OREGON STATESMAN.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1859.

Antecedents.

The *Times*, in its elaborate effort at a defense of the conduct of our Delegate in Congress relative to the State admission bill, puts the "antecedents of Gen. Lane, so far as he has been acting in relations of trust to the people of this Territory," in issue, in rebuttal of the charge. It was not our wish or purpose to go beyond this matter of the non-admission, in commenting upon it. And we only do so, in following the *Times*. We fancy the anonymous editor of that paper must be a recent comer to our Territory, and unacquainted with men here, or he would hardly have appealed to the "antecedents" with the air of confidence and triumph which is evinced. We think our Delegate's prior "antecedents," in relation to Oregon politics and public affairs, taken as a whole, have enough to do to support themselves, without being summoned to prop up the admission business. And we submit that *all* of them do *not* tend to the disproval of the opinion that the State was not admitted at the last session of Congress, for the reason that Gen. Lane had doubts about his election as U. S. Senator.

Just prior to the election of 1857, Gen. Lane, as the nominee of the Democratic Territorial Convention for Delegate in Congress, in writing accepted the nomination, and added, "*I cordially endorse* the resolutions of this convention, as expressive of the principles and will of the Democracy of Oregon." During the canvass which followed, it was charged that Gen. Lane, to the opponents of the resolutions, *privately denounced portions of them in very emphatic terms*. Col. Kelly, in canvassing last spring, as a "national" nominee, against Mr. Grover, stated in his public speeches that Gen. Lane had to him, and to others, during the canvass of 1857, denounced some of those resolutions bitterly. And, we believe it is now conceded that he did then privately denounce them in repeated instances. In response to the convention, and before the Democratic party, he accepted them "cordially" and entire. If Gen. Lane did not endorse that Democratic platform, he should have refused the nomination *upon* it; if he did endorse it, as he declared to the convention, he should have said *endorse*, alike to opponent and supporter. A resolution, adopted by that convention of 1857, squints strongly at Gen. Lane's non committal characteristics, and tendencies to "keep with the hound and run with the hare," and could hardly have been considered complimentary by him. It was as follows, and was offered by Hon. Delazon Smith:

"*Resolved*, That in the judgment and expectation of each and every member of this convention, Gen. Lane, who has just received the unanimous nomination of this convention, will endorse and promptly stand upon the platform this day adopted, including the anti-Standard resolution, and that also declaring the obligation of Democrats to support the nominees of Democratic caucuses and conventions."

That was a most unusual resolution, and plainly implied a want of confidence that the nominee would "promptly stand upon the platform."

