

The Oregon Argus.

—A Weekly Newspaper, devoted to the Principles of Jeffersonian Democracy, and advocating the side of Truth in every issue.—

VOL. II.

OREGON CITY, OREGON, MARCH 28, 1857.

No. 50.

ADVERTISING RATES. One square (12 lines or less) one insertion, \$2.00

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 additions suited to all the requirements of the locality.

News from the Atlantic States.

NEW YORK February 20th.—The inquisition into the Bardell murder was closed on the 14th of February after a session of fourteen days, during all which time New York was agitated by intense excitement. The jury returned a verdict against John J. Eckell and Mrs. Cunningham as principals, and young Snodgrass as accessory. The case is now before the Grand Jury. It is said that some new and startling developments have been made before this body, and that the Police are on the track of other suspected parties.

A case of murder scarcely less atrocious than that of Bardell, occurred last week at Hingham Mass., where Hosea G. Gardner, the postmaster of that town, died from poison, supposed to have been administered by his wife. Gardner had been sick for a long time, and the facts elicited on the inquisition showed that the poison was administered in his medicine. The testimony is very strong against his wife, and she has been committed for trial.

The examination of Col. Fabens and other alleged filibusters is still progressing, having continued for nearly three weeks. An attempt was made by the defence to implicate President Pierce and his private Secretary in the Kinney expedition, by showing that he accepted a gratuitous grant of a large tract of land in the Mosquito territory. A letter from Attorney General Cushing totally denied the imputation on behalf of the President.—Sidney Webster, his Secretary, however, acknowledged that he had received from certain parties scrip for a large slice of the Kinney Mosquito purchase, but states that he immediately returned it.

The President last week sent to the Senate the correspondence relative to the Indian difficulties in Oregon. In a letter accompanying the documents, the President strongly censures the conduct of Governor Stevens in the premises.

It is stated in a letter from Mexico, that on Jan. 31st, a treaty was signed between Mexico and the United States, by which this Government is to loan Mexico \$15,000,000—\$3,000,000 of which go to pay American claims.

The Senate at Washington, on Wednesday, passed a bill to ascertain and settle private land claims in California. THE DALLAS-CLARENDON TREATY. WASHINGTON, February 20.—In the executive session yesterday, the Senate agreed to reconsider the vote by which the Dallas-Clarendon Treaty was postponed till March 5.

Hon. John R. Thomson, the Democratic candidate, has been re-elected to the United States Senate by the Legislature of New Jersey. He received fifty votes; Jonathan T. Randolph, American, twenty; and Richard S. Field, Republican, six.

In the United States Senate on the 18th Feb., notice was given of the introduction of bills for the construction of a Northern, Southern and Central Pacific Railroad and Magnetic Telegraph through the Territories of the United States.

A dispatch received at New York by H. Ginnell, Esq., states that Dr. Kane has probably departed this life. He was at Havana at last dates.

There have been about twenty convictions during the last year for the forgery of land warrants. Mr. Stueckel, the Russian Charge d'Affairs at Washington, has been promoted to full Minister.

FROM NICARAGUA. ASPINWALL, Feb. 21, 1857.

The British steamer Trent arrived here at noon, with news from Greytown up to the 20th Feb. News had reached Greytown that Walker had re-possessed himself of Serapiqui, having attacked that place on the 13th with 200 men and two 9-pounders. The Costa Ricans held out till the following day, when they left. Walker's army lost 2 men killed and 3 wounded—the Costa Ricans 14 killed and 20 wounded. There was also news of the fall of Castillo into the possession of Walker's army, with a loss of 8 killed and 20 wounded.—The Costa Ricans are supposed to have lost about 32 killed and 60 wounded.

In order to explain the above, we may state that it was not the force immediately under Gen. Walker's command, (which still remained at Rivas, but the new recruits recently arrived at Greytown from the United States, under Gen. Wheat, who succeeded in making these captives. They were bound up the river to join Walker. Their next engagement with the allies will doubtless be at San Carlos, at the mouth of the Lake.

