



If any man attempts to hang down the American flag, shoot him on the spot! —Gen. Dix.

The Oregon Argus.

W. L. Adams, Editor.

OREGON CITY:
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1863.

The Greenback Swindle."

The storm that raged for a while, with all the fury of a "tempest in a teapot," ecked by the quill-driving Neptunes who inhabit the *ridges* of the "dirty pool of politics," over Mr. Rector's alleged "greenback swindle," has measurably died away. One may now safely venture on deck, to survey the turbid waters, count the pieces of wreck, and observe the bearings of the compass, without being in danger of having his hair blown off, or his eyes put out by lacrymal salt raining in great drops from the squatting perps of the indignant Neptunes aforesaid. Mr. Rector himself, we think, might now safely venture to look out on the turbid waters without danger of being turned into a "new grain discovery," from a too close proximity to the "feathered songsters of the sea," who in large groups have flapped their wings over the ship of State, and screamed their warnings into the captain's ears—"There is a greenback *Judas* aboard!" These treasure-vault vigilis seem now to have gone to roost, under the impression perhaps that they have "waked up the wrong passenger," without even the poor consolation afforded to the gross of classic memory, which is said to have waked up a Roman scolded by an opportune cocking. Their only title to an attribute in common with any chivalrous bird we remember to have read of, they vindicated in their *retreat*, as "Fama" is said to have done several thousand years ago—

Mobilis agit, vatesque arquiculae.
We have already published the correspondence between Mr. Rector and Ladd & Tilton, which settles the matter, so far as the statements of Messrs. Ladd & Tilton are concerned, that all the profits growing out of the transaction were made by the bankers alone, and not by Mr. Rector. If Mr. Rector had gone to San Francisco *empty*, and drawn the coin, at a cost of several hundred dollars out of his own pocket, close to whom he disbursed it would have said he had *dissipated* no more, no less. If he had explained to all contractors, employees, &c., that he had made a sacrifice himself in order to draw the coin, and asked them to divide the loss with him, they might have done it—but it would have risked a storm over his head and to quell. The jokers would have charged him with taking false vouchers, stealing, swindling, *pettyness*, &c., &c. If he had drawn the coin, and paid off contractors who took contracts *expecting to get paper*, and got in extra *pettyness* bills, the paper would have charged him with "conning" with contractors to swindle the Government, "as he had paid bills charging greenback paper, with gold." That those contracts were generally so made, we have no doubt, for we know from repeated conversations with Mr. Rector, only a few months ago, that he expected his drafts would all be paid in paper. As an honest man, he no doubt told contractors that they would be paid in coin if he got coin on his drafts, otherwise they would be paid in paper. We venture to say that *every contractor* put his bill *requesting* paper. What *honesty* would there have been in paying A a hundred dollars in gold for flour furnished, when A, expecting paper, had furnished only eighty dollars' worth, and called it a hundred?—Should the Superintendent pay him the hundred dollars in gold, thus cheating the Government out of twenty dollars, or should he buy greenbacks and credit the Government with the twenty dollars?—But the agents and other employees who have fixed salaries, ought, of course, to be paid in coin, if the Superintendent *lets* it. *Laughing*, if you can, the railings and censures poured on his devoted head, at every street corner and through the papers, in consequence of what would be termed the "villainous favoritism of a greenback swindler," if he should pay the agents in one kind of money and contractors in another.

We have read all that has been published about this matter, besides having received letters from different parts of the country, written before the charges were made public, and giving (as some of the writers thought) strong proof against Mr. Rector, but we have yet to see a particle of evidence from any source that would convince any sensible jury that Mr. Rector has acted dishonestly in this matter.—Whether he drove as good a bargain as he could with Ladd & Tilton in selling the drafts, is another matter—and whether he was bound to go himself, or employ an agent at his own expense, to collect the drafts at San Francisco, is another question. We believe that, when the Department sends drafts to disbursing agents, payable at San Francisco or New York city, it expects the disbursing officer to sell them here if he can. We speak what we know in saying that the Department some-

times sends out large drafts payable in New York city, which cannot be sold in Portland at all, and which can only be sold in San Francisco for legal tenders at a discount of ten per cent. on the draft.—The Government charges the disbursing agent the full amount of the draft—the discount he must lose himself. Perhaps this discount covers nearly or quite a quarter's salary. Who has any crocodile tears to shed over his loss? He must grin and bear it, while a contractor who loses five or ten dollars on greenbacks has a censorious crew of shrieking birds around his head sympathizing with him.

