

The Oregon Argus.

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

Vol. II.

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JOB PRINTING.

THE PROPRIETOR OF THE ARGUS is HAPPY to inform the public that he has just received a large stock of JOB TYPE and other new printing material, and will be in the speedy receipt of additions suited to all the requirements of the locality. HANDBILLS, POSTERS, BLANKS, CARDS, CIRCULARS, PAMPHLET-WORK and other kinds, done to order, on short notice.

Literary Notice.

LIFE OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE, by
JOHN S. C. ASSORT. Two Volumes. Harper's,
New York, 1856.

It would seem that it is high time the American public were presented with a life of Bonaparte worthy of the subject and the times; one that would discard the mean envy and vindictive hate which have disfigured the pages of English historians, with those distortions of truth and examples of bald falsehood with which they always abound in reference to the illustrious Napoleon; one that would take up the matter with that true independence which American authors can enjoy if they choose to emancipate themselves from the narrow prejudices of their literary brethren who flourish across the Atlantic, and give to the American reader a just and true representation of the life and character of Napoleon Bonaparte.

English writers seem never to grow weary with denouncing him as a blood-thirsty tyrant and unfeeling monster, who would turn flourishing fields into howling wastes, and drench the world in blood, if their prosperity but interfered with his ambitious dreams of universal dominion. The historian who gravely hands down events to future generations, the aspiring candidate for fame in the flowery field of romance, and the poet seeking to strike a chord in the heart of mankind which shall vibrate in sympathy to the touch of his hand, have alike distinguished themselves by their contributions to that which they vainly hoped would make Napoleon's infamy immortal. From Alison and Scott in history, down to the Penin-sular tales of Charles Lever and the musical verses of Goldsmith, there flows upon Bonaparte one unceasing stream of bitterness and obloquy. This has surely continued long enough.—It is time that Americans at least were learning the truth in the right way, leaving the English to learn it by such experience as the late Russian war, if they stiffly refuse to be enlightened in a less expensive way. And we have at last a work in these volumes which does justice to the subject and to the truth.

It cannot fail to diffuse wherever read a juster and truer idea of the purposes and objects which this greatest man in modern history had in view. The work is philosophical, historical, and biographical. The author sets out by frankly stating that he is an admirer of Napoleon, and while he evidently labors industriously to lay before his readers all the facts, historical and biographical, necessary to an understanding and acquaintance with the character and aims of Napoleon, he makes all these subordinate another, and evidently the principal, design which he has in view. This seems to be to show that Napoleon was the friend to true liberty, and whatever else tended to the welfare, happiness, and elevation of the masses of mankind, and the vote to all aristocratic and hereditary privileges, and all other kinds of distinction not founded on merit—that he strove at all times to preserve the peace of the world, and that his enemies were responsible for the wars in which he was engaged—that he was kind, benevolent, humane, and amiable; and that such deviations from these his established traits of character, as his history relates, were forced upon him by the necessities of his position.

Thus we have a work written with other than the simple design of presenting the facts of his history; with that which induces a court of law to acquire a knowledge of the facts in a given case, viz: that it may be enabled to give a just judgment, using the facts as a means by which to arrive at a right decision. This course in a work of this kind, if judiciously followed, is undoubtedly unobjectionable, and even praiseworthy. The mass of readers are controlled in their opinions of this or that individual mentioned in history, not as much by the facts narrated respecting his actions, as by the opinions expressed by the historian himself; and hence if those opinions are well fortified by truth set forth, their influence upon those who have no opinions is right, because they are correct; while their influence upon those who think for themselves is not annoying, as they in searching for the truth are compelled to adopt the same conclusions.

