

# The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OREGON CITY:

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1857.

**As** Mr. Buchanan is now President, and, from his official position, is enabled to do more for Oregon than he has before had power to accomplish, we have thought fit to call to his recollection his "first love," by publishing an extract from his letter of March 29th, 1847, to Mr. Shively, of this Territory. At that time, Buchanan was Secretary of State under Polk.

The prediction which we print in italics has reference to the Great Pacific Railroad, which we do hope will begin to be fulfilled during his administration. This with the Republican party is a darling project, and as Buchanan has cut himself loose from the strict construction policy laid down by Pierce in his first message, by avowing himself in favor of the road, we hope he will not let slip this fine opportunity of immortalizing his administration by entering heartily upon this great project. If he now "feels the deepest interest in the prosperity of Oregon," we ask him to manifest it by assisting forward an improvement which, when completed, will soon make our State one of the first in the Union in point of population and wealth. We want to see our rivers and harbors whitened with the sails of ships of all nations sent here to discharge their mighty cargoes, preparatory to being embarked upon the great landed "highway of nations." With this commerce, and the teeming millions of laborers that would flock to our shores to cultivate the soil, and rear manufactures upon our unequalled water privileges, we shall have an ample market for all our surplus produce, and Oregon, Washington, and California will become, in point of wealth, and intelligence, the New England of the Pacific.—These are no visionary dreams, but calculations based upon the best of data.

But to Mr. Buchanan's letter:

"The people of Oregon may rest assured that the government and people of the United States will never abandon them or prove unmindful of their welfare. We have given a sufficient pledge of this determination, by the zeal and firmness with which, throughout a quarter of a century, our just right to that territory was steadfastly maintained against the claims of Great Britain, until at last the question was adjusted between the two powers by the treaty of June, 1846. That treaty has secured to us the whole territory on the continent south of the parallel of 49 degrees, and this we shall never abandon."

We feel the deepest interest in the prosperity of the people of Oregon. Their brethren on this side of the Rocky mountains regard them with affection and with hope. We can perceive, in the not distant future, one or more glorious states of this confederacy, springing into existence on the shores of the northern Pacific—states composed of our own kindred—of a people speaking our own language, governed by institutions similar to those which secure our own happiness, extending the blessings of religion, liberty and law, over that vast region. Their commerce and trade with the other States of the Union will confer mutual benefits on all parties concerned, and will bind them to us, and us to them, in bonds of reciprocal interest and affection more durable than adamant. Science has discovered, and enterprise is now fast establishing, means of intercommunication so rapid, that, at no distant day, a journey from New York to Oregon, will be accomplished in less time than was ever employed in traveling from that city to New Orleans; and important news will be communicated by telegraph with the velocity of lightning. Their foreign commerce with the west coast of America, Asia and the isles of the Pacific, will sail under the protection of our common flag, and cannot fail to bear back wealth in abundance to their shores.

In the mean time, we shall watch over their growth with parental care.

The president will direct our vessels of war to visit their ports and harbors as often as practicable, and to afford them all the protection which they may require; and Congress, I doubt not, will, at its next session, provide for them a territorial government, suited to their wishes and their wants.

Yours, very respectfully,  
JAMES BUCHANAN,  
Secretary of State.

**The** Standard and Czap's organ are devoting almost their entire editorial space to the present family quarrel. The Standard editor parries and thrusts coolly, and, when they grapple, almost invariably gets his adversary at a disadvantage. His squirming little enemy, like the naked competitors in the Olympic games, goes into the arena slimed all over, and fights with all sorts of weapons. Now he pulls hair and gouges; again he brandishes a weapon drawn from the scabbard of the Albany Evening Journal or Oregonian.—He is getting desperate, and, if Jo Lane upon his arrival doesn't interfere, we have no doubt he will soon jerk that "favorite old dagger" from the scabbard of Pat Malone, and make straight toward Leland's wife again. If he doesn't make any better fight in the next "round," we advise his "seconds" to withdraw him, and put him in "training" for a few days, by dieting him on salmon skins.

**The** locofocos of the bushites school have had a precipit meeting in Corvallis, and appointed delegates to attend a bushite county meeting that was to have come off last Saturday, for the purpose of choosing delegates to the Salem convention.—The organ of that party says that the delegates appointed some time since shall not be allowed to go into the Salem convention because they are Algerines.

ASTORIA, March 28th, 1857.

