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The Oregon Argus.

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

VOL. II.

OREGON CITY, O. T., JUNE 21, 1856.

No. 10.

ADVERTISING RATES. One square (12 lines or less) for insertion, \$3.00 per week. 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 printing material, and will be in the speedy receipt of additional suits to all the requirements of the locality. HANDBILLS, POSTERS, BLANKS, CARDS, CIRCULARS, PAMPHLET-WORK and other kinds, done to order, on short notice.

Oregon Bible Society.

The Oregon Bible Society, auxiliary to the American Bible Society, hold its Ninth Anniversary at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Salem, May 14th, 1856; the President (Rev. D. Leslie) in the chair, and Rev. H. Lyman, Secretary, pro tem. Religious services, at the opening of the morning session, by the President, and Rev. T. S. Condit; afternoon, by Rev. W. F. West; and evening, by Rev. G. H. Atkinson.

The records of the doings of the Society, for the past year, the attendance, and interest at the Anniversary, were encouraging to Bible lovers.

Thirty-six annual members, and \$11 75 were received.

Rev. D. Leslie was elected President; Rev. T. S. Condit, Vice President; Rev. D. Bagley, Secretary; Hon. G. Abernethy, C. Pope, Jr., P. H. Hatch, Revs. D. E. Blain, Wm. Roberts, G. H. Atkinson, and P. B. Chamberlain, Executive Committee; and R. H. Broughton, Auditor, for the ensuing year.

The following resolutions were passed: Resolved, 1st. As a standing regulation of this Society, it shall be the duty of its Secretary to present a written report, to be read at its annual meeting; of the operations of the Society, and its auxiliaries, during his term of office.

Resolved, 2nd. The Agent of the American Bible Society is hereby requested to instruct the auxiliaries of this Society to forward written reports of their operations in season, to enable the foregoing resolutions to be carried into effect.

Resolved, 3d. That the Agent of the American Bible Society be requested to organize County Societies, auxiliary to the Oregon Bible Society, and report the same to the Executive Committee of the Oregon Auxiliary.

Resolved, 4th. That the Auxiliary Societies be requested to transmit their funds, quarterly, to the Treasurer of the Oregon Auxiliary Society.

Resolved, 5th. That the money received for our annual memberships, within the limits of thirty dollars, be applied to purchase the Monthly Bible Record, for distribution and that the General Agent attend to its distribution.

The Report of the Agent of the American Bible Society, (Rev. L. C. Phillips) was given and heard with interest.

Upon call of the President, Rev. F. S. Hoyt introduced and forcibly sustained the following:

Resolved, That the success of the Bible cause is essential to the prosperity of the American churches, and universal spread of the gospel, and therefore essential to the well being of man.

After which it was unanimously adopted. Rev. P. B. Chamberlain followed with an address of interest upon the sufficiency of the Bible to meet the wants of man, as tested by its trials and results. He was succeeded by the Rev. D. E. Blain, in a short, terse, and appropriate address.

The thanks of the Society were given to the speakers for their able addresses. The utmost efficiency of the American Bible Society was declared to depend upon uniting the support of all its friends.

It was made the duty of the Secretary to furnish the papers of the Territory with an abstract with a request for publication.

Society adjourned to meet at Oregon City on the second Wednesday of May, 1857, at 10 1/2 A. M.—each feeling strengthened in his purpose to circulate the Bible as it is, without "note or comment."

DANIEL BAGLEY, Sec'y.

SERFAGE IN RUSSIA.—The Independence Bellig of the 30th March, says a project for the abolition of slavery in Russia has been much talked of for the last few days. A St. Petersburg correspondent assures us that the plan has been submitted to the examination of the Emperor Alexander, and that before he left the capital for Finland, the Czar issued a ukase, by which, hereafter, the serfs will have the privilege of suing their masters for their freedom, before the tribunal of the realm. Former laws granted the serf this power, but it was almost always impossible for him to make a practical use of it. Henceforward, the noble can no longer transfer their serfs to another district, or incorporate them into the army, without being authorized to do so by the decision of a competent tribunal.

