

TERMS—The ARGUS will be furnished at Three Dollars and Fifty Cents per annum, in advance, to single subscribers—Three Dollars each to clubs of ten at one office—in advance. When the money is not paid in advance, Four Dollars will be charged if paid within six months, and Five Dollars at the end of the year. Two Dollars for six months—No subscriptions received for a less period. No paper discontinued until all arrearages are paid, unless at the option of the publisher.

The Oregon Argus.

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

VOL. III.

OREGON CITY, OREGON, JUNE 13, 1857.

No. 9.

ADVERTISING RATES.
One square (12 lines or less) one insertion, \$3.00
" " " two insertions, 4.00
" " " three insertions, 5.00
Each subsequent insertion, 1.00
Reasonable deductions to those who advertise by the year.

JOB PRINTING.

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

THE MAINE LAW IN MAINE.

The Committee of the late Legislature of Maine to which was committed the subject of the sale of spirituous liquors, made a non-committal report, the substance of which is: That intemperance is one of the greatest evils that scourge the human race; that the people of Maine have repeatedly taken legislative action for the prevention of this great evil; that from 1846 to 1855 the state had a prohibitory statute, "the results of which are fresh in the memory of the public;" that in 1856, the Maine law was enacted, which the committee thinks is not operating so well as its framers assumed, but as a question of such magnitude should not be decided rashly; the committee recommend nothing, but say that when a prohibitory law is enacted again, it should be drawn with the most cautious regard to its permanency, to its efficiency, and to popular confidence and support;—and as the legislature was not chosen with reference to the passage of a prohibitory liquor law, the committee declare that they should take no action on the subject but leave it to the people. The Legislature concluded with the committee.

THE POISONING AT WASHINGTON.

It is now believed that no less than seven hundred persons have been seriously and dangerously affected by the National Hotel poison, at Washington; and some twenty or thirty deaths have occurred in consequence. There are still several persons very seriously ill in that city, whose recovery is doubtful. Among others the Hon. Robert J. Walker has not yet entirely recovered from his severe attack. Senator Hale of New Hampshire has become a thin, lean man, under its ravages. It is now the opinion of many persons that there was a deliberate purpose to poison Mr. Buchanan; and that the diabolical accident hazarded the lives of thousands in the attempt.

NEW GOVERNOR OF UTAH.

The Washington Union announces, at the head of its leading editorial column, that it understands that the Governorship of Utah Territory has been tendered to Major Benj. McCullough, of Texas, and "that there is every reason to believe that he will accept the office." The Union says: "It would be difficult to name another person who combines in himself so many qualities for the successful discharge of the duties of this important and delicate trust as are undoubtedly possessed by Major McCullough." This reads much as if the Administration intended bestowing unequalled attention upon the Salt Lake community. It is presumed that the great mass of the Mormon people will be glad to avail themselves of an opportunity to escape from the loathsome and excruciating despotism of the obscene prophets, and that the notorious braggart, Brigham Young, could not, if he dare, raise such a rebellion.

SCARCITY OF FOOD IN WESTERN IOWA.

A correspondent of the St. Louis Republican, writing from St. Joseph, Mo., under date of April 13th, says that while on a recent visit to Western Iowa, he met long trains of wagons going, as the driver said, "into Egypt to purchase corn." The severe and protracted winter had pressed hard upon the newly arrived immigrants who had not time to prepare for its rigors, while the almost entire consumption of flour, corn and bacon, had presented the alternative of famine, or sending into Missouri for supplies.

The National Intelligencer, of April 11th, says:—"The various works at the Capitol are being busily urged at this time. The foundations for the two corridors to connect the main building with the North and South wings are excavated, and the building of the connections will soon commence. In the interior the fine colonade of the House of Representatives is far advanced, and already presents an imposing appearance.—The ceiling, too, is not very distant from completion, and never fails to strike every beholder with admiration at its gorgeous beauty."

The impression that the world is to be at an end on the 13th of June is so prevalent in Galicia that the peasants are becoming somewhat difficult to manage.—The poor ignorant creatures have been confirmed in the idea that they have but few weeks to live, by the abolition of the "passport torture" in Austria, and the reduction of the passport tax in Russia. According to a Polish correspondent of the *Ost Deutch Post*, the lower classes express themselves as follows:—"No one now troubles himself about the world and its inhabitants. A man can go where he pleases, as it is now all the same whether he is here or in America."

It is not generally known that a lump of loaf sugar will often instantly stop the most troublesome hiccough.

Look out for the comet!

Affairs in Nicaragua—Walker's Condition.

TWO MORE BATTLES AT RIVAS!

