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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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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.

EDITOR OF THE ARGUS—Sir: Having been for nearly three years a subscriber to your valuable paper, and also been tolerably punctual in "paying the printer," and never troubling you with any communications, inquiries, suggestions, or advice, or in any manner meddling with either your public or private affairs, except upon three occasions when I so far intruded upon your notice as to request you to credit the amount of my subscription, I now claim the attention of one of your "hundred eyes" long enough to reconnoiter the Post Office at Portland, and see if you can discover any hole, crack, or corner, empty box, out-of-the-way place, or any thing of that sort, into which such a paper as The Argus would be apt to find its way unaided. For certain it is that through some (to me) unexplainable means it has contracted the habit of keeping bad company and loitering at that office longer than is at all necessary or agreeable. Surely, the very gentlemanly Post Master at Portland would not detain the paper, if he knew it was there, any longer than was convenient. But from some cause or other it does escape his notice, and he concealed two, three, and sometimes four weeks, although called for every week regularly. To-day I received two papers, one Jan. 16th and one Dec. 5th. I thought it very kind of him to send the old one. He must have had quite a time looking for it. Perhaps, though, the "book trade" was not so brisk during the stormy weather, and he had more time to look over the mail. I think he would be a little more careful if he had time. But the book store is so much in his way that it is impossible for him to give the office that attention he otherwise would, provided he felt disposed to.

Now, if you can find the hole they hide in, just please fill it up, or tell me how, and I will. Yours, &c., CURTIS.

Our friend is informed that we send his paper to Portland regularly by the Jonnie Clark, which reaches Portland every Saturday as early we think as twelve o'clock, and generally at ten. If The Argus is called for after the arrival of the Southern mail, and is not handed out to subscribers, it is owing to the culpable and shameful negligence of the Postmaster. We hear constant complaints of villainous carelessness in that direction. Will that Postmaster repent of his sins, and mend his ways? He certainly needs to be prayed for.

A Card. EDITOR OF THE ARGUS—I notice in that foul Five Points sheet, the Portland Times, that the bombastic James A. Robbins has been fit to speak of my ferry charges for crossing, &c. I will "answer a fool according to his folly." He makes charges that cannot be substantiated. He says his neighbors all have to pay seventy-five cents for crossing a span of horses or a yoke of cattle and wagon, during low water. I never have charged seventy-five cents for crossing any such a team and wagon. If any of his neighbors say so, I pronounce it false. My neighbors consider him a neighborhood liar, and say the truth is not in him.

His father, an old gray-headed man, also falsified facts by stating to my neighbors that I charged him double ferrage. That is false in toto. If he had paid up his dues as he crossed, it would not have come double; but it was the clerk's duty to double it when he had made two crossings without "anting up." He has got mad at me, "Dutch Pete," and, for the sake of revenge, circulated a petition to vacate the controverted road. In this, he failed before the Legislature.

Your friend and subscriber, PETER A. WEISS, Feb. 3, 1858.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Value. Includes 'WHAT THE UNITED STATES ARE WORTH', 'Farms and cultivated soil', 'Horses, cattle, sheep, &c.', 'Agricultural implements', 'Mines', 'Dwelling houses', 'Railways and canals', 'Factories, mills, and machinery shops', 'Commercial marine', 'Agricultural produce, domestic manufactures, and foreign goods on hand', 'Gold and silver coin and bullion', 'Public lands, ships of war, fortifications, navy yards, public buildings, &c.', and 'Grand total'.

A NATIONAL FOUNDRY.—The Secretary of War, in his Annual Report, recommends the establishment of a National Foundry for the manufacture of small arms, and to raise the standard of Iron Manufacture in this country to a level with that of any other nation.

LATER FROM THE MORMON WAR. The following letter, from the correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune in the regular army, is the latest we have seen from that quarter.

CAMP ON BLACK'S FORK, Nov. 5, '57. I have been permitted to day to read some of the papers found on the person of Joseph Taylor, the Mormon prisoner, against whom a writ was issued yesterday charging him with high treason. I regret that it is not in the power of Col. Johnston to allow me to take copies of them. It is deemed advisable, for various reasons, to withhold them at present from publicity. I am, however, permitted to state the substance of one document, which was a letter of instructions to him from the Mormon Commander-in-Chief, dated October 4. It directed him to harass the troops in every possible manner on their march, by stampeding, stealing and maiming cattle, burning grass wherever found, and especially, if possible, on the windward of trains, so as to envelop them in the flames; by hanging on the rear of the army and cutting off any wagons which lag behind; by felling trees so as to block the road, &c. It stated, further, that similar orders had been issued to William Hickman, Potter Rockwell and Col. Benton. I should like to hear any remarks which the Col. Benton of Missouri may be pleased to make upon the commission of his Mormon namesake.—This interesting document is signed "Yours in Christ, Daniel H. Wells," and in a postscript Mr. Taylor is enjoined to do everything in his power to cripple the army, short of taking life.

