

The Oregon Argus.

—A Weekly Newspaper, devoted to the Principles of Jeffersonian Democracy, and advocating the side of Truth in every issue.—

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ADVERTISING RATES. One square (12 lines or less) one insertion, \$5.00. Two insertions, 4.00. Three insertions, 3.00. Each subsequent insertion, 1.00. Reasonable deductions to those who advertise by the year.

Job Printing.

THE PROPRIETOR OF THE ARGUS is happy to inform the public that he has just received a large stock of JOB TYPE and other new printing material, and will be in the speedy receipt of additions suited to all the requirements of this locality. HANDBILLS, POSTERS, BLANKS, CARDS, CIRCULARS, PAMPHLET-WORK and other kinds, done to order, on short notice.

Japan. Japan is an extensive group of islands in the West Pacific Ocean, off the coast of China. The climate of the northern portion is cold—that of the southern, tropical. There is a population of 34,000,000 of yellow people, who are very industrious, and live chiefly on rice. They abominate flesh, but eat eggs and fish. They also drink tea abundantly. The Jesuit missionaries first introduced Christianity and tobacco two hundred years ago. The Japanese soon rooted out the religion, but liked the tobacco better, and have smoked it ever since. They have two emperors, one of whom is the head of the church, the other the head of the state. Each has his own capital, and both spiritual and temporal affairs are well cared for.

One of the emperors has twelve wives—which one we do not remember. Polygamy is also practiced by the upper classes—as it is in all countries, more or less openly, according to circumstances. Literature is in high repute, and the Japanese have female writers of great reputation, both historians and poets. The ladies of Japan have also a taste for music, such as it is, and are dextrous instrumental performers.

In Japan, every man's relations are responsible for his good conduct. The smallest offenses are punished with death, and not only is the criminal killed, but all his relations are put to death in the same hour. In light offenses, the female relations are only sold; but when the crime is high treason, the whole tribe is exterminated.

The Japanese believe in suicide. They kill themselves upon the slightest provocation. If you injure or insult a Japanese, he walks up before you, and coolly opens himself with a sharp knife.

As in China, the women of Japan are of remarkable delicacy, modesty, and purity. They are also said to be very fascinating.

The Japanese are great on cotton and silk. These form their whole dress, and are produced and manufactured of the best quality, and in great abundance. They are also strong in the varnish business, and are very fond of radishes; but their strawberries are not good, and they do not eat milk, butter, or cheese. They use honey for medicine, and beeswax to make poor man's plasters. They are strong allopaths, and buy drugs of the Chinese and Dutch.

The large cities are admirably policed. The streets are short, and each one is registered. A captain of each street is appointed, who is responsible for its cleanliness and order; and no man can move in until his character has been investigated. If the people already living in the street have no objections, he can move in on the first of May.

The Frigate Merrimack.

The new steam frigate Merrimack, Capt. Pendergrass, has sailed from Boston. Her armament is a terrific one. On the main deck she will carry twenty-four nine inch guns, each weighing 9000 pounds. On her spar deck she has fourteen eight-inch guns, each weighing 9000 pounds, and two ten-inch guns, one forward and the other aft, each weighing 12,000 pounds—i. e. all forty shell guns. She carries about seven hundred tons of coal. Her length over all is 300 feet, her breadth 51 feet 6 inches, and her measurement about 4000 tons. She has her full complement of officers and men on board—in all 560. The "boat-guns" of the Merrimack, three in number, were cast at the Washington Navy Yard, and can either be used in boats, or mounted as field-pieces, to use on shore. One is a twelve-pounder of 700 lbs.; and the third a twenty-four-pounder, weighing 1200 pounds.

Room for Another State.

