

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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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.

For the Argus. Oregon Experience.—Carrots. Mr. Editor—I promised your readers, in my last communication, that I would give them the minutiae of carrot raising.

Prepare the ground well in the first place. This is very important in all root crops, and especially so for the carrot.—The length and size of the root will be very much increased by deep plowing.

Loosened earth always retains moisture better than that which the plow has not stirred; and my own experience goes to prove that every inch deeper the ground is plowed from one to fifteen inches will add a hundred bushels of carrots to the acre to the crop harvested.

The plants should stand about six inches apart in the rows, and then they will nearly fill the ground along the line of the drill. After they are up and properly thinned out, nothing more is necessary except to keep the ground perfectly clear of weeds by means of the shovel plow and hoe.

At a meeting of the Free State Club of Grand Prairie, Lane county, Oregon, Jan. 17th, 1857, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously passed: WHEREAS, the people of Oregon are, by an act of the Legislature, called on soon to elect delegates to a convention to form a State government; therefore,

Resolved, That we form ourselves into a Free State Club, irrespective of party, for the single purpose of promoting the principles of a free State, as the best and only means of securing the country exclusively to the free white race; and that we

confine our organization to the single object of the election of delegates, without interference with any party, or any other officers, or election. 2. Resolved, That we will use our influence and votes to have Oregon peopled with a free population of the WHITE RACE, to the exclusion of the African, either as slaves or freemen, so as to have as little commingling of the white and black races in Oregon as possible; and that in voting for delegates, we will be careful to vote for men who stand fully and expressly pledged to exclude slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, by an express prohibition in the constitution; and that we will vote for no man who is in favor of bringing negroes into Oregon, either as slaves or freemen, for us and our families, or them and their families, to associate with; nor will we knowingly vote for any man for delegate who is in favor of any provision to be put in the constitution allowing negroes to come or be brought into Oregon in any way or condition whatever.

Resolved, That the secretary furnish a copy of the above resolutions for publication in The Argus, with a request that the other papers of the Territory copy therefrom. JAS. M. CHANDLER, Sec'y.

For the Argus. The Oregon Areopagus. BY A POLITICIAN. The areopagus was a seat of justice on a small eminence in Athens—the judges of this court were called areopagites.—Their legitimate business was "to direct public attention to men, who might endanger the State, though their power to inflict punishment was very limited." So says Heron's Political Antiquities.

Salem, the capital of Oregon Territory, located on the eastern bank of the Willamette river, in the beautiful Willamette valley, has long been blessed with a similar institution commonly called "The Salem Clique," whose business-in-chief is to superintend every body's business but their own—and to whip in the timid and factory disciples of the nigger-driving-bull-horn faction. Since my sojourn in Oregon, I have been the subject of the most painful anxiety to this "sardine" areopagus. I have had advice enough to save a sinking ship—have had free gratis, for nothing, and the most of it from the "harmonious"—such as it was. The burden of the song was, "don't aspire to office while you remain a whig." "Join the Democracy if you want to be popular, and gain notoriety; you are eminently fitted to fill a high station, but don't meddle in politics with your whig proclivities." I didn't; not because of the excellent and disinterested advice, but because it was not my intention so to do.—The advice was singularly coincident with my pre-determination relative to politics.

I have been, notwithstanding my care to avoid political shoals and quicksands, soundly abused by certain members of the "Clique" who availed in drinking houses and other places of ill-repute, that I had joined the Know Nothings after my declaration to avoid mixing with either party. Now, for the satisfaction of those busy individuals, I offer my course of conduct for examination; let it be dissected as carefully as a Jew would look for leaven, and then let reports be made of my departure from the platform I laid down for myself on my arrival in the Territory.

