

# The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OREGON CITY:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1857.

We have been absent nearly two weeks, and have just returned from the Albany convention. This of course accounts for lack of editorial this week and last. The convention was well attended, considering the almost unprecedented stormy weather we have experienced for the last fifteen days. The proceedings were characterized by harmony and good feeling, while all seemed to be actuated by a oneness of purpose. The platform which we publish to day is plain and specific, and we ask every man to read it, and then say whether there is a sentiment contained in it that any true patriot cannot endorse. We are satisfied that no honest man who really loves his country, who is not blinded by party prejudice, and who knows what it is that makes a people prosperous and happy, can refuse to stand upon such a political platform. Each resolution was unanimously passed by the members, excepting the second, which was dissented from by two delegates from Multnomah, and this was objected to only as a matter of policy.

We shall have more to say about this platform at a future time.

### To Correspondents.

E. Cox, Sandy.—Yes, send on the names.

We have several communications on hand which we have not been able to look over since our return home. We shall publish such as are of interest. Some who write for us may never see their productions in print, for the reason that we differ in opinion with them as to the expediency of publishing. Like "bro. Mattoon," (peace to his ashes!) we always "reserve to ourself the right of judging of the nature of publication." We sometimes publish articles, however, that, like Jake Fullwider, go in with a "tight squeeze."

The present month has so far been the most unsufferably stormy one for February that we have ever seen in Oregon. We have looked in vain thus far for those beautiful sunny days that have hitherto almost invariably gladdened the heart during the month of February. We predict a change of weather in a day or two.

We have scarcely ever seen as many poor cattle in the Valley at one time as we saw during our recent ride of a hundred and forty miles up country. The stock in the prairie country is much thinner than in the timbered regions. The cold pelting storms to which cattle on the prairies are constantly exposed, added to a great scarcity of feed, have already killed hundreds of cattle, and thousands more look as though the ravens were about to foreclose a mortgage on them. The fact is, more attention must be paid hereafter to providing food and shelter for stock.

We hear complaints that our paper seldom reaches Lafayette till a week behind the Portland papers. We send our mail to Portland on Saturday by the Jennie Clark, and, if it does not reach Lafayette with the Portland mail, it is owing to the shameful negligence, miserable ignorance, or wilful dereliction on the part of some contemptible postmaster, who deserves to be put to grubbing potatoes under the fir logs in Jones' field at the head of the Portland Canyon.

The Sentinel complains that the mail is "toted" to and from Jacksonville on horseback, in "old rotten sacks, without locks, and tied up with tow strings." Well, that is all in very good keeping with the "rotten" matter sent off by the "rotten" organs of "rotten" officials, appointed by a "rotten" administration.

A mulatto barber named John Collins was lynched in Jacksonville a few weeks since, and, after receiving forty lashes, was shot by some person with a pistol in the cheek. The mulatto bids fair to recover. The crime he was guilty of we have not learned.

A man named Driscoll, formerly from Illinois, was shot in the streets of Jacksonville by a person named R. L. Williams.—Driscoll is dead, and Williams is at large.

Bro. Pearne congratulates himself upon the fact that some circuit rider has been sufficiently successful to pick up ten new subscribers to the Advocate during his peregrinations. Why, bro. P., more than three times that number of men have voluntarily come forward and subscribed for The Argus within the last few days, and we have not thought of making any fuss about it.

### Turned Up.

G. D. R. Boyd, of penitentiary and Scottsburg notoriety, has turned up in Iowa, where he has started a dingy, dirty little black democratic sheet called the "Powschick Gazette." From the name we should judge it was published at some Indian village. Alas for the poor Indians, if Boyd has gone among them as a loco-foco missionary. His paper certainly won't refine them much.

L. D. Kent was drowned in South Umpqua on the 20th of January. Mr. K. leaves a family.

### Proceedings of the Free State Republican Convention at Albany, Feb. 11th, 1857.

Convention met at the Court House on the 11th, and was called to order by L. Holmes of Clackamas. On motion, Hon. W. T. Matlock of Clackamas was chosen President of the Convention, and L. Holmes secretary. On taking the chair the President made a few appropriate remarks.

