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The Oregon Argus.

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For the Argus. Slavery. SALEM, OREGON, May 8, 1857.

So much has been written and spoken on the subject of American slavery that many seem to think the subject is exhausted. And we may say the same of religion and temperance, politics and mathematical problems. I shall not attempt to adduce new arguments against the system of slavery, but will offer a few remarks why it should not be adopted in Oregon. The mouthpiece of the so-called Democratic party in Oregon—A. Bush—brings the whole question into a nutshell, and asks, "Will it pay in Oregon?" He asserts that no other question is at issue here. This is certainly a poor recommendation to the people of Oregon. Morality, justice, humanity,—everything,—must yield to this sordid question, "Will it pay?" And thereby hangs a tale! Oregon, through her champion of Democracy—Jo Lane—is knocking at the door of the U. S. Treasury for the small sum of five millions of dollars, to defray her Indian war expenses, under color of a war of self-defense! And her people are charged with a premeditated scheme to rob the U. S. Treasury, and that the war was a gotten-up affair, for pecuniary purposes, or upon the plan, "Will it pay?" This our Durham Democracy deny; but, on the heels of the denial, are base enough to unfurl the flag of slavery in Oregon upon the dollar-and-cent issue, "Will it pay?" A party or set of men who could or would avow such a sentiment, would rob the U. S. Treasury without any qualms of conscience. Scribblers are sending in their letters to the Oregon Statesman alleging that the good cause of slavery is gaining ground in their settlement and precincts, and it is manifest that the bias of the party leaders in Oregon is really, or hypocritically, in favor of ingrafting slavery in our State constitution. It is well known that the Durham party of Oregon have stuck themselves on to the slaveocracy of Pierce's administration, and sided with them—hence the bitter hostility of A. Bush to the North or anti-slavery party. These are denounced by him with all the rancor and billingsgate language which a man like him can utter—whose training must be in the drinking "hells of Salem." To argue that slave labor and slave property in Oregon would not "pay," would seem superfluous. Yet if the fiat goes forth to the faithful in Oregon that they must, as good Democrats, vote for the measure, they will go it blindfolded. It is true that the whole ticket for Old Marion—the long seven—is made up of free State advocates, and the same may be the case in other counties; yet this cannot alter the issue if the faithful, by a majority, vote for slavery. And if slavery were then ingrafted into our State constitution, and the word goes forth to the vice versa faithful to vote for the adoption of such constitution, it will be done! They will be made to believe that it "will pay." Every political problem worked out by the mouthpiece of Durham Democracy in Oregon is set down by the faithful as genuine, and they could swear that it "will pay"! Men that can be harnessed and hitched to the car of bushocracy, and that pull as they do, can swallow down negro-ocracy, and digest it.

Many of the settlers of Oregon emigrated here under the operation of the Missouri Compromise act, and others, under the Organic act of Oregon, supposed that the curse of slavery could not reach this fair portion of North America. But the recent decision of the U. S. Supreme Court, and the passage of the Nebraska bill, which virtually repeal the Missouri Compromise line, open wide the door for slavery in Oregon or any other American Territory; and even now, in the absence of local legislation to the contrary, negroes could be brought here and held as slaves, and when the State constitution would be adopted with slavery in its provisions, then the slaveholders would have the start of us! Let slavery be adopted as a settled policy in Oregon, and soon will there be a change in her population. Anti-slavery men will leave, and slaveholders will come in. Yet it is likely that anti-slavery men enough will remain to take notes and observations of passing events. Yet I may be presuming on certain events as coming to pass, when those events may never happen. The President may administer an impartial government, and the anti-slavery may unite with the opposition and form an anti-slavery administration. I firmly believe that such will be the case, and, if so, we will see Jo Lane and the whole Durham crew scamp over to the strong side, and Oregon will then be clamorous for freedom—declaring that slavery "will not pay"! Our Oregon Democracy are just anything you may wish them to be "for the squirrel." I will relate an anecdote about the "squirrel," and then close my letter: In 1840, I was on a trip from Spring-

field, Illinois, to Beardstown, in Cass county. In crossing the large prairie east of Virginia, the then county-seat of Cass county, I caught a beautiful striped prairie squirrel, and put it in my pocket, and kept it there till I arrived at the public well in Virginia. I there saw three boys, each about ten years old, and observed to them that I had a pet squirrel for one of them, whose answer to a question I should ask them should please me best. Said I to the first one, "Are you a Whig or a Democrat?" Said he, "I am a Whig, sir." I asked the second boy the same question, and his reply was, "I am a Democrat, sir, and so are my father and all my uncles and brothers." I then asked the third boy the same question. Said he, "Sir, I am just anything you want me to be, for that squirrel." Now this anecdote is written out for the first time, but it may serve as a text to any who may wish to build upon it. x. v.

