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The Oregon Argus.

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

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ADVERTISING RATES. One square (12 lines or less) one insertion, \$5.00; two insertions, \$4.00; three insertions, \$3.00; 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 this locality. HANDBILLS, POSTERS, BLANKS, CARDS, CIRCULARS, PAMPHLET-WORK and other kinds, done to order, on short notice.

For the Argus. Apostrophe to the Sea.

Mourn on, mourn on, O solitary Sea! I love to hear thy moan: The world's lament attuned to melody In thy undying tone. Lo! on the yielding sand I lie alone, And the white cliffs around draw their screen, And part me from the pleasure. Let me die now For one short hour its pleasure and its spleen, And, wrapt in dreamy thought, some peaceful moments glean.

No voice of any living thing is near, Save the wild sea-bird's wail, That seems the cry of sorrow, deep and drear, That nothing can avail. Now in the air with broad white wing they sail, And now descending dot the towering sand, Now rest upon the waves, yet still their wail Of bitter sorrow floats toward the land, Like grief which change of scene is powerless to amend.

The sea approaches, with its weary heave, Moaning unceasingly. An earnest grief, too tranquil to depart, Speaks in that troubled sigh; Yet its glad waves seem dancing merrily, For hope conceals from them the warning tone. Gaily they rush toward the shore—to die: All their bright spray upon the bare sand thrown, While still around them wails that sad and ceaseless moan.

And thus it is in life—when in the breast Gay sparkling hopes arise; Each one in turn just shows its gleaming crest, Then falls away and dies. On life's bare sands each cherished vision lies, Numbered with those that will return no more; There early love, youth's well-cherished ties—Bright dreams of fame—lie perished on the shore, While the worn heart laments what grief can never restore.

Yet still the broken waves, retiring, strive Against their crests to rest; Seeking in sparkling beauty to revive, As in their first career. They strive in vain; their lustre, bright and clear, Forsakes them now, with earth all dimm'd and stain'd.

And thus the heart would raise its visions dear, And shape them new from fragments that remain'd. But finds their brightness gone, by earth's cold touch profan'd. Long have I linger'd here; the evening fair In robe of mist draws nigh; The sinking sea sighs forth its sad despair, More and more distantly. I find'd in the sea-bird's melancholy cry, For night approaches with the step of age, When youth's sharp griefs are soften'd to a sigh, And when the dim eye afar beholds the page That holds the record of a sorrow's former rage.

And nature answers my complaining woe With her own quiet tear; Bids me observe the mist ascending, slow, From the deserted shore, And learn that, scattered and defiled no more, The fallen waves are wait'd to rise: That thus the hopes I bitterly deplore, Though fast they fall before my aching eyes, Fall but in tears on earth, to heaven unstain'd to rise!

PORTLAND, July 15, 1857. L. A.

For the Argus. The Great Opportunity.

We speak week before last of the great question. Every great question gives opportunity for noble action. It is the struggle for the right, the high resolve, the courageous expression, and intrepid action, which gives birth to heroes. Many a noble name is there, made so by the rights which the bearer proclaimed and defended with his pen, his tongue, or his sword. And every hero will be exalted according to the greatness of the theme which he advocates. As the object rises, so he will rise. As its influence spreads abroad, so will his fame extend until his very name becomes a household word among all people, and his history a part of the world's history. So has it been with an Alfred who gave to England freedom from her enemies, an improved government, the beginning of her literature and the foundation of her institutions of learning. So has it been with Gustavus Adolphus, who, with his 30,000 brave Swedes, rushed forth and saved Middle Europe from religious oppression. So was it with John Hampden, and much more with Oliver Cromwell.—Their opposers and oppressors passed away, and every true Englishman now honors them, because they were right and their enemies wrong. So was it with the rebels, John Hancock, James Otis, and Samuel Adams. They proved themselves right in their rebellion, and now it is justified as a laudable revolution. The name of Brownist, Puritan, and Methodist were bestowed as a reproach, but they have all lived to reflect honor upon these epithets. The right has always triumphed. At first it may have had few friends, but discussion, instruction, and patient courage, have made it prominent and victorious.—On the contrary, the names of those who have opposed the right are now mentioned as a shame and reproach. Their memory shall rot.