During the canvass last spring, 1858, a well remembered letter appeared over Gen. Lane's signature, giving direct endorsement to the *Standard* newspaper, in which letter a disposition to carry water on both shoulders, was most unmistakably evinced. The said letter was mostly unmeaning, referred to "Greece and Carthage," gave general evidence of not being the work of Gen. Lane's pen, and was, at the time of its appearance, alleged by his confidants not to have been written by him, but probably by some fledgling academic clerk in his employ. Whether his friends were right or wrong in this conjecture, it is sufficient that the letter bore Gen. Lane's signature, and was by him sent here for publication. That letter was most industriously used by the opposition during the canvass, was loudly read as, and claimed to be, an endorsement of the "nationals," and we, in common with those who had the best opportunities to observe its effect, believe it lost the Democratic cause and ticket hundreds of votes. And, at the same time, it is a well established fact that Gen. Lane had contributed not less than *seven hundred dollars* to the *Standard*. And the Democracy of Oregon last spring had to contend, not only against the damaging effects of his letter, but against the influence of hundreds of dollars contributed by him to the enemy. In pursuance of his duty as a democrat, and so far as injury to the regular Democratic organization and ticket of Oregon was concerned, he could just as legitimately and properly have secretly contributed to the support of the *Oregonian*, for it and the *Standard* were supporting one and the same ticket. It will not have been forgotten by the public that, as a natural consequence of this interest, this "material aid," and this kind recognition and quasi fellowship, the *Standard*, edited during the canvass by *Alonzo Leland*, cordially and constantly supported Gen. Lane, as did every "national" speaker upon the stump, while it and they unrelentingly opposed and vehemently denounced the Democratic organization, and every other member of it; while the question as to WHICH SIDE GEN. LANE WAS ON, *was one of the issues of the campaign*. Both parties alike claimed him, and both alike asserted that he was opposed to the other. In placing himself in, and occupying this equivocal position, or in suffering himself to be placed in this equivocal position, we aver that Gen. Lane did not exhibit the right kind of faith towards the democratic party and the democratic ticket. And, by such appliances as the above, securing to himself the personal support of a journal and a party hostile to the democracy, we aver that Gen. Lane furthered his own success, to the injury and peril of the democratic ticket and the democratic party. We treat of a matter fresh in the recollection of the democracy of the Territory— a matter of which there was during the last canvass a wide spread complaint. Every one engaged in the canvass, from highest to lowest, felt the heavy weight of Gen. Lane's equivocal *Standard* letter, and saw that, more than all others and all else, Gen. Lane's disputed position *between* the two parties, gave body, hope, spirit and strength to the "national" opposition. He was their principal stock-in trade; everywhere they talked about him, and their praises and pledges of support of Gen. Lane were as frequent and universal as their denunciation of all other democrats. At the convention, at Eugene, the only affirmative resolution they adopted was one laudatory of Gen. Lane, and in the legislature, in July, every one of them supported him for the U. S. Senate. To the country was presented the anomaly of two parties, widely apart, and most bitterly hostile, supporting one and the same man. We appeal to the democratic masses of Oregon if these things are not true? It may not be out of place to say here that the late conductor of the *Standard*, Mr. O'Meara, being a comparative stranger in Oregon, was perhaps deceived by a selfish band of ambitious soreheads, who hoped to use him for their own purposes, and whose real character and aims he has not unlikely discovered ere this. During the canvass Gen. Lane never, to our knowledge, denounced the "nationals," or the "national" party directly, and by name. *After* the election, *when the result was ascertained*, Gen. Lane denounced the *defeated* "nationals" in very decided terms! Before the election, and while the result was in doubt, he was in excellent position to fall upon which ever side won. If the Washington correspondent of *Forney's Press* does not do him injustice, this happy characteristic did not forsake him in some of the recent elections in the States. The said correspondent writes under date of "Washington, Nov. 4," as follows: "Gov. Jo. Lane is here, and *by no means sorry for the defeat of the administration in Indiana!*"

In 1855, Gen. Lane returned to Oregon just at the time of the meeting of the Democratic convention. He had left the States where the knownothings had carried everything, and surprised everybody by their successes, even in places where they were scarcely known to exist. In this Territory the democracy had fiercely fought them, and the convention adopted a resolution denouncing them. It will be recollected by the members of that convention, for we know not a few of them bitterly complained of it at the time, that Gen. Lane, in accepting the nomination, made a noncommittal, palavering talk, in the course of which he declared he "*really did not believe there was a knownothing in Oregon, and that he had no doubt they would all vote for him.*" The impression made on the minds of many of the members of the convention, was that Gen. Lane had fears that the strength of the knownothings in Oregon was much greater than the democrats apprehended, and was unwilling to oppose them. And, during the earlier part of the canvass of that year, it was a standing complaint that Gen. Lane, in his speeches, did not meet the issue with the knownothings!

Gen. Lane has, in Oregon, always cultivated outside supports, and kept hanging about the democratic organization as *his friends*—"*Lane men*"—a class of men who never voted for any other democrat, and whose influence was actively given to the disorganization and debauchment of the democratic party. He had for all alike, "God bless you," "our good friend," "you deserve well of your country," "true principles of the government," and he never seemed to care where the votes came from, and who lost them, if *he only got them*.

In 1856 Gen. Lane had Robert Thompson appointed postal agent for Oregon. Thompson was an honest man, but utterly unqualified for the post, and the people of Oregon, as a consequence, have suffered, are suffering and for three years longer must continue to suffer, sadly, for want of mail facilities. When Thompson was appointed, judge O. C. Pratt was supposed to be a rival of Gen. Lane; Thompson was a cordial hater and habitual denouncer of Pratt. In procuring his appointment, Gen. Lane not only did violence to the public sentiment of the country, but evinced a disregard of its interests. The wretched condition of our mails is a matter which almost every citizen of Oregon feels, and from which nearly all suffer. We candidly believe that by that appointment Gen. Lane inflicted more injury upon Oregon than all the Congressional service he has rendered from 1856 to 1859 will compensate for.