I had been a sound Clay and Webster whig—had never been able to "stand the Jeffersonian test" of pronouncing beans beans, nor had I ever voted a Democrat in tickets in my life. One fine morning I rose early, not thinking that anything was wrong, but subsequently learned that the veteran and lamented whig party had "gone under," "defuncted," evaporated; in short, and to use a plain term, had "fizzled out," and I, like the last rose of summer was left to bloom and "vegetate," alone. The whigs had left, without condescending to give me any notice whatever, and I was abandoned to broad, over my broken fortunes without sympathy.

After long and mature deliberation, I determined that it was a moral impossibility for an old line-backed whig to be transmogrified into a modern Oregon Democrat. I tried the "Jeffersonian test" again, but for the life of me, I couldn't say beans with the proper unction.

About this time, there arose a prophet in the land; one Samuel, whom some patriotic and country-loving fellow citizen of the confederacy had called from caves and dens of the earth. Samuel came forth in a mysterious manner, carrying a dark lantern, with a scroll on which was inscribed: "Americans shall rule America!" Samuel called on me, and offered to show me the phantasmagoria of his lantern, which he said was fully equal to Aladdin's lamp; but I said: "Nay, verily," Samuel,

I intend to live without a party for the present, inasmuch as I am seeking no office, and no office seeking me.

In the meantime, the question of propagation of slavery upon free territory was sprung on the people of the Union by the present Democratic (?) administration;—and having my sense of right so shocked at this wanton outrage, I thought I would again enter the arena, and vindicate the rights of the constitution and the Union. Straightway I climbed upon the Philadelphia Republican Platform and declared a war of extermination on the nigger-driving extensionists and deprecators of plighted faith, and compromises.

Now, what has been my offense? and wherein have I been so inconsistent that I should have been personally vilified, as I was,—as I am informed,—in a certain crib of iniquity, by the crank-man of the Organ of the nigger-driving clan, having obscene epithets applied to me that a "nigger" cook would hesitate to speak in the presence of a dog! and all this for simply acting independent of the "clique" that would "rule or ruin." How rotten and corrupt must the cause be that requires support by personal denunciation of a private citizen! 'Tis worse than a dead carcass full of loathsome creeping things, generated by the amours of consumption and the grave.

And now, gentlemen of the "Clique," I functionally bid you a Jew, and in conclusion, let me kindly admonish you—after thanking you for your profound solicitude in my behalf—that when you poke your nasal protruberances into affairs concerning me and mine, you may experience the glowing sensation of seeing the liquid oozing therefrom. Therefore, Mr. "Clique," for me, fret not thy gizzard.

Singular Theory of the Mississippi. The Mississippi River is the longest stream in the world. Its total length is 4,000 miles. On looking over a volume recently published entitled "Lloyd's Steamboat and Railroad Directory," we find the following instructive article on the waste of the waters of the Mississippi. It says: No experience will enable a person to anticipate with any degree of certainty, the elevation of the flood in any given year. In some seasons the waters do not rise above fair channels; in others, the entire valley of the Mississippi is submerged.

Embankments called levees have been raised from five to ten feet high on both sides of the stream, extending many miles above and below New Orleans. By this means the river is restrained within its proper limits, except at the greatest freshets, when the waters sometimes break over everything, causing great destruction to property and sometimes loss of life.—The average height of the flood from the Delta to the junction of the Missouri is above sixteen feet. At the mouth of the latter river it is twenty-five feet. Below the entrance of the Ohio river, the rise is often fifty-five feet.

At Natchez it seldom exceeds thirty feet, and at New Orleans about twelve feet.—What becomes of the water? It is known that the difference between high and low water mark, as high up as White River, is about thirty-six feet, and the current at high water runs near seven miles per hour, and opposite to New Orleans the difference between high and low water mark is only twelve feet, and the current little over three miles to the hour. The width and depth of the river being the same, from which we calculate that nearly six times as much water passes by the mouth of White River as by New Orleans. What becomes of the excess? The only solution ever offered is that it escapes by the bayous Plaquemine, La Fourche, and Iberville, but when we calculate the width, depth and current of these bayous they fall vastly short of affording a sufficient escapement. The true explanation can, we think, be given.

