

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.

BUSINESS CARDS.

W. T. MATLOCK, W. C. JOHNSON. Matlock & Johnson, ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW, And Solicitors in Chancery, Will promptly attend to any business which may be committed to their professional charge before the District and Supreme Courts. Office in Highfield's building, immediately opposite the Main Street House, Oregon City, March 7, 1857. 47y

H. G. Barnett, ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW, And Solicitor in Chancery, BETHEL, POLK COUNTY, OREGON.

JOHN R. MBRIDE, ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW, Lafayette, Yamhill County, O. T. Will faithfully attend to all business entrusted to his professional care.

Wm. C. Dement & Co., WHOLESALE and Retail Dealers in Groceries, Provisions, Paints, Oils, Boots and Shoes, Crockery, &c. Opposite the Land Office, Main St. Oregon City, June 1, 1855.

CHARLES POPE, JR., DEALER in Hardware, Groceries, Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots & Shoes, Medicines, Books and Stationery. Main-st., Oregon City, April 21, 1857—14f

GEO. ABERNETHY & Co., MERCHANTS, OREGON CITY, O. T.

Abernethy, Clark & Co., COMMISSION AND FORWARDING MERCHANTS, San Francisco, Cal., Will attend to selling Oregon produce, and fill orders for Goods, Groceries, &c., at the lowest rates. The patronage of the people of Oregon is respectfully solicited. Aug. 2.

E. Milwain, Manufacturer, Wholesale and Retail Dealer in COOK AND PARLOR STOVES, TIN & COPPER WARE, HARDWARE, &c., Main St., opposite Main Street Hotel, OREGON CITY, O. T. Steamboat and jobbing work attended to with dispatch. Orders from the country promptly filled. j-7

W. F. HIGHFIELD, W. F. H. MAKER. Persons desiring of getting good work done will do well to give me a call, as my whole time is devoted to the repairing of Chronometers, Levers, Duplex, and Horizontal watches. An assortment of Jewelry on hand. Jewelry made to order, and repaired. Prices to suit the times. I am thankful for past favors, and hope to give satisfaction in future. Located at the old stand, opposite the Telegraph Office, OREGON CITY. Feb. 2.

Drugs, Medicines, Paints, Oils, and Dye-stuffs, at the OREGON CITY DRUG STORE, sep15 Main Street, Oregon City, O. T.

JOHN P. BROOKS, Wholesale & Retail Dealer in Groceries, Produce, Provisions, &c., Main Street. A General Assortment kept up of Selected Goods Canemah, March 28, 1857.

GUN-SMITHING. BEING permanently located in Oregon City, I am prepared to carry on the business of GUN-SMITHING IN ALL ITS BRANCHES. Those who favor me with their patronage, may expect to have their work done right. Those who leave GUNS at my Shop for repairs, and do not call for them within six months of the time set for the work to be done, may expect to have them sold to pay charges. FERDINAND WILDE. June 27, 1857. 11a18

Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express, Between Oregon, California, the Atlantic States and Europe. HAVING made advantageous arrangements with the United States and Pacific Mail Steamship Companies for transportation, we are now prepared to forward Gold, Dust, Bullion, Specie, Packages, Parcels, and Freight, to and from N. York, N. Orleans, San Francisco, Portland, and principal towns of California and Oregon. Our regular Semi-monthly Express between Portland and San Francisco, is dispatched by the Pacific Mail Steamship Co.'s steamship Columbia, connecting at San Francisco with our semi-monthly Express to New York and New Orleans, which is dispatched regularly on the 1st and 16th of each month, by the mail steamers and in charge of our own messengers, through to destination. His-Our Express from New York leaves regularly on the 5th and 20th of each month, also in charge of messengers. Treasure insured in the best New York companies, or at Lloyd's in London, at the option of shippers. Offices—New York, No. 16, Wall st.; New Orleans, No. 11, Exchange place; San Francisco, No. 114, Montgomery street. Oregon City, April 21, 1857—14f