There is a large extent of country lying to the east of the Sierra Nevada, and north of the Carson Valley route through Utah to California, of which little is known.—Orson Hyde, the Mormon Judge of the newly created county of Carson, has recently made an expedition into this terra incognita. His report is interesting so far as it settles the question of the existence of large tracts of beautiful and fertile land, susceptible of culture, and capable of sustaining a large population. That a belt of fertile lands, admirably adapted to agricultural purposes, and of sufficient extent to form a State of respectable size, exists, bounded on the west by the Sierras, and on the east by the desert country of Utah, and extending more than four hundred miles north and south, is no longer problematical, but an established fact; and unless Congress should alter the present boundaries and attach this narrow belt of fertile country to California, a new Territory, distinct from the Salt Lake or Utah Territory, will be required, before a proper government can be administered over this highly valuable and now rapidly populating portion of our national domain. It is too far from the Salt Lake settlement to be conveniently attached for judicial purposes, and for half

the year almost totally cut off from any direct communication with it, by a belt of desert country hundreds of miles in width. And now that the people of Utah are moving in the matter of admission as a State, proper steps should be taken to secure the annexation of this extensive valley country to California, or its erection into a new Territory.—S. F. Herald.

INDIAN OUTBREAK IN SHASTA COUNTY.—TWENTY INDIANS SLAIN.—The Union learns, from Mr. Skillman, of the Shasta Courier, arrived last Friday evening at Sacramento, some important intelligence as to an Indian outbreak in the county named.—Last Tuesday evening, the Indians living on Cow Creek, some eighteen miles from Shasta, to the number of over three hundred, made a descent on Harold's Mills, but after a severe skirmish, were repulsed, with the loss of twenty of their number. It appears that, about a month since, a partner of one Dr. Juskepp, for some cause unknown to the informant, killed an Indian Chief. This act so incensed the savages that they immediately commenced collecting their forces, preparatory to the attack. Fortunately, their movements and intentions were disclosed in time to the proprietors of the Mill, by a squaw, and instantly the Whites in the neighborhood, numbering some forty men, armed themselves, and repaired to the Mill, and were fully prepared to receive the savages at the moment of attack. The Indians were armed only with bows and arrows.

After the conflict was over, word was immediately dispatched to Shasta City, and on the following morning, about thirty of the citizens armed themselves, and hastened to the scene of action, to assist their fellows, in the event of another attack. But two of the Whites were wounded in the battle; one, named John Hunt, was shot in the hand, and another person, name unknown, injured in the head. The Indians were only deterred from continuing the fight by the darkness, and it was expected that they would certainly renew the attack on the next day.

MORMON IMMIGRATION.—The Mormons, who arrived in the ship John J. Boyd, at this port on Saturday, are mostly Danes; but among them are several Norwegians, Italians from the Protestant valley of Piedmont, and two Icelanders. They are stout, hearty looking people, with an expression of intelligence above that of the average European immigrants. The greater number are agriculturists, though the trades are well represented. This ship load is said to be only the forerunner of an immense Mormon immigration which we may look for next spring. The emissaries from Great Salt Lake are reported to have been very successful in making proselytes in Norway, Denmark and Switzerland. In Denmark alone they have fifty-six traveling ministers, and several hundred local elders. They meet with occasional opposition from the municipal authorities in some places; but this, as is usually the case, has only served to excite the sympathy of the lower classes in their favor.

One member of the company by the John J. Boyd, was imprisoned eight months, and subjected to many privations, in a town of Denmark. It is estimated that about 10,000 converts will be landed here this season, mostly from the sources above named. It is satisfactory to know that they are all able to pay their passage here; that they generally bring a little money into the country, and do not become a charge to our already burdened city.—N. Y. Jour. Com.

Life in a Powder Mill.

Dickens thus describes a visit to the powder mill of Hounslow, near London: "In this silent region, amid whose ninety-seven work places no human voice ever breaks upon the ear, and where indeed no human form is seen except in the isolated house in which his allotted task is performed. There are upward of 250 workmen employed. They are a peculiar race, not of course by nature, in most cases, but by the habit of years. The circumstances of momentary destruction in which they live, added to the most stringent and necessary regulations, have subdued their minds and feeling to the condition of their hire. There is seldom any need to enforce these regulations. Some terrific explosion here, or in works of a similar kind elsewhere, leaves a fixed fear in their memories, and acts as a constant warning.

