

The Oregon Argus.

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

VOL. II.

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No. 9.

ADVERTISING RATES. One square (12 lines or less, one insertion, \$7.50...

Job Printing.

THE PROPRIETOR OF THE ARGUS HAS HAD TO inform the public that he has just received a large stock of JOB TYPE and other new printing material...

For the Argus.

Temperance at the Ballot Box.

Editor of the Argus—DEAR SIR: Public speeches are public property. When the candidates for office canvass the county or the Territory, they design to put the whole community in possession of their own opinions...

have also gained a knowledge of our true friends, and they have also lost the assurance with which they counted upon some friends, who, although they voted for the licensing of saloons, and the increase of pauperism, and sufferings and death by means of drunkenness, this time did so with unusual hesitation.

We rejoice therefore that the subject has had a week and more of discussion in our county. We thank the candidates for their faithfulness in presenting it. We thank the opposition for entertaining the subject, and answering as best they could the arguments for prohibition.

News from the States.

Our despatch from Washington informs us that Gen. Sam Houston will run as an independent candidate for the Presidency, trusting for his election to the great body of the people, and repudiating all caucuses and conventions. His platform is:—Opposition to the domestic and foreign policy of the present administration...

Our special despatch from Washington furnishes us with the position and platform of Gen. Sam Houston. It is definitely settled that he will be an independent candidate, and we may expect a general scrub race. A fierce war is said to be going on between the Buchanan and Pierce partisans, and that the President, if he cannot obtain the nomination himself, will use his influence in favor of a Southern candidate.

The news from Central America has created a great excitement at Washington. The following prompt and decided reply from the Secretary of the Navy to a telegraphic despatch of Mr. W. H. Aspinwall, shows that he is determined to afford protection when needed to American persons and property.

The new steam frigate Merrimac will, it is said, be ordered to proceed to the Pacific without delay. We find also, that the sloop of war St. Mary's was at Guayaquil on the 31st ult., and would leave for Panama on the 15th inst. She was daily looked for at last accounts. In addition to these demonstrations, Mr. Herbert, of California offered in the House of Representatives Wednesday a resolution instructing the Committee of Foreign Affairs to inquire into the facts of the case, with the view of protecting hereafter our citizens while crossing.

Our telegraphic despatch from Washington, published this morning, is full of matter. It is stated upon good authority that the administration is prepared to recognize the Rivas-Walker government and receive the new Minister from Nicaragua, Padre Vigily, who has probably ere this reached the capital.

caster, Pa., Saturday. He left Philadelphia in the morning, and all along the route he was met by deputations of the people of all parties, who manifested their respect and admiration. At his home there was a general turn out, and "all sorts of people" seemed pleased and gratified at his return.

A Kansas letter, dated the 24th inst., says, that while Sheriff Jones was sitting in the tent of the soldiers he was shot at by a party outside and dangerously wounded. Jones had made twelve arrests during the day, assisted by a company of dragoons under Lieut. Armstrong. Much excitement prevailed in regard to the affair.

Official advices have been received from Commodore Salter, of the Brazil Squadron, stating that he had returned to Rio from escorting out to sea the steamer America, which it was supposed was fitted out at New York as a Russian privateer, and that she had not been molested by the British Admiral, as previously threatened.

The following from the New York Herald looks as though Bennett was a little out of humor at the way the cards are being managed by the party wire pullers, in Washington:—

The Jugglers of the Cincinnati Convention.

According to our special despatch from Washington, which we lay before our readers this morning, the plot is thickening among the democratic jugglers for the dainty prize of the Cincinnati Convention.

The working of the complex machinery of these awinding gatherings is very extraordinary. In 1844 Martin Van Buren had a clear majority of the Convention; but they fastened the two-thirds rule about his neck and sunk him. In 1848 Gen. Cass was nominated; but Van Buren had his revenge; for Cass was defeated by that purely revengeful Buffalo ticket. In 1852 all the great democratic guns were spiked one more, and the compromise at last agreed upon was decidedly smaller than the calibre of Col. Polk. The same materials, the same causes, the same rivalries and jealousies, the same cliques and the same outstanding candidates will come up before the same tribunal at Cincinnati. What, then, can we expect but the same results?

