

The Oregon Argus.

W. L. Adams, Editor.

OREGON CITY:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1861.

For Latest News, See Next Page.

Treason—The Duty of the Government in the Present Crisis.

Treason already ripened in South Carolina, and disunion fast maturing in the Gulf States, is a serious political malady that political doctors of all parties have each a different plaster for. It is a grave disorder—one which requires the calm and thorough investigation of the patriot and statesman, and the remedy that the profoundest wisdom may find suggested by all the circumstances of the case, the dictates of an enlarged philanthropy, the constitutional obligations and limitations of federal power, and the good of posterity. The man who approaches this subject as a mere partisan, or who permits his judgment to be warped by sectional prejudice, is no statesman—while the man who, from motives of ease, personal comfort, sordid selfishness, and cowardice, would shirk the responsibility of fairly and promptly meeting the issue, is neither a statesman nor a patriot. The fact that treason is, in certain portions of the Union, already picking the bricks from the pillars of the government, cemented together by the blood of our ancestors, and handed down to posterity as the best guaranty to coming ages that they could purchase with their lives, of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"—is the fact with which we have now to do. That "Northern aggressions," as is alleged by Mr. Buchanan and other Northern apologists for treason, constitute no part of the reason for the present hostile attitude of the leaders of Democracy South, is proven by declarations of those leaders in Congress and elsewhere, who now avow that no compromises and concessions to Slavery by the North can arrest them in their course—that their present action is the result of a chronic hatred of the Union and a long settled purpose to compass its overthrow. This places the question of compromise as a means of peace at an end—it degrades the position of Northern Democrats who clamor for "concessions" on the part of Republicans as a panacea for premeditated treason, and covers with a damning infamy the voluntary tender on the part of a few craven Republicans of a surrender of principles we have fought for and won, to be burned on the altar of slavery, and then made a pretext by the enemies of the Union for a still greater surrender on the part of cowards who are as unworthy of a patriotic ancestry, as are Chestnut, Yancey, and Toombs. Disunion being inaugurated, and persisted in for the love of it, it remains for the Government to take the bull by the horns, and look it squarely in the face.—That disunionism is, as Buchanan says, revolution and nothing else, is conceded by all. That this revolution, as a means of accomplishing its immediate designs—that of remodeling the government of the rebels—will be necessarily a bloody one, only if resisted by the General Government, all admit. That, whether resisted by the United States authorities or not, the ultimatum, near or more remote, of the present rebellion, will be dreadful carnage, and general devastation in the whole territory of the seceders, some believe.

If the present forms of the Government under which the disaffected portions of the Union live, have, as they aver, failed to secure the objects for which these forms were adopted; if the prime objects for which "governments are instituted among men," have upon a fair trial been constitutionally supplanted by intolerable grievances, then a revolution as a dernier resort is the inalienable right of those who by constitutional means are unable to redress their grievances. This is good Republican doctrine, now seized upon by the same men who have hitherto ignored unalienable rights, and enforced as the highest rule of human conduct, "the right of majorities to govern!" Lord John Russell, in his dispatch to the British minister at Turin, justified the invasion of Italy by the Sardinian government on the ground that the invasion was at the request of the Italians who wished to throw off the Papal yoke—and added that the only authority in the world which could rightfully decide as to whether the Italians were justified by Papal oppressions in inaugurating a Revolution, was the Italians themselves. That any people has the right to revolutionize an oppressive government is affirmed by the opinion of that eminent jurist Vattel, who justified the overturning of the throne of James II. in England on the ground that a people might "for good reasons take up arms against an oppressor." Whether the "reasons" of South Carolinians or Georgians are "good," it is for them to decide.—If Southern Democrats believe that the refusal of the North to let the Democratic party control the government, is a "good reason" why the government should be overthrown, they are the judges as to whether the reason is really "good" or not—not we. The Garrisonian Abolitionists of the North, and the negroes in Alabama or Canada, have the same inalienable rights. They, and they alone, are the sole judges as to whether their grievances in the government are "good cause" for revolution.—If their notions that their cause is good, impel them to assault the bulwarks of the government, and the Federal authorities from a solemn conviction that their cause

is not good and from a sense of the binding obligations of a solemn oath to "support the constitution and laws," should come in conflict with the rebels, we suppose that posterity will judge that the side had a bad cause that got whipped.

