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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.

Life has its sunshine; but the ray Which dashes on its stormy wave Is but the beacon of decay— A meteor glimmering o'er the grave; And though its dawn hour is bright With fancy's gayest coloring, Yet o'er this cloud-encumbered night Dark Rain flaps her raven wing. Life has its flowers; and what are they! The buds of early love and truth, Which spring as wither in a day— The gems of war, and cooling truth; Also those buds decay and die. See ripened and matured in bloom; Even in an hour behold them lie Upon the still and lonely tomb. Life has its pang of deepest thrill— The sting, the racking memory; Which wakes not, perchance, until The hour of joy has ceased to be. Then when the heart is in its fall, And cold afflictions gather o'er, Thy mournful anthem died recall Blows which hath led to bloom no more. Life hath its blessing; but the storm Sweeps like the desert wind in wrath, To sweep and blight the loveliest path. Oh! when the spirit-broken wail, So changed from youth's delightful tone, Flows mournfully upon the gale Where all a desolate and lone. Life hath its hope—a matin dream, A cankered flower, a setting sun, Which casts a transient gleam Upon the evening's clouds of dun. Face up an hour—that dream hath fled, The flowers on earth forsaken lie; The sun hath set, whose lustre shed A light upon the shaded sky! —Waverly Magazine.

Members of the Legislature.

SALEM, JAN. 8, 1859.

EDITOR ARGUS: Perhaps some of your numerous readers who have never been blest with a sight of the men whom the people of Oregon 'delight to honor,' would like to see a daguerreotype of the most prominent men. I have been staying here for the past week on purpose to 'see the lions,' and have been fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of 'the elephant' too.

The building used for a State House here would make a very respectable village store house, if put in proper order. It was probably formerly used for that, but abandoned on account of its location. It has a commanding view of quite a number of outbuildings, livery stables, &c.

But let us go in. The first object that presents itself is a pencil sketch upon one of the pillars near the door. It is made to represent the three political cliques that are at present striving for the supremacy, viz: Salem clique, Corvallis clique, and Eugene City clique. The Salem clique is represented by a large figure in the center, which has the head of a horse, the wings of a bird, and legs of some nondescript. It was probably intended to represent that 'unknown god' which the people so 'ignorantly worship.' The Portland clique is represented by a bird just hatched, and the Corvallis and Eugene City cliques as birds just ready to 'peep out.' The journals do not state by whom those pictures were presented.

But to the mighty men. The gentleman with the flowing beard and silvery hair is from Lane. He has a judgment in prospective; is very gentle and affable in all his remarks, and, 'being forgiving,' holds enmity against no one, &c. All he lacks is the scythe over his shoulder to complete the gentleman representation of Time. The gentleman on his right is from Benton—a really good-looking man; pity he was ever leagued with the pro-slavery party. The gentleman to the left and one seat ahead is the gentleman from Polk and Tillamook. He is a remarkable man in appearance—holds his head erect, and looks as bold as a sheep. He thinks it very strange that other members are so long in finding out that he is a smart man—a fact that he has been 'assured' of since he was first nominated. The dignified young lawyer in front of him is from Linn. He introduces a great many bills, and makes a great many speeches, but he never says anything—still farther ahead is the gentleman from Marion. It is hard from his phiz to tell what he is or what he was made for, and still harder to arrive at any definite conclusion as to his principles from what he says. He never makes any speeches, but continues to occupy the floor a great portion of the time with his 'remarks.' He is always wishing 'to make just one remark.' Behind him one or two seats is the gentleman from Clackamas—quite a promising young man. Some say he makes too many promises—that he has promised himself a seat in Congress, if he did not get to be President. He ought to have a seat in Congress, for he possesses in a remarkable degree all the necessary qualifications for a Locofoco Congressman. Up in the corner sits P. J. Malone (the most sensible man in the house), and by his side the reporter and assistant editor of Dr. Czupkay's organ. I think he did well to refuse Mr. Mullen's challenge; it would have been quite a pity to have had such a booby shot at. I don't believe the military gentleman would have challenged him if he had seen him beforehand. I beg Mr. Speaker's pardon for having neglected him so long. But there he sits, pretending to be very much abashed by the remarks of the gentleman from Jackson, but in reality he is dwelling upon the probable price of Indian horses in

the valley next spring. The gentleman from Multnomah continues to make himself as conspicuous as ever. Day before yesterday the Speaker by accident discovered that Washington county was represented by a real live member—a fact which, either designedly or accidentally, he had heretofore overlooked.