Prior to the election of U. S. Senators, in July, *both* Gov. Curry and Delazon Smith had, in turn, earnest assurance from Gen. Lane, that each was his preference for his colleague in the U. S. Senate.

In 1856 a law was passed by Congress by which our courts were disorganized, counties were deprived of grand juries, and the administration of justice most seriously restricted and embarrassed. Throughout the Territory these are facts which all have felt and witnessed. The law was the bantling of Humphrey Marshall, who declares that the Territories ought to be governed as Great Britain governs her colonies. It is a well established fact that Gen. Lane *was not aware of the passage of a bill having such an effect upon our courts, until he learned it from this Territory*—that on first being informed of it, he declared that no such law had been passed. It is our belief that there is not a county in Oregon which does not contain at least one citizen who, had he been Delegate, would have prevented the application to Oregon of that provision which has half ruined our courts, and cost the people of Oregon thousands of dollars annually. The injury this law has inflicted upon Oregon, we believe, more than counterbalances all the benefits derived from Gen. Lane's Congressional services, since its enactment.

The Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Oregon and Washington, confessedly managing the affairs of his department most ably and wisely, to the great advantage of the people, the government and the Indians; although the people of Oregon have unbounded confidence in him as said officer, has been reported to Gen. Lane as not zealously worshiping him, and as not preferring him to all others, and for all time, for public station. At the late session of Congress a provision was adopted, and not objected to by our Delegate, as shown by the journals, appointing a commissioner to examine into about $300,000 of just Indian Department claims, belonging to hundreds of our citizens. The consequence is that they have not yet been paid, and their payment will most likely be delayed a full year.

The land laws were, at the last session of Congress, nominally extended east of the Cascades; but practically they were not; for not a dollar was appropriated for surveys—there, or anywhere else, in Oregon. The Commissioner of the General Land office, from information received from the service in Oregon, recommended in his annual report an appropriation for surveys east of the Cascades; the Legislative Assembly memorialised Congress for such appropriation; the representative from Wasco county, in said Assembly, seconded the prayer of the memorial, in a letter transmitting it to our Delegate. Yet, the long session passed and no appropriation was made.

Latterly, all Gen. Lane's acts have unmistakably pointed to the building up of *a Lane party* here, regardless of everything else; until by his mouth-pieces—some of them imported *as* personal adherents—it is shamelessly avowed that the democrat who does not "swear by Lane,"—who does not favor his perpetual continuance in office, and at Washington—who dares to prefer any other democrat, or think that others can perform more service for, and reflect more fame upon the State, shall be proscribed. In pursuance of this spirit, a pitiful system of proscription has been in some instances already manifested here by parasitical followers. We believe that the successful formation of *any* mere personal party will sound the death knell of the Democratic party. Manworship and the support of principles and measures are incompatible.

But this article has already exceeded our limits, and we cannot further pursue the subject.

☞ There appears in the last *Times* an article signed "A Democrat," purporting to be an apology for the conduct of our Delegate respecting the non-admission of the State, and designed to be abusive of us. We are going to have no controversy with skulking anonymous falsifiers. This one is pretty certainly a member of the late legislature, and one who left that body with an unenviable reputation; and never entered it, or any other body, with any democracy. He says:

We all recollect that when a discussion arose in the Territory as to the course of a certain militia officer in disposing of the property that had come into his hands, Mr. Bush denounced every Democrat who did not approve his conduct as a disorganizer and an aider and abetter of the opposition.

Mr. Bush never did anything of the kind. There is not a word of truth in the above extract.

The balance of the article consists mostly in railing at the *Statesman* because the State government did not go into active operation from July last. That matter is thoroughly understood by the people of Oregon. They understand that it was utterly impossible to have set the State government in motion; and they understand too, that it would have been most foolish, unwise and expensive to have attempted the experiment. In the first place Congress would maintain the Territorial government at every hazard; in the next place, every Territorial judge in Oregon was of the opinion that the State government could not go into operation until admission took place, and would have set aside every act of any pretended State government; and in the third place, all but one, if not *all* of the State judges, were of the same opinion. In the face of all these obstructions, would'nt there have been an interesting time in setting up a bastard State government here? And would'nt it have been an interesting operation to have incurred a debt of twenty or thirty thousand dollars in an experiment of that character?