We have alluded to these facts of history, because at this moment an opportunity offers not only to one, but to many persons, to engrave their names among those of the benefactors of mankind. The welfare not of two States or two nations merely is involved, but the welfare of two races depends upon the men of our time.

The opportunity extends even to us in this distant land. According to our relative importance in the national scale are we necessarily involved now. We are about to decide the question whether to admit negro slavery into Oregon. The question concerns our present and future interests as a people, as well as the welfare of the race to be enslaved. It affects our highest welfare as well as theirs. The argument against slavery begins with the question of food and clothing, and ends with that of mind and soul.

It affects first everything connected with labor, with trade, and with internal improvement.

There are 40,000 Germans in Texas, and they, though poor on their arrival a few years since, are living with more comfort, and they are amassing more wealth, than their neighbors the planters and slaveholders. Some planters begin to hire freemen instead of employing slaves to work their plantations. Free labor is gaining upon slave labor in Missouri. The reason is palpable. For just over the line in Iowa free labor has tripled the price of the same kinds of land. From a late paper we quote the following statement:

"One of the most prominent citizens of Missouri—the owner of twenty-one grown up slaves, besides their progeny—has offered to emancipate them all, provided general emancipation could be secured.—He knows and says that the rise in real estate, consequent upon the abolition of slavery in Missouri, would fourfold pay for the slaves."

These are not single, isolated facts, but common, general, and almost universal ones. A glance at the border line between slave and free States indicates the same thing. The towns and cities that grow up in free States, compared with those which grow up in slave States, make it still more evident. The census returns prove it beyond question or doubt. Freedom conserves the material welfare of a people; slavery consumes or destroys their wealth. Freedom develops and multiplies the resources of the soil, the mines, the streams, and the seas; slavery eats out the goodness of the soil, poorly works the mines, leaves the streams to run their idle course, and the seas untraversed by merchant vessels, whaling fleets, or fishing schooners.

The hired labor of a freeman makes him interested in his work, and, by the movings of his interest, all his power to toil is brought out. The slave has only the lowest, if any, interest in his labor.

Freedom invites competition, so that labor improves and cheapens at the same time, while its products, being reduced in price, make the poor as well as the rich gainers thereby. It is said by Englishmen here now that their gains at our high prices are hardly more than they were in England at the known low rates there, while their comforts of life are less. The working man need not fear that too many will compete with him in the labor market. The present demand for work in all the free States, and the rapid prosperity of laborers in every town and city, prove that competition, if it diminishes his daily receipts, diminishes in equal proportion his daily outpayments. But slavery excludes him from the labor market. He does not wish to compete with the negro, nor is he desired to do it. The negro then usurps the white man's place in the field, in the garden, and to some extent in the shop.—The slave States require or support but few mechanics. The planter will if possible have one of his own slaves a blacksmith, and another a carpenter, or "jack-at-all-trades," and thus supply his most obvious wants. Gov. Wise of Virginia lately remarked that they would be obliged to prohibit slaves from learning a trade in that State, for the mechanics were complaining that the negro mechanics were taking the work out of their hands. Let slaves come, and their owners will, for the sake of economy, put all work possible into their hands, and leave white laborers to shift for themselves. Or, if there should be too few slaves to do this, then white labor would reduce the value of slave labor, and make the slave a burden upon his master's hands. As we are now situated in Oregon, I see not how a man can economically hold slaves. Good ones in the States are worth from \$800 to \$1,500 each. The interest of that money will hire a freeman most of the working part of the year, without any risk of sickness, escape, or death. But the holder of a slave must take all these risks. And if he buys a slave at a cheaper rate, it will be a "meaner" one, and the risks will be greater.—Some persons may transfer slave property which they own in the States, and make the enterprise a little cheaper for themselves, but the number of this class is very small.