Jake Woodside, of Marion. SALEM, May 5, 1857.

DEAR SIR: For the purpose of giving demonstrative evidence of your liberality and of my just appreciation of great talents and true merits, though concealed in rural habitations, I have concluded to write a few brief articles for publication in your invaluable paper. Politics is my theme; politicians my subjects; and as I am no speaker, but a plain sort of a man, unlettered, and, it may be, unwise, I cannot mount the stump and portray the talents and capabilities of my favorite candidates in such glowing eloquence as to captivate the populace, I am compelled to resort to the columns of your paper to secure the election of my favorite candidate. I am an obscure citizen of Marion county, a Democrat in politics, and the Hon. Jacob Woodside is my candidate. Jacob is the leading nominee of the Democratic caucus (which met not long since in Salem) for the Legislature, and the first reason that I shall give for his election is that he is an old Oregonian. Now it is evident to every one that the pioneers of a new country ought to be officially rewarded. By such rewards, great inducements are offered to emigration; and, in this view of the subject, even his enemies would exhibit wisdom in voting for Jake; for, let this doctrine be firmly established, and his emigration is certain. So you see, Mr. Editor, in the worst view of the subject, it is for the interest of all to vote for my candidate.

The next reason is, Jake is six feet high and well proportioned. He moves with great momentum. He is in fact a man of muscular power—of capacious stomach. He is none of your weakly, sickly, cadaverous vegetarians, but, on the contrary, his very phiz shows him to be identified with the great beef-eating interests of the country. From this proposition I infer, first, that it is the interest, therefore the duty, of every stock-raiser in the county to vote for Jake. I infer, secondly, that, inasmuch as legislation now-a-days requires striking talent, and has taken a pugnacious turn, it behooves the citizens of Marion to send one man at least who is able to defend her rights and interests.—But here I am met with an objection: 'tis said that my candidate on a certain occasion, memorable for the opportunity it gave him to show his great talents, instead of giving a striking exhibition of his manhood, turned aside and wept. In answer, I remark, first, that the statement needs confirmation; hence, it ought not to be urged against him. Secondly, admitting, for the sake of the argument, that he did weep,—what then? It might have been the silent eloquence of grief, pity, and compassion welling up from his great heart, and having for its occasion the political corruptions by which he was surrounded. Or it may be, gifted, as he undoubtedly is, with prescience, in that dark and unbelieved Know Nothing hour, he caught a glimpse of the triumph of Democracy, and of his own advancement, "step by step," up the bright pathway of political fame, and his great soul, overpowered by the glowing effulgence of the ecstatic vision, turned aside and wept. PHENIX.

Emancipation in Missouri. Below we copy from the St. Louis Intelligencer extracts from a speech of B. G. Brown of St. Louis in the Missouri Legislature on the subject of Missouri Emancipation:

There is, sir, already a gradual emancipation act in force in Missouri. Even now the movement looking to the emancipation of all the slaves in this State is successful progress. The extinction of slavery as a system in our midst is at this moment in the course of rapid accomplishment. This may seem a strange, bold and reckless assertion, but it is true nevertheless. The time at which this act went into

operation I need not name, but that it is in operation I will establish by most convincing evidence—and that is an act stronger in syntax, more thorough in effect, and speedier in result than any written law which could be inscribed on the statutes here, few will doubt when they come to consider the proofs. Look to the laboring population which is coming into your State; which is crowding your highways; which is extending itself along your streams and railways; which is building up flourishing towns, laying out fertile farms, planting vineyards in all sections of this State, and you will see the movement to which I refer. Look again, likewise, and observe that wherever this population has fixed its domicile or rested in its course, there it has driven off the institution of slavery before it as chaff before the winter wind, and you will there see how potent and immediate it is in its enforcement—how irresistible in its decrees.

The census of Missouri has been taken during the past year, and now lies upon your tables; and there are startling facts revealed in that enumeration which will bear me out in all that I have said. To them I wish to refer you for evidence that this abolition of slavery, which you are here seeking to stifle and suppress by paper manifestoes, is already in force, and is fast gathering a strength and momentum that must soon crush out all opposition.—The census is the act of gradual emancipation in Missouri. The returns are before us. Let us examine them and compare them with the figures of preceding years. I hold in my hand both the census for the year 1856 and that of the year 1851, embracing a period of five years between them, and thus affording a fair method of analyzing the mutations of population during that interval. I will make them the basis of some calculations, and ask of Representatives that they will reflect upon exhibits presented, and then say whether I have been hasty in assertion, or inaccurate in my statement.

