

The Oregon Argus.

W. L. Adams, Editor.

OREGON CITY:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1861.

What They Want.

There is not one man in a hundred of those who are talking about appeasing the wrath of disunionists by "amendments to the Constitution," by a stronger "fugitive slave law," by a repeal of "personal liberty bills," or by any other concession, that knows what he is talking about. It is astonishing to us that Northern editors, and even Northern men in Congress, talk to much—talk all about and around this question, without making shorter work of it. Why do not Northern representative men who are so extremely anxious to "conciliate," to "compromise," and all that, walk right up to the disunion leaders, look them in the face, and ask them—what they want? On what terms are the disunionists willing to be pacified? Let us know exactly what they want us to do—then let us tell them like honest, straight-forward men whether we will do it or not. What is the use of all this everlasting gabble in and out of Congress about a matter that can be settled in five minutes. The disunionists have already given us their terms. Iverson of Georgia and Wigfall of Texas have both stood up in the U. S. Senate and told us exactly what their "grievances" are, and what "readily" they want as the only condition on which they will stay in the Union. Although few men seem to see it, these great lights of disunionism in the Senate have told us the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. They have in a plain, honest, candid manner told us what, and what alone, will satisfy the extreme Southern Democracy. Iverson, in a speech in the U. S. Senate, Dec. 11, 1860, said: "Is it designed to introduce legislation for protecting the rights and equality of the Southern States, more than they are now by the constitution, and the present laws? If so, what is Congressional legislation, so far as the Fugitive Slave law is concerned, to the rights of the Southern people, under the obstructions and difficulties—insurmountable difficulties—which are presented to the execution of that law by a vitiated public sentiment in the Northern States? What more can Congress do than Congress has done? We have a Fugitive Slave law of which the South does not complain. It is sufficiently guarded to accomplish all the objects for which it was designed, if there was a proper public sentiment in the Northern States. No better Fugitive Slave law could be devised, by this Congress or any other. * * * It is true that now and then a slave is reclaimed; but it has been done at the point of the bayonet, and at an expense of ten times the value of the slave. Why is it, sir? Not because the law is defective, but because public sentiment is defective and wrong. Nor do I charge the failure of the execution of this law upon these Personal Liberty bills. No, sir, they have never operated to prevent the execution of the Fugitive Slave law. It is, as I said, mob law, in all circumstances, which has produced these results, and will as long as the Union and slavery last together. * * * Then, sir, is it proposed to appease the Southern States by the adoption of the doctrine of non-interference with slavery in the Territories? Is that the remedy this resolution is intended to find out? I want to know who expects such a remedy as that will ever be accorded by this Congress or any other? We know that the republican party are a unit upon that question. It is the great shibboleth on which they fought this battle and won it. It is the very principle which stands at the basis of their political organization. It is that slavery shall not advance beyond its present boundaries and shall never plant a footprint in the Territories of the United States. It must necessarily meet the disapproval of every one of the 1,800,000 republicans who cast their votes for Lincoln and Hamlin, and how many Northern democrats will be brought to its support? We know well that, as far as a portion of the Northern democrats are concerned, they were as hostile to this principle as the republicans themselves. The Northern Douglas non-interference squatter sovereignty party is represented on this floor by the Senator from Illinois, and his friend from Ohio, Mr. Pugh. Would they vote for it? We have already heard the Senator from Ohio say he would let his arm rot from his shoulder in its socket, before he would vote for Congressional protection. I tell Senators here to-day that the Southern people will never be satisfied with anything short of Congressional protection to slavery in the Territories. We know our rights under the constitution. We stand as equal States in this confederacy, and we are entitled to equal participation in the common property. We know well that we never can enjoy equal possession of the Territories without protection to our property. I know well where the Wilmot Proviso and non-interference squatter sovereignty would lead. It would lead to the total exclusion of the Southern States from any Territory which is now possessed or may be hereafter acquired. We will never submit to any such dictation as that. We are entitled to the protection of our property, and we intend to have it, in the Union if we can get it, and out of the Union if we cannot get it in."

OREGON CITY, Feb. 9, 1861.

Where the Blame Rests.