"Here no shadows of a practical joke or caper of animal spirits ever transpires—no witicism, no chaffing or slang. A laugh is never heard; a smile seldom seen.—Even the work is carried on by the men with as few words as possible, and these uttered in a low tone. Not that anybody fancies that mere sound will awaken the spirit of combustion or cause an explosion to take place, but that their feelings are always kept subdued. If one man wishes to communicate anything to another, or ask for anything from somebody at a short dis-

tance, he must go there—he is never permitted to shout or call out. There is a particular reason for this last regulation.—Amid all this silence, whenever a shout does occur everybody knows that some eminent danger is expected the next moment, all rush away headlong from the direction of the shout. As to running toward it to offer any assistance, as common in all other cases, it is thoroughly understood that none can be afforded.

"An accident here is immediate and beyond remedy. If the shouting be continued for some time (for a man might be drowning in a river,) that might cause one or two of the boldest to return: but this would be a very rare occurrence. It is by no means to be inferred that the men are selfish and insensible to the perils of each other; on the contrary they have the greatest consideration for each other, as well as for their employers, and think of the danger of the lives of others, and of property at stake at all times, and more especially in the more dangerous houses. The proprietors of the various gunpowder mills all display the same consideration for each other, and whenever any improvement tending to lessen danger is made by one, it is immediately communicated to all others. The wages of the men are good, and the hours very short; no artificial lights are ever used in the work. They leave the mills at half-past three in the afternoon, winter and summer."

A BARBAROUS DUEL.—The Reno, Ga. Courier has an account of a duel lately fought near Dallas, Paulding county. The parties were Wiley Jones and William Bane, relatives. They fought with rifles and fired three times. At the first shot a part of Jones's left ear was shot off. They were still not satisfied—loaded again and fired, a part of Jones's right ear lock being cut off by the ball of his antagonist. They were still not satisfied—loaded again and fired, Bane's ball passing through Jones's hat, just above his head. Jones then made at his antagonist with the rifle, and attempted to knock him down with it, but Bane got the advantage, knocked him down and beat his brains out, and fled unhurt. Jones died immediately, and up to the latest accounts Bane had not been arrested.

COL. BENTON AND SLAVERY IN MISSOURI.—Col. Benton, in a letter to the National Intelligencer, denies the statement made by Mr. Greeley at the Pittsburg Convention, that he was in favor of abolishing slavery in the State of Missouri. He says:—"It so happens that there is a clause in the Constitution of the State of Missouri which forbids the Legislature to emancipate slaves without the consent of their owners; and it further so happens that I was much instrumental (though not a member of the Convention) in getting that clause put in, and for the express purpose of keeping slavery agitation out of the State."

THE FALL OF BARNUM.—The author of that book glorifying himself as a millionaire from the arts and appliances of obtaining money under false pretences, is, according to his own statements in court, completely crushed out. All the profits of all his Poojee mermaids, all his woolly horses, Greenland whales, Joyce Heeths, negroes turning white, Tom Thumbs, and monsters and impostures of all kinds, including the reported \$70,000 received by the copyright of that book, are all swept away, Hindoo palace, elephants and all, by the late invincible showman's remorseless assignees. It is a case eminently adapted to "point a moral or adorn a tale."

But if the world has hitherto looked on with admiration and astonishment at Barnum's shrewdness, talents and success, it will now learn with equal surprise the astounding fact that all his splendid enterprises and their golden returns of twenty years, have been swallowed up in a single confidence speculation in Yankee clocks—a Yankee clock speculation in which the great financier has fully eclipsed the folly, carelessness and credulity of any confidence case we have ever heard of. The history of the great showman is thus, however, consistently wound up. The poison of that demoralizing book is thus effectively rendered innocuous. It can do no further harm. The forfeit is paid. He has made a clear statement, and sacrificed all. He is entitled to credit for it. The public, therefore, may now freely sympathize with Barnum as the victim of misplaced confidence in Yankee clocks; and the whole community will be pleased to learn that in spirit he is not broken down, but that he has yet the will and the activity required to start with the world again in a less ostentatious, but more honorable business career than that which has made him a Jeremy Diddler, a mountebank, a millionaire and a bankrupt.—N. Y. Herald.

