

and nothing but a great victory will restore it. Even the Indians now say we are of no account, and they will kill small parties when they meet them. Heretofore Americans have had much greater security than any other people.

The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OREGON CITY: SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1857.

D. W. Cass is authorized to do any business connected with The Argus Office during my absence. W. L. ADAMS.

Vote of Clackamas County.

The election returns are not all in, but we are able from private advices to fix upon Lane's majority at fifteen votes. We have the entire Delegate vote of all the precincts excepting three, in which we have the majorities. These majorities being reckoned in with the aggregate vote of the other precincts give Lane 258 and Lawson 243 votes in the county. The rest of the ticket, so far as heard from, stands—

For Constitutional Convention, LOCOFEO.

Kelley, 242 Abernethy, 119 Lovejoy, 207 Reynolds, 99 Starkweather, 200 Campbell, 183 Holbrook, 143 Robbins, 160

Legislature.

Reese, 198 Bryant, 108 Collard, 208 Johnson, 134 Gilliland, 180

Sheriff.

Holcomb, 163 Bacon, 138 Taylor, 160 Burns, 130

Justices of the Peace, in Oregon City.

J. McCarver, elected. J. B. Blaupied elected.

Constables, in Oregon City.

Bradley, elected. Jas. Guthrie, elected.

Besides Blaupied and Guthrie, the Republicans elected a justice of the peace in Mattoon's precinct, which makes three successful candidates in the county.

Linn County.

Lane has carried the county by a heavy majority. Delazon Smith is re-elected by a heavier majority than he ever received before. His majority will probably not fall short of 400. Smith has been very active as a free State man, and many Republicans voted for him. We consider him the most reliable prominent man for freedom in the party to which he belongs, and we are not sorry that his unequivocal position on the slavery question is bringing him up throughout the Territory.

Every blow he strikes for freedom in Oregon from this to the submitting of the constitution will enhance his future prospects.

Polk County.

We hear that this county has gone for Lawson. It may turn out to be different however.

At the election in this precinct last Monday, we noticed that the Salem platform stuck in the throats of most who voted the African ticket. There was much scratching of the ticket done by all intelligent laboring men. We noticed only three classes of men who voted the entire ticket, viz—Those who either have or desire to have an office, the Jews, and the most abjectly ignorant portion of the laboring community.

The fact is, we think that a hard-working man who will speak to the polls and sign away his liberties, by admitting that he is a mere tool to carry out the wishes of the Salem caucus, must be a very ignorant man, and one who would make an excellent slave to work in Jo Lane's potato patch.

Many in this county refused to vote for Lawson (although they were anti-Lane men), on the ground that it "wouldn't do any good." If everybody had been as smart, Lane would have been unanimously elected, and the cause of truth would have been set back for many years. This county could have been carried for Lawson as well as not, if it had not been for that kind of men. We presume, now that the election is over, few will be stupid enough not to admit that the heavy vote for Lawson in Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, Columbia, and Clatsop, will have no moral effect for good in the future.

Republican Victory.

In this precinct, two Justices of the Peace and two constables were voted for—Jennings McCarver as Justice and Bradley as constable on the Locofoco ticket, and Mr. Blaupied as Justice, with James Guthrie as constable, on the Republican ticket.

As this precinct is entitled to two Justices and two constables, all four of the above gentlemen were triumphantly elected.

The body of Capt. Arthur Jamieson, who was drowned at the time the Portland went over the Falls, was found last Saturday, in an eddy a little below the Falls.

W. T. Matlock, Esq., was voted for by some of his friends last Monday for the Council contrary to his wishes. Mr. Matlock was not a candidate.

Vote of Multnomah County.

Delegate to Congress, Lane, [Black Dem.] 316 Lawson, [Dem.] 329

Delegates to Convention, McCormick, 293 Logan, 399 Farrar, 393 Carter, 229 Stark, 249 Stott, 234

Joint Delegate to Convention, A. L. Davis, 260 T. J. Dryer, 340

Representative, A. E. Riddle, 270 W. M. King, 338

Joint Representative, Hyer Jackson, 271 T. J. Dryer, 328

Sheriff, W. McMillan, 347 S. R. Holcomb 308

Auditor, S. Norris, 327 Lichtenthaler, 332

Assessor, T. G. Robbison, 266 J. M. Breck 372

Treasurer, L. M. Starr, 342 J. H. Couch, 229

County Commissioner, J. G. Lisle, 267 F. J. Wilmott, 305

Coroner, Wm. Caples, 264 W. W. Baker 275

Public Administrator, R. P. Wilmott, 327 M. Patton, 264

For Convention, 546—Against, 39. About 650 votes were cast in the county.