Land-owners may in a few cases make it profitable for a short time, but in the end it will be to depress the price of their land and also to depress the white laborer. The owner of a section or two of land will buy three or four slaves, and then hire no more help. The young men who now find good homes and enough work with our large farmers, will find them no longer. In towns it will be hardly better. They will not grow much. There are no large towns in the interior of slave States, and no large ones in them at all, except as they have commercial or trade relations with free States.

In view of these material interests, is it not a strange, unaccountable fact that any

laboring man, any mechanic, any landholder, or especially any young man, should vote for introducing or allowing slavery in Oregon. We do not expect men to vote way their own rights, or to allow them to be taken away if they know it. We do not expect them to vote away, or throw away, their own money, or the chance of making it. But the men who intend to vote for slavery in Oregon, or who will not vote to prohibit here, are designing to deprive themselves both of rights and of property. And if it is astonishing that men will vote thus, it is more astonishing that intelligent political men, who claim to have some regard for the country and some statesmanship, will advocate slavery and urge this people to adopt the system, or allow it to come in quietly.

It seems to be the present policy of some, who desire to avoid taking open ground on this question, to say nothing about slavery in the proposed Constitution. If this policy obtains, slavery will come in and be recognized by the United States Courts.—We shall be practically a slave State. As such we shall stand before the Union.—This fact will deter the immigration which Oregon now needs. If free State families will not settle in Missouri, the cheap lands and mineral wealth of which, are so inviting, on account of its slavery, much less will they come to Oregon if we become a slave State.

In this view, we regard the question of our prospective greatness or littleness, wealth or poverty, as one demanding every true friend of Oregon to speak and act now. We want men, or a man, with moral courage enough to plant himself firmly on the principle of prohibiting slavery in Oregon forever. Let him come out now.—He may be malign'd, and his name may become a by-word. But let him write and speak with the well-known facts for freedom before him, and he will speak to the heart of the people. He will set farmers right. He will turn back those young men who foolishly design to vote for slavery. He will carry the body of our mechanics with him. Let him come out regardless of all party ties, to be sustained by the principles which he sets forth and maintains. Doing this he will so far deserve the name of a patriot.

(To be continued.)

ILLINOIS VALLEY, JOSEPHINE CO., June 13, 1857. Ed. of Argus—As I have been taking a tramp through this section of the Territory, I have concluded to send you a few notes taken by the way. I notice quite a degree of improvement in the valley within the last year. Since the Indians have been taken away from here the settlers have gone to work in good earnest. In many places I noticed good crops of barley, oats, and vegetables. In the valley there are three saw-mills, a tannery just starting, and a lime quarry just opened, at which they expect to furnish good lime for fifty cents per bushel.

There are about 45 families here and in the mines immediately around. There is but a small proportion of the valley suitable for cultivation; the greater part is very gravelly, and covered with pine and oak, though it furnishes some grass for stock.—The country is depending entirely on the mines around it. If it had not been for the discovery of gold in these mountains, the Indian would have been left in uninterrupted possession of this country for many years to come.

The mines on Canon, Josephine, Alt-house, and Sucker Creeks, all of which empty into the Illinois river, have been very rich, and are still paying moderate wages, but miners must be content to work for less wages now than formerly. The fact is, the cream has been taken off, though there are hundreds of acres to be worked over yet that will pay good wages, with improved facilities for working. The miners are making improvements in their operations every year. The rocker is not used any more, except by John Chinaman. I took a trip over the Siskiyou mountains to Indian Creek. It is about seven miles up to the summit from the Illinois river, and seven miles down to Indian Town. In making the ascent, one will see vegetation in almost every state of development. At the base the service-berry is ripe and nearly gone; further up it is quite green, and on the summit it and the goose-berry are just in bloom, and around the snow banks the maple and willow are just putting forth their first delicate buds, and the earliest flowers are springing up, while in keeping with the scene the early spring birds are making the forest musical with their lively notes.