On motion, the sec'y called a list of the counties, and the following delegates presented their credentials and took seats in the Convention.

Multnomah—S. Coffin, Chas. Carter, and Mr. Limerick.

Clackamas—W. T. Matlock, W. L. Adams, and L. Holmes.

Washington—H. H. Hicklin.

Yamhill—John McBride, Gillmore, Brooks, Daniels, and Odell.

Linn—T. S. Kendall, J. Connor, J. P. Tate, John Smith, James Gray, William Marks, and David Lambert.

Umpqua—Elisha L. Applegate, Polk—John B. Bell.

Benton—Wm. Miller, and L. Young.

On motion, each county represented was entitled to a vote in the convention equal to double its representation in the Territorial Legislature.

On motion, all persons not delegates were requested to participate in the debates of the Convention.

On motion, L. Holmes, S. Coffin, McBride, T. S. Kendall, Wm. Miller, E. L. Applegate, Hicklin, and Bell of their respective counties, were selected as a Committee on Platform and Resolutions, to report to Convention at 3 P. M., to which time Convention adjourned.

Afternoon session.—Convention met pursuant to adjournment. On motion, committee on Platform and Resolutions was asked if they were ready to report.—The secretary read the report of the committee which was accepted. On motion of Mr. Holmes the Convention took up the report to act upon it *seriatim*.—Which occupied the attention of the Convention during the afternoon and evening sessions, which after thorough and much interesting discussion resulted in the adoption of the following platform of political principles:

### PLATFORM OF THE FREE STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

1. Resolved, That we are in favor of the perpetuity of the American Union, of the principles of the Declaration of Independence and of the Constitution of the United States, and that we recognize these three as the basis of our political creed.

2. Resolved, That while we deny the Constitutional power of Congress to interfere with the question of Slavery in the States where it exists, yet, believing the institution is only evil in its effects and consequences, therefore we deprecate its extension over any territory of the United States now free; and we believe it the imperative duty of Congress to prohibit by positive law the existence of polygamy in all her territories.

3. Resolved, That this Convention is in favor of the admission of Oregon into the Union, only as a free State.

4. Resolved, That we are in favor of appropriations either in money or lands by Congress for the immediate construction of a Central Pacific Railroad across our Continent.

5. Resolved, That we are in favor of appropriations by Congress for the improvement of rivers and harbors of a national character, which are necessary for the protection of the commerce, lives, and property of our fellow-citizens.

6. Resolved, That we are in favor of the application of the Bounty Land law to the volunteers engaged in the last Indian war of Oregon.

7. Resolved, That there is no real difference of policy as to the true interests of Oregon dividing honest Whigs, Democrats, Republicans, and Americans, who have had the manly independence to resist the political errors of the powers that be; and therefore most cordially invite all such independent citizens to unite with us in removing from the hands of the present "rotten faction" the political power they have usurped and abused, and restore it to the "sovereign people," in whom rests all true political power.

8. Resolved, That we believe the union of all free and independent citizens of Oregon of all parties is necessary to secure the adoption of a free State constitution for Oregon. We, therefore, whether heretofore known as Democrats, Whigs, Republicans, or Americans, do announce ourselves as the "Free State Republican party of Oregon," and as such will fight the political battle of freedom.

Upon which, the Convention adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock Thursday morning.

Thursday.—Convention met at 9 A. M.

On motion by Mr. Holmes, a "Free State Republican Executive Committee" of five were elected for the Territory of Oregon; that they should have the power to call Territorial meetings, appoint the ratio of representation to said meetings from the various counties, and do all other matters and things necessary to the well being and success of the Free State Republican party of Oregon.

On motion by L. Holmes, this Convention earnestly recommended to each county of the Territory the immediate organization by electing an "Executive county committee," auxiliary to the "Territorial Executive committee," to further the objects and carry out more perfectly the principles of our organization.

On motion, Convention elected J. B. Condon, John Connor, T. S. Kendall, E. L. Applegate, and Thos. Pope, as the Territorial Executive committee.

On motion, W. L. Adams, Thos. Pope, and S. Coffin, were selected to prepare an address to the people of Oregon.

After the thanks of the Convention

were tendered to the officers, and to the citizens of Albany for their hospitality, the Convention adjourned sine die.

