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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.

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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 additional orders to the requirements of this locality. HAND SETS, GALLEYS, PLANKS, CARDS, CIRCULARS, PAMPHLETS, WORK and other kinds, done to order, on short notice.

For the Argus.

Young Men of Oregon.—Slavery. Now that there is a probability, amounting almost to certainty, that Oregon will within a twelve month have a State organization effected, it is a question of the most vital importance that it should be made a free State. We appeal to the young men of Oregon, because they can decide the question, and they are the persons most interested in the result. There are very few young men in this Territory who do not expect to earn their livelihood by their labor. As mechanics and farmers and as laborers they must toil for comfort and prosperity. Let this whole class of persons examine this question of free or slave State fully and earnestly.

In the first place are you willing that the slave oligarchy shall drive you from this glorious land of your choice? No; you are resolved that Oregon shall be your home.

What then shall be your condition here. If slavery is admitted you will in a few years be compelled to compete with slave labor, and are you willing to earn your living by laboring along side of slaves? And that you may fully realize what would be your condition in that case, look at the non-slaveholders of the slave States, and contrast their condition with that of the laborers of the free States. The one are poor and kept under, while the other are free, independent, and prosperous. As soon as slaves could be introduced, the price of labor would be cut down to a low figure, forbidding forever the hope of realizing either wealth or competence. Look, young men, at this fact.

But the evil ends not here. Those who are settled in life and have families to educate, may secure a competence and the education of their children before slavery could be fully inaugurated; but the next generation must become poor and illiterate, and of course be little better than the serfs of the slave aristocracy around them. Young men have more interest in this question than the more aged who will soon pass from the arena of life. Young men have their active life before them, and should guard with jealousy their rights and hopes. Do not permit a few wealthy men who have their section of land to make you their poor dependents. In view of the great interests at stake we would expect to see every laboring young man promptly at the polls with his ballot for a free State.

For the Argus.

Slavery in Oregon. Mr. Editor—It seems that the question of slavery in or out of Oregon will be reduced to the question of help or no help in and out of doors at fair prices. Doubtless there are other issues, which interested persons will make, and which they will urge with more or less zeal and force. But suppose at this moment that laborers for the farm and the shop, the forests and the rivers, could be obtained when wanted, and at reasonable prices, and that all the help which families need could be likewise secured, very many persons in town and country would not even entertain the idea of voting for slavery. No person in his senses will vote for it as an economical system, unless it be so temporarily, and in an anomalous condition of society, such as is formed by the immigration of men without families, or those with young families.—This kind of immigration has created a demand in Oregon for help in doors first, which cannot be supplied, and by the un settled condition of men without families it has left a demand for farm and shop help un supplied. Besides this, immigration has been cut off, and we left as a people with more work to do than we can do, and without the power of making that advance or improvement which a just enterprise requires.

In this exigency men have been looking to slavery as a relief. But without stopping to show—as can easily be done—that slaves can only in a very small part satisfy our demand—unless you enslave white mechanics, and lumbermen, and fishermen—let us turn attention to another market for our supply.

The whole North and Northwest, and some portions of the South, have been demanding and securing the same classes of laborers from Europe. They have made known their wants, and Scotland has sent forth thousands of her hardy sons to till their soil and swell enormously their agricultural productions, while the emigrants have themselves been enriched. England has furnished us her tens of thousands of skillful mechanics and artisans to conduct our manufactures and dig out our coal, iron, lead, and copper, and to quarry our granite marble. Germany has furnished us hundreds of thousands of laborers with their families for all kinds of service which our natural wants and restless enterprise demand. Ireland has drawn largely upon

the principal of her population to meet our demands for internal improvements. The North and the West would this day have been infants instead of giants as they are, but for this help. If, then, we want help, if we want development and mainly strength, let us turn to the same lands of supply. The difference of distance is but a trifle. The abundance and variety of help will meet all our wants speedily and cheaply, and give a vigor to our Territory which slavery can never do.

