

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, APRIL 11, 1857.

No. 52.

ADVERTISING RATES. One square (12 lines or less) one insertion, \$3.00

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 this locality.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS Of President Buchanan.

Fellow-Citizens: I appear before you this day to take the solemn oath that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States.

Having determined not to become a candidate for re-election, I shall have no motive to influence my conduct in administering the Government, except the desire to live in the grateful memory of my countrymen.

As to the settlement of the question of domestic slavery in the Territories, Congress is neither to legislate slavery into any Territory or State, nor to exclude it therefrom, but to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States.

To their decision, in connection with all good citizens, I shall cheerfully submit, whatever this may be, though it has been my individual opinion that under the Nebraska-Kansas Act the appropriate period will be when the number of actual residents in the Territory shall justify the formation of a constitution, with a view to its admission as a State into the Union.

The whole territorial question being thus settled upon the principle of popular sovereignty—a principle as ancient as free government itself—everything of a practical nature has been decided, and no other question remains for adjustment, because all agree that, under the Constitution, slavery in the States is beyond the reach of any human power, except that of the respective States themselves wherein it exists.

Under our system there is a remedy for all mere political evils, in the sound sense and sober judgment of the people.—Time is a great corrective. The political subjects which but a few years ago excited and exasperated the public mind, have passed away and are now nearly forgotten—but this question of domestic slavery is of far greater importance than any mere political question, because, should the agitation continue, it may eventually endanger the personal safety of a large portion of our countrymen where the institution exists.

Whenever in our past history, doubtful powers have been exercised by Congress, they have never failed to produce injuri-

tion of Congress, is without any legitimate object.

It is an evil of the times that men have undertaken to calculate the mere material value of the Union. Reasoned estimates have been presented of the pecuniary profits and local advantages which would result to different States and sections from its dissolution, and of the comparative injuries which such an event would inflict on other States and sections; even descending to this low and narrow view of the mighty question, all such calculations are at fault.

But such considerations, important as they are in themselves, sink into insignificance when we reflect on the terrific evils which would result from disunion to every portion of the Confederacy—to the North not more than to the South—to the East not more than to the West. These I shall not attempt to portray, because I feel an humble confidence that the kind Providence which inspired our fathers with wisdom to frame the most perfect form of government and union ever devised by man, will not suffer it to perish until it shall have been peacefully instrumental, by its example, in the extension of civil and religious liberty throughout the world.

The national mode of relief from this embarrassment is to appropriate the surplus in the Treasury to great national objects for which a clear warrant can be found in the Constitution. Among these I might mention the extinguishment of the public debt; a reasonable increase of the navy, which is at present inadequate to the protection of our vast tonnage float—now greater than that of any other nation—as well as the defence of our extending sea coast.

To reach this point it was necessary to resort to a modification of the tariff, and this has been accomplished in such a manner to do as little injury as may have been practicable to our domestic manufactures, especially those necessary for the defence of the country. Any discrimination against a particular branch for the purpose of benefiting favored corporations, individuals, or interests, would have been unjust to the rest of the community, and inconsistent with that spirit of fairness and equality which ought to govern in the adjustment of a revenue tariff; but the squandering of the public money sinks into comparative insignificance, as a temptation to corruption, when compared with the squandering of the public lands.

No nation in the title of time has ever been blessed with so rich and noble an inheritance as we enjoy in the public lands. In administering this important trust, while it may be wise to grant portions of them for the improvement of the remainder, yet we should never forget that it is our cardinal policy to reserve these lands as much as may be for actual settlers, and this at moderate prices. We shall thus not only best promote the prosperity of the new States by furnishing them a hardy and independent race of honest and industrious citizens, but shall secure homes for our children and our children's children, as well as for those exiles from foreign shores who may seek in this country to improve their condition, and to enjoy the blessings of civil and religious liberty.