It appears that some persons in latitude even as far north as Oregon City, in considering the present imbroglio, pronounce judgment against the justice and forbearance of the Northern people. In conversing with one not long since on this question, he appealed to the recent "personal liberty" bills in some of the free States, and to the general refusal of slave holders to bring their human chattels to offend the nostrils of Northern freemen. Republican sentiment is divided in regard to the personal liberty bills, but if they had been brought before the proper tribunal, and declared unconstitutional, they would have been set aside, and that would have been the end of it. But in regard to permission for the transportation or detention of slaves in the Northern Free States, this involves the whole point at issue. Allow slave-drivers to "corral" their human stock on free soil, and it would be free no longer.—Consentious people opposed to this abomination would have their ears and eyes pained and offended by cries of agony and the sight of backs mangled under the scourge. It should be remembered that the slave-trade has been denounced and proscribed by all civilized nations as piracy, and that in every other really civilized nation the day of jubilee has already come. In defiance of public sentiment and the Constitution, slave cargoes were not long since landed and sold with impunity in the South, and from some quarters have come demands coupled with threats, that the slave-trade be revived and legalized. Led on by demagogues, a faction at the South is shrieking madly for disunion, and it is likely that ere this time the breach has been widened irreparably. Our country's flag, so long our glory and our pride, has, it may be, been rent in twain, and stained with the blood of brothers, by brothers shed. True, we are beyond the vortex, and, if civil war comes, dark and terrible, other ground than ours will drink the deep draught of blood. But we too would sorely feel it, and if worst comes to worst, all should know where the odium justly belongs. The North has made compromises and concessions until there remains the stern principle alone about which strife is made, and this the North will not, indeed, cannot—give up.

Table with 2 columns: Candidate and Vote. Includes Lincoln (1,839,162), Douglas (1,154,961), Breckinridge (336,152), Bell (75,405) and Total (4,785,371).

The bill providing for the payment of the California war debt of \$600,000 for suppressing Indian hostilities, has passed the lower House of Congress.

we would be satisfied with when nothing has been offered to us. What's the use, when we don't believe we will be permitted to retain even that which we now have, if the two Senators from New York, the Senators from Massachusetts, the Senator from Ohio, the two Senators from Illinois, the Senator from New Hampshire, the Senators from Maine and others, who are regarded as republican men, deny that under the constitution slaves are recognized as property. If we could believe they would go to their constituents and urge the ratification of proper amendments, we believe the Gulf States would suspend action; certainly so if the amendments could be ratified and carried out in good faith; that they will cease preaching the "irrepressible conflict," that they shall declare that slaves are property; that they shall be delivered up when fugitives; that abolition societies shall be abolished, and abolition presses suppressed; that abolition speeches no longer be made. * * * Stop within your borders flaming press, a public speaker who excite the people against us, and I say to those States you shall not—that is the word I choose to use and I represent a feeling of determination of the people I represent—I say you shall not permit me to go there to excite our citizens by making John Brown speeches and bringing strife within the limits of the State I represent; you shall not publish newspapers and pamphlets to excite the slaves to insurrection; you shall not publish newspapers and pamphlets to excite the non-slaveholder against the slaveholder. We will have peace, and if you don't offer it to us we'll quietly have our rights under the constitutional compact or withdraw from the Union and establish a government for ourselves.

Here we have the ultimatum. All Douglas and Republican presses are to be destroyed—all their orators to be forbidden to speak, on pain of imprisonment, stripes, or death. We showed long since that Forney's Press was included by the slave code Democrats among the "abolition John Brown" organs. Wigfall's proposition would require the destruction of every press in Oregon excepting the Breckinridge and Lane organs, and no speaker could oppose a "slave code" or slavery extension without endangering his life, as in Texas. We know that Iverson and Wigfall will be regarded by many Northern simpletons as "ultra" disunionists, who do not fairly represent their own party—but nevertheless it is true that the language of these Senators embodies the real grievances of the seceders and proposes the only terms on which these disunionists will agree to cease their crusades against the Federal Government. This kind of "compromise" would not be likely to be acceptable to anybody in Oregon, excepting perhaps some two or three dozen who follow the lead of such sheets as the Corvallis Union and Coon's Express. It's the only way in which they could get a circulation.

