THE OREGON ARGUS.

BY WILLIAM L. ADAMS.

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MONTHS of the time set to work to be don
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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.

OREGON CITY, OREGON, NOVEMBER 21, 1857.

Vol. III.

not attempt to share his board with him, near morning. Soon after the steamer sank, he discover-

the catastrophe. They were to the lee- of a disturbed doze. ward of him, and he continued swimming But Thursday, if it afforded no relief sources recognized by men; and the Bible is that direction, in hopes to reach the for bodily suffering, relieved his mind and religion have, as necessity required. vessel; but, with the disappearance of from the monotony of his position. About been made to cover them not only with the the lights, about 94 or 10 o'clock he ceas- 9 o'clock he discovered something in the "mantle of charity," but with the sanction ed his efforts. An hour or two later he distance. He took an oar and sculled in of their precepts and the smiles of their year (a slavery about as much like the sysagain discovered lights, and this time much that direction, and as he approached it he approbation. nearer him. In a few mements he was saw it was a piece of the wreck, on which able to distinguish the hull of a vessel were two men. When within a mile of comes so utterly indefensible that all other bearing directly toward him. His hopes them, one jumped overboard and swam to apologies fail, its perpetrators turn as a last were raised, and he was confident that he the beat, and about 11 o'clock Mr. Tice resort to the temple of religion and the would soon be discovered and rescued .- helped him in. He proved to be Alexan. pages of the Bible. Did pagans in the length of time is like it, and no more so) - American law calls upon all eitizens to as-But, when only a quarter of a mile dis. der Grant, one of the firemen of the steam- early ages of Christianity need a justifica. i. c., if a Hebrew owed a brother, and was sist in catching him; and, as if human tance from him, the vessel-a bark [the er, who had been nearly five days floating tien for torturing and martyring their fel. unable to pay, he might take him legally aid were not enough, the fierce and mer-Norwegian bark Ellen]-altered her about on a piece of the hurricane deck .- low-men, they pointed to the necessity for for seven years to make his debt out of him cites bloodhound is trained to track the course, and kept off, and subsequently her The two then rowed to the piece of the sustaining religion! Did Mahomet require by his labor but no matter if this labor flying fugitive frem cruelty, eppression, Wholesale of Retail Dealer in Groceries, Produce, hull and lights disappeared while she was wreck and took on board George W. Daw- an excuse for desolating whole countries was insufficient for the debt, he went free at and wrong. By the Jewish law, mere apparently sailing off in a fine breeze .-During the remainder of the night he en- from California by the Sonora and Central Did an ignorant and superstitious clergy to the old law of these States which alcountered seven persons, who, like himself, America. They left the dead body of a desire to perpetuate their power by hin- lowed a creditor to cast his debtor in priswere drifting about on fragments of the passenger on the piece of deck as they dering the spread of intelligence, and de- on, leaving him there till the debt was wreck or boards, and in some instances he departed. That day and night they were nying the truths of science when they sent paid. And by the statute of limitations, hailed them. In one case, the gentleman, drifted along by the wind and current .- a Galileo to prison for developing them to if the debt was not paid within six years, a passenger, told Mr. Tice his name, which After having briefly related their experi- the world, it was all done in the name of it was discharged; and yet where is the he is now unable to remember. Another ences since the sinking of the vessel, they religion! Did a bloody Mary and a re. man who is such a fool in his furious fasaid that he had seen the purser of the fell into silence, only occasionally broken vengeful Elizabeth drag their powerless naticism for slavery as to think of trying from their native land as piracy—one insteamer but a short time before, floating on by a suggestion which some one might enemies to the stake and the scaffold, even to prove it "right in itself" by comparing

> Sunday night came, and for another ten morrow. ings of hunger were severe, but his thirst of despair followed. realization of the words:

" Water, water, all around, But not a drop to drink."

presence of anything to cheer his hopes .him from the very jaws of death.