As a specimen of this kind of history, Abbott's Napoleon must be considered eminently successful. There is no unwar-rantable straining of facts to meet a particular phrase of the argument; so much so indeed is this true, that while his arguments compose a larger share of the work, the facts being related in their natural order, seem always sufficient to prove the position which the author is trying to establish. This we consider one of the great merits of the work. It is so ingeniously arranged that while it is a splendid vindication of Bonaparte from those charges with which the world has been flooded to cover his name with infamy, the reader goes on with his attention far less drawn to

the opinions expressed by the author, than to the facts by which he so triumphantly establishes those opinions—so that the reader feels himself forming his own conclusions when in truth he is but adopting those of the author. As an instance of the use he makes of the "eloquent logic of facts," we will refer to the divorce of the Empress Josephine. We have always considered that act a great blot on the fame of Napoleon: the author himself goes so far as to condemn it as "most unfortunate"; and yet, after reading a plain and simple statement of the reasons which influenced the Emperor, we could not repress a feeling of sympathy, or but admit that it was a sacrifice which gave a striking proof of his unselfishness and nobleness of heart.

The style is one of graceful simplicity and elegance, and some of the descriptive passages are equal to the most splendid in the English language. The arrangement and progress of the narrative are natural and pleasing, and when the reader is once interested he feels perfectly chained till he has seen the end.

The life of Bonaparte is perhaps the most striking, the most romantic, and sublime, and the most tragic in its termination, of that of any great man in modern history. Born in obscurity, and reared in poverty and adversity, yet strong in a faith that he was predestined for great ends, no sooner did the theater of active life open before him than, with a rapidity that left all others far behind, he sprang onward and upward to high renown. And in that prolific period which enrolled on the calendar of immortal fame the names of such illustrious men as Hoche, Dumouriez, and Moreau, Massena, Kleber, and Murat, Desaix, Duroc, and Macdonald, Ney, Carnot, and Talleyrand, Napoleon Bonaparte stood far above them all, peerless and alone. They were great each in his own particular sphere; he surpassed them all. Whether in the field or in the cabinet, whether leading the charge through shots and shells at the head of his thundering columns on fields of human carnage, or quietly conversing upon science or government in the cabinets of philosophers and sages, whether directing the fearful engines of war, or promoting and diffusing the gentler and sweeter blessings of peace; in every act, word, and conception shone the same dazzling superiority. At a time when the world was filled with the fame of his contemporaries and countrymen, he eclipsed them all; at a time when the government of his country seemed almost a wreck under the care of the wisest leaders of the land, and when worn out and exhausted with incessant labor for his organization and permanency, they were about yielding it up again to disorder and revolution, when patriots sat still in terror watching the waves of popular phrensies that, maddened into fury, seemed yawning to engulf it, by his own hand he snatched it from anarchy and ruin, and restored again the reign of quiet, order, and justice; and while enemies abroad and plotters at home were compassing earth to accomplish his overthrow, while "thunders were bursting round his head and volcanoes were opening beneath his feet," he reared an imperial throne and reigned upon it. Through many long years, surrounded by a people who cherished him with an affection no other ruler ever before inspired, and who to the last clung to him as children to a parent, he defied the attempts of combined Europe to unseat him from his lofty eminence. At last, after efforts which rocked to its center every kingdom in Europe, the lion was overpowered, torn from his lair, and, wearing the cold, chafing chain of a captive, was borne far from the people he loved so well, the scene of his rise, his greatness, and his fall, to die and molder upon the bleak and storm-swept crags of St. Helena. From the humblest obscurity he rose to the proudest height of fame and power, and was thrown again to an estate lower than the first. But his deathless fame yet lives, and the proudest page of French history will contain the story of his deeds, and, while Time with an impartial pen shall record the fact that he nobly earned his lofty eminence, it will also record, in lines as dark as the deeds they commemorate, the infamy of men who pursued him as bloodhounds pursue their prey, dragged him from the throne upon which the free suffrages of the French nation had placed him, and, lacking the courage to meet their noble enemy's eagle eye and boldly murder him in the face of the world, buried him into a dungeon in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, and left him there in loneliness to die. The aged eagle soon took his upward flight, and, after twenty years had passed, at the unanimous call of the French people, his ashes were returned to France among the people who served him as long as he would accept it, and whose servant alone he ever was. The history of such a man must ever be interesting.