If Mr. Rector was guilty of any of the charges made against him, we would be the last to shield him or offer a word of defense. But we shall certainly treat him as well as we treated officials under Buchanan's administration. We have never yet condemned any man of any party without positive proof, and we hope we never shall. Mr. Rector's removal is of course based on other complaints than those to which we have been referring. These reasons have not been specifically communicated to us, but in justice to Mr. Rector we state that from all the information we have, nobody has ever cast any imputation on his character for honesty and integrity, that we know of, at Washington. It isn't every honest man who can manage the business of a difficult office entirely to the satisfaction of the Department, even if he has one of the best clerks in the State. Czaplak's Agent has effected nothing at Washington, though we believe he has been at the bottom of all the stink about the "greenback swindle."

Feels Disgraced.

The editor of the Dallas Mountainer complains bitterly of the Eugene Republican for trying to break down his character by coupling his name with that of Bush—The Mountainer, supposing that a pair of editors is writing for the Republican, says: "Just now this present pair of scoundrels are endeavoring to injure us by coupling our name with Bush." * * * The editor of the *disgraced* Mountainer and Czaplak's Agent have given up spelling *Czaplak* or *get* this year.

It has been evident for some time that the "most conservative" in Salem was trying to get into the good graces of Newell by copying now and then a quote from the Mountainer. The game that is being played we understand exactly, but sufficient for the present is the development made by Newell that in order to maintain a respectable standing among even the border-ruffian portion of the miners he must have it distinctly understood that he does not place himself on a level with such creatures as Bush by even speaking to them. The border-ruffians who infested Kansas with Malungeons and bowie knives and entered upon their career of robbing, stealing, murdering, and ravishing, were thought by many short-sighted people to constitute the lowest type of abandoned society—a great mistake, for thieves are said to have some idea of honor, and border-ruffians, with all their coarse brutality, generally claim a regard for humanity that revolts at accomplishing ends by resorting to falsehood, treachery, and a cowardly crawling on all fours. Few men, like the Salem "Malungeon," prefer a falsehood when the truth would answer just as well, wish to betray a benefactor when the sacrifice doesn't even promise to "pay," and choose to crawl on the belly when the goal can be reached just as speedily and safely by walking erect. The lower type of human depravity than is found among backwoods ruffians who rally to the standards of the Minutemen and Hares is only found among the Chinese and the type of New England Yankees who are known as "doughfaces." Southern men have always heartily despised these creatures, though willing to do all their bidding, because of their treachery, dishonesty, cowardice, and total ignorance of the meaning of honor. Senator Brown, of Mississippi, in speaking of these political Bush-whackers, called them "a long, lazy, thieving, Christless, and cowardly set of white niggers"—while Parson Brownlow, a leading clergyman in the Methodist Church, says they are "hypocrites, liars, thieves, Pharisees, doughfaces, slandurers, dandies, blue-faced sneaks, whiners, yellow-bellied Yankees, cut-throat adventurers, amalgamators, polygamists, wooden-lambs, wooden nutmeg, wooden pumpkin and wooden squash seed, wooden clock renderers; God-forsaken, conscience-seared, and hell-delivering wretches."

It is no wonder the Mountainer should take so much pains to have it understood that it has no sort of fellowship with such characters.

The federal tax, assumed by the State, is to be paid in gold—\$23,000. That is seven-eighths of our annual revenue. Our only tendency \$4,000 on \$4,439, of her State tax in greenbacks. If all the counties had some "some," how could the federal tax be paid?—Salem Statesman.

We presume you asked this question to the Soap-crackers who are supposed not to know that there were \$16,314.66 in coin in the State Treasury last September. Can't you study up some other difficult question for the Soap-crackers? Your old tweezers dilemma in which you got the President a while back might do. It ran about this way, we believe—"If the South went to war in order to establish slavery on a more firm basis, is it reasonable to suppose that they will lay down their arms, till they succeed in putting it on a more firm basis?" Most any Pike could see right through that.

That's so it—O'Meara it seems didn't buy out the Salem Statesman, as we apprehended he might. We hear he thought best not to take a paper which has lost all public confidence, but revive one which is not weighed down by such a load of public odium. He has revived the Albany Democrat, and dressed it up typographically in a very neat style. For this, his Salem collaborator gnashes at him with the teeth of envy, and calls him *him* "a clean-shorted humorist."

We are indebted to F. Chapman, Esq., for a copy of the Tribune Almanac for 1863. It is well filled with valuable statistics.

Details of Eastern News.

New York, Feb. 14.—The Tribune Washington dispatch says: One of the new iron-clad gunboats (the Camanche) is on shipboard en route for San Francisco to help defend the harbor.

The Navy Department will immediately order the construction of gunboats to receive the engines captured aboard the Princess Royal.

New York, Feb. 19.—The steamer North Star, from New Orleans Jan. 30th, has arrived. There is nothing new indicating Bank's programme. The rebels at Port Hudson continue fortifying.

It is reported that the local banks have combined against the Federal currency—Greenbacks two per cent. discount.