We believe, with Jefferson, that the only authority that can dismember the Union, is the authority that composed it—and that no State can secede from the confederacy without the consent of a majority of all the States. Until the consent of this majority is obtained, it is the sworn duty of the Government to enforce the laws in all the States alike. In doing this, nothing like harshness or precipitancy ought to be indulged in towards even such a State as South Carolina, where treason is a chronic distemper. It ought to be the policy of the Government to so discreetly and humanely proceed in the discharge of its duties, as to place itself clearly in the right, in the eyes of the North, in the eyes of the Union men of the South, and in the eyes of the civilized world. If a blow must be struck, let the Government draw the sword only when it has secured the backing of all patriots. This we believe will be the policy of the incoming administration, provided Congress will assent to it.

We believe there is no man in the nation better calculated for the Presidency in this crisis than Mr. Lincoln. The difficulties that surround the next President are of infinitely greater magnitude than those which ever embarrassed an administration before. They will be much complicated from the conduct of the present administration between this and the fourth of March—an administration which has been mostly made up of disunionists, and which we firmly believe is now in league with the leaders of treason and working with them to fix and grease the slides on which the noble ship will be attempted to be launched into the vortex of dissolution, the moment Lincoln steps aboard as her commander. Buchanan has chosen just such men for his advisers as Jackson would have hung. If these scoundrels succeed in bringing on an internecine war, the projectors of it will be the first men that will drink the bloody cup they have prepared for others. That the Tories who favored the British cause in the Revolution were not cannibals, is proven by the number of leading Democrats in all the States who are either concealing and executing treason, aiding and abetting it, or making the most contemptible apologies for it. That the lineal descendants of the Arnold family are not alone confined to the Democratic party, is proven by the craven policy of a clear surrender of everything the Government is worth maintaining for, suggested by a few Belsazzar-kneed lazzaroni who have crawled into the Republican party, not from principle, but from a Falstaffian instinct that scented from afar the loaves and fishes. That the Republican party does not embrace all the patriotism of the country, is proven by the clear clarion voice that rings out from hundreds of Democratic and opposition presses from Maine to Georgia, reiterating the boast of Jackson in the presence of Calhoun and Hayne, "The Union, it must and shall be preserved!" If the States now active in secession persist in their mad-dened policy, which they probably will, whether the Government resists them, or whether a majority of all the States in Convention assembled agree to a peaceable dismemberment of the Union, the same element of discord that has for years made Congress a bedlam, and hell jubilee, will precipitate the antagonistic sections into a conflict, which, terrible and bloody as it will probably be, and much to be deplored, will, nevertheless, end in an inauguration of the great central idea of Republicanism—the grand enunciation of the Declaration of Independence. If the slave power, blinded by imaginary grievances, and maddened by a sectional hatred of everything that loves liberty and clings to the Union, shall persist in its apparent determination to rear the temple of the Moloch of slavery on the ruins of the Government, to cement its stones with the blood of Northern men, and fill its hollow vaults with the bones of such as dare avow an attachment to "Liberty and the Union"—a crisis will be forced upon us in which the frame-work of all party organizations will be crushed in as an egg-shell under the weight of an avalanche of patriotism that will bury treason too deep for resurrection power.

Of some of the effects of a cringing policy on the part of the Government, we have more to say.

CALIFORNIA MOUNTAINEER.—We have received the first number of a new monthly Magazine, bearing the above title, published at Chinese Camp, Tuolumne county, California, and edited by H. O. Brooks.—It presents a very neat appearance. The subscription price is \$2.50 per annum.—J. W. Sullivan, the celebrated news agent of San Francisco, is agent for the Mountaineer.