That's So.—The Corvallis Union will sometimes let the truth leak out. It has lately discovered that the Iterati of New England, which the Union calls the "brain of America," is anti-slavery, and that this "brain" has diffused anti-slavery sentiment through the great "American body." So, then, the party to which the Union belongs, is neither "brain" nor body, but another appendage entirely. That is just what we knew, but we didn't expect the Democrats would own up to it.

CENSUS OF CHILDREN IN OREGON CITY.—J. E. Harford, Esq., Recorder, has furnished us with an abstract of the census of the children of Oregon City, which he has just taken. It is as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Age Group and Count. Includes Under 4 years of age (74), Over 4 and under 21 (176), Total (250), Males (126), Females (124).

Last year, the census showed—under 4 years, 62; over 4 and under 21, 137;—males 98; females 101; total, 199. This shows a gain of 51 children within the past year.

Benton said that Howell Cobb was "all cob—corn all shelled off, sir—nothing but cob left." We know one or two men in this State whose names begin with Corn, who have become so blindly infatuated with slavery that they have little else than the cob left.

ACCIDENT TO THE RELIEF.—The steamer Relief, whilst descending the Willamette, a few miles below Albany, on Thursday of last week, had a crank broken and one of her cylinder heads stove in. She was towed down by the Onward on Sunday.

LADY FRANKLIN.—This lady, widow of the renowned Sir John Franklin, was a passenger on the Oregon last trip from San Francisco. She remained in Portland but a day or two, and proceeded on to Victoria.

COAL.—The Times says an excellent quality of coal has been found at a point on the Yakima river where it can be boated to the Columbia. It is found in abundance.

DEDICATION.—Archbishop Blanchet, of this city, assisted by Rev. Mr. O'Reilly, dedicated a new Catholic church at Corvallis, on last Sunday.

COURT.—The Circuit Court for Clackamas county will commence its spring term in this city on Monday week, March 4th, —Hon. A. E. Wait presiding.

CHANGE.—J. M. Shepherd has disposed of the Oregon Democrat to W. G. Haley, who will continue the publication of the paper. Mr. Haley is editor.

KANSAS.—We see by the late news that the bill for the admission of Kansas as a State has passed both Houses of Congress.

Col. Baker and the Pacific Railroad Bill.

The St. Louis correspondent of the Alta California, writing under date of Jan. 19, says: "It must have struck many of Col. Baker's friends as queer, when they read the brief report telegraphed from Washington of the motion to indefinitely postpone the Pacific Railroad bill in the Senate. The report said, 'Mr. Baker seconded it,' and so he did. From this, it would appear at first glance that he had betrayed the people of the Pacific Coast and was attempting to kill the measure nearest their hearts. Not so; several amendments had been offered, with a view, it was believed by the California delegation, to defeat the bill. After one of these for an extreme Northern route had been defeated, the Senator from Minnesota moved to indefinitely postpone the bill. This was a motion offered as an amendment to a motion to refer to a Select Committee. Mr. Latham had called on the friends of the Pacific Railroad to regard it as a test question, and when the motion to indefinitely postpone was taken, Col. Baker said he was willing to test the question whether the majority of the Senate was favorable to a Pacific Railroad bill in that way, and in order to bring the question to a vote, seconded the motion. He was asked what he meant by it, whereupon the following colloquy occurred, as reported in the Congressional Globe."

MR. BAKER—I want to bring it up; but I want to vote against the indefinite postponement.

MR. SIMMONS—I thought it singular that you should second a motion that you were going to vote against.

MR. BAKER—I think the gentleman for putting me right if I was wrong; but I thought it very clear what I meant. I only ask that there may be a direct vote taken upon the motion of the Senator from Minnesota, to postpone the bill indefinitely. If it be the pleasure of the Senate to kill the bill, let it be done, and let it perish in the face of day; but if there shall be a decided vote against that motion, and in favor of the bill, I ask, in common justice to the greatest measure that ever was before this Senate, that we shall go along calmly, deliberately, with as much discussion as may be desired, in the face of the whole Senate, and meet the direct proposition, by way of amendment, either affirmatively or negatively, and end the whole matter; and, sir, I ask that it may be ended in such time that, if there be amendments which shall ultimately pass the Senate, they may be passed in such way and at such a season that they may go to the Lower House with some chance of passage there.