A MAN WITH NINE WIVES.—The notorious Nathan Brown, the most remarkable bigamist ever known in America, was brought by officer Elliott the other day, from near Jeffersonville, Indiana, under a requisition from Gov. Chase. He is reported to have nine living wives! His practice has been to live with each about three months, get hold of their property and desert them. He is now safe in Butler county jail, at the instance of his seventh wife, a resident of this city. The old sinner is fifty-three years of age, and has married three wives within two years.—Hamilton (O.) Intelligence.

The Rev. Dr. Wayland, in an article on the principles and practices of the Baptist churches, condemns the practice of sitting in prayer, and recommends kneeling.

NAVAL WAR OF 1812.

Engagement between the Shannon and the Chesapeake.

Having been an actor in that terrible battle, nearly forty-three years ago; and having carefully read the accounts of Great Britain and the United States, James' Naval History of Great Britain, and Cooper's Naval History of the United States; and knowing that all and each of these authorities abound in errors respecting the engagement, and especially wishing to pay his meed of tribute to illustrious worth, the writer of this is induced to throw some light on that scene in the following disjointed reminiscences:

On or about the 1st of March 1813, the British frigates Shannon and Tenedos were ordered to cruise off Boston. Each of these ships rated thirty-eight guns. The Shannon mounted fifty guns and two twelve-pounder stern chasers—in all fifty-two guns. Among the fifty guns were two nine-pounders and two twelve-pounders; the remainder were long eighteen-pounders and thirty-two pounder carronades. The Tenedos mounted forty-nine guns. The U. S. ships President and Congress were lying to their anchors in Boston harbor at the same time. The cruising ground of the British frigates lay between Montauk Point, Long Island, and Cape Cod, Massachusetts Bay.

On the 24 of May, in a dense fog and heavy gale of wind, the frigates President, Commodore Rodgers, and Congress, put to sea and sailed for the Banks of Newfoundland, and from thence to Greenland, and made several prizes of British whalers, but left the British frigates blockading the port. At the same period the frigate Chesapeake, Captain Evans, arrived in the harbor of Boston, with the loss of a topmast in the same gale. Captain Evans was disabled from command by a severe disease of the eyes, and Captain James Lawrence was appointed in his place to the command of the Chesapeake.

Shortly after the arrival of the Chesapeake in Boston harbor the Captain of the Shannon, P. B. V. Broke, ordered the Tenedos off the station, and wrote by fishing boats to Captain Lawrence, that as there was only his frigate now blockading the port he expected Captain Lawrence would come out and try the ordeal of battle in honor of their respective countries. Some of the fishing boats brought word that he would come as soon as he was ready.

The month of May had nearly elapsed when Captain Broke, apprehensive that the Chesapeake would not venture out, for fear that other British vessels-of-war might be lurking in the neighborhood, wrote another challenge and sent it by a fishing boat, proffering to sail with the Chesapeake five hundred miles under a flag of truce, and commence an engagement at a given signal to be mutually agreed upon by both commanders. This last letter was sent about the 30th of May, and it is believed that Captain Lawrence never received it.

On the morning of the 1st of June—the Shannon being close to the Boston light-house—at 8 o'clock A. M., the Chesapeake got under way and came out of the harbor, wind light, in breezes, making a slight ripple on the water. Meanwhile the Shannon under easy sail, made an offing from the coast, thinking that privateers or gunboats might come out and assist the Chesapeake.

At 4 o'clock P. M. the Chesapeake hove to and fired a gun, being then about four miles distant from the Shannon. The Shannon immediately fired another and hove to; upon which the Chesapeake made sail and began to shorten the distance between the rival vessels.

The Chesapeake approached with five large splendid ensigns flying, one of which was an immense white silk flag with "Free Trade and Sailors' Rights" inscribed thereon in large letters, which could be read by the naked eye at a considerable distance.

The Chesapeake came within about two miles, and was swiftly nearing the Shannon. Captain Broke now turned the hands up, and made a short oration to the men, nearly as follows:

"Recollect, and bear in mind, that the Americans are a proud nation—that they have sunk or taken several of our vessels of war; and they say that Englishmen have forgotten how to fight! Remember that they have Anglo-Saxon blood in their veins; and you have not French, nor Spaniards, nor Dutch to fight to-day! You must either take her or go to the bottom!"