There are several hundred engravings

in the best style of the art. Let all who wish to read the life of Napoleon get it—the best library would be incomplete without it.

MARCH 25, 1857.

At a meeting of the citizens of Clatsop county held in the Court house at Astoria on Monday evening, March 23d, 1857, in pursuance of adjournment of a meeting previously called, THOS. SCOTT, Esq., being chairman, and the secretary, A. A. Skinner, being absent, JAMES WAYNE was appointed secretary pro tem.

The committee appointed previously reported a preamble and resolutions, which were adopted as the sense of the meeting, and of which the following is a portion directed by a vote to be sent to the Oregon press for publication:

WHEREAS, the post-office originally located within what is now the corporate town of Astoria has been removed by the present postmaster, Truman P. Powers, to a claim beyond the corporate limits of said town, to the great inconvenience and detriment of all the public and commercial interests of said town and almost the entire population of the county, and kept in violation of the objects of the postal laws of the American Government, to gratify the personal spleen and private interests of T. P. Powers, the present incumbent, who by false returns to the Department has succeeded in deceiving it and inducing it to give a branch office under the name of Lower Astoria; therefore,

Resolved, That any postmaster or person who will lend his influence or name to practice such a deception and open falsehood upon the Post Office Department, is unworthy of any public trust.

THOS. SCOTT, Ch'n.
J. WAYNE, Sec'y pro tem.

Manufactories in Oregon.

The importance of building up manufacturing establishments in our midst can only be fully understood by taking a view of some parts of our own and other countries, which have long since obtained a world-wide fame for the progress they have made in the arts and sciences. What is it that has given to New England her wealth, her institutions of learning, and the influence she exerts over the commerce of the world, and made her cities, towns, and villages the busy marts of commerce, and to throng with happy thousands, each one acting his part in life's continuous drama? Look at her manufactures, and there find your answer. They have given to her her commerce, and to them she should ascribe all her refinements, morality, and civilization.

An industrious people cannot long remain immoral, for industry and morality go hand in hand, while crime is but the offspring of idleness. Manufacturing people must necessarily become educated. Thus we find in manufacturing communities nearly all are educated, and the means of instruction placed within the reach of all; not only do they stimulate the cause of education, but they give an impetus to commerce, build railroads, improve our rivers and harbors, and open every avenue of wealth and trade. They impart to all a portion of their enterprising spirit, and the sturdy old farmer, who for years has clung to the old way in which his forefathers went, is at length forced into the conclusion that the improvement in agricultural implements was not made in vain. Would it not then be prudent on the part of the people of Oregon to lay the foundation of her future prosperity by building up in our midst manufacturing establishments, which will at no distant day repay all their efforts? But some contend they fill our country with a servile class of cheap laborers but little above the toiling slave.—Is such the case? Look at the state of society in New England, and you will there find the operatives educated, refined, and there in those factories they are laying the foundation of future wealth and distinction, and they go forth from them to assume other relations in life, prepared to surmount its difficulties and spend their days in honor and usefulness. Go ask the more than twelve thousand operatives in Lowell, and they will tell you that they would rather have the honest heart, the peace of mind, the hope of heaven of one humble factory girl, than all the wealth that unpaid labor ever earned.

How very many of our distinguished men were taught their first lessons of wisdom in the workshops of our country, and we now see the once poor apprentice boy presiding over the council chamber of our nation. And why may not Oregon rival at one day the most favored portion of our country in manufacturing? She is capable of sustaining a large population, her rivers and streams affording an unfailing supply of water power, and she is capable of producing an abundant supply of the raw material. Why need she fail? Oregon will no doubt soon become an independent State, and may at no distant day shine as a star of the first magnitude in our glorious constellation. What a fair future lies open to our far-off Pacific home! The people of Oregon have every inducement for making her the Empire State of the Far West. The future growth of Oregon can alone be marred by planting in our midst that peculiar institution which degrades labor, poisons enterprise, contaminates the morals, and brings the primal curse upon the soil. Let us hope that the time is not far distant when the hum of the spindle, the ringing of the anvil, may be heard and seen throughout our land, and Oregon become a great manufacturing community, her waters be made subservient to man, and her rivers the channels of commerce, and on every side our ears be greeted by the merry voice of labor earning its own bread.

