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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.

An Indian Republic.

Away up on the head waters of the Minnesota, some forty miles above Fort Ridgely, in a corner of the miserly strip of territory which the usufruct was reserved for the Dakotas, all that remains to them now of the magnificent heritage to which they were born, in the wilderness-home of seven thousand savages, the very hues of Indian barbarism, yet dim with ghostly songs and legends, the philosophers of France and the poets of European regeneration have been out-tripped by the Dakota hunter, and a veritable republic, organized, representative, free, with a written constitution and a code of laws, has been established on the banks of the Yellow Medicine.

A community of Dakota Indians, including some 25 families, renouncing the tribal system and habits, the superstitions and costume of their race, leaping at a single vault across centuries of barbarism, have adopted at once, by unanimous consent, the customs, the dress, and at least the elementary ideas of civilized society.

The traditional principle of the community of property has been abandoned, the whole tribal fabric dissolved, and society re-constructed on the basis of justice to the individual, and its relations adjusted on the principle of individual responsibility. For this new order of things, a methodical organization has been effected, in which all male adults are represented, and in which all directly participate. A president and secretary were regularly elected. A constitution and code of laws were written, and the rights of property recognized and defined. This is an abrupt transition, certainly, and presents the phenomena not of growth but of transformation.

One finds the savage hunter of a year since, dressed to-day in the costume of a white man, the hair cut short and the paint and ornaments discarded, living in neat houses, of the simple but comfortable architecture usual in frontier settlements, with an inclosed field of four or five acres around him filled with the implements of modern husbandry. The Indian woman, released from the despotism of tribal pre-eminence, is no longer a beast of burden, but attends to the gentle duties of the household, while the husband accepts with pride the roll his recent pride disdained.

The interior of these little houses, usually built of logs, reminds one of the simple and innocent cottage life of the exiled Academics. The rud-furniture, fashioned by their uneducated skill, is in everything an imitation of civilization. The idea of comfort precedes the idea of elegance in the growth of mind, and ordinary comforts are still novelties in Indian life, to which the sentiment of property, itself a novelty, gives a new charm. The rough bench or chair, the bed or bank, earned with musquito gauze, the iron stove, the various utensils of cookery, the set of table-ware upon the high, clean shelf, the lock and trunk, the 66-spoked picture, the well-filled lantern, and the cultivated garden outside, inclosed with neat fences, all attest the gradual development of the principle of acquisition, and the renunciation of the lazy destinies of the community. To one familiar with the bleak, comfortless, entirely animal life, and reckless improvidence of the Dakotas, this simple, domestic picture, sketched on that harsh and desolate background, appears with the force of dramatic contrast, while it has for the student the interest of a new phase of historical development, of which the conditions are new, and the causes not apparent.

And what power wrought this radical revolution in the midst of the Dakotas? Was it the spontaneous development of a latent tendency accelerated by the exigencies of the new mode of life, forced on them by the policy of the Government? Was it the reflex influence of the civilization which surrounds them? Perhaps these had the effect of suggestions or of arguments. But the Hazlewood Republic was the result of heroic self-sacrifice, the fairly result of the despised labors of the Dakota missionaries. Two excellent men, the Rev. Dr. Williamson, and the Rev. S. R. Riggs, who have devoted their lives to the evangelization of the Sioux, find in this the first shaft of the harvest which is springing from their joint labors. Mr. Riggs is a cultivated scholar, and the editor of a valuable Dakota grammar and dictionary. It is around the mission house of this gentleman, that the Hazlewood Republic has established its settlement; and its members, many of whom can read and write Dakota, some of them even English, are composed chiefly of his pupils and converts. It was under his auspices that the Hazlewood Republic was organized some two years since. The members, the male adults voting, have elected "Paul" their president, and "Hennuck" secretary. The latter was educated somewhere at the East. The fluff of these people in their new mode of life, may be inferred from the fact that Major Plandrau, the agent of the

Sioux, to whom we are indebted for the principal details of the above narrative, recently bought 400 bushels of potatoes, and 500 bushels of corn from them.