Yours, truly, A.

For the Argus.

To my Friends in Oregon. NOVEMBER 16, 1856. As many of you requested to hear from me from time to time, and as I find it difficult to answer so many letters, I avail myself of the kindness of The Argus to address you all at once.

I am now staying, and intend to continue for the winter, at the Hydropathic Institute in this city. There is a large class of ladies and gentlemen preparing for practice, besides a great number of patients under treatment. The winter term commenced yesterday, when the following professors gave their opening addresses: Dr. May on Medical Jurisprudence, Dr. Mrs. L. N. Fowler and L. N. Fowler, each on their respective professional departments, Dr. Hays, Dr. Briggs, and Dr. Trull. Each address was full of interest, and seemed to open to view the means by which to relieve the world of more than half its misery. We shall have several courses of lectures, besides access to the hospitals, where disease in all its forms and in every phase appears. We shall also have every facility for anatomical and chemical demonstrative instruction as well as every branch pertaining to medical practice. I little thought a few months ago of having access to these fountains of knowledge, and thus be qualified for the largest good to a suffering world, but it accords with my feelings, and, if life is spared, I trust others will be benefited. For when I return to Oregon, it will be my highest pleasure to share with all who desire the good I get.

Meantime, permit me, dear friends, to recommend to your attention those publications, particularly the Water Cure Journal, which treat on subjects relating to the laws of life and health. Untold suffering and thousands of premature deaths might be avoided by a little attention to simple laws and regular observance of Nature's dictates. Not only might suffering be thus avoided, but positively the sum of happiness vastly enhanced. How very few realize the delights of a true life, compared with what they would do if each and all their organisms were in right adjustment, and every function in full activity, resulting in an exuberance of life and a fullness of joy. Who of us have not stood upon some favored spot on a bright summer's day, and beheld the calm satisfaction, the passive bliss, commingling with the hum of life, and ecstatic delight beaming from every point of animated Nature, and have almost felt the wish to be a beast or bird that we might rest in peace or dance with joy. Now, as compared with man, these are greatly his inferiors, being limited within narrow spheres. Whilst he has all elements at command, is lord of the lower world, created but "a little lower than the angels," and is alike heir to heaven and earth, it follows then that whenever man lives up to his true condition his enjoyments will be as much above that of brutes as his nature and his destiny are superior to theirs. And instead of being a poor, sinner, careworn, sorrowing sojourner on earth, actuated by the passions characteristic of brutes, destroying and being destroyed by his fellow humans, he will realize his high origin and feel his affinity to his Father which is in Heaven, and, as a son of the Supreme, will move and radiate in dignity and truth. And this is undoubtedly the "will of God" concerning us; it is the true millennium, the "good time coming," of which the Prophets spoke and all the good on earth desire to see. But I apprehend the great difficulty to the achievement of this consists in blind faith of the masses and the sad mistake of the two professional orders whose functions are to instruct and guide mankind. The clergyman and the doctor have each assumed a speciality irrespective of the other; hence the one may be a devout saint, at the same time living in physiological vice, and the other may be killed in all the niceties of his art, but at the same time be morally a vicious sinner. Now as the interrelations of man's compound nature are always reciprocal, any treatment of the one without regard to the other must be defective, and those who do it must necessarily be as the "blind leading the blind." Hence the Savior commissioned to "heal the sick" as well as to "preach the gospel." The true teacher should understand human needs, and ad-

dress himself to man's whole nature; seek to restore him to health and virtue; make him lovable and loving; then his life would be a praise to Him "in whom we live, and move, and have our being."

Respectfully Yours,

JOHN BRISON.

For the Argus.

