

The communication signed J. E. L. was written by a free State friend upon country. We hope none of our free State friends will get at loggerheads upon questions of policy. Really we believe that there would be no issue between J. E. L. and "An Old-fashioned Democrat," if they could rightly understand each other. This is our opinion, though we may err. We did not understand O. F. D. to commit himself as to the policy of running Republican candidates for delegates to a convention to form a constitution, much less to say that delegates must be stretched or shortened on his Procrustean machine. We think with J. E. L. that the great object in electing delegates to frame a constitution is to secure men who can be relied on as free State men. The course surest of securing such men, it seems to us, will recommend itself to the friends of freedom in all the counties. This course will be best effected by a union of the friends of a free State of all parties. Upon the matter of these delegates we opine in nearly all the counties there will be no party issues. Wherever we find sound, reliable free State men running as candidates, we intend to vote for them. In this way we expect that a free constitution will be adopted by an overwhelming majority. We believe that two thirds of the people of Oregon are today in favor of a free State, and we have no idea that the leaders of the democratic party dare to make the slavery issue if they even desired. That the democratic party as a body is a proslavery party in the States, is abundantly proved by the fact that in every contest between slavery and freedom in Kansas, slavery even backed up by a lawless villainy has had the sympathy of democratic papers, and the cause of border ruffians has been treated as the cause of democracy. Nevertheless, thousands and tens of thousands of men who supported Buchanan did not so understand the matter. They even were led to believe by "select committees" sent to sleep with them, that the great issue was, Fremont versus "Buchanan and Free Kansas"! Such men were true to freedom, and we have many just such men in Oregon who will support freedom in spite of party drill. By a little watching from the Republicans, the leaders of the democracy, who are now free state men will be led to avow their preference for freedom in leader and stronger terms, instead of going over to the support of slavery. The friends of truth never yet lost anything by being vigilant and contending earnestly for the faith, no matter against what odds. The recent struggle which resulted in the election of Buchanan has revealed such swarming hosts rallied under the flag of liberty, that it has operated as a very salutary lesson to those who find themselves temporarily grasping the scepter of power by a "mighty tight squeeze." The strength of the free soil party has operated upon the democracy in a way that has caused many of its leaders to act as though it was necessary to secure the North by becoming quite freesoilish as a party. It will do however to watch them. Indeed the policy of this chameleon party shifts with the current, and the more it is watched the more it shifts. In the mean time, if the Republicans, who are "exercised" about organizing just now, unite with the free state democrats in electing delegates, it would be nothing amiss for them to effect county organizations, to nominate county candidates, and especially to try to elect members to the Legislature who have some respect to the wishes of the people, who are in favor of making the government as pure as possible, and of cleaning out the Augean stables in Oregon.

Resignation.

We learn that A. F. Hedges, the Indian Agent for Oregon, has sent on his resignation to Washington. The responsibilities connected with the office, the uncertainty of appropriations to meet liabilities it is absolutely necessary to incur in advance of Congressional action, the inadequacy of the salary, and sickness in his family, are said to be among the prominent reasons which have induced the Agent's course. Gen. Palmer has gone to Washington, and may be persuaded to accept of a reappointment, notwithstanding his solemn avowal that he would not have the office on any terms. Nesmith has been recommended to succeed Capt. Hedges. Couldn't they have recommended a better man?

On our outside will be found an interesting article on root culture by Rev. O. Dickinson. We are glad friend Dickinson has undertaken to plead the cause of the "poor cattle." They need an advocate who can blow a blast that will be heard from Astoria to Siskiyou from a better trumpet than that of Manehausen. If they were only the "constituents" of some of our politicians they would be well fed and liquored, as often as the Jackson Jubilee comes round at least; but as they have no voice in elections, and as they are strictly temperate in their habits, we suppose their interests must be looked after by the benevolent and good. The article will no doubt do good, and to encourage friend D.

to write more, we can assure him that he has already decided one mind, which has been wavering between turnips, potatoes, cabbage, and carrots, in favor of the latter. We have staked off a liberal square in our garden which will be cultivated in carrots for the cow.

The article of David Newson on the first page on fruit culture, is of interest. We hope our farmers will give the public the benefit of their experience on all points connected with their calling.