The Major informs us that their accounts against the Government are usually attested by vouchers in their own handwriting. It is his design to encourage by every possible means this forward movement among the Sioux. No portion of the school fund provided by the treaty, had been appropriated until a small portion of the sum due, \$1,000 in all, was received by him. A part of this was judiciously expended in the establishment of a Dakota school in the Republic, taught for the present by a native Indian.

At the Red Wood agency, we should not forget to mention a similar settlement of Indians has commenced, and now numbers some eleven or twelve families.—*St. Paul Advertiser.*

THE SALT TRADE.—The British Government is ind-fatigable in the matter of commercial statistics, and it is to their attention to this subject, to the care which they exercise in obtaining and spreading before their people all the information in regard to the wants and the resources of the people in every part of the world, as well as to the efforts which they make to open new markets, extend old ones, and protect in every way the merchant and the manufacturer that the English nation owes its great wealth and its widely extended power and influence.

The most comprehensive and authentic account of the consumption and supply of Salt in the United States, has been published lately. It was prepared by an eminent Salt merchant at New York, for the use of a committee of the British Parliament.

From this it appears that the quantity of Salt manufactured in the United States is about 42,376,900 bushels, of which 6,000,000 bushels is at the Salt Springs in Onondaga county, New York; 3,500,000 bushels in Virginia, at the Kanawha and King's works; 1,500,000 bushels in Ohio; 900,000 in Pennsylvania; 250,000 in Kentucky, and 100,000 in Florida.

The amount of coarse and fine Salt imported into the United States, from foreign countries, for the year ending June 30, 1856, was 15,405,894 bushels, and the amount re-exported during the year was 128,127 bushels. The amount of domestic Salt exported during the year was 695,458 bushels.

Of the Salt made in Onondaga, N. Y., 5,257,449 bushels was made by boiling, and 709,391 bushels at the solar works. The cost of both kinds is about the same, say 20 cents per bushel of 56 pounds. When the Onondaga works are generally running they require 3,000,000 gallons of brine daily, and the supply is not less than 2,000,000 gallons a day for six months.—The wells in the Virginia Salt Springs are 900 feet deep; those in Ohio 1,000 to 1,200 feet.

The amount of Salt annually consumed in the United States is about 60 pounds to each inhabitant. The consumption of France is estimated at 21½ pounds, and of Great Britain at 25 pounds for each inhabitant.

The Speaker of the House.

The correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce says of him:

"Col. Orr is a man of about thirty-six, of large frame, of a round stomach, and with a set of lungs of immense power.—When he rises to catch the Speaker's attention, his shrill voice soars above the tumult of the House like the whistle of a locomotive. He is singularly prompt, quick witted in his argument, and retort, and pays the closest attention to every detail of House business. The dullest and profestest declaimer can boast of an attentive listener in Orr, and it is rather ominous to a new comer in debate, when that flat-haired South Carolinian, with a thread-bare faded black coat, leans forward, puts one hand to his ear, cocks his eye towards the new member, like a contemplative rooster looking for clear weather, and asks whether he rightly understood the last remark of the honorable gentleman, and if so, would like to inquire, &c. It is quite an ordeal to go through. Orr is a man of the world, of pleasant social feelings, and is thus enabled to put through the paragon work he assumes more effectually than a person of more austerity and ostentation."

AN EXTENSIVE FARMER.—Col. Jacob Carroll of Texas is said to be the largest farmer in the United States. He owns two hundred and fifty thousand acres of land (nearly four hundred square miles). His home plantation contains 8000 acres nearly all valuable bottom lands, along the Guadalupe river. On this farm he has over 600 acres in cultivation, on which he raises annually about 300 bales of cotton, worth at the plantation from \$75 to \$100 per bale, and 20,000 bushels of corn worth about 50 cents per bushel. He has a force of about 50 field hands, and he works about 60 mules and horses, and 15 yoke of oxen. Col. Carroll has, on his immense ranges of pasture lands, about 1000 horses and mules, worth \$50,000; 1000 head of cat-

The Character of Washington.

The closing chapter of the fourth volume of Irving's Life of Washington contains the annexed fine portrait of the *Pater Patrie*:

In the volumes here concluded we have endeavored to narrate faithfully the career of Washington from childhood, through his early surveying expeditions in the wilderness, his diplomatic mission to the French posts on the frontier, his campaigns in the French war, his arduous trials as commander-in-chief throughout the Revolution, the noble simplicity of his life in retirement, until we have shown him elevated to the Presidential chair, by no effort of his own, in a manner against his wishes, by the unanimous vote of a grateful country.