At low water, throughout the whole extent we see a land structure exposed, underlying the bank, so that the alluvial structure on which the plantations are, is a structure of deposit made by the river above its low water mark, which, opposite to the mouth of White River, is thirty feet thick. As you descend, the river diminishes in volume as the difference between high and low water mark diminishes, and nearly corresponds to it, and wherever the bottom is exposed it shows throughout the whole extent that the bottom is pure COARSE SAND; exhibiting in many places the OCEAN SHINGLE, through the super-imposed alluvial structure mixed with fine sand. The water percolates with such facility and rapidity that the water in a well dug at a considerable distance from the river bank rises and falls with the rise and fall of the river, not raising an inch, and through the coarse sand and shingles of the bottom it passes as rapidly as through a common sieve.

By the accurate surveys of several

scientific engineers, it is ascertained that the fall of the Mississippi river is four inches to the mile. The distance from Natchez to New Orleans of three hundred miles will give twelve hundred inches, or one hundred feet. The depth of the river is less than forty feet at high water mark. The river debouches into the ocean from a promontory made by itself. The surface of the ocean, by measurement, below the bottom of the river, above New Orleans, corresponds with the low water mark below New Orleans, therefore the Mississippi river is pouring through its own bottom into the ocean, the super-imposed weight giving lateral pressure to hurry the subterranean current.

If the reader ever stood upon a Mississippi sand bar in a hard rain, or seen water poured from a bucket on the sand-bar, he has seen that neither can be done in sufficient quantity to produce any current or accumulation on the surface. The river is, therefore, from the time it comes below the limestone strata of Missouri and Kentucky, wasting itself through its own bottom.

If the Mississippi river had to pursue its course like the Ohio, over rocky strata, walled in by rock and impervious clay banks, the high water mark at New Orleans would reach one hundred feet above its present limits; but running over coarse sand, and walled in by a deposit made of sand, ancient alluvial detritus and vegetable mould, no more water reaches the ocean than the excess over the amount that permeates the surrounding structure and passes off in the process of percolation or transpiration in a subterranean descent to the ocean.

The river, without any other restraint from rock or clay in the bottom or bank, is left free to the government of no other law than the law of hydrostatics. The washing or wasting of the bank cannot be prevented, though the caving or sliding of large portions at one time may be easily guarded against.

Right Eyed. In a paper read before the Association for the Advancement of Science, at its recent session in Albany, Professor John Brocklesby, of Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., gives the following as the result of a series of experiments on the "visual direction":

"In view of these facts, I am inclined to believe that most persons, when they gaze upon a near object with both eyes open, habitually neglect the image formed by the left eye, and employ that of the right to fix the visual direction—in fact, that we are right eyed. Moreover that cases sometimes occur where the left eye is used for this purpose, and in such exceptional instances the observers may be termed left eyed.

A boy shoots marbles with both eyes open, and a sportsman not unfrequently brings his game down in the same manner; but I apprehend that in both instances the aim is as truly taken as if one eye was shut; and that either the right eye or the left gives the range, while the other is passive.

If it is true that the right eye, under the circumstances mentioned, possesses a superiority over the other, the fact would be in strict accordance with some other physiological phenomena. We are all of us aware of the pre-eminence which the right hand has over the other, either from habit or otherwise. How much more ready and quick it is in all its motions, being the first to advance whenever it is needed. So marked is this characteristic that we term expertness and activity of manipulation dexterity. Nighthandedness constitutes the law, lefthandedness the exception.

The same fact is observed in respect to the feet. In the game of foot-ball, for instance, the right foot naturally comes first into play, and is decidedly more active than the other. The superiority of one organ of vision over the other would not therefore constitute an anomaly, neither would it be surprising if the same phenomenon should be found to exist in respect to one or more of the senses.

UNIVERSALISTS AS WITNESSES IN NORTH CAROLINA.—Judge Battle, of North Carolina, has written a letter denying the statement that the Supreme Court of that State has decided that Universalists are incompetent as witnesses in North Carolina. The case which is alleged to have embraced this decision turned on a different point and the question is still undetermined by the Court.