That two-thirds rule, in fact, has given heretofore to a small and factious minority in these packed conventions, the destinies of this great country and its masses of independent, liberty-loving and intelligent people; and from the same source we can expect nothing but the same consequences again. Think of ninety-nine men at Cincinnati—cross-road politicians and tricky spoilsmen, elected as delegates, some of them, perhaps, by half a dozen bow companions, others chosen by themselves, deciding upon the suffrages, the rights, the world-wide interests of this vast republic of twenty-seven millions of people, supposed to possess, themselves, the sovereign power in the government, and in the elections to its offices! What mockery it makes of democracy, personal independence and popular sovereignty! What a farce!

The Columbus (Ala.) Times gives the only plausible plea for this two-thirds rule at these "extraordinary assemblies." It says—"The democratic candidates chosen under it will compare favorably with those selected under the majority rule by the whig party. In point of ability, Van Buren, Polk, Cass and Pierce are fully equal to Harrison, Clay, Taylor and Scott. We therefore protest most solemnly against the abrogation of the two-thirds rule by the Cincinnati Convention. It is the only check held by the South, in these extraordinary assemblies, upon the overwhelming Northern majorities. Until quiet is restored to the country; until the rights of the South are recognized and respected by the North, and the slavery agitation is settled, we should regard that Southern man as either knave or fool who should propose or vote for the abrogation of the two-thirds rule.—Is not the North now vastly in the majority in these conventions? Why increase their power, until at least they have shown themselves capable of using it with discretion?"

There is something in that argument, if we admit that the Northern democracy are in the slightest degree tainted with the nigger worshiping mania. But that cannot be. A short time since we modestly suggested that a "free soilist" type of the democracy did exist in the North, and that it had its antipathies to such Nebraska candidates as Pierce, Douglas, Bright and Atchison; but we were instantly pounced upon

by the Cabinet organ at Washington and by its echoes, as a malicious slanderer of the unspotted democratic party. No—never! There is nothing "free soilist" among its material in the North. The Van Buren-Pierce democrats had passed through the fire, and had come out without as much as the smell of free soil or niggerism on their garments. Such being the case, then, why should the democracy of the South be so suspicious of their Northern brethren in these national love feasts? The plain truth is, that the managers of these conventions are simply spoilsmen, and they meet to appropriate the spoils with the same feelings of fraternity as those which govern a gang of robbers in one of their "extraordinary assemblies" for the division of a large haul of plunder.

"Extraordinary assemblies," indeed!—The plot thickens, and we shall see, anon, that it is a knavish piece of work."

The Mississippi River Crossed by the Iron Horse—lowa and Illinois connected by Railroad—great Rejoicing.

A correspondent of the Chicago Press writing from Davenport, Iowa, says that on the 22d of April the first locomotive and train crossed the Mississippi River at Rock Island. He says:—

That such an event should have occurred without an assemblage of spectators from all quarters of the globe to witness it, is only another instance of the mighty progress which has been made within the last fifty years in the science of bridge building. As we approached Rock Island there were rumors afloat that we would cross to Iowa on the bridge. "Cross the Mississippi on a bridge!" cried an intelligent looking gentleman. "On a bridge?" simpered a feminine voice from a young lady to her parents, bound for Council Bluffs; "why, Pa, I thought the Mississippi was a great river, larger than the Hudson."

So silently has this work progressed that, while half the world has been asleep, genius has been spanning the mightiest river on the globe, and connecting two as magnificent sections of territory as the sun ever shone upon.

Swiftly we sped along the iron track—Rock Island appeared in sight—the whistle sounded, and the conductor cried out—"Passengers for Iowa keep their seats." There was a pause—a hush, as it were, preparatory to the fierceness of a tornado. The cars moved on—the bridge was reached—"We're on the bridge—see the mighty Mississippi rolling on beneath!"—and all eyes were fastened on the mighty parapets of the magnificent bridge, over which we glided in solemn silence. A few minutes and the suspended breath let loose—"We are over!" was the cry; "we have crossed the Mississippi in a railroad car." "This is glory enough for one day," said a passenger, as he hustled his carpet-bag and himself out of the cars. We followed, to view the mighty structure.

The bridge was built for the Railroad Bridge Company. Henry Farnam, Esq., is President and Chief Engineer, and N. B. Judd, Esq., Secretary.

The bridge connects the Chicago and Rock Island and the Mississippi and Missouri Railroads, of which Mr. Farnam and Gen. John A. Dix are the respective Presidents, and John F. Tracy, Esq., and John E. Henry, Esq., are the respective Secretaries.

There are two bridges, the "Slough Bridge," which crosses from Illinois to the island, over a channel which the Mississippi has made on the east side of the island, and the "Main Bridge," which extends from the island to the Iowa shore.

