

BY D. W. CRAIG.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. The Argus will be furnished at Three Dollars per annum, if paid in advance.

The Oregon Argus.

-A Weekly Newspaper, devoted to the Interests of the Laboring Classes, and advocating the side of Truth in every issue.-

Vol. VI.

OREGON CITY, OREGON, APRIL 14, 1860.

No. 1.

RATES OF ADVERTISING. One square (twelve lines, or less, by every measure) one insertion..... \$ 3 00

LOVE. Through gloom and night the hand of love Can lead to realms of light and rest;

SPEECH OF HON. WM. H. SEWARD, In the U. S. Senate, ON THE 29TH FEBRUARY, 1860.

MR. PRESIDENT: The admission of Kansas into the Union, without further delay, seems to me equally necessary, just, and wise.

In coming forward among the political astrologers, it shall be an error of judgment, and not of disposition, if my interpretation of the feverish dreams which are disturbing the country shall tend to foment, rather than to allay, the national excitement.

It will be an overflowing source of shame, as well as of sorrow, if we, thirty millions—Europeans by extraction, Americans by birth or discipline, and Christians in faith, and meaning to be such in practice—cannot so combine prejudice with humanity in our conduct concerning the one disturbing subject of Slavery, as not only to preserve our unequal institutions of Freedom, but also to enjoy their benefits with contentment and harmony.

Wherever a guiltless slave exists, be he Caucasian, American, Malay, or African, he is the subject of two distinct and opposite ideas—one that he is wrongly, the other that he is rightly, a slave.

The mother of Cassius M. Clay, venerable Kentucky matron of near eighty years old, was told of a report which had got abroad, that the zealous pro-slavery agent of the county in which her son Eben had given him notice to quit.

REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS.—A New York paper publishes a very interesting list of the surviving Revolutionary soldiers of the State of New York, with their ages in the year 1859.

The Louisville Journal thinks if somebody would frank our old Buck and his pack of dogs out of the country, the franking privilege would be put to a most excellent use.

Judge S. S. Nicholas, of Louisville, Ky., an eminent lawyer, and the reputed author of the address adopted by the Opposition in Kentucky at their last State Convention, concedes that the election of a Republican President is more than probable, and that this result will not be prevented by the interposition of a third candidate.

It is said that the first remark of John Hickman, anti-Lecompton Democrat of Pennsylvania, after listening to the recent speech of Senator Douglas, was:—'Upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dirt shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.'

True modesty is a flower whose grateful odor endures for ages. False modesty is a weed as poisonous as stramonium, and as deadly in its ultimate effects, as prussic acid, distilled from the green and pretty leaves of peach trees.

The Houston (Texas) Telegraph says: Since Texas has been in the Union, it has had six Senators in Congress, and of those six five have been natives of South Carolina.

Rev. J. Mason has been excommunicated from the Congregational Church in Illinois for avowing his belief in Universalism.

The King of Siam has expressed his admiration of American character by naming his youngest son George Washington.

had not clearly foreseen. Although they had inherited, yet they generally condemned the practice of slavery, and hoped for its discontinuance.

Free laborers would immigrate, and slaves might be imported into the States. The fathers agreed that Congress may establish uniform laws of naturalization, and it might prohibit the importation of persons after 1808.

What was the action of the fathers in Congress? They admitted the new States of the Southwest as capital States, because it was practically impossible to do otherwise, and by the ordinance of 1787, confirmed in 1790, they provided for the organization and admission of only labor States in the North-west.

The circumstances which the fathers did not clearly foresee were two, namely: the re-organization of slavery consequent on the increased consumption of cotton, and the extension of the national domain across the Mississippi; and those occurred before 1820.

So soon as a State feels the impulses of commerce, or enterprise, or ambition, its citizens begin to study the effects of these systems of capital and labor respectively on its intelligence, its virtue, its tranquility, its integrity or unity, its defense, its prosperity, its liberty, its happiness, its grandeur, and its fame.

Under the auspicious influences of a Whig success, California and New Mexico appeared before Congress as labor States. The capital States refused to consent to their admission into the Union; and again threats of disunion carried terror and consternation throughout the land.

truly, that the Union reeled under the violence of that great debate. Patriotism took counsel from prudence, and enforced a settlement which has proved to be not a final one; and which, as is now seen, practically left open all the great political issues which were involved.