A FALSEHOOD.—We learn that Dryer is circulating the story—and has induced some of his toadies to repeat it—that he was assaulted and beaten by some ten or a dozen persons, at the time of his rencontre with Lasater. Dryer and his friends know this to be false, and no man of respectability will repeat it. Immediately after the fight, Dryer stated that some one—not Mr. Lasater—had kicked him as he was getting up, after his chastisement; and as soon as he got some one to believe *that* lie, he proceeded to enlarge, (like Falstaff, whom he resembles in the characteristics of cowardice, lying and boastfulness,) raising a man at a time, until, before he left here, he had it that seven or eight had kicked and beaten him. We presume that in another week the assaulting force will have increased, so as to include not only all the Democratic members of the Legislature, but every Democrat who was within twenty miles of the scene when it transpired. It is a wonderful thing Dryer didn't report that he was *struck by lightning*. The truth is, that the only interference was in behalf of Dryer, who begged piteously to have his antagonist taken off, and whose appeal was promptly responded to by *Democrats*, who restrained Mr. Lasater from inflicting further chastisement upon his prostrate foe. The idea of any body assisting Mr. L. is amusing. He might be turned into a ten acre field of *Dryers* and give him room enough to swing his arms, he'd "clean the lot."

MR. GROVER'S LETTER.—In another column will be found letters from Messrs. Grover and Smith. Mr. Grover's letter contains some precise information in regard to the Oregon Indian War Claims, of interest; it is the first real information respecting the measure we have seen, and the first that has been received in Oregon. From the language and tone of Mr. G.'s letter, we infer he is not entirely confident of the admission of the State, though he expresses "strong hopes" of it.

☞ We learn that Bro. Deihl tried to get the use of Dryer at one of his temperance lectures last week. He wanted to exhibit him, as an example of the awful effects of *punch on the head!*

FAILURES.—Two mercantile firms have recently failed in Portland, Oregon.

The Late Session of the Assembly.

Our last issue contained an announcement of the final adjournment of the Legislative Assembly, after midnight, Saturday. Taken altogether, it was the most profitless session ever held in Oregon. The Council disposed of all business before it, in due order, and with the accustomed readiness. In the House, the principal part of the session was exhausted in gab, and wrangle over sectional, party, personal and factious matters—matters in which the people had no interest, and which could not promote the public weal. Up to the beginning of a night session, held on the Saturday prior to the Saturday of adjournment, we think not more than eight or ten bills had been passed by that branch, though nearly a hundred had been introduced, and upwards of twenty received from the Council. From that time to the adjournment, one week, they were rushed through in hot haste, considered, and unconsidered. On the last night of the session, thousands of dollars of appropriation bills were passed; some meritorious bills were voted down without being considered, for there was not time for consideration As an illustration, early in the session a committee was appointed to revise the road laws, and before the holidays, they reported a long compilation thereof. That report lay upon upon the table, untouched, until the afternoon of the day of adjournment, when it was taken up, *read by title*, and passed, without examination or discussion. In the Council, it went through in the same manner, and there was time to get it through in no other. It is the law of the land, and it may prove to be a wise and good one; we hope it will. But, if it does, no thanks will be due the Assembly, for we think that body had very little idea what their committee had reported.