No two things differ more than hurry and dispatch. Harry is the mark of a weak mind—dispatch of a strong one.

Suicides in France.

There have been 300,000 suicides in France since 1800, and the number is increasing with appalling rapidity. There were in France in 1843, 154 suicides more than in 1842, 266 more than in 1841, 208 more than in 1840, 273 more than in 1839, 434 more than in 1838, 577 more than in 1837, 680 more than in 1836, 715 more than in 1846, 942 more than in 1834.—that is to say, there has been an increase of 32 1/2 per cent in ten years, without any relation to the increase of the population, and the total number from 1843 to 1853, will present a still more rapid increase. Suicide is more common among men than among women; three times more common in Paris than in the Provinces; rare among children, it is now spreading among them; it occurs more frequently in old age than at any other period of life; bachelors and widowers are most given to suicide; out of 4,595 suicides, 282 are attributed to poverty, 607 were committed by persons of large fortune, 2,000 were committed by persons who worked for their livelihood, and the others by persons more or less poor, suicides increase most rapidly, and most common in the best educated departments; the number of suicides, crime and insanity augmented invariably from January to July, and decrease progressively from August to December; they are more common on the first and second days of the month than at any other period; the number of suicides increase in the ratio of their vicinity to Paris; charcoal is the favorite means of death; out of 4,595 cases 1,426 were committed by this means; 939 sought death by drowning, 796 by hanging, 578 by fire arms, 424 by leaping from windows, &c., 207 by daggers, 158 by poison, 16 by throwing themselves under locomotives, &c., and one by starvation.

WAGON ROAD MEETING.—A meeting of signers of the Wagon Road Memorial, was held on Saturday evening in the auction room of Jones and Middleton.

Col. Crockett presided and A. G. Randall acted as Secretary.

The books containing the Memorial and the signatures were presented. There are two books, each twenty inches long, fourteen wide and six thick. The names, sixty thousand in number, are pasted in on the leaves.

Maj. P. B. Reading, Dr. C. M. Hitchcock, Maj. Caperton, and Dr. Hill, were instructed to take the memorial to Congress and present it to the California delegation.—Cal. Chronicle.

WHAT BECOMES OF THE PINS?—It appears by the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury that the number of pins made per annum in the United States is two billions six hundred and seven millions three hundred and sixty thousand; and it is tentatively remarked, "Pins have the American market." If so, it cannot be denied that the market has the pins. And the question is suggested by the New York Times—"What becomes of these pins? The population of the country is twenty-six millions. Does each individual consume over one hundred pins a year? for that is the average supply. But it is well known that it is only one sex who consume pins at all. Does each American example of the feminine gender suppress two hundred pins a year? From babyhood to maternity, and from that to the grave, the passion for pins, it is admitted, is a part of woman's nature; but we submit that this fact affords no satisfactory explanation of the disappearance of twenty-six hundred and seven millions of pins per annum."

CAUGHT IN A TRIP OF THEIR OWN SETTING.—Some of our readers will remember the case of Fyler, of Syracuse, N. Y., who was tried, some little time since, for the murder of his wife.

The agreement, as is asserted, between the prisoner and his counsel, was, that in case Fyler was saved from hanging, his counsel were to have \$4,000. Of this amount \$1,000 were paid in cash, and the remainder secured by a mortgage on his farm. The counsel put in a plea of insanity, and Fyler was sent to the Lunatic Asylum. The mortgage is now about due, and the holders, on proposing to foreclose it, met with the defense, that if the maker of it was insane when the mortgage was committed, could he have been sane at the time of giving the mortgage? It looks as though the lawyers were caught this time.

IS IT A SURE THING?—The California Farmer of April 18th says—"We have conversed with several who know the market, and they know that within one week flour will be sold at \$8 and \$7 50 per bushel. We repeat what we said last week—there are fifty thousand barrels to spare in California and Oregon for outside trade before the crops come in—over and above thirty-two thousand and five hundred barrels per month for the State."