Such emigrants have done much to promote the growth and prosperity of the country. They have proved faithful both in peace and in war. After becoming citizens, they are entitled under the Constitution and laws to be placed on perfect equality with native born citizens, and in this character they should ever be kindly recognized. The federal Constitution is a grant from the States to Congress of certain specific powers, and the question whether this grant shall be liberally or strictly construed, has more or less divided political parties from the beginning.

Whenever in our past history, doubtful powers have been exercised by Congress, they have never failed to produce injuri-

ous and unhappy consequences. Many such instances might be adduced, if this were the proper occasion. Neither is it necessary for the public service to strain the language of the Constitution, because all the great and useful powers required for a successful administration of the Government, both in peace and in war, have been granted either in express terms or by the plainest implication.

Under the Constitution Congress has power to declare war, to raise and support armies, to provide and maintain a navy, and to call forth the militia to repel invasions. Thus endowed in an ample manner with the war-making power, the corresponding duty is required that the United States shall protect each of them (the States) against invasion. How is it possible to afford this protection to California and our Pacific possessions, except by means of a military road through the territory of the United States, over which men and munitions of war may be speedily transported from the Atlantic States to meet and repel the invader.

In case of a war with a naval power much stronger than our own, we should then have no other available access to the Pacific coast, because such a power would instantly close the route across the Isthmus of Central America. It is impossible to conceive that while the Constitution has expressly required Congress to defend all the States it should yet deny to them by any fair construction the only possible means by which one of these States can be defended.

It might also be wise to consider whether the love for the Union which now animates our fellow-citizens on the Pacific coast, may not be impaired by our neglect or refusal to provide for them in their remote and isolated condition the only means by which the power of the States on this side of the Rocky Mountains can reach them in sufficient time to protect them from invasion. I forbear for the present from expressing an opinion as to the wisest and most economical mode in which the Government can lend its aid in accomplishing this great and necessary work.

In our intercourse with them there are some plain principles approved by our own experience from which we should never depart. We ought to cultivate peace, commerce and friendship with all nations, and this not merely as the best means of promoting our own material interests, but in a spirit of Christian benevolence toward fellow men wherever their lot may be cast. Our diplomacy should be direct and frank; neither seeking to obtain more nor accepting less than is due. We ought to cherish a sacred regard for the independence of all nations, and never attempt to interfere in the domestic concerns of any, unless this shall be imperatively required by the great law of self-preservation.

To avoid entangling alliances has been a maxim of our policy ever since the days of Washington, and its wisdom no one will attempt to dispute. In short we ought to do justice in a kindly spirit to all nations, and require justice in return. It is your glory, that while other nations have extended their dominions by the sword, we have never acquired any territory except by fair purchase, or, as in the case of Texas, by the voluntary determination of a brave, kind and independent people to blend their destinies with our own.

Our past history forbids that we shall in the future acquire territory, unless this be sanctioned by the laws of justice and honor. Acting on this principle, no nation will have a right to interfere or to complain if, in process of events, we shall still further extend our possessions. Hitherto in all our acquisitions, the people under the protection of the American flag have enjoyed civil and religious liberty, as well as equal and just laws, and have been contented, prosperous and happy. Their trade with the rest of the world has rapidly increased, and thus every commercial nation has shared largely in their successful progress.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

A horse died in Barre, Mass., at the advanced age of 43 years and 8 months.

The parent who would train up his child in the way he should go, must go in the way he would train up his child. Example before precept.

It is enough to make one shudder to read the printers' advertisement for a boy of "good moral character," when it is well known they intend to make a "devil" of him!

There is a young lady in town so modest that she had a young man turned out of doors for saying the wind had "whistled."

ADDRESS By the Republican Committee appointed by the Albany Convention of Feb. 11, 1857.

To the Voters of Oregon:

Upon the undersigned has devolved the responsible duty of addressing you upon such matters as are of much importance to those who are interested in the prosperity of the country and the perpetuity of the Union. We entertain no doubt but what the great mass of the citizens of Oregon are loyal to the Union and the Constitution, and cherish an honest desire to support such political principles as are best calculated to perpetuate the one and preserve inviolate the other.