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There are many prejudices against girls being educated as boys are—if girls can read and write, and are acquainted with the various kinds of domestic employments, they are considered accomplished; while with others it is the expense they look at, and not the need they have of being educated, or perhaps they make an excuse and say they do not believe in highly educating girls, thinking if they can read and write, that is sufficient; or they may prefer giving them an equivalent in property after they are settled for life. Others seem more interested to marry their daughters, lest they become a burden; but unless public sentiment changes, how can we have educated women, when they do not wait for maturity of mind enough to be able to receive an education before they get married, and thus deprive themselves of the means they otherwise might have had? Such parents have not a proper regard for their children, for if they would have them the most useful members of society they would give them an education. Parents that place a proper estimate upon intelligence will spend their means in the acquisition of that knowledge that will accompany their children through every scene of life, and make smooth every rugged path they may have to tread, and enable them to surmount obstacles they meet daily and hourly in the avocations of life. Education not only forms but strengthens the mind. And if a woman has not that mental vigor that she should have, education makes up in a great measure the deficiency. How many have made brilliant scholars, and exerted an influence in society, that but for education would have died in obscurity!—As examples, let us look at the writings of Lady Jane Grey, Mrs. Sigourney, Mrs. Ellis, and Jane Taylor, who are examples of educated women whose influence is as wide and spreads as far as civilization. An educated woman has a more elevated mind than the one that knows nothing but that which she learns from surrounding circumstances. The mind unimproved is vicious and wild; it cannot grasp the meaning of the sciences with which it might be acquainted. It is both necessary that girls should be acquainted with the different sciences and the different kinds of domestic employments. The mother that does not teach her girls how to perform the various household duties, is as negligent of her duty as the father is in not sending them to school. A woman should possess that knowledge which enriches the mind, brightens the understanding, teaches her how to promote the happiness of others, and elevates her mind in adversity the same as in prosperity, a boon of more priceless value than riches, for they may be taken away, but an education is permanent. When once obtained, it is in solitude a friend and companion, and in society an ornament. A woman with these accomplishments may go through life smoothly, and be employed in many ways usefully and pleasantly, be an ornament to her sex, and a blessing to the community in which she may live.

THOS. SCOTT, Ch'n.
J. WAYNE, Sec'y pro tem.

The Chinese Sugar Cane.

As the attention of the Agriculturists of the United States has been generally and earnestly attracted to that novel and seemingly important plant, the *Sorghum Sacce*, or Chinese sugar cane, and especially since erroneous impressions appear to have been disseminated throughout the country with respect to its introduction, mode of culture, uses, &c., we with pleasure embrace the earliest practicable moment to place before our readers the subjoined highly satisfactory circular in regard to it. That the honor of introducing this plant, as is here shown, belongs to the Patent Office and its able and intelligent co-operator in the Agricultural Division, is an assurance which will be received with gratification by the many thousands—may we not say millions!—of citizens of the Union who reasonably look forward to the operations of this office for the most beneficent results, resulting in all its successful achievements, and who will unquestionably sanction the most liberal appropriation for its support, and for the enlargement of its capabilities for promoting the progress of agriculture in its every department.