Indian depredations continue without abatement on the frontier of Texas.

LATE FROM EUROPE.

PEACE CONFERENCE.—The plenipotentiaries held their first meeting at the Hotel of Foreign Affairs, Paris, Monday, Feb. 25. Present, Buol, Hubner, Walewski, Clarendon, Cowley, Orloff, Brunow, Cavour, Villamarina, Ali Mehemet—Count Walewski presiding.

The session lasted three hours and a half. Walewski opened the conference by an introductory speech. Credentials were exchanged, and a written guaranty not to divulge the proceedings until the whole be concluded. Discussion on an armistice then ensued. An armistice was settled until the end of March, but not affecting the blockade of Russian ports.

It is asserted that Russia, while assenting to the dismantling of Sebastopol, Demarsand, and even Nicolaeff, refuses to cede protectorate over the Greek Christians.

Vienna letters assert that Gortschakoff, the diplomatist, had stated that the Russian government considers the convocation of a general European Congress, immediately after a treaty of peace is signed, the best means of settling all questions. France and Austria favor the idea, England does not.

The evident cordiality existing between France and Austria begins to excite uneasiness in England, and a triple league of France, Austria, and Russia, against England, is surmised as not an improbable incident of the future.

THE CRIMEA.—Orders have been forwarded to the allied generals in the Crimea respecting the armistice, and it is said that Napoleon has intimated to the generals and admirals now in Paris that probably they need not return to their commands.—Leave of absence is now freely given to officers in the Crimea.

The allies were about to destroy the sunken ships in Sebastopol harbor, by dropping upon them heavy shells to explode under water.

TURKEY.—It is stated, via Vienna, that Ismail Pacha supersedes Omer Pacha in the Asiatic command.

Omer recently demanded from the Porte appointment as Minister of War, with the power of commander-in-chief of all Turkish forces. On being refused, he sent in his resignation, which was accepted. Private advices do not confirm this.

The Sultan's decree in favor of the Christians has been read in presence of Turkish dignitaries at Constantinople.

RUSSIA.—Three thousand Russians are employed day and night in constructing a triple row of piles right across the Gulf of Finland, twelve miles across, and six miles from Cronstadt, with a few openings, behind which is a steam fleet of 18 ships, 14 corvettes, and 70 gun-boats.

A Russian ukase orders immediate issue of treasury notes in seven series, amounting in the aggregate to 21,000,000 roubles.

Within the past few weeks large amounts of specie have been forwarded across the Russian frontier to the address of Stieglitz & Co., St. Petersburg, the Russian Court bankers.

Great energy is manifested in Russia in advancing railways.

Relations between Russia and Persia increase in cordiality.

GREAT BRITAIN.—There is some talk, but it is merely talk, of an early dissolution of Parliament or change of government.

The rumor, however, had affected the funds.

Wednesday, Feb. 27, the Lord Mayor of London assembled a distinguished party at the mansion house to meet Minister Buchanan previous to his return home. Unfortunately, Mr. Buchanan was on the same day invited to dine with the Queen, and etiquette required him to give Victoria's dinner the preference.

The Mayor's company consisted of members of Parliament, representing leading commercial constituencies; also American and colonial merchants. The Lord Mayor made a speech regretting the absence of Mr. Buchanan, because the reception he would have met from representatives of leading interest would have proved to him the absence of all unfriendly feeling in Britain as regarded America, and shown that though big words might arise on either side, the interests of commerce, peace, civilization and humanity were too powerful to permit collision between England and the United States.

Similar feelings were expressed by other speakers, among them Mr. Cobden and Earl Elgin.

On the 27th Feb. the Queen held a levee. Mr. Buchanan, and also the Brazilian, Peruvian, Mexican, and Haytian Ministers attended.

The Parliamentary proceedings are interesting. It is reported that government

succumbs in the Wensleydale peerage matter, and will issue a new hereditary patent.