DUTIES ON SPIRITS IN ENGLAND.—The London News states that the large amount of £10,330,470 was paid in that country, in the year 1855, as a duty on foreign and British spirits.

It is estimated by the Ohio Farmer, that the profits of the wool crop in that State the past season were \$5,000,000.

Norman on Franklin.

Rev. Theodore Parker on Sunday delivered a sermon at the Boston Music Hall, which was filled to overflowing. Its theme was, "Benjamin Franklin considered in relation to the great art of life." It was treated with that ability and originality for which Mr. Parker is distinguished. The preacher presented Franklin in six phrases, viz.: as the Boy, running about the streets of Boston; as the Printer, the Philosopher, the Statesman, the Diplomat, and in his old age and death. Each of these divisions of the discourse was elaborated in a most interesting manner. Mr. Parker then proceeded to consider Franklin in his intellect, his writings, his character socially as a man. This constituted the greater portion of the sermon. In answer to the charge that Franklin was not a religious man, the speaker replied that tried by the popular theology and mere church form, it was true; but in respect to the elements that go to make up a religious mind and a good heart, the charge was not true. Franklin he regarded as the greatest man in America in four generations, and almost the greatest in the world in that period. He was not without fault and blemish, but in the main was faithful and honest.

In his opinion, Franklin was a "fast" boy, and up to the age of 20, lived a life that in many respects is to be condemned; a career of which he afterwards repented. The speaker said that it was in the power of Franklin to have prevented Slavery in the United States, if he had only chosen and maintained that position in the Convention which framed the Constitution.—Franklin later in life signed a petition for the abolition of slavery. The slavery of 1786, it was contended, was nothing so atrocious as that in 1956. Referring to the recent celebration in this city, the preacher said, that if Franklin could have returned and looked upon the long procession, while he would have seen much to rejoice over, yet there would have been something to make sorrowful. In this connection, he had reference to the exclusion of colored persons from the procession, and especially condemned the course of the Mercantile Library Association.

In another part of the sermon, the preacher questioned the wisdom of Franklin in his legacy to provide medals for scholars in our public schools. While it rewarded a few scholars, it at the same time caused heart-burning and discouragement to all others. Could he have foreseen this, and also the favoritism of teachers, he would hardly have willed the sum he did. A "love affair" of Franklin, who, after he found there was little money to come, broke off an engagement, was characterized as mercenary and mean.

Franklin was a man of progress, and therefore was both ahead and above the age. In his simple experiment with the lightning he opened a realm of science which had as yet but begun to be trod.—Franklin's charities, his public and private life, his writings, his relation and influence upon mankind, were all considered in their turn. Mr. Parker summed up his sermon by stating that Franklin's was the best and most successful life that has yet been lived in America.—Boston Bee.

Why Boates Turn to their Coffins.

A paper read by Dr. Coffin (Trail Green's) on so called human petrification, before the scientific convention, had a good deal of popular interest. It was a sort of comment upon a story extracted from the correspondence of the Rushville, Iowa Republican, about the body of a boy who died at seven years of age and was buried. On being disinterred, said the story, the skin and muscles were found in a good state of preservation, but changed to stone. The bones were unaltered and those of the arms were movable in their stony casements. The substance of the brain was found little altered, &c., &c.

The paper of Mr. Green's presumed that this was a popular way of describing the human body changed to adipocere.—The present removal of bodies from city to country church yards has brought to light many cases of this sort. The proprietaries of adipocere are well known. It is defined as that fatty and spermiceti like substance into which muscle is converted by long immersion in water or spirits, or by burial in moist earth. The reader exhibited a large specimen of it, and proceeded to give its history. It was taken from a coffin that had been buried in a very damp, clayey soil, through which the water could not soak.