The following is a description of THE MAIN BRIDGE.—The main bridge extends from the island to the Iowa shore of the Mississippi, and consists of five spans besides the draw. Three of these spans are on the west side of the draw, and two on the east side. The entire length of the bridge from the island to the Iowa shore, is 1,581 feet.

The piers are seven feet wide at the top, and thirty-five feet long. They are thirty-eight feet high from the bed of the river, and they rest on solid rock. There are four arch beams to each span of the bridge.—The length of the draw is 286 feet—the largest in the United States.

The Slough Bridge, as it is called, i. e., the bridge from Illinois across the channel of the Mississippi that runs between the island and the main land, consists of three spans 150 feet each in the clear.

The appearance of the bridge, from the river, is most magnificent, while the immensity of the structure strikes the beholder with wonder, and to witness the iron horse rushing over this mighty river, where but a few years ago Black Hawk and his savage tribes were the sole possessors. Truly it is a great, a magnificent work.—It is indeed "glory enough for one day."

It is the opinion of a western editor that wood goes further when left out of doors than when well housed. He says some of his went half a mile.

NICARAGUA.

Schlesinger's Defeat—Great Battle at Rivas—Walker Victorious—600 Costa Ricans Killed.

From the papers received by last mail from the States we have full accounts of Nicaraguan affairs. The steamers have been withdrawn from the line on the Pacific side, owing to which we are mainly dependent upon the New York and New Orleans papers for reliable accounts of events transpiring in Nicaragua.

SCHLESINGER'S DEFEAT.

In regard to the defeat of Schlesinger, who had invaded Costa Rica with the vanguard of Gen. Walker's army, numbering about 280 men, it appears that it was owing to the gross negligence and cowardice of Schlesinger. His men were encamped upon an eminence near the hacienda of Santa Rosa, surrounded by dense shrubbery; no sufficient guards were stationed to provide against surprise; parties from five to fifteen were out foraging; and everything in camp displayed the most culpable and criminal carelessness. It was under such circumstances that the onslaught of the Costa Ricans was made. Confusion prevailed, and Schlesinger showed the white feather from the start. The attacking force was 1000, although, it is supposed, not more than 500 were engaged at first. One account says the assailants were up within fifty yards before they were discovered. Of Schlesinger's men only about 175 came into action; the French and Dutch companies not forming at all. Of the 175 men that remained at their post about 60 were killed. On the homeward march to Virgin Bay the dangers and fatigues were dreadful. With bleeding feet and hungered stomachs, they plodded on their weary way. Their sufferings paralleled the sufferings of our forefathers during the Revolution. Their return trail was closely followed by the enemy, and the escape of the little band from capture was almost miraculous. The defeat at Santa Rosa took place on the afternoon of the 20th of March.

From the Nicaragua correspondence of the N. Y. Tribune we take the following:—

On the 15th of April the steamer Chas. Morgan arrived at San Juan del Norte from New Orleans with 250 men for Gen. Walker, and on the day following the Orizaba arrived from New York, with 50 recruits. A sailing vessel from New Orleans about the same time landed 12 men for Walker.

BATTLE AT SERAPIQUI.

On the 10th of April a company of sixteen men, belonging to Walker's army, surprised a detachment of Costa Ricans 200 strong, a few miles back of Serapiqui.—The fight lasted about an hour. Twenty Costa Ricans were killed. The Americans were headed by Capt. Baldwin, who had two men wounded, one mortally. Serapiqui is a village on the San Juan river about 40 miles from its mouth.

APPEARANCE OF THE FILLIBUSTERS.

During the few moments we remained at this place we were informed that an attack, by a force of some 200 or 300 Costa Ricans, was momentarily expected. When asked whether they did not dread to have their small force (not quite forty) attacked by such a large number, they laughed and replied that they were good for double the number. They informed us, however, that a reinforcement from Gen. Hornsby's force at Castillo was hourly expected.—We passed Serapiqui in the night. The morning proved the truth of all that had been told us. About 10 o'clock some bongo boats, filled with soldiers, passed us. In reply to our questions they said that they were "going down to Serapiqui to shoot off some Greasers"—a name given to the Costa Ricans from their greasy appearance. Presently a large flat-boat swept by us for the same destination, in which was a brass 18-pounder cannon. As we passed the Machucha rapids we met a small detachment of Walker's men, who were also walking, to lighten their bungos, and thus facilitate descent. Every one of them was armed with either a Sharpe's, or a Mississippi rifle, a bayonet, and two revolvers. They must have been picked men, as every one of them was tall, muscular, and well made. They had an earnestness in their faces which was almost terrifying. They were in no especial uniform, but each wore a red ribbon, either about his hat or on his breast. This is the badge of "no quarter." Since the Costa Ricans murdered those under Schlesinger whom they took prisoners a general order has been issued in Gen. Walker's army that no prisoners shall be made. Every male capable of bearing arms is to be put to death. This order is justified by the fact that the Costa Ricans set the initiative.