Columbia County. We have nothing definite save from St. Helens precinct. Lane there had 13—Lawson, 47. At Rainier Lane had a few votes ahead. Lane was beaten in the county by about 40 votes. Warren is elected to the Legislature over Smith, and Watt to the convention over Harris.

Washington County. Lane is beaten by about 135 votes. Dryer has about 80 votes over Jackson for the joint member, and about 70 over Davis for joint delegate to the convention, so far as heard from. Johnson is elected over Scholl for representative. Belknap, Shattuck and White are elected to the convention. Wm. Caldwell is elected auditor, and Hoover treasurer.

One or two precincts to hear from, which may change the above result.

Glorious News from Yamhill.

Yamhill county has repudiated caucus sovereignty, and her hardy sons stand up as sovereigns. This was the first county to bring Jo Lane into the field as their standard bearer in 1851, and it is now the first to wrap his bloated political carcass in the mantle of Asahel, and bear it snugly screwed down in a coffin made of slabs from the Salem platform, "out of their sight," followed by W. H. Burbank, and a few other snivlers.

Lawson has carried the county by 174 majority. The four precincts, Lafayette, Dayton, McMinnville, and North Fork, gave him about 137 majority.

The caucus sovereignty ticket has been defeated throughout.

The following ticket is elected: Constitutional Convention—J. R. Mc Bride, Robert Kinney, A. V. Short, Martin Olds.

Legislature—Shuck, Allen. Councilman—Scott. Co. Commissioners—Bean, Sawyer. Sheriff—Henry Warren. Assessor—Peters. Treasurer—Wolfe. Republicans in italics, anti-bush democrats in roman.

The ticket elected in Yamhill is composed of the names of good men and true, so far as we are acquainted with them. A correspondent, writing from Lafayette, last Monday says:—

"Judge Skinner's announcement came too late. Scott had already been all over the County and we had pretty generally agreed to drop Skinner and take him, and we could not now run him with any prospect of success—and it would only be an injury to him hereafter to have him beaten now."

In Dayton precinct (Yamhill), the caucus sovereignty ticket stood about 7, to 48 on the other side.

Our old friend Ben. Stark of Portland, who was running on the African ticket in Multnomah for delegate to the Constitutional Convention has been triumphantly elected (to stay at home). His great patriotism induced him to crawl into the locofoco kennel—just to "save the Union"—and we presume the people concluded he could save it just as well by sweltering in the kennel as a private, as he could with an office. We think perhaps he can better.

Some are expressing their surprise that many proslavery men voted the Republican ticket last Monday. The reason is obvious. While they are willing to own "niggers" they are slightly opposed to being owned as "niggers" themselves. Hence they voted for the only white man's party there is, and against the party which, by adopting the caucus-sovereignty doctrine, declares every man in their party to be little or no better in point of political freedom than a "nigger" in his master's cornfield in Kentucky.

The Steamer Commodore reached Portland yesterday. Flour has fallen in San Francisco one dollar per barrel.

We have declined publishing some communications we received too late for last week's paper which related to election matters.

There was a large majority in this county "for convention."

The infant Paganini, son of Mr. Boulon, gave a concert to a respectable audience in this city last Monday night.

Jo Lane voted for convention in this city last Monday morning, and then went to Portland to witness the election which was to rebuke the "crazy Lawson" for his impudence in running against the "Mary Ann of the Mexican War." Toward evening of the same day, he was in the Times office, enquiring of the "Devil" for the election returns, with a face as long as one of the Illinois Prairie Sharks that used to poke their noses through the fence cracks and root up three or four rows of potatoes.

Lane's majority in Marion so far as heard from is near 400. Our friends must have been asleep up there.