The most marked feature of the *animus* which actuated the House was endeavors to proscribe and punish the counties of Marion, Linn, and Polk, and the democracy thereof, and perhaps that of a few other smaller counties. This feeling and sentiment was so prominent that none failed to perceive it. It constituted really the only politics of the House. The same feeling affected the Council, but not in so great a degree. The opposition were actuated by their old prejudice of "Salem Clique," and the immense and troublesome democratic majorities Linn, Marion and Polk roll up, not to mention Coos, Curry and Wasco, which were likewise under the same ban. While there were some democrats, who evinced systematic unfriendliness to Marion, Linn and Polk, because the strudy democracy of those *sheet anchor counties*, were suspected of not being irrevocably wedded to Gen. Lane aspirations; and because the representatives and senators from those counties did not see fit to, *at an expense to the people of ten or fifteen thousand dollars*, engage in the folly of holding a September session of a *State* legislature, when there was *no* State, and not *certain* to be any, in pursuance of others understanding of the unconsidered and unmeaning ukase—"take no step backward." One of the "National" members declared in a speech in the House, that the so called "Lane men," pursued "anti-Lane democrats" with a malignity and vindictiveness which the opposition side of the House had never manifested towards democrats. The hostility of the opposition members to these central counties was natural enough, and expected; they cannot be supposed to regard with favor counties which have so often defeated their expectations, and foiled their hopes. But, it is surprising that democrats, upon differences as to persons, should enter into a most unjust crusade against their own brethren, and those upon whom only can they rely in the hour of adversity. *In these counties lies, in the main, the democratic strength of Oregon; and in them reside more than one-third of the inhabitants of Oregon.* This latter fact is worthy of the consideration of all, republicans, as well as democrats. Let us examine the figures:

The latest census returns we have for Oregon, show a population in the entire Territory, comprising nineteen counties, of 42,677. This same census returns an aggregate of population for the three counties of Polk, Linn, and Marion of 16,674. Those three counties show a total population of 16,674, while the remaining sixteen counties, return but 26,003. 14,226 constitutes one-third of the population of Oregon, and the three proscribed counties in the centre, have 16,674, or 2,448 more than one-third of the entire population of the whole Territory. These are figures from the record, and they are worthy of consideration by all parties. Now, let us look at the political complexion:

At the election last June, John Whiteaker, the democratic candidate for Governor, received 1138 majority in the entire Territory; and Marion, Linn and Polk gave him 985 of that majority. His majority in Marion county was the lowest on the ticket, owing to that county being the residence of his opponent, Gen. Barnum. If that had not been the case, Whiteaker would have received in these three counties not less than 1,050 majority. As it was, he obtained 985, and but 153, in all the balance of the Territory. The democracy of the counties of Coos, Curry and Umpqua, is certainly no more friendly to Gen. Lane's ambition than is that of Marion, Linn and Polk. And had the first named counties been represented in the Assembly this winter they would have been just as much the objects of feeling and proscription as were the last, and for precisely the same reasons. Umpqua, Coos and Curry gave Whiteaker 210 majority, which united to that obtained in the central counties, makes 1195 majority, more than he obtained in the Territory. Without the majorities of these counties a democratic Governor would not have been elected, and an opposition one would. These are facts worthy of the consideration of democrats, disposed to proscribe and punish the central counties, because, forsooth, the democracy thereof will exercise the right of freemen, and choose whom they like, and reject whom they disapprove. These counties, ever reliable and ever true, constitute the sheet anchor of the democratic party of Oregon. The opposition understand this, and hence their readiness to proscribe them. Democrats should as well understand it as they.

One more consideration, and we have done. It strikes us as exceedingly unwise for supporters of Gen. Lane to endeavor to *punish*, and *persecute* Marion, Linn and Polk, to say nothing of other counties, and democrats, sympathising with their democracy. Such conduct is illy judged friendship to Gen. Lane, and can certainly do that gentleman no good. If the democracy of these counties are not satisfied with the official conduct of Gen. Lane, they are not to be made so by proscription; men are not *persuaded* in that way. If the democracy of these counties are of the opinion that other democrats have a right to aspire to places of public honor, and that they have a right to support them, if they choose to do so, they will not be likely to be "*punished*" out of that opinion. If the democracy of these counties are impressed with the belief that there are others in the country who can represent them in the national councils with more ability and greater success, and see fit to act upon that belief, injustice and oppression for this opinion's sake will never change that impression, or stay that action. Human nature is not influenced in that way. As we understand it, the tendencies of such agencies are to opposite directions.

☞ Gen. Lane writes to the Jacksonville *Sentinel*—"I am opposed to the principle of double or constructive mileage." In view of the fact that Gen. Lane has drawn from the Treasury over twenty thousand dollars, for "constructive mileage," his "opposition to the principle" must certainly belong to that class easily overcome. "Constructive mileage" is mileage for *constructive* travel, or travel *never performed*. For the several years of 1852, 1854, 1856, and 1858, Gen. Lane drew mileage, amounting to a little over $5,000 for each of those years, for travel from Oregon to Washington. In neither of those years did Gen. Lane perform such travel. Thus, he has drawn over $20,000 "constructive mileage," in spite of his "opposition to the principle." We attach no censure to Gen. Lane, for drawing constructive mileage, as above. It was proper enough, and what any other man would have done under the same circumstances. And it is doubtless what every Oregon member of Congress will continue to do. But, after doing it, it is not necessary to write to the public press, expressing "opposition to the principle."

