

The Oregon Argus.

W. L. Adams, Editor.

OREGON CITY:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1861.

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

What is to be done with the people of a State where treason has ripened into a rebellion against the Constitution and laws of the General Government?—is a question that is answered in just four ways.—Jo Lane, Gerrit Smith, and all the leaders of the disunion Democracy, with Garrison and other great lights of the secession Abolitionists, cry out, "Let her alone—treason is no violation of the Constitution—secession is a reserved right—the government has no power to use 'force'—acknowledge her independence—divide the territories, public works, army and navy, and treasury funds with her—God bless her, and let her go out and stand upon her reserved rights." The Albany Evening Journal, as a representative of what little rotten element has drifted into the Republican party, slightly tainted with Abolitionism and cowardice, with such leaders of the Democracy in the frontier slave States as Magoffin of Kentucky, with that class of unmitigated dough-faces headed by Cox and Vallandigham of Ohio, Bill English of Indiana, dirty-dog Logan of Illinois, and infamous notoriety Larabee of Wisconsin, are all a unit in protesting a willingness to do anything the Disunionists demand, in order to buy them back into the Union.—"Make known your terms," say they—"name the conditions on which you will 'dry up'—define all the 'rights' you see in the Constitution—tell us how the anti-slavery sentiment of the North is to be 'squeezed out,' and we are the boys for the business,—we'll do all you want us to, and more, too, if you will only stop spitting that terrible fire, and frightening us so."

Robert Dale Owen of Indiana, as a representative of a small portion of the Douglas Democracy in the North, with a few Believer men of the South, and perhaps a few cold, calculating, selfish, short-sighted, and unpatriotic Republicans, scattered from Maine to Oregon—while they admit the sworn duty of the President to enforce the laws, and deny their willingness to surrender all their own 'rights' and constitutional prerogatives to buy the lore of salmanders, even to having their presses destroyed, and their orators gagged—are, nevertheless, disposed, as a matter of policy, to call a national convention and speedily agree upon the terms of "a peaceable separation."

Abraham Lincoln of Illinois, (thank God!) Senator Wade of Ohio, the noble Bates of Missouri, with more than a million of sterling anti-slave code Democrats, and a host of conservative Bell men, are sagacious enough to see, at length, that the disunion sentiment has not been created by a failure to execute the fugitive slave law, by the intervention of personal liberty bills, or by any other defalcations of the Northern States in making Constitutional guarantees efficient—but that treason is active, solely and entirely, from the fact that the genius of the government is necessarily hostile to slavery-extension, and favorable to freedom—that, under our Government, slavery, being a creature of local law, can rightfully claim under the Constitution no protection of the Federal Government outside of the rigid obligations imposed upon it by the Constitution—that slavery, being abhorrent to humanity and a violation of natural right, is obnoxious to free State public sentiment, and can therefore never expect, as freedom can, the fostering care of the Government from sympathy, but that the inevitable destiny of the peculiar institution is to be thrown upon its only constitutional resources, that of municipal law, for protection. Without a fundamental reconstruction of the whole machinery of the government that will impose upon Congress the duty of slavery-extension, and extort from the whole government a fostering care in all the slave States which it now has no right to claim, these disunionists are peering through the distance, and beholding at no distant day, the Cotton States overrun by a slave population that far outnumber the whites; a dangerous element, pent up, and like the winds of Eolus, 'raging,' and finally ending vent in insurrection. The man who supposes that any 'concession' on the part of the North short of a reconstruction of the whole government and the adoption of a new one, after the Texas or South Carolina model, will secure peace for one year, or that such a reconstruction would not have to be tinkered over again in less than ten years, knows as little of the elements that are now rumbling like a moral volcano under the political substratum of the Union as the child who peers into an old barrel out crater, knows of the depth, volume, and power of the fires of hell. This view of the matter, ends, and ends forever, with all sensible men, the subject of compromise—with a wave of the hand, all 'compromise' and Constitution-tinkers are invited to shoulder the rosin, solder, and furnace traps, and walk out. The question with patriots and statesmen now is, not whether we shall liker up the government anew, but shall it be preserved as it is—as our fathers made it—or shall a convention of States be called and the principle conceded that a State which can muster a majority in favor of secession be

