

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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The Printing Press.

BY HORACE GREELEY.

Long slumbered the world in the darkness of error, And ignorance brooded o'er earth like a pall; To the scepter and crown men abused them in terror, Though galling the bondage, and bitter the When a voice, like the earthquake's, revealed the dishonor— A flash like the lightning's unveiled every eye, And o'er hill-top and glen floated liberty's banner, While round it men gathered to conquer or die! 'Twas the voice of the Press, on the startled ear breaking, In giant form, like Pallas of old; 'Twas the flash of intelligence, gloriously waking A glow on the cheek of the noble and bold; And tyranny's minions, o'erawed and affrighted, Sought a lasting retreat from its powerful control And the chains which bound nations in ages be- lighted, Were cast to the haunts of the bat and the Then hail to the Press! chosen guardian of Free- dom! Strong sword-arm of justice! bright emblem of We pledge to her cause, (and she has but to need them.) The strength of our manhood, the fire of our Should despots e'er dare to impede her free soaring, Or bid to fetter her flight with his chain, We pledge that the earth shall close o'er our de- ploring, Or view her in gladness and freedom again. But no!—to the day-dawn of knowledge and glory, A far brighter noontide-refuge succeeds; And our art shall embalm, through all ages, in story, Her champion who triumphs—her martyr who And proudly her sons shall recall their devotion, While millions shall listen to honor and bliss, Till there bursts a response from the heart's strong emotion, And the earth echoes deep with "Louise Lutz to the Paris!"

For the Argus.

Can Slaves be Held in Oregon?

Mr. Editor—I believe your paper is what may be considered the purest and most independent journal of this Territory on all subjects. I have seen articles in other papers speaking tenderly of all subjects, as though the editors were anxious to be carried along by popular favor, and when they find the "dear" people going down stream they will hop into the jolly boat and float along.

My object is to draw your attention to the principle of the Nebraska bill as applied to the subject of slavery in Oregon. It is contended by some that Oregon is open to the slave owner to bring his slave and hold him in this Territory. The principle of the bill establishing the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska is, that the people of those Territories may hold slave property or not, as they in their legislative capacity shall determine. Nebraska has decided by her Legislature not to admit slave property; Kansas, by the interference of Missouri, has decided to admit what Nebraska prohibits. I do not propose to question the justice or equity of the principle or the right of any people to determine and make for themselves their own laws. This I hold to be self-evident, and indispensable to the liberty of the citizen of a free country. Has Oregon by any act of hers prohibited slave property from being held in the Territory? On page 29, Oregon Archives, article 4th, the people of this Territory by a unanimous vote in convention assembled on the 5th of July, '43, expressed their opinion upon this subject as follows: "There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in said Territory other than for the punishment of crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted."

On the 26th of June, 1844, a bill passed the Legislative Assembly of the Territory, six to two, to prevent slavery. On the 19th Dec. the sixth and seventh sections of the act which required the sheriff of the Territory to seize and drag all blacks once in thirty days till they left the country, was repealed, and the section as found in Laws of Oregon, page 82, enacted, requiring all negroes or mulattoes to leave the Territory, or be hired out to the person who would undertake to remove him at the shortest time of service.

On the 5th of July, 1845, the Legislative Assembly, by a vote of ten to three, declared, "That this government can recognize the right of one person to the services of another only upon bona fide contract made and entered into, and equally binding on both parties."

On the 25th of July of the same year the organic act of the Territory was again submitted for the approval of the people. The fourth section of said act is in the same words of the first act on the 5th of July, 1843.

On the 14th of August, 1845, the present Territorial government was established by Congress. The 14th section of said act says: "The existing laws now in force in the Territory of Oregon, under the authority of the provisional government established by the people thereof, shall continue to be valid and operative therein, so far as the same be not incompatible with the constitution of the United States and the principles and provisions of this act."

Oregon, by her position, her enterprise,

and natural disposition to be free and independent, has declared by every legal and public act of hers that she does not wish slavery to curse her soil, or slave owners or "nigger worshippers" in any shape to dwell in her midst. That there are men among us so blind to the influence of slavery that they would sacrifice their country to see the blacks under their control, and probably would not scruple to use all their influence against any man who ventures to disapprove of slavery any where, is not to be wondered at. The slave power of the United States has no place for its free white sons and daughters but to seek for some office for them, and send them into the Territories where they naturally and from education, habit, and disposition become slave propagandists. Oregon has already received her full share of slave missionaries in the shape of Federal officers.