The Dead-end. It is now about seven days since this vessel went upon the middle sands above sand Island at the mouth of the Columbia river. Judging from appearances, and from surrounding circumstances and influences, this is one of the most demoralizing, and unfortunate wrecks that has yet occurred at the mouth of this river. The vessel came safely in over the bar, and with a fair fresh wind from the West, ran arait upon the middle sands, with prompt action on the part of the commander, and each assistance as could have been secured, the cargo and vessel no doubt could mostly all been saved, but unfortunately, a large part of this cargo was liquors, any one who has observed the influence of liquor, can read the whole history of this matter. The influence upon the community is manifest. The owners of the liquor shelve no sympathy. The traffic in any shape is a curse. The commerce in it, is evil and only evil. One man, a passenger on the vessel, and said to be an owner of a portion of the cargo, was drowned by the swamping and upsetting of a lighter load of goods, his body has not been found.

Jan. 7th, 1857. P. S.—Since writing the above I have learned from an eye witness, that the persons having charge of the wreck, offered and urged the men to drink, and that under the influence of the liquor, all appeared to become devoid of all natural restraint, and liquor boxes were opened and the contents drank without restraint.

One of the men engaged in securing the goods of the wreck took suddenly sick supposed to have a fit, and died before he could be carried to the main land on shore. Wm. McGinnial a noted dealer in liquors to Indians "half light" as is said, fell out of the boat in crossing to Chinook and was drowned soon after the wreck.

Nicaragua News.

The late steamer brings very important and exciting news from Nicaragua. The report of Gen. Walker's critical situation is confirmed. Gen. Henningsen and three or four hundred of Walker's troops are besieged by the allies in a suburban church of Granada. The sick and wounded, with the women and children who were in Granada before its destruction by order of Walker, to the number of three hundred and fifty, were conveyed to the island of Ometepe, in the lake, where they suffered dreadful privations for some days, and were then surprised and attacked by the natives. Some twenty escaped, but there are fearful apprehensions as to the fate of the remainder.

The following brief account of Gen. Walker's movements is taken from the New York papers of the latest date: The Costa Rican army under Gen. Canas, numbering about 500 men, entered San Juan del Sud at 3 p. m., Nov. 7th, and took possession of the town. They encamped about four miles out, on the mountain, where they erected strong barricades in well selected positions. On the 8th they were reinforced by about 300 Guatemalans.

On the 10th Gen. Hornaby, who was stationed at Virgin Bay, attacked the first barricade, from which he drove the enemy by a flank movement. He had about two hundred and fifty men with him, and had he followed up his success he could have driven them before him like sheep; but his orders to keep Virgin Bay were imperative, and he had to return to that place, fearing an attack in his absence from other portions of the enemy stationed in that vicinity. The Americans had two killed and eight or ten wounded. The loss of the enemy was about fifty.

On the 13th Gen. Walker arrived at Virgin Bay from Granada, and with two hundred and fifty men drove the enemy from their barricades to San Juan del Sud, from whence they fled to Rivas. Few of the enemy were killed in this fight, the battle of two days previous having so completely intimidated them that they fled on Walker's approach with but little resistance. Walker had two men killed and several wounded.

On the morning of the 13th Gen. Walker returned to Virgin Bay, leaving 175 men to garrison San Juan. On the 15th he marched from Granada to Massaya.—When in the vicinity of Massaya, he received intelligence that Gen. Jerez had fled for Rivas at the head of 700 men. Col. Jacques, with 250 men, was immediately despatched to protect the isthmus, which was deemed to be in danger. This left Walker's force about 300 strong.

With his reduced force Walker met a

detachment of the allies, some eight hundred in number, and a battle ensued. The allies were driven back into Massaya.

After two and a half days' fighting Gen. Walker abandoned Massaya, his force not being sufficient to take the place, which was defended by 1700 allies. He effected a lodgment in the town, but was unable to drive the enemy from the main plaza. He retired upon Granada. His loss was about 20 killed and 40 wounded.