Rescue of three more Survivors of the two or three miles, and without knowing suffering, and it is doubtful whether their doubt, after lacerating the quivering flesh and Twenty Hours without Food or certainly what it was, further than that it efforts were of much avail in moving the of a disobedient slave till his own hands Within half an hour before the Central his position, resting his body on the end of now, nothing but despair was left them .- driving the revolting spectacle from his America sank it became evident to all on the plank, and swam in the direction of But they were seen -a hail from the brig mind, quieting the risings of conscience board that their efforts at bailing and the object. The wind in the mean time was wafted over the waves to their ears; and the upbraidings of humanity by recallpumping were unavailing, and Mr. Tice, had become light, and the sea smoother, they pulled more manfully and with renew- ing the words, "Servants obey your maswith others, betook himself to the deck .- and he was able to make some progress ed vigor toward their savior. In a mo. ters," and "Ye shall take them as an indeck, and he saw him but a few moments o'clock he reached the object he sought - a line was thrown out and caught by the you, to inherit them for a possession; they before the steamer sank. Mr. Tice at eace one of the wooden life boats of the Cen. emaciated survivers in the boat, which was shall be your bondsmen forever," and looked about him to secure some means of tral America, half filled with water. He quickly along side, and in a few moments "That servant which knew his lord's will, and a half in thickness and about ten feet found three cars, a pan, a pail, and three ty hours after the sinking of the steamer. many stripes." What a consoling balm to vated heart. Suppose, my friend, that the long, and with it he took his stand on the old coats. With the pail he soon bailed They found themselves on beard the the remorseful conscience of the slave- law of American slavery was abolished, ments when the stern began to sink rapid- the oar upright in the bow of the boat. Capt. Shearer had made preparations to reflections upon the system of slavery !- bought of the heathen who became conly, and as the deck sank near to the sur- He scanned the horizon, but not a sail was receive the sufferers when he discovered It would be almost a pity to deprive him of verted went free the seventh year. "Six face, he sprang with his board into the wat- to be seen. His thirst, too, was increasing, them. After taking them into the cabin, the consolations which these quotations years shall be serve, and in the seventh he er-struck vigerously out from the sink- but he resisted the temptation of weaker he removed their clothing and gave them carry to men in such circumstances-but shall go out free for nothing." ing vessel, and when about forty feet dis- minds, to drink of the salt water, knowing a sip of wine, and afterward water and justice to truth, justice to humanity, and, like American slavery, is it not? tant, he saw the waves closing over the its fatal consequences. As the pieces of gruel, gradually increasing the amount above all, justice to that Bible which is bow. He was sufficiently remote from the wreck drifted past he watched them from time to time until their hunger and perverted to the upholding and perpetuity then who remained unconverted bondmen, the steamer when she sank, so that he was closely to see if they would afferd him thirst were satisfied. not carried under. In a moment the boil any relief. For a moment his hopes raling surface of the sea was filled with the lied. A few yards distant he thought he debris of the wreck, and grasping for them discovered a wicker flask floating on the were scores of human beings, still hoping swell. He sculled to it and secured it, strous in itself, but finds its apologies, and that they might yet be rescued from an only, however, to be disappointed-for the no wrong, however plain, but finds some impending fate. Resting his chest across cork had become loosened, and in place of justification. the center of the board, Mr. Tice swam to anything to slake his furious thirst was a the leeward, and though near to others few speenfuls of salt water. Night came tion to the magnitude of the wrong or who were struggling in the waves, they upon the wanderer, and, exhausted, he fell crime-if defended at all-the more unwere sustained on pieces of wreck and did into an unquiet sleep, which continued till blushing and impudent are its attempts to

ed the lights of a vessel in the distance, Tice saw only sea and sky, and all day he perhaps creates ordinarily the greatest surwhich he supposed to belong either to the had to encounter the ragings of hunger prise in the human mind, when we witness bark Marine or the schooner [El Dorado] and thirst and the discomforts of a hot sun, the blackest crimes and most indefensible which they had spoken a short time before and the night only afforded him the relief outrages against right and justice defended

he was yet alive. A heavy sea continued

taining himself than his plank, changed effort to save their lives-if they failed during the day, gone to his evening rest,

