

# The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OREGON CITY:

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 1857.

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

"There is no longer any doubt but the issue will hereafter be narrowed down to Slavery and anti-Slavery. The Black Republicans will rally under the banner of Free State and Free Soil in Oregon, and the pro-Slavery party, under the Constitution, and the measures to perpetuate the Union."—*Jacksonville Sentinel*.

Here is one black democratic paper which plainly admits that the democratic party is the pro-slavery party, and "the issue will hereafter be narrowed down to Slavery and anti-Slavery." If the locofoco papers of the North had been sufficiently honest to say as much last summer, Buchanan would now have been at home living on codfish and potatoes.

We hope the *Sentinel*, and other black democratic papers, will pass a moment before they "narrow down the issue" so as to exclude every thing else but slavery propagandism from their creed. Their brethren in Utah will want a polygamy plank inserted, and the fire-eaters of South Carolina will demand a codicil at least securing the privilege of reviving the slave trade, so as to carry out the project of filling up the nation with niggers.—With these three planks in your creed, your black democratic beast would form a sort of triune personage, happily representing, by its three heads and three horns, the North, South, and West; thus clearly establishing its "nationality," and by the clear connection and close sympathy of the three principles, horns or personages, in the beast, beautifully representing the great mission of the animal, which, although it might look rather forky, huge and terrible! at first to such locofocos as are sometimes moved upon by other than "paying" considerations, yet it might be explained by the party whippers-in, who rode it to the tune of a fat living without work, as merely a "Union saving" genius which had actually come forth from the tomb of "Shiner's Shackson," or some other distinguished democrat, for the purpose of making a plain and palatable "issue" between "black republicans, rallied under the banner of Free State, and the pro-slavery party, under the Constitution and the measures [slavery, polygamy, and kidnapping] to perpetuate the Union!"

A correspondent, writing from Jacksonville under date of July 11th, says: "I believe there is quite a pro-slavery majority in the South. The change in public sentiment has occurred in the last few months—for instance, witness the overwhelming majority of Lane in this county, (heretofore a Whig county,) and it is easily accounted for. It is not doubted by any one that Lane is a pro-slavery man, and that Lawson is a free State man, hence the majority for Lane; yet I have no doubt but the free State majority in the Willamette Valley will greatly overbalance the pro-slavery majority here. The pro-slavery paper will probably win over many of the wavering, that otherwise uninfluenced would have voted free State.

"I will inform you from time to time of any thing which I think may be of interest to you. The new press for this place, (Barns & Beggs,) has not arrived yet; but they have their type-stands ready, and young Beggs is waiting patiently for his senior partner and the press. Beggs is quite a young fellow; looks to be about the age of Dryer's devil—and not any more intelligent, from his looks. I know Barns. He is about 45 or 50 years old; and the two ages put together are enough to make the aggregate age of two smart men."

We think our correspondent may be a little mistaken when he bases his calculations of the pro-slavery strength of the South upon Lane's vote. We knew hundreds of strong free State democrats in the Territory who voted for Lane, declaring him to be a free State man. Some were ready to fight when their candidate for Congress was charged with being pro-slavery.

A correspondent writes us from Linn county that Lane stated there that he should vote for a free State, and under this impression the people of Linn gave him about the same majority they gave Smith, who was an avowed free State man. We believe that more than half the vote Lane got this side of the Canyon was given by free State men, who were made to believe that the democratic party was not pro-slavery.

An effort was made by some of Deady's friends in Douglas county to make the impression that by applying for admission as a free State, we should enhance the risk of losing our war debt; yet one man, who voted for both Lane and Deady, said he should vote for a free State if he lost every dollar of his war scrip, about \$9,000.

The fruit prospects in the Territory are better than ever as to quantity, and, from all we can gather from the best sources of information, the price will be about half what it was last year. One of the largest fruit growers in Oregon informs us that his fruit has fallen in price one hundred per cent. each year, yet, with the increased yield of his orchard, he realized \$17,000 as the proceeds of it last year, \$18,000 two years ago, and \$10,000 three years ago. He expects to make about the same money this year he did last, and still sell his fruit for 100 per cent. less.