The Aspinwall Courier publishes several letters from Nicaragua respecting the capture of Serapiqui and Castillo, and it has also a statement that San Carlos had been taken by Walker's forces. The Panama Star, on the authority of Col. Kinney, who came by the steamer Trent, says that the report of Walker's party having taken Castillo is incorrect.

Place, wearied with the monotonous wonders of Nineveh, set off with his accented enthusiasm in search of new discoveries, in a region celebrated in classical history. On his way an incident occurred, which proves to what a degree the statements of history respecting the locality are the simple truth. The escort of Mr. Place dismantled when they reached the field of Arbela, following the example of the Consul, who wished to study the battle-field; and this he was obliged to do standing, as Turkish etiquette permits no one to remain seated in his saddle. Soon, however, he mounted again, in order to scour the plain, and the escort did the same, except a single Turk of enormous proportions, who followed on foot, puffing and bathed in sweat. Mr. Place, pitying him for his sad plight, asked him if he did this because he preferred walking to riding.

"By no means," replied the Turk; "but I am unable to remount my horse, because I need the help of a stone in order to regain my stirrup, and who can find a single stone in all the plain of Gingarnella?"

Now, it is well known that Darius employed 300,000 men for many days in leveling this plain, and in breaking whatever would interpose an obstacle to his cavalry and chariots of war. In the center of the old battle-field of Arbela rises a hill of colossal dimensions, whose object the party vainly conjectured, thinking it might be a tomb, or a triumphal monument, or more likely both. Unfortunately they had not time to examine it, nor the appliances necessary for exploring it.

Passing on, Mr. Place and his party at length discovered what they believed to be nothing less than the veritable remains of the Tower of Babel—the wonder of wonders, and the grandest spectacle which the eyes of men can contemplate in this age of the world. This proud tower, which was built in defiance of Heaven, and aimed to pierce the very skies, has lost, in the course of ages, its cloud-reaching elevation. Six of its eight stories have fallen and crumbled into dust; but the two which remain are so high that they may be seen for fifty or sixty miles around. The base of the tower is quadrangular, and each side about six hundred feet long. The tower is made of bricks of the purest clay and of a white color, which is a little shaded with a yellow tint. Under a clear sun, and as a whole, this ancient monument of human skill and daring presents a fine blending of colors, which sets the painter's pallet at defiance. Before being baked, the bricks had been covered with characters traced with the accuracy of the hand of a writing master. Near the top of the letters the straight strokes were adorned with flourishes resembling the heads of tails. All was neat, regular and severe; and, indeed, those who saw these specimens of ancient calligraphy affirm that the fathers of the human race wrote a better hand than their children.

Another curious fact arrested the attention of the exploring party. The sacred record ran thus:—"And it came to pass as they journeyed from the East that they found a plain in the valley of Shinar, and they dwelt there. And they said one to another—Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly; and they had brick for stone, (or instead of stone) and slime had they for mortar." Modern sceptics may ask: Where could these builders obtain all this bitumen? for a vast quantity must have been demanded to meet the wants of so many crowds. It is a singular coincidence that Mr. Place discovered a fountain at a small distance from the tower, whose waters flow in such abundance as almost to form a river. The stream would force its way into a river in the vicinity, did not the people hasten to stop it by setting the bituminous flood on fire, when they tranquilly wait till the fire is extinguished for the want of aliment.—Thus the old fountain still pours out inexhaustible quantities of bitumen, or slime, which supplied these old buildings in their vast enterprise. Bitumen also adds to the durability of bricks, as well as firmly consolidates them in masonry. Could anything be added to the marvel of the coincidences? Thus travels and expeditions in Assyria become Biblical corollaries, and new proofs are never wanting of old truths.