MR. EDITOR-No crime, however mon

And it seems that generally in properfortify its turpitude. This seemingly With the dawn of Wednesday, Mr. strange fact will account for that which upon appeals to the highest and holiest

And it seems that whenever a wrong beson, a colored man who was a passenger with fire and sword, he found it in religion ! the end of seven years. This is analogous a board, and the belief was expressed that make as to the prospect of their rescue. in liberty-loving England, to gratify their our old law of imprisonment for debt and Friday and Saturday brought with them spite, malignity, and hate, it was done for the creditor losing his remedy in six years, to roll during the night and following day. no hopes of succor. They had ceased to the preservation of religion! Did the with the existing system of American sla-Sunday morning dawned upon Mr. hunger, but their desire for water knew Spanish fiends of South America turn its very? And I have no doubt but any man Tice with little to encourage him to hope. no bounds. But, with a confident belief sunny fields and happy natives into bloody would prefer the Jewish service, with the The bark became visible, but she was that they would not long remain thus, wastes and woe-stricken captives bathed treatment which the law compelled the standing off, and by 11 o'clock had sunk they mutually encouraged each other; in human gore and scourged in chains and master to bestow, to being imprisoned the below the horizon. The day, however, and having passed a week since the steam- slavery, the heathen must be converted same length of time. Thus it was a more was fine; the sun shone brightly, but be- er sank in the midst of scenes which from the superstition of paganism to the legal remedy for the recovery of a debtfore meridian the heat became powerful .- would make any but the stoutest heart des. service of the Virgin and the acknowledg. and one milder than has been in practice But despondency was no part of his na- pair, they entered upon the eighth day of ment of religion! Does a Brigham Young even as late as the nineteenth century.— such a system as the latter because the forture. Despite of the dreary prospect of their experience, and the night settled up. seek for excuses for the gratification of And this is Bible proof that American his rescue, he resolved to struggle for life. on them with a dim hope of rescue on the the basest animalism and grossest licen- slavery "is right in itself and neither a tiousness, we are pointed to the proofs of national nor a moral evil"! And even the hours he was buffeted by the still heavy On Sunday morning their hopes were the righteousness of polygamy drawn from remedial laws just referred to have been waves amid the darkness. But his fatigue cheered. About 11 o'clock a sail was seen the Bible! Does the defender of American repealed as a disgrace to the age. It is a permitted Abraham to have more than one was too much for him to overcome, and in the north-east, standing for the south. slavery seek to justify himself for seeking pity that "men become so fanatical as to on his breast while in an involuntary doze, vessel-a fore and aft schooner-and when those rights dearest to the human heart- cvident"! and he would suddenly awaken with his nearest her, she was not more than two the right to judge of and pursue the means But, says our friend the advocate hands instinctively grasping the plank, miles distant. But the distance began to best calculated to make each individual "slavery as a Bible principle," under cor which alone bore his hopes for the future. increase, and in two or three hours from happy-or, in other words, the right to tain conditions he was to serve his master But, beside his sufferings from exposure the time they were overjayed at her ap- liberty-that converts the subject into a "forever." But, my friend, does the word to the waves and the heat, thirst and hun- pearance, she was out of their sight, and brute-denying him the means of intelli- "forever" here used mean perpetual serviger added their influence to render his once more their spirits, for a moment so gence or the stimulus to improvement tude f or does it mean only for a time spe situation the more desparate. The gnaw- bueyant, relaxed, and for a time a feeling recognizing no law of social relations- cified and well understood? All must adwas terrible. His position was a fearful Daylight on Monday morning showed applicable to him-that makes the slave. sense, or fer all time-its literal meaning nothing to encourage hope. But for the holder by habit and by necessity a tyrant, that would make him a servant for all first time in over eight days their thirst for unmerciful, cruel, and inhuman-that fills time-the literal meaning of "forever"water was to be slaked. A brisk shower the land where it reigns with ignorance when he at most could only be a servant Monday morning dawned without the of rain began to fall, and while the pail and incontinence-curses the soil with during the balance of his life. In constru and pan were used to catch a few spoon. barrenness and sterility, and spreads dis- ing the Bible, we ought to so construe it as Occasionally fragments of the wreck, drift- fulls, they opened their mouths for the trust and dread (knowing they have a class to make it harmonize—and when we learn ing in the Gulf Stream, would be lifted few scattered drops that chanced to fall who wait only an opportunity and power to by the laws that God gave the Jews that a by the waves into view; and anon an in-upon their parched and swellen tongues .- take revenge, in their midst)-are, I re- jubilee was proclaimed throughout all the flated life-preserver would dance ever the They caught in the pan and pail about a peat, these monstrous wrongs to be de- land every fiftieth year, applying to all summit of a wave amid the white caps, quart of water, but so great were their fended, the advocate flourishes in his hand classes beld in servitude, whether as serand in a moment disappear. The sun set physical sufferings that the water afforded a gilt-edged book with the imposing title, vants or bondmen, who had been bought of puerile sophistry to accept such a mon-