The plan of our work has necessarily carried us widely into the campaigns of the Revolution, even where Washington was not present in person; for his spirit pervaded and directed the whole, and a general knowledge of the whole is necessary to appreciate the sagacity, forecast, enduring fortitude, and comprehensive wisdom, with which he conducted it. He himself has signified to one who aspired to write his biography, that any memoirs of his life distinct and unconnected with the history of the war, would be unsatisfactory. In treating of the Revolution, we have endeavored to do justice to what we consider its most striking characteristics—the greatness of the object and the scantiness of the means. We have endeavored to keep in view the prevailing poverty of resources, the scandalous neglects, the squalid miseries of all kinds, with which its champions had to contend in their expeditions through trackless wildernesses or thinly-peopled regions; beneath scorching suns or inclement skies; their wintry marches to be traced by bloody foot-prints on snow and ice; their desolate winter encampments rendered still more desolate by nakedness and famine.

It was in the patience and fortitude with which these ills were sustained by a half-disciplined yeomanry, voluntary exiles from their homes, destitute of all the "pomp and circumstance" of war to excite them, and animated solely by their patriotism, that we read the noblest and most affecting characteristics of that great struggle for human rights. They do wrong to its moral grandeur who seek by commonplace exaggeration to give a melodramatic effect and false glare to its military operations, and to place its greatest triumphs in the conflicts of the field.—Lafayette showed a true sense of the nature of the struggle, when Napoleon, accustomed to effect ambitious purposes by hundreds of thousands of troops and tens of thousands of slain, sneered at the scanty armies of the American Revolution and its "boasted battles." "Sir," was the admirable and comprehensive reply, "it was the grandest of causes won by skirmishes of sentinels and outposts."

In regard to the character and conduct of Washington, we have endeavored to place his deeds in the clearest light, and left them to speak for themselves, generally avoiding comment or eulogium. We have quoted his own words and writings largely, to explain his feelings and motives, and to give the true key to his policy; for never did man leave a more truthful mirror of his heart and mind, and a more thorough exponent of his conduct, than he has left in his copious correspondence. There his character is to be found in all its majestic simplicity, its massive grandeur, and quiet, colossal strength. He was no hero of romance; there was nothing of romantic heroism in his nature. As a warrior he was incapable of fear, but made no merit of defying danger. He fought for a cause, not for personal renown. Gladly, when he had won the cause, he hung up his sword, never again to take it down. Glory, that blatant word which haunts some minds like the bray of the trumpet, formed no part of his aspirations. To act justly was his instinct, to promote the public weal his constant effort, to deserve the "affections of good men" his ambition. With such qualifications for the pure exercise of sound judgment and comprehensive wisdom, he ascended the Presidential chair.

There, for the present, we leave him.—So far our work is complete, comprehending the whole military life of Washington and his agency in public affairs up to the formation of our Constitution. How well we have executed it, we leave to the public to determine; hoping to find it, as heretofore, far more easily satisfied with the result of our labors than we are ourselves.—Should the measure of health and good spirits, with which a kind Providence has blessed us beyond the usual term of literary labor, be still continued, we may go on, and in another volume give the Presidential career and closing life of Washington. In the mean time, having found a resting place in our task, we stay our hands, lay by our pen, and seek that relaxation and repose which gathering years require.

Prof. Agassiz has been favored with a compliment from the Emperor Napoleon, of which he may well be proud, although he declines the proffered honor. The distinguished naturalist has been tendered the chair of Paleontology at the Museum of Natural History at Paris, made vacant by the death of the eminent savant M. D'Orbigny. In his reply, our Americanized Professor says that he finds himself under the painful necessity of refusing a position which, in every circumstance, he shall always regard as the most brilliant to which a naturalist may aspire, but he cannot sever the ties which for many years past he has considered as binding him to the United States for the remainder of his life.

You may glean knowledge by reading, but you must separate the chaff from the wheat by thinking.

The Mormon Rebellion.