Upon which the crew gave three cheers, and simultaneously the crew of the Chesapeake cheered.

The Chesapeake came on beautifully under her royals, top-gallant sails, topsails and courses, and when within less than half a mile gradually shortened sail, standing in the wake of the Shannon until she approached so close that Captain Broke supposed she was going to lay ahwast the Shannon's stern and rake her fore and aft. Deeming this to be the object of Captain

Lawrence, he ordered the men to lie down. During the whole of these proceedings the perfection of naval discipline was so complete that you might have heard a pin drop.

The Chesapeake came so close that her flying jib-boom nearly touched the taffrail of the Shannon, when Captain Lawrence immediately luffed up on the weather quarter of the Shannon, and at the same moment Captain Broke whispered to the quarter-master at the wheel to "put the helm down"; when the Shannon shot suddenly round—the awful command by Captain Broke was given, "Fire when your guns bear!" and the whole broadside of the Shannon, at half pistol shot distance, was poured into the Chesapeake more destructively than if it was exactly raking, the Chesapeake being unable to return a single gun. The broadside was very destructive. One hundred men were killed and wounded; most of the officers belonging to the Chesapeake were struck down, either killed or wounded; and five guns on the side of the Chesapeake engaged were dismantled and rendered hors de combat.

Under these serious disadvantages the Chesapeake ranged alongside and delivered her broadside, one half of which was pointed at the water line, and the other half at the rigging and masts of the Shannon. Several shot penetrated below the water line, and every shroud of the fore, main and mizzen rigging of the Shannon was cut to pieces. The Chesapeake was then verging ahead, when the best bower anchor of the Shannon caught in the lanyards of her main rigging; grapplings from both vessels were thrown aboard, when the vessels were both lashed and made fast in that position—muzzle to muzzle!

The quarter-deck guns and part of the main-deck guns of the Chesapeake played upon the bow of the Shannon, and the forecastle guns and part of the bow guns of the main-deck of the Shannon played upon the afterpart of the Chesapeake. The second, third, and fourth broadsides of the Chesapeake were very destructive. Numbers fell on board of the Shannon, and the guns in the bow had to be manned several times from the aftermost guns, caused by the number killed and wounded. The fourth gun on the bow of the Shannon, where the writer was stationed, was left, in a moment of time, with only one man standing out of twelve; the remainder were killed and wounded.

The engagement had lasted now about eight minutes, and four rounds were the most that had been fired by either vessel; when the order of Capt. Broke called the boarders away, and about twenty or thirty followed him and First Lieut. Watt on board the Chesapeake. A few seamen and marines fought gallantly on the forecastle of the Chesapeake, until they were overpowered; some were supposed to have been lost overboard, and some gained the main-deck through the bow ports. Capt. Broke was severely wounded on board the Chesapeake.

Then a number of the Shannon's crew huddled round in the stern of the Chesapeake, and in undertaking to hoist the British flag over the American, they made a mistake, and hoisted the American flag over the British. In the meantime, Second Lieut. Wallis, who commanded the Shannon in the absence of his Captain and First Lieutenant, ordered the firing of two thirty-two pounder carronades, loaded with grape, which killed his own First Lieutenant and ten or eleven of his own crew. A short time previous to this the vessels had separated.

At the expiration of eleven minutes from the commencement of the engagement, the Chesapeake was taken complete possession of. At the same time, the Shannon had about six feet water in her hold, and in five minutes more would have sunk, had the battle lasted so long.

About the second or third broadside, First Lieut. Ludlow, of the Chesapeake, had called boarders away and boarded the Shannon, expecting to have thirty or forty men at least under his command, when a Portuguese boatswain's mate ran down below like a coward, and the men following his example, only one or two accompanied Lieut. Ludlow, who was wounded on the deck of the Shannon by a bayonet stab in the breast, which afterward proved fatal at Halifax. It is confidently believed that at the time Lieut. Ludlow boarded the Shannon, had he been supported by his boarders, he would have taken the Shannon in the confusion which prevailed on board in consequence of the number of killed and wounded.