The lobby presents about as varied an appearance as the house itself. The talent, however, with a few exceptions, is decidedly in favor of the lobby. There is quite a number of other members of the house, but to describe them would be impossible.

Next week I am going to attend the Council and visit some of the Federal officers. Till then, good bye. Your LONG-HAND REPORTER.

For the Argus.

Who Will Go?

MR. EDITOR: Will you permit a humble subscriber this happy New Year's day to offer a few suggestions to those who desire to do something which will be a real benefit to the people of Oregon, and also a blessing to hundreds if not to thousands of their friends in the States?

It is admitted by all intelligent men here that it is not cattle nor Indian ponies, but people, that Oregon needs—yes, industrious, honest people, to improve our country and develop its resources—and as there are tens of thousands of such persons in the States who would come to Oregon without delay if they had the necessary encouragement and light on the subject, I suggest that a company be formed of say fifty, or at least twenty-five men, and let them be men who love Oregon and who expect to make it their permanent home. Let them equip themselves for the trip, and let them supply themselves with, not fables, nor fiction, but facts, concerning our very delightful and healthy country—the climate, soil, timber, water, and all other things about which information is wanted. Let these facts be published in the Argus, or some other paper in Oregon, and let the same be republished there in every county paper, until the people there have 'line upon line,' &c.; then let them bring their friends along the next year, and we will not dispute with them about their philanthropy.

Who will go? One says it is like the fable of the mice belling the cat—a grand plan, but who will do it? To this I will just say, I am willing to be one, if suitable arrangements can be made in time.

With these few suggestions, I will wait and see if any one will respond to the question, Who will go?

WILLIAM M. DAVIS.

SALEM, JAN. 1, 1859.

For the Argus.

That Proposed Christian Convention.

Dec. 25, 1858.

The world moves, and why should not the Christian world move also—move in the right direction? Our great Teacher and Exemplar prayed that Christians might be one—that the world believe. I look upon the proposition with favor and approbation. It can do no harm. It may do good. It will do some good, and may do much good. By mingling together, Christians find they are nearer one than was supposed, and kindred spirits coalesce. I look upon such conventions as exponents and producers of the spirit and temper of Christianity. It is high time that denominational animosities were practically rebuked.

I apprehend but little difficulty in devising ways and means for supporting one a year. It should be held in the spring or summer season. If the system be inaugurated, and it appears best, a large tent can be procured, and kept for the purpose, or something similar to a camp-meeting arrangement can be made.

I hope one such convention will be held. I want to examine the spiritual thermometer of Oregon. I put in nomination Salem as the place. Upon the part of those who have spoken and their friends I can promise all proper hospitality by way of support. I will furnish a house for the services.

The foregoing of what seems to be a part of a communication, came to hand just as published, without name or date. As it was post-marked Salem, and the handwriting favors that of the Rev. Mr. Bagley, we have printed it for the suggestions it makes. If he didn't write it, we do not know who did.

For the Argus.

Sublimity College.

POLK COUNTY, Dec. 30, 1858.

MR. ADAMS: I was present at the close of the last session of Sublimity College, a very excellent school in the south-eastern portion of Marion county, and thought an item in reference to it would be of interest to one who takes the interest in the cause of education I judge from your journal you do. The school has now been in operation about a year, and although called a 'college,' in prospect of future enlarged operations, has been up to this time a preparatory school only. One room only of the college building is completed. The Principal, Rev. Milton Wright, is an excellent man and worthy the confidence so generously extended to him. Another room will be soon fitted and another teacher employed. The examination and exhibition which came off on Thursday and Thursday evening be-

fore Christmas, were well attended, and proved highly satisfactory to those present. The young ladies and gentlemen acquitted themselves with much credit both at the examination and exhibition. The dialogues were creditably acted, and the declamation was good, both as to the matter selected and the manner of delivery. The original essays were generally read with distinctness, and showed that their authors had been disciplined to think for themselves—especially in favor of the lobby. There is quite a number of other members of the house, but to describe them would be impossible.

