

The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OREGON CITY:

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1856.

Our Future.

This number closes the first volume of THE ARGUS. One year ago we started under circumstances which to many of our friends gave to our enterprise the aspect of a hazardous experiment.

In coolly taking a retrospective glance from our present stand-point, a thousand thoughts and reflections crowd upon our mind. In the full consciousness that we have tried to pursue the right, and reject the wrong, yet in turning over the leaves of our file for the last fifty-one weeks, we find abundant evidence of a frailty and fallibility which belong to the sons and daughters of Adam all over the world.

To our friends who have nobly stood by us in toiling up the most rugged part of the ascent to a permanent stand-point, we offer our warmest acknowledgements. We shall still continue to exert ourselves to make an acceptable paper.

Oregon City Election.

At the city election last Monday there were three tickets in the field. It was the general understanding, so far as we were apprised, that there would be no effort to draw party lines, and run men upon party issues, regardless of qualifications.

On the eve of the election, we are informed, the silk stocking gentry held a grand pow-wow in the Land Office, and brought out a party ticket, upon the head of which our old highly efficient and popular Mayor unfortunately permitted his name to be placed.

Whist the magnitude of our undertaking may be small in comparison to that of the sixteenth century, yet the philanthropist and reformer have a wide field that incites their labors in Oregon. The full extent of the evils under which we suffer is not appreciated, except by those who have taken particular pains to look a little behind the scenes.

Table with 2 columns: DEM. and CONSERVATIVE. Lists names and positions for Mayor, Recorder, and City Council members.

A few of the citizens of Yamhill have manifested some disquietude in reference to Gen. PALMER's policy of dealing with the Indians on the Reservation, and the great mass of the citizens are peaceable and quiet.

There were two considerable frosts during the past week, but not enough we think to injure fruit. The prospect for a heavy fruit crop this season was never finer.

Territorial Election.

We have not been able to secure the full returns from the election on the Convention question. Even in this county the returns have not yet all come in.

Table showing election results for Convention vs. Against Convention across various counties like Marion, Polk, Linn, Benton, etc.

The Convention is probably lost by a small majority north of the Calapoia mountains. The majority south of this will probably be against a Convention.

Portland City Election.

We are glad to see that our former townsman JAMES O'NEILL, Esq., has been elected Mayor of Portland. The vote stood: James O'Neill, 156; A. P. Dennison, 81.

From the Dalles.

Mr. HOWELL, of Linn county, who is just in from the Dalles, informs us that he was in the expedition beyond Snake River. The volunteers took about 300 horses from the Indians, which were so poor that they were left.

The vote at the Cascades, Mr. H. says, was nearly tied on Convention.

The Indians that attacked the Cascades came out lately and drove off 27 cattle and 6 horses, belonging to settlers at the mouth of the Clackamas. Ten of the prisoners taken at the Cascades have been hung, and the rest are on trial.

Kamaikin, with his whole force, has retreated into the Yakima mountains as far as they can get, and his people are scattered in every direction.

From Puget Sound.

The Puget Sound Courier has again received a short snore, and is again under the conduct of E. T. GUNN.

We learn from the Courier, that John J. Lowell, late clerk of the Council for Washington Territory, was recently drowned in endeavoring to swim White river, on his way to Steilacoom, as bearer of dispatches from Maj. Garrett, in command of the regular forces.

On the 22d ult., also, I ordered a detachment consisting of 100 men of the Northern Battalion, under the command of Major Lathaw to go down Cow creek. On the 23d they fell in with from 75 to 80 Indians six miles below Fort Smith.

[By Wells, Fargo & Co's Express.]

OLYMPIA, April 5th, 1856. Editor Standard—News has just been brought in town by express riders, of an engagement on the Nesqually river, between a scouting party of Capt. MASON's company and a band of the Nesqually Indians, in which eight warriors were killed and four teen Indians taken prisoner.

Maj. ARMSTRONG passed through this city last Monday on his way to Portland to take passage on the steamer for the States. The Major is going for a time to his home in Henderson county, Ill., but will return to Oregon as soon as practicable.

The enterprising fireman of the Hoosier informs us, that in order to make her more acceptable, the "Seat of Government," the proprietors think seriously of embellishing her with a good whitewash.

There is a report in circulation that the Regulars have fought a battle with the Indians near the mouth of Rogue River, in which the whites were defeated with a loss of 25 or 30 men. This may be so, and may not be.

From the South.

ROBERTS, April 2d, 1856. Friend Adams—As a friend of mine is in from Rogue River, on his way to the Willamette valley, I hasten to give you what news I have in my possession. The war lacks a great deal of being over in Southern Oregon.

[Official Dispatch.]

HEAD QUARTERS, SOUTHERN ARMY. Fort Lehard, March 31st, 1856. HIS EXCELLENCY, GEO. L. CURRY, Gov. Oregon Territory, Salem, O. T.

My DEAR SIR—I have the honor to make the following report of the Troops under my command. On the 22d ult. I gave orders to Maj. Bruce to move with his command to Illinois valley, to scout that part of the country, and if possible to find "Old John's" band of Indians.

On the 22d ult., also, I ordered a detachment consisting of 100 men of the Northern Battalion, under the command of Major Lathaw to go down Cow creek. On the 23d they fell in with from 75 to 80 Indians six miles below Fort Smith.

Great credit is due to these brave Volunteers who have driven the Indians from the trail and are still in pursuit of them. Capt. Laben Buoy's command had a fight with some 75 Indians six miles south of Camas valley. The enemy came into the valley, it appears, to sweep the settlements.