There are, sir, by computation, twenty-five counties in this State, which show an actual decrease of the number of slaves in each of them since 1851. There are one hundred and seven counties in Missouri, so that it appears at the very outset that, in very nearly one-fourth of the whole number, slavery has positively decreased within the last five years. Those counties to which I refer are as follows:

The counties of Cape Girardeau, Crawford, Dade, Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, Marion, Miller, Gasconade, Perry, Ripley, St. Charles, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, St. Louis, Schuyler, Sullivan, Texas, Washington, Wright, Harrison, McDonald, Oregon, Osage, and Cole, contained in 1851, 21,526 slaves, and in 1856, 17,084, showing a decrease in five years of 4,442; of free whites there were, in 1851, 222,693; in 1856, 295,490—increase in five years, 75,797. From the foregoing additions too, it will be manifest that there has not only been an actual decrease of the number of slaves in each of the counties named, but that the increased white population has been correspondingly large. Thus while the decrease of slaves has been 4,442, the increase of whites has been 75,797, or if we take the sum total of those counties in 1851, it will be found that the ratio of slaves to free whites was one to ten, while in the year 1856, it is seen to be but one to thirteen. So much for the absolute decrease of slavery in Missouri. Concurrent with this fact, however, maybe noted the attendant circumstance, that these counties are the same in which white emigrants to this State is known by every gentleman here, to have principally settled. Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, St. Charles, Ste. Genevieve, Cole, Osage and Gasconade, have received within the last five years, a large influx of German laboring population. Others have been settled up by an industrious class of farmers coming from the older States. St. Louis has drawn its increase from all lands, and tongues, and trades and spheres of life, and in each and all the system of slavery has receded before the advance of the white race. It is in these counties chiefly that the laboring white man has come into contact with the laboring slave, and it is there that in the course of but five years, and amid all the excitement of a wild slavery furor which swept over our State, as a wind of desolation, and at a time when men's lives were held in imminent jeopardy who refused to accord a divinity to this institution, there and then I say the energies of the white man, his demand for labor, his frugality, economy and industry, have compelled the usages and institutions of slavery to make room for him and go down in the conflict.

As another, and a strong evidence of what I have stated, that a gradual emancipation act is already in force in Missouri, I call the attention of Representatives to what is transpiring and is known to be transpiring by many now within the sound of my voice, in the counties of this State

that border upon the State of Iowa. The results of the system of slave labor and free labor and the effects upon the wealth and welfare of communities are there distigibly visible in the rival commonwealths. The Iowa line divides the two as clearly and strikingly as the lucid line of water which distinguishes the turbid and muddy torrents of the Missouri from the blue and sparkling currents of the Mississippi at the junction of those mighty rivers. And prominent among the facts which stand out from that contrast—perhaps more prominent than any other, is the relative price of land in the two States. In Iowa land of like soil and situation is fully twice as high as in Missouri. This has led lately to quite a large emigration from Iowa to Missouri along the border counties. Farmers who have settled in Iowa are selling out to new comers, and making purchases in the Northern tier of counties in this State, and the census discloses that the white yeomanry who have taken up their abode there have practically excluded slavery from their midst, and reduced it to an insignificant fraction of population. Thus, by a comparison taken from the census of 1851 and 1856, we find that the relative slave and free population is given as follows in the ten counties adjacent to the State of Iowa:

The counties of Atchison, Nodaway, Gentry, Harrison, Mercer, Putnam, Scotland, Schuyler, Grundy, and Sullivan, contained, in 1851, 633 slaves; in 1856, 871; being an increase of 238 in five years.—Of free whites, in 1851, there were 25,564; in 1856, 57,255—increase in five years, 31,691.

This shows that in five years there has been in the counties along the Iowa line an increase of 31,691 free white citizens, while there has been an increase of only 238 slaves—or an influx of more than one hundred and thirty-two whites to every slave. The whole number of slaves moreover, is seen to be in the ten counties at the present time but 871, and that in the midst of an industrial white population of 57,255 souls. Sir, it is an absurdity to say that any "system of slavery" obtains in those counties. It is an abuse of the phrase—a parody upon the institution.—Slavery there has been excluded, as a system, by settlement and emigration; it lingers only as an exception, and the few who remain as slaves, are held merely as the attachment of family pride or the relics of family inheritance.

The foregoing are but detached, although very significant parts of the census returns for the years 1851 and 1856. Let me now present the sum and substance of the whole enumeration of the entire State.