Lawson has a large majority over Lane in Clatsop—in Eola the majority is for Lane.

The great knight of black democracy in Oregon, together with his Indiana Sanchez Panza, passed through this city last Thursday, on his way South.

Judging from the way he cursed the Salem platform, and threatened vengeance on its authors, it is thought by some that the knight is cherishing hostile intentions towards the platform and will make a demonstration on reaching Salem that will eclipse the one made by his grand prototype on the wind-mill.

We are under great obligations to Czapsky's agent for a large quantity of Czapsky's circulars which he has had the kindness to send us by the mails.

We presume they were intended to recapitulate the favor shows him by way of these tracts on lying.

Standard stock is looking up in this county since the election.

More Drowning at the Falls. Mr. McKinney was drowned at the Falls last Saturday, while fishing for Salmon. He slipped off a plank into the boiling flood, at the same place where several went in last year. This makes the fourth case of drowning we have recorded at this point within the last year. Mr. McKinney was about fifty years of age and leaves a family.

On Sunday evening an Indian was drowned at the same place while fishing. On Tuesday last, a young man by the name of Giddings slipped off into the water where McKinney and the Indian lost their lives, and was carried under water some twenty or thirty yards, but providentially rose just above the staging which extends over the water, to which he clung and saved his life.

These accidents, we think, should warn those who frequent the Falls to be more careful in the face of such dangers.

The body of Joseph McKinney was recovered and buried last Thursday.

Mr. Dierdorff has our thanks for that box of figs.

For the Argus.

Slave Labor or Free Labor.

Which of these adieally opposite things, drawing after them a train of materially different consequences, is most desirable, all things considered, for the people of Oregon? This is a very important question.

We have come to a point in our journey where the road divides, and we must needs choose either the right hand or the left.—Since these paths lead in different directions, and separate, henceforward, more and more widely from each other, it behooves us to consider, before making another step, which of these will take us most directly to that prosperity which we all desire for Oregon.

In the founding of a new State—still more in the settlement of a new Territory—there is a great deal of hard work to be done; a great deal of work which will serve its present purpose well, last its allotted time, and serve as a firm stepping-stone to the next stage of improvement, or, on the other hand, be only half done at first, and have to be done over a second and a third time, according as the labor expended upon it is hearty, willing, intelligent, and thorough, or lazy, shiftless, and compulsory. Will slavery or freedom do this work best—lay best this foundation-stone of the welfare of Oregon?

Again, since, in the founding of a new State, and still more in the settlement of a new Territory, work of all sorts needs to be going on at the same time, and such an amount of it as to require the active and willing exertions of the whole population,—both the amount of work done and the thorough or negligent manner of doing it will depend very much upon the popular opinion of manual labor, as creditable on one hand, or disgraceful on the other, to him who performs it; will depend very much upon the fact whether a man who shows himself active, industrious, and skillful in working with his hands, and who brings up his sons and daughters in the same way, is respected for this or despised for it by the people around him.—Which of these ways of thinking, beginning with the settlement of Oregon and growing with her growth, will most advance her prosperity?

Again; since, in the settlement of a new Territory, the various sorts of work designed to supply the most urgent bodily necessities are enough to require the constant exertions of the whole population, old and young, there is great danger that the education of the rising generation will be neglected, and that the children, even of intelligent parents, will grow up without learning even how to read, spell, write, and

cypher. Even the best practicable arrangements, in such a region, will leave much deficiency of this sort. The only way to counteract this tendency is to establish a system of free schools from the very first, and take pains to require the attendance of children, and encourage that of all older persons, male and female, who need their instructions, in all the evenings and other fragments of time when they can be spared from other labors. In this way only can we secure ordinary intelligence in the people, and lay a right foundation for the high school, the academy, and the college, when their time shall come.

But the slave States have no free schools.* Some of their people say that they do not desire such an institution, and that education would do more harm than good among the mass of the population; others say that, although desirable, it would interfere too much with slavery to be tolerated where that exists; in fact, that it would be absolutely incompatible with the continuance of slavery. It is for us to consider whether slavery confers any advantage so great that popular education should be sacrificed to it.