Gen. Lane also says "some persons in Oregon *who claim to be democrats* have charged that the failure of action upon the bill for the admission of Oregon was owing to my neglect," &c. This "who *claim* to be democrats," is decidedly cool, when we consider the *fact* that Gen. Lane *has never voted for a democrat in Oregon*, unless, perchance, he did so in 1849. Since that time we think he has never voted.

DIVORCES.—In our list of divorces, last week, we inserted the names of Mary Fogarty and William Fogarty. The nuptial knot in their case was not untied—only, we presume, for want of time. This reduces the number of divorces granted to thirty-two. Several of the parties divorced have already married again, and others are looking out for partners more "congenial" than their late ones.

We learn that several applications for divorces arrived here by Monday night's mail—just a litte too late to be acted upon by the Legislature. They were all, we understand, "meritorious cases." The practice of the Legislature, in granting divorces, in many cases, upon the most frivolous grounds, has the effect to cause many to separate who might otherwise adjust their differences, and live together, at least amicably. Applications for divorces become more numerous at each succeeding session of the Legislature; and, should there be another session of the Territorial Legislature, there will no doubt be twice the number of applications that there were this winter.

BRITISH AGGRESSION.—Recently the American steamship Washington, in the harbor of San Juan, Nicaragua, was boarded and searched by officers of the British war steamer Leopard, at the same time that two U. S. vessels of war were lying in the harbor. Flag-officer McIntosh of the U. S. ship Roanoke thereupon notified Capt. Aldham, of the Leopard, that he would not submit to a *repetition* of the insult. A correspondence ensued, the result of which was that the two commanders had an interview, organized a mutual admiration society, and finally separated in great good humor with themselves and with each other. The Washington *States* has the following well-merited *dig* at the pusillanimity displayed by the American Flag-officer:

DO IT AGAIN IF YOU DARE!—We have the authority of the Panama *Herald* for the statement, that Commodore McIntosh declares he will submit to *no more* such visits as the Washington received from the Leopard. Certainly not. Our Government is ever eager to chastise the next indignity. Commodore McIntosh would be unworthy of the service indeed, if he were not always prepared to repel future aggression.

The Legislative Assembly meets again at Salem on Monday January 3rd, agreeable to adjournment. The prospects are, that the balance of the session will be rather interesting to outsiders, if not particularly agreeable to the members. —*Oregonian, Jan. 1st.*

☞ The *close* of the session *was* rather "interesting to outsiders," though we fancy it was not "particularly agreeable" to at least *one* of the members, who was returned to his constituents in a slightly damaged condition.

OVER THE PLAINS.—Messrs. W. S. & J. S. Doak, request all persons who intend to cross the Plains the coming season to rendezvous at Salem, on the 1st Saturday of March, 1859. They are going to cross the Plains, and would like company.

ESTRAYS.—An amendment to the estray law, enacted at the late session of the legislature, will be found on our first page. It shortens the time for selling the estray after taking up, and the time in which the owner can recover after sale.

OVERLAND.—Our Saratoga "OCCASIONAL" writes an interesting letter.

[BY THE OVERLAND MAIL FROM ST. LOUIS.]

From an Occasional Correspondent.

SARATOGA SPRINGS, Dec. 13, 1858.

This is Sunday, and a disagreeable one out of doors at that. The snow is a foot deep, and still the great flakes are coming, drifting down the streets and sweeping round the corners, like an invading army in pursuit of foes. As I am not inclined to go tilting with the wintry hordes, I find it an excellent opportunity to pay my respects to the *Statesman*.