We arrived at Indian Town in the evening. It consists of a few board houses, two stores, a saw mill, and a good hotel, at which I sat down to as good a meal as I have eaten on the Pacific coast; and then in their reading-room you find the latest newspapers and magazines from the Atlantic and the Pacific coasts; and another happy recollection, during my five days' stay here, I did not see a drunken or disorderly person. The miners here are doing well, generally making from \$8 to \$30 per day where they have their claims open. I returned to the Illinois valley on the 18th, and made preparations to start for home.

A shrewd, energetic, and industrious family might make more money here than in the Willamette Valley. But give me my quiet secluded home by the paring brook among the green hills of the Willamette Valley.

The stock of the plank road from Crescent City to Illinois Valley is all taken, and the entire road will soon be put under contract. They expect to have it finished during the summer. When the road is put in good order there will be a great amount of teaming done from Crescent City through this valley to all the Northern mines. Distance from Crescent City to Illinois Valley, 48 miles, thence to Jacksonville about 60.

The young folks here enjoy themselves in their social parties finely. They meet semi-occasionally, and have a good social dance, and then retire to their homes, always feeling happier and better than when they went. How much better it is for the young men to spend an evening occasionally with ladies, than to meet in drunken revelry in the bar room, where so often the cry of murder breaks up the party.

The citizens of Josephine are wide awake on the great political issue before the people. I hear it variously estimated that this county will give from 500 to 800 majority for a Free State Constitution this fall.

Yours, PHILIP RITZ.

The Purchase of Cuba, &c. WASHINGTON, May 21.

Mr. Soule is again here, and is of course on a footing of intimacy with Mr. Buchanan. It cannot be doubted that they have talked over the Ostend matter, now that they have considered the mode for the purchase of Cuba. In a few days we shall know who is to have charge, for the coming four years, of this important negotiation in Spain. Some suppose it will be Mr. Pickens of South Carolina. I do not think it will be Mr. Belmont, though Cuba can never be purchased except through the financial influence of the Rothschilds and other money-princes of Europe. No changes are to be made in the missions to England and France at present. But, ultimately, as soon as anything is to be done, Mr. R. J. Walker will be our representative in England and Mr. Slidell in France. If Cuba is to be bought by the Administration, it must be through remarkably skillful diplomacy in London and Paris.

It is a matter as to which England and France will have something to say. Their consent and influence must be obtained as a necessary preliminary to a successful attempt to purchase Cuba from Spain.—About one hundred and fifty or two hundred millions is all that the United States will consent to pay, or be bound for. They do not expect to pay it from the Treasury of the United States. But the Cuban Creole planters and slaveholders will promise to pay the money, as well they might, considering that by the immediate rise in the value of their property, they will make about the clever sum of seven hundred and fifty millions. But the United States must assume the payment of this sum, in annual instalments of twenty-five millions a year.

The next Congress is looked to as being more likely to favor this scheme than any one that has preceded it, or may soon follow it. But there is not much probability that the matter can be brought to a head before the second session of the next Congress.

Meanwhile it will be necessary to overcome the scruples and misgivings of the South in regard to the effect of this measure upon their interests. To ruin all the sugar interests is of no account, for that will soon be done by the cultivation of the Chinese and African sugar cane. To withdraw their capital and labor from the present employments and leave these lands worthless, is a matter of little concern to most of the old Southern States—the life-blood of the old Atlantic slaveholding States being drawn off rapidly toward the newer States. It is a question, therefore, chiefly between Texas and Cuba. Shall the old slaveholding States back up Cuba or Texas?—I think they incline to decide for Cuba, because Cuba will never form but one State, while Texas, should it once be divided, will afford two non-slaveholding States.—Cor. N. Y. Times.

Rise Early! if you would enjoy good health.