Jo Lane and the Pacific Railroad Bill.

A Washington correspondent of the Alta California, speaking of the Pacific Railroad bill in the Senate, says:

"It will pass the Senate in some shape, but whether the amendments will be concurred in by the House or not, it is now impossible to say. With the exception of Joe Lane, the Senatorial delegation from the Pacific States, are doing all that in them lies to secure the passage of the bill as it came from the House. That collapse of demagogues, evidently actuated by the narrowest and most contemptible motives, generated by his defeat in Oregon, and as a candidate for Vice Presidency, is bitterly hostile to any measure in which Oregon and California are interested. He is uncompromisingly hostile to the Railroad bill, and the Oregon War D-ut bill, and is a loud-mouthed, ranting, fire-eating demagogue. I may add that he is very generally despised and laughed at all over the country, and his name has become a word which mothers teach the rising generation as the synonym of ignorance and political dishonesty."

INFORMATION WANTED.—Of Mrs. Ann Maria Flarity (widow) and her daughters, one the wife of Elias Wiley, one the wife of Valentine Brown, and another the wife of Chas. Galloway. They moved from Wisconsin to Oregon City eight or ten years ago. Address this office, or Elisha G. Peterson, Boston, Mass. Papers friendly to the cause of humanity, please notice.

PRICES RAISED.—We learn that the stevedores between Oregon and California have agreed upon the following prices of passage and freight: Passage in cabin, \$40; in steerage, \$20; freight, each way, for flour and grain, \$8 per ton; all other freight \$10. We will have three steamers a month.

THE SCOUNDREL.—It turns out that Floyd, late Buchanan's Secretary of War, has swindled the Government (with the aid of his confederates, Russell and Bailey) out of near \$4,000,000. The grand jury of the District of Columbia has indicted all of them.

OREGON ADVERTISER.—This is the title of a weekly paper issued from the office of the Daily Advertiser, Portland. It presents a very fair appearance, and the editorial and news department is managed with considerable ability. Ex-Gov. Curry is the editor-in-chief.

EXPORTS.—On her late trip to Victoria, the Oregon took away from Portland 9 packages eggs, 1480 sacks flour, 73 boxes apples, 17 bags onions, 1 barrel butter, 2,000 fruit trees, 66 head of cattle, 80 head of sheep, and 9 hogs.

PORTRAITS.—Lewis Day, Esq., is now taking some very nice pictures at his ambrotype and photographic gallery near the Temperance House.

CHANGE OF TIME.—The steamer Onward, Capt. Pease, now leaves Canemah on Monday and Thursday of each week, for Corvallis.

Read the notice of Ainsworth & Dierdorff in another column.

Resolutions of students of Bethel College next week.

LATER FROM THE EAST.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 18th.

All accounts agree that no reinforcements or supplies will be sent to Fort Sumter for the present, as they are not needed, and would produce irritation. Senator Davis has dictated and forwarded a letter to Gov. Pickens, which was written by another Senator, in which he supplicates them to abandon any policy which would involve hostilities. The Cabinet has determined against holding any inter-course with South Carolinians as ambassadors.

It is rumored, and apparently upon good authority, that Mr. Buchanan has assured the South, that while he can never recognize the de facto government of South Carolina, or any separate State seceding, it would not be inconsistent with his former position to recognize a government de facto, embracing three or more States combined.

Leut. Hall left to-day with instructions for Maj. Anderson. Their character has not transpired, but it is ascertained from a reliable source, that the troops will not be withdrawn from Fort Sumter, as demanded by the South Carolina authorities, and that the post will be defended.

The Crittenden resolutions were defeated to-day, in the Senate, by the adoption of Clark's (Senator from New Hampshire) amendment. It is stated that several Republican Senators voted for the latter because they knew the Democrats had the majority to defeat it. But Sibley, Benjamin, Wigfall, Hemphill, Johnson of Arkansas, and Iverson did not vote.

Camron moved immediately a reconsideration. Much excitement exists among Union men.

Secessionists are jubilant. Kennedy of Maryland, says his State is ready for civil war if the Republicans defeat Crittenden's amendment.