**W. L. Adams**—Sir:—Will you please say to the editor of the Oregon Statesman, that if he was capable of speaking well of an honest man, or of telling the truth when it would better promote the interests of the Democratic party than a falsehood, I should feel myself slandered by the editorial article that appeared in that paper of the 24th inst., respecting the proceedings of a Democratic convention held in Clatsop county on the 7th of March. As that editor can only slander a man by speaking in his praise, I forbear any further reply to his "long squirt," made at me in his paper of the above date. Very respectfully yours,

W. H. GRAY.

A greater number of falsehoods could not well be written in so long a communication respecting a public meeting, than Bush has given respecting that convention. If he ever had a true friend in this country, they have not the face to attempt to defend him in his malicious falsehoods.

The circular is too absurd a fraud and falsehood, to merit a reply.

Yours, W. H. G.

By "telling the truth when it would better promote the interests of the democratic party than falsehoods!" That is entirely impossible. The "democratic party" rests on "falsehoods." Pass a law that would compel the locofoco papers to tell the truth all the time, and in two years there would not be an honest man found in the Territory that would acknowledge himself a locofoco.

Why, friend Gray, what is the "democratic party" in Oregon? A few years ago, and the democratic party was the party that subscribed to certain principles laid down as the creed. A few years later, and the old creed was laid by, and an approval of the Kansas-Nebraska bill was made a test of fellowship. Six months ago, all of every stripe and color, Whigs, Know Nothings, and Abolitionists, who wished to attach themselves to the party, could do so by going into their convention, and endorsing the Cincinnati platform.

Under this golden canon, Dr. Henry, Dr. Belt, and a good many others, we are informed, squeezed into the kennel without being growled at, or having their ears snapped by the "mangy beasts" already in.

But what does it take to make a democrat now? The Benton county delegates, although "old liners," are read out of the Salem convention in advance, because they declared for Col. Kelly, and are otherwise unsound in being unfriendly to the Territorial printer, and in having a slight desire to see where those "election returns" went to, by the evaporation of which they say Corvallis was cheated out of the seat of Government.

The Clatsop democratic convention was composed of members mostly guilty of the same heresies,—of men who went into the "regular organization," and to show their devotion to the party, eat up every plank in the Cincinnati platform, and made tea of the old rusty nails. McKean and Moffitt, and some few others, (nine in all) volunteered as democratic "in-pectors," and decided that their stomachs must have a "top dressing" of democratic guano, known as "bushism." This, the members declined to swallow on the ground that it was not best to diet babies on too strong meat, and as they had already swallowed the Cincinnati platform, and gone into the "regular organization," they were by all laws and precedents entitled to a seat at the communion-table.—As they were largely in the majority they kept possession of the antechamber and passed a resolution in favor of Col. Kelly. Hereupon A. B. McLean, and eight other bushite bolters, wrote a whining letter to J. W. Nesmith and the four other members of the "Democratic central committee of Oregon," declaring that many of the members of the Clatsop convention had heretofore acted with the "opposition," and consequently had no right to act with the democracy.

This letter is published in Czap's organ, with about two columns devoted to kicking and cuffing the convention out of the ring as a full blooded "Black Republican" affair, as also to blackening the character of Col. Kelly, and winds up by telling them that the Clatsop and Benton delegates shall be refused admittance into the Salem convention. The people who of course are relied upon to support "democracy," are treated as so many cattle, to be bought and sold at pleasure as chattels, and valuable only for the hide and tallow. The family quarrel among the unprincipled demagogues who now strive to head the parties, is growing desperate under the conviction that the gamblers who win will be entitled to the "democratic votes" of the country.

Reader, did you ever thank God that you was born with sense enough to make a man of you? and with mind enough to prevent your being sold and driven around by task masters, who charm their dutes into the support of antirepublican measures, and corrupt men by labeling them all with the name of democracy?

If not, you ought to do so immediately.

**As** the Chinese Sugar Cane is at length introduced into the country we have thought best to publish Commissioner Mason's circular relating to its introduction and the manner of its cultivation, which will be found on the outside of this paper.

**The** steamship Commodore, which has been fitted up in San Francisco for this trade, and has already made one trip to Portland, is designed to run regularly between here and California.

MARSH.