I have ordered 80 men from Capt. Buoy's company to follow the Indians and if possible to fall in with Col. Kelsey and Major Lathaw at the Big Bend of Cow Creek. Col. Kelsey bids fair to be a very active officer, and my confidence is unlimited in Lt. Col. W. W. Chapman, all of whom are very sanguine of success.

With much respect, I am sir, Yours most obt. serv't, JOHN K. LAMERICK, Brigadier General, O. T. JOHN R. HALE, Aid-de-Camp.

The last rains have raised the Willamette river some five or six feet, which renders it in good boating stage both above and below the falls. The up river boats have all commenced running, but we believe the Enterprise is the only one which makes her trips to Corvallis regularly.

Mistake.

We see that some of our subscribers have fallen into the error that the subscription price of THE ARGUS for next year must always be paid in advance. We ask no man to pay in advance unless he chooses to, but if we have to wait for the pay we must have the old price, unless the money is paid within six months, in which case it will be only \$1 00 a year.

From Fort Henrietta.

We received a communication from J. C. Stewart, dated Fort Henrietta, April 3d, too late for this week.

He states that Col. Cornelius, after leaving Snake river crossed over the Columbia to Priest's Rapids, but finding no Indians, is now on his way to the Dalles with his entire force, excepting a detachment, left to hold the country till the regulars take the field.

On our outside, will be found a correspondence between Gen. Wool and Gov. Stevens, of Washington Territory, which will be read with much interest.

Linn county has responded to the call of Gov. Curry, and furnished a company for the southern field. James BLAKEY was elected captain. This makes the fourth company that has been raised in Linn.

We are informed that Gov. CURRY has ordered the Northern volunteers to be withdrawn from the field. This is just as it should be. If a sufficient force is now sent to Rogue river we may expect to fight the Indians to some advantage.

Since shipments of potatoes to California ceased, they are selling in this city for 75 cents a bushel.

An old bachelor recently asked us, with a great deal of apparent solicitude, "What has become of 'Viola'?"

To-day, April 12th, is the 79th anniversary of the birth of HENRY CLAY. The occasion, as usual, will be duly honored by the friends of the illustrious deceased throughout the Union.

The Yankees in N. Y. city have got up a new kind of sled. A set of hubs, with boxes to fit the axles of a wagon, constitute the principle cost of the runners. Into each of these hubs three strong spokes are driven, and the runner attached in place of the felloe.

For the Argus.

SECLIMITY, April 5, 1856. Mr. Editor—The privilege of voting was given for a noble purpose, and connected with it are responsibilities that all should understand. The act of voting for principles and men, as it involves the prosperity and perpetuity of the Government, is one that demands due deliberation.

In exercising the right of voting for those who are to make or execute the laws, a freeman ought not to be influenced by selfish or individual considerations, but he

ought to act with a view of promoting the good of the great mass of the people, whose interests are made inseparable by the great social compact, and who live under the same political institutions. The privilege of the elective franchise is enjoyed as a shield against oppression and tyranny, and was also designed to act as a check upon such social evils, as disturb the peace and good order of society.

We daily see the effects of party ignorance and corruption but we look forward with anxiety to the time, when the sovereign people will rouse from their slumber, and the scales will fall from their eyes, so that they may discover the gathering clouds of despotism, which threaten destruction to the country, when men will look with pureness of heart, and honesty of intention, after the real interests of the country in the choice of their officers, and when they will cease blindly to follow a party, right or wrong, and begin to support the most meritorious men for office.

Respectfully yours, AN IMPARTIAL OBSERVER.

News from the States.

Dates from New York to March 5th, and from San Francisco to March 28th.

The Difficulty with England—A bill for the construction of Ten New Steamships of War passed the Senate.

The brig San Francisco arrived at Astoria April 1st, four days from San Francisco, bringing news from New York to March 5. The mail steamer will bring but three or four days later news. We copy from the Democratic Standard:

Capt. Smith brought up California dates up to March 28. The news from California is of but little interest. A slight tendency to advance in flour.

California.

The Alta of the 23rd of March cautions California Merchants against Washington Territory war scrip.

SAN FRANCISCO MARKETS—March 27th. Sales up to 12 o'clock M.; 400 qr. sacks flour, Magnolia at \$10 50 per bbl; 100 half sacks Pacific extra at \$11 per bbl. Sales on the 20th, 2,000 qr. sacks of Oregon City Mills, at \$9 75. 100 sacks of wheat at 34 cts. 200 sacks Oregon potatoes at 43 cts per lb. Lard at 20 cts.—Choice butter at 85 and 40 cts. Adamantine emules at 80 cts. China rice at 7 cts. Rio coffee 12 cts. We notice a sale of 250 sacks of flour, Salem brand on the 24th at \$10 50 per bbl.

States' News.

The principal news is the publications of the correspondence between the officials of the United States and Great Britain, relative to the enlistment of troops in the United States for the British service, and the Nicaragua question. In another column we publish extracts from this correspondence.

We take the following from the Herald, relative to Congressional matters:

In the United States Senate Wednesday a bill to increase the efficiency of the army was reported by the Committee on Military Affairs. The invalid and other pension appropriation bills were passed. In the House, the Indian appropriation bill was reported; also bills annulling the laws of Kansas respecting slavery and slave property, and authorizing the people of Oregon to form a State Government.

In the United States Senate, Thursday a resolution was adopted calling on the President for information relative to the reported offer of Great Britain to refer to some friendly Power for arbitration the misunderstanding growing out of the Clayton Bulwer treaty. No offer of the kind has been made, though it appears that Lord Clarendon directed Mr. Crampton to read

Echo of present day Jan 29, 1920 GHH