What Mr. N. means by "quacks" in the nursery business, we cannot opine; but we certainly think he means to make no invidious comparisons. Mistakes are common to all men and it is not strange that a nurseryman should sometimes buy a tree which proved not to be genuine. We hear that Ladd and Luelling both made some mistakes at first, but we think they have all been rectified long ere this.

We learn from Wm. McKay, Esq., who left the Dalles a few days since, that the snow was still a foot deep in that vicinity, but was rapidly melting away before a warm rain. It had been four feet deep at the Dalles and one foot at Walla Walla. Much of the government stock had died, but cattle driven there from this valley bid fair to make the trip, although they were very poor. Most of the Indians had come in and delivered up their arms. The Yakimas and Cayuses were pretty much all that are yet out. One of the regular soldiers was taken prisoner by an Indian chief, a brother of Kamaikin, and retained as a prisoner.

The regulars will remain in the field during the coming summer.

From Puget Sound.

Mr. B. F. Cooper, from Steilacoom, informs us that the Indian Agent in Washington Territory has quit feeding the Indians on the Reservation, and turned them loose to go whither they will, on account of the want of government funds. In the absence of Congressional appropriations, the department at Washington refuses to recognize Gov. Stevens' drafts. Our own Indian Agent is in the same predicament and contractors are now furnishing supplies for the Reservation on the faith of the government. The beef contractor is to have eleven and a half cents for beef furnished when appropriations are made. Congress would do well to fork over the money soon and save expense. We believe that appropriations will be made for this purpose during this session.

The vote in the Salem caucus on the resolutions reading the Standard out of the party stood:

Ayes—Berry of Jackson, Brown, Drain, Ray and Smith, of Linn, Gates of Wasco, Harpole, Grever, Conner, and Peckles, of Marion, Matthews of Josephine, Rogers of Coos, Rose of Douglas, Walker of Polk, O'Brian of Douglas, Umphra and Cook, and Moffitt of Clatsop—16.

Nays—Allen, Shuck, and Bailly, from Yamhill and Clatsop, Avery and Bennett from Benton, Brown of Multnomah, Collard, Kelly, Lovejoy and Starkweather, from Clackamas and Wasco, Cochran and Munroe from Lane, Miller and Smith of Jackson, Ford and Welch of Polk and Tillamook—16.

The great question that divides these partisans is, "Which are the blackest democrats the bushites or Standard party?" Those who voted aye think the bushites are. We think so too. Now, Delazon, don't claim that we belong to your party because we vote together on this great political question. We are sorry for Leland, but we are compelled from principle to vote against him.

"For I was the only editor in this Territory that dared face Gen. Wool and denounce his conduct."—Dryer's Speech on Smith's resolutions.

There was another editor in Oregon who was more than ten days in advance of you in the use of Gen. Wool's name, as an inefficient officer. At least that is our recollection, and we are positive enough to state it as an incontrovertible fact.

"Here's to Buchanan, Who in '56 conquered And left at his feet, The gallant Fillmore, And Pathfinder Fremont, Whose glory's departed, In darkness forgot; Their calibres' light, With cartridges small, The one ill-begotten, And the other we spiked; Now the Union is safe With old Buck and Breck, Let us drink them a health From the wine of the grape." (J. D. Boon.)

The above politico-eclesiastical morsel of doggerel was offered as a toast in the menagerie of besotted officeholders, who made night hideous with their howling on the occasion of the late Jackson Jubilee in Salem. This J. D. Boon is a "Rev." in the M. E. Church, and, holding several offices under the party in power, stands as a sort of mediator between the church and the black democracy. He seems to occupy the same relation to the body political and the body theological that the fleshy ligament which bound together the Siamese twins occupied between Chang and Eng, serving as a sort of conduit through which it is hoped to infuse the spirit of the latter into the former. He belongs to the same category of political parsons with Rev. Matthew Hale Smith, who took the stump for Buchanan during the late canvass, Rev. Waller Harriman, who did the same in New Hampshire, Rev. Geo. K.