It is probable that all the banditti who have been hanging around Col. Alexander's command for the last month are acting under precisely the same instructions. As yet they have taken but one soldier prisoner—the assistant hospital steward of the 10th Infantry—who was captured a fortnight ago, while passing from the camp of his own regiment to that of the 5th Infantry, four or five miles distant. They have been more expert in stealing cattle, and in addition to the principal robberies, which I have recorded, they succeed in running off a few head almost every night. On one occasion, I am told, they stole twenty-one head of horses and mules within 500 yards of the camp.

What constitutes the basis for the distinction between their present system of hostilities, and the shedding of blood, I am unable to understand. But whatever it may be, they give us official information that it will cease to exist the moment we attempt to force a passage through the mountains. If it lies in a belief that they do not become traitors till they take human life, they are greater fools than I am willing to believe. No such scruples exist on the side of the army, and on the first occasion on which a soldier's musket can be leveled at any of the banditti, the trigger will certainly be pulled. In the present crisis there is no longer room for child's play. There is but one alternative. Either the laws of the United States are to be subverted and its territory appropriated by a gang of traitorous leeches, who have declared themselves to constitute "a free and independent State," or Salt Lake City must be entered at the point of the bayonet, and the ringleaders of the Mormon rebellion seized and hung. Whether such an entrance can be effected this year is a matter of great uncertainty. My own opinion is that it cannot. Even after Col. Cook shall have arrived, the strength of the regular army will not exceed 2,000 men. The dragoon horses will be unfit for service, and an enormous train will embarrass all operations until a depot is formed. The force which the Mormons will be able to put under arms, I judge, after careful and extensive inquiry, cannot exceed 5,000 men, and of these not more than one-half will be formidable adversaries. If an American army numbering hardly 6,000 able-bodied men, was able to storm outwork after outwork, and at last to enter and occupy the capital of Mexico, garrisoned by 40,000 regular troops, and inhabited by 200,000 souls, the 2,000 who will soon be gathered under Col. Johnston's command have little reason to fear a foe only twice their number, with whom religious fanaticism supplies the place of military discipline. But the season is in war against us, and that is, among these mountains, a more formidable enemy. Ever since the storm of October 15 and 16, we have been remarkably favored by the weather, as we were before. But last night came another heavy fall of snow, and the sky is still lowering. Before we can disencumber ourselves of the hundreds of wagons and thousands of cattle which are entirely dependent on military support, it is too certain that the Wasatch Mountains will be covered to the depth of several feet with snow. The utmost, in my opinion, which Col. Johnston can be expected to effect within the next three weeks, will be to put himself into position to take advantage of any

favorable turn that may occur thereafter in the weather, for a rapid movement upon the Mormon capital. The loss of the three trains by fire proves to be far less serious than at first appeared, although the value of the property destroyed, enhanced as it was by the cost of transportation, must exceed \$1,000,000.

To-day, Sibley tents have been issued to all the companies, both for officers and men, and the loading of the trains shifted, so as to render it as compact as possible, and to-morrow the whole army will be put in motion toward Fort Bridger.

In the action which Congress must take at its coming session concerning the extraordinary condition of affairs in this Territory, there is one subject which peremptorily demands attention—the present insufficient rates of pay of the Territorial officials. In the first place, it is no holiday work in which they are engaged. They require to exercise all the ability which they have acquired by nature and experience in the duties which devolve on them. In the next place, their life during the coming winter will necessarily be subject to many privations, for which they deserve recompense; and, besides, their present salaries are entirely inadequate to support them properly, enhanced as are the prices of all articles of food, clothing and furniture by their exclusion from the valley of the Salt Lake. Every mouthful which they eat and every coat which they purchase during the next few months will cost them about two hundred per cent. more than the price of the same articles in the States.—For instance, the price asked by the sutlers for blankets is from \$18 to \$22 per pair; for caps, \$5; for common woolen gloves, from \$2 to \$4 per pair. Such rates are absolutely necessary to guard them from loss, for it is probable that almost all the oxen which they have employed in hauling their goods from Missouri will perish within two months, and their wagons also will be a perfect loss. The United States is no pauper. It is competent to furnish a pecuniary equivalent for all services of its officials which can be bought with money. It will not furnish such an equivalent to the officers of this Territory unless their salaries are raised.