Reading for the Million. S. J. McCORMICK. BEING CONSTANTLY ON HAND at the FRANKLIN BOOK STORE, FRONT-ST., PORTLAND, OREGON. Choice selection of Popular Books, Newspapers, Magazines and Fancy Stationery. Among the books on hand will be found works on Temperance, Agriculture, Horticulture, History, Poetry, Biography, Medicines, Religion, Science, School Books, Romances, &c., &c., &c. Subscriptions received for Harper, Graham, Godey, Leslie's, or Putnam, at \$4 a year, postage free. Subscriptions received for any newspaper published in any part of the Union. Remember the Franklin Book Store and Newspaper Agency, Front street, Portland Oregon. A priced catalogue will be published early in April, and will be sent to any part of the territory free on application.

Oregon Lodge No. 3, I. O. O. F. MEETS at their Hall over the Oregon City M. Drug Store, Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock. Brethren in good standing are invited to visit. FRED. CHARMAN, N. G. GEORGE PEASE, Sec'y.

TEMPLE OF HONOR.—Tualatin Temple of Honor, No. 1, meets on the 1st and 3d Friday evenings of each month at 6 o'clock, at Temperance Hall, Forest Grove, Oregon. Members of the Order in good standing are invited to visit this Temple. E. W. DIXON, W. C. T. M. TUTTLE, W. R.

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, NOVEMBER 7, 1857. No. 30.

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 materials, 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. Constitution—Yes, or No? The first thing to be decided in answering this question, is whether it is expedient or not to go into the formation of a State government. Those who are opposed to this step in toto, will, of course, in order to be consistent, vote in the negative. But this question has been decided in the affirmative by the people of Oregon. By six thousand majority they have said they no longer desired to remain in a Territorial condition.

It is not the object of the present communication to discuss the expediency or inexpediency of a change in this respect, so far as it is abstractly considered. All minds are made up on that point. I have nothing to say to those who voted "against convention" in June last. But, with your permission, Mr. Editor, I will submit a few reasons why every man who voted for convention should also vote for the Constitution submitted by the convention which lately closed its labors at Salem; and answer some of the objections which have been first to that instrument.

First. Much has been said and written against the famous first clause in the "Bill of Rights." To what does it refer? To political rights and privileges? Manifestly not. Every man of sense knows that all members of a social compact are not equal. Some have the right to vote; others have not. Some may hold offices; others may not. Under the Constitution of the United States, some members of the social compact are prohibited from holding the office of President, some from becoming Senators or Representatives; and the same state of things exists in all the States, and all civil governments. But these persons are none the less members of these social compacts. The Oregon convention was not composed of fools, that they should enunciate any such sheer nonsense, as the construction placed on that clause by some would make it. Of necessity then it must refer to the natural inalienable rights of men as set forth in the memorable Declaration of Independence. In this view it is true, and the only possible objection which can be brought against it is that it does not state the whole truth. This is to be regretted; but it is not fair to say that it was the intention of the convention to hold that these men who were not members of the social compact are not equal in rights—natural rights—with those who are members. Because they only choose to state a part of the truth, they cannot be accused of denying the remainder; though the cowardice which prevented them from saying more, may be, and is, shameful. My position upon this clause will be seen to be true, by referring to the last section of this same Bill of Rights.—