Shaw, late editor of the Norway Advertiser, who sold his services as a political parson for a clerkship in Washington, Rev. Theophilus Fiske, who published a campaign Buchanan paper in Philadelphia, Rev. J. C. Lovejoy of Massachusetts, who took an active part in the election in favor of Buchanan, after having been a violent abolitionist, and we might add to the list the names of Rev. Delazon Smith, and Rev. Fred Waymire; (we beg pardon of Fred for putting him in such company.) None of these "political parsons" have ever been denounced by the locofoco papers. It is only parsons who choose to vote on the other side who are at all obnoxious. It is more than intimated by some, that Boon's toast was washed down with the "juice of corn," instead of the "wines of the grape" as in the doggerel. At least it is said that after such toasts as "The lordly ruffians, sound on the nigger question, and some in a bar fight," there was a tremendous smashing of bottles, crashing of crockery, yells, howls, oaths, blasphemy, and vomiting, during which it was the "parson's" duty to rub the palms of his great brawny hands violently, roll up his eyes, and groan "Amen! Amen! Amen!"

What an appropriate place for a parson! Take it all in all, we doubt whether he will enjoy a "love feast" in just such another crowd till after he "shuffles off his mortal coil."

The weather is quite cool, with plenty of cold rains mixed with occasional snow squalls. The river has fallen some ten feet, which has again started the boats which had been waterbound for more than a week. The waters have been so high on the west side of the Willamette, that the Portland mail did not reach Lafayette for several weeks.

A remarkable tragedy occurred at Monmouth, Warren county, Ill., on the 12th of December. It seems a Mr. Fleming and his two sons, one 25 and the other 23 years of age, called at the room of a young man named Crosier, and threatened him into signing a retraction of a calumny affecting the old man's daughter. After the document was signed, the old man stepped out and locked the door, when one of the young Flemings drew a pistol and presented it at Crosier's head, whilst the other drew a raw hide and commenced whipping their victim. Crosier drew a dirk and plunged it to the heart of the one who plied the lash, and as quick as thought, making a backhanded thrust, sent the fatal steel to the heart of the one who held the pistol. When the old man entered the room, he was stupefied by witnessing both of his sons stretched as bloody corpses on the floor. Crosier had been engaged to Fleming's daughter. All the parties were said to be respectable, and two of them were members of the church in good standing.

The communication in last week's paper signed John Beeson should have been dated New York city.

For the Argus.

Mr. Editor—I see in the Argus of the 10th inst., which by the regularity of the mails has just come to hand, a communication over the signature of "An Old-fashioned Democrat," wherein the writer takes for his text an extract from Delazon Smith's speech, which he demolishes most effectually, no doubt, in his own judgment. But to my judgment a rather singular position is assumed by this Old-fashioned Democrat where he quotes Smith as saying "that the agitation of the slavery question will come before the people with the State question," followed by his interrogatories and remarks insinuating that there need be no agitation of this question before the people. This position, and the arguments used to sustain it, to my mind appear absurd.

Common sense teaches that the question has to be agitated before the people, either in the election of delegates or at the time of submitting the constitution, and this an O. F. D. well knows if he knows anything about democracy; and this the Republicans very well know, who are just now so much exercised about organizing their party. The only query then is whether it be more proper to dispose of it in the selection of delegates, or let it, as Smith says it will do, "come before the people with the State question." As a friend and advocate of a free State, I decidedly prefer the latter course for various reasons, two of which I think enough to give—1st, because it is only in this way that the true sentiment of the people can be had; 2d, it is the only way in which we can secure a free State government.

This is a practical age, and Americans are said to be a practical people; if so, they ought to practice with things as they find them, without waiting to have them as they think they should be. To illustrate my meaning: There is a political doctrine in vogue, (just now highly popular with the dominant party in this country,) denominated "popular sovereignty," which has been embodied in a law by the highest legislative body of our Government so far as it relates to the subject of slavery.—Whether this law is good or bad I shall not stop to inquire—it is in force, and we must work under it as we find it. Then the problem to be solved by every practical man desirous of securing free institutions for Oregon is, What means are best calculated to secure this desirable result?