The force of the Mormons are estimated to amount to about five thousand men, officered as follows:

- Daniel H. Wells, Lieutenant General; James Ferguson, Adjutant-General; A. P. Lockwood, Commissary-General; Geo. D. Grant, Brigadier-General of Cavalry; H. B. Clawson, Aid-de-Camp; L. W. Hardy, Division Commissary; W. H. Kimball, Lieutenant-Colonel of Cavalry; Wm. Hyde, Lieutenant-Colonel of Infantry; R. T. Burton, Major of the Life Guards.

THE ACQUISITION OF CUBA.—The New Orleans Courier, the Administration paper of that city, arguing from the standpoint that Kansas will likely, at least, come into the Union as a free State, presses the acquisition of Cuba during the present term of Mr. Buchanan, to supply its loss to the South. It says:

"We learned many years ago from his (Buchanan's) great speech on the Panama mission that the Moro was practically a fortress at the mouth of the Mississippi.—It ought, therefore, to belong to the United States. The acquisition of Cuba is a question of far greater importance to us than any other now before this Administration. It would be a peculiarly fit time to annex it as a slave State, when it could be made a twin sister to a free State from the West. All parties ought to be satisfied—the great majority of all parties would be. Mr. Buchanan would earn the crowning glory of his life, and the whole Mississippi valley would exult in the name of her heroes. Peace and quiet would be restored to the North, security would be given to the commerce of the South and West, and the people of Cuba would prosper as they never prospered before."

TWENTY YEARS HENCE.—"Jon," of the Baltimore Sun, reasons that there will be another financial revolution in the United States twenty years hence—say in 1877. It will be attended by greatly different results from those which mark the present one. Through the agency of immigration, and by the rapid development of internal elements of wealth, the United States will, by that time, have become the most prosperous and powerful nation on the globe, commercially, industrially and politically. The throne of Commerce may even be transferred from London to New York, and financial dominancy from Europe to the New World. A crash here, then, will be a crash in the centre of the business world, which would be followed by a disastrous prostration in Europe.

METHODIST STATISTICS.—The membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States is said to be 820,519—an increase of 20,192 over last year. The number of traveling preachers is 6,134, and of local preachers, 7,169. The number of churches is 8,335; and the probable value of the churches and parsonages is estimated at \$17,008,184.

THE MORMON BIBLE. As the Mormons are just now attracting considerable attention, it may not be amiss to publish what is generally regarded as the history of the book called the Mormon Bible. The time has not yet arrived when a formal disproof of its being an inspired work is necessary, and a plain story will not be denied on the ground of its excluding the supernatural.

The opinion is of many years' standing that the aborigines (?) of America are descendants of the lost tribes of Israel.—Adair, in his history of the North American Indians, adopts the theory, and takes great pains to prove it. It gives a minute account of some Indian dances, where certain words are used (yo-ho-wah), which, by a little torturing, he supposes derived from the word "Jehovah," therefore, very cogent reasoning—the Indians came from the lost tribes. Whether this account is more acceptable, or less so, than that of Mynheer Diedrich Knickerbocker, in his veracious history of New York, the learned must judge. Diedrich speculates far and wide to account for their being people on this continent, but found the problem attended with as much difficulty as other ethnographers have experienced in accounting for a race of bipeds on the Eastern continent. He finally cuts the knot by the sage conclusion that the people of this continent came here—by accident.

Be this as it may, the opinion of their Israelitish descent has had many supporters, and it so happening, an ingenious young clerical gentleman by the name of Spaulding, in the State of Connecticut, being out of health, determined to amuse and occupy his leisure hours by writing a romance upon this idea—of the Jewish descent of the North American Indians.—Upon this idea he wrote the book known as the Mormon Bible.

The writer of this article has been assured by a gentleman of intelligence and unquestionable veracity, that he came from the town where Mr. Spaulding lived, and that he had seen persons of that town who declared that they saw whole chapters of the Book of Mormon, when in the course of composition, shown to them by the author.

Mr. Spaulding finally emigrated, either to improve his fortune or his health, or both, and went to the interior of the State of New York, where, it seems, he has been lost sight of. He no doubt died without being able to find a publisher for his romance, which ultimately turned up among some rubbish in the garret of a printing establishment in Pittsburg, where it was found by a cunning rascal by the name of Sidney Rigdon. This Rigdon meeting with Joe Smith (or Joe Smith meeting with him), the two rogues together determined to turn the work to account.