It was upon his return to the capital that Walker resolved upon its destruction and evacuation. For that end he left there some 400 men, under the command of Gen. Henningsen, whose instructions were to take charge of the artillery, ammunition, public archives, and all the appurtenances of the army, and convey them to Virgin Bay—the design being to make that a base of operations for the capture of the city of Rivas, where Walker intended to establish his government. Granada was given to the flames, and property to an enormous extent was consumed. Before any of the munitions of war could be transported from Granada to Virgin Bay, Henningsen and his troops were attacked and surrounded by 2500 of the combined Central Americans. Nothing has been heard from them since they were surrounded; they are entirely cut off from Walker and his remaining troops, and are hemmed in, in every direction, by greatly superior and constantly increasing forces. Seven cannon, being all Walker's artillery, is with them, and at least half of his ammunition.

Dr. Dorickson, now in New York, formerly a surgeon in Gen. Walker's army, and an eye-witness of the attack on Granada, gives the following account to the Herald:

"A straight road leads from Granada to Lake Nicaragua, from which it is not far distant, and a wharf and an old fort were situated on the shore of the lake at the end of said road. At the time the Central Americans attacked Granada, Walker was in a steambot on the lake, and twenty-nine men, called policemen, were on the wharf, having been left to guard some things placed there for shipment. The Central Americans attacked Granada by advancing between the lake and said city, thereby cutting off the retreat of the besieged, and preventing Walker from succoring or communicating with them from the lake. The twenty-nine policemen on the wharf were thus cut off and suffered the first attack. Five hundred men advanced upon them, and were driven back, time after time, with terrible loss. I was on the steambot with Walker at the time, and could see it all, though we could not communicate with or aid them. For two days did these twenty-nine men hold their own against such desperate odds, and would not have yielded then if there had not been a traitor among them. On the second day, a Cuban, I think, deserted and went over to the enemy, informing them of the number and condition of the twenty-eight, and showing how an energetic and continued assault would take the place. The plan proved but too successful; the bold fellows were taken and every one of them massacred, except five, who threw themselves into the lake and attempted to swim to General Walker on the boat; four of them were shot or drowned; one only succeeded in reaching the steambot.

On the 24th Nov., the day Gen. Henningsen and his 350 men were surrounded in Granada by the allied troops, the former destroyed the buildings around the main plaza, and fought their way down half a mile to a stone church in the direction of the lake and about four hundred yards from it. There they barricaded themselves and fortified the church, and were still holding out when I left. They had then been fighting eight days, surrounded by two thousand five hundred of the enemy, which number was constantly increased by reinforcements. The sixth day of the siege the allies made a grand assault, which lasted two hours. The Americans appeared to fight with great activity and courage, and after repulsing the enemy, they mounted the barricades and waved the Nicaraguan flag to Gen. Walker. It is supposed the loss of the enemy must have been very great. The exact condition of the Americans cannot be told; they must be suffering to some extent from cholera. The atmosphere is fearfully contaminating—the dead bodies can be smelled on board of Walker's steambot. The only hope of the besieged is in their commander, Gen. Henningsen, who is considered the ablest military officer in Central America; he is perfectly cool under every circumstance, in the hottest fight and in the most critical conditions—he is occasionally slow, but always sure; hence it is supposed he will ultimately succeed in saving the men, ammunition, and artillery. But he is in a desperate strait. If he succeeds in retreating to the wharf, there are no boats; the enemy prevent the approach of Walker; there are no means of embarking the artillery or men; if boats could be brought to the shore, the Americans could not embark their artillery first, as nothing would be left to defend themselves, nor could they first embark themselves, as nothing would be left to defend the artillery with, which by all means should be prevented from falling into the hands of the enemy. Gen. Walker leaves Granada and steams down to his headquarters at Virgin Bay, almost every day. After remaining there an hour or two, he returns to watch the operations at Granada.