Again, as to agriculture. The methods of cultivation in the free States either retain or improve the value of the land. The methods of cultivation in the slave States first deteriorate and then exhaust and ruin the land. So that the statistical details which follow (compiled from De Bow) derive a deeper significance than even the figures show, from the fact that while the unemployed land at the North has not yet been brought under cultivation, much of the unemployed land at the South has been rendered worthless by cultivation, and then abandoned.

In the free States (not including California) the number of acres under cultivation is 108 millions, the number not under cultivation 184 millions, and the average value of the former, per acre, is \$19.83.

In the slave States, the number of acres under cultivation is 180 millions, the number not under cultivation 364 millions, and the average value of the former, per acre, is \$6.18.

In the free States that border on slavery, namely, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, the average value of farms per acre is \$22.17.

In the slave States that border on freedom, namely, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri, the average value of cultivated lands per acre is \$9.25.

And in the slave States south of these which feel least the influence of the free States, the average value of plantations per acre is only \$3.74.

Upon which of these courses shall Oregon begin? The decision must be made forthwith. And it will be much easier to take the right path at first than to retrace our steps after we have entered upon the wrong.

Again. Freedom of thought, of speech, and of the press, are popularly prized as precious and inestimable rights. The institution of slavery directly limits and infringes upon all these, subjecting him who exercises them to disabilities and even penal inflictions. The first instances which we shall quote are taken from the Laws of Kansas.

"Chapter 131, p. 715. An act to punish offenses against slave property.

"Sec. 11. If any person print, write, introduce into, publish or circulate, or cause to be brought into, printed, written, published or circulated, or shall knowingly aid or assist in bringing into, printing, publishing or circulating within this Territory, any book, paper, pamphlet, magazine, handbill, or circular, containing any statements, arguments, opinions, sentiment, doctrine, advice or innuendo, calculated to produce a disorderly, dangerous, or rebellious disaffection among the slaves in this Territory, or to induce such slaves to escape from the service of their masters, or resist their authority, he shall be guilty of felony, and be punished by imprisonment at hard labor for a term not less than five years.

"Sec. 12. If any free person, by speaking or writing, assert or maintain that persons have not the right to hold slaves in this Territory, or shall introduce into this Territory, print, publish, write, circulate, or cause to be written, printed, published, or circulated in this Territory, any book, paper, magazine, pamphlet, or circular, containing any denial of the right of such persons to hold slaves in this Territory, such person shall be deemed guilty of felony, and punished by imprisonment at hard labor for a term not less than two years.

"Sec. 13. No person who is conscientiously opposed to holding slaves, or who does not admit the right to hold slaves in

*Or, more accurately speaking, none so established or so conducted as to secure the attainment of general education to anything like the same extent as in the free States. This may be illustrated by a little extract from De Bow's Compendium of the Seventh Census (based on the census returns for 1850), compiled by the public schools of the free States as more than 62,000, he gives those of the slave States as 18,507, and those of Georgia as 1,251. But in another part of the book (p. 146) we find this material modification of the statement: "Georgia—no public schools strictly, but schools receive a certain amount of aid from State funds. This is true for many Southern States." We take this to mean that gratuitous instruction in the Southern schools generally is given only to those who claim it on the ground of poverty, in which case it will be claimed, and used, by only a small proportion of those who need it. This consideration alone is sufficient to account for the deficiency so manifest in the slave States in regard to the first rudiments of knowledge; for the facts, compiled from official documents of the year 1850, that the free States, with a population of 13,434,922 had but 32,068 native whites over twenty years of age who were unable to read and write, while the slave States, with a population of 5,612,769, had 493,026 native whites over twenty years of age who were ignorant. Or, to take single contiguous States, Ohio, with a population of 1,980,329, had but 4,290 native white adults thus ignorant, while Kentucky, with a population of 924,005, had 64,240. These statistics have an important meaning for us to consider.

this Territory, shall sit as a juror on the trial of any prosecution for the violation of any of the sections of this act."