The bogus Legislature of Kansas which was elected by Missourians has paid little or no heed to Gov. Geary's suggestions. They have passed the bill over Geary's veto providing for bailing prisoners in certain cases. The obnoxious, unconstitutional, and antirepublican enactments of that Legislature still disgrace the statute books. The Legislature has made provisions for a convention to form a constitution. The election of Delegates is to come off on the third Monday in June.—This constitution is to be submitted to Congress. There is no provision for submitting it to the people. From the whole framing of the act it appears that it is determined to make a slave State of Kansas, in spite of every thing. All the officers who have the whole engineering of the thing through, are creatures of this bogus Legislature, and proslavery of course. The bill provides that the sheriff shall make a list of all the "inhabitants" of the Territory who are there on the first of April.—This "list" is subject to the bogus county court, who may alter it as they see fit.—This court, appoints the places for holding elections, as also the judges of elections. The law provides that the election shall be governed by the statutes, and one of the statutes makes a bogus capitation tax receipt an indispensable qualification for a voter. No person is allowed to vote whose name is not on the "list." By this arrangement, every Missourian who is in Kansas on the first of April can "list" himself as an "inhabitant," and vote.—The bill, take it all in all, prepares the way for making a slavery constitution in spite of the majority of free State citizens. They hope to get it through a democratic Congress without even submitting the constitution to the people. This is "squat sovereignty."

The Territorial convention of the pro-slavery party in Kansas recently passed a resolution changing their name from "The proslavery party," to "The national democracy." We learn this from a Kansas correspondent of the Missouri (Black) Republican.

"So we need not be surprised if Adams and Bush yet embrace each other on the bigger platform. Shame may prevent a public union, but I look for a clandestine union, and would not be surprised if a private correspondence was now going on."—*Cor. of the Standard.*

Well the fact is we have had a little "private correspondence" in that quarter, which will cheerfully be furnished to the "democratic Territorial convention" for publication, if they consider it of particular interest to the democratic party.

"Adams seems to have a paternal care of the Standard man and his press."—*Portland Times.*

"The editor of the Statesman and the editor of The Argus are practically I fear, when it comes to the test of voting, upon the same platform."—*Cor. of the Standard.*

We must be very unpopular with the black democracy, or so much effort would not be made by the two wings of the party to fasten upon us the black crime of controlling the organs of the two factions.—Perhaps each organ is anxious to make its readers believe that its opposing locofoco organ has not sense enough to manage the campaign without our assistance.—The fact is we have had nothing to do in controlling any of these sheets, except perhaps in making Czap's agent correct one little democratic narrative which he had kept standing for several weeks.—That is more than we have ever meddled with the Standard; and as to the Times, its editorials, like its "poems on temperance," must "carry conviction to every honest mind" that they are purely original. We don't want the impression to get out, that any of these locofoco sheets contain the old fashioned democracy we teach. That is only found in The Argus. So, if any man is now taking either the Standard or Czap's organ under the impression that we are conducting it, he had better discontinue it forthwith, and subscribe for our paper. This is what a great many are doing, with much profit to themselves.

**We** would call the attention of our city Council to the importance of an act for keeping open our side-walks. We have abundant provisions for keeping them in repair, but none we believe for keeping them open for public use.

It is not unfrequently the case that teams are left standing upon the side-walk, or horses tied to adjoining fences, so as to monopolize the way, compelling ladies to plunge into the mud in the streets in order to pass around them. We need a law subjecting every man who thus monopolizes the walk to a fine of five dollars. We also need another section for the benefit of such low-bred loafers as not unfrequently gather in squads upon the side-walk, and stand talking, and blocking up the road, to the annoyance of such as are passing, and who are compelled to either crowd through them, or take to the mud.

**S. J. McCormick**, of the Franklin Book Store, Portland, has our thanks for a package of the very best exchanges by the last steamer. They arrived however too late for notice last week. A man who keeps the emporium of literature for all Oregon, would naturally be expected to "hurry up the cates" a little faster than that; but the variety is all the better for having consumed time in the selection.

**We** have a few more garden seeds left such as we received from the Patent Office, and we will give them away as long as they last. The rush for them is great, and we shall not probably be able to supply all who may wish them. Our delegate has been in a position where he could easily have supplied the whole Territory with seeds of choice vegetables and plants, if he had felt any interest in the prosperity of the country. If he could have discovered any new kind of grain that would yield double the amount of whisky to the bushel that is made of corn or rye, he would doubtless have loaded the mails with it, till Ray would have sworn as justly over it as he did about those "mill irons."

**Jo** Lane is expected in on the next steamer. His friends in Portland are making preparations to receive him. We understand that the locofocos generally have come to the conclusion to run him for Delegate, in order to get him out of the way when the Senators and Representatives come to be chosen. The talk is they are now heartily tired of him, and want him out of the way to give room for some two or three hundred who have got it into their heads that "rotation in office" is one of the principles of democracy.

**Our** old friend W. H. Vandervert, of a world-wide reputation as peddler, has turned up near Eugene city, where he is carrying on the fanning mill business, and picking up subscribers for The Argus, as usual. He tried to make a commercial emporium of Milwaukee, but, failing, has gone up to Eugene city, to locate the seat of Government there, we presume.