The first subject that comes looming up from the past is the departed Thanksgiving. Perhaps you, the editor, may have a faint recollection of the ceremonies, both of a devotional and midriff character, attending this particular day in New England; and having your mind on it, please be informed that New Yorkers have taken kindly to the custom of late years, and more especially to that part of it which pleases the nostrils and tickles the palate. Circumstances making it necessary for me to be in New York city on this appointed celebrating day, I was not a little astonished at beholding the masses so thankfully disposed. Business was generally suspended—excepting that particular branch which never suspends, or fails, or disappears from sight, but is ubiquitous as well as strong—very strong indeed. I refer of course, to the grog business in that modern Babel. In the forepart of the day, the bells rung merrily—no, bells are never merry save when some one's house is on fire—but they pealed solemnly to the devotionally inclined, to come and be thankful for all the blessings enjoyed by them the past year. In passing up Broadway to settle my own little account at St. Paul's, for what I had received since last settlement day, I observed that of the throngs passing up and down the street, few individuals entered the churches and many the drinking saloons, by mere force of habit, no doubt; not that they preferred brandy and lager to homilies. This mistake had however, an injurious tendency towards evening, for I noticed that many of the thoughtless ones experienced considerable difficulty in managing their legs; these appendages, like some of our fire-eating politicians, seemed determined to dissolve the union existing between themselves and the vital parts.

In the evening I paid Wallack's theater a visit, where after having been intensely squeezed and relieved of half a dollar, I found all the seats not already occupied, labeled "taken." Not feeling disposed to put the loyalty of my legs to the test, I left for my hotel without seeing the play, but being very certain of having caught a glimpse of an extensive elephant as I passed the ticket office. I doubt, as my Irish friend would say, but that a certain theater manager went into the wrong place that morning, and got his morals slightly mixed. If he had not, why should a sober man sell seats in his theater long after none were to be had.

While on the subject of New York city morality—one might find a less fruitful subject for criticism with little labor—I will mention, en passant, that the taxes of that pious place have been augmented only eighty-four per cent. in four years. In 1854, they amounted to $4,341,255, and this year $8,021,096. Surely, after making all due allowances for the natural increase in business and population, these figures would seem to indicate that theater managers are not the only class of Gothamites engaged in the exhibition of elephants to an admiring world.

The overland mail is carried very regularly semi-weekly, between St. Louis and San Francisco. Though located in the worst possible latitudes, so far as making it safe and expeditious are concerned, no accident has as yet befallen it, and the time made is excellent, when considered that the route is upwards of 2700 miles long. I was in hope that the present Congress would establish a mail to Oregon direct, but report now has it that Washington territory is to be the recipient of the favor. The Russian possessions should have been selected for the terminus, on the principle now in full vogue with our publicists and legislative sinners, that the more the people "pungle down" the less they take up.

A great excitement among the Jews in this country, has been occasioned by the surreptitious christening in Rome of a young scion of Isaac, the ancient house of Israel. The history of the transaction is given as follows: A Jewish family named Mortara, hired a nurse who was a christian and a good catholic, to take charge of the temporal welfare of their son. The nurse, feeling no doubt a lively interest in young Edgar's spiritual happiness, determined to do a little saving from damnation on her own responsibility, by having him baptised. This washing out of the natural stain, raised a rumpus among the chosen, from Rome to the uttermost bounds of the earth. But the thing was done—the little Edgar was a cleansed immortal and a Roman Catholic to boot, for better or for worse, as the case will be. Our own Consul was asked to interfere in behalf of the victim, but he answered that it was none of his affair to meddle with the Pope's government, so long as Americans are as well treated as other folk. The Pope's defence is that the Jews have no right (by law) to employ Christian servants, and if therefore he interfered at all, it would be to have the law more stringently enforced, which wouldn't much mend the matter as regards the Mortara's. The old proverb here is applicable, "When you are in Rome, do as the Romans do."

While on the sprinkling subject, I may as well refer to a recent occurrence in the hydropathic line, in one of our State Prisons, and the result of which, to my mundane comprehension at least, was of a more serious nature than making a Jew baby a christian. A refractory convict in the Auburn prison indulged in threatening with violence one of the keepers—no serious affair at most. For this bit of liberty of speech he was put into the shower bath and showered until three barrels of water gave out, when the outraged officials concluded to take the offender out and put on the yoke. But further precaution and further reformatory appliances proved to be unnecessary. The bath had done the clean thing, and been more merciful than the brutal keepers—the transgressor was found to be dead, having in his agony wrenched his hand free from its fastening and slipped from his seat leaving him hanging by his neck in the stock. If your Indians can match this cruelty, please name the modus operandi and I'll send it to the State prison inspectors for adoption.