All the slave States have either laws like these, or a habit of promptly applying Lynch law to persons even suspected of trying their rights of free speech, writing, and publication, in opposition to slavery.—Not to speak of the open rifling of the mails and the burning of anti-slavery matter contained in them, which once took place in Charleston, S. C., abundance of cases are known in which postmasters have refused to transmit, or to deliver, letters and papers which they judged to be against slavery. And even if such papers could be delivered, residents in slave States dare not subscribe for them, or be known to have them in possession. Every one remembers the recent expulsion of Professor Hedrick from a college in North Carolina, merely because he chose to vote for a Presidential candidate who was unpopular in that place; and statements like the following are to be found, every month in the year, in the Southern papers:—

"AN ABOLITIONIST SMOKEED OUT.—The people of Madison county, Florida, discovering that they had an abolitionist among them—George Eaton Colson by name—called a meeting to consider his case. Evidence being produced under oath that he was, by his own confession, an abolitionist of the Greeley, perhaps even of the Garrison, stamp, the meeting resolved to give him notice to quit. This was done on penalty of 99 lashes in case of his refusal, to be repeated in double dose in case of further refusal. He left. His family was assisted by the citizens with means to enable them to follow him."—Savannah Georgian, Nov. 21st.

It is for us to consider whether slavery offers inducements so valuable as that for them we shall consent to abridge our own rights and liberties in the manner, and to the extent, above described. Shall we deliberately adopt an institution which systematically and continuously denies all rights to the minority; which puts it in the power of the community to dictate how every man shall vote, what newspaper he shall take, what sort of speech he shall make at a public meeting, what aid he may give to objects that he considers worthy of support, what advice he may give to a friend, or acquaintance, or to any unfortunate man who chances to ask his counsel? If we adopt slavery, by that very act we fetter our own limbs and padlock our own mouths. Is slavery worth this sacrifice?

Finally: though slavery has been adopted as the settled policy (or impolicy) of a very large section of our country, and though the General Government has always been disposed to favor it, there has always been a minority, stronger in argument than in numbers, lifting up their voices against it. Jefferson, though a slaveholder, spoke freely and strongly against the system, as both unjust and impolitic. Washington emancipated his slaves at his death, and would probably have done so earlier, but for his wife's influence. Franklin was President of an anti-slavery society. In our own times, men are assiduously laboring in defence of the idea that liberty is really, as it is called in the Declaration of Independence, an inalienable right of every human being, and that slavery is a great evil every where.

These men have attracted many persons to co-operate with them; and they have so agitated the community, North and South, they have shown so manifestly the pernicious influence of slavery, alike upon the master, the slave, the community around them, and the nation of which they are constituent parts, they have so assiduously labored through every accessible channel, to impress their ideas on the community, and have so vividly interpreted to men the voice of reason, justice, and right principle, they fell not very short of carrying the last Presidential election.

The fact to which we wish to call attention is, that a feeling and a course of action adverse to slavery-extension is rapidly increasing and not likely to stop until slavery itself ceases. Wherever slavery is, or proposes to go, this element will be awake and active, breeding dissent and turmoil, separating parties, sects, families, business connections, literary associations, churches, in short agitating all the departments and all the interests of society. The question for us is,—Shall we, by admitting slavery, admit this inevitably accompanying source of debate and contention?

If you, Mr. Editor, are disposed to insert this, and to devote some further space to the consideration of the same subject, I would willingly examine, in a few brief articles, the statements made in a proslavery speech of Hon. Alexander H. Stephens, of Georgia (which has been widely distributed in Oregon) on the bill to admit Kansas as a State under the Topeka Constitution.

JOSIAS.

Republican Meeting in Clatsop.

At a meeting of the Republicans of Clatsop county held in Astoria on the 23d ult., D. E. PEASE was chosen chairman and CHAS. STEVENS secretary.

W. W. Parker stated the objects of the meeting and then moved to appoint a committee of three, to prepare resolutions for the consideration of the meeting, which was adopted. W. W. Parker, Joshua Elder and John Jewett were appointed by the chair.

After a short recess, the chairman of the committee presented the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas the Republicans of this county have hitherto refrained from organizing

as a political party; choosing rather to select from the candidates presented by the so-called democratic party such men as they believed best qualified to fill the offices to which they aspire; and whereas both sections of the African democracy in their nominating convention, held at Astoria on Monday last, placed their candidates on platforms which we as Republicans cannot consistently sanction; Therefore,

1st. Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that there is now an imperious necessity for the organization of the Republican party in this county, and that we cordially invite all who are favorable to republican principles, and who sympathize with the objects of our organization, what ever may have been their former party predilections, to unite with us in resisting the extension of the curse of African slavery into territory now free.