By the tables of 1851 it appears that there were, in all, 87,923 slaves in Missouri at that time. By the tables of 1856 it will be found that the number of slaves foot up 100,115. This shows an increase in the State at large of 12,492 slaves, during the intervening five years. Perhaps it would be more strictly correct to say six years, inasmuch as the census of 1851 was actually taken in 1850, while that of 1856 was performed late in the year, 1856; but that is a point which I pass over for the present. On the other hand, however, the free white population of Missouri, in 1851, amounted to 594,181, and in 1856 to 799,884, thereby giving an increase of 205,703 during the same period. The proportional increase of free whites to slaves is thus seen to be 16 to 1. Slavery in the entire State has not been increased in ratio equal to the natural increase of population, even in less favored climates, while the increase of free whites has been both constant and far beyond the average growth of communities. These facts conclusively establish that individual emancipation and removal of slaves from the State has taken place, to a large extent, in Missouri, during the half decade referred to, and likewise that emigration is rapidly beginning to find its way here to supply the field of labor, and to develop the wealth that awaits industry.

But it is proper that attention should be here called to that section of the State in which a large proportion of the Slave increase has taken place. An examination will show that it is confined to a few of the more central counties. I again refer to the census tables, and find the following statistics, which exhibit this circumstance in a striking light:

In the counties of Boone, Buchanan, Callaway, Howard, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, New Madrid, Pike, Platte, Saline, and Carroll, there were in 1851, 32,414 slaves, and in 1856, 42,644. Of free whites, in 1851 there were 108,559, in '56, 129,963. Increase of slaves in 12 counties 10,230—increase of whites 21,404.

Here in these twelve counties, lying chiefly in the central belt of territory that borders the Missouri river, we see that the increase of slaves in five years has been 19,230, while the increase of whites has been but 21,404, or a little more than two whites to every slave—a glaring evidence of the effect which an increase of slave

labor has in diminishing the natural increase of white population. In the entire State of Missouri, the whole increase of slaves since 1851, as before shown, has been but 12,492, while the increase in the twelve counties just enumerated is shown to be 19,230; thus establishing that in all the balance of the State—in the ninety-five remaining counties—embracing eight tenths of the area of Missouri, the increase of slaves has been only 2,262. On the other hand, in these twelve counties, the increase in free white population has been but 21,404, while that in the residue of the State—in the ninety-five counties—amounts to 181,299. The contrast then will stand as follows, to wit:

Increase of free whites in ninety-five counties 184,299
Increase of slaves in ninety-five counties 2,262
Ratio of increase of free whites to slaves in ninety-five counties in five years 81 to 1

But these ninety-five counties contain a free white population of 669,921, and a slave population of 87,471, or one slave to eleven whites. These facts and figures demonstrate that in eight tenths of the State, being ninety-five counties out of one hundred and seven, upon a status of population of eleven whites to every slave, the increase of inhabitants exhibits eighty-one free whites to every slave; thus demonstrating beyond all question or cavil, that the emigration which is flowing into our State from the older States, and from Europe, is indisputably antagonistic to the system of slavery. These are matters that Representatives should consider well when seeking again to renew a slavery agitation, for there is no one thing surer on this earth than that every disturbance of the question of slavery contributes to shake the fabric upon which the system rests, and give greater zeal and impetus to the advance of white labor. I have adduced twelve counties as containing nearly half of the slaves in Missouri. Let me refer to some of them again before passing on: Two, and those amongst the largest, are especially to be noted, to wit: Howard and Lafayette. In each of them, it will be remembered, that the increase of slaves is larger than that of free white citizens since 1851, thus:

Whites. Slaves.
Increase in Howard in 5 yrs. 262 782
" Lafayette " 981 1493

This increase, therefore, of slaves has been at the expense of the white population, and those who are so eager in contending for the beneficent influence of "Slavery extension," will have to reconcile it to themselves, how they give praise to an institution which is thus sure even in the heart of Missouri, amid her most fruitful lands and enchanting scenery, to be a barrier to the advancement of their own race and their own lineage.

The contrast which has been presented between the twelve large slave holding counties of Missouri, and the ninety-five counties that may be almost termed non-slaveholding, if we look only to the proportion between whites and slaves, is one that may well call for serious consideration. It is an exhibition of the growth of slavery in a small section of Missouri, and of its decline elsewhere under the influence of emigration from abroad. It tells us in language not to be mistaken, that the great advance in the population of this State, has taken place where slavery has scarcely increased at all. And what does all this signify? It means, as I have already stated, that emancipation is already transpiring in Missouri, for if the statistics I have presented do not amount to this, I know not what would. It is gradual emancipation on its larger, proudest, grandest scale—emancipation gathered as a triumph in the forward march of the white race—a trophy of our own civilization. Sir, I would ask what act can you pass in this General Assembly, equal to that census return for the year 1856?—There is nothing that you could record as law here to-day that would be half so effective. It is the movement of the masses of the people, and while legislation may aid that movement, neither laws, nor edicts, nor resolutions can prevent that movement.