**Our** friend and fellow townsmen J. N. Banker, Esq., leaves on the next steamer for the States. We regret to lose so good a citizen.

**Butter** is scarce at 45 cents per lb. Grass ought to be sufficient to enable people in the prairie country to make enough to supply the towns.

**We** have a few artichokes which will be given to such as wish to "get a start."

**The** Table Rock Sentinel has again made its appearance, after being discontinued for a long time, as we now learn, for want of paper. From it we learn that the miners in Rogue River are generally doing well.

An attempt was made to rob Robert Wright at his residence in Rogue River valley on the 7th ult. Mr. W. was sitting by his fire reading, when two ruffians entered the house armed with weapons and demanded his money. Upon being told he had none, they tied him, and marched him some distance from the house, threatening to kill him unless he produced his money. They finally left without even raising the color."

**Compositions.**

On our outside will be found two articles which were read as compositions at the Samian Academy, and have been forwarded to us by a friend who requests the publication of both. We let them go in as an encouragement to the young ladies, who are striving for intellectual accomplishments. We have many young people of both sexes in Oregon who would make good writers with proper training.—The most of them need to be put through a course of rigid criticism, and we are sorry that there are so few teachers in the country that are sufficient judges of elegance in composition to render them fit to pass judgment upon their pupils' productions. There is nothing of more importance in a thorough course of education, or even in the district school, than teaching pupils to think for themselves, and then to properly express their thoughts on paper. Children ought to be put to writing compositions as soon as they are able to make intelligible characters with a pen, and then be trained up under a rigid discipline that points out and corrects all tendencies to vagueness of expression, looseness of style, and inelegance of composition.

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It therefore becomes us as a people, whose interests are involved, as is the case with ourselves, to lay aside all political differences that may have existed heretofore, and seize the present moment and improve it.

And let there be no issue before the people, except it be in a difference upon the formation of a constitution alone.

In the formation of this important document, perhaps it may be impossible to avoid an issue taking place upon some of its clauses. And if such be the case, let us remember our duty to ourselves, to our posterity, and to our God. Let us work faithfully to have incorporated into our constitution the principles of righteousness, wisdom, justice, and equality of man. In touching upon the subject of our constitution, it is fair to suppose each person has his peculiar notions, and I here take the liberty of expressing my own, hoping that others will do likewise.

In the first place, I will say that Oregon ought to be a free State. There are many reasons why it should be so, and I will mention a few of them:

1. The climate and products of Oregon render slave labor unprofitable.  
2. The vast ranges of mountains that surround us offer good facilities for their escape from servitude at pleasure.

Capt. Lot Whitcomb died at Milwaukee last Tuesday morning.

**The** Territorial Republican address will be published next week.

**Liquor** while it remains in hogheads does but little injury, but when it gets into foolishheads it causes immense mischief.

**Burris**, who was formerly confined in our city jail for the murder of his family, in Washington county, died in the Hillsborough jail last week. He was thought to be crazy.

**For the Argus.**  
PARKERSVILLE, MARION CO.,  
March 25, 1857.

**Mr. Adams**—The subject of State organization has again been submitted to the sovereign people of Oregon. And I would judge from present indications that when it is brought to a test on the first Monday in June next, will meet with but little opposition. Under this view of the question, I indulge in the hope that the people have well examined the subject, and fully realize the responsible position in which each is necessarily placed.

Before I proceed to discuss matter connected with the State organization question, I wish to notice a few remarks advanced by your neighbor, the editor of the Portland Standard.

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**We** have a few artichokes which will be given to such as wish to "get a start."

**Again** he says:—"Inasmuch as it is understood and generally concluded that such convention will submit the slave clause to the people in an independent form for their suffrage." Right here I wish to ask this editor where he received his information that the delegates would submit to the people the slave clause in an independent form for their suffrage? Who are those delegates? Are they nominated? Are they elected? And are their official sentiments made public thus early? Has he counseled with them? Shame, Alonso,

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There certainly never was a time in Oregon when the people were called upon to exercise a more solemn duty than now; nor when they should better understand the minds of their candidates in regard to their official duties, than on the present occasion. It is an oft repeated remark, (and a fact too) that a good and wholesome constitution is to State, what the Bible is to the world at large—a good, sound, safe, unerring guide, the influence of which reaches every nerve and avenue of the entire fabric.

It therefore becomes us as a people, whose interests are involved, as is the case with ourselves, to lay aside all political differences that may have existed heretofore, and seize the present moment and improve it. And let there be no issue before the people, except it be in a difference upon the formation of a constitution alone.

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