—The peaceful aspect of affairs is hailed throughout the States of Germany with unqualified satisfaction. Aux-

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