quire that it should be done.

And now, 1st. We are teld by 'A mem-

ber of the Christian Church,' through the Occidental, that "Slavery is a Bible principle"; that is, American slavery is a Bible principle: for, although he does not so say, his whole argument is to prove that point. To prove that slavery is a Bible principle, he tries to show that slavery exresult of his attempt is proof that there were servants and bondmen-that the servants (the Hebrews) went free the seventh tem of African slavery which this writer is attempting by this example to prove "right" in itself, as my entering into a contract with my neighbor to do a piece of work which would occupy me for the same

not even that of husband and wife-as mit that it cannot be taken in its literal while he was yet tossing on the waves, but them no immediate relief. But another "Hely Bible," and dares his opponent to the heathen, the difficulty as to the meanwith a spirit unbroken-which was yet to and greater hope was now to be realized the contest! Yes! melanchely and lam- ing of the word "forever" vanishes. To suffer severer trials than he had yet expe- than their desire for water. Hardly had entable as may be this truth, to the henor say that a man might have been kept in rienced - he still clung to his plank they drank the last drop which had been of the Bible for having secured such an servitude for all time under the Jawish throughout the night, little expecting that thus showered upon them, when the show- ascendency over the minds of men that law, is therefore untrue. No class, even the dawn of the morrow was to waft to er passed over them, and a few miles dis- wrongs not justified by conscience and rea- the bondmen, could be kept in servitude him a means that would buoy him above tant they saw a brig steering directly to- son find palliation through faith, and to longer than fifty years. Hence the conthe waves until Providence should snatch ward them, before a light breeze. Soon the dishonor of men who would pervert its struction that the word "forever" means her topsails were unfurled and set, and she precepts and disgrace its mission—it is true till the year of jubilee next proclaimed See opinion of Judge Ruffin in case of N. About 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning, came toward them more rapidly. Grant that no crime in the calendar has failed to throughout the land becomes irresistible. hours, he descried a beat at the distance of to row. They were all weakened from Many a humane slaveholder has, no usually lasted six but never more than fifty slaveholding judge, and it well accords—