Some of the members of the Kansas Constitutional Convention affirm that the constitution will not be submitted to the people after it is framed. This is democracy with a vengeance, nearly equal to the caucus-sovereignty democracy of Salem. If any other party than this black democratic party had dared in a single Territory to make arrangements for framing a constitution, without making any provisions for submitting it to the people after it was framed, as the Legislature of Kansas has done, it would have broken the party down. But these locofocos can charm their constituents by the word democracy, till they think it is all right when a constitution is made for a Territory, according to the directions of a Legislature elected by Missourians, and then sent on for the approval of Congress before it is submitted to the people! It is said that not less than three fourths of the citizens of Kansas are free State men. There is no mistake but that Kansas will ultimately be a free State, although the black democracy may engineer a pro slavery constitution through by such maneuvers as we have already spoken of, and by leaving off the names from the list of voters of all the voters in just fifteen out of thirty-six counties in the Territory, and even in six out of the twenty-one counties no census was taken, but the "list" was made up from the old bogus poll books. Thus in electing delegates to the Constitutional Convention, three fifths of the counties of the Territories are allowed no representation. Yet, in the face of all this unblushing villainy, we hear locofoco editors sneeringly ask why the free State men in Kansas do not vote!

We notice that some writer in the Salem Advocate, who had been experimenting on sorrel, says that by applying salt to the tops they soon withered and died, but that new shoots immediately sprung up from the roots, which were still alive. Our agriculturist consequently gives over in despair, thinking that it is impossible to kill sorrel with salt. We would suggest to Bro. Pearne that if salt will kill the tops of sorrel, it will without doubt kill the roots, and if he will dig them up and immerse them in strong brine, he will find that salt answers the same purpose in killing sorrel that it does in catching birds—when put on their tails. Will Bro. Pearne try it on the sorrel in his garden, and give us the result of his experiment!

The Squatter Sovereign, published at the town of Atchison (Kansas), and formerly edited by Stringfellow, as the organ of ruffianism, has changed hands.—It is to be hereafter published by S. C. Pomeroy and R. McBratney, as a free State paper. We hope that these gentlemen will have less difficulty in managing the old "lying type" than Bro. Mattoon had in bringing into subjection the old Statesman type.

The following is the valedictory of the retired publishers who represent themselves as "emancipated specimens of the ingratitude of the South." We hope our locofoco editors will all take warning from these "emancipated specimens," and remember that although lying and upholding wrong and violence may succeed for a while, in the long run honesty will be found to be the best policy:

VALEDICTORY.—The office of the Squatter Sovereign has passed into the hands of other publishers. In making this transfer, we experience no inconsiderable degree of reluctance, but we are thoroughly convinced that it is the only step that we could take to save ourselves from great pecuniary sacrifice. This we would be unable to sustain and publish a paper. We have repeatedly called upon the South for aid and our response has been a moneyless one. We were at last reduced to one of two alternatives—to surrender upon advantageous terms or to be carried by storm and our arms and equipments become the properties of war. We have chosen the former, believing that no just reason existed why we should longer expose ourselves as an emancipated specimen of the ingratitude of the South.

In our brief connection with the Squatter, we have met with some warm friends, and to them we tender our thanks.

P. H. LAREY,  
JOSHUA T. HINTON.

Seth Kinman, a California hunter, who went to Washington last spring to present the President with a huge chair made entirely of bucks' horns, has received from the hands of Buchanan an office in the service of the Indian Department worth \$1,800 per annum. The Tribune seems to think that the President may not expect several cart-loads of curiosities from office seekers, such as horses, carriages, pianoes, chandeliers, boots, hats, caps, gloves, and perhaps pocket handkerchiefs, needles, scissors, and thimbles.

On the outside of this paper will be found Judge Drummond's letter we referred to last week, together with the affidavit of Mr. Watson, who had been a Mormon.

The Table Rock Sentinel has changed its name, and is called The Oregon Sentinel. It has a new heading and dress, which gives it quite a neat appearance.

The Standard has adopted a new heading, which improves the looks of the paper. The Times, Standard, and Sentinel, have now all changed their heading, and adopted type similar to that of The Argus. If they would all change their principles and adopt those we advocate, we believe it would be of great advantage to the country.