W. T. MATLOCK, Pres't.  
L. HOLMES, Sec'y.

### For the Argus.

The Course of Chapman's Pitt-Peddler, and Detention and Williams, &c.

Friend Adams—After the winter we have had at Salem, I feel like jotting down a few thoughts, as we will probably never see it like again. Such a winter! Such scenes! Such political leaders! Amazing!! Humiliating!!! How men will humble themselves for political purposes! Witness the unhappy fall of Judge Williams. Two years ago the Judge had the confidence of the entire people of Oregon, as no other man ever had. He was regarded as pure in morals and able on the bench. But how fallen now! Chapman's organ says he performed all the drudgery of getting up the supper for the indecent row of the 8th January. And, lest Delusion Smith should outdo him in going all lengths for the faction, the judge stuck to the spree, and made speeches, to the last.—And he even showed that he was willing to become a proscriptive tyrant by attempting to ruin the business of an honest citizen because he is not willing to take his paper on his back, and get down on his narrow bones in the mud like Judge Williams, and shout lustily, "Great is bushocracy of Oregon!" Time was when judges of courts were considered sacred to justice, and they were regarded as officially excluded from ordinary politics. And, truly, if Judge Deady made the remark attributed to him, that that place was no place for a Judge, he betrayed a correct conception of his dignified official position. But Judge Williams is a fallen man. He has gone down to Delusion's level, and henceforth he stands before the people of Oregon not in the dignified character of chief justice, but in that of a low politician, seeking political preferment, in association with the lowest of political gamblers.

Again, how humiliating the conduct of the Legislative Assembly! Who ever heard of Legislators of a free country coming down from their exalted position, to blackball an unskilful printer, who chose his own editorial course of conduct? After this, if Deland continues to claim fellowship with Chapman's medicine agent, Smith & Co., he will certainly be entitled to a gold medal as a reward for superior meekness.

And even the audacity of the attempt to run down Col. Kelley, so as to keep him out of the way of Smith and Williams, is humiliating. It would appear that a man must pocket conscience and independence, or be proscribed. May a kind Providence save Oregon from the mortification of such delinquency and despotism!

CATO.

### News.

"We may say perhaps, without egotism, that we are making a good newspaper."—Advocate.

It is refreshing to know there is one man of that opinion.

The Standard is having a dreadful time of it with Delusion Smith. Smith is trying to stop the paper, and can't, because he still owes \$3.00.

If at first you don't succeed, Try, try again—Delusion.

The Sentinel says that a piece of gold weighing twenty-four pounds avoirdupois was recently taken out on Sucker Creek in Rogus River, by McDonald and company.

The mines are said to be doing pretty well generally.

### CANEMAR, Feb. 17, 1857.

W. L. Adams, Esq.—DEAR SIR: Day Fouts (alias "Uncle Billy") has to-day butchered two hogs of his own raising and fattening, the largest weighing 520 lbs. net, and the smallest weighing 325 lbs. net; whole amount 845 lbs. Canemah can't be beat readily in raising a No. 1 stock. Yours, &c., JOHN P. BROOKS.

P. S.—There were four citizens of Canemah that attended to the weighing.

We hope "Uncle Billy" will give us an invitation to the "hog killing," the next time he slaughters such grunters. Such specimens are certainly rare in Oregon.

In Louisiana, it appears that there is a precinct in Alexandria, known as "the ten mile precinct" controlled entirely by a colony of free negroes, who at the last election voted unanimously for Buchanan, Fillmore getting the vote of the only white man in the place. The Alexandria American considers it an outrage that these persons should be allowed to vote, but is glad they voted as they did.

NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE.—Mr. J. W. Sullivan has established a newspaper agency in California, in the management of which he has displayed the most unexampled energy and enterprise. He pays no attention to mail failures but hires his own express whenever necessary and rushes the news through with wonderful speed. His mails comprise fully one-half of the semi-monthly mails to California.—In every town and mining camp he has agents, through whom he distributes the enormous amount of reading matter he receives from the Atlantic and Europe.—He has also established an individual express via Nicaragua. As an evidence of his untiring energy, a few weeks ago the mail steamer having arrived just as the mailboat left for the interior and before the mail was delivered, Mr. Sullivan made up

his mails and chartered a steamer for Sacramento, which left at midnight on Saturday, and arrived at noon on Sunday. The interior stages having left, wagons were immediately chartered, and in half an hour the Western, Southern, and Marysville packages were en route for their destinations. This enterprise involved a cost of over \$800. This is a very large outlay for a newspaper agency upon a single delivery; but such is the enterprise of this agent that he will not allow even Uncle Sam to outstrip him.—Ex.