In the House of Commons, Delacy Evans gave notice of a resolution disapproving of the government's course in having refused direct offers of troops from Canada, while at the same time abortive attempts were made to enlist in adjoining neutral territory (United States,) contrary to international law.

A military court of inquiry into the Crimean commissioners' report is to be an open court.

The liberal electors of London have under consideration whether again to contest the question of Jewish enfranchisement in the person of Baron Rothschild, or to elect a more servicable representative.

The following is a forcible illustration of the way we supply the natural waste of the body:

Let it be remembered that to take food, is to make man. Eating is the process by which the noblest of terrestrial fabrics is constantly repaired. All our limbs and organs have been picked up from our plates. We have been served up at the table many times over. Every individual is literally a mass of vivified viands; he is an epitome of innumerable meals; he has dined upon himself, supped upon himself, and in fact—paradoxical as it may appear—has again and again leaped down his own throat.—Liebig states that an adult pig weighing 120 pounds, will consume 5,110 pounds of potatoes in the course of a year, and yet at the expiration of that period its weight may not have increased a single ounce.

VEGETABLE DIET.—Herbivorous animals are certainly more affected with tubercular disease than carnivorous. It is a fact, also, that butchers who use much animal food, are seldom consumptive; and truth compels me to say, that in a few cases I could distinctly connect the development of a consumption with a prolonged experiment of vegetarian diet. Unless managed, and in very robust constitutions, vegetarianism tends to produce an excess of the albuminous element of blood and a deficiency of its fibrine, iron and red particles, impairing a paleness and flabbiness to the tissues, a delicacy of look, and a want of stamina and power of energetic endurance. This is a state of matters assuredly verging on the pathological condition of the fluids characterizing the scrofulous constitution. There is much good in it; but it is capable of as great abuses, quite as an unmixt diet.—Having experimented carefully upon myself for two years with vegetarian diet, I consider myself qualified to give council on the subject. It will not do for all healthy people, nor as indiscriminate recommendation to invalids. In the hands of a physician, it is a potent auxiliary of his art.—But there is a time to eat animal food. The grand questions are, the measure and proportions of it; when to stop and when to commence, and how far to go.

A New Translation of the Psalms. Dr. CUMMING, a clergyman of London, England, is not satisfied with King James' version of the Scriptures. He has been trying his hand at a version of the Psalms of David. Here is the way he "oversets," as the Germans say, the exquisitely simple, touching, and beautiful 23d Psalm, (which, in the ordinary version, begins—"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want," &c.) "Deity is my pastor; I shall not be indigent. He maketh me to recline on the verdant lawns; he leadeth me beside the unrippled liquities; he reinstallesh my spirits, and conducteth me in the avenues of recitudo for the celebrity of his appellations. Unquestionably, though I permeateth the plen of the umbrages of the sepulchral dormitories, I will not be perturbed by appalling catastrophes; for thou art present. Thy wand and thy crook insinuate delectation. Thou spreadest a refectio before me in the midst of inimical scrutatations. Thou perfumeest my looks with odoriferous unguents, my chalice exuberates. Indubitably, benignity and commiseration shall continue all the diuturnity of my vitality, and I will eternalize my habitance within the metropolis of nature."

This would please Mrs. Malaprop greatly.

M. de Trobriand, in the Courier des Etats Unis, speaks of a lady, now in Paris, who wears upon one dress fourteen hundred meters (a meter is a little over three feet and a quarter) of fringe trimming. Fourteen hundred metres—nearly a mile! If it were not for something to attach the fringe to, the robe itself might be omitted without inconvenience. He says also that a young lady in the same city has adorned a single dress with seven hundred and fifty yards of ribbon!

Of the six hundred and six convicts in the Ohio Penitentiary, there are: Second convictions, 58; third, 9; fourth, 3; fifth, 1. 423 are interperate; 61 are married; 50 are blacks or mulattoes; 29 are over fifty years of age; 244 cannot read or write; and 400, or nearly 66 per cent. of the whole number have no trades!