permitted to go out peaceably? With the concession of such a principle, the government is gone—the Union is broken into fragments—and the last hope of expiring liberty everywhere, is tamely surrendered into the hands of anarchy. Shall the Cotton States be allowed to secede and shut up the mouth of the Mississippi, an important outlet belonging equally with Louisiana to the great North West? Shall this outlet be permitted to pass into the hands of a hostile foreign power to lay an embargo upon Northern commerce, to prohibit exports by a ruinous tariff, and to mob and murder Northern men passing down the river in the pursuit of lawful enterprises?—Shall New England then be permitted, should the Abolitionists ever get a majority there, to follow the example of their Southern brethren—to go out of the Union, and impose like restrictions upon the commerce of the North-West, thus shutting up the heart of the Union from every outlet, and converting it into a great inland dependency? Shall Oregon, California, Washington, and lecherous Utah be abandoned by the General Government to go off into a Pacific Empire under the lead of Gwin, Stevens, Jo Lane, and Brigham Young, whenever a bare majority can be induced by these scoundrels to vote for a Pacific Confederacy? Have minorities in secession States no rights under the Constitution which the Government is bound to respect, and protect? Will the Government spend exhaustless treasures and shed an ocean of blood to wrest a Kozza from the clutches of Austrian despotism, and then tamely surrender all the lives and property of a patriotic and noble-souled majority in South Carolina, into the hands of maddened and bloody treason, because the Tories there outnumber the patriots?—If only one man, and he a poor, shoeless, shirtless, and hatless Bankumite, with a patriot's heart throbbing under his ribs, stands up in South Carolina, and stretching his naked, swarthy arms towards Washington, demands, as an American citizen, that the American flag shall wave over him while living, and that, dying, his dim eyes shall behold the Stars and Stripes fluttering over his off-spring—shall not the Government accord to him his wish? Will a majority of the States agree to a dismemberment of the confederacy from a desire for peace, and a cowardly dread of a conflict, when the sure and inevitable result of such a peaceable dismemberment would be a speedy war between the two Governments—a war in which the old Government had surrendered half her prestige and stripped herself of more than half her moral power by agreeing that traitors might secede, and that she would fight them as a foreign power, instead of grappling with them in the Union? Will a majority of the States stultify themselves by even listening to a proposition for calling a national convention, when it is as palpable as the noon-day sun that the demands of the disunionists in a division of the public property, in the character of international law, and in a hundred other exactions, would be so preposterous and unreasonable, that it would nearly choke such arrant cowards and driving dough-faces as Buchanan and Bigler to swallow them?

We have all confidence that the incoming administration will settle all these questions right. But if not, or if the States agree to the principle that a majority can carry a State out of the Union, and if the Government forsakes the patriots in Oregon, when Lane's and Brigham Young's Pacific confederacy goes into operation—we notify the Government that we will never leave this soil and emigrate back to a cowardly government that refuses to protect its citizens—but, so help us God, we will rally under the Stars and Stripes, and fight the traitors ourselves—we will fight them until we are overpowered, and then set fire to what earthly substance we have—retreat to Tillamook—and defend the mountain passes till the last man falls in the ditch!

The British Reviews. We call the attention of our readers to the advertisement in another column of "Blackwood's Magazine and the British Reviews." These, without doubt, are the most valuable publications of the periodical literature of the day—the contributors to their pages being some of the greatest minds of Britain and the world. We desire particularly just now to direct the attention of our readers to the liberal offers made by the publishers, Messrs. L. Scott & Co., by which six consecutive years of the back volumes (the whole five works included) can be had for the original price in England for one year. The times in Oregon, it is true, are at present a little tight, but we think a person can be induced to subscribe for these works, when he reflects that he will obtain the same periodicals complete for 1854, without additional charge. A full year of the Nos. for 1859 may be regarded nearly as valuable as for 1861.