THE LATE SHOOTING CASE IN ILLINOIS.—The Rockford, Ill., Republican gives the following particulars of the shooting of two men by Wm. Bebb, formerly Governor of Ohio, now residing in Illinois: "Our community was startled yesterday afternoon by the announcement that ex-Governor Bebb, now a resident of Seward, in this county, but formerly of Ohio, of which State he was Governor, had been molested by a mob of men, and had fired upon, and shot two of them killing one man instantly. The particulars, as near as we have been able to gather them up to the time of going to press, are as follows: It appears for some time past a good deal of coldness, and in many instances actual bad feeling, had been growing up among some of the Governor's neighbors, as against himself and family, springing, it is said, more of jealousy of his pecuniary circumstances, and a belief that he was somewhat aristocratic in his tastes and associations. The return of his son with his wife on Thursday night from the East, whether he had been to get married, was fixed upon by the rowdy portion of the young men of the neighborhood as a proper occasion to manifest their ill feelings.—They accordingly prepared themselves with cow-bells, guns, tin-pans, and other articles ordinarily used on such occasions, and repaired to the residence of the Governor, at a late hour in the night, and commenced making all manner of noises, clamors and outcries, assailing the house with stones, and firing toward it with their guns.

After enduring this assault for some time in silence, Gov. Bebb made his appearance at the front of his house, and remonstrated with the mob, requesting them to desist. This request was received with hootings and howlings, and an increase of clamor. After a little time he again came forward and remarked that patience had ceased to be a virtue, and that if they did not desist and leave the premises, he would be compelled to use violence. This threat only seemed to exasperate the assailants, who replied that they had come there to fight, and were only waiting for him to commence, or words to such import.

He then went into the house and brought out a double-barreled shot gun, firing one barrel at the feet of the ringleaders of the mob, which shot took effect upon one of the party, crippling him in the leg. At this some of them made a rush upon the Governor, who raised his gun and discharged the other barrel at the foremost man, hitting him in the head and killing him instantly, whereupon his assailants suddenly decamped."

Gov. Bebb was, at his own request, examined by a court of Magistrates, for killing the rowdy, and, after a thorough examination, was discharged. The Rockford Register publishes at length the evidence elicited, and remarks as follows:—"From the testimony it will be seen the fact is established that Gov. Bebb did order the rioters off before firing, though it would seem the order was not heard by them. The defense also testified to the guns being pointed toward the house, while the rioters are positive they were not.—There always will be a difference of opinion in the public mind as to how much provocation will justify one man in shooting down another, even where the law justifies the act, and we have no desire to discuss the present case in that aspect. It is an unfortunate affair in any point of view. The practice of charivaring newly married couples is one which ought not to be tolerated in a civilized community, and we regret to learn has been much too frequent in this section for a year or two past. Although in most instances intended for sport, they are little better than mobs, and should be discontinued by every right-thinking citizen. We hope the sad result of the one at Gov. Bebb's may prove a salutary warning. About a year since an individual was shot at Elgin, while engaged in a similar riot."

BRIGHAM YOUNG, THE MORMON.—It appears from an article in the Buffalo Commercial that President Fillmore, in appointing Brigham Young to Governorship of Utah, did so after consulting many respectable persons in the several States, among them Col. Thos. L. Kane, of Philadelphia, a brother of the late Dr. Kane the Arctic navigator. Col. Kane spent many months in Utah, and at that time formed a high opinion of Brigham. It seems, however, that at the time the appointment was made, the doctrine of polygamy was not avowed by the Mormons, and that if they practiced it, they did so and concealed the fact from the world. They have since incorporated it in their creed as one of their leading articles, and have openly defended it, and hence the just indignation which has everywhere been expressed throughout the country. It is further stated that Brigham's nomination was confirmed by the United States Senate without the slightest opposition.

REMARKABLE ACCIDENT.—The Bloomington (Ill.) Flag, says that on Wednesday of last week a very remarkable accident occurred on the farm of Mr. William C. Warlow, of that county. While Mr. John Baker was harrowing in a field, his two horses took fright and ran off; the harrow soon got thrown upon its back, with the teeth up, and the horses became entangled in the harness in such a manner as to cause them both to fall on top of the harrow, the teeth of which penetrated to their vitals and killed them almost instantly.—We doubt very much whether there is another similar circumstance on record.