I have alluded, sir, to the counties in this State, where slavery has since 1851 increased—and where it has decreased.—I have shown that in much the largest part of Missouri it is in process of diminution. Let me now submit some other facts to show how light the hold this system, as a labor system, has upon different sections of the State. There are twenty-two counties in Missouri which contain scarcely any slaves. I will cite them:—Adair, Atchison, Butler, Dallas, DeKalb, Gasconade, Gentry, Harrison, McDonald, Marion, Mercer, Oregon, Ozark, Pulaski, Putnam, Reynolds, Ripley, Schuyler, Stone, Sullivan, Texas and Wright have an aggregate white population amounting to 94,685, but have within their limits only 1,019 slaves—or about one sixtieth part of a

negro to every white person. That is what would be called any where but in Missouri, practical emancipation, already accomplished—an emancipation that will compare favorably with many of the free States.

Importance of the Chinese War.

Very few people who read the newspapers realize the vast importance that is going to attach to the Chinese war. The war of 1840-42 was insignificant in comparison. Then, the war grew out of some contraband opium which a British subject claimed, and was prosecuted solely in order to obtain safe commercial intercourse with certain Chinese ports. Now, the war arises out of a persistent refusal of the Chinese to fulfill their treaty obligations, and will be prosecuted until the foreign Powers obtain satisfactory guarantees against fraud or violence on the part of the Chinese in all future time.—This is the basis, and an aim which may involve a war of the very first magnitude.

We have reason to believe that Lord Napier is instructed to consider the co-operation of the United States in the war the most important object to be gained by his embassy to the United States. To what extent he has endeavored to achieve this end, and how far he has succeeded, will soon be known; it is not unlikely that the appointment of the new Governor of Kansas may have been disappointment to him as it deprived him of the co-operation of the man who, above all others, was most likely to share the sentiments of the allies of Europe in reference to the complicated questions of Chinese politics. But there is plenty of material for Chinese Commissioners in this country; Mr. Buchanan has only to hold up his hand, he will obtain the man needed. Mr. Walker can be spared for Kansas.

Were the war conducted solely against the Chinese, the English would not deem it so important. But they are well aware now that behind the Chinese government stands the Emperor of Russia, burning to avenge the losses he has suffered during the war. From Russia—which has always been more of an Asiatic than European Power—the Chinese can obtain what has always been wanting to their armies—officers and discipline; and like the Persians with the same advantages, may, under these conditions, make their enormous numbers tell with terrible effect against their assailants. We hear already that the Russian Plenipotentiaries have succeeded in effecting a temporary reconciliation between the rebels and the imperialists;—the consequence of which will of course be to gather the united strength of the empire against the common enemy. Let a few officers, modern weapons, and a general notion of modern military discipline, be added to the boons already presented to China by the Russians, and the war may become very serious indeed. The Chinese have fought well in the Canton River;—under Russian leaders, and after proper training, they might almost defy any attack. Their numbers alone would laugh to scorn any European armament. They could easily send into the field several armies of a million men each, and could provision them.

To meet them, the English and French have entered into the usual war treaty binding themselves to prosecute the war jointly, &c., &c. It is said that twenty thousand men are about to be shipped from Toulon and Clerbourg for the Canton River. Meanwhile, the British government desires to ascertain whether the anti-Chinese alliance cannot be made a tripartite one, with the United States as full partner for a third.

The question has so many faces that it is susceptible of a great deal of ventilation before a satisfactory settlement can be made. It is decidedly not the policy of this country to join other powers in carrying out wars. The United States have not been in the habit of considering that they had a sufficient interest in any question which interested European Powers to induce them to join them in any military or political operations. At the same time, it is not certain that this Chinese matter is not precisely the exception which the foregoing rule presumes. We are certainly interested in China as largely as England, and very much more largely than any other Power. One way and another, the effect of the stoppage of the Chinese trade by the war will be severely felt here.—Should the Chinese ports be blockaded, as they may be, for a period of years, inconvenience would be felt not only in commercial circles, but in every household in the country. Teas have already risen 30 per cent.

Here are reasons enough why the United States should not be indifferent to the issue of events in China. Whether it happens to coincide with Mr. Buchanan's views for this country to take an active part in the pending contest and be beholden to none but ourselves for the advantages to be wrested from China, or not, it is certain