

The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, EDITOR.
OREGON CITY:
SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1860.

Cannot Agree.

The 'harmonious' are every day finding some new bone to quarrel over. The cracks or 'splits' in the old decayed body of sectionalism are becoming legion. They have quarreled about 'private character,' 'personal issues,' 'tariff,' the 'meaning of the Cincinnati Platform,' 'the true intent of the Nebraska Bill,' and now they are going into a terrible bawling of each other upon the 'proper meaning of the Dred Scott decision.' Douglas, in order to extricate himself from the awkward predicament of holding to squatter sovereignty and 'bowing with reverence to the decision of the Supreme Court' as understood by the Administration, has taken our ground that all that part of the 'decision' which relates to the constitutionality of the Ordinance of '87 and the Missouri Compromise, is nothing more or less than a dictum of the Court—a mere voluntary opinion on a matter entirely foreign to the issue before the Court, and of no binding force whatever. This, while it relieves the 'squatter sovereignty' democracy from the charge of holding to one of the grossest inconsistencies, affords a nice issue for the 'harmonious' to quarrel over. They have been quarreling since 1856 over the meaning of the Cincinnati Platform, and the meaning of the Nebraska Bill, and now they are about to take a back log over the meaning of the 'Dred Scott decision.'

This party, of all the societies that ever existed, seems to have the most difficulties over constructions. They cannot construe the Constitution, their own congressional acts, or party platforms alike, and when at last the Supreme Court kindly volunteers to blend the whole into one harmonious hotchpotch pudding, good alike for the stomachs of Eastern saluberranders and Northern load-carriers, no sooner does the democratic family sit down to the feast than a quarrel arises as to what the pudding is really made of. Southern saluberranders gulp it down smoking hot, as when first ladled from the great boiling democratic caldron, and pronounce it all that a Southern Democrat ought to wish for—a pot of mush made of genuine superfine Southern flour, without a particle of 'squatter-sovereign' bran in it to scratch the delicate throat of the most genteel silkstocking Southern aristocrat—a pudding that is both sweet in the mouth and sweet in the stomach, besides being dressed with a sauce that makes it slip down the throat as easily as government money slips into the pocket of a government official. The 'squatter-sovereigns,' arranged along the opposite side of the table, help themselves to it sparingly at first, blow it a little to cool it, and mince away at it daintily, casting an occasional glance toward their 'Little Giant' leader, who sits for some time 'bowing with reverence' toward his plate, with a very bland approving smile lighting up that side of his face toward the opposite side of the table, to show that he considers the smell of the pudding as indicative of real democratic ingredients, and with a sanctimonious pucker on the other side, to satisfy his Northern friends that he is both a pious and discreet man, who seems to eat till he has said grace, and given his pudding a little time to cool. After a great deal of 'reverential bowing,' a judicious and careful adjustment of his napkin, and sundry drawings of his handkerchief across his mouth and nose, the 'Little Giant' inserts a spoonful into his mouth, smacks his lips, and swallows it with as much apparent gusto as a gosling swallows a compound of garlic and meal. At this signal, the squatter-sovereigns fall to in good earnest, and clear their plates, and everything seems to indicate a settlement of past differences among the harmonious. But just here, Mr. Buchanan, who sits at the head of the table, with Attorney-General Black heading the column of fire-eaters on his right, gives Black a lunch and a wink. The Attorney-General, taking the hint, points his finger scornfully at the 'Little Giant,' and jeers him with having eaten a compound which, so far from having a particle of squatter-sovereign bran in it, was gotten up expressly as an antidote for the squatter-sovereign poison hitherto swallowed by the unfortunate followers of the 'Little Giant.' Hereupon the 'Little Giant' takes another mouthful, as if to reassure himself, and proceeds to affirm his conviction that if the Nebraska Bill and the Cincinnati Platform are not incorporated as ingredients into that pudding, there is nothing in it that is at all calculated to neutralize the conditions already in the stomachs of Northern Democrats. He avows his entire willingness to swallow anything that a democratic Supreme Court will set before him, even to a perfect neutralizer of squatter sovereignty, but he wishes it clearly understood that just now the Supreme Court hasn't called upon him to take such a dose. At this, the smoke issues out of the nostrils of saluberranders, a deep frown settles upon the face of Buchanan, Attorney-General Black, and other Northern office-holders, and the whole family goes into a general quarrel over the 'true intent and meaning of the Dred Scott decision.' The Illinois delegation, headed by Logan, with a big toad struggling upward against a huge mouthful of pudding half way down his throat,