In England, these five works together cost \$31 a year, but the American publishers furnish them for the extremely low price of \$10.

The Fakir of Siva gave exhibitions of his feats of jugglery in town two evenings of this week, to full-houses. The performances were satisfactory, and proved him an adept in the art. He performs in Lafayette to-night, and will be in Salem on Monday evening.

Jefferson, versus Jo Lane and Gerrit Smith. We have often shown our readers that Jefferson's democracy was good Republicanism, while the democracy of the Breckinridge and Lane party is very nearly akin to abolitionism. To prove this for perhaps the fiftieth time, we quote the opinions of Jefferson, Jo Lane, and Gerrit Smith, on the disunion question. When we read the Lane letter which has been generally published in the Democratic papers in this State, his views and language sounded very familiar to us, and we thought we had seen the same treasonable enunciations in Gerrit Smith's famous Peterboro letter of Feb. 18, 1857. We hunted up the document, and now give an extract below side by side with an extract from Lane's letter.

JEFFERSON'S OPINION. "No man, no association of men, no State or set of States, has a right to withdraw itself from the Union of its own accord. The same power which knit us together can unknit. The same formality which formed the links of the Union is necessary to dissolve it. The majority of States which formed the Union must consent to the withdrawal of any one branch of it. Until that consent has been obtained, any attempt to dissolve the Union or obstruct the efficacy of its constitutional laws, is treason—treason to all intents and purposes."

GERRIT SMITH'S OPINION. JO LANE'S OPINION. "Would you know, "No one, in my too, whether I still opinion, who is at all hold to the right of informed as to the nation to break up?—framework of our the North to leave Government, can count the South, and the whole that the Federal South the North? the Government has the East to leave the constitutional power West, and the West to use force against the East? I answer, State for resuming that I do, and that the power which it my views on the sub-delegated to the General are the same as a Government, when I made my when its rights have speech on the Mexi-been infringed or can treaty. So, too, equality refused; or, if as then, would I have the Government had Cuba and Mexico to the power, that it come to us whenever would be wise or prudence shall wish to use it. The come, and we shall Union was not formed to have them by force, nor can as. But so, too, it be maintained by then, would I ob-force. It was a object to accomplishing unitary Union of some the annexation by ex-foreign States, and their money or force." whenever the rights of any of them shall be infringed, or equality refused, and they find it necessary and shall desire to part, there is no power that can keep them together, or that should attempt it."

It will be seen by the above that the opinions of Lane and Smith, two great lights of the two wings of treason, are precisely identical. Both believe the Union can go to pieces whenever the Abolitionists and Democrats give the signal—and both are very much opposed to the use of "force" to keep it together.—Lane's and Smith's opinions are of but little force with us, but they serve to show the approach which the Abolitionists and Democrats have made toward each other.

COL BAKER'S VOTE.—Some of the Democracy are disposed to find fault with Col. Baker for 'seconding' the motion for a postponement of the Pacific Railroad Bill. We think the Col. knew what he was about better than any one on this coast. The following remarks of Col. Baker will explain his position. On Jan. 2d, Mr. Gwin said he would call up the Pacific Railroad bill, but regretted to interfere with Col. Baker's speech, who was then about to address the Senate. To which Col. Baker made the following reply:

MR. BAKER.—Mr. President, I did not quite hear what the honorable Senator from California said upon the subject of the Pacific Railroad bill, which I understand to be the special order for today at one o'clock; but coming from the Pacific coast, I feel it my duty to say promptly and decidedly, that I cannot feel for an instant that any word of mine for the Union and the perpetuity of free government on this continent can compare in importance or value with the Pacific Railroad bill, which, in my judgment, is an act tending to make perpetual the Union of these States.—Therefore, I will follow the lead of the honorable Senator from California, yield any pretension that I may have to the floor now, at one o'clock, at any time, or if need be, for ever, that that bill may pass.

FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA.—We clip the following from Victoria papers of a late date: FEB. 4TH, 1861. Three men arrived here last evening, and report that there is trouble at Rock Creek in regard to the collection of duties. The expressman received \$80 to make an extra trip to the Smilkameen with dispatches. It is also reported that 80 white men had been murdered between the Carriboo and the Quesselle by the Indians.

The steamer Caledonia arrived from New Westminster, bringing about twenty passengers, in whose hands there were about \$15,000 in gold dust. Several parties have come in from the Smilkameen this last week. They report severe weather on the other side of the mountain. Two men were badly frozen coming over.

THANKS.—The obliging officers of the up river steamers 'Relief' and 'Jas Clinton' have our thanks for favors extended the other.

The late rains have raised the Willamette so that the boats below the Falls are unable to enter the basin. We are pleased to notice that Rev. Bishop Scott, of this Episcopal Diocese, has taken up his residence in our city.

For the Argus.

Alternative of the South.

It seems, despite all the abuse and ridicule attempted to be heaped on the 'irrepressible conflict' idea, that it is one of the verities. The angry excitement prevalent in the South, and flaming up so fiercely in opposition to the cool determination of the North, shows conclusively how deep is the hostility between Freedom and Slavery.—Even President Buchanan, in his last message, devoted almost exclusively to this subject, is compelled to acknowledge that the revolutionary movement on the part of the South is not the result of a violation of law or obligation by the North, but, to speak plainly, because the North entertains an opinion on the subject of human bondage irreconcilable with that of the South. States rise in rebellion against the parent Government, and threaten to subvert the Constitution, because of free thought—of free speech. Whither does all this tend? Is it likely that the North, vastly superior in numbers, in wealth, and in real power, will act a craven's part, and, down on marrow-bones, ask forgiveness for an honest opinion, honestly expressed?

Buchanan acknowledges that the Fugitive Slave law has been enforced. Southern blood-hounds have desecrated soil declared sacred to Freedom, hunting down miserable fugitives from an unendurable tyranny. This, the North has borne for the sake of peace, for the sake of union.—But now Southern intolerance demands sacrifices that Northern spirit will not yield. And disunion is to be the result. Considering their positions relatively, we find that the North, though deeming slavery a curse to whites as well as blacks, yet in consideration of the fact that the institution exists, and cannot be disposed of, they are willing that the General Government shall protect but not extend the sphere of its influence. With this, or any other moderate concession the South is not satisfied but demands that the power and patronage of the General Government be employed for slavery propaganda, in opposition to the declared will of a majority of the nation. Will the South be bettered if their declared purpose of secession and independent government be carried into effect? Is it possible that agitation would then at once subside? Would not every source of ill feeling be intensified and open hostility soon follow? The contemplation of a civil war in our own native land is intensely painful, and yet this may be the final appeal for a settlement of the question. Civil war, with a general revolution of her slave population, is the alternative which the South madly provokes, and which it seems the North cannot honorably avert. J. A. Haley, J. D. L. SALEM, Feb. 12.

ED ARMS: The first Monday in this month the County Commissioners entered upon their duties. Considerable dissatisfaction is shown at the law creating these functionaries. Many glaring defects are easily discoverable in the law, when all hope of improvements for two years to come has fled. The substitution of four terms per annum for twelve as originally, subjects the people of this county to no small amount of inconvenience, beside but few seemed to comprehend the fact that all county business was strictly confined to these particular terms. Another grand oversight of which some are complaining is, that there is no intermediate term between the months of September and February, and consequently no provision is made for the payment of Jurors who serve upon September term of Circuit Court and they must wait till the following February. I am informed the Court-house is full of young men preparing themselves for the bar. I am well acquainted with some of them; they bid fair to make "bright and shining lights" in the profession, as well as useful and ornamental members of society. Sickness prevails to considerable extent in Salem and vicinity. Physicians can no longer say that it is distressingly healthy. Salem is steadily improving—hard times seem to have a contrary effect to what naturally suggest itself to us. Preparations are being made for the "Firemen's Ball," which comes off on the 23d.