The question of slavery has been repeatedly settled for this Territory. I find in passing through the country a strong pro-slavery sentiment kept secretly operating, producing its influence secretly at every point. The friends of a free State are resting upon what has been done, instead of meeting this enemy of liberty in front and driving him back where he belongs. I do not wish to give a false alarm on this subject, nor do I wish to see an abolition excitement in the country. I claim nothing but liberty of conscience, speech, action, and the press. I ask no liberty to hold a black man as my slave, and I will give no such liberty to any one to do so in the country. If a man wishes to own a slave, he should go to a slave country. I will admit his right to discuss and convince me and every other citizen of this Territory that we ought to have slaves to do our work, &c., &c. If he wishes fair and open discussion we will meet him, but from a secret foe of this kind may the "good Lord deliver us!"

Excuse the length of this article, and allow me to subscribe myself

A CITIZEN OF OREGON.

Singular Calculations.

The New York Daily News compiles the following calculations from various sources, all of which are reliable. They are very curious and interesting:—

The number of inhabitants of a country or a city is almost renewed every thirty years; and if we allow three generations for an age, the human race is renewed three times and one third during its existence. Sipping the world to be 5,810 years old, there would be about 172 generations since the Creation; 125 since the Deluge, and 54 since the Christian Era; and as there is not a family that can prove its origin even back to Charlemagne, it follows that the most anciently related among those who take pride in genealogies are not able to trace their further back than 30 generations—or even so far unless they adopt the aid of legend or fiction, which is often much the same.

Out of 1000 infants nursed by their mothers, 300 die; and out of the same number brought up by strange nurses, 500 perish. Infant mortality increases faster than any other description, which fact is accounted for by the circumstances connected with a luxurious age. Convulsions and dentition are the predominating causes of infant mortality.

The small-pox, in the natural way, carries off about 8 out of 100; and by inoculation (vaccination) one scarcely dies out of 300. It has been observed that morigals than boys die of the small-pox in the natural way.

From comparison of the bills of mortality of several countries, there are 11 out of every 3,126 who live to the age of 100 years. The proportion of deaths of women, compared with those of men, is 100 to 108. Married women live longer, on an average, than single. More people live to a greater age in elevated situations than those who reside on lower ones.

It has been found that the greatest number of deaths occur in the month of March. The months of August and September stand next to March in this respect. The fewest number of deaths take place in November, December, and February. Out of 10,000 deaths, 249 take place in winter, 285 in spring, 223 in summer, and 238 in autumn. More die, therefore, in the spring than in any other season—only in large cities, where the deaths in winter preponderate over those of other seasons, for the very obvious reason that in winter the large cities and towns are more crowded by inhabitants than at any other season. The half of all who are born die before they reach 17 years of age. The number of old persons who die in cold weather is as seven to four compared with the mortality in warm or temperate weather.

The first month, and especially the first day after birth, are marked by the greatest number of deaths among infants. Of 2,735 who die when very young, 1,292 expire on the day of their birth, and the remainder during the first month. According to good authority, the healthiest children are those born in the months of January, February, and March. Among the lower animals the same will be observed to hold good, and almost every farmer will admit the fact in his experience. The greatest number of births are in May and June—according to collective statistical data. The number of twins is to that of the whole number of single births, as 1 to 65. In rural localities the children in a family average, in this country, 3; in

cities the average reaches only 1 1/2. In Great Britain the averages are, in the former cases, 6; and in the latter, 2 1/2.

The married men are, to all the males in a country, as 8 to 5; and the married women 1 to 3. The number of widowers is to that of widows as 1 to 3. The number of widows is to the number of the whole inhabitants, 5 to 51; that of widowers, 1 to 15.

One fourth of the whole inhabitants of old countries live in cities, two fourths in villages, and the remaining fourth in retired rural situations and at sea.

Upon an equal space of ground the number of inhabitants existing is as follows in the specified countries: Iceland, 1 Germany, 128 Norway, 51 England, 157 Sweden, 15 France, 169 Turkey, 37 Italy, 171 Poland, 50 Naples, 190 Spain, 64 Venice, 208 Scotland, 69 Holland, 227 Ireland, 97 Malta, 1109 Switzerland, 116

"Uncle Sam's farm" is so extensive that room to grow is very amply furnished to his sons. We presume his proportion would nearly double the lowest but one of the numbers in the above list.