scream out their assent to the 'Little Giant's' position in loud cries of "Amen!" and shouts of "The Democracy can do no wrong!" Haskin, Forney, and the great majority of the Northern friends of the 'Little Giant,' now draw back a little from the table, look thoughtful, and by a rather pallid appearance indicate a slight nausea at the stomach.

Report has it that they have held a caucus and concluded that there isn't much use in trying longer to eat what is set before them on the democratic table, where the dishes are all gotten up by Southern cooks who are determined that Democrats shall dine on aquafortis and negro soup, or starve. They have asked the Republicans to so arrange their table that they can all sit down with them together, as they are not willing to eat dirt much longer at a democratic table, merely for the sake of dining alongside of the 'Little Giant,' who has a stomach tough enough to swallow anything that 'pays.'

Virginia not all for Disunion.

The Legislature of Virginia was in session some days since. A proposition was up in the House of Delegates to call a Southern Convention. Mr. Hayward, of Marion, said:

"I think that I live in Virginia, and have an interest in common with members from the West in this proposed conference with South Carolina. I understand that the object of the proposed conference is to consult about disunion and secession. This I learn from the Commissioner sent here from South Carolina. Dissolution of the Union and the formation of a Southern Confederacy is the prime object of this mission. I, Sir, represent a part of the State in the same Congressional District with the Pan Handle, as it is called here; that part of the State of Virginia which, if civil war ever comes, will have to bear the brunt of it. It is useless to talk of disunion and secession for the purpose of forming a Southern Confederacy without expecting war. Dissolution will be war, and nothing else but war. Come when it may, the Ohio river and that part of the State bordering upon the State of Pennsylvania, will be in a blaze of fire in thirty days after the Union shall be dissolved. The Western people will leave the frontier to defend for more than three hundred miles, and yet gentlemen seem to think we have no interest in the preparatory measures to be taken in this conference. I think we Western people have an interest in this Committee, so much complained of because it is not so organized as to give the control of its proceedings to the large slaveholding districts; Sir, I think that we are as much interested as gentlemen living far from what would be the seat of war. In case of separation, how would the boundaries between the two confederacies be settled? By physical power, I suppose. Which party would be willing to surrender the navigation of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers? These questions are weighty and should be considered. We had a Hartford Convention, or conference, during the war of 1812, to consider of disunion. What became of the men who went into that assemblage? Sir they came out politically disgraced."

Western Virginia don't want to go with Eastern Virginia in disunion. Western Virginia has few slaves; and is only kept from raising her voice against the disunion heresy effectually from the dishonest apportionment of representation in the Legislature. Western Virginia will be true to the Union.

Nor So.—Our friend of the Democratic Herald, at Eugene City, publishes the following paragraph as having been uttered by Gov. Denison of Ohio, whilst canvassing that State last year:

"If I am elected Governor of Ohio—and I expect to be—I will not let any fugitive slave be returned to Kentucky or any other slave State; and if I cannot prevent it in any other way, as 'Commander-in-Chief of the military of the State, I will employ the bayonet, so help me God!'"

This is a vile forgery, started by the Democracy of Ohio during the canvass, and is exactly the contrary of what he did say. The sentiment he expressed was this in substance—"That while the fugitive slave law, as it at present exists, was distasteful to him, yet as long as it remained on the statute book, as Governor he would execute it with all the force at his command."

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION.—By the latest news from the Atlantic we learn that the time for holding the Republican Convention at Chicago has been changed to the 16th of May—nearly a month earlier than was at first decided upon. This will cause inconvenience to some of the delegates appointed to represent this State, and we learn that Leander Holmes, Esq., in consequence of his inability to attend, has empowered Horace Greely to act in his stead and cast his vote for Edward Bates.