The news of the capture of the ship Morning Light, off Sabine Pass, show that assistance was sent from our fleet, but the rebels, seeing our gunboats coming, hurried the ship. It is not known whether she was defended.

New York, Feb. 19.—A Fort Clinch (Florida) letter of January 31st says: A fight took place on St. Mary's river, at Scrubby Bluff, between the rebel cavalry and three companies of South Carolina volunteers (colored). The rebels attempted to take the steamer John Adams, but were beaten off by the colored soldiers.

The New Orleans Picayune of February 1st states: Rio Grand advice of Jan. 24th say, the French have not evacuated Matamoras. Tamplie has been evacuated, but the port is still blockaded. A large number of mercantile vessels were at the mouth of the Rio Grand with cargoes for Matamoras.

Washington, Feb. 19.—The Ship Canal Bill was defeated in the House last night by ten majority.

Habers, Feb. 9.—The Europa from Jan. 24, and with Queenstown dates to the 5th, has arrived.

The Paris correspondent of the Times has reason to know that official instructions have been sent by the French Government to Washington, suggesting that Commissioners be delegated by the Federal Government and by the Southern States to meet on neutral ground and enter together, without territories having intervened, so that they may advise mutual concession and effect a reconciliation.

Nashville, Feb. 19.—Our forces cut red Indians Town, on the 14th. They captured two rebels, most of whom were Morgan's command. Many half officers were taken.

Fort Monroe, Feb. 19.—In reply to a demand for the release of Federal army officers, Col. Judson, the United States Commissioner, called attention to the fact all the officers captured before the 1st of December, 1862, the date of J. B. Davis' revolutionary proclamation, should be released. All other clerks, Government employees, etc., regular or bushwhacked, have been released with no record at all, to clear the name of the Fairhaven country.

Washington, Feb. 19.—The Senate yesterday passed a bill prohibiting the entire postal system of the country. It provides for the appointment of 40 Postmasters, with salaries of over \$1,000 a year, by the President, those with salaries under that amount, by the Postmaster General. All post offices are abolished. Dropped letters are to be charged two cents, and carriers paid a salary from the revenue instead of collecting a cent each letter. News papers may be delivered in subscribers in the city by the Postmaster by contract. A branch Post Office and depots are established.

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Washington, Feb. 19.—The Act of Congress, on the 26th ult., repealed the act exempting the owner of twenty negroes from the Conscription.

The House to-day passed with the concurrence of the bill reported from the Committee on Territories, a temporary government for the Territory of Montana, contiguous to Oregon and Washington Territory. The bill passed—\$6 to 10.

Washington, Feb. 13.—From the tenor of despatches by the last foreign steamer, it is thought that the feeling in regard to the American war had slightly improved, not only in England but in the Continent.

The Navy Department has information of the capture of the schooner Emma Tattle, flying the British flag, on the 27th off Charleston. The cargo was mostly contraband, consisting of a number of boxes of saltpetre. She purported to be from Nassau, bound for Baltimore; although, at the time of her capture, she was steering in a southerly direction.

A Court of Inquiry has been organized to inquire and report whether any and what officers in the service have been engaged, directly or indirectly, in traffic in cotton and other produce on the Mississippi or its tributaries. The Court will meet and organize at Cairo, and hold its sessions at such places as are most convenient.

The Senate Committee on Military Affairs report adversely on the House bill for raising a negro army of 150,000. The Committee claims that sufficient authority is given to enslave negroes without limit, by the act of July, 1862.

The Senate passed the bill to-day revising the statute of 1779—the one preventing correspondence with the enemy.—It imposes heavy penalties, in the shape of fine and imprisonment, for violation of the law.

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 13.—The joint session of the Legislature, for the election of a United States Senator, adjourned until the 14th instant, without having chosen a Senator.

The Senate last night passed Sherman's Bank bill by two majority. Its friends claim a much larger majority for it in the House.

Cairo, Feb. 13.—Memphis papers of the 11th state that the rebels advance in Mississippi is said to be at Okolona, trying to repair the railroad destroyed by Gen. Grant, but the inclemency of the weather delayed operations.

By the way of Tuscarora, it is reported that the enemy moved a large part of the army of Virginia to Vicksburg. They also captured 50 horses and destroyed nearly 300 stand of arms.

Chicago, Feb. 16.—The Illinois Legislature adjourned on Saturday. The resolutions, which passed the House some days since, failed in the Senate. Similar resolutions are still under consideration in

the Indiana, New Jersey, and Ohio legislatures.

Important changes in connection with the army of the Potomac have recently taken place. On the 5th of the present month, the 9th corps, under Gen. Smith, started for Fortress Monroe, its destination being North Carolina, where it is rumored, Burnside is to command.

The N. Y. Post of Wednesday speaks of an important movement in Hooker's camp, the results of which could not be damaging to the rebellion.