THE MECHANICAL GENIUS OF THE COUNTRY.—The march of invention in this country is progressing with constantly accelerated rapidity, as is proved by the annual reports of the United States Patent Office. Two ponderous volumes, embracing descriptions of the mechanical improvements patented during the year 1855, have just been issued from that office. They show the number of 4,433 applications made to the office for patents, being nearly twice the number of applications in 1853; 2,024 patents were issued, being more than twice the number granted two years ago. In 1845, ten years previous, the cash receipts of the office were \$39,395, while the last year they were \$216,469, or five and a half times greater. These facts show how actively the inventive genius of our people is employed, and how practically useful its labors are to the nation. Here are described machines for lightening the labors of every department of agriculture and making it more profitable; for working in all kinds of metals, and for fibrous and textile substances; new arrangements for the many manufactures depending upon improved chemical processes; improvement in steam, gas and fire engines; machines for boring wells and rocks, dredging, and in fact, something useful in every department of human industry. The report embraces about 1000 pages of descriptive text and 340 pages of engravings, the designs taken from original drawings and models of the inventors. —Philadelphia Ledger.

From the Science of Life by a Physician. THE TURN OF LIFE.

Between the years of forty and sixty, a man who has properly regulated himself may be considered as in the prime of life. His matured strength of constitution renders him almost impervious to the attack of disease, and experience has given soundness to his judgment. His mind is resolute, firm and equal; all his functions are in the highest order; he assumes the mastery over his business; builds up a competence on the foundation he has formed in early manhood, and passes through a period of life attended by many gratifications. Having gone a year or two past sixty, he arrives at a critical period in the road of existence; the river of death flows before him, and he remains at a standstill. But at that river is a viaduct, called "The Turn of Life," which if crossed in safety, leads to the valley of "old age," round which the river winds, and then flows beyond without a boat or causeway to effect its passage.

The Bridge is constructed of fragile materials, and it depends upon how it is trodden whether it bend or break. Gout, apoplexy, and other bad characters are also in the vicinity to waylay the traveller, and thrust him from the pass; but let him gird up his loins, and provide himself with a fitting staff, and he may trudge on in safety with perfect composure. To quit metaphor, "The Turn of Life" is a turn either in a prolonged walk, or into the grave. The system and powers having reached their utmost expansion, now begin either to close like flowers at sunset or break down at once. One injudicious simulant, a single fatal excitement, may force it beyond its strength; whilst a careful supply of proppers, and the withdrawal of all that tends to force a plant, will sustain it in beauty and in vigor until night has entirely set in.

FULFILLING THE SCRIPTURES.—Brother Aminadab, a stiff Quaker, on receiving from "a worldly man" a blow on his face, turned the other cheek, to which a similar salute was applied. "Friend," said Aminadab, "Scriptural injunction bring now satisfied, I will proceed to administering to thee a little wholesome correction," and he thereupon assailed his assailant most unmercifully.

Physical Aspect of Man.

An examination of 20,000 infants, at Maternita in Paris, gives for the weight of the new-born 6 1/4 lbs.; and the same mean value obtains for the city of Brussels. For about a week after birth, this weight undergoes an actual diminution, owing to the tissue destruction which issues through the establishment of respiration, and which for a time exceeds the gain from nutrition. For the same age, the male infant is heavier than the female; but this difference gradually diminishes, and at twelve years their weight is sensibly the same. Three years later, at the period of puberty, the weight is one-half of what it is finally to be, when development is revealed.

The maximum weight eventually attained, is a little more than twenty times that at birth, this holding good for both sexes; but since the new-born female weighs less than the standard, and the new-born male more, the weight of the adult male is 137 lbs., and of the adult female 121 lbs. The mean weight of a man irrespective of his period of life is about 107 lbs., and of a woman, nearly 94 lbs. The mean weight of a human being, without reference either to age or sex, is about 99 lbs.

M. Quetelet, to whom we are indebted for the above statistics, as the result of his researches, states that communities seem to be under the influence of unchangeable laws, as much as the individual. "In communities, man commits the same number of murders each year, and does it with the same weapons. We might enumerate, beforehand, how many individuals will imbue their hands in the blood of their kind, how many will forge, how many poison, very nearly as we enumerate, beforehand, how many births and deaths will take place."

Speed of Steam Vessels.

What will ultimately be the sustained and working speed of steam ships! asks an English essayist. When railroads were first thought of, a speed of ten miles an hour was all that was anticipated; yet a sustained speed of sixty miles and a working one of forty miles an hour have been attained. Steamers, of course, can never compete with railroads in speed, because the resistance of the atmosphere and wheel friction is much less than that of water; but the speed of steam vessels has been gradually increasing. In the early Government mail steam packets contracts nine miles an hour was the stipulated speed. It was afterwards increased to ten miles, and latterly to nearly twelve miles an hour. The working and paying speed is usually 5 or 6 miles an hour less than the experimental one. A steamer, without any cargo on board, going over the measured mile in Stoke Bay, in smooth water, is very different from the same steamer deeply laden crossing the Bay of Biscay or the Atlantic Ocean.