HELPER AND LETCHER.—Some of the choicest extracts in the Helper book are from the speeches of Gov. Letcher of Virginia. It is fair to say, however, that at that time Gov. Letcher held to the doctrines in regard to slavery avowed by Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Clay, and other distinguished Southern statesmen.—What would become of these men if they were now living in Virginia and Kentucky? Would they not have to move over the lines to save their lives?

EXECUTER.—Moss, the murderer of Harper, was hung in Polk county on the 20th inst. He confessed his guilt on the scaffold. We understand he has made a confession stating that he also murdered a man in Kentucky some years since.

The Jennie Clark, Capt. Myrick, will resume her regular trips between here and Portland next Monday morning.

All Arranged.

The Democracy of Clackamas county has been summoned to meet in precinct conventions on the 7th of April to select delegates to the county convention to be held in this city April 12. Now, as these two meetings will involve a loss of two days to each man attending them, besides a considerable outlay for grub, horse-feed, ferrisage, &c., to say nothing of Democratic "rot-gut," we think it would be advisable for the Democratic denizens of the county to stay at home, and attend to putting in their spring crops, and leave the business of nominating a county ticket to the office-holders in town, who have nothing else to do these times. The only object in drawing you away from your farms and business is merely to "pass" upon a ticket which has been prepared by the U. S. Marshal, and which you will be expected to go through the form of "nominating" on the 12th. The tickets, no doubt, are already printed, and securely stowed away, under lock and key, in Dol's bedroom—from which they will be issued just before election to some "sound and reliable Democrat" in each precinct. This has been the "Democratic" custom heretofore in this county. Last spring, just previous to the city election here, the Democratic city tickets (as is well known) were printed in Portland on Friday, yet the convention to nominate was not held till the Saturday following! This fact leaking out so disgusted some of the party that they utterly refused to vote the ticket, and some even who were nominated on it, refused to support it. What have such independent free-State Democrats as W. A. Starkweather, G. W. Jackson, and others, to say to such a course?

But here is the "ticket" that the Democrats of Clackamas county are expected to vote at the ensuing June election—a pretty fair one, in its way: For Representatives, A. F. Hedges, Philip Foster, Wm. McCow; Sheriff, John Thomas; Clerk, A. Holland; Treasurer, Thos. Johnson; Surveyor, Tim Fisher. This is the programme now decided upon by the managers, but it may be changed to suit whatever exigencies may arise—and it is not unlikely that this disclosure may create such an alarm as to cause the whole order of proceedings to be re-arranged, and a new ticket prepared for "nominating."

The "platform" upon which these men are to stand will be composed of rough slabs, hewn out after the following fashion: Resolutions endorsing Jo Lane, Delusion Smith, and James Buchanan.

Resolutions condemning Helper and the "Impending Crisis."

A resolution charging the Old Brown ferry upon the Black Republicans.

A resolution endorsing Lansing Stout, and commending his Democratic consistency in voting for a Know Nothing for Speaker.

The above ugly-looking slabs all rest upon the following Democratic "mud-sill": The celebrated Mohalla resolutions declaring niggers property under the Constitution, and therefore bound to be protected in every State in the Union.

The convention will also probably nominate James Officer, the author of the foregoing resolution relative to "niggers," for the State Senate, and issue instructions to the Wasco Democrats to swallow him.

An adjournment will then take place.

THE JAS. CLINTON.—This favorite steamer, under the command of Capt. J. D. Miller, leaves Canumal exactly at 8 o'clock on Monday mornings. This is done in consequence of the Clinton's carrying the mail to Champego—the schedule time for leaving Oregon City being 8 o'clock.

FROM THE ATLANTIC STATES.—The mail reached Portland on Saturday evening last. The latest dates by overland are to Feb. 28. We are under obligations to the publishers of the Portland Daily News for a copy of their extra containing a compilation of the latest news.

CLACKAMAS REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.—The Republicans of this county should not forget that next Saturday, April 7, is the day on which the County Convention is to meet. We hope that every part of the county will be fully represented in the convention.

THANKS.—We are indebted to Hon. I. Stevens for a copy of the correspondence between Generals Scott and Harney and Governor Douglas, relative to the occupation of the island of San Juan, and also to Hon. Lansing Stout for public documents.