No sectarian principles are taught in this school. It is managed by a board of fifteen trustees, some of which are of one profession and some another, while others are of no profession. A plan has been inaugurated by the board for endowing the institution by raising a fund of \$30,000 by means of the sale of perpetual scholarships, and by donations of land or money. The agent gives a written obligation in behalf of the board, securing to him who pays \$150, as also his heirs and assigns, the privilege of sending one scholar perpetually. Fifteen per cent. interest on the money paid yearly is all that is required if the subscriber chooses not to pay the principal.

The next session of the school opens January 4. The tuition fees are \$5 for primary branches, including arithmetic—for more advanced studies \$5.50. Board can be had in good families for \$3. The prospect for raising the endowment fund is quite flattering, and the probability is that this institution will be a blessing to that section of the country.

SCHOOL FRIEND.

For the Argus.

Stealing Girls.

MR. EDITOR—Sir: I noticed that your paper of Dec. 4 contained an article on the subject of stealing girls or children from their parents. I feel like saying something through the Argus in reference to this matter, if it be only to express my indignation at the practice, which is becoming quite common in this fast country, and the utter inefficiency of Oregon laws to protect the family circle and secure the right of parental authority. The evil of weakening parental authority by an unwarranted interference with it for the purpose of making matches with children, is a growing one, and an evil which in this section has caused many sighs and tears, and probably alienated friendships long-established forever. Now why not have a little legislation looking in the direction of this evil? We have laws to punish robbery and horse-stealing, and why not have enactments making it a criminal offense to steal a child from her parents and marry her contrary to their wishes? If the magnitude of crime is to be measured by the evil it produces, the punishment inflicted by law for this kind of theft ought certainly to be severe, for no parent, I think, who has ever had the trial, or who is even capable of sympathizing with those who have, would pretend to say that the wrong inflicted in this case is less aggravated than it would be if only a horse was stolen from the stable.

I have written this, much hoping that it may suggest to our Legislature the propriety of looking into the necessity of meeting this growing evil with some appropriate legislation. B. CHOSBY.

MARION COUNTY, Dec. 25, 1858.

M. E. Church North.

The minutes of the Northern Methodist Episcopal Church, just issued, show the following figures: Number of conferences, 49; Sunday schools, 11,490; Church members, 956,553; being an increase during the year, of 136,000; churches, 9,063; parsonages, 2,407; value of church edifices, \$17,500,000; number of traveling preachers, 5,502; local preachers, 7,530. The Southern Church has a membership of 655,000; 2,431 traveling, and 4,907 local preachers—Total Methodist membership, North and South, 1,662,332.

DISEASE AMONG THE HORSES.—The Sandersonville Georgian says: A disease has made its appearance among the hogs in some parts of this country, from which they are dying in large numbers, as we are informed. From all that we have heard of this disease, we have no doubt but it is similar to that which prevailed so such an alarming extent among the cattle during a part of last spring and summer.

The Bolivar (Tenn.) Democrat says that this disease is playing havoc with the hogs in that vicinity. Those that have lost about seventy-five and others have lost a great many. It is a good season for killing, however, and many are availing themselves of the opportunity of saving their meat.

It is stated that the ten appointments for cadets at West Point, within the gift of the President, will not be made until February. Already applications crowd the files of the War Department, and five hundred at least are known to be registered.

If Pierce's administration made that of Tyler appear "respectable," as Col. Benton once asserted, both rich to colonial dignity in comparison with that of Buchanan, which has been ignominiously defiled at every point and compelled to coalesce with enemies to avoid utter extinction.—Louisville Journal.

Dr. Cloquet, of the French academy, who has been studying drops, states that the most effective remedy is the perchloride of iron, which penetrates the fungus and obliges the patient to expel it, by which means the false membrane is expelled, and an immediate cure effected.