Summary Death of Elder Pratt. Seduction of a Wife in California—she deserts her Husband, steals away her children, and is seized as the ninth concubine to her debaucher.

It is with regret that we have to chronicle the homicide, committed in our vicinity on Wednesday last, by Mr. Hector H. McLean, late of San Francisco, California, upon the person of a Mormon preacher.—More than all do we deplore the melancholy affair that led to its commission.—The deceased, whose name was Parley Parker Pratt, was a man of note among the Mormons, and judging from his diary and his letter to Mrs. McLean, he was a man of more than ordinary intelligence and ability. He had been a preacher and missionary of the Mormons at San Francisco, California, where he made the acquaintance of Mrs. McLean, whom he induced to embrace the Mormon faith.

She was at that time living with her husband, Hector H. McLean; they were happy and prosperous until she made the acquaintance of Pratt, and embraced the Mormon faith. She is the mother of three children, by McLean, two boys and one girl, and seemed to be an intelligent and interesting lady; converses fluently, and with more grace and ease than most of ladies. About two years ago, and soon after she became a convert to Mormonism, she made an attempt to abduct two of her children to Utah, but was detected and prevented by her brother, who was then in California, and residing with his brother-in-law, Mr. McLean. She soon after, however, found means to elope with said Pratt to Salt Lake, where it is said that he became his ninth wife.

After the elopement of Mrs. McLean, her parents, who reside near New Orleans, wrote to Mr. McLean, in California, to send the children to them. He did so. Several months after this, Mr. McLean received news that his wife had been to her father in New Orleans, and eloped with the two youngest children. He immediately left San Francisco for New Orleans, and on arriving at the house of his father-in-law, he learned from them that Mrs. McLean had been there, and after an ineffectual attempt to convert her father and mother to Mormonism, she pretended to abandon it herself, and so far obtained the confidence of her parents, as to induce them to entrust her in the city of New Orleans with the children, but they soon found she had betrayed their confidence and eloped with the children.

They wrote to McLean in San Francisco, who, upon the receipt of their letter, went to New Orleans, and learning from them the above facts in relation to the affair, immediately started in pursuit of his children. He went to New York and then to St. Louis. While in St. Louis he learned that the woman and children were in Houston, Texas. On his arrival in Houston he found that his wife had left some time before, to join a large party of Mormons en route for Utah. He then returned to New Orleans, and from there to Fort Gibson, in the Cherokee Nation, with the expectation of intercepting his wife and children at that point.

On arriving at Fort Gibson, and while there, he found letters in the Post Office to his wife, from Pratt, some of which were mailed in St. Louis, and others at Flint Post Office, Cherokee Nation. We are unable to give the contents of these letters with particularity, but they contained the fact that McLean was on the lookout for her and the children, and that they were betrayed by the apostates and Gentiles, and advising her to be cautious in her movements, and not to let herself be known only to a few of the saints and elders.—McLean then, upon affidavit made by himself, obtained a writ from the United States Commissioner at that place for their arrest, and succeeded in getting them arrested by the United States Marshal.—They were brought to this place for trial, and after an examination before the Commissioner were discharged.

Pratt, as soon as released, mounted his horse and left the city. McLean soon after obtained a horse and started in pursuit and overtook Pratt about eight miles from the city and shot him. Pratt died in about two hours after receiving the wound. This is a plain narrative of the facts as we heard them from the most reliable sources, which we give to our readers without comment, as we feel that they are unable to do so with justice to all parties. But deeply do we sympathize with McLean in the unfortunate condition in which Mormon villainy and fanaticism have placed him.—Van Buren (Ark.) Intelligencer.

Gov. Chase, of Ohio, has consented to be a candidate for re-election. He is pronounced the best and wisest Governor Ohio ever had. Under his prudent and economical administration, the taxes of Ohio have been reduced nearly two millions of dollars, so that financially, as well as politically, he stands high with the people.