U. S. PATENT OFFICE,
Dec. 10, 1856.

Sir:—This new plant seems to be destined to take an important position among our economical products. Its seeds were sent, some six years ago, from the north of China, by M. de Montigny, to the Geographical Society of Paris. From the cursory examination of a small field of it growing at Verrieres, in France, in the autumn of 1854, Mr. D. J. Browne, then on a mission from this office for collecting agricultural information and products, was led to infer that, from the peculiarity of the climate in which it was grown, and its resemblance in appearance and habit to Indian corn, it would flourish in any region wherever that plant would thrive.—From this source he obtained some 200 pounds of the seed, which distributed in small packages by this office, among the members of Congress, with a view of experimenting with it in all parts of the Union and thereby ascertaining its adaptation to our soil and climate. In numerous instances the results proved highly satisfactory, as it attained the height of eight or ten feet as far north as St. Paul, in Minnesota, and matured its seeds at various points in Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and other places further South. The following year, while in France, on a similar mission as above, Mr. Browne obtained several bushels of the seed of this plant grown from that reputed to have been brought from South Africa by Mr. Leonard Wray, of London, and which has since proved to be identical with that obtained by this office in 1854.

There appears to be a doubt among a great many in Europe as well as in this country, as to the true botanical name of this plant. M. Louis Vilmorin, a scientific cultivator of Paris, provisionally gave it the name of *Holcus saccharatus*, which had previously been applied to the common broomcorn, if not to other species, or at least varieties, of some allied plant. He also conjectured that it might be the *sorghum vulgare*, (*Andropogon sorghum* of others) and thought that it might comprehend a variety of it, as well as *andropogon cafrus*, *bicolor*, etc. of Kenth. Mr. Wray, who has devoted much of his time and attention to the cultivation of this plant, with the view of extracting sugar from its juice at Cape Natal and other places, states that, in the south-east part of Caffria, there are at least fifteen varieties of it, some growing to a height of twelve or fifteen feet, with stems as thick as those of the sugar cane (*saccharum officinarum*) M. Vilmorin also says that in a collection of seeds sent to the Museum of Natural History at Paris, in 1840, by M. d'Apudie, there were thirty kinds of sorghum, among the growth of which he particularly recognized several plants having stems of a saccharine flavor. Others are of the opinion that the common broomcorn (*Holcus saccharatus*), the Chocolate or Guinea corn (*sorghum vulgare*) and the Chinese sugar cane, (*sorghum saccharatum*), all of which contain more or less saccharine matter, belong to the same species, but are variations caused by differences of soil and climate, or by a disposition to sprout, after the manner of Indian corn and other plants under cultivation. The Chinese sugar cane, however, differs from the others in containing a far larger proportion of juice, and consequently is more valuable for fodder and other economical uses.

In 1766 a plant analogous to the one in question was experimented upon at Florence, in Italy, by Pietro Arquinio, for the extraction of sugar; yet it must have been a different variety, as he describes its seeds as of a clear brown color, while those of the Chinese sugar cane are of a shining jet black, and in appearance identical with those of the *Sorghum vulgare* of the old collections.

Description and Habit of Growth.

The Chinese sugar cane, when cultivated on ordinary land, in the United States, somewhat after the manner of the broomcorn, grows to a height of from eight to sixteen feet, while in Europe it does not attain much more than half of this altitude. Its stems are straight and smooth, often covered with a white bloom, or down, having leaves some what flexuous falling over and greatly resembling in appearance those of Indian corn, but more elegant in form. When cultivated in hills containing eight or ten stalks each, it puts forth at its top a conical panicle of dense flowers green at first, but changing into violet shades, and finally into dark purple at maturity. In France and the central and northern sections of the United States it has thus far

proved an annual; but from observations made by M. Vilmorin, as well as some experiments in our Southern States, it is conjectured that, from the vigor and fullness of the lower parts of the stalks in autumn, by protecting them during the winter they would produce new plants the following spring. It stands drought for better than Indian corn, and will resist the effects of considerable frost without injury, after the panicles appear, but not in its younger and more tender state. If suffered to remain in the field after the seeds have ripened and have been removed where the season is sufficiently warm and long new panicles will shoot out at the topmost joints, one or more to each stalk, and mature a second crop of seeds. The average yield of seed to each panicle is at least a gill.