We decline the publication of "Utilla." It reaches too far back into the history of Oregon Territory to be of interest now, in giving details of that which every patriot wishes to see pass into oblivion—besides, we think that "Inaugurated Imbecility," when gone into retirement, should rest in peace.

Those correspondents who are waiting for answers to their letters, must be patient. We have more unanswered letters on hand than we can reply to in two months.

Just a Word with You.

To the Democratic editors who are constantly whining about "Northern aggressions," and beseeching Republicans to stitch 'concessions' enough together to make an apron to cover the nakedness of blatant disunionism and save the Union, we have a suggestion to make. You say you want us Republicans to "fix up" the nigger question so as to be satisfactory to the South, and unite the partially dismembered Confederacy again. Well! Suppose you give us a model on a small scale of just the sort of a fix up of the nigger question your sagacious craniums think would settle the strife, and unite the country. You say you have done it. When? and where?—"Our model is found," say you, "in Buchanan's message." Very well—that was a model that required dirt-eating enough on the part of the North to satisfy any reasonable fire-eater—wasn't it? But Buchanan's little nigger 'fix up' bomb blew his own Cabinet to pieces, sending Cobb into Georgia, Cass into Michigan, and old Floyd into Virginia, besides badly fracturing the legs of Thompson and several other advisers. You have all got sense enough to see this—not excepting Coon's Express. Well, if Buchanan's little nigger 'fix up' bomb blew his own Cabinet to pieces, sending Cobb into Georgia, Cass into Michigan, and Floyd into Virginia, about how closely would Massachusetts and South Carolina be cemented together by touching off under the Union a similar 'fix up' on a larger scale? Our suggestion to you is, that you stop making asses of yourselves by blubbering about our duties in the matter, till you are able to fix up the nigger question so as to unite your own party—or at least your own Administration.

IMPROVED.—The Democrat, as we anticipated, has improved materially under the editorial management of P. J. Malone, Esq. Mr. Malone has been more or less connected with the press of Oregon and California for a number of years. Of his ability as a pungent and effective writer, we have already given our opinion. If ability assumes its merited position, Mr. Malone will henceforth be the acknowledged head of the Democratic party in Oregon. Of the arrangement the Democrat has made with Mr. Malone, we have no cause of complaint. It is much more agreeable to us to meet a man of talent in a close controversy, than one of these mutton-heads that usually turn the cranks of Democratic organs. We only regret that a pungent pen should be employed in making the wrong appear the better side. If, however, Human Liberty must be immolated, let her vitals be pierced with a banished poniard—for heaven's sake, spare her the torture of being punched to death with a dung-fork. The world has attached a degree of romantic chivalry to the murder of Caesar, that softened the crime, from the fact that Brutus slew him with a dagger, instead of chopping him up with a meat-axe.

Shrewd.

The Democratic papers, in order to impress upon their readers their character for far-seeing sagacity, are reminding them that the present disunion movement is just what they predicted would be the result of Lincoln's election. "Oh yes, I told ye so!" is a standing text for these fellows to harp on. Well, what did we tell you? We told you that the only men who favored disunion were either Democrats or Abolitionists, and that if anybody favored treason, it was this class of men. You denied this, and tried to lie out of it. We told you that we intended to take the Government out of the hands of the corrupt, demoralized, pro-slavery, disunion Democracy, and place it in better hands—and we have done it. We also told you that when we broke down the Democratic party, and took the treasury out of their hands, the hollow hypocrisy of their leaders in protesting loyalty to the Union would soon show itself, and latent treason down deep in their black hearts would, in their assaults on the Union, prove just what we said. Your lying organs denied it, and we now point you to the heads of departments at Washington, to the great lights of Democracy in all the Cotton States, and to their cowardly, unpatriotic, dough-face apologists in all the Northern States, and tell you that it affords burning, damning proof that we were right. We have broken down the Democratic party, and we intend, if we can, to keep the stinking carcass in its grave, if every muggot on it turns into a disunion devil.