Among the interesting discoveries of Mr. Place were certain inscriptions on fillets of gold, silver, and copper, and also upon a metal now unknown, and which has somewhat the appearance of ivory. It has been submitted to the experiments of an intelligent metallurgist, and its qualities will soon be ascertained. Some very curious photographs, taken by the expedition, completed their labors, one of which was of the ruins of the palace of the famous Queen Semiramis.—This ancient monument, situated on the height of a mountain raised by the hands of men, overlooks the awful solitudes which surround Lake Van—a body of

water six or seven times larger than Lake Geneva. It is not strange that a gentleman who had seen and handled some of the articles brought from the Tower of Babel by Mr. Place, should be excited as he says he was: "In relation to archaeological news I take the liberty to inform you that I have just seen the oldest things of the old world.—Indeed, I do not know that I should be more surprised by seeing the fragments of the ark itself. Fancy to yourself that I have just touched and held in my hand, and turned and turned again in every way, a little morceau of the Tower of Babel! This trinket of moulded clay, illustrated and baked by the sons of Noah, has passed from the plain of Shinar to the chapel of St. Mesmin, and is the fruit of the strokes of the hammer in the hand of Mr. Place, our learned and enterprising Consul, to whom I am indebted for a sight of this precious relic, about which cluster so many grand souvenirs."

I will only add, that if your readers wish to obtain a distinct and accurate idea of the region referred to, in which lies the battle field of Arbela, and the plain of Shinar, they should open their atlas and survey the country between Mosul on the Tigris, and Lake Van, south-east of Mount Ararat. It was natural that the sons of Noah, descending from Ararat, should commence their agricultural labors in the fertile and well-watered plain of Shinar, lying to the East where, in terrible remembrance of the flood, they vainly and impiously attempted a work which should protect them from the recurrence of disaster. Recently, I met an English gentleman, Major Frazer, who belonged to the staff of General Williams, the hero of Kars, who, with three or four other Englishmen, had gained the summit of Mount Ararat—the first feat of the kind since the children of Noah descended from it. Thus, by a singular coincidence, about the same time, the sacred summit was reached where the ark rested, and the tower discovered which was erected on the plain at its base.

Chinese Implements of War. A gentleman writing from China, under recent date, gives the following description of Chinese implements of war, which may not prove entirely uninteresting at this time when there is a strong probability of our having a protracted war with the people, ourselves: War being the order of the day in China, a sketch of their implements I presume will be acceptable. THE REGULAR CANNON.—Of these they have some very large as well as smaller.—These are placed on frames, capable of elevation or depression, and fired with a match. They appear nearest like our war instruments of any thing I have seen them use of their own make. SECOND RATE CANNON.—These, called by foreigners "jingalls," are carried each by two men, and eight or ten feet long, with a ball from one ounce to one pound weight, and fired with a match by one of the carriers off the other's shoulder. SMALL ARMS OR GUNS.—These are rather of the musket kind, smooth bored, and discharged with a match-lock as the others. No fire-locks, caps, or such modern improvements here. These are very crude in appearance, loaded without a ramrod, the powder dropped in and ball on top of it, and of course discharged with little precision. BOWS AND ARROWS.—These, the most primitive instruments of warfare thousands of years ago, are still used here as one of the principal parts of their armor in hostile combat. The bows are made of bamboo spliced with horn, the strings of sinews, and the arrows of light wood, feathered and steeled. SHORT GUNS WITH LONG BARRELS.—The short gun is loaded in the hand, let into the long barrel, which being on a pivot directs the course, and is fired with a match. We have nothing of this kind. SPEARS AND SWORDS.—Spears, with one, two or three prongs, placed on long poles or bamboos, are much used by them. Also swords, for closer combat, some with two edges, some in pairs. A sword in each hand they much admire and desire. BAMBOO GUNS.—We have nothing like these, even in child play. They are simply a thick, strong bamboo bound with rattan, loaded with powder and some kind of combustible, with touch hole at the lower end. They are about three feet long and only capable of one discharge and then, I presume, of little execution. STINK POT AND FIRE BALLS.—These are generally used in boarding a vessel.—This species of warfare, I presume, is carried on by the pole-cat principle; adding fire-balls to a strong smell, thereby scorching the feet as well as the nose, and causing the opponent to make himself scarce. THEIR DEFENCE.—They have a bamboo hat to ward off the sword and spear and a bamboo shield for their arm and body, from two to three feet in diameter. STRATAGEM.—They are much more inclined to stratagem, than to open fair field fighting. They often endeavor to fire a fleet by floating down a fire-rat among them. By flourishing their flags they endeavor to intimidate. But their great stratagem consists in catching the chaps at unawares, condemning them with little or no trial, tying their hands behind them, cutting off their heads with a broad heavy knife, made for the purpose. The

mandarins are best pleased with this kind of warfare, provided they be the judges and the masters of the ceremony.