ALYX. THE NEZ PERCE INDIANS AND THE MINERS.—We are informed that the last parties who recently started out for the mines in the Nez Perce country, have been intercepted by these Indians, their further progress prevented, and they were compelled to return. The Indians told them in a decided terms that they should not proceed;—and when told that white men were already in the country mining, the Indians replied that they knew it, but in the spring the miners would have to leave, as the country belonged to them, and the gold that was there—that they were determined to prevent any white men mining upon their reservation. We understand that Supt. Geary has gone to Fort Vancouver for the purpose of conferring with Col. Wright in reference to this news.—Advertiser.

HOPE SO.—We hear a report that Capt. Travallot, formerly of this place, but recently of British Columbia, contemplates coming to Oregon, and fitting out a pack train, and packing goods from the Dalles to the Carriboo and Canal mines.—If this proves correct, it shows that the Captain has well considered the advantages of the Columbia river route to these mines.—Times.

THE INDIANS.—Indian Agent Dennison, who has just come down from the Dalles says that the trouble spoken of as occurring between the Dalles and Walla Walla, are nothing more than a petty Indian theft, which is of common occurrence, at a time when most are friendly, and that there is not the slightest danger of an Indian outbreak.—Times.

FROM THE ATLANTIC STATES.

THREE DAYS LATER.

By the stage Wednesday afternoon we received the Jacksonville Sentinel of the 9th inst., containing the following telegraphic dispatch giving a summary of the news by the Overland Mail:

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 5th. The Overland mail arrived at Los Angeles last evening, at 7 o'clock, with mails and papers to the 17th ult. The following is a summary of news received from St. Louis:

NEW YORK, Jan. 14th. A Washington correspondent says it is believed that South Carolina has already agreed to yield the forts at Charleston harbor and other Government property, provided Maj. Anderson is ordered back to Fort Moultrie.

Secretary Kelly (?) has resolved to remove all Clerks from the Interior Department who are found to be secessionists.

Missouri Senators will make a formal protest against the occupation of public buildings at St. Louis by Federal troops.

The following dispatch has been received by E. B. Lamar, President of the Bank of the Republic: "CHARLESTON, Jan. 14th.—Sir: Please have it authoritatively published that no flag and no vessel will be disturbed or prevented from entering this harbor, unless carrying hostile troops or munitions of war for Fort Sumpter. Trade is desired, and vessels in commerce will be gladly received. F. W. Pickens."

Judge Smalley, of the U. S. Circuit Court, in his charge to the Grand Jury today, declared South Carolina guilty of high treason.

It is believed that Maj. Anderson shot two mutineers at Fort Sumpter last night, and it is rumored several more are in chains.

Resolutions have unanimously passed the South Carolina Legislature, declaring that any attempt by the Federal Government to reinforce Fort Sumpter will be regarded as an open act of hostility and a declaration of war; also approving of the act and promptness of the military in firing upon the Star of the West, and promising to support the Government in all measures for defense. The Legislature also passed a resolution to fire fifteen rounds in honor of each seceding State. Military companies are pouring in from all portions of the State. The Governor has sent a message to the House of Representatives, devising plans for guarding the coast, and for the purchase of three steam propellers of light draught, each propeller to be provided with thirty-two seamen—one to be stationed at Charleston, one at Beaufort, and one at Georgetown. Also, to fortify all inlets and mouths of the rivers with ordnance and redoubts—the boats to keep a constant communication between them, as a protection against submarine invasion.—Gov. Pickens sent an aid to Fort Sumpter at four o'clock, with dispatches to Maj. Anderson. The people are quiet, but the work of defense "goes bravely on."

NEW YORK, January 14th. The Tribune's Washington correspondent asserts that a piratical expedition is fitting out in this city to seize the California steamers. A steamer has already been chartered in New Orleans to proceed to the Isthmus and await the departure of the steamer from Aspinwall, when hoisting the Palmetto flag, she will seize the steamers as prizes to South Carolina.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15th. Personal friends of the President say it is absolutely decided not to reinforce Fort Sumpter, because sending more troops there would tend to produce irritation, etc.