NEW KANSAS BILL.—The following is the bill introduced in the Senate on Tuesday, by Mr. Wilson, amendatory of an act passed May 30, 1854, entitled "An act to organize the Territory of Nebraska and Kansas."

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the one hundred and fifty-first chapter of the alleged 'Laws of the Territory of Kansas,' entitled, 'An act to punish offences against slave property,' with all such other provisions of that code as recognize and protect Slavery in said Territory, and all provisions which establish official oaths other than those specified in the organic act, or which require any test in regard to Slavery or the Fugitive Slave Law, to be applied to attorneys, jurors, voters, or which suspend the writ of *habeas corpus*, or which allows any other than actual residents of said Territory to vote, or which allows jurors to be selected in any other manner than by lot, or which punish citizens of said Territory by chaining them together, and exposing them to labor on the public works, with iron chains and balls attached to them, be, and the same are hereby declared inoperative and void."

AREZONIA BRIEFLY DESCRIBED.—A want of water, a scarcity of soil, an excess of gravel, a superfluity of serpents, and a paucity of population, are the distinguishing characteristics of that portion of the Gadsden Purchase, proposed to be erected into a territory now, and into a State soon after, under the name of Arizona. F. A. Cook is the amateur delegate about the House of Representatives of these serpents in excess and people in deficiency.—Behind him are the engineers of a new scheme for a new State, and two not new United States Senators—friends of the South. The "Compromise" dodge will probably be tried on this wretched offer of this wretched region, to enter the republican household. A portion of California will be chopped off, and added to it, to make its claim to be regarded as a State less absurd than it now is.

The "whopper" that Arizona has ten thousand people in it, is equalled only by the pretence that it has mines of gold and bills of gems. It has only thirt, gravel, snakes, centipides, cactus plants and misery. Appertenant to these are at the outside one thousand Indians, Mexicans and half breeds. A state full of them would fester in any political atmosphere. Such as they now are, Jack Ketch would be their fittest Governor, and the gallows their most saving institution.—Albany Journal, Dec. 13.

### Coming Events Cast their Shadows Before.

The ultimate preponderance of Northern ideas and Northern institutions in this North American Republic is inevitable.—Instead of blinking the fact, the Southern States might as well look at it as a certain future event, and prepare their minds to abide by such consequences as may follow from the fact. The South Carolina politicians have long foreseen the impending result, and have been devising their remedy for the evils they suppose it will entail. Their remedy is *disunion* and the formation of a Southern confederacy of entirely homogeneous elements. The remedy is revolting to all national minds; but it must be admitted that in certain contingencies disunion would not only be a political necessity, but an acceptable duty. The wisdom of Solomon spoke the proper rule of life: "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith." And again: "Better is a dry morsel and quietness therewith, than a house full of sacrifices, with strife."

The Northern mind, we assume, is set upon one thing—that African slavery shall never be extended into any territory of the Union that was once free. Perhaps the Northern platform in 1850 will be—"No more slave States to be admitted into the Union, no matter of what territory formed." The Southern platform will be—"The right of the South to the national expansion of the slave system, along with the expansion of Southern population into any of the Territories of the Union."

At the late election the South was able to check the Northern party; but it was owing in great part to the unequal representation of the different States in the Electoral College. The electoral vote of each State is fixed by the representation of that State in the Congress of the United States, and the ratio of Congressional representation changes with every decennial apportionment bill. It is quite evident that after the next national census and apportionment, the political power of the Government will be wholly at the North. Even Pennsylvania, if she remains true to the South and to national principles, could not save the country from the predominance of Northern sentiments. A few facts which we find well condensed in a Boston paper will establish this fact fully.