But upon the whole, a Chinese army and battle, taking their appearance, equipment, manœuvring, fighting and running, altogether, compared with modern warriors and warfare among American and European nations, are superlatively ridiculous.—And in these respects, having great room for improvement, much may be expected in the new government anticipated.

The Wonders of the Telegraph. When the submarine telegraph is completed, for which one of our fellow-citizens is laboring in London, (Cyrus W. Field,) we shall see the following results, growing out of the difference of about four hours and three quarters between London and New York time. The stock exchange in London will have closed, and the last quotations be known in New York, by the time business in Wall street has commenced. An important speech delivered in the English Parliament will be reported in the New York papers of the same evening. A division on some great question may occur while the inhabitants of London are in their first sleep; but the instantaneous news will be circulating in a New York journal while life is flowing at its full tide in the Atlantic city. The "good night" of the New York telegraph clerk, as he goes off duty at midnight, will find his European colleagues at work, with the summer sun already an hour on his journey to the west. Says an English paper before us: "About one thousand nine hundred and forty miles of the Atlantic ocean intervene between St. John's and Valencia, the most western harbor in Ireland; and to stretch an electric cable between the two points is the great problem. It is required to be of the enormous length of nearly three thousand miles in order to allow for inequalities in the bed of the Atlantic.—The survey of the ground has just been completed, and the American government took so much interest in the enterprise that it placed a ship of war at the disposal of the telegraph company. The engineers and surveyors have an accurate ground plan of the bottom of the sea between Newfoundland and Ireland, which is reported to be highly favorable. Mr. Edward B. Bright, of the Magnetic Telegraph Company, has just visited the harbor of Valencia and its neighborhood, with a view of ascertaining the best point for the terminus of this monster submarine cable. His brother, Mr. Charles Bright, the engineer of the same company, has also been engaged in a series of experiments, which test, in the most satisfactory manner, the practicability of obtaining perfect signals through a magnetic circuit of three thousand miles in extent. Mr. Cyrus W. Field, a gentleman of great energy, one of the directors of the American company, is at present in London, with the object of pushing forward the arrangements connected with the project. The laying down of the cable is the next step; and when that is completed, New York and London, and even New Orleans and London, will be within conversational distance. Two submarine cables have been laid in the Mediterranean while they were being laid down, and special precautions will be employed by the vessels, which will start in the middle of the Atlantic, each carrying half the line, and uncoiling it as they start in opposite directions—the one toward America, and the other toward Ireland. We heartily wish complete success to an undertaking which will be one of the grandest triumphs of human genius. It is impossible to over-estimate the social, political, and commercial results of thus bringing so closely together the two greatest and freest people of the world. It will, at times, be possible for a prime minister of England to allay political excitement in the United States by an immediate declaration of the conciliatory policy of this country. Let us hope that this duty may be reciprocally performed. A generous sentiment uttered in the Capitol at Washington, or in the palace of St. Stephen, Westminster, will reverberate alike on the banks of the Potomac and the Thames almost as soon as the speaker has concluded his address. As to the commercial gain, we believe that the electric cable across the Atlantic will preserve to England her present preponderance in the great monetary and commercial affairs of the world."

WEATHER CANNOT BE FORETOLD.—It is known by the printers of almanacs which give predictions of the weather, that the predictions for particular days are inserted where there chances to be space for them; and frequently an old almanac is handed to the printer from which to take weather and fill it in to the new as most convenient.—The astronomer, who deals with facts in his calculations of eclipses and the movements of the heavenly bodies, is the last man to be willing to guess out and impose on the credulity of the ignorant by pretending to predict the weather, for which he has no data. The most accurate and minute meteorological observations, continued for half a century in different countries, have proved that, though the moon affects the tides, it has no perceptible influence on the weather, and that predictions what the weather will be on particular days are pretense and delusion. Mr. Meriam, the distinguished meteorologist of Brooklyn, who for many years has taken hourly observations on the thermometer and barometer, now adds his testimony. He says, "With all my practical experience in observing atmospheric changes, and recording hour by hour and day by day thermometrical and meteorological observations, and in connection with simultaneous observations made and recorded elsewhere, I feel more and more convinced that it is not in the power of any human being to determine, even a single day in advance, what changes will take place in the atmosphere."