BATTLE OF RIVAS.

On the 6th of April the Costa Rican army numbering 1,500 or 2,000 men entered and took possession of the city of Rivas, about 55 miles from Granada. By daylight on the 8th, a force of 500 men, of whom 100 were native troops, were on the march from Granada to engage the enemy. Gen. Walker in person was at the head of the army. He encamped on the night of the 10th within nine miles of Rivas, and early on the morning of the 11th of April the march was resumed, with the prospect ahead of a lively engagement. With his usual promptitude, Walker lost no time in commencing the attack. The conflict was fierce and bloody. The Costa Ricans disputed every inch; but the Americans broke through their barricades, and with great slaughter drove them from their defenses. The Costa Ricans had with them a heavy piece of cannon, to obtain which the Americans made a desperate attack, and succeeded. The Costa Ricans made two or three very courageous efforts to recover their lost arm; finding this impracticable, a body of three hundred of them were observed to fall back. This was construed by Walker's officers into a retreat, and redoubling their efforts they put the enemy to a total rout. Almost simultaneously with this about 250 fresh Costa Ricans were observed to approach the scene of conflict. They were promptly met by the Americans, now flushed with the prospects of a complete and brilliant victory, and after a terrible struggle they were routed with much loss. The conflict raged from 8 in the morning till the middle of the afternoon. Gen. Walker acted during the entire action with the greatest coolness—exhibiting no fears as to the result. Six hundred Costa Ricans were killed, while the Americans had only thirty killed and about an equal number wounded. The native soldiers under Gen. Walker fought with obstinate bravery—their commander, Col. Machado, being slain in the engagement.

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Since the beginning of the war it has been known that the Costa Ricans have fought with Minio rifles, furnished them by the British Government, and many English and Germans are said to be fighting on their side.

Western Texas a Free State.

Some months since we alluded to the probability that Western Texas might become a free State, and based our suggestions on the fact that it was populated to a considerable extent by immigrants from the Old World. It is strange that those who have such fear for the integrity of the rights of the South, should not perceive that the greatest danger to her institutions comes from this quarter. Immigrants are mostly free-soil men—abolitionists by instinct, and wherever they settle there is immediately a conflict between them and the South.

The San Antonio Texan has the following remarks upon this subject:—

"Some may look upon such an event as a Free State of Western Texas, as improbable, particularly at a time when such strenuous efforts are being made to carry slavery into Kansas, where slavery does not now exist by positive law. Yet there is a strong probability that such an event will occur within the next ten years. Our opinion is based upon the fact, that foreign immigration is greater than domestic, by at least ten to one; and upon the well-known fact, that all foreign immigration is opposed to slavery, from principle, prejudice, and education. And there are many of the immigrants from the older States opposed to slavery, who quietly tolerate it so long as it is an institution of the State, but who will vote no slavery, when the question comes up, whether Western Texas shall be a Free or Slave State. This fact is not generally known; if so, it is not duly considered.—The vote of the adopted citizens of Texas now numbers at least twelve thousand. In less than ten years it will be increased to three times that number, unless the naturalization laws are changed. The increase will be in a much greater ratio than that of the native-born vote."—New Orleans Creole.

TEETH EXTRACTED WITHOUT PAIN.—

Chambers's Journal alluded to a discovery of Mr. Blundell, dentist, of London, of a process for extracting teeth without pain, and to another process described by Dr. Roberts before the Scottish Society of Arts, for cauterizing the dental nerve, and stopping the teeth without pain independent of the ordinary intimidating mode of holding a red-hot iron before the patient's face. Mr. Blundell's process is the application of ice to the jaw, which so deadens the sensibility that the tooth is extracted without pain.—The process of Dr. Roberts is to cauterize by means of a wire attached to the patient's tooth, perfectly cold, and afterwards instantaneously heated to the required extent by a small electric battery.

The East India trade of the United States, including the African and Pacific trade, employs at the present time four hundred ships one hundred and fifty barks, the greater proportion of which are owned in Boston and New York. Fifty years ago a few two hundred ton ships and brigs controlled the East India business.