

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. VII. OREGON CITY, OREGON, FEBRUARY 22, 1862. No. 45.

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

How THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC IS SUPPLIED WITH BREAD.—The great army bakery, carried on in the exterior vaults of the Capitol, is an establishment of considerable interest.

He has employed about one hundred and seventy hands—a day squad and a night squad. They nearly all sleep in the building and are furnished their meals from an ample kitchen.

The bakery consumes one hundred and forty barrels of flour per day, and it is such flour as our citizens usually purchase for home consumption.

The N. Y. World says, by authority, that the stories concerning the immoderate conduct of Miss Slidell on board the Trent at the time her father was taken prisoner, and her stepping the face of one of the American officers, are untrue.

GEN. LANE OF KANSAS.—It is said that Gen. Jim Lane, now U. S. Senator from Kansas, is to be made Maj. General, and given command of an expedition in the West.

ENGLAND.—American dispatches were considered in council Jan. 9. The London Times understands that an answer will be made expressing gratification at the disavowal of Com. Wilkes' act.

THE WAR EXPENSES.—We are paying heavily to support the war, but, according to an article carefully prepared in the N. Y. Times, the increase of the public debt is far from being so rapid as has been commonly supposed.

Other journals advise a six or course. The Nashville (rebel steamer) remained at Southampton. The Government maintained the strictest neutrality toward her.

A STIFF PROCLAMATION.—Gen. Halleck, now commanding in Missouri, is letting the rebels know that he is in earnest.

The rebel forces in the southwestern counties of this State have robbed and plundered the peaceful non-combatant inhabitants, taking from them their clothing and means of subsistence.

MEXICO.—Advices say Mexico is making immense preparations to oppose the allies. Over 100,000 men will be in the field soon.

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REBEL ACCOUNT OF THE KILLED AT BELMONT.—The Memphis Appeal says, from the best information it can obtain, the Southern loss at the battle of Belmont was about 500 killed and wounded.

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THE BATTLE AT DRAINESVILLE.—The following account of the successful engagement of our troops with the rebels at Drainesville, Dec. 19, we copy from the N. Y. Herald:

"After the foragers had been set at work, Gen. Ord's command was proceeding along the Leesburg pike to Drainesville, some distance beyond. The advance had already entered the village, and the 'Buck-tails' were about to do so, when a rebel field battery of six guns was discovered unlimbering upon a road leading from Centerville into the Leesburg pike.

The 'Bucktail' Regiment, under Lieut. Col. Kane, was immediately directed to charge upon this thick-ct. It was gallantly done. The rebels reserved their fire until the 'Bucktails' were within about fifty yards; but the Pennsylvanians did not return the fire until they had approached about twenty yards nearer, when they delivered a stunning volley, which completely put to flight the party in the grove.

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was a haystack, where twelve of the 32d were stationed in command of Lieut. Saxe of Cincinnati. A company of cavalry surrounded and ordered Lieut. Saxe to surrender; his reply was 'never.'

The Indiana Regiment lost 13 in killed, had 13 wounded and 15 are missing, but it is thought some of the latter are mixed up with other Indiana Regiments.

GEN. McDOWELL ON THE BATTLE OF BELL RUN.—A Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Times gives the following account of a familiar conversation he had with Gen. McDowell:

After dinner, the General kindly showed me his plan of the battle of Bell Run, and all the papers connected with it. Although I had made up my mind long ago as to where the responsibility of our defeat rested, I was glad to see the positive proof that I was right.

HENRY WARD BEECHER ON MILITARY TRAINING.—"I would rather," said the speaker, "that my son should run the risk of being brought up in a camp than of being brought up in any large town."

SOMETHING MORE THAN A SHOWER.—Owing to the fact that Gen. Sherman has not seen fit to occupy Beaufort, or march on Savannah and Charleston, some of the Southern journals are inclined to look upon the expedition to South Carolina as "nothing but a shower after all."