The book is written in Scriptural phraseology; "and it came to pass," that Joe and Rigdon made a bungling addition by way of preface, stating that certain metallic plates had been mysteriously discovered under a certain hill—thus and so—all scribbled over with certain characters, and that, in short, Joe had been illuminated from heaven and empowered and instructed to "read"; whence, according to their account, lo and behold, the Book of Mormon came forth, of course from heaven; though some think the other place has a higher claim to its paternity.

The book, in itself, is not a bad romance. The author takes up the lost tribes, and has them marched to the (or a) coast, where vessels are constructed, upon which they embark, and, guided by a miraculous needle, supernaturally provided—by which the reader may see that the mariner's compass, though without a name, is older than anything of the sort known to the Chinese, who know everything except a steam engine; guided, I say, by a miraculous needle, they are conducted to (a) coast where they land. That coast is our own. After landing and occupying the country, the author, to provide himself with incidents for "chronicles," introduces the serpent discord, and brings about a separation and a long series of wars and conflicts.

The author, knowing by an easy method of foresight (after the fact) all of the controverted points of theology, has taken care to solve them by indisputable authority.—The question of the trinity, the doctrines of free agency, baptism, &c., are all definitely settled beyond any dispute for those who accept the Mormon book as the fruit of inspiration; a very easy method.

It is but just to say that the book contains no immoral doctrine, or anything to shock delicacy or refinement. That the customs of its followers do not precisely indicate its character, may readily be believed by those who are acquainted with the multitudinous forms in which, under the notion of following the Lamb, the world has been astonished by men of vast pretensions and little brains.

Mormonism, a few years ago, was almost too contemptible to be noticed. The

"Saints" first established themselves in Ohio; then moved to the western part of Missouri. Driven from this latter place, they settled in Illinois, and founded Nauvoo, where they soon made themselves offensive to their neighbors, and finally aroused an opposition which ended in the death of Joe Smith and his brother Hyrum, and in a new exile. At last they fixed upon Salt Lake, in the remote and then unknown West, where they hoped to live apart from the "Gentiles," as they call us. At Salt Lake they have accumulated in numbers to an extraordinary extent, most of their accessions being from abroad, including English Welsh, Danes, and others. They are absolutely blind to everything but Mormonism, to which they are fanatically devoted, under their recognized prophet, Brigham Young, whose word is, to them, the word of God.

Brigham Young has now raised the standard of rebellion against the United States, and we are about to enter upon a war which is likely to attract the notice of the civilized world, and possibly may cost much life and treasure; and then, and not till then, will the end be known.

It is not generally known, and yet it is true, that Mormons are scattered throughout most of our Northern cities. They are counted by hundreds in this very city of St. Louis, though they keep very still, and are often employed for whole months without their employers knowing who they are. In our country we can have nothing to do, governmentally, with the Mormon faith or religion. The question is purely one of civil polity, and it is hoped that the Government will vindicate the cause of civilization, as it is bound to maintain its civil supremacy.—Missouri Republican.

The New Orleans Delta estimates the number of slaves at the South at over three-and-a-half millions, and their aggregate value, at present prices, at fully sixteen hundred millions of dollars. The cotton plantations in the South are estimated at eighty thousand, and the aggregate value of their annual products, at the present prices of cotton, at fully one hundred and twenty-five millions of dollars.—There are over fifteen thousand tobacco plantations, and their annual products may be valued at fourteen millions of dollars.—There are five hundred and fifty-one rice plantations, which yield an annual revenue of four millions of dollars.

RISE IN THE WORLD.—You should bear constantly in mind that nine tenths of us are, from the very nature and necessities of the world, born to gain our livelihood by the sweat of our brow. What reason have we, then, to presume that our children are not to do the same? If they be, as now and then one would be, endowed with extraordinary powers of mind, those extraordinary powers of mind may have an opportunity of developing themselves; and if they have not that opportunity, the harm is not very great to us or them. Nor does it hence follow that the descendants of laborers are always to be laborers. The path upward is steep and long, to be sure. Industry, care, skill, excellence, in the present parent, lay the foundation of a rise under more favorable circumstances, for the children. The children of these take another rise; and by and by the descendants of the parent laborer become gentlemen. This is the natural progress. It is by attempting to reach the top at a single leap that so much misery is produced in the world. Society may aid in making the laborer virtuous and happy, by bringing children up to labor with steadiness, with care and with skill; to show them how to do as many useful things as possible; to do them all in the best manner; to set them an example in industry, sobriety, cleanliness and neatness; to make all these habitual to them, so that they never shall be liable to fall into the contrary; to let them always see a good living proceeding from labor, and thus to remove from them the temptation to get at the goods of others by violence and fraudulent means, and to keep far from their minds all the inducements to hypocrisy and deceit.—Cobbett.