The Washington correspondent of the St. Louis Republic says that the Secretary of War will not ask for volunteers to go to Utah, but for an increase of the Army. He says:

"It is settled that the troops are to march into Utah in the spring in three columns—one across the plains—one from Oregon, and one from California. The Government will thus cut off every avenue of escape, and protect the frontiers at all points from Mormon murders and robberies. This is the great object to be looked to.—If Brigham Young has determined to burn Salt Lake City and lay waste Utah, he will evidently aim to collect compound interest, as well as the principal, off the people within striking distance of his fanatical followers. California, it is apprehended here, will suffer, and should Young succeed in enlisting Indian allies, we may have on hand a protracted bloody war, which may cost the Government more money than the Florida war of Mr. Van Buren's."

COFFEE AND SUGAR.—Brazil produces 320,000,000 pounds of coffee annually, being more than one entire half that is grown in the world. Java produces 120,000,000 pounds, Ceylon 50,000,000, San Domingo 35,000,000, Cuba and Porto Rico 20,000,000, Sumatra 15,000,000, Costa Rica 9,000,000, Mocha 5,000,000, and the British West Indies 5,000,000.

Of the two thousand eight hundred million pounds of sugar produced in 1856, Brazil furnished 200,000,000 pounds, Cuba 800,000,000, British West Indies 350,000,000, and Louisiana and other of the Gulf States 250,000,000. About thirty-four million pounds of maple sugar are made in the Northern States in a year, and France, Belgium, Germany, Austria, and Russia make about three hundred and forty million pounds of beet sugar in a year. In consumption, Great Britain requires annually for her coffee, tea, and sweetens, about eight hundred and thirty-six million pounds and the United States—without quite as sweet a tooth as John Bull—demands some seven hundred and sixty million pounds.

STATISTICS OF THE BIBLE.—The Scriptures have been translated into 148 languages and dialects, of which 121 had, prior to the formation of the "British and Foreign Bible Society," never appeared. And 25 of these languages existed without an alphabet, in an oral form. The first division of the divine oracles into chapters and verses is attributed to Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury in the reign of King John, in the latter part of the 12th century or beginning of the 13th. Cardinal Hugo, in the middle of the 13th century, divided the Old Testament into chapters, as they stand in our translation. Afterward, Athias, a Jew of Amsterdam, divided the sections of Hugo into verses, as we now have them. Robert Stephens, a French printer, had previously (1551) divided the New Testament into verses as they now are.

The Old Testament contains 39 books, 920 chapters, 23,214 verses, 592,439 words, 7,228,100 letters. The New Testament contains 27 books, 260 chapters, 7,929 verses, 182,253 words, 848,380 letters. The entire Bible contains 66 books, 1,180 chapters, 31,173 verses, 774,692 words, 3,576,480 letters.

The name Jehovah, or Lord, occurs 6,855 times in the Old Testament. The word "Selah" occurs 70 times in Psalms, in Habakkuk 3 times. The word "and" occurs in the Old Testament 35,543 times, in the New Testament 10,634 times, in the Bible 46,227 times.

The middle book of the Old Testament is Proverbs. The middle chapter is the 29th of Job—the middle verse, 2d Chronicles, xx: 17. The middle book of the New Testament is 2d Thessalonians. The middle chapters are Romans 13 and 14—the middle verse is Acts xvii, 17. The middle chapter, and the least, in the Bible, is Psalm cvii.

The least verse in the Old Testament is 1st Chronicles, i, 1. The least verse in the Bible is John xi, 35. The 19th chapter of 2d Kings and the 37th of Isaiah are the same. In the 21st verse of the 7th chapter of Ezra are all the letters of the alphabet, I and J being considered as one.

The preceding facts were ascertained by a gentleman in 1718; also by an English gentleman residing at Amsterdam, 1772; and it is said to have taken each nearly three years in the investigation.