Men have a natural hankering to know what will be in the future, and some even believe in the influence of the moon on the weather and on plants and animals, in unlucky Fridays, in keeping off witches by horse-shoes, in fortune-telling, in table-rappings, and worthless sayings reported by "mediums," purporting to have come from the spirit-world!—Am. Messenger.

AMERICAN GUANO.—The ship John Marshall, clearing coastwise for the American guano islands in the Pacific ocean, sailed from New York on Thursday, the 15th January. This is the first clearance of a vessel going direct from this country to our guano islands in the Pacific ocean. Samples of this guano have been received and tested, both in the laboratory of the chemist and of nature. The products of the soil are reported to be threefold more than the products from the Peruvian guano, sowed in the same soil and under the same conditions; and this is said to be in strict accordance with the analysis of the eminent A. H. Hayes, of Boston. He reports Jarvis Island guano to contain 86 parts of phosphoric acid, while the Peruvian guano contains but 23 parts to the 100.

The American Guano Company, having the fullest confidence that the islands they have taken possession of are covered with guano, and not "bird lime," as reported by Com. Mervine, have sent out in the John Marshall all the buildings, booms, spars, anchors &c., necessary for the guano trade.

WAR BETWEEN ENGLAND AND PERSIA.—War was proclaimed at Calcutta by the English government against Persia November 1. An expedition, consisting of 6,000 troops, and a large fleet, has sailed from Bombay. It is said that Russian troops are ready to march to the aid of Persia, and a great number of Russian officers have entered the Persian army.—The ostensible object of this war is to punish the Persians for besieging and taking the independent city of Herat, in Afghanistan, in violation of their treaty with England, at the instigation of Russia as it is believed. Herat is a fortified commercial city of about 40,000 inhabitants, which from its situation is the key of north-western India. It formerly belonged to Persia, which has always desired to regain possession of it. It is for the interest of the British possessions in India that the three chiefships of Herat, Cabul, and Kandahar, into which Afghanistan is divided, should remain independent.

A NOBLE FELLOW.—On the morning of Dec. 1st, four little boys broke through the ice on the lake near the school house, in Waterville, Wis. The villagers hastened to the spot, but the ice was so thin that none dared venture to their aid. At this moment, just as the boys were sinking, a young man, eighteen years of age, named John Adams, sprang forward, seized a fishing spear, and leaving most of his clothes on the bank plunged into the lake and saved two of the boys. He then made another dash and saved the third. Adams was now almost exhausted, but the mother of the fourth boy was standing near in horrible agony, and Adams said to her, "I will save your boy or die." Tying a rope around his waist, he told those on shore to pull him in if he sank, and cried out,— "Stand by the rope, I am going to him." He then plunged in, swam out some ten rods, breaking the ice with his hands, seized the boy, who was sinking for the third time, carried him ashore, and restored him to his mother's arms.

WHERE IS THE WEST!—The editor of the Presbyterian Herald of Louisville, Ky., says that, visiting Fort Leavenworth, five or six hundred miles west of Louisville, he said to the commander, "I suppose you begin to feel, away out here, that you have at last discovered that indefinable region called 'the West?'" "No, sir," said he, "we are living in the east yet. Four hundred miles west of us, near fort Laramie, is the geographical center of the United States."

THE BRITISH STEAMER TRENT arrived here at noon, with news from Greytown up to the 20th Feb. News had reached Greytown that Walker had re-possessed himself of Serapiqui, having attacked that place on the 13th with 200 men and two 9-pounders. The Costa Ricans held out till the following day, when they left. Walker's army lost 2 men killed and 3 wounded—the Costa Ricans 14 killed and 20 wounded. There was also news of the fall of Castillo into the possession of Walker's army, with a loss of 8 killed and 20 wounded.—The Costa Ricans are supposed to have lost about 32 killed and 60 wounded.

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