Before the arrival of the last steamer, so desperate was the situation of General Walker supposed to be, that his friends were inclined to regard the career of our adventurous countryman in Nicaragua as closed for the present; but the latest advices give a slightly-different coloring to the picture—Walker still gallantly defends himself in Rivas, and Henningsen threatens to eat his prisoners before a surrender is made. The following letter in the San Francisco Herald, from a correspondent on the Isthmus, gives a good deal of information relative to the recent battles at Rivas, and the actual condition of things in Nicaragua:

"On the 25th of April, when our last news was received here, via Greytown, Walker had still four hundred men. On the 15th and 25th of April, he had two battles, in both of which he killed an immense number of the Allies, sustaining but little loss himself.

"The Costa Rican papers themselves state that he was fighting with as much vigor as ever—that desertion had entirely ceased in his little band, and that Henningsen had declared to the Allied Generals that he would cook prisoners for food before he would surrender. The occasion of this reply was as follows:—At the last battle, Walker and Henningsen obtained so much advantage over the enemy as to take from them an eighteen-pound gun, a twenty-four-pound gun, and some other pieces of artillery, and over two hundred prisoners. Among these prisoners was one Escalante, a nephew of the Costa Rican Minister of War. In their anxiety to save him, the Costa Rican General—who is also commander-in-chief of the Allied forces—solicited an exchange of prisoners of Gen. Walker, who referred him to Gen. Henningsen. The latter replied that he would exchange a certain number of prisoners, not for his own men, but for cattle—one man for each bullock—that he knew he (Mora) had no recently-taken prisoners, and if he had desertors whom he wished to palm off as prisoners, he preferred he should keep them;—and that if worst came to worst, he knew how to make the prisoners he himself had serve as well as bullocks."

"In the battle of the 15th of April, Walker retreated before the enemy from house to house, keeping up an apparent attempt at resistance, until he had decoyed them into and among those houses he had prepared for them, and then Henningsen blew up said houses, and Walker turning, charged so impetuously upon them that he took a large number of prisoners. The Costa Ricans at Greytown say that their forces were doing little, in waiting for ammunition. The truth is, they are afraid to fight him now, because their artillery is mostly gone, and they cannot cope with him on any such equality as that of dependence upon small arms. The slaughter of the forces of the Allies was immense.—The Costa Rican papers persist in saying that they have Walker hemmed in, so that he can do nothing—that no provisions for a surplus party can be obtained—that his men do not get anything but at the risk of their lives, and that some of them are sacrificed daily in their desperate efforts to obtain vegetables to sustain life—that they are gaining upon him daily, and driving him into a smaller space, etc. And yet, say they, Henningsen was hurt by a fall from his horse, and his men only yield their ground inch by inch, and with great slaughter to our forces. What would Gen. Henningsen do with a horse, if an area of only half-a-dozen houses was to be traversed, and now would men fight with as much vigor as ever, if starved! No, the truth is, Walker is perfectly able to hold his own, and his rangers get him all the provisions he needs—but he has not the force to drive the enemy from the siege without too great a sacrifice. Moreover, we know there are a considerable number of American ladies, besides many native women, in Rivas. Would they be permitted by Gen. Walker, or Capt. Davis of the U. S. sloop-of-war St. Mary's (who has frequent interviews with both Walker and the Allies), to remain there if his situation was a desperate one? He must have help to do anything; but he can defend himself as he is for a considerable time.

"Besides, everything is ripe, both in Costa Rica and Nicaragua, for rebellion and the overthrow of 'the powers that be,'—and in Nicaragua, a large party are fast making up their minds that if they have to choose between Walker and the Costa Ricans, they would prefer the former."

PITIFUL!

"Why did Joseph's brethren cast him into the pit?" asked a Sabbath school teacher of his class.
"Because," replied one young lady, "they thought it a good opening for the young man."

Commentators are requested not to avail themselves of this explanation, as copyright has been secured.

England and the United States.

At a banquet given to the Palmerston ministry by the Lord Mayor of London, on the 21st of March, Lord Palmerston spoke on the foreign policy of Great Britain, and thus alluded to the relations with the United States:

"I will only say I believe that at no time in recent years has there existed so thoroughly sound and wholesome a feeling as now prevails between the people of this country and the United States, who, understanding their reciprocal interests, feel a determination that those interests shall not be disturbed by quarrels and disagreements, which may partially derange, though they do not interrupt, our friendly communications. I believe that this amicable feeling is shared as well by the Government of the United States as by the Government of Her Majesty, and we have this advantage—that the eminent man who has now been raised by the voice of his countrymen to preside over the destinies of those States, has but recently left our shores, has lived among us, has mixed with all classes of our people, and has been able to appreciate the esteem and respect felt for his country by all sections in these Kingdoms."