The Persia, however, on her celebrated quick passage from New York to Liverpool, must have averaged thirteen miles an hour for 210 successive hours. This may be considered, then, as the standard at present of sustained profitable speed of ocean steamships. Take the fastest steamer now afloat, and she would, if unladen, and in smooth water, without any wind, tide or current to overcome, run at the rate of upwards of eighteen miles an hour. Now when it is considered what is the resistance which water must offer to a ship and that the speed of a brisk wind is only fifteen miles an hour, the triumphs already achieved in ship building, are, indeed, something marvellous.

BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF SMOKE.

A writer in the London Times argues in favor of the sanitary effects of smoke. He says that smoke, being nothing more than minute flakes of carbon or charcoal, the carbon in such a state is like so many atoms of sponge, ready to absorb any of the life destroying gases with which it may come in contact. In all the busy haunts of men the surrounding air is to a certain extent, rendered pernicious by their excretion, from which invisible gaseous matter arises such as phosphoretted and sulphuretted hydrogen, cyanogen and ammynical compounds, well known by their intolerable odor. Now the blacks of smoke, (that is the carbon,) absorb and retain these matters to a wonderful extent. Every hundred weight of smoke probably absorbs 2000 weight of the poisonous gases emanating from the sewers and from the various works, where animal substances were under manipulation.

THE VALUE OF ONE VOTE.—One vote in the United States Senate annexed Texas to the United States. Mr. Hanegeon, of Indiana, cast that vote. One vote in the Indiana Legislature elected Mr. Hanegeon to his place in the Senate. That vote was cast by Madison Marsh, of Stanton Co. Mr. Marsh was chosen to the Legislature of Indiana by one vote.

FIVE THOUSAND MURDERS COMMITTED IN CALIFORNIA IN SIX YEARS.—A San Francisco paper gives the following information, derived from a pamphlet just published in that city:

Taking a portion of the notices of murders that have been published since 1852, and the other evidences that we have on record previous to that time, and since, it will be seen that the number of those who have met an untimely end by murder is appalling. The District Attorney of San Francisco, in 1852 stated in a public speech, that for the previous four years twelve hundred murders had been committed in the city of San Francisco. Any one conversant with the history of "Great Pacific Emporium" since that time, will readily agree that the crime has not diminished with the increase of population. It was stated on or near the close of 1855, by the public press, that for the year just past five hundred murders had been brought to their notice. The compiler of this work feels perfectly safe in saying that not less than five thousand murders have been committed in California within the last six years. I will also here mention, that from the examination of the old files of daily papers, it appears that the accidental deaths have not been less in number than those by murder, for the same time.

With these facts before the public, can we not readily account for the great number of men that have disappeared in California, whose friends and relations cannot obtain the least intelligence from them?

INCREASED DURATION OF LIFE.

Prof. Buchanan, in a lecture before the Mechanics' Institute of Cincinnati, makes the following observations upon the average duration of life, the effect in part of the improvements in medical science. He says that in the latter part of the sixteenth century, one-half of all that were born died under five years of age, and the average longevity of the whole population was but 18 years. In the 17th century, one-half of the population died under twelve. But in the first sixty years of the 18th century, one-half of the population lived over 27 years. In the latter forty years, one-half exceeded thirty-two years of age. At the beginning of the present century, one-half exceeded forty years, and from 1838 to 1845 one-half exceeded forty-three. The average longevity at these successive periods has been increased from 18 years in the 16th century, up to 43.7 by our last reports.

THE TROUBLES IN FRANCE.

The rumors of discontent and insurrection coming from the poor classes in Paris have great significance. They must have some other foundation than the imagination of letter-writers, or of the political speculators. We hear of the secret societies, extending their ramifications into every part of France, continually receiving reinforcement from discontented artisans. We hear of dear bread, of high rents, of restrictions upon the press, of extravagant government expenditures, of baseless financial fabrics, of political quacks administering the government, of heavy deficits in the Budget. And all these rumors must not be founded on facts; they cannot be born of the winds. And now we hear of the "terrible question of rents" from a late letter of the Paris correspondent of the New Orleans Picayune, quoted by the Courier, which shows us that the "annual agitation" has come; and that there is nothing wanting but a leader to effect a revolution.

We give an extract showing the present state of those too poor to pay the high rents, and the exertions of the Government and the landlords to remedy the difficulty.