2d. Resolved, That for the purpose of organizing the Republican party in Clatsop county, a county executive committee, consisting of three members to be appointed by the meeting to act for the ensuing year.

3d. Resolved, That we endorse the principles embraced in the platform adopted at the Republican National Convention, held at Philadelphia in June last, and in the Resolutions of the Oregon Territorial Republican convention held at Albany in February, 1857.

4th. Resolved, That we regard as anti-democratic and destructive of the best interests of the Territory the proscription course pursued by the so-called democracy of Oregon in their Territorial Convention, and that we view with loathing and disgust, the resolutions of that convention which makes the dictation of an irresponsible party caucus paramount to the clearly expressed will of the people.

5th. Resolved, That this meeting regard the late decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the Dred Scott case, though it is now the law of the Union, and binding on every citizen so far as applicable, yet it is no more nor less than a gross perversion of the facts of history, upon which it is claimed to be based, and therefore the decision is any thing but truth.

The resolutions were ably discussed by Judge Skinner, W. W. Parker, and others, and unanimously adopted.

W. W. Parker, Chas. Stevens, and John Jewett were chosen as an executive committee.

Solomon H. Smith was then nominated as a candidate for representative, David Ingalls for Treasurer, Philip Goubeart Probate Judge, W. H. Gray, Superintendent common Schools, Joshua Elder, County Surveyor, and G. W. Cook Coroner.

Voted that we concur in the action of the republicans of Yamhill.

Voted the proceedings be published in The Argus.

D. E. PEASE, Ch'n, CHAS. STEVENS, Sec'y.

For the Argus.

Comets.

MR. EDITOR—As the credulous world has been astounded and considerably terrified of late by the announcement said to have been made on the authority of some German astronomer—probably obfuscated by the fumes from his own meerschaum—that our globe is to be destroyed on the 13th of June, instant—and not the 30th, as has been erroneously stated—by coming in contact with a comet of immense magnitude moving at a prodigious rate of speed, I am authorized in showing, as briefly as possible, the nature of these fiery wanderers, which have from the earliest ages filled mankind with terror, and been

"the direful spring Of woes unnumbered."

as well as the forerunners in the world's superstitious imaginations of wars, pestilence, and famine. Every one who can remember the events of twenty-five years ago, will recollect the consternation into which the good people of Paris were thrown by the predictions of certain French astronomers relative to the expected collision of a comet with the earth about that time.—Many serious accidents occurred in consequence, and so utter was the dread inspired among that excitable people, that the astronomers issued a circular demonstrating all their fears to be groundless. History records the appearance of a luminous comet immediately after the assassination of Julius Cæsar, B.C. 43, and his interested friends took the occasion to impress the Roman people with the belief—doubtless an easy task—that this was the apothosis of Cæsar, and thenceforward he was reckoned among the gods. The great comet of 1550 set the world crazy, and so perplexed the emperor Charles V. that he abdicated his throne and retired to a cloister, to count his beads and muse on the vanity of human greatness. This gave occasion to Milton's well-known allusion in Paradise Lost. The memory of that comet will last while the English language endures. Again in 1690 the world was astonished by the near approach of one of these visitors, a fiery-red comet, which exhibited himself for a few weeks, and then cleared out to parts unknown, to the great relief of mankind in general. He is chiefly memorable for the calculations which Sir Isaac Newton made in regard to him—that is, to the comet—namely, as to his velocity, calidity, refrigibility, periodic revolution, and the terrible shivers he will cut up on his next return to our vicinity. Sir Isaac computed the rate at which this comet sped along in its fiery track, during its nearest approach to the sun, to be eight hundred and eighty thousand miles an hour, its heat at two thousand times greater than red-hot iron, and that if it were the size and density of our globe it would take at least fifty thousand years to cool!—that its period of revolution was 575 years; and that at its next return to our system, in the year 2255, it would probably strike the earth and destroy it with fire! If this be true, the world might well exclaim, "Ah! 'twas no me!" for