Poultry.—Poultry is unusually cheap. Ducks, geese, turkeys, chickens and game are selling on the most favorable terms. Fifty cents will buy a seven-pound turkey.—Harrisburg (Pa.) Union.

What the Dred Scott Decision is.

The Hon. Jefferson Davis addressed the citizens of Jackson, Mississippi, on the 11th Dec., in the Hall of the House of Representatives and said: "The decision of the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case has fully sustained our position in the following passage: 'If Congress itself cannot do this—(prohibit slavery in a Territory)—if it is beyond the powers conferred on the Federal Government—it will be admitted, we presume, that it could not authorize a Territorial Government to exercise them. It could confer no power on any local Government established by its authority to violate the provisions of the Constitution.'"

Without saying whether this theory is right or wrong, and without desiring to say whether it is one or the other, we beg leave to correct Senator Davis, and to say that the passage quoted does not form a portion of the "Dred Scott decision." We have seen of late many passages from the voluminous and incidental remarks of the justices of the Supreme Court quoted as parts of the Dred Scott decision. The passage quoted by him shows, by its phraseology, that it is not a decision, but is open to argument. Judge Taney "presumes" his view "will be admitted." We only refer to this presumption to show that it is not a decision which admits of no argument.

So much misapprehension has been made on the subject, owing to mischievous journalists, that we deem it of importance to quote the "Decision of the Supreme Court," word for word, as delivered by Chief Justice Taney, and without reference to the side issues discussed, but not decided upon. The "Decision" reads thus: "Upon the whole, therefore, it is the judgment of this court, that it appears, by the record before us, that the plaintiff in error is not a citizen of Missouri, in the sense in which that word is used in the Constitution, and that the Circuit Court of the United States, for that reason, had no jurisdiction in the case, and could give no judgment in it. Its judgment for the defendant must consequently be reversed, and a mandate issued, directing the suits to be dismissed for want of jurisdiction."

Such is the Dred Scott decision, and the whole of it.—Washington States.

MR. GIDDINGS IN ST. LOUIS.—One would suppose that a fat and juicy young Englishman, caught by a tribe of cannibals, would be quite as safe among them, as Joshua Giddings would be, lecturing on Abolitionism in the slave State of Missouri. Yet Mr. Giddings has ventured to lecture on Man's Inalienable Right to Freedom in the very capital of Missouri, and closed his address not only unharmed, but amidst the cheers and applauses of his audience. He denounced the Dred Scott decision amidst a storm of the noisiest demonstrations of approbation and delight. Ten years ago, he would have been torn in pieces.—N. Y. Post.

The contest between Blair and Barrett in St. Louis, is bringing out some disgraceful revelations. Among others, worthy of the supporters of Cadebeox Calhoun, is the fact that some thirty convicts, under the sentence of the Criminal Court, were pardoned, on condition of voting for Barrett.

A Gentle newspaper just started in Utah, is called the "Valley Tan," a name which was first applied to leather made in the Territory in contradistinction to the imported article, and afterward to every article manufactured in the Territory, until it became a synonym for home manufactures.

Gold from Pike's Peak, Kansas, begins to arrive at St. Louis for sale. A returned miner says that these new discoveries are now yielding, in proportion to the amount of prospecting made, as well as the California mines are doing at the present time.

THE CHICAGO POST OFFICE.—In the Chicago Post Office, mails are received daily from twenty railroad trains. Thirty-five hundred mails (the Press says) are made up every day. Over five million letters and six million papers were handled the last quarter.

The Board of Education of Marietta School District, Marshall county, Iowa, have declared that no girls who wear hoops shall be admitted into the school of that district.

DEATH OF EX-BISHOP ONDERDONK.—H. W. Onderdonk, formerly Episcopal Bishop of the Pennsylvania diocese, died at Philadelphia lately. His disease was dysentery.

INCREASE OF WOOL IN OHIO.—We have at some expense obtained a tabular statement of the number of sheep in this State, showing 3,308,800 head, which, at 3 lbs. of wool per head, is 9,926,400 lbs., an increase over last year of 10 per cent., or 1,000,000 lbs. of wool.—Wool Grower.