The Portland Oregonian charges the Corvallis Union with arguing "that it was the policy of the Fathers to extend slavery—in proof of which the Union quotes the act of our Fathers which stopped the slave trade." The Oregonian says it can't understand that kind of logic. Well, you will get the hang of it after a while, perhaps. Slater's logic, like Hibernian's literature, always comes at you stern foremost. It's a habit Slater got in approaching cross dogs in the night, on his way to the underground depot with 'them cold victuals.'

NEW DAILY.—The Daily Morning Oregonian made its first appearance on last Monday. It is a handsome little sheet, printed on new type, and well filled with interesting matter. We hope its proprietor, Mr. Pitcock, will meet with the success he deserves for his enterprise.

No Backing Down.

The Statesman, which has become quite 'spunky' over the disunion question, is laboring to show that some of the Republican papers are disposed to crawl a little in view of the rage of disunionists. It tries to show that the N. Y. Tribune agrees with the Norfolk (Va.) Argus, a secession paper, in admitting that the General Government has no power to coerce a State back into the Union if it desires to secede, and that the best policy is to let secession States go out peaceably. The Statesman charges that the Portland Oregonian, edited by an acquaintance of Mr. Lincoln, favors this policy, and the Statesman shrewdly concludes from this that it is the policy of the President elect.

Just a few words will set this matter at rest. That the Government has any power directly to coerce a State back into the Union, or, in other words, to force her to represent herself in Congress, after drawing out her Representatives and Senators, is a doctrine which we think is not held by Mr. Lincoln or any body else. That in case a State secedes, it is the duty of the Government to enforce the laws of the United States, not even recognizing her secession acts, and that it would be the worst of policy for a majority of the States to permit a dismemberment of the confederacy, is in our opinion held by not only Mr. Lincoln, but all sound Republicans and sensible men of other parties. Whatever may have been the opinion of the N. Y. Tribune heretofore upon the expediency of permitting a peaceable separation, we are sure that the Statesman does not view the Tribune as holding the same doctrine now. Indeed, the Statesman volunteers the statement that the same issue of the Tribune which said "let the Cotton States go," said the very opposite on another page.—This enunciation—"let the Cotton States go if they will"—which has been made by the Tribune, and perhaps other papers, has never been intended as a declaration of their own deliberate opinion formed from a cool investigation of the whole subject—much less have they been designed to foreshadow the policy of an executive circumscribed by constitutional and legislative limits, and acting under a sense of the mighty responsibilities that rest upon him to do justice to us, and to posterity. These editorials are mere dashes of the pen, intended simply as offsets to the bullying bluster of secessionists. The fire-eaters say, "We will go—we are going—going—go—e." "Well, go, if you want to," exclaim a hundred editors—"go, we shall be as well off and better without you."

The fact is that while now and then a weak-kneed dough-face has exhibited slight symptoms of an acute chill, more than ninety-nine hundredths of the Republicans have faced the music like men. In the same issue of the Statesman that contains the charges against Republican papers, we find printed, with no other word of dissent, a string of amendments to the Constitution proposed by Mr. Douglas, to pacify the secessionists. Those "amendments" incorporated into our present wise and almost perfect Constitution, would make it look like a flower-vase with a pig's tail stuck in it. The most cowardly Abolitionist has not yet to our knowledge "backed down" enough to propose such a villainous marring of the Constitution in order to buy the smiles of Yanceytes.

After a few days of cool weather, with a little snow, we have again the same delirious fever that has ruled the rainy months up to this time. Spring is apparently upon us—the farmers are preparing for plowing and sowing grain—and from present indications many gardens will be made in February. Our farmers have found that the weather wisdom of the Portland Oregonian is rather defective, from the fact, perhaps, that being somewhat a new comer, it has made choice of poor advisers on that subject.

Coon's Express at Roseburg says that the Breckinridge and Lane platform was written out in almost the precise words of the Constitution of the United States. The youth that drives the editorial quill for Coon's Express ought to be confined exclusively to 'blue join,' or some other cooling diet, or his next great discovery will be that the 'toad-sticker' which now lies in Bill Martin's corral, is the same sword that 'Lane took from Santa Anna,' and will be found kissing the manure from it.