Destruction of Life in China.

Sir John Bowring, in his Notes on China, states that human life there is held in very little value. In addition to the vast numbers who perish from the want of means of subsistence, great numbers perish from storms and typhoons, which visit the coast, rivers, and lakes on which they expose themselves in their frail boats of every description, which are sometimes overwhelmed by hundreds and by thousands. So also whole towns and villages are often swept away by inundations, against which no adequate precautions are taken. In addition to these causes of destruction, it is reported that the late civil war has led to the loss of millions of lives. The sacrifices of life by executions, also, is frightful. "At the moment at which I write," the author remarks, "it is believed that from four to five hundred victims fall daily by the hands of the headman in the province of Kwangtung alone." We close with the following extracts on the subject of infanticide:

There are various opinions as to the extent of infanticide in China, but that it is a common practice in many provinces admits of no doubt. One of the most eloquent Chinese writers against infanticide, Kwei Chung Fu, professes to have been specially inspired by the "God of literature" to call upon the Chinese people to refrain from the inhuman practice, and declares that the God has filled his house with honors, and given him literary descendants as the recompense for his exertions. Yet his denunciations scarcely go farther than to pronounce it wicked in those to destroy their female children who have the means of bringing them up, and some of his arguments are strange enough: "To destroy daughters," he says, "is to make war upon Heaven's harmony," (in the equal number of the sexes); "the more daughters you drown the more daughters you will have; and never was it known that the drowning of daughters led to the birth of sons." He recommends abandoning children to their fate "on the wayside" as preferable to drowning them, and then says: "There are instances of children so exposed having been nursed and reared by tigers." Where should we have been, he asks, "if our grandmothers and mothers had been drowned in their infancy?" And he quotes two instances of the punishments of mothers who had destroyed their infants, one of whom had a blood red serpent fastened to her thigh, and the other her four extremities turned into cow's feet. Father Ripa mentions that of abandoning children the Jesuits baptized in Peking alone not less than three thousand yearly. I have seen ponds which are the habitual receptacles of female infants, whose bodies lie floating on their surface.

The War in China.

The *Moniteur de la Flotte*, of Paris, publishes the following details relative to the war in China:—"The Chinese, it is said, are at present making formidable military preparations which are not to be despised. Since the attack on Canton the Chinese have executed enormous works on the Pei-ho, a river which falls into the Yellow Sea, and by which a communication is maintained with Peking. That river is now barred in twenty-two different places by dams built of stone, which completely intercept the navigation. These works are regarded as a curiosity. Moreover, the three branches of the Pei-ho, canalized by the Emperor Kia-Kang in 1817, are cut, and the course of one of them, the Hu-ho, has been turned off into the lake of Koko-tchi. When an army invades the Chinese empire, the principal means of defence is to let the waters of this lake overflow the country. This system of defence, efficacious against an enemy, but most disastrous for the country, was first used against the insurgents in 1852. The city of Peking is consequently perfectly safe from an attack either by land or by sea, and the Emperor will, in any desperate circumstance, be protected by the fascinations of the peo-

ple, who will stop at no means of destroying the foreigners.

A circumstance has lately demonstrated the truth of this fact. The British ships proceeding to Canton have been in the custom of taking fresh water at Whampoa from a small river which falls into the Tchoukiang. It was remarked that the sailors using this water lately have been attacked with colic, and after a careful investigation it was discovered that the water was poisoned by the Chinese. They employed for this purpose the trunk of certain trees, which, after being prepared for the occasion impart, a deadly poison.

Railroad Enterprise.

The London Times of the 17th ultimo, has a lengthy article on the enterprise of American railroad companies, in which the following paragraph appears:

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, as first made, avoided an expensive tunnel by a series of zigzags, ascending over a hill by a gradient of 1 in 18 at its steepest part, each zigzag terminating in a short level space, so that the train could run up one zigzag on to this level space, and then backed up the next zigzag, and so on."—This eccentric expedition was superceded by a tunnel afterwards, but the American would not wait for perfection before he had his railway in the first instance. We wish our Indian authorities would take a hint from American expeditions. They go on waiting for perfect engineering, and doing nothing till they can do everything as it is done in this country. The Americans would have covered India with railways before now. The mode of raising funds for the construction of railways by means of grants of land, is, perhaps, a useful hint to our Australian authorities.

HEAVY SNOW IN THE MIDDLE OF APRIL.