Do they consist in organizing a party on this distinct issue under the name of Republican, or any other specious name, or by denouncing the entire democratic party and especially its leaders in Oregon as proslavery or hypocritical? Or will this prevent "agitation before the people"?—An O. F. D. insinuates that it will; but I believe a majority of the people think differently. Will not success more likely attend our cause by fraternally uniting with men of any and all parties who prefer living in a free State to a state of slavery, and voting for such delegates as will pledge themselves to leave this question open for the people to decide at the polls when they come to vote on the adoption of the constitution? I do not hold that this course will avoid agitation, but I do hold that the agitation will be no greater than under the former course. And not only so, but the free State cause would in this way receive scores of able supporters, where, under strict party pressure, the question properly at issue would be almost entirely ignored, and we would wake up to find our State in the fell grasp of slavery.

But an O. F. D. seems to think that he and his coworkers who, from deep and religious conviction and intelligent principle, are opposed to slavery, and feel constrained to use their best efforts to enlighten their neighbors on the evils of the institution, must fix the standard to which every man must come ere he is fit or qualified to vote for or enjoy free institutions. Do they not in effect say, "Gentlemen Democrats, as well as Whigs and Know Nothings, if there are any of you left, come up here and fit yourselves for making Oregon a free State. First, you must renounce your favorite doctrine of squatter sovereignty as set forth in the Kansas-Nebraska bill; second, you must renounce and denounce all parties, (except our party,) and especially the Democratic party and its leaders; third, you must resolve to endorse the principles laid down in the Philadelphia platform of the 17th June, 1856;—fourth, you must profess to believe and teach that slavery is a moral, political, social, and religious curse. Now, gentlemen, if you subscribe to these few plain, intelligible articles, you are entitled to delegate a few of us, and we will go up and make a free State constitution, without any agitation whatever."

Does not an O. F. D. know that men prefer a free to a slave State for various and often very different reasons. One because he does not consider slave labor profitable in this latitude; another thinks the white and colored races should be kept separate as nearly as practicable; a third because he believes that slavery has a tendency to engender idleness and dissipation where it exists. And so on to the end of the chapter. We may find thousands of reasons and causes that prompt men to prefer a free to a slave State. Occasionally we find some "who from deep and religious conviction and intelligent principle are opposed to slavery." And we must take into the account another—a numerous class—that care little or nothing about the matter, but will vote according to the dictates of prejudice and the impulse of the moment.

Now I would put the question to the conscience and judgment of an O. F. D. and those with whom he acts, if his object be what they profess, that is, to secure freedom to Oregon, would it not be safer to avail ourselves of every fair and honorable aid for that purpose? Do you not know that each and every man's influence is measurably limited to certain bounds and parties? Then I contend that the only way in which we can have a fair expression of the people on the subject, the only way in which we can secure a desirable result, is to encourage every man in favor of freedom, of any and every party, to advocate the advantages of a free State on his own plan and in his own party. Let the question go before the people on its own merit, and that only; let us have no side issues attached, to drag it down. It is the peculiar doctrine of no particular party or clique, but has advocates in all parties, and none abler than in the Democratic party.

But says an O. F. D., "How shall the people act intelligently if the advocates on one side are to be gagged and silenced, and essential facts withheld?" In answer, I would ask the writer if he and his coworkers are not as obnoxious to this charge as those against whom they are attempting to wage a malignant war? By denouncing the Democratic party and its leaders as proslavery, and organizing yourselves into an antislavery party, you drive all who feel disinterested, all who love their party more than they prize the advantages of a free State, into the proslavery embrace; you tie the hands; you virtually gag and silence those leaders in the democratic party who otherwise would be advocates for a free State.

In conclusion an O. F. D. exhorts all who desire Oregon to be a free State to watch during the coming struggle the movements of D. Smith & Co. On behalf of the free State cause, I will conclude with a well known exclamation: "Lord deliver me from my friends!"—at least some of them. J. E. L. January 22, 1857.

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MODERN ELOQUENCE.—"Ah me!" said a pious old Scotch lady, "our minister was a powerful preacher; for the short time he ministered the word among us, he kicked three pulpits to pieces, and banged the inards out of five new Bibles."

For the Argus. ASTORIA, JAN. 20, 1857. W. L. Adams—Sir: As Dryer and Bush have fraternized on the most important political questions of the country, as well as in slandering individuals, and as they both have singled me out as one of their victims, I will notice their course and conduct as editors of public journals.