From a letter to the Advocate at Salem from Gen. McCarter, dated Washington City, May 19th, we clip the following extract:

"Information was received to-day, at the State Department, from Major Ben. McCulloch, that he declines the Governorship of Utah, tendered him some time since. Our high functionaries at Washington are evidently at a loss to find a person in every way suitable for that place.—Your humble servant was called upon this morning in relation to the Utah governorship by some of his over-zealous friends, but it was no go. I can stand Indians, but not Mormons."

To those who know General McCarter, this will afford an item for a hearty shaking of the sides. It seems that although the General is returning home with no commission in his pocket from Buchanan, his lucky escape from having one forced upon him is duly heralded by the Advocate in advance of him.

Who the "over-zealous friends" he speaks of, were, and what they said to him in relation to the "Utah Governorship," we are only left to infer from the fact that "it was no go," and his declaration that he "can stand Indians but not Mormons."

We think that the General's narrow escape from having the Governorship of Utah saddled upon him, was truly providential.

"The black republicans of Ohio have become so corrupt that they cannot make whiskey without stuffing it with poison, and the Legislature has been forced to declare the act a felony in order to put a stop to the practice."—*Portland Times*.

It is a little strange that a "black republican" Legislature should pass a law punishing their "black republican" constituents for poisoning whisky!

Now the fact is, as near as we can learn, that about nine out of every ten distillers in Ohio are black democrats, and about nine out of every ten of their customers are of the same able faith. The fact that the republican Legislature of Ohio has seen fit to pass a law to prevent these locofocos from killing one another because it "pays," looks to us as though they were men of large benevolence.

The next thing we shall look for from this "black republican" Legislature, will be a law permitting the locofoco mulattoes of Ohio to vote.

Bro. Pearne and Czapky's agent are devoting several columns weekly to what some people would call "abusing one another." Which paper will suffer most by the war, we are unable to opine, but the latter editor cuts and carves away most unmercifully at the former, under the conviction that those brethren who take both papers hold their black democracy far above their religion.

We learn from reliable sources that a company of some 20 men are now working the mines on the north fork of the south fork of the Santiam river, about 60 miles from Washington Butte, and making about \$4 a day to the hand. The gold is tolerably coarse; the largest piece yet found is worth \$2.50.

Misses AMY JOHNSON and JULIA DEMENT have left upon our table a magnificent bouquet studded with splendid specimens of Red June apples. This is what we call a happy effort at blending the useful with the beautiful.

Mrs. Hunsaker has also our thanks for a fine lot of the different varieties of summer fruit.

The Mormon Elders left us last Monday in disgust, after holding forth on Sunday to a slim and sleepy audience.—Our citizens treated them with respect, paid some \$24 in cash for the use of a room for them to speak in, and, although not an egg was thrown, and not an insult passed, they failed to convert any body and we have not even heard of any one's being "under conviction."

We again say to our correspondents, Study brevity, if you please. We would prefer to have you write oftener, and write articles half or two-thirds of a column long, than to have two-column articles at a time.

We humbly beg our correspondent at Yoncalla to take more pains in writing legibly. We have not been able to make out his last communication. It looks like a sheet of paper over which an intoxicated spider had crawled after a bath in an ink-bottle. If we ever get to be Emperor of China, we shall endeavor to give him the post of "master marker of tea chests" for the Celestial Empire.

We learn that Professor Newell intends to visit Bethel, Polk county, about the last of August, or first of September, for the purpose of getting up a class in music.

The vote in Washington Territory so far as heard from, gives Stevens 383 majority over Abernethy, for Congress.

Judge Olney declines accepting his re-appointment as Judge.

A Buggy and harness for sale. Apply at the Argus office.

Dr. McLoughlin is quite sick.—His physician thinks there is no hope of his recovery.

Fruit buyers in this city are engaging winter fruit at "eight cents per lb. (\$3.00 per bushel), and the risk."

The steamer Commodore arrived at Portland on Monday morning, and the Republic on Tuesday night. Wells, Fargo & Co., J. W. Sullivan, and the American Express, have our thanks for files of papers.

John B. Weller has been nominated for Governor of California by the democrats.

Edward Stanley, formerly member of Congress from North Carolina, has been nominated for the same office by the Republicans.

Nearly 1,900 Chinamen reached San Francisco from China in one week.

Flour in San Francisco is worth \$6.67 to \$9.50.