The vote in the Senate yesterday, on the Crittenden proposition, was immediately telegraphed south by the secessionists, who were greatly rejoiced at the result.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, by a vote of three Southerners against two Northerners, has decided not to report Mr. McIntyre's nomination for Collector of Charleston, to the Senate.

The visit of the New York Congressional delegation to the President is deferred, the Cabinet being in session to-day.

Breckinridge is not acting with the seceders, but with the leader States.

The representatives from five States, Georgia included, have now withdrawn from the Senate, and four States from the House.

The levee last night at the White House, was, for the first time, crowded with Republican members.

Douglas and Crittenden are preparing a new plan for adjustment.

Lamar telegraphs that there is great danger in Mississippi that the first false step will send it all to hell, and Johnson says that if ten leading mischief makers from the North and ten from the South could be hung, peace would be restored immediately.

Mr. Holt has written to Gov. Pickens that Anderson must have his mail matter—not occasionally, as expedient may suggest, but regularly, otherwise mail facilities, which are so expensive to the Government, will be withdrawn from the State.

The entire New York delegation will wait on the President to-morrow to tender him men and money, if needed, for securing the peace and dignity of the Union.

Although the Republican Senators voted against the Crittenden compromise, their chief objection was to that part which provides for the division of Territory which may hereafter be acquired.

A bill introduced in the Lower House of Congress by McKoon, repeals the laws making Charleston, Georgetown and Beaufort, S. C., ports of entry.

In the House on the 18th the principal business was the army appropriation bill, which called forth free discussion of the country. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Sherman said, let us see if there is no hope of peace and constitution, and if we cannot agree, let us fight; if we can agree, let us do it like men and not hurry on to destruction. If differences were not reconciled he saw nothing but civil war. He never would allow Fort Sumter to be surrendered at discretion. He gave his reasons why he could not vote for Crittenden's resolutions.

An amendment that no force be employed against seceding States was rejected and the bill passed.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21. Numerous applications continue to be made by Postmasters in seceding States, for supplies of postage stamps. Before the orders are filled, an affirmative response is necessary to the question whether they do now and will continue to hold themselves responsible to the Government, in conformity to the existing laws for the postal revenues received by them. The orders have been filled accordingly, the Postmasters following the example of the Charleston Postmaster. Thus far postal communications with the South continue uninterrupted.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 21. Gov. Pickens on Sunday sent a lot of provisions to Maj. Anderson, with his compliments. Maj. Anderson refused to accept them, but returned his thanks for the courtesy, saying, at the same time, that he would have to decline accepting anything until he knew what the Government at Washington intended to order.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 23. The dispatch received here from Washington this noon states suspicions have been excited in official circles relating to the manufacturing at Chicago, and elsewhere, in Massachusetts, of a battery of James' rifled cannon, for South Carolina, and believed to be designed for the reduction of Fort Sumter. Measures will be adopted to verify the facts and arrest the treasonable work. Bills are being prepared by the Military and Naval Committees and Ways and Means for immediately placing the country on a war footing. The President will be authorized to call for the enlistment of volunteers, and a considerable number of war steamers will be forthwith ordered to be constructed.

A dispatch from Fort Sumter says that the best understanding exists between Maj. Anderson and the South Carolina authorities, and there is no apprehension of immediate hostilities.

The friends of the Virginia Peace Propositions assign as a reason for pressing it

on the attention of the border States, that it will have the effect of preventing them in joining the cotton States, and if adopted by them will afford an opportunity for the latter to return to the Union.

Gov. Hicks of Maryland has appointed Commissioners to meet the Commissioners appointed by the Legislature of Virginia, in Washington on the Feb. 4th.

BATON ROUGE, Jan. 26. At ten minutes past ten o'clock this morning the vote on the ordinance of secession was taken, which resulted in 113 yeas to 17 nays. The Convention was adjourned to New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 26. Cannons are being fired, and the Peckan flag is everywhere unfurled. There is great excitement. Returns from Texas, thus far, indicate an overwhelming majority for immediate secession.

BOSTON, Jan. 27. In the State Senate, on Saturday, the Judiciary Committee were instructed to report a bill authorizing the endorsement by the State of National Treasury notes to the amount of the surplus revenue deposited with her in 1836 and 1837, amounting to \$1,300,000. The order was passed by a large majority.