Now, when the present conditions of the various parts of the Louisiana Territory are observed, and we see that capital retains undisputed possession of what it then obtained, while labor is convulsing the country with so hard and so prolonged a struggle to regain the lost equivalent which was then guaranteed to it under circumstances of so great solemnity, we may well desire not to be deceived if the Missouri Compromise was indeed necessarily accepted by the free States influenced by exaggerated views of the dangers of disunion.

First, That it is easy to combine the capital States in defense of even external interests, while it is hard to unite the labor States in a common policy.

Second, That the labor States have a natural loyalty to the Union, while the capital States have a natural facility for alarming that loyalty by threatening disunion.

Third, That the capital States do not practically distinguish between legitimate and constitutional resistance to the extension of slavery in the common Territories of the Union, and unconstitutional aggression against slavery established by local laws in the capital States.

The early political parties were organized without reference to slavery. But since 1820, European questions have left us practically unconcerned. There has been a great increase of invention, mining, manufacture, and cultivation. Steam on land and on water has quickened commerce. The press and the telegraph have attained prodigious activity, and the social intercourse between the States and their citizens has been immeasurably increased; and, consequently, their mutual relations affecting slavery have been, for many years, subject of earnest and often excited discussion.

Under the auspicious influences of a Whig success, California and New Mexico appeared before Congress as labor States. The capital States refused to consent to their admission into the Union; and again threats of disunion carried terror and consternation throughout the land.

Under the auspicious influences of a Whig success, California and New Mexico appeared before Congress as labor States. The capital States refused to consent to their admission into the Union; and again threats of disunion carried terror and consternation throughout the land.

ments, collated with the existing statutes, namely, the Ordinance of 1787, the Missouri Prohibitory law of 1820, and the articles of Texas annexation, disposed by law of the subject of slavery in all the Territories of the United States. And so the Compromise of 1850 was pronounced a full, final, absolute, and comprehensive settlement of all existing and possible disputes concerning slavery under the Federal authority.

When the grave shall have closed over all who are now endeavoring to meet the obligations of duty, the year 1850 will be recalled to us as a period filled with anxiety and apprehension. A successful war had just terminated; peace brought with it a great augmentation of territory. Disturbing questions arose bearing upon the domestic institutions of a portion of the Confederacy, and involving the constitutional rights of the States.

Hardly, however, had these inspiring sounds died away, throug a measured and dignified land, before the national repose was shocked again—shocked, indeed, as it never before had been, and smitten this time by a blow from the very hand that had just released the chords of the national harp from their utterance of that exalted sympathy of peace.

Kansas and Nebraska, the long-devoted reservation of labor and freedom, saved in the agony of national fear in 1820, and saved again in the panic of 1850, were now to be opened by Congress, that the never-ending course of seedtime and harvest might begin.

The labor States had dismissed many of their representatives here for too great fidelity to freedom, and too great distrust of the efficacy of that new bond of peace, and had replaced them with partisans who were only timid, but not unwilling. The Democratic President and Congress hesitated, but not long. They revised the last great compromise, and found, with delighted surprise, that it was so far from confirming the law of freedom of 1820 that, on the other hand, it exactly provided for the abrogation of that venereal statute; nay, that the compromise itself actually killed the spirit of the Missouri law, and devolved on Congress the duty of removing the lifeless letter from the national code.

The deed was done. The new enactment not only repealed the Missouri prohibition of slavery, but it pronounced the people of Kansas and Nebraska perfectly free to establish freedom or slavery, and pledged Congress to admit them in the time as States, either of capital or of labor, into the Union. The Whig representatives of the capital States, in an hour of strange bewilderment, occurred; and the Whig party instantly went down, never to rise again. Democrats seceded, and stood aloof; the country was confounded; and, amid the perplexities of the hour, a Republican party was seen gathering itself together with much earnestness, but with little show of organization, to rescue, if it were not too late, the cause of freedom and labor, so unexpectedly and grievously imperiled in the Territories of the United States.

The Whig party, being generally an opposition party, practiced some forbearance toward the interest of labor. The Democratic party, not without demonstrations of dissent, was generally found sustaining the policy of capital. A disposition toward the removal of slavery from the presence of the national capital appeared in the District of Columbia. Mr. Van Buren, a Democratic President, launched a prospective veto against the anticipated measure.