They had a great snow storm at the East in April, which may well be called, by way of distinction, the Great April Snow Storm of 1857. It extended as far east as Portland, and extended some distance into the State of New York, and as far South as Washington.

Along the Hudson river a foot or two of snow fell during the day.

In Delaware county, N. Y. some four feet of snow fell, the storm there continued without abatement for twenty-two hours. Roofs were broken in by the weight of the snow, and the stages were stalled in the highways on account of its depth.

In Reading, Pennsylvania, the snow on Monday was "fifteen inches deep and heavy as lead." The roofs of the railroad machine shops and private houses broke in under the weight of the snow, and several other buildings fell down entire with a crash.

In New Jersey and Southern New York, also, there were several inches of snow.—At Paris, Fauquier county, Va., three inches of snow were reported on Tuesday.

Such a storm, attended with so great a quantity of snow, is unprecedented, at this season. No one now living, at all events, ever witnessed the like.

A FREE-SOIL PAPER IN TEXAS.

The *Galveston News* is very severe in its denunciations of the *Quitman Free Press*, a newspaper published in Wood county, for its "open and bitter hostilities to Southern institutions." It professes to support the Southern Democracy, and still ventures to believe, and what is still more important, to say, that the interests of Texas would be greatly promoted by substituting free for slave labor. And to render the case still more alarming, the *News* says that the democracy of Wood county have elected the editor of this same anti-slavery paper to represent them in State Convention. The *News* is candid enough to concede that "if the people of that section of the State, or any large number of them; desire to rid themselves of the institution of negro slavery, we suppose they have a perfect right to do so in a legitimate and constitutional manner." This is a stretch of common sense which has not been attained in many of the Southern States. The time will come, however, when the question will be canvassed as pre-eminently one of home interest.—*New York Times*.

Indian Massacre in Iowa.

The following is the account, reaching us through the *De Moines (Iowa) Citizen*, of the wholesale and shocking Indian massacre that lately occurred in Northwest Iowa:

By a letter dated Boonsboro', March 28th, from our townsman, S. B. McCall, to R. W. Snyper, we learn the following:—"The Indians have been doing much mischief Northwest of Fort Dodge, some forty or fifty miles. They have killed ten or twelve families of whites,—over 40 persons altogether."

Major Williams has raised a company of near a hundred men, to bury the dead, hold a coroner's inquest, and take the Indians if possible.

This is but too true; it is supposed that the band of warriors number 50 or 60, and thought to be of the tribe under Skendo-tak's band of Sioux, the same that robbed old Lot at the mouth of Boone river, ten years ago."

In Paraguay nearly every woman chews tobacco.

The Object of Crabb's Expedition.

Some eight or ten months ago, General Crabb, in company with his brother-in-law, visited Sonora. For the information of those who may not be acquainted with all the facts relating to the expedition, it may be necessary to state that Gen. Crabb was connected by marriage to one of the most powerful native families in Sonora, and that in that family, resident at present in this city, the death of three husbands and two brothers is deplored to day. At the time of Mr. Crabb's first visit, civil war prevailed in Sonora. One party was headed by Gandara, Governor of the State and representative of the Central Government—the other by Posqueira. With the chiefs of the latter party Mr. Crabb had several interviews. It was represented to him that the people of Sonora were anxious to declare their independence preparatory to annexation to the United States, for oppression was the only result of their connection with Mexico, and that with the co-operation of Americans the project was entirely feasible.

Mr. Crabb returned to this State to raise men to aid the Sonorians in their struggle for freedom, and in the meantime the Gandara party were defeated and their leader was driven from the country. The first step towards conquering their independence had been taken by the people of Sonora. The representatives of the Central Government had been driven from the State, and the declaration of independence was all that was required to render its independence a *fait accompli*. Shortly after these events transpired, Gen. Crabb reached the frontier with his men. So confident was he that his arrival would be the signal for the performance of the formal act which was to separate Sonora from Mexico, that, in a letter received from him by one of his friends, dated the 25th of March, he said "he expected that, on his reaching Altar, the independence of Sonora would be declared."

It now turns out that sometime before the arrival of Gen. Crabb on the frontier, some sort of a compromise was made between the contending factions, and to this compromise he and the gallant band by whom he was accompanied were sacrificed. Such is the secret history of this last expedition to Sonora. Of the results which may be expected to flow from its sad termination, it is not our purpose to speak at present. The memory, however, of the brave men who were butchered at Cavorca will not speedily be forgotten, nor the hope of vengeance lightly abandoned.—*San Francisco Herald*.

The number of newspapers taken in the town of Hartford, Conn., per week, is 1770. The vote of the town seldom reaches four hundred. It is one of the most intelligent and moral communities in New England.