The largest Congressional District in the United States, is the second district in Wisconsin. The actual average for Con-

gressional districts is from eight to fifteen thousand votes, but this district at the late election voted thus for Representative:

C. Billingshurst, R-republican,	25,800
H. C. Hubart, Buchanan,	23,418
Total vote,	49,218

This is enormous, and well illustrates the prodigious growth of Wisconsin within the last five years. By the next census, that district will undoubtedly be entitled to at least three Representatives in Congress.

Wisconsin voted for the Northern can didate by 12,000 majority. She will have double the vote in the next electoral college that she had in the late election.

[But it must be remembered that at the Presidential election in 1850 each State will have the same vote in the Electoral College as at present, as the census will not be completed in time to change the apportionment for the election in that year.]

The popular vote of New York at the late election was 595,180, choosing 35 Electors of President and Vice President. The aggregate popular vote of North Carolina, Alabama, Vermont, Mississippi, California, Arkansas, Louisiana, Maryland, New Hampshire, Texas, Delaware, and Florida, was 593,978; they choose 68 Electors.

New York gave her vote for Northern, or anti-slave State sentiments, by 75,000 majority. And New York casts more votes already than the combined vote of ten of the fifteen slave States.

But, to take a more comprehensive view, let us give the grouping of the Boston paper:

One of the most remarkable features in the Presidential election just past, is the large increase of votes in the new States, especially in the Northwestern States of Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. These indicate an immense increase in the population of all those States, and show that the balance of power, so far as numerical strength can give it, is fast tending North and West.—The official vote of Iowa, just received, is as follows:	
Fremont,	44,127
Buchanan,	36,241
Fillmore,	9,144
Total,	89,512
In 1852 it voted as follows:	
Scott,	15,855
Pierre,	17,792
Hale,	1,905
Total,	35,552

This shows an increase since November, 1852, of 57,550, or about one hundred and fifty-five per cent.

The following table will exhibit the aggregate vote cast in five of the Northwestern States in 1852, compared with that thrown in the same States in 1850, and the net increase:

	1852.	1850.	Net inc.
Wisconsin,	55,593	119,437	63,509
Iowa,	35,222	89,812	54,590
Michigan,	82,939	125,558	42,619
Illinois,	155,497	238,975	83,478
Indiana,	183,134	235,434	52,300

Total, 512,600 899,186 286,496  
Percentage of increase—Wisconsin 114, Iowa 155, Michigan 51, Illinois 53, Indiana 40; total 60.

Assuming the votes cast in the above States to have been about one to every six persons, and we have in these States alone a population of nearly five millions, and a representative population entitling them, at the present ratio, to fifty-five representatives, where they now have only twenty-nine. If the present rate of increase in these States proceeds four years longer, as there is no good reason to doubt that it will continue, these five States will contain a population of more than eight millions, and be entitled to a representation in Congress of more than twice their present number, even with a largely increased ratio of representation. A ratio of 120,000 would entitle these States to a representation of about sixty, or more than one fourth of the whole House. In this connection we must remember also, that Minnesota is entitled by her population, now estimated at 200,000, to be admitted as a State. By the time of the next census, Minnesota, at her present rate of increase, will possess a population of half a million, and be entitled to at least four Representatives.

As the number of the House of Representatives is limited by the law of Congress to 234 members, it is obvious that a large increase in the representation of the new States will necessarily be at the expense of the older ones. It will be interesting, therefore, to see where these losses will fall. Until the next census shall determine the exact population of the several States, this will remain, to some extent, a matter of conjecture. It is, however, easy to see that no small portion of it will fall upon the central slave States of Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee, all of which States are very nearly stationary, and portions of which are even retrograde. South Carolina is now allowed one Representative more than she is entitled to, and an increase in the ratio proportionate to the increase of the population of the Union will hardly fail to reduce the Palmetto State to one half of her present representation.—Virginia has now thirteen Representatives. Its ratio of increase during the past thirty years has at no time exceeded fifteen per centum in any one decade, and between 1830 and 1840 it was nearly stationary. An increase of 35 per centum to the ratio of representation would, at this rate of increase, reduce her to ten Representatives.