DUTIES OF DAILY LIFE.—Life is not entirely made up of great evils or heavy trials; but the perpetual recurrence of petty evils and small trials, is the ordinary and appointed exercise of the Christian graces. To bear with the failings of those about us—with their infirmities, their bad judgment, their ill breeding, their perverse tempers—to endure neglect when we feel we deserved attention, and ingratitude when we expected thanks—to bear with the company of disagreeable people whom Providence has placed in our way, and whom He has provided or purposed for the trial of our virtues—these are the best exer-

cises of patience and self-denial, and the better because not chosen by ourselves.—To bear with vexations in business, with disappointment in our expectations, with interruptions of our retirement, with folly, intrusion, disturbance—in short, with whatever opposes our will, contradicts our humor—this habitual acquiescence appears to be more of the essence of self-denial than any little rigors or afflictions of our imposing. These constant, inevitable, but inferior evils, properly improved, furnish a good moral discipline, and might, in the days of ignorance, have superseded pilgrimages and penance.—*Hannah More.*

One of the Pennsylvania democratic correspondents of Forney's Press, expresses his fears that our enemy England has united with the disunionists of the North and South, and is now at the bottom of this move for forcing the constitution on Kansas for the purpose of destroying the Union. Oh, how cruel to charge the "conservative Mr. Bow-kanan" with having been bought by British gold to destroy the Union, when he claims to be the great Union savior.

A CURIOUS CONFESSION FROM COSTA RICA.—President Mora, of Costa Rica, confirms the position taken by Gen. Walker, that he was not driven out of Nicaragua by the enemy, but through the capitulation forced upon him by Capt. Davis, U. S. N., in his assumed character of representative of the policy of President Pierce's Administration. President Mora frankly states, in his speech of October 28, that Walker's position at Rivas was "really superior to that of the Central Americans!"

In explaining the position of the "allies" in this crisis, the President of Costa Rica says, "The ravages of the cholera, which was daily increasing, and the near approach of the terrible season of rains, made the dissolution of the allied army inevitable, in twenty days; while Walker had still 600 able men, and resources which would have enabled him to have sustained himself for a much longer time than has been supposed. In the last resort he might have at any time forced our weak lines."

THE PRESS.—The press is the ruling power of the times. The age of statesmen is over, and the age of the printing press is come. What the invention of gunpowder was to the art of war, making any man who could pull a trigger equal to the most powerful warrior, the press is in a reading age. Men sometimes think that the great brow at Washington control the nation. So the man who first sees a steamboat thinks that the walking-beam is the propelling power, but below there is a "finatic" feeding the fire.—*Wendell Phillips.*

Faneuil Hall contains standing room for 5,320 persons. Including the space afforded by window recesses and the porch of the hall, when pushed to its utmost, may hold an audience of 5,700.

PENSIONERS.—The Pension Office has added to its roll during the year past 949 pensioners, 52 of whom were Revolutionary soldiers. There have died during the year 174 Revolutionary soldiers, and 739 widows of Revolutionary soldiers.

On the 17th day of last December, a decree was to go into effect abolishing serfdom in the Russian Empire. It will be a day of jubilee, and will become the most marked in the calendar of that mighty government.

TRUINIS.—There are many truisms in the world. Take the following as a sample in every day life:

- One new bonnet will make a young lady feel happy—very.
- One "fanny man" will bother a whole neighborhood.
- One goose hiss will disturb a whole assembly.
- One bad novel will waste whole rooms of good paper.
- One drop of oil will stop a hideous noise.
- One "jolly row" will turn all the inhabitants of a street out of doors.
- One pretty flirt will make a dozen plain girls unhappy for an entire evening.
- One song will set thirty people talking.

The doerer on's became, the more horses get licked. Dobson says a shilling raw hide will give as much power to his gray mare as twenty-five cents worth of corn. Dobson is becoming a philosopher.

AN OLD DRUM.—The Southern Recorder, (Milledgeville, Ga.) in describing a late military demonstration at Milledgeville, says:

"We cannot omit to mention the pleasing emotions we felt upon taking in our hands a drum that was beaten in the battles of Saratoga, Cowpens, and Eutaw Springs. The Savannah Volunteer Guards are the fortunate possessors of this revolutionary relic, rendered more sacred and dear to the American soldier, from the fact that in each battle, victory perched upon the American standard. To give vent to our patriotic feelings at the pleasing incident, we drank to the memory of the old patriots, who beat that drum in the 'times that tried men's souls!'"

A HOUSEHOLD TRUTH.—A mother-in-law, in an establishment is a rare good, servant, but a precious bad mistress.