Second. "The Legislature," says one who reads the latter clause of the fifth section of the first article, "cannot employ a chaplain to pray for them." Serious objection, unless viewed in a proper light.—We are a Christian people, and should in all things recognize the hand of God in our prosperity in the past, and should depend upon Him for future good. But does a chaplain do any good by repeating a set formula in a Legislative body, while half the members perhaps are engaged in shaping some bill, and the other half concocting some scheme whereby they may secure their re-election? Certainly not more than to merely establish the fact that the Legislators there assembled are not a set of infidels. Prayer is just as necessary and appropriate at every log-rolling, corn-shucking, quilting, ball party, or other social gathering as here, in any other view, and possibly in this. But are chaplains necessary in order that the guidance of the great sovereign of the universe may be acknowledged and implored in our State affairs? Certainly not. The Legislature may every year pass an address and memorial to the Heavenly Court, similar to the addresses of Parliament to the sovereign of England, which would more effectually, strikingly, and properly acknowledge our obligations to God, and establish the fact that we are a Christian people, than the prayers of a thousand chaplains; who are usually nothing more than broken down politicians, in the disguise of Gospel ministers. The people don't want to pay to have their praying done for them or their Legislators. All they want is that God—the One Supreme—shall be recognized as our director, protector, and merciful benefactor. This can be better done than in the election of chaplains. Hence, although a believer in Christianity, and a member of a Christian Church, I cannot vote against the constitution on this ground.—I do regret the spirit that engendered the clause, however.

Again, Temperance men object because the twenty-second section of this same article will not permit the submission

of a Maine Law to the people. In my view, this objection possesses little weight. The fact is, a prohibitory liquor law never can be executed until the people are sufficiently in favor of the principle to elect a Legislature that will pass one, and Judges that will uphold the same. The only thing gained by a submission directly to the people is discussion. "But then by this course, the question is removed from the political arena," says one. Admitted; but that is wrong. It is a political question and should be so discussed. If it is alone a moral question, we have no right to legislate on morality, and hence prohibition would fall to the ground. This cry about submitting such issues to the popular vote is a very convenient way politicians have of dodging the question. The constitution places this matter where it belongs. It is made a political issue, and politicians must meet it. I say, Amen.

A fourth objection is that the grand jury is reduced in numbers, and provision made that the Legislature may modify or abolish the same. But is it not reasonable that seven men will discharge the duties of a grand jury as expeditiously and correctly as sixteen or twenty-four? And it is not probable that the Legislature will abolish this ancient part of our judicial proceedings until the people call for its abrogation. The people will never call for this, in all probability; and therefore this "contingent" objection is of little force.

But, fifthly, there is objection to the "one-horse county court." Yet the powers and duties of this famous court are left very much in the direction of the Legislature, and if the people desire, they may, through that body, reduce his Honor, the county Judge, into a very common Judge of Probate and Justice of the peace. But even if 'twere not so, it is better to have business in which legal rights are involved, transacted promptly and without delay, in its preliminary stages; and if the county Judge errs, there is ample provision for an appeal. Prompt action is needed, and one man is better than a dozen. Besides if one man attends to all the duties made incumbent on this office, it will pay to devote his time to the business of the court, and properly qualify himself therefor. But divide them up, and as now it will be more trouble to obtain justice than justice is worth. The "one horse court" can pass if pushed hard.

A sixth and much-urged objection is, that banks are prohibited, and the State and counties are limited in the amount of their indebtedness, and also that corporations are not allowed to swindle the State by borrowing her credit. As to banks, experience has proven that they are entirely and worse than useless. Business transactions in the field occupied by such institutions can be made through private houses; and the past has shown failures less frequent and danger of loss, less imminent when this course is pursued. Individuals fail often, but banks more often.—The restriction upon the State and counties I regard as the greatest possible safeguard against bankruptcy and repudiation. Pay as you go, is a proper maxim for governments as well as individuals, and if you cannot do that it is not right to go at all. But why restrict? In answer by asking, why restrict in anything? Why have any constitution at all? Why not leave any and everything to the wisdom of the Legislature? The reply is, simply because minorities have rights as well as majorities, and they must be protected in their exercise. A glance at Pennsylvania and Illinois should satisfy any one of the ruinous consequences of investing State funds in improvements made by corporate companies, or of loaning the credit of the State to joint stock corporations. The last named State lost some three millions of dollars, and Pennsylvania probably more, because their constitution did not contain some such wholesome provision.