THE N. Y. Tablet says with truth that "the severest blow which we can strike against England can be struck on the Potomac, and the bitterest reverse to establish in all its original fulness the authority of the United States from the Chesapeake to the Gulf of Mexico."

The Government has taken steps to obtain a supply of cottonseed from Port Royal, for the purpose of experimenting upon the growth of the staple in Illinois and other Western States.

Scuttling of Charleston Harbor by the Stone Fleet.

The N. Y. Herald of Jan. 1st contains correspondence from Port Royal to Dec. 21st. The following is an account of the operations of the stone fleet before Charleston:

At halfpast four this afternoon, the tide being nearly full, we crossed the bar and ran a hawser to the bark Theodosia of New London, which was to be the first victim, and towed her across the bar to the upper boat, on the left hand side of the channel.

"Aye, aye, sir," came back the reply; and the hawser was let go and roused in again on our deck in the twinkling of an eye.

We didn't wait for them, but hurried out to tow in another before dark. The first ship touched bottom, and the plug was drawn as the sun went down.

The Rebecca Simms was towed in and anchored at the other side of the channel, and the water soon filled her hold, and she sank slowly and in a dignified manner, rocking unasily, to be sure, as the water poured in, but going down with every rope and spar in place, as a brave man falls in battle, with his harness on.

The Cochontas towed in two during the evening. While we were at work the harbor was dotted with wheelboats, running from their respective ships to the Cahawba, carrying away their (officers' and crew's) baggage and the valuable sails and furniture of the ships.

SUCCESSING DAY'S WORK. We have towed in and scuttled four ships today, and the Cochontas has also towed in four, which have been sunk, and the channel is effectually blockaded.

I have frequently read of masts going by the board on ships at sea in a gale of wind, but never saw the deed performed till today. It is certainly worth witnessing, where you have not the accompaniments of a howling gale, a wild mountain sea and a groaning ship leaning at every joint beneath you.

The braces and shrouds on the weather side were cut by the sharp ax of the whaleman, fell together, with a loud crash, the sticks snapping like pipe-stems close to the deck, and striking the water like an avenged heath, bearing it into a foam, and throwing the spray high into the air.

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was heard on every side, and one after another ship became a mere hulk upon the waters. All were dismantled except the Robin Hood, which was spared for another purpose.

The scene presented in the harbor when the work was done was novel and interesting. Here were fifteen dismantled hulks, in every possible position, lying across the channel—some on their port, others on their larboard sides.

Commander Davis says that he was guided by several principles in choosing the place and manner for sinking the vessels, viz: first, the bar was selected because it is the principal and culminating point of the natural deposit in this line.

In the background were Morris Island, the brownish red walls of Sumter and the low walls of Moultrie, over which flew a rebel ensign large enough to wrap a ship in. One poor, miserable tugboat, constituting the rebel navy in these waters, and a small schooner, made up the moving objects in the background of the panorama.

After scuttling Charleston the war vessels returned to Beaufort.

The Earl of Shaftesbury, the noted English abolitionist, lately said to Thurlow Weed, in conversation on American affairs—"I, in common with almost every English statesman, sincerely desire the rupture of the American Union."

PORTLAND SOAP WORKS.—W. B. Mead & Co. are now permanently located in their new place of business, on Front St., opposite Mansfield's Auction Rooms.

OLD KENTUCKY.—It is a thrilling and most gratifying fact, says the Louisville Journal, that, in all of the many fights and skirmishes which have taken place in Kentucky, the Union troops, though in general very greatly outnumbered, have been signally victorious.

AN INCIDENT OF THE WAR.—On the 8th of November, 1860, the Federal flag was hauled down in South Carolina, and on the 8th of November, 1861, it was raised again by the Federal troops at Beaufort.

Brig.-Gen. Shields reached Washington Jan. 4, to accept the position tendered him by the Government. He was in fine health and spirits, and full of enthusiasm for the National cause.