WAKEFULNESS.—Sleeplessness is the result of over effort, bodily or mental.—When a man works beyond his strength, or thinks or studies more than rest can restore them, sooner or later comes that inability to sleep soundly, that wakefulness which is more wearing even than bodily labor, and which feeds the debility which first gave rise to it. The result is a man is always tired, never feels rested, even when he leaves his bed in the morning; hence he wastes away and finds repose only in his grave, if indeed insanity do not supervene. It is too often a malady, remediless by medical means. Avoid then, as you would a viper or a murderer,

all over effort of mind and body—it is suicidal. Whatever you do, get enough of sleep; whatever you do, take enough rest to restore the used energies of each preceding twenty-four hours—if you do not, you may escape for a month, and if possessing a good constitution years may pass away before any decided ill result forces itself on your attention; but rest assured, the time will come when the too often baffled system, like a battle horse, will refuse to work. It will not take prompt and sound sleep; it will not be reated by repose, and that irritating wakefulness will come upon you, which philosophy cannot conquer, which medicine cannot cure, and wasting by slow degrees to skin and bone, rest is found only in the grave.

Modern Jerusalem. An Oriental correspondent of the Boston Post, now on his travels, draws a sombre picture of that famous place—once the "joy of the whole earth." After the first few days of excitement, which every visitor to Jerusalem must experience, there succeeds an inexpressible sadness, a settled melancholy, which appears to be impressed upon the countenance of every inhabitant.

A walk through the filthy streets is a horror—the heaps of garbage left to rot in the sun; the slaughter-house in the centre of the city; the tannery adjacent to, and polluting the Holy Sepulchre; the skins of animals, yet warm from their bodies, and covered with vermin, exposed at every corner for sale—and yet worse, if possible, the abominably filthy Jew, the half-naked Arab, the horrible peasants whose skins are hardly to be distinguished from the beasty rags which cover them, create a loathing in the mind of the stranger, which cannot be better described than in the words of the prophet—"They lie down in their shame, and their confusion covereth them."—"I will make the city desolate, and an hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished, and hiss because of the plagues thereof."

If what our traveler asserts about the accommodations in Jerusalem be true, we should not fancy a long stay there, however anxious we might be to examine the topography of the Holy City and its surroundings. There are no furnished lodgings to be had. The visitor is either obliged to hire a house, furnish it and procure servants, which are there the worst in the world, or go to a hotel. The hotels, which are private houses changed to public ones, are of the most wretched description. There is not a house in the city, except those built for the consuls by their respective governments, as good as that of an American backwoodsman. In the winter, the houses are cold, and the roofs let in the water. The floors are made slanting, that the water may run off. In summer they are uninhabitable from the heat. There are in the city three miserable hotels in which the fare is poor, and the charges as high as at the Astor House in New York.

But the worst feature about modern Jerusalem is the everlasting broils and dissensions among the different religious sects which are almost innumerable. It is only the dread of the Turkish power that keeps them from literally devouring each other. The Turk sits at the door of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, smoking his pipe, sipping his black coffee, and viewing with equal indifference the Latin, the Greek, the Armenian, the Copt, the Chaldean, and a dozen others who pass by him on their way to different altars, while the Jew who ventures into the open squares in front of the Church, exposes himself to great peril, if not to certain death, from the hands of both Turk and Christian.

The Christian cannot enter the Grand Mosque of the Turk. The Greek, the Latin and the Armenian are engaged in constant dispute among themselves. In the meantime the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is falling to pieces, and the wind and rain are beating upon the Holy Sepulchre itself. There is of course no society—no common ground upon which all may meet.

The unsocial Turk inhabits his own quarters, and scarcely ever leaves it except to give some specimen of his tyranny.—The Jew lives in his own fifth in another quarter, or sneaks about the city in a listless manner, until some charity sent from abroad gives him excitement enough to quarrel about his share. The Christians have their own quarter, which is somewhat less dirty than the others.

Our traveler announces the recent arrival of a new Pasha who seemed disposed to aid in the work of cleansing the city; yet he might turn out, like other functionaries before him, but a new broom. Still he appeared less opposed to innovation than his predecessors.

Every day has its appropriate duties; attend to them in succession.