Lieut. Wallis was promoted for his gallantry to be a master and commander. He commanded the L'Espervier subsequently, which was taken, after a short engagement, by a United States brig-of-war of inferior force. So much for the brave Second Lieut. Wallis, who was promoted for killing his own First Lieutenant and his own men. Master's Mate Estough, a Dane, com-

manded the first division of guns in the bow, upon the main deck; and when they began to fall, killed and wounded, he dodged under the lee of the foremast. Being recommended for his bravery, in the official account, he was also promoted.

Capt. Lawrence was slightly wounded by the first broadside, and mortally wounded about the third broadside. The last words he spoke will be a rallying cry of seamen while time lasts—"Don't give up the ship!"

The writer of this was severely wounded about the fourth broadside from the Chesapeake.

The American navy suffered no disgrace on account of the loss of the Chesapeake, especially taking into consideration the awful destruction caused by the first broadside of the Shannon. The latter's thirty-two pounder carronades were loaded as follows: A round shot, a stand of grape, and a keg of musket balls, eight hundred and seventy-five in number—thus trebly shot; and similarly loaded were the long eighteen-pounders, only the keg of musket balls contained but six hundred and fifty. There were four of these kegs, fitted to the guns, for every gun in the ship.

I have already given the armament of the Shannon. Her crew, previous to the engagement, numbered three hundred and thirty-five men and boys. Thirty or forty of these were boys or old men.

The Chesapeake, according to the muster rolls found on board, had three hundred and ninety men, of whom only one or two were boys, and the remainder in the prime of life. She mounted long twenty-four-pounders and thirty-two-pounder carronades, and had twenty-five guns on the side she engaged the Shannon. Every shroud in the fore, main, and mizzen rigging was stopped, diamond fashion, from the chain-plates to the cat-harings. The bulwarks on the quarter-deck and forecastle were secured by a strong spun yarn, nailed in small squares and beautifully painted—to save the officers and crew from flying splinters, which are very destructive in battle.

There were far more rejoicings in Halifax when the prize was brought in than if ten sail-of-the-line of the French fleet had been captured, and England herself could hardly contain herself for joy. A Yankee frigate of equal force was taken—at last!

The destruction of human life was awful, considering the short time the engagement lasted, and the number of men engaged on both sides. The battles of the Nile, Trafalgar, Waterloo, Sebastopol, or Mexico, are no comparison. The only modern battle, by sea or land, which approximates nearest on the scale, is the battle of Bridgewater, [Lundy Lane] where about one-fourth of those engaged on both sides were killed and wounded. It is said and believed that eighty-four of the Chesapeake's crew were hove overboard dead; and four British deserters, who were in the maintop when the ship was taken possession of, ran out on the mainyard and drowned themselves, sooner than be taken prisoners; and one hundred and ten were received into Halifax, wounded. Total, one hundred and ninety-eight, out of a crew of three hundred and ninety—more than one-half of the crew. The Shannon had thirty-five killed, or died of their wounds, and seventy-six wounded. Total, one hundred and eleven, or about one-third of her crew.

The wounded of both crews were mingled indiscriminately in the hospital, and were actually like brothers. Were any nice delicacies received by one class, they were shared by the others. Speaking the same language, worshipping the same God, the wounded seamen were endeared to each other. The attention of the surgeons—civil, military, and naval—and the hospitality of the citizens of Halifax were beyond all praise. The writer of this had been impressed into the British navy, and certainly has no affection for her government. A leading object of his, in giving these disjointed reminiscences, is to place beyond the vile reach of reproach and insinuation the name of Capt. JAMES LAWRENCE. A more chivalric and gallant officer never lived. He was accused of coming out before the ship was ready—of mustering a heterogeneous crew—of being drunk. No ship was ever better prepared for action; no crew excelled them in youth, manhood, and bravery, (always excepting the cowardly Portuguese boatswain's mate); and the lie about drunkenness ought to have blistered the tongue that uttered it, and, if it was ever penned, withered the hand that wrote it. He was buried, with the honors of war, at Halifax.