BROODICK.—The House on Feb. 13, adjourned out of respect to the memory of Hon. D. C. Broderick. Speeches were made, highly eulogizing the deceased, by Messrs. Burch, Haskin, Stout, Burlingame, Morris, and Sickles.

From our Occasional Correspondent.

PORTLAND, March 29, 1860.
DEAR ARGUS: Since the sovereigns removed the warehouse building from the levee, erected by Vaughn, we have had tolerably quiet times here. There are some indications, however, that the effort to obtain the use of the public property, to the injury of the city and of individuals, has not been relinquished. Shrewd politicians are endeavoring to carry a measure by stealth that cannot be accomplished by open-handed dealing. The Democracy (I suppose it is called so) had a meeting a few nights ago, and so arranged as to defeat the nomination of McCormick for Mayor, nominating an individual for that office who is supposed to be favorable to the claims of Vaughn. There is a good deal of opposition to this nomination among all parties, and I am not disappointed to see G. C. Robbins a candidate, with fair prospects for his election.

Messrs. Kane and Morrison arrived from the Similkameen mines several days ago.—They caution miners not to be in a hurry to get there—to stay at least three weeks before they move that way—and, by that time, these gentlemen believe they will obtain such information from the mines as to prevent them from going there at all.

You see that the time for the meeting of the Republican National Convention has been changed a month earlier. This will keep at home some of the delegates for this State. Who will be Presidential candidates, is a mere matter of speculation.—The Republican Convention will nominate a ticket to win. The Tribune thinks that Douglas will be nominated at Charleston. Many of his friends think that will not be the case. Most of Douglas' support will come from States where he cannot hope to obtain an electoral vote.

We hear less of the Disunion projects of the Southern Democracy since the election of Speaker. They have probably learned that the game of "threats" is played out, and that the Republican party will claim all their rights under the Constitution; and, further, that they will see to it that the "Union shall be preserved."

The opinion seems to be common that Jo Lane has no strength based upon his talents or his public usefulness in the position he occupies. He is an old fossil, that should be laid upon the shelf. He has never done anything good for our people, and he never will. The lie uttered when he said this Territory contained a white population of over ninety thousand, will stick to him like the shirt of Nessus.

Lansing Stout was one of the ninety Democrats who were swallowed by the twenty-three Know Nothings. Stout was perfectly willing to put the Know Nothings in a position in Congress to carry out their proscription views in regard to foreigners. Foreign-born citizens should take a note of this fact.

However, it is really of very little importance what the people are permitted to think of Stout. His own party have made up their minds that he is *calvus*; and not a single public man or Lane press whispers a word in his behalf.

Business is dull here—very dull, I should think. The steamer that brought the last mail from San Francisco was not the mail steamer. She is expected to leave San Francisco for this place on Sunday next.

Dalles Correspondence.

DALLES CITY, March 24, 1860.
DEAR ARGUS: Times are improving in this place—quite business-like—merchants and traders beginning to do well. We see people from all parts of the Willamette Valley, most of them bound for the mines.—A great many get their outfits in this place Plenty 'injin' ponies at reasonable prices; and titles to some are good. Trade in 'cut-throat' is quite lively.

Speaking of 'cut-throat' reminds me that last Saturday a young man engaged at a wood-yard fifteen miles below Des Chutes, by the name of Charles Cummings, by spiritual influence cut his throat from ear to ear. He was alone in the cabin at the time he cut his throat. By the 'inner sight' he saw 'they' were still after him, so he took to the woods—no one knows how long he was gone. His partners coming home, and seeing blood all over the floor, had an idea of what was up; so they, with the assistance of some Indians, commenced tracking him by the blood, and finally found him nearly exhausted and quite rational. Dr. Hogg was sent for, who fixed him up, and entertains hopes of his recovery, as the cut was not deep enough to prove instantly fatal.

We can't complain as do the Portland dailies, for we have all sorts of fights, even dog fights. Too much trouble to attempt to describe or particularize the skinned noses, bruised heads, 'square-toed measles,' &c., &c.