The Governorship of Utah has been declined by Ex-Gov. Thomas of Maryland, and by Col. Richardson of Illinois.—It is thought that Col. Cummings, who has once declined, may now be induced to accept. Emery D. Potter of Ohio has accepted one of the Utah Judgeships, and the other has been offered to Judge Eckles of Indiana, who it is believed will accept.

Easter's News.

Hon. N. P. Banks has been nominated for Governor of Massachusetts by the Americans. The Republican convention will confirm the nomination.

Latest advices from Havana indicate the almost certain invasion of Mexico by Spanish troops. The Spanish squadron from Cadiz was off the coast, and reinforcements of troops were received by every arrival. It is stated positively that Santa Anna is at the bottom of the movement. The latest advices from Madrid are to the same effect. In the meantime, President Comofort is taking energetic measures to repel the invasion. The defenses of Vera Cruz are being strengthened, and at last accounts the President was on his way to that port with sixteen thousand troops.

Gen. Vidal, Santa Ana's father-in-law, has written to Santa Ana's friends in New York that the former Dictator of Mexico will be again in Vera Cruz in less than ninety days. Latest accounts from that quarter do not indicate that he will receive a very cordial greeting.

Gen. Concha has been recalled from Havana, at the instigation of the British Minister at Madrid, for his complicity in the slave trade.

The statue of Gen. Warren was inaugurated on Bunker Hill with imposing ceremonies on the 17th of June, the 82d anniversary of the battle. Hon. Edward Everett delivered the oration. Addresses were also made by Hon. John P. Kennedy of Maryland and Senator Mason of Virginia, and by others.

Commodore Thomas Ap Catesby Jones, U. S. N., is lying dangerously ill of an affection of the heart. He is not expected to recover.

Hon. F. W. Pickens of South Carolina has declined the Mission to Russia. He will probably be returned to the U. S. Senate, vice Mr. Butler, deceased.

The Secretary of the Treasury is of the opinion that the close of the present fiscal year will find a surplus of twenty-two millions of dollars in the Treasury. The late reduction of the tariff, he thinks, will result in an increase of revenue from increased importations; and he has already determined to recommend another large extension of the free list.

Brevet Brigadier-General John de Barth Walbach, U. S. A., died in Baltimore on the 10th of June, aged 93 years. He was the oldest in length of service in the army.

KANSAS.—The Kansas Free State Legislature met at Topeka on the 11th of June. Gov. Robinson sent in his message. It recommends immediate and thorough organization of the State government and codification of the laws; examines the inaugural of Gov. Walker; contends that the Topeka constitution is the only clear expression of the popular will of Kansas; thinks it incompetent for the neighboring States longer to exercise sovereignty in Kansas, and declares it impossible for free State men to vote at the bogus election.—He concludes by saying he will maintain the position of resistance to usurped authority at all hazards and at all times. The Legislature adjourned on the 13th.

NEW YORK MUNICIPAL RIOTS.—There have been some riots here which threaten to be dreadful. Joseph S. Taylor, Street Commissioner, (the most lucrative office in city or State) died, last week, and Governor King appointed Mr. Conover to the vacancy. The Mayor claimed the right of appointment, subject to confirmation by Aldermen and Common Council.—On Saturday, Conover went to take possession, was refused, was turned out, the old police assisting. The same on Monday. Another attempt on Tuesday, whereon warrants were issued against Mayor Wood and others, on Conover's affidavit, for obstruction and assault. The new police assisting to serve these warrants in the City Hall, were beaten back by the old police. More warrants—more attempts to serve them. A battle royal, in which no life was lost between the rival police.—The upshot was, that the 7th Regiment of National Guards, marching down to embark for the Bunker Hill celebration at Boston, were called in, and rather awed the people, who sided with the Mayor.—At last, peace was restored. The Mayor

remained in nominal custody, but was discharged (in the assault case) by Judge Russell on Thursday. The Recorder (bearing the uncommon name of Smith, and at loggerheads with the Mayor,) issued eleven warrants against him, and he has been bailed out at \$5,000 on each warrant.