Thursday's N. Y. Times says it is reported that the left grand division of the army of the Potomac has received marching orders, and that it will soon embark on World War also knows nothing pertinent to the army of the Potomac recently effected a change of base under circumstances demanding the utmost secrecy.

The Times says, McClellan has applied for active service.

A Washington special dispatch says the Senate will take up the Conscription bill today, with the understanding it is to be referred to a committee.

A Key West letter gives the particular of the chase of the Florida by the Seminoles, the Bahama Banks. While the wind was light and the sea smooth, and the wind freshened, the Florida drew rapidly away, and, night coming on, was lost sight of.

Some disarrangement in the Seminoles' audience interfered in the rebels' favor.

The World says of operations at Vicksburg: It is reported that Gen. McArthur's division has moved up to lake Pontchartrain. The Army is in excellent condition, but suffered considerably from disease.

The Attorney General has decided that the Government is not liable for Floyd's appearance.

Fortress Monroe, Feb. 19.—A Manassas letter says: The rebels have captured the

Chesapeake Bay, and are now in the vicinity of the mouth of the James River, which is high water. They continue down on Tortuga Point until they reach Red river. It is deemed possible, with a little exertion and cleaning, to turn so much of the river into the new channel as navigable, leaving Vicksburg 100 miles to the eastward. Should success attend, we might expect to see half our army advancing in a fleet of transports to assist Banks at Port Hudson.

An officer of Grant's army reports forces in full strength around Vicksburg, and at work on the canal, making inferior headway. The new channel is far from water, and the current is rapidly increasing.

A report from Atlanta states that Gen. Jenkins, who defected before Charleston, has joined the rebels, and is now in command of the rebel batteries at Vicksburg. He is said to be a most efficient officer.

A Washington special dispatch says Gen. Butler has left in conference with the President, and is expected to get instructions to-day. It is also reported that the Judiciary Committee of the House will soon report a bill to protect Northern troops.

The weather in New Orleans was very bad. It was generally believed there that Gen. Butler would return, and that the Confederate army at Fredericksburg, passed through. It is known on Sunday evening, especially on their way to Charlotte. On Tuesday the main body of the rebels arrived along the railroad between Decatur and Atlanta and Fredericksburg. It is estimated that these forces number 40,000, and are in full march.

A special Washington dispatch says that Gen. Butler has been ordered to the Department of the Pacific. The President has appointed him to report at Washington at an early day. It is claimed that he desires the resignation of Cameron as Minister to Russia.

The Tribune's Washington special dispatch says: Important but vague news came through rebel channels that Banks had fought a battle seven miles below Port Hudson, the result of which was that the rebels fell back to Port Hudson, while Banks retired to his camp.

Confederacy Buoy.—The Military Committee of the Senate has introduced a new Conscription bill. All able-bodied citizens between the ages of 18 and 45, are liable to perform military duty when called on by the President, save only certain officials, who are required to remain at home for the support of their families or helpless children. These forces are divided into two classes: First, those between 18 and 30, and unmarried above 20. Second, all others, who are not to be called upon until the first is exhausted. Another bill, introduced in the Senate by Sumner, provides for the enrollment of all able-bodied blacks, between 18 and 45, who have been freed. To be organized, armed and mustered into service for the war. Their pay to be \$1 a month. Another section authorizes the voluntary enrollment of free blacks, between the ages of 18 and 35, with the same pay as white volunteers. The aggregate number enrolled not to exceed 500,000.

U. S. STAMP LAW.—On the first page will be found some decisions of Commissioner Boutwell relative to the Stamp Law, which will go into effect on this coast, and after to-morrow. It will be well for business men to be informed concerning the requirements of the law, and in order that this may be done, the Stamp Law has been printed on a card, thus making it a very convenient reference for every one. The card is for sale at Barrett's Book Store, Portland. Price 50 cents. Stamps can be obtained of Mr. Fleming in this city, who has them for sale.

CALIFORNIA LAW JOURNAL.—We receive regularly the "California Law Journal and Literary Review," a weekly publication, edited by Wm. H. R. Wood, author of the "California Digest." It contains the decisions of the Supreme Court of California, and also the decisions of the U. S. District Courts in that State. It is published in pamphlet form. Subscription price, \$1 per annum. Every lawyer we think should patronize the Journal.

SOMALY LAWS.—On the first page will be found some decisions of Commissioner Boutwell relative to the Somalies, which will go into effect on this coast, and after to-morrow. It will be well for business men to be informed concerning the requirements of the law, and in order that this may be done, the Somalies have been printed on a card, thus making it a very convenient reference for every one. The card is for sale at Barrett's Book Store, Portland. Price 50 cents. Stamps can be obtained of Mr. Fleming in this city, who has them for sale.

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