The Mountaineer returns thanks to a friend for a "shoulder of venison." Well, it's generally 'neck or nothing' with a poor Democratic editor, while nobody ever thinks of offering a Republican editor anything less than a hagn.

The Corvallis Union says that at the late election in that city A. B. Springer was chosen Mayor, A. R. McConnell, Recorder, Wm. F. Beatty, Marshall, C. Burn, Treasurer, and A. D. Barnard, M. Stock, A. J. McEwan, John Murray, J. H. Caton and C. W. Wilson, Councilmen.

We learn from the British Colonist that Wells, Fargo & Co. shipped \$30,780 in gold dust, by the Oregon, last trip.

VALENTINE DAY.—Next Thursday, Feb. 14, 1861. Call at Mr. Fleming's Book Store, for Valentines of all kinds.

MEXICAN NEWS.—MIRAMONTE was routed on Dec. 23d. The capital was occupied on Christmas by the Liberal army. Puebla also capitulated. The city of Mexico was tranquil.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.—Boston, Dec. 29.—There is no disguising the fact that Massachusetts is ready to respond promptly to any demand made upon her for troops to sustain the Union and the laws. Seven thousand troops can be put in marching order on twenty-four hours notice, and one hundred and forty-five thousand men are enrolled in the militia of this State. Of this number, thirty thousand could be easily mustered.

The financial resources of Massachusetts were never in better condition for such an emergency, and the people are enthusiastic to be enrolled.

Adjutant General Abbott, of N. Hampshire, arrived here this afternoon from Washington, and left immediately for Concord, with the intention of recommending to Gov. Goodwin that the Granite State be immediately put upon war footing.

The feeling is deep and not to be misinterpreted. There is no mistaking the fact that Massachusetts is in earnest in this crisis. The merchants are plucky, and the name of Anderson is uppermost in every conversation.

A new feature in the government is developed by the excitement. The Legislatures of several States have either offered or are prepared to offer the general government men and money. New York offers \$10,000,000 and 100,000 men, to enforce the laws. Massachusetts is prepared to do her share, and the ball being fairly in motion we may look for such a patriotic outpouring of men and money for the preservation of peace, that Disunionists will stand aghast.

The reports relative to the state of Northern public feeling, show that the entire population are in favor of the Union as it is. It was a Democrat that proposed the \$10,000,000 loan in the New York Legislature; and Gen. Butler (Breckinridge elector of Massachusetts,) says, that New England will rise as one man to preserve order and enforce the laws.

THE CHARLESTON AFFAIR.—The Charleston Courier, of the 10th, says that at about half-past 6 o'clock, yesterday (the 9th), the steamer Gen. Clinch discovered the steamer Star of the West, and signalled the fact of the approach to the occupants of the batteries on Morris Island.—The Star of the West rounded the point, took the ship channel inside of the bar, and proceeded straight forward, until opposite Morris Island, about three-fourths of a mile from the batteries. A ball was then fired at her, the bows of the steamer. The Star of the West displayed the stars and stripes. So soon as the flag was unfurled, the fort opened fire a succession of heavy shots. The vessel continued on her course, with increased speed; but two shots taking effect upon her, she concluded to retreat. Fort Moultrie fired a few shots at her, but she was then out of range.—The damage to the Star of the West was trifling, as only two out of seven shots took effect upon her.

Fort Sumpter made no demonstrations, although at the port-holes guns were run out bearing on Morris Island.

Maj. Anderson immediately sent a note to Gov. Pickens demanding an explanation of the act, and notifying him that for the future such conduct would not be tolerated. Gov. Pickens rejoined haughtily, informing Maj. Anderson that any attempt to reinforce Fort Sumpter would lead to immediate hostilities. Maj. Anderson, after mature deliberation, referred the affair to Washington for further instructions. Gov. Pickens permitted Lieut. Talbot to pass through Charleston to carry dispatches.