"Yesterday was the quarter-day of all rents under \$100 a year, and such have been the demolitions and the character of the new buildings erected, that the poorer classes who lived in a chamber, or *legement* (chamber and kitchen, or two rooms and kitchen) cannot find shelter except at rates which equal or exceed their annual earnings. Yesterday there was a line of hand-carts loaded with the scant furniture of these humble households bound to the remotest quarters of the city, or outside the walls. The government is building 1500 chambers in the vast field known as the Clos St. Lazare, but so many demands have been made for these, that they are described by those whose position enables them to discern the circumference of this wretchedness, as being a "mere drop in the bucket."

But the government has not for its duty to house and feed the poor, though half a dozen revolutions have not taught France the fact. This is the care of the individual under every well-regulated government. The Picayune correspondent continues as follows:

"The hard-handed workman who quits his garret where he has lived and "loved" this many a year—curses Louis Napoleon, as he trundles his bed, looking glass and clock to the remote faubourg; the wife as she diminishes the meat in the pot as fast to make up for the high price of bread

curse Louis Napoleon. Government is the root of all evil! So great has the popular discontent become that it is now very evident, what was predicted from the beginning, that the famous Cassie de Boulangre cannot keep up the price of bread beyond market rates until it has received the advance it made during the last two years to keep down the price of bread.—The sailors have a phrase—"It is hard working for a dead horse," to express the futility of toiling for enjoyed benefits, whose sweetness is forgotten. It is too hard for Frenchmen to practice; they know no sense of time but that of time present. Judge what an addition to the debt; for it was only last week the Caisse began to recover its advances! The budget of 1854 presented a deficit of 73,000,000; that of 1855 shows 60,000,000.

European Intelligence.

The London Times' Paris correspondent says:—"Whether well founded or not, the opinion is very general that not only does there exist a serious difference between France and England, on more than one point, but also that the latter has been completely reconciled to Austria, and that the former is now on more than friendly terms with Russia; and that Austrians in Paris boast that it is not possible for two cabinets to be on more amicable terms than those of Vienna and London."

At the risk (says the Daily News correspondent) of uttering what the Monitor may perhaps denounce as an "odious calumny," I feel it an imperative duty to say as emphatically that; instead of being in harmonious relations, the cabinets of London and Paris are at this moment almost at daggers drawn. The difference between them on the question of the execution of the treaty of Paris is most serious, and as to what is to be done with Naples, they are absolutely at sixes and sevens. The French government, I learn from a good source, is apprehensive that England may be driven to occupy the island of Sicily, in order, in case of a convulsion in Europe, to give her a point d'appui equal to that which France and Austria have acquired for themselves by their respective occupation of Rome and Lombardy.

The Paris writer of the London Morning Post takes a different view of the case, and says the diplomacy of England and France, despite the intrigues of a third power, is united on all great questions calculated to insure the tranquillity of Europe. The Paris Journal Des Debats also professes itself aware of the shifting ground of the alliance. It says:

"European politics are now subject to singular transformations, and the execution of the treaty of Paris perhaps for us each day some fresh surprise. One of the curious is the reconciliation that has been accomplished between England and Austria, which the journals of the two countries now confide to Europe. The memory is too full of the bitter and violent polemics indulged in only a short time ago by the English journals, with respect to what they termed the machiavellism and duplicity of the Austrian policy. But now everything is changed; the most important English journal, the Times, openly defends this very policy, and it asserts that the Cabinet of Vienna has the best reasons in the world for not leaving the Danubian principalities. The organs of the Austrian government opine on their part that England has no less excellent reasons for maintaining her fleet in the Black Sea. This is not all; they applaud to the skies the particular claims acquired by the English government and its representative at Vienna to the friendship of Austria, by combining their mutual efforts against the union of the principalities, formally supported in the Congress of Paris by the first Plenipotentiary of England, Lord Clarendon. At Vienna the game is now considered as won."

A GOOD RULE.—Never decide till you have heard both sides of a question.—Then you can freely sit in judgment, first having taken care to look prejudices outside the door. It is always best to make the latter worthy an "outsider." He is none of the blandest inmates at any time, or in any place.

ADVENTURES OF A BOTTLE.—A bottle thrown overboard from the ship Adirondack, on the banks of Newfoundland, in September, 1855, containing a letter from a lady on board to a friend in Ireland, was picked up in the river Shannon, in Aug. 1856, and the letter forwarded to its address.

TO find out the number of children in a street, commence beating a brass drum. To find out the number of men, start a dog-fight.