A telegram was received from Gov. Moore by Senators Fitzpatrick and Clay, saying that the ordinance of secession, unconditional and immediate, had passed the Alabama convention.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16th. F. B. Wells, master of the sloop-of-war Brooklyn, again tendered his resignation last night, and will immediately go South.

Mr. Love, of Georgia, and Mr. Hamilton of Texas, unite on something like the Crittenden basis.

Col. Hayne, Commissioner from South Carolina, has, it is understood, greatly moderated his views since his arrival here. He will remain some days.

The opinion is almost unanimous in secession circles, that all collisions for the present should be studiously avoided.

The Collector at Mobile has refused to honor the drafts from the Federal Government until he has orders from the Governor of Alabama.

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 17th. The Legislature in joint convention this afternoon elected Henry S. Lane, present Governor, to the U. S. Senate, in place of Graham N. Fitch, whose term expires on the 4th of March.

PATRIOTIC CHARLESTON LADY.—A letter from Charleston, published in the New York World, says that the table upon which the Declaration of Independence was signed is now in the possession of a lady in that city. On Dec. 20th, she was urged by the secessionists to permit them to use it for signing their declaration. The lady told the Committee who made the request, that rather than have the Ordinance of Secession signed thereon, she would burn the table to ashes.

COMPLIMENTARY.—The wife of Maj. Anderson is spending the winter in New York. Hundreds of citizens visited her in one day to testify their sympathy and admiration for her husband.

DIED.—We learn by the Sacramento Union, of the 2d inst., that Capt. Richard L. Whiting, long and well known as one of the ablest commanders in the employ of the P. M. S. ship company, died suddenly in San Francisco, Jan. 31st.

The Lion of Fort Sumpter.

All men rise by opportunity as well as by the use of the talents with which nature has provided them, and Major Anderson, who still retains possession of Fort Sumpter with his handful of men, ready to die in the breach for his country's honor if occasion should require, is attaining a celebrity for which in a time of absolute peace he might have waited vainly for years. In some parts of the Union his gallantry has procured him the honor of a ringing of bells and firing of cannon, and churches have sent up their prayers in behalf of the little beleaguered force which seems now to constitute part of the nation's hope.

HORSES FOR CALIFORNIA.—Mr. W. B. Frazer, of Marion county, has a lot of fine horses at the stables of Austin & Bro., in this city. He purchased them in the valley and intends shipping them per steamer Panama to his brother at Martinez, California.—Advertiser.

Oregon Division, No. 8, S. 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. 1, 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. The next regular meeting will be held on Saturday evening, Feb. 23.

I. O. O. F. OREGON LODGE No. 2 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.

Dyspepsia, Fever and Ague, Indigestion, Sour Stomach, Heart Burn, Water Brash, Biliousness, Liver Complaint, Acidity, Flatulency, Jaundice, Change of Climate, Sick Headache, Loss of Appetite, Female Complaints, Oppression after Eating, General Debility, &c., are rapidly, effectually and surely cured by the OXYGENATED BITTERS.

California Evidence. MCKELMINE HILL, Cal., June 16, 1858. Having suffered for fifteen years with Dyspepsia in its worst form, and having consulted with the best Physicians, and tried everything recommended without relief, I was induced to try the OXYGENATED BITTERS, and before I had taken one bottle, I found myself much better, and continued taking them, until I was entirely cured, and now enjoy as good health as ever I did in my life. I take great pleasure in recommending them to all who are similarly afflicted. JAMES LOGANSON. The OXYGENATED BITTERS are sold in California by Redington & Co., Henry Johnson & Co., Charles Morrill, San Francisco; R. B. McDonald & Co., Sacramento; Rice, Coffin & Co., Marysville; Smith & Davis, Portland, Oregon.

Blackwood's Magazine and the British Reviews.

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