The following items are from the special Washington dispatches of the Cincinnati papers:

I hear it said that Mr. Seward still confidently asserts that the slavery difficulties will be settled in thirty days.

It is stated to-day that an understanding has been had by Seward, Crittenden and Douglas upon the subject of existing troubles, and they think some compromise may yet be gotten through Congress.

It is rumored here that the ground of Seward's confidence and coolness is that Mr. Lincoln will in a few days issue a manifesto in which he is to give satisfaction both to North and South.

Messrs. Crittenden, Bigler, Douglas and others, called a meeting to-night, with Etheridge and other conservatives of the House to consider a new means of compromise just elaborated, of a highly important character. The proceedings are strictly private.

An officer of the navy, just from the South, says that all the States which have seceded, except South Carolina, are ready to come back upon reasonable concessions being made.

Russell and Bailey were indicted to-day by the Grand Jury. It is well understood that a true bill has been found against ex-Secretary Floyd.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28. The Union men are much encouraged by the prompt response to the invitation for Commissioners to meet here on Feb. 4th, and it is believed that its action will command the support of a large majority of Congress. The repeal of the Personal Liberty bill by Rhode Island, and the action of the Ohio Legislature, are hailed as harbingers of peace. Affairs wear a more hopeful appearance.

The Mayor of Washington has been summoned before the Special Committee, to testify relative to the conspiracy to seize the Capital. He privately says he knows nothing about it.

The Fugitive Slave law introduced by Mr. Douglas, is considered a thorough and effective measure, obviating the objections to the present statute.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29. Secretary Dix has issued orders that captains of revenue cutters shall not deliver up their vessels to rebels, but defend them to the last, and, if overpowered, to blow them up. He has also written to the Collector of New Orleans, to apply to the Governor of Louisiana to revoke the seizure of the Government Hospital, and the order removing 260 patients, Mr. Dix denouncing it as an act of outrageous barbarity, disgraceful to any age or country.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., Jan. 28th. It is now positively stated that Mr. Lincoln will depart for Washington on Feb. 11th. He will go hence via Lafayette to Indianapolis, where he will receive the hospitality of the Indiana Legislature;—thence he will proceed by way of Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, Buffalo, and Albany to Harrisburg, and thence direct to Baltimore and the Federal Capital; but the tour to New York and Philadelphia is not impossible.

Arrangements for special trains all the way through are being made. No military escort will be accepted. The entire journey is expected to be made in less than ten days.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 28.—P. M. The following intelligence from Washington, Jan. 27th, was received this noon: The rumor was rife here to-day that Gen. Scott had received new intelligence relative to designs on the Capital by secession invaders, which causes him much anxiety.

A telegraphic dispatch to Senators Crittenden and Powell says, the Legislature of Kentucky has appointed Jno. T. Bell, J. B. Clay, Mr. Gutrie, ex-Governor Moorehead and Wickliffe, commissioners, to proceed to Washington on the 4th of February.

The Grand Jury have made three presentments of ex-Secretary Floyd. First, for mal-administration in office; second, for complicity in the abstraction of bonds; and third, for conspiracy against the Government. It is expected that the indictments will be ready for the Jury to-morrow.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 29. Yesterday the President sent an important Message to Congress in reference to the proposition of the Virginia Legislature to hold a Convention at Washington on the 4th of Feb., and the mission of ex-President Tyler. The President thinks that this Convention may be the means of preventing difficulties, and he urges Congress not to pass laws which may bring on a conflict until the efforts of the Convention are tested. He says that his duty is to protect public property, and he will do so to the extent of his ability.

When Holt's confirmation was under consideration in executive session, Crittenden is said to have been very severe on the seceding States, and to have avowed the opinion that force used against the lawless citizens of any State is not coercion.

The Georgia secession ordinance passed on the 19th by a vote of 208 to 89. It will be signed almost unanimously.

The stop-of-war Brooklyn had no orders to cross the bar at Charleston, and returned to Norfolk. She afterwards put to sea, destination supposed to be Pennsylvania.

The reports of a mutiny in Fort Sumter are all false.