Walker appears to be in good spirits, or rather, you cannot tell any thing about him, for he is always as cold as ice, not feeling the loss of his dearest

friends; but from what I have seen of him I don't think he really is in good spirits. His officers are enthusiastic—at least some of them are. His men are not enthusiastic, but generally in good fighting spirits. Some are friendly and some hostile to him; but they all fight well, for they know it is a matter of life and death with them to succeed. Want of health is the greatest drawback to their efficiency. Walker says he will hold the Transit route if he cannot hold another foot of the soil. It is only twelve miles in length and he is determined to guard it."

News from the Atlantic States.

We copy the following summary from the San Francisco Bulletin of Jan. 15th.

New York, Dec. 20, 1856.—The steamer Texas, from Nicaragua, arrived at New Orleans on the 12th, with the California mails and passengers of the 20th ult., and the Tennessee, also from Nicaragua, arrived at this port on the 15th. These steamers brought the news of the critical position of Walker. A mass meeting of his friends is to be held to-night at the Broadway Tabernacle. A regiment of five hundred men has, it is said, already enlisted in this city for Nicaragua. Col. Titus, of Kansas notoriety, arrived at St. Louis on Tuesday, with one hundred reinforcements en route for the same destination.—Walker's friends in New Orleans are redoubling their efforts to send him relief.

Jacob Little, the great Bear operator in Wall street, has failed for an immense amount. He offers a compromise to his creditors, several of whom have accepted it.

Mr. Whitfield, the pro-slavery delegate to Congress from Kansas, has been admitted to a seat in the House after a protracted struggle.

The jury in the case of Baker, the principle in the Poole tragedy, have disagreed. They stood six for manslaughter in the third degree, and six for acquittal.

Great excitement exists in Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia, on account of a meditated insurrection of the slaves, which was fixed for Christmas Eve. Numerous arrests have been made, and several negroes and one or two white men have been hung, and others whipped.

A railroad collision occurred on the 8th, at Alliance, Ohio. Eight persons were killed, and several others badly injured.

Earnest measures have been adopted for the opening of the Tehuantepec route to the Pacific. A carriage across the Isthmus will be finished, it is said, by the first of February. Coaches and other material are already contracted for, and are expected to be shipped from this port by the first of January. Commodore Vanderbilt, it is said, is going to New Orleans with one of his steamers, to make further arrangements.

Our latest advices from Mexico announce the unconditional surrender of Puebla to the Government forces. Alvarez had taken the field in behalf of the Government.

The Southern Commercial Convention held a five days' session last week at Savannah. Resolutions in favor of Pacific Railroad were adopted, as was also one recommending the transportation of the mails between New Orleans and California by the proposed Tehuantepec route.—The subject of the re-opening of the African slave trade was voted down by a large majority.

Not much business of importance has been done in Congress as yet. In the House on the 12th December Mr. Brown, from the Post office Committee, reported a bill in favor of contracting with Commodore Vanderbilt to carry the mail between New York and Liverpool the round-trip. A few days afterwards, the proprietors of the Collins line asked to be released from their contract.

A resolution was introduced by Mr. Etheridge, of Tennessee, denouncing in the severest terms all attempts to re-open the African slave trade. This resolution was adopted—yeas 152, nays 57, including the two California members.

In the Senate Mr. Houston has given notice of a bill providing for a semi-weekly overland mail between the Mississippi and San Francisco.

Mr. Weller gave notice on Wednesday last that he should call up the Pacific Railroad bill immediately after the holidays.

Affairs in Kansas remain quiet, Governor Geary's course begins to elicit general commendation in the Territory.—Judge Leconte and Marshal Donaldson have been removed, and James O. Harrison, of Kentucky, appointed in the place of the former, and William Spencer in place of the latter. The land sales were proceeding with great activity.

Thomas F. Meagher, the Irish exile, sent a challenge last week to Henry J. Raymond, editor of the New York Daily Times. The affair grew out of an article in the Times, in which Mr. Meagher was charged by implication with breaking his

parole in Australia. The matter was settled without a resort to arms.