In the same ground another body in a similar condition was found seven years after burial—the body floating in the water. In one of these cases the lower limbs were crossed at the thighs. The specimen exhibited was a part of a woman who died over seventy years of age, and had been interred seventeen years. The specific gravity of adipocere is from 782 to 858 thousandths. Hence it will float in water,

and if a coffin is filled with water the whole corpse floats, and settles again as the water leaks out, in a position that will be determined by the weight of its different portions.

This doubtless accounts for the imagined turning of bodies in their coffins, and has led to the popular belief that burial before death is not uncommon. The escape of gases was formerly the theory to account for such turnings, but he did not think it so satisfactory. The knowledge of this fact will prevent the occurrence of the fresh and unnecessary grief often caused by the discovery of these "turnings." The conclusion of Gibbs, who experimented in 1794-5, as to the formation of adipocere, was that it is formed from fibrine.

Dr. Steiner reported a case of a body changed into what seemed to be an adipocere which was found in a Washington city grave yard, after 25 years burial, but the only organ that could be satisfactorily identified was the liver. Here was a gland, not a fibrous structure, undergoing this remarkable change; possibly it was a case of fatty degeneration. The grave yard was very low ground, and the graves were all filled with water.

Prof. Horsford cautioned the convention to be slow in admitting these reports of what are called human petrifications. A communication has lately been made to the Boston Academy, detailing how the bones of an infant in Illinois has been converted into phosphorus. But a strict examination showed that, in all probabilities there was no replacement at all in the case.

THE EARTHQUAKE IN CANADA.—On the 14th I gave you some information relative to the earthquake at this Island on the 12th ult., and have now to inform you that, within a few days past, official "returns" have been made to the pasha, which state the loss of life and property as follows, viz:—

Table with 2 columns: Category and Count. Rows include: Ascertained to be killed, and whose bodies have been taken from the rubbish (525); Ditto wounded (627); Total killed and wounded (1,152); Buildings totally overthrown and destroyed in the city of Candia (2,239); Buildings very badly injured and uninhabitable (1,863); Buildings much injured, but partly occupied (17); Destroyed in other sections of the island (4,119); Total (10,930).

—Contra cor. Boston Post, Nov. 15.

Hon. William Hill has been re-elected by the Legislature, Secretary of the State of North Carolina, an office he is said to have held for over fifty years. A bill granting universal suffrage, in accordance with the State Constitution, has been reported in the Senate. At present to vote for a State Senator, the voter must own fifty acres of land.

An Elective Judiciary was ordered in Connecticut at the recent election. Term—eight years and no service after 70. In a State capable of sending 80,000 voters to the polls, only 13,352 took the trouble to give an opinion one way or the other.—There were 7,290 votes for and 6,062 against.

The receipts of the New York State Temperance Society for the past year from donations amounted to \$13,048.—Five persons—Erastus Corning and E. C. Delavan, of Albany, Charles Butler, of New York, Gerrit Smith, of Madison county, and Dr. Nutt, of Schenectady, gave \$1000 each. The whole amount was expended in the publication of Temperance papers and documents.

It was reported that Patrick Burke was killed on the railroad at Pattertown.—His wife recognized the body, had it handsomely coffined and washed, and was following it to Calvary Cemetery, New York city, when the live Patrick himself met the funeral—and the corpse was sent to the dead house for recognition.

Art has suffered a great loss in the death of one of the most illustrious of its French devotees, Paul Delaroc, the painter of "Cromwell at the Coffin of Charles I." and other pictures well known in England, from engravings. He died November 5, after some three weeks' illness.

The Courier and Enquirer gives a list of the vessels launched at New York since the 1st of January. They are fifty-six in number—thirty-six of them are sailing vessels and the remaining twenty steamers.

A LONG RANGE.—Some soldiers who were firing a Minie rifle at a target at Magdeburg, Saxony, at a distance of 1000 paces, hit and mortally wounded a laborer at work 700 paces beyond. A sheep was accidentally killed in England with the Enfield rifle from a distance of 2,500 yards.