It appears from the Oregonian of the 3d inst. that Dryer is not satisfied with venting his spleen against me by descending to the level of a low and disgusting partisan pettifogger in the Clatsop county contested election case, but has seen fit to follow me into matters relating to private transactions. Now, if he can find any palliation for his conduct in this, or any gratification to his fiendish and malignant disposition, he is welcome to investigate my business to his heart's content and make what he can out of it.

It would be as much in place for me to publish to the world his bacchanalian and licentious conduct in this neighborhood within the last year, as for him to take the course he has with me. The only thing according to his statement I did to cause him to be so wrathful and show so much vindictiveness, was stopping his paper;—and, as it is now stopped, I hope he will keep it stopped, and not commence sending it without my request; but, as it has caused him so much feeling on the subject, I will give a few reasons why I and many others commenced taking his paper, and why I and many others will not now take it, judging from the general dissatisfaction expressed with the paper and lack of confidence in its editor.

It is well known that when Dryer first started the Oregonian its editorial columns teemed with low and uncouth jestings and scurrilous abuse of the Statesman, then in prospect and subsequently established, and it is also as well recollected that on the first appearance of the Statesman, Bush opened a battery on Dryer with about the same kind of missiles that Dryer had used against him, and so completely upset Dryer's arrangements that it was one or two years before he could recover from the shock; and after he did recover so as to see where he stood, he found Bush had led off under the assumed name of Democracy against every moral question then before the country, including that of temperance and a prohibitory liquor law, &c, so that when Dryer thus discovered he had to adopt a new course, and, as the people of the Territory had just decided by a vote in favor of a prohibitory liquor law, he mounted it as his hobby, and thereby secured for the Oregonian a good circulation among the temperance portion of the community, and I, as well as others, having hopes that he might continue an advocate of temperance principles, consented to take his paper. But as he had neither the moral courage nor ability to maintain the position, Bush had unintentionally driven him into, he abandoned these principles, and became the advocate of the Know Nothings and other factions, and more recently claimed to be Whig and Republican alternately, as their prospects showed up well, until he finally made a big leap politically into Bush's embrace and adopted his views of all the prominent political questions of the day, and where I hope he may be kept, if it should be at the expense of a small office from the party, and save the moral part of the community any longer the mortification of having him pointed to as the advocate of their principles.

Now a few words with Bush in answer to his question in the Statesman of the 6th inst. why I did not present the bill for the repeal of the law relating to Public Printing. He sneeringly asks the question so as to imply that he was the cause of my being ousted from my seat in the Legislative assembly, and I think very correctly too, for I believe he has as complete control over a majority of the members of that Legislature, as a Southern slaveholder has over his slaves.

In relation to the bill, I had drawn up such a one as I believe the people would have approved of, (and one that many of the members' consciences would have approved of if they had dared to let it be known,) and would have presented it but for the contested election case having the precedence and being urged to a final vote. In favor of the measure I stood pledged to the people of this county, and was elected by a majority of the voters notwithstanding every government appointee and county officer, from the Collector of the port down stood arrayed against me; and I am well informed that the repeal or amendment to that law was a prominent question in many of the counties of this Territory, and wherever it was made a question members were generally elected in favor of such a course, but a decree went forth about the time of the meeting of the Legislature, that to meddle with it was anti-democratic, and any member of the Legislature who would not shut his eyes against his pledges to his constituents and go it blindly in sustaining Bush, could not inherit an office from the incoming administration. Therefore it became important that the bill should be kept out of the House, which a majority could do by giving the contested election the precedence, until I was finally got out of the way and thereby many doughfaces avoided the necessity of having their votes scrutinized by their constituents. For it is a fact of note that a majority of the members with a few

honorable exceptions, that were elected from the counties most opposed to that law and Bush's course, proved to be the most subservient tools of his in the House.—These are the reasons the bill was not presented. I believe Bush, with that arch demagogue Delazon Smith to aid him, can accomplish or prevent the passage of any measure they may desire before the present Legislature. J. TAYLOR.