A special Court of Oyer and Terminer is appointed for the first Monday in July, to try these charges. Wood threatens to indict the Recorder for conspiracy, and Mr. Chobwell, one of the new Police Commissioners, will be tried for threatening Wood's life—that is, if any trials come off, as the impression is that they will all slide.

Meanwhile, Mayor, Aldermen and Councilmen appoint Mr. Devlin to be the new Street Commissioner, and, having perfected his bonds, as such, he is installed in office. It turns out that Conover, the Governor's appointee, did not perfect his bonds, nor submit names of his securities to the Mayor, for inquiry and approval. So his attempts to enter office, which caused the riots, are illegal—as was admitted by the Governor in an interview with the Mayor, and Conover is thrown over by his patron. Peace is now restored, but Wood's popularity has greatly risen from his refusing, all through, to acknowledge the Police appointed by the new Commissioners thrust on the city by the Governor and Legislature at Albany.—*N. Y. Cor. S. F. Bulletin*.

For the Argus.

MR. EDITOR.—In the passage of life in America, if there be a theme truly exciting to the heart, and absorbing to the mind, which much interests, nay, takes the whole soul captive; if there be any topic calculated to awaken to a sense of the positive, and snatch us from the misty regions of romance, which, compelling us from the contemplation of the vague, the visionary, the ideal, forces us face to face, heart to heart, with the things of earth, and hurries us into the very council-chamber and stately presence of the real; if there be a subject omnipotent in expression, powerful in mystic meaning, wide-spread in its influences, unchangeable in its essence, and marvellous in its destiny, assuredly that theme, that subject, that all-absorbing topic, is comprised in that wonderful word, SLAVERY! Were the happiness, the fortunes, enterprises, joys, sorrows, triumphs, in a word all that concerns the earthly lot of our time-honored and gallant nation, suspended on this delicate and slimsy thread, it could not provoke or create more hatred, or greater indignation. What heart does not throb with delicate sentiments; whose pulse does not beat with increased emotion; what cheek is not suffused with jealous flame; whose spirit is not moved to the very depths; whenever this mystic hyperbole is pronounced! The genial feelings of true and tried friends, the merry meetings and hours of goodly enjoyments, the vistas of cordial remembrances and neighborly associations, all vanish and are hurled down the moment the venomous word is thrown among them.

The morning before I left your place, I was thrown into conversation with Mr. F., a close neighbor of yours, and it soon became a warm discussion—the subject being the correctness of the second version of a certain passage in the Bible—when the topic suddenly wheeled round fronting slavery, upholding and backing the same with Holy Writ. Since my arrival here, I accidentally discovered a Hebrew commentary in the house of my friend Mr. N., in which I was happy to find the identical premises and conclusions which I put forth on that occasion. The learned Rabbi, in speaking of the incorrectness of both versions in the English translation of the original Hebrew, shows us an illustration the following verse in Exodus xvi. 16.—

"And he that stealeth a man, and selleth him, or if he be found under his hand, he shall surely be put to death"—and here, as on most other occasions, he clearly proves the translator's ignorance of the Hebrew grammar, especially that part of it which we call prosody, and in Hebrew *tenunk*.—The conjunctions "and" and "or" should be left out of the verse, inasmuch as there is no letter or word in the original to justify such an insertion, and the verse should read thus—"And he that stealeth a man, selleth him, or retains him, shall surely be put to death." You will clearly perceive that this law implicates the thief, the trader, and the keeper of a fellow-man in bondage in the specified penalty of death, while the translator saw fit to afford the thief an opportunity to amass a fortune, and escape punishment by law, by stowing the captive away in the hull of a vessel and selling him to a West India planter, or to another person in the Jewish territory, as long as it remained in occupation to the authorities with regard to the thief, for, according to the present translation, neither the trader in human chattels, nor the planter who retains illegal possession of them, can be held responsible by the Jewish dispensation for the traffic in or retention of slaves, unless it be proven that he be also the kidnapper of the same.—The words in the original law are sufficiently explicit to admit of no technicality, and to guard effectively against the introduction of the "peculiar institution" into the Jewish dominions; and, aside from those whose lives were given over to them by a divine Providence, and whom they were expressly commended to massacre, and exterminate from the face of the earth, slavery was not to exist in any shape, form, or manner. The gentlemen for whose ex-

press benefit I send you this comment will also recollect that it was universally recognized as a law of nations—I mean the subjection to slavery of all captives or prisoners of war; and these are the only ones whom the law of Moses considers as such.