A few days ago, a man came from the mines. His report is not very encouraging. He says there is gold in the Similkameen and over a large extent of country—that a few spots pay well, probably as well as has been reported. As yet, the big paying claims are few in number—and only moderate wages can be made over a large extent of country—say \$5 to \$10 per day; cost about \$2 or \$3 per day to live. I think a great many who go with large expectations will be grievously disappointed. There is no doubt of the existence of gold there in moderate quantities. It is reported that gold-bearing quartz has been found in that country. An acquaintance, an experienced quartz prospector, left here a few weeks ago in company with R. N. White, for the purpose of prospecting the quartz there. His report can be depended upon.

The Tribune on the Presidency.

The New York Tribune of the 29th of February thus expresses its views as to the man to be nominated for President by the Republican Convention:

"We hold that if the Republican party is strong enough to elect as next President whomsoever it will, there are two men, who, above all others, are entitled to consideration at Chicago. Those men are William H. Seward of New York and Simon P. Chase of Ohio. Being members of the Federal Senate when Mr. Douglas introduced, remodeled and pressed through his Nebraska bill, they opposed and opposed it with a promptness, energy, address and resolution, which have rarely been equaled. Others did nobly; but it is prominently due to these two that the country was early and generally apprised of the real character and purpose of that infamous measure and that the hollow hypocrisy of its claims to justification on the basis of 'Popular Sovereignty' were held up to the indignant gaze of all who are not fully blind. As Mr. Douglas is very likely to be the candidate of the Sham Democracy, there would be eminent fitness in pitting against him one of his two chief antagonists in the memorable struggle which dissolved old organizations and called the Republican party into being. Each of them is, by original character, by training, by experience, emphatically a statesman of unquestioned ability, unassailed integrity, broad national views and feelings, and thoroughly Republican principles and aspirations. No sane American, no matter of what section, would have any fear that the National interests or honor would suffer under the sway of Seward or Chase, while the noisy swash of disunion would be rebuked and exploded by the election and administration of either of them, and stand exposed to all the world as the hollow mask it really is. No earnest Republican could refuse to work as well as vote for either Chase or Seward, or to do any honorable thing within his power to secure the election of whichever is nominated."

Is the Republican party strong enough to elect Chase or Seward? Could they, or either of them, carry Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Illinois, or all the free States except Pennsylvania? If yes, then the only practical question is, which of these two foremost Republicans shall be our standard-bearer in 1860?

We propose to leave both of these questions to the Chicago Convention. We have our opinions in respect to them; but we do not desire that the Convention should be governed or influenced by them. We only urge that all the States, but especially the pivotal States above-named, shall send able, candid, impartial delegates to Chicago—there to state exactly what these doubtful States can and cannot do, and that the Convention shall give earnest heed to these statements and take action accordingly.

And it does seem to us—though we hold this view subject to the representations of the delegates to Chicago from the doubtful States—that, if we can not probably elect Seward or Chase, it will be vain to nominate instead either Banks, or Fremont, or Dayton, or Cameron, or Lincoln. God man and true are they all; but where is on what ground can we rationally hope to obtain for either of them any considerable support which will not be accorded to Chase or Seward? All of these are simply and thoroughly Republicans, who fought with us in the good fight of 1856, and for the scars of that well fought and glorious, though unsuccessful, struggle. No one will seriously contend that either of them is a more eminent, more deserving, than they who led the forlorn hope against Douglas and his grandly in 1856. Of what plausible grandeur could we hope to secure for them the votes denied us 1856?

If, then, our Convention shall decide that it cannot safely nominate Seward or Chase, we hold, with due submission, that the man for the hour is Edward Bates of Missouri. Mr. Bates is essentially a Republican, he has not hitherto been identified with the party, and is not expected to be the next president, which is his business, and the man for the hour is Edward Bates of Missouri. Mr. Bates is essentially a Republican, he has not hitherto been identified with the party, and is not expected to be the next president, which is his business, and the man for the hour is Edward Bates of Missouri. Mr. Bates is essentially a Republican, he has not hitherto been identified with the party, and is not expected to be the next president, which is his business, and the man for the hour is Edward Bates of Missouri.

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