The following proposition will be discussed at the M E Church in this city next Monday night: WHEREAS, The absolute rights of man are derived from the laws of nature and of God; and these laws require man to abstain from the commission of any act tending to his own injury or destruction; and they also imperatively require that those natural rights should be so used as to not interfere with, or prejudice the peace and happiness of any other human being; and whereas, the use of alcoholic beverages is destruction of the peace, happiness, and wellbeing of society, and tends only to the destruction, misery, and death of human beings; therefore,

Be it Resolved, That the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors is a violation of the absolute and relative rights of man in society, and that their total suppression is imperatively required by positive law. Effects of Intemperance. In a memorial of citizens of Portage county, Ohio, to the Legislature on the subject of liquor prohibition, we clip the following graphic description of the evils of intemperance. Who will say, after reading it twice, that it is not every word of it true! "And yet its march of ruin is onward!—It reaches abroad to others, invades the family and social circles, and spreads war and sorrow all around. It cuts down youth in its vigor, manhood in its strength, and age in its weakness. It breaks the father's heart, bereaves the dearest mother, extinguishes natural affection, erases conjugal love, blots paternal hope, and brings down mourning age in sorrow to the grave. It produces weakness, not strength; sickness, not health; death, not life. It makes wives widows, children orphans, fathers fiends, and all of them paupers and beggars. It haunts fevers, feeds rheumatisms, nurses god, welcomes epidemics, invites cholera, imparts pestilence, and embraces consumption. It covers the land with idleness, poverty, disease, and crime. It fills your jails, supplies your almshouses, and demands your asylums. It engenders contentions, fosters quarrels, and cherishes riots. It contemns law, spurns order, and loves mobs. It crowds your penitentiaries, and furnishes your victims for your scaffolds. It is the life-blood of the gambler, the alim of the counterfeiter, the prop of the highwayman. It countenances the liar, respects the thief, and esteems the blasphemer. It violates obligations, reverences fraud, and honors infamy. It defames benevolence, hates love, scorns virtue, and slanders innocence. It incites the father to murder his offspring, helps the husband to massacre his wife, and helps the child to grind his patricial axe. It burns up man, consumes woman, detests life, curses God, and despises Heaven. It suborns witnesses, nurses perjury, defiles the jury-box and stains the judicial ermine. It bribes, votes, disqualifies voters, corrupts elections, pollutes our institutions, endangers our Government. It degrades the citizen, debases the legislator, dishonors the statesman, and disarms the patriot. It brings shame, not honor; misery, not safety; despair, not hope; and terror, not happiness. And now, as with the malevolence of a fiend, it calmly surveys its frightful desolations, and, insatiate with havoc, it poisons felicity, kills peace, ruins morals, blights confidence, slays reputation, and wipes out national honor, then curses the world and laughs at its ruin."

THE TEHUANTEPEC ROUTE.—The New Orleans Picayune announces the completion of arrangements for the establishment of a line of communication across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, with the Pacific coast. The Tehuantepec Company of Louisiana has contracted with parties resident in New York and Ohio for the transportation of passengers, mails and freight over the road now in course of construction over the Isthmus. The contractors are to furnish carriages capable of conveying eleven to fourteen passengers comfortably and conveniently, and to have them ready at the eastern terminus of the road by the 5th of February. The contractors are also to provide horses and mules, and all necessary.

There seems to be a difficulty in the way of Col. Bissell, of Illinois, being inducted into the office of Governor, now that he is elected. The Constitution of that State provides that "no person who has given or accepted a challenge to fight a duel is eligible to any office of the State." Col. Bissell once accepted a challenge from Col. Davis, now Secretary of war. This occurred at Washington City, and the question now is whether the organic law of Illinois can take cognizance of the matter, since it happened beyond their immediate jurisdiction. This will have to be determined by the proper State tribunal.

The Philadelphia Pennsylvanian's Washington correspondent says: You will perceive that the Richmond Enquirer suggests interference, on the part of Congress, to the disgraceful condition of things in Utah. There is a growing sentiment on this subject, and I am glad that so influential a journal as the Enquirer has taken hold of it.

The N. Y. Journal of Commerce says another slave sailed from that port recently. She was closely watched, but the Government officers were unable to detect anything which would justify them in detaining her.

A shrewd little fellow who had just begun to read Latin, astonished his master, by the following translation: Vir, a man, Cin, a trap—Virgin, a man trap.