It is to such men who are really honest at heart, and impelled in political action by a desire to serve their country in giving her a wise and wholesome administration, that we, your peers in the great political family of our common ancestors, humbly beg to present a few considerations. If you cannot at once accede to all that we claim for our principles, we crave the charity to believe us honest in our convictions, and we shall be happy indeed if we but secure your attention to a calm and dispassionate investigation, unbiassed by political prejudice and uninfluenced by political associations.

guage of Benton, it was designed to weld the South together as a unit for political purposes, in the hope that enough Northern electoral votes could be secured by government patronage to control the Presidential elections for some time to come. The result of this bold stroke on the part of the last administration of course made slavery-extension the paramount issue, and, in breaking down the old political parties by rendering ancient political principles of minor importance, it has created two great political parties, which have joined issue upon the question which overshadows all others.

The Convention that formed the Constitution of the United States left the different States with entire control over the foreign slave trade for twenty years, giving to Congress the power to abolish it entirely at the end of this time. In 1800 the General Government, which up to this time had left the control of it with the States, now passed an act imposing a fine of \$1000 with a forfeiture of the vessel for each person imported as a slave contrary to the laws of any of the States.

stability of the Government. The agitation was finally quelled by the adoption of the Compromise line as a final settlement of the whole question. All prominent statesmen of all political parties treated it and spoke of it as a finality, a permanent, inviolable compact, which was under no circumstances to be disturbed. To be sure, in 1837 the Missouri Senators, by enlisting the chairman of the judiciary committee in their favor, got a bill reported for the annexation to Missouri of the Platte Purchase, a small section lying north of the Compromise line, and the bill was passed through the inattention of men who from some cause failed to see in it the dangerous precedent it has since proved to be.

In all this salutary legislation, from the time of the passage of the ordinance of '87 to the act of 1820 branding the slave trade as piracy, as also the passage of the Missouri Compromise in the same year, down to solemnly reaffirming the same in the act of 1850 establishing and confirming the northern and western boundary of Texas, the General Government met with strong opposition from South Carolina.—Her representatives, together with a few other ultra Southern men, have persistently urged that slavery-extension and its necessary adjunct the slave trade were all embraced in the bill of State rights, an infringement of which by the General Government justified a dissolution of the Union.

Resolved, That any interference with the subject of slavery, in the Territories of the United States, in which it may exist, is inhibited by all the considerations in regard to the rights and interests of the inhabitants of the said Territories, the security of the slaveholding States, and the danger to the Union, which are mentioned in the preceding resolution, as forbidding any interference with, or action on the subject of slavery in the District of Columbia; and for the further reason that the people of those Territories, when admitted into the Union as States, will be exclusively entitled to decide the question of the existence of slavery within their respective limits for themselves.

The resolution was defeated, Calhoun, Rives, Roane, and a few other Southern men voting for it, while a heavy majority of Senators voted against it, prominent among whom was James Buchanan. In 1847 Calhoun again presented the matter, in what Benton termed his "fire-brand resolutions," at the time the Oregon bill was before the Senate. The resolutions shared the same fate with that of Rives' in 1838. The long-cherished hopes of these Southern fire-eaters were fully realized in the violation of the Missouri Compromise and the passage of the Nebraska bill in 1854, under the administration of Franklin Pierce. The slavery-extension fraud which was practiced upon the people by the passage of that act, was sought to be covered up under the pleasing title of "popular sovereignty." The bill when examined will be found to be nothing but slavery sovereignty. Under that bill, the people of the Territories are allowed no privileges, aside from the slavery question, that they did not enjoy before. Congress still claims the right of legislating for them, the President appoints the Territorial officers, and, in Kansas and Nebraska, the Governors are not only the creatures of the President, but they have the veto power. Even upon the subject of slavery it is not yet decided that the citizens of a Territory are sovereigns previous to the time of a State organization. When the Kansas-Nebraska bill was put upon its passage, the originator of it (Douglas) was frequently interdicted as to his opinion upon this point. H.