Our foreign advices received during the fortnight, do not present any very marked feature. The English Parliament is to meet for the "dispatch of business" on the 3d of February. The London Money market was quite easy, with a prospect of a reduction of the bank rates to six per cent.

France is quiet.

Later.

In consequence of the storm which prevailed at New York on December 20th, the California steamer, George Law, was detained over night, and did not sail till the 21st. She brings the New York Herald of that day, in which we find the following important news:

MEETING OF WALKER'S SYMPATHIZERS IN NEW YORK.

Notwithstanding the heavy continuous rain of yesterday [20th December] the meeting called in the Broadway Tabernacle to sympathize with, and send material aid to Walker and his army, was a very large and enthusiastic one. Gen. Ward H. Burnett, Colonel of the New York regiment of Volunteers in the Mexican war, presided. Speeches were made by him; Mr. Oaksmith—formerly commissioned by Walker as Minister to the United States; General Duff Green—who formerly figured in connection with filibustering in Dominica; General Wheat—a distinguished officer of our army in the Mexican war; General Green, of Texas, who acquired celebrity in connection with the acquisition of that territory, and our two New York friends, Captain Rynders and Mr. Thomas J. Mundy. Letters of sympathy were received and read from General Quitman, of Mississippi; Senator Jones, of Tennessee; General Walbridge, of New York; and Thos. Francis Meagher. A series of resolutions pledging aid to Walker, calling on the government to send national vessels to San Juan del Norte and San Juan del Sur, and endorsing Minister Wheeler's course in Nicaragua, were adopted. A collection was afterwards made; and it appears that there was received, in checks, \$1,100; from the guests of the Mansion House, \$80; from the guests of the Washington Hotel, \$50; and in small collections, \$97—making in all \$1,307.—The committee was also notified that 1,000 rifles were ready to be placed at their service; that the St. Nicholas Hotel would send by the steamer on Wednesday 100 barrels of bread, and the Metropolitan Army 5,000 lbs. of bacon, for the use of the army. It was also announced by General Wheat that 2,000 volunteers were ready to start from New Orleans, and that hundreds would leave New York on Wednesday next.

We copy the following from the Washington correspondence of the San Francisco Bulletin:

Both houses of Congress have been chiefly occupied in the discussion of the President's annual message, and the late canvass; and notwithstanding the assertion of that document that the whole question of slavery has been definitely settled by the election, the debate upon the question of slavery extension is still marked by much acrimony and bitterness.

THE QUESTION OF SQUATTER SOVEREIGNTY.

The chief point in issue now, is the vexed question of popular sovereignty as presented in the Nebraska bill; and the debate clearly establishes that the Democracy in the North claimed that the bill admits and guarantees the right of the people of a Territory to exclude slavery if it chooses, prior to the formation of a State Constitution, while they maintained in the South that it did not endorse Squatter Sovereignty, but merely guaranteed the right of the people of a Territory to admit or exclude slavery whenever they form a Constitution, and not before. Now that the election is over, and the members take their positions upon the question of Squatter Sovereignty, with reference to their local interests, the wide difference between Democrats upon this subject, and of course, therefore, the question of slavery in the Territories is not settled. The issue is still open as to whether Congress has any power over slavery in the Territories, which it can therefore delegate to the Territories themselves—the North maintaining that it has, and the South that it has not.

SUPPOSED BUCHANAN MANIFESTO THROUGH SENATOR BIGLER.

Probably the most important speech of the last fortnight, was made by Senator Bigler, of Pennsylvania—not that he is possessed of any extraordinary ability, for he is rather a dull and heavy man; but his position as the intimate friend of Mr. Buchanan, gives to what he may say at this time, more than ordinary significance. His speech, evidently prepared with great care, was written out before its delivery, and read to the Senate. The Senator maintained that Mr. Buchanan would prefer that Kansas should be a Free Territory—that he does not believe Congress should