Some other objections have been made to the instrument under consideration;—but they are of much the same character and weight as those which have been noticed. Keeping this communication within proper limits will preclude a notice and reply to more. They are of a negative, rather than positive character.

But a few reasons why we should vote for the constitution—especially Republicans. The instrument certainly provides for an economical government. If any objection can be raised against it in money matters, it is too much so. But suppose we wait until population flows in upon us, business revives, mines are discovered, and a constitution be framed in a whirl of excitement, and California's ten thousand dollar governorship, and sixteen dollars per day for legislators, and other things in proportion, may be inflicted upon us. Let us vote in an economical constitution.

Second. It is almost morally certain that slavery will be excluded from the proposed State by a very decided majority, now.—

But the pro-slavery men want time and are almost unanimously opposed to the adoption of the constitution. Why? Simply because they know a majority of the present population of Oregon are from Southern States; and they expect by browbeating and calling them abolitionists if they do not vote for slavery they will excite their southern pride and whip them into the traces. Let time be given, and the Democratic party with Jo. Lane and Dady at its head become pro-slavery in name as it now is in principles, and we shall be in great danger of having the cursed "peculiar institution" saddled upon us for many years to come. Republicans, beware how you vote time to these men!

In addition to this fact, if the Judges of this Territory uphold the principles laid down by Chief Justice Taney in the notorious Dred Scott case, we are already a slave Territory, and any man has a right to introduce and hold his slaves here in spite of the present majority in opposition to it. And every man knows that it is much easier to prevent the introduction of slavery, than to abolish it when established. Some may say that Judge Williams has already expressed his opinion against this doctrine. True enough; but with a pro-slavery Delegate like Jo. Lane in Congress, how soon will his head roll from the block and some one be put in his place, and in the place of Judge Oiney, who will uphold Taney.

But again. The history of every Territory which has been admitted as a State into the American Union, will show, I think, that every one, so long as it remained in a Territorial condition was intensely Democratic in politics. But every one of them which is actually free from slavery, except Indiana and California, has since turned round and repudiated this same Democratic party. The reason of this is obvious. You approach a man now in Oregon and commence preaching the distinctive principles of the Republican party to him and he will laugh in your face and ask: "what have we to do with slavery in national politics? We elect no Senators and no Representatives, who have any vote or influence for or against it in Congress. What is the use of agitating? I am going to remain on the strongest side, so that we can receive favors from the dominant party in the national Legislature." But let us take upon us State responsibilities, and every man will see and know that his vote does then have an influence and bearing on these questions, and will vote accordingly. Let pro-slavery men make as much of it as they please, I say it is as certain as that truth will triumph over error, that if we form a State government, and let voters realize that they are voting for men who will have a voice in national affairs, there will be a revolution in public sentiment in Oregon, such as has taken place in Illinois, Iowa, and other new States and we shall take our stand proudly along side of the Union-loving slave-hating States which voted for Fremont in 1856, and will for the Republican candidate in 1860. Let us have a Constitution adopted, and proceed thoroughly to organize the Republican party in every county and precinct, and mould public sentiment so that Oregon may be found right in the next Presidential canvass.

Some object to voting for any constitution which does not suit them in every particular. The truth is, Mr. Editor, we never would have any constitution if all were to act upon this principle. It is impossible to form a constitution which would not be objectionable in some of its features to a majority of the people of any State. Upon the same principle we would do away with the Bible. There is not a man in Christendom, probably, who does not believe that error is taught in the English Bible in some passages on account of its being wrongly translated. Yet Christians do not say we will not have any unless we can have a perfect rendering of the original. They only ask for the best they can possibly get, and do the best they can. A young gentleman informed me a few days since that he opposed the Constitution, and should write against it, because he could not approve every section of the instrument. Yet that same young man has sworn to support the Constitution of the United States, when he believes the requirement that fugitives from slavery shall be returned upon demand of the master is sinful. We must consent to some kind of a compromise in such matters and be content with the best we can get.