Cultivation.

Since the introduction into this country the Chinese sugar-cane has proved itself well adapted to our geographical range of Indian corn. It is of easy cultivation, being similar to that of maize or broom corn, but will prosper in a much poorer soil. It does not succeed so well, however, when sown broadcast with the view of producing fodder, as it will not grow to much more than one half of its usual height. If the seeds are planted in May, in the Middle States, or still earlier at the South, two crops of fodder can be grown in a season from the same roots—the first one in June or July, to be cut before the panicles appear, which would be green and succulent, like young Indian corn; and the other a month or two later at the time or before the seed is fully matured. In the extreme Northern States, where the season is too short and cool for it to ripen in the open air, the cultivator will necessarily have to obtain his seed from regions further South. If it were important for him to raise his own seed, he could start the plants under glass in the spring, and remove them to the field or garden at about the period of planting Indian corn, after which they would fully mature. One quart of seeds are found to be sufficient for an acre. If the soil be indifferent or poor, they may be sown in rows or drills about three feet apart with the plants from ten to twelve inches asunder; but if the soil be rich they may be planted in hills, five or more seeds to each, four or five feet apart in one direction and three or four in the other. The plants may be worked or hoed twice in the course of the season, in a similar manner to Indian corn. Any sucker or superfluous shoots which may spring up may be removed. The seed should not be harvested before it acquires a dark or black hue.—Should the plants lodge or fall to the ground by the excessive weight of the heads, during storms of wind or rain, before the seed matures, they may remain for weeks without injury. In collecting the seed, a convenient method is to cut off the stalks about a foot below the panicles, tie them up in bunches of twenty five and suspend them in any secure airy place, sheltered from rain. If intended solely for fodder the first crop should be cut just before the panicles would appear, and the second as soon as the seed arrives at the milky stage. It may be tied up in bundles shocked and cured, like the tops or stalks of Indian corn. If not intended to be employed for any other economical use, after the seed has been removed, and the weather be cool, and the average temperature of the day does not exceed 45 deg. or 50 deg. F the stalks may be cut up close to the ground tied in bundles, collected into shocks or stowed in a mass in a succulent state, for fodder, in sheds or barns, where they will keep without injury, if desired, until spring. In this condition, however, the lower part of the stalks will be found to be quite hard and woody and will require to be chopped into small pieces for feeding.

Particular care should be observed not to cultivate this plant in the vicinity of Douroh corn, Guinea corn, or broom corn, as it hybridizes or mixes freely with those plants, which would render the seeds of their product unfit for sowing.

Yours, very respectfully,
CHARLES MASON, Com.

From China.

By the arrival of the clipper ship *Hurricane*, says the San Francisco Herald, we are in possession of dates from Hongkong to the 17th of January—our last dates were to the 3d of December. Immediately after the capture of the *Barrier Forts* by the American forces was completed, Commodore Armstrong returned with his fleet to the anchorage at Whampoa, and the business of repairing the damages caused by the attack was commenced. In a letter addressed to Yeh, the Governor of Canton he observed:

"Here I presume it will end, and so long as he (the Imperial Commissioner) does not commit any act of violence against our flag or citizens, we shall rest on our arms."

His excellency Yeh, in a despatch of the 5th of January, writes Commodore Armstrong:

"From this I see your Excellency has a clear knowledge of affairs. There is no matter of strife between our two nations. Henceforth let the fashion of flag which American ships employ be clearly defined, and inform me what it is beforehand.—This will be the verification of the friendly relations between our countries."

This would seem to settle the difficulty, so far as the Americans are concerned, unless, indeed, some other outrages should be committed by the Chinese. Correspondence had been resumed by Mr. Parker, our Commissioner in China, with Yeh.

The whole number of light-houses belonging to the United States is about five hundred.

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