The secessionists are arming merchant vessels as gun-boats. They anticipate a bloody fight.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.—Sailed, Feb. 5th.—Steamship Pacific for San Francisco direct. On board, 275 cases Bacon, 2500 boxes Apples, 105 bbls. Lard, 400 Hides, 5000 sacks Flour, 50 sacks Onions, 20 bbls Eggs, 10 coops Chickens, 100 tons general Merchandise, and 75 passengers.

Steamship Panama, for Victoria direct. On board, 200 boxes Apples, 1000 fruit trees, 4 tons furniture, and 20 passengers.

The amount of produce shipped is an index of some activity in trade.

The Panama, on her return from Victoria, is expected to take away a good cargo.

—Daily Times.

The steamer Oregon, for California, on Friday, took off a large number of passengers, and much freight. The freight consisted of 3,257 boxes fruit; 5075 sacks of flour; 40 packages merchandise; 36 packages eggs; 79 bbls. bacon and lard; 20 cases of cider and 43 head of cattle.—Oregonian.

EUROPEAN NEWS.—On Dec. 24th, Italian affairs were unchanged.

A movement was commenced in Rome in favor of annexation to Sardinia. There was great demoralization in the besieged army at Gaeta.

Capt. Jordan has been acquitted of all the charges made against him, by court martial, and the President has approved the decision.

SALEM, Feb. 6.

Ed. Argus: At present, everything in the capital is really lovely—a beautiful clear sky overhead, the mud pretty well dried up under foot, and a general enlivening up in everything, make it a place second to none in point of attraction—especially natural attraction.—In the State.

Last week, the second quarter of the Willamette University closed, with a most interesting and instructive exhibition of the various kinds of talent with which that Institution abounds. Two excellent papers were read. The ladies had a sweet little "Waif," which, under the management of the talented, amiable, and accomplished Miss Lucina Lee, reflected great credit upon the fair portion of the students.—The gentlemen published a "Hesperian," which, under the control of the shrewd and unobtrusive gentleman and scholar, C. M. Swett, displayed much talent finely assayed, and unmistakable evidences that there are several of the rising generation within the jurisdiction of that Institution who are bound to be 'burning and shining lights' in any place they may dwell. Other exercises came off, equally creditable to both teachers and scholars, which I have not time to enumerate. But the entire performance may safely and justly be summed up as one which would be termed "a good thing in the States."

The Oregonian says a project is on foot to examine the river between Walla Walla and Colville, with the view of running steamers between those points. Capt. Len. White, of the steamer Col. Wright, is engaged in this enterprise. He is the very man for the work.

WOOLEN FACTORY.—We are pleased to learn that there has been about \$24,000 of stock subscribed to the Brownsville Woollen Factory. This makes it certain that the improvement will go on. The stockholders are requested to meet at Brownsville on Friday, March 1st, at 10 o'clock, a.m., for the purpose of organizing and electing officers.—Democrat.

The first District school, of this city, embraces 124 girls, and 103 boys.—We shall have a due proportion of girls in this country in time. We must be patient.—Oregonian.

Oregon Division, No. 8, N. of T. Meets at Harmony Hall every Friday evening, at half past 7 o'clock. Brethren in good standing are invited to attend.

H. L. KELLY, W. P.
DAVID C. HATCH, R. S.

Multnomah Lodge No. 2, F. & A. M., holds its stated communications in Masonic Hall, on the Saturday preceding the Full Moon in each month. Brethren in good standing are invited to attend.

J. M. BACON, Sec'y.
J. MYRICK, W. M.

I. O. O. F. OREGON LODGE No. 3 meets at Harmony Hall on Monday evening of each week. Brethren in good standing are invited to attend.

G. A. PEASE, N. G.
A. J. CHAPMAN, Rec. Sec'y.

Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry.—The only pure and genuine Balsam is, and we the last twenty years has been, prepared by S. W. FOWLE & Co., of Boston; and their printed name, as well as the written signature of L. Bette, appear on the outer wrapper. As you would avoid the spurious and have the genuine, take no other!

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