It is probable, then, that we shall ever have the privilege of voting yea or nay upon a more perfect constitution than the one already submitted? I believe not. And it is not right to oppose its adoption because it was framed and approved by Democrats. There are some men in Oregon, and among them a prominent Editor, who would vote against a constitution framed by themselves if the Democratic party happened to approve, and adopt the

same. I say, give the devil his due; and believing that the Democratic party will not form a better; that this is passably good; and that that party will remain in power so long as we continue under a Territorial form of government, I intend to vote "Yea" on the second Monday in November, so far as the constitution is concerned; and for the reasons above given, and many others which I might give if this communication were not already too long, I believe every Republican ought to do the same. Squin.

Oct. 28, 1857.

Parties in the Next Presidential Canvass. From the Richmond (Virginia) Whig. It is a little too early, as yet, to engage in speculations concerning the probable condition and relations of parties in the next Presidential campaign. At least, such speculations must necessarily be vague, indefinite, and unsatisfactory. But there are some considerations which naturally suggest themselves, in view of the next great struggle for the Presidency, and which we may allude to in a cursory and general manner at the present time.

We perfectly agree in the opinion put forth by our contemporary of the Lynchburg Virginian, that, from the signs and indications around us, there will be a reconstruction of parties before the commencement of the Presidential canvass in 1860. Indeed, such an event, in our judgment, is inevitable. Before the close of the next Congress, all the issues at present in controversy, growing out of the question of slavery in the Territories, will be definitively and finally settled. In truth, this vexed matter of slavery in the Territories has already been adjusted—not, indeed, in accordance with the wishes and expectations of the South, or in accordance with fairness and justice, but in obedience to the desires and demands of the North, through the mischievous and nameless interference of a Democratic Administration and its dictatorial officials. In regard to Kansas, the great bone of contention between the North and the South, what do we witness? Is it not a fixed, acknowledged, irrevocable fact, that Kansas will adopt a constitution prohibiting slavery, and that it will be admitted into the Union, at the very next session of Congress, as a free State? And is it not upon the domestic condition of Kansas that this whole sectional controversy has turned, from the beginning? The status of no other Territory has been in dispute. All the other Territories have been conceded to the North. The sole practical question has been, whether Kansas should be a slave or a free State; and that question, as we have said, has already been decided in favor of the North. It is obvious, therefore, that in the adjustment of this Kansas question, all sectional parties are out of sight, and become dissolved into their original elements. There will be no basis, then, for either a Southern sectional party or a Northern sectional party in the next Presidential campaign. The Black Republican organization is at an end—the Democracy themselves having accomplished all the objects aimed at by the Republicans, in determining the question that no more slave States shall be formed out of the present territory of the Union. And the Democratic party itself, having no common principles to stand upon, would also be disbanded but for its unconquerable resolve to perpetuate its hold upon the public plunder. That is, in truth, the "cohesive power" which binds the Democracy together, and it is only that which can make them act together in the campaign of 1860.

Thus, then, there must be a reconstruction of parties prior to the next pitched battle for the Presidency. And as the slavery question is already settled so far as the Territories are concerned, and as there is no avowed or entertained purpose on the part of the Republicans as a party to interfere with slavery in the States, we consider it probable that all the elements of opposition will be compactly and unitedly arrayed against the Democracy in 1860. That this is an object greatly to be desired, admits of no doubt in the mind of any man who has watched the course of the Democratic party for long years, and who is cognizant of the tricks and artifices to which it continually resorts for the purpose of acquiring possession of the Government, and satiating its appetite upon the spoils of office. The sum and substance of its policy—the absorbing object of its leaders—is plunder. And hence its readiness to make a football of any question in aid of its own elevation to power, and to push all questions to extremity, no matter what may be the danger and hazard involved. Indeed, upon the subject of Slavery itself—in regard to the security and preservation of Southern institutions—what recalcancy and faithlessness has it not displayed? It is susceptible of easy demonstration, whatever peril the South has incurred—whatever the South has lost, or has a prospect of losing—is attributable,