I sincerely hope Mr. F. will benefit by this illustration of the Hebrew commentary, which I shall endeavor to obtain from Mr. N. I shall ever experience a true pleasure in translating to him to the best of my ability. I remain your most ob't,

L. A.

PORTLAND, July 16th, 1857.

The foregoing communication was written by one of the descendants of Abraham. He seems to be posted on the Hebrews, and we have no doubt he has made a correct rendering of Ex. xvi. 16.

For the Argus.

The under-signed Executive Committee of the Oregon Temperance Society desire to call the special attention of all the friends of temperance in Oregon, to the petition to the Constitutional Convention, now being circulated. We would urge every friend of the principle of prohibition; every temperance man in the Territory, who is in favor of precluding the possibility of having the properly expressed will of the people set aside by the courts, to act promptly and vigorously in the work of securing as large an array of signatures to the petition as possible, and let them be forwarded to the Convention at an early day in the session.

Now is the time to act. Heretofore we have not succeeded in obtaining a general circulation of our petitions, and for this reason their appearance has indicated to our legislators, that the temperance friends were but a small minority in the territory. It is time that this impression was corrected. We hope, therefore, that no petition will be laid aside, and that no one for want of attention will fail to be mailed to some member of the convention in due time.

Copies have been forwarded to prominent citizens in every part of the territory, so far as they can be reached; and we earnestly invite those who do not find a copy in their neighborhood to transcribe and circulate the annexed form:

D. E. BLAIN,  
G. H. ATKINSON,  
W. C. JOHNSON,  
DAVID BUTLER,  
DANIEL BAGLEY,  
Ex. Committee.

Petition  
To the Convention for framing a State Constitution for Oregon.

The under-signed, legal voters of Oregon Territory, respectfully represent to your Honorable Body, that

WHEREAS, in several States of the Union laws enacted for the prohibition of the liquor traffic, have, on different grounds been declared unconstitutional;

We therefore pray you to insert in the Constitution which you may frame, a clause clearly stating that it shall be constitutional for the legislature at any time to enact a prohibitory liquor law, or to frame and submit such a law for ratification to the people of Oregon, and if it be ratified by a majority of those voting thereon, it shall have full force and effect.

For the Argus.

Wife's Soliloquy.

My poor little children, they look as if they had no mother, and my room is always in disorder. What a contrast Mrs. B's house presents to mine; everything so neat and orderly—but then she has two girls almost grown, and one quite grown; and then Mr. B. is always so careful, never bringing in a bit of dirt on his boots, always hangs up his hat and coat,—with my husband would do so; he has to hunt for his hat and coat because he throws them down somewhere, and don't know where. Wonder what makes him look so sour!—Wish he would look pleasant, and speak kindly as he did when we were first married. He thinks Miss B. so handsome, she has such rosy cheeks—my face is so long and pale; he used to think I was pretty—wonder what makes him brighten up and be so lively when she comes!—Wonder if he doesn't think he might have done better if he had married her! But then it's all my own fault; if I was only as handsome and healthy as I used to be.—O, I feel so desolate! May heaven help me and give me strength to endure.

SYLVIA.

The above was sent in from a married lady, some fifty miles distant. We hope the soliloquy may be, with her, as "baseless as the fabric of a vision," and not even founded on facts." If otherwise, we hope that incorrigible husband will immediately fix a scraper to his door-step, put up a peg to hang his hat on, and "dry up" about Miss B's "rosy cheeks."

Let him subscribe for The Argus, and we will guarantee that peace will be restored to that family.

At a recent sale of slaves in Fayette, Mo., a boy 24 years of age brought \$1,500, and a woman with her children \$2,350. The interest on this \$1,500 at twenty per cent. would amount to \$300 a year, almost enough to pay a white man, whose labor would be worth nearly double that of a slave, and who, if he died, or ran away, would still leave the \$1,500 drawing interest.

The editor of the Free Democrat (Ill.) in retiring to private life, says that after laboring nearly ten years as an editor he finds himself poorer than when he commenced.

Girard College at Philadelphia supports and educates regularly three hundred and fifteen boys, all indigent orphans.