The Vincennes Gazette describes a giant pear tree in that vicinity. It is fifty years old—eighty feet high, and breadth the same—circumference of trunk at bottom, 11 feet 8 inches. It has borne 125 bushels of pears in a single season.

Neal Dow ran for representative in Portland, Maine, to fill a vacancy lately. The Democrats cast their votes for a negro named Peter Francis!

The Pacific Railroad.

In the Senate, on the 14th Dec, the Pacific Railroad bill was taken up, when the amendments made last session were read, viz., Mr. Davis', Mr. Doolittle's, and Mr. Polk's.

Thereafter, Mr. Wilson moved a new amendment, that the road should follow the 42d parallel of latitude.

Mr. Stuart of Michigan asked Mr. Wilson to make his motion for the 49th parallel, which he professed himself unable to do, inasmuch as it would thereby lose its central character.

On the suggestion of Mr. Broderick of California, Mr. Wilson assented to make it from the 35th to the 42d parallel.

Mr. Mason of Virginia, thinking it unlikely that the bill could pass both houses this session, moved that the bill be laid on the table, which the Senate refused to do by yeas 32, yeas 23, as follows: Yeas—Messrs. Allen, Estes, Bayard, Benjamin, Brown, Cameron, Clay, Clingman, Crittenden, Fitzpatrick, Hamlin, Hammon, Houston, Hunter, Ivins, Johnson of Tennessee, Mason, Pearce, Reed, Sebastian, Seward, Thompson of New Jersey, Toombs.

Nays—Messrs. Bell, Bigler, Bright, Broderick, Chandler, Clark, Collamer, Davis, Dixon, Doolittle, Durkee, Fessenden, Fitch, Foot, Foster, Green, Gwin, Harlan, Jones, Kennedy, King, Polk, Rice, Seward, Shields, Simmons, Stuart, Trumbull, Ward, Ward, Wilson, Wright.

Abstract—Douglass, Hale, Johnson of Ark., Mallory, Pugh, Sumner, Thompson of Ky., Yates. Mr. Davis, of Miss., spoke on his amendment, maintaining that the road should be located, not on political but commercial and governmental considerations. He regarded the road as necessary, and was in favor of leaving its location to the contractors, inasmuch as their instincts will naturally induce them to select the best route.

Other Senators then made remarks incidental to the various amendments.

Mr. Shields of Minnesota was in favor of a route from the great Lakes to Puget's Sound.

Mr. Doolittle of Wisconsin was in favor of the route being located anywhere between Breckenridge, Minnesota, and Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Mr. Brown of Mississippi would like to see the eastern terminus left clear to the mouth of the Mississippi, but did not like the government to intermeddle in it, as government influence was blighting, not fostering.

Mr. Foot of Vermont personally was in favor of a road through the South Pass, and near the 42d parallel, as a fair compromise between the extreme North and South, but would assent to have a Western terminus at San Francisco, and the Eastern on the Mississippi, leaving it to the contractors to locate the road.

Mr. Green of Missouri considered that there was no constitutional right to transfer to interested capitalists the duty of locating the road. One route, with branches at either end, is all that can be built, and as it is for government use, government ought to have the privilege of locating.

Mr. Polk of Missouri offered an amendment, that the Southern terminus should be at the mouth of the Mississippi; when Mr. Davis suggested the Southern boundary of the United States.

Mr. Gwin of California moved an amendment that no terminus should be named, but that they should merely vote for the road.

After some further remarks from Mr. Gwin against the postponement, the Senate adjourned.

THE CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD BILL.—The following description of this bill is transmitted from Washington: "The bill which was introduced by Mr. Curtis of Iowa, in the House of Representatives, to secure the construction of a Central Pacific Railroad, provides for branches from two points on the navigable waters of the Missouri river; one opposite to Iowa, and the other opposite to Missouri, the two branches to converge and unite within two hundred miles of the Missouri river, and thence run to the navigable waters of the Sacramento.

trouble existed in one of the districts out there as to who should teach during the fall quarter of the school. The wire-working among the natives was spirited. When the day arrived, a goodly number of bladders to 'teach the young idea how to shoot' were present. When the trustees put up the school, it was started at \$100, and down, down went the school until it was knocked off at \$74 for the quarter. And when the name of the bidder was called for, the tall form of L. Q. Hoggart was seen arising out of the crowd to claim the prize. Loosh is now, with birch in hand, fulfilling his contract with the trustees, but swears it is the last teaching he will do, as the grammars, arithmetics, geographies, and every book has changed since he went to school.