not to the Abolitionists of the North, but to the National Democracy, North and South. They have fed and flourished upon agitation for the last twenty-five years, forever gulling and deceiving the South into the support of their candidates and their policy, and yet all the while leaving Southern institutions weaker and more exposed, for all their pretended efforts to strengthen and to fortify them. Take, for example, the case of Kansas. In their hands, and under their control, the whole management of this question has been placed. With majorities in the Legislatures of more than half of the States, with Democratic Presidents, and with majorities in Congress, they have had it completely in their power to demonstrate their competency and their willingness to save Kansas to the South, and protect Southern institutions. But, notwithstanding their pledges and appeals on the subject last fall, Kansas has been lost; and not only Kansas lost, but even the existence of slavery endangered in Missouri, and perhaps other border States.

Now, suppose that Fremont had been elected instead of Buchanan—what worse thing could have befallen the South, under his Administration, than has already befallen it under a Democratic Administration? Would there have been any more certainty of Kansas becoming a free State than exists at present, under the management of Buchanan and Walker? Would slavery have been any more certain to be excluded from all the Territories under Fremont than under Buchanan? We believe not. On the contrary, we incline to the opinion that the election of Fremont would have resulted in the having of Kansas to the South—for the Southern people would then have taken the matter in their own hands, and not left it, as they unfortunately have, to be dealt with by a treacherous and unprincipled Democratic Administration. It is our deliberate conviction—in short, a conviction shared in by nearly all the State Rights men of all parties at the South—that Buchanan's election will prove in the end to be an infinitely worse calamity to the South than the election of Fremont would have been.—Why, then, should the South longer stultify itself by reposing confidence in and sustaining a party which has so often betrayed it, and which will continue to betray it so long as treason is a sure means of its obtaining possession of the Government, and the spoils at its command?

It is, then, in our judgment, in all respects desirable that the Democratic party should not only be displaced from power, but that it should be permanently overthrown and crushed. The rights and interests of the South, their security and preservation, demand it; and we are ready to unite and co-operate with any old or new political organizations which may combine together for the specific purpose of defeating and prostrating the Democratic party,—a party which is really the worst enemy the South has, because it is a sneaking and insidious, not an open and manly, enemy. As therefore, the slavery question will be practically settled and out of view by the close of the next Congress, we are in favor of combining all the elements of opposition to the Democracy in one compact and powerful organization for the Presidential campaign of 1860. The Democracy are in a powerless minority in the Union, and with such an organization as that we have mentioned, we can sweep them from Maine to Texas, and achieve an overwhelming victory. We care nothing as to what name this opposition to the Democracy may be called by—whether Whigs, Americans, or Constitutionalists. One will answer us as well as another, our sole object being to put down the most damnable, dangerous, reckless, corrupt, and unprincipled party which ever had existence in a free government.

Our conclusion is, therefore, that there will be but two parties in the Presidential field of 1860—the disorganized and rotten Hunker Democracy on the one side, and all those opposed to it on the other. The question of slavery in the Territories being settled, we take our stand with the latter, and shall strike for a triumph which shall wipe the bogus-national, Buchanan-Walker Democracy out of existence.

The year 1862 will complete a thousand years since the foundation of Russia. It is proposed to erect a commemorative statue at Novgorod, the capital of the first Russian ruler. It will be built by a national subscription, under the patronage of the Czar.

It is among the loveliest customs of the ancient to bury the young at morning twilight; for, as they strove to give the softest interpretation to death, so they imagine that Aurora, who loved the young, had stolen them to her embrace.

He that has a good book in his hand, but not a lesson of it at his heart or life, is like an ass that carrieth a burden, and feeds upon the husks.