Captain Broke was almost adored by his crew for his humanity and kindness to his men. Very few of the actors in that scene survive. From the public prints I perceive a speck of war in the horizon, between both na-

[*In Cooper's and James' Naval Histories the loss on board the Chesapeake is set down at forty-seven killed and ninety-eight wounded; on board the Shannon it amounted to twenty-four killed and fifty-nine wounded.—Ed.]

tions, which may the Almighty avert!—Should war commence, I would recommend that Palmerston, Clarendon, and the nobles of England in favor of it, lend the van on their side; and that our legislators, etc., in favor of it, lead the van on our side. In that case we should have no war, or a mighty small one. "SHANNON."

Important News from Mexico—Forty Millions of Church Property Consecrated to the State.

The news from Mexico informs us of the close of the late revolution in the country. President Comoufort has been triumphant at Puebla, where the rebel army has surrendered at discretion, and where the rebel generals, chiefs and officers have been reduced to the ranks as private soldiers. Whether this decree will be practically carried out, may be doubted; but from the public honors showered on the President on his return to the capital, on the 3d of April, it is evident that that blow, struck at the privileges of the military, has been received with universal favor. We may expect a large number of these rebel officers soon to visit our country, as it is said some fifty have been exiled.

But the most important decree is that of the 31st March, dated at Puebla, in which the Clergy are accused of having taken part in the revolution and the ecclesiastical property of that Diocese, amounting to thirty or forty millions of dollars, is seized to pay the expenses and damages of the war, and to pension the widows, orphans, and wounded. This is the first blow struck directly at the church property, and as such, is one of the most important acts ever recorded in the history of Mexico.

The decree dated at Puebla, March 21, by President Comoufort is a daring measure which will meet with still more favor and support. In that decree it is declared that the clergy encouraged the revolution in every manner possible, and that "when the classes in society who exercise the greatest influence through their wealth, permit themselves to be led away by the spirit of sedition, they cannot be suppressed except by measures of State policy, since otherwise they would elude all punishment and subjection to all authority. To let these classes know that there is a just and energetic government to which their submission is due, as well as respect and obedience, it is decreed that the ecclesiastical property of the diocese of Puebla shall be seized and placed in the hands of commissioners appointed by the Government to pay the damages and expenses of the war as well as pensions to the widows, orphans and wounded.

This decree, or rather two decrees of that date, were intended only for the States of Puebla and Vera Cruz, and the territory of Tlaxcala, and were first published in these provinces. I would suppose at the most moderate calculation that the church property of the diocese of Puebla, which can be made available under this decree, must exceed forty millions of dollars. It is said the expenses of this revolution will run up to six or seven millions.—N. O. Delta.

WORK OF AN AMERICAN ARMY.—A writer thus alludes to Scott's achievements in Mexico:

"He scaled the Cordilleras, bore the eagle of his country in quick succession through the streets of Jalapa, Perote and Puebla; with 8,000 men, swept resistless through the pass of Cerro Gordo, defended by 12,500 Mexicans—with the same number of men defeated 32,000 at Contreras and Churubusco—with 7,100 stormed Chelutepco, defended by 20,000—with 8,000 took the city of Mexico, occupied by an army of 35,000."

And yet when he came before the American people as a candidate for the Presidency, he was ignominiously defeated—received the electoral vote of only four states! His youth had been signalized by glorious achievements on our northern frontier, and his old age illustrated by magnificent successes in Mexico. His reward was to be spurned by those he had served faithfully through half a century of arduous labor. And who was preferred to him? Why, an individual whose most important exploit was fainting on the field of battle! Grateful country this.—N. O. Crescent.

STATISTICS OF COLOR.—The census of 1850 shows that while more than one fourth of the colored people of the north are mulattoes, only one-thirteenth of the slave population of the slave States are mulattoes! Among the 3,293,314 slaves in the United States, 246,656 were found to have white blood in them, and not all of these could be considered mulattoes; while of 195,000 colored people of the free States, 57,000 were mulattoes! In Ohio, out of 25,000 of colored population, 14,000, or more than one-half, are mulattoes!

A gentleman of Worcester, named Stoddard, has invented a patent machine for making steam-music. It can be heard for a distance of five miles, and all the popular tunes are produced. The ears of the performer are screwed up to the highest pitch by its powerful melody.

The remembrances of past happiness are the wrinkles of the soul.