THE PARAGUAY EXPEDITION.—We continue to hear predictions of disaster to the Paraguay expedition. The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Press writes: "The Sabine and St. Lawrence, and other large vessels, will not be able to get within a thousand miles of the enemy's country, and a highly-distinguished officer of the navy, now here, declared that if Lopez should determine to fight, he can, with his guns, commanded by French and English and American officers, greatly damage such of our vessels as may get in, if he does not sink them."

THE VALUE OF NEGROES.—A singular but accurate way of estimating the price of field hands, says the Savannah Republican, may be found in the price of cotton. For every cent a pound for cotton, a field hand will bring one hundred dollars. For instance, the present price of cotton is ten to twelve cents, and the price of a negro man is from a thousand to twelve hundred dollars. The price of the latter may not fluctuate as rapidly as cotton, but is not the less certain to follow an advance or decline of any duration.

LONGEVITY.—Harriet Lane, a colored woman, and formerly a slave, died lately in Philadelphia, at the age of 112 years.

A negro woman, known as 'Black Cooky,' a native of Africa, who had been living for some years past in a small log cabin near Dixon, Ill., was burned to death about the first of Dec. last. While she was in a spasm her hut took fire, and she perished in the flames. She was said to be 120 years old.

There is now living in Norfolk, Va., a negro woman who is in her 120th year.—Her name is Sarah Mallory, and she retains all her faculties in a remarkable degree. Her youngest son is now living, and is between seventy and eighty; his youngest is thirty-four, who is himself the father of an interesting family.

An Indian named Placidio died on the 20th of Oct., 1858, at San Buenaventura, California, at the advanced age of 137 years. He aided in building the Mission Church at San Buenaventura eighty-four years ago.

AN AGED TRIPLET.—Mrs. Silby Ludington, Mrs. Sarah Bushnell, and Mrs. Susan Grennell were all seventy years of age on the 26th of March, 1858. They are three sisters, triplet born, and were, in July, visiting in Honesdale, Pa., after a separation of several years. They were born in Goshen, Litchfield county, in 1788. Their parents were Gideon Hurlbut and Anna Hurlbut, whose maiden name was Beach.

EIGHT CHILDREN AT A BIRTH.—EGYPT AGAINST ALL CREATION!—About five months since, the wife of Jacob Abbott, living ten miles west of Golconda, in Pope county, Illinois, presented her husband with eight pledges of affection at one birth!—Four of these children survived until some six weeks since, when two of them sickened and died. The remaining two are still living and thriving finely. The whole eight were very small specimens of humanity when ushered into this world, as might have been expected. This statement is literally true; it is vouched for by numbers of respectable witnesses who saw the four living children. Egypt is a very prolific country—a little too much so, sometimes.—Cairo Gazette.

THE LAST OF WESLEY'S 'HELPERS.'—In the London Watchman is the announcement of the death of the Rev. John Hickling, 'the oldest Methodist preacher in the world, and last survivor of the 'Helpers of John Wesley.' He died on the 9th of Nov., 1858, in the 71st year of his ministry, and would have been 93 years old had he lived only three weeks longer.

A letter from Tubac, Arizona, dated Oct. 7, announces the arrival of Col. Titus and his command of nine men. The Col. expressed his disgust with the country, and if he does not purchase a silver mine, will return to the States.

At a banquet given at Marselles some weeks since to M. de Lasseps, he announced that the work of cutting through the Isthmus of Suez would commence in three months.

Gen. John M. Davis, an old and respected citizen of Allegheny county, Pa., died on the 6th Dec., aged 87. He served as an officer of the army fourteen years; was with Gen. Jackson in the Florida war, distinguished himself at the battle of the Horse Shoe Bend, and was one of Gen. Jackson's aids at the battle of New Orleans.