The number of insertions should be noted on the margin of an advertisement, otherwise it will be published till forbidden, and charged accordingly.

Ordinance of 1787, now stands on the position that both Territorial Governments and Congress are incompetent to legislate against slavery in the Territories, while they are not only competent, but are obliged when it is necessary, to legislate for its protection there.

In this new and extreme position, the Democratic party now ranks itself behind the battery of the Supreme Court, as if it were possibly a true construction of the Constitution, that the power of deciding practically forever between freedom and slavery in a portion of the continent far exceeding all that is yet organized, should be renounced by Congress, which alone possesses any legislative authority, and should be assumed and exercised by a court which can take cognizance of the great question collaterally, in a private action between individuals, and which action the Constitution will not suffer the court to entertain, if it involves a twenty dollars of money, without the over-riding intervention of a jury of twelve good and lawful men of the neighborhood where the litigation arises.

Mr. President, did ever the annals of any Government show a more rapid or more complete departure from the wisdom and virtue of its founders? Did ever the Government of a great empire, founded on the rights of human labor, slide away so fast and so far, and moor itself so tenuously on the basis of capital, and that capital invest d in laboring men? Did ever a free representation Legislature, invested with powers so great, and with the guardianship of rights so important, of trusts so sacred, of interests so precious, and of hopes attached so noble and so comprehensive, surrender and renounce them all so unnecessarily, so unwisely, so fatally, and so ingloriously? If it be true, as every instinct of our nature, and every precept of political experience teaches us, that

It turns the land, to hastening this prey, Where wealth accumulates, and men decay; then there, in Ireland, in Italy, in Poland, or in Hungary, has any ruler prepared for a generous and confiding people disappointments, disasters and calamities equal to those which the Government of the United States holds now suspended over so large a portion of the continent of North America?

Citizens of the United States, in the spirit of this policy, subverted the free Republic of Nicaragua, and opened it to slavery and the African slave trade, and held it in that condition waiting annexation to the United States, until its sovereignty was restored by a combination of sister Republics exposed to the same danger and apprehensive of similar subversion. Other citizens re-opened the foreign slave trade in violation of our laws and treaties; and after a suspension of that shameful traffic for fifty years, savage Africans have been once more landed on our shores and distributed, unreclaimed and with impunity among our plantations.

For this policy, so far as the Government has sanctioned it, the Democratic party avows itself responsible. Everywhere complaint against it is denounced, and its opponents proceed. When Kansas was writing under the wounds of incessant a civil war, because of her resistance, the Democratic press deridingly said, "let her bleed." Official integrity has been caused for rebuke and punishment, when it resisted frauds designed to promote the extension of slavery. Throughout the whole Republic, there is not one known dissenter from that policy remaining in place, if within reach of the Executive arm. Nor over the face of the whole world is there to be found one representative of our country who is not an apologist for the extension of slavery.

It is in America that these things have happened. In the nineteenth century, the era of the world's greatest progress, and while all nations but ourselves have been either abridging or altogether suppressing commerce in men; at the very moment when the Russian serf is emancipated, and the Georgian captive, the Nubian prisoner, and the Abyssinian savage, are lifted up to freedom by the successor of Mohammed. The world, prepossessed in our behalf by our early devotion to the rights of human nature, as no nation ever before engaged its respect and sympathies, asks, in wonder and amazement, what all this demoralization means. It has an excuse better than the world can imagine, better than we are generally conscious of ourselves, a virtuous excuse. We have loved not freedom so much less, but the Union of our country so much more. We have been made to believe, from time to time, that, in a crisis, both of these precious institutions could not be saved together; and therefore we have, from time to time, surrendered sequenals of freedom to propitiate the loyalty of capital and stay its hands from doing violence to the Union. The true state of the case, however, ought not to be a mystery to ourselves. Patience, indeed, is not given to statesmen; but we are without excuse when we fail to apprehend the logic of current events. Let parties, or the Government, choose or do what they may, the people of the United States do not prefer the wealth of the few to the liberty of the many, capital to labor, African slaves to white freemen, in the national Territories and in future States. That question has never been distinctly recognized or acted on by them. The Republican party embodies the popular protest and reaction against a policy which has been fastened upon the nation by surprise, and which its reason and conscience, concurring with the reason and conscience of mankind, condemn.

(To be concluded next week.)