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years, which had its origin as a remedy for a debt and not in the mere superiority of seemed to afford a better means of sus- boat. But it was a struggle for life-a last have been stained with the culprit's blood the master, establishes that American slavery, which dooms its subjects and their posterity to perpetual slavery, forbids them any lawful sanction to the rights of marriage, places them completely at the master's disposal, knows them only as property, forbids them the means of en-Capt. Heradon was then on the hurricane in his swimming. Between 12 and 1 ment the boat was near the vessel's side, heritance for you and your children after lightenment and imprevement—is in any just sense right, is about as logical as to say that two and three make ten. " Any mind possessing any balance at all can see saving his life, after the catastrophe should grasped its side, and in a moment had bowlines were about their forms, and they and prepared not himself, neither did actake place. He found a board of an inch raised himself over the guard. In it he were upon the deck, eight days and twen- cording to his will, shall be beaten with balanced mind" as well as a badly cultihurricane deck, near the stern of the steam- out the boat. One of the cents he fasten- British brig Mary, Capt. Shearer, of Green- holder whose necessities made him cruel, and the Jewish code of servitude instituted er. He had been there but a few mo- ed on an oar as a signal, and then placed neck, Scotland, from Cardenas to Cork .- when the above came to drive away bitter in its place. By that code, bondmen Again, for the emancipation of the hea-

> of one of the mest giant evils that finds a it is said, Lev. xxv. 10, "Ye shall hallow congenial home on this depraved earth, re- the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto ALL THE IN-You will, of course, perceive that I have HABITANTS THEREOF." This bears a huge been a long time coming to the point, but resemblance to the statute of South Carethese preliminary reflections naturally sug- lina : "Slaves shall be deemed, held, tagested themselves as an exordium, and I ken, reputed, and adjudged in law to be find it difficult to abridge them, much as I chattels personal in the hands of their appreciate the value of space in your col- owners and possessors, to all intents, constructions, and purposes whatseever"; and the constitution of Arkansas: "The Legislature shall have no power to pass laws emancipating slaves"! The Jewish law emancipated all the fiftieth year; ours makes their slavery eternal. The Jewish law would in fifty years free every slave on American soil; and yet we are todl "slavery is of Divine sanction." The isted under the Jewish theocracy-and the Jewish law protected the person of the slave, and the loss of an eye or a tooth set him free. American law, as expounded by one of the ablest judges who ever sat in the forum, Chief Justice Ruffin of North Carolina, is, "The power of the master must be absolute-the submission of the slave perfect."

By the Jewish law, if the slave ran away all were strictly forbidden to catch him. disposal; by our law not a single breath that he draws is his own-all is his master's. By the Jewish law, kidnapping was punished with death; American law, by the efforts of such men as Washington, Madison, Adams, Monroe, Jefferson, and Franklin, is made to brand the taking them stance where our law is in advance of the Mosaic, for that permitted them to buy of the heathen. Such is Bible and such American slavery. One destroyed, the other perpetuates slavery forever. The operations of one found the province of Judea at the coming of Christ without a single slave, so far as we are informed ; the other encourages, protects, maintains, and extends the institution by all the sauctions of its authority. To make the Bible sustain mer was permitted, is simply absurd.

that the Hebrews had slaves-does that make it right to have slaves now? God wife; is polygamy therefore right? God, often during the night his head would drop They seized their oars and pulled for the to extend an institution that robs man of lose sight of truth and things that are self. in forming the government for his chosen nation, united church and state; is that therefore right? God gave them a king to rule them; is a menarchy therefore right? God said that for every iniquity which shall be established against another. it shall be at the mouth of two or three witnesses; shall the felon therefore now go unwhipt of justice because there is only one witness to testify to his guilt? God told his people whenever they took a city of their enemies', they should put all the males to death; is the murder of disarred defenseless prisoners therefore right!-God told Saul to "smite Amalek and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not, but slay both man and woman infant and suckling, ox and sheep, cr.mel and ass;" is such inhuman butchery therefore right! Alas! alas I for the human reason that can be guiled by such streus wrong for a divine institution.

But admit, for the sake of argument,

What is a slave? "A slave is a person who is the absolute preperty and under the absolute control of another, doomed in his own person and that of his posterity to live without knowledge and without the capacity to make anything his own, and to toil that another may reap the fruits."-Carolina es. Mann, 2d Devereaux Reports.