Maryland would be reduced from six to four; North Carolina from eight to five, and so on. One or two of the Southern States, such as Texas and Arkansas, may gain in representation, but nearly every other slaveholding State, except of course Florida and Delaware, which have nothing to lose, will hardly be able to hold their own, and many will sustain positive losses. The relative position of the free and slave States in the House, after 1860, can of course only be loosely estimated, but no calculation based upon the laws of change, as indicated by the several enumerations of increase, can make the proportion less than very nearly two to one in favor of the free States. The present Congress contains 90 Representatives from the slave States, and 144 from the free States. After 1860 it will be, as nearly as can be guessed, 75 to 160.

Now, what will be the prevailing political sentiments of the Northern States after 1860? Whatever they may be, the same will define and control the policy of the Federal Union. If the Republican platform of the late canvass, which avows non-interference with slavery where it is, but its non-extension into new Territories, shall be the future and final policy of the North, the Union may stand. But it will be with a struggle; for South Carolina will in that event, inevitably move for a *Southern Confederacy*, and the issue of that movement will fix the future destiny of this Republic.—St. Louis Intelligencer.

### BRIDGING THE OHIO AT CINCINNATI.

The construction of the towers for the suspension bridge over the Ohio at Cincinnati is progressing. The towers, of which both foundations are now laid, eighty-six by fifty-two feet at the base, will be two hundred and thirty feet high and one thousand and six feet apart. The cables will be anchored three hundred feet back on each side of the river, pass over the tops of the towers, and thus be made to sustain the weight of the bridge. The entire span will therefore be sixteen hundred and six feet, a little short of one-third of a mile.—The elevation of the floor at the middle above low-water mark will be one hundred and twenty-two feet. The great flood of 1832—the highest on record—rose sixty-two feet above low-water; and, making allowance even for this, there will remain sixty feet, which is considerably more than will be required for the highest steamboat pipes on the river.

Florida barks as loudly as the biggest of them. Her Governor is out of patience with the free States; he cannot tolerate them; they are grasping, usurping, must be resisted. The election of Buchanan is a mere truce—in peace prepare for war—the crisis will come. Florida will yet be the radiating center of the mighty Southern Confederacy, which is to embrace Cuba and the West Indies generally, Mexico, and Central America!—Wonderful State! Prophetic Governor! Would it be believed that this future radiating center cast a total vote at the last Presidential election of 11,211—not so large as the majority in one of the nine districts of Illinois for a R-republican member to Congress. The editor of the West Florida Times, published at Pensacola ridiculing the magnificence of the Governor says, the whole revenue of the State scarcely exceeds the private income of an Alabama gentleman; but it is refreshing to know that for the last eight years it has been rapidly increasing, at the rate of *two hundred dollars a year*.—National Era.

### THE SHIP OF THE LINE PENNSYLVANIA.

The splendid line-of-battle ship Pennsylvania, now lying at Norfolk, and used as a receiving vessel, was a wonder of naval architecture when she was launched at our Navy Yard in 1837. Our many triumphs in the building of steam vessels since that period have caused us to lose sight of a specious craft, then the pride of our marine. The Pennsylvania never had an opportunity of displaying her qualities in sailing or in delivering a broad-side into an enemy. The superiority of steam vessels will not admit of a doubt; but there is no sufficient reason for allowing such a monarch of the seas to rot at Norfolk, when it might be fitted up to add greatly to the strength of a navy never very powerful, considering the extent of our coast and our commercial marine. We are glad to learn that there is some probability that the Navy Department will soon take proper action in the matter. It is proposed to cut off the upper deck of the ship, lengthen her, and convert her into a propeller. The capacity of the Pennsylvania at present may be judged from the statement that she can carry six months' provisions and water for twelve hundred men, and a heavier armament than any other vessel in the service.—Philadelphia Journal, Dec. 11.

Near Edith, (S. C.) says the Mobile Advertiser, a crop is about to be gathered of four acres of snufflowers. The seed will be used for oil and to feed cattle and poultry, as in the South of France; but the chief object is to obtain the fibres of the stalks for paper making. If the cultivation succeeds it is expected to supply abundant materials for fine writing and printing paper, as well as fine and coarse paper hanging.

Virtue is no security in this world.—What can be more upright than pumpkins and editors? Yet both are destined to be bored.