A nice bit of diplomatic intricacy is brewing in the distance, how far distant no one as yet knows, though it is likely to come up at any moment. A few days since a fillibustering craft named the Susan gave a U. S. cutter the slip out of Mobile bay, said cutter running conveniently on a sand bank at the critical moment. From recent information it appears that the English fleet in the Gulf is on the qui vive for just such expeditions to Nicaragua, the supposed destination of the Susan's cargo. Now the chances are ten to one that they will be captured on the soil of Nicaragua or on the sea, and then the devil will be to pay—for who on earth can solve the Monroe doctrine riddle to the satisfaction of all concerned. Some body will be obliged to back down—creep out—surrender, or fight. But I am of the opinion that it isn't worth fighting for with all the new improvements in depopulating the earth in existence. But I'm not particular—as I don't intend to do more than militia duty, and hav'nt a red cent invested in U. S. stocks. PABLO.

Letter from Mr. Grover.

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C. Dec. 17, 1858.

EDITOR STATESMAN—*Dear Sir:* Congress has been in session nearly two weeks; you will get from the newspapers all that has been done.

The Oregon State bill has been subjected to a most scrutinizing discussion in the House committee on Territories, in whose hands it rested at the close of last session. The committee have held three meeting on the subject, and this morning came to a determination, by a vote of five to four, to report the Senate bill back to the House without amendment and with recommendation that it pass. The five who reported the bill in committee were democrats; of the four who opposed it, three were republicans and one knownothing. This may be an indication of the support and opposition which the measure will receive in the House, on final vote.

The republicans oppose us on the ground that our constitution does not admit negroes to citizenship and to the right of suffrage.

The committee will report the State bill at the earliest day that reports from the standing committees are called for; probably early next week. We have strong hopes of getting it through, if at all, before Christmas holidays.

The committee on military affairs in the House who had in charge our war bill last session had placed the matter in the hands of the chairman, Mr. Faulkner, to consider during the recess of Congress, and directed him to make report early this session of the results of his examination. Nothing has yet been done, further than the reference of the whole subject by Mr. Faulkner, to the office of the 3rd Auditor, with instructions to ascertain and report to the committee certain detailed results from the work of the commission and their report, the application of the established rules of the War Department to these results, and other matters involved, upon which the committee base their report to the House. The 3rd Auditor is now employed on this work, and will not get through for ten days or so.

The matter will probably be brought forward early after holidays.

The commissioner of the General Land Office has been urged to send out the patents to our land in Oregon. Some have gone. By next mail a large number will go. And there is promise that the country will soon be served in this particular.

The Portland case of Parrish et al, involving the right to the city front, will be called up in the Supreme Court to-morrow.

All the important cases of Oregon land titles are in course of preparation for final decision in the Department of the Interior.

By next mail I hope to send you much detailed information, of interest to Oregon.

Gen. Lane and Mr. Smith are both well, and looking after our affairs with zeal.

Yours most truly, L. F. GROVER.

Letter from Mr. Smith.

WASHINGTON D. C. Dec. 18 1858.

FRIEND BUSH—I have but a moment in which to say that we have encountered more opposition in the House to our admission than I had previously expected. Very many of the "Republicans" oppose our admission because we prohibit the residence of free negroes; and the knownothings oppose us because we allow aliens to vote. Of course it is none of their business; Congress will not undertake to make Constitutions for the States.

The Com. on Territories in the House, of which Mr. Stephens of Geo. is chairman will report the bill for the admission of Oregon on Monday next, the 20th inst. with a recommendation that it pass. It will—beyond reasonable doubt—pass the House by a handsome majority. From present indications we shall be able to inform you by next mail that Oregon is one of the sovereign States of this Union. To the securing of this result Gen. Lane, Mr. Grover and myself have devoted ourselves unceasingly ever since our arrival. In the mean time we do not forget or lose sight of other important Oregon interests.

Last evening Gen. Lane and myself dined with the President. Mr. Buchanan, every member of his Cabinet, a large majority of the Senators, and nearly all the citizens and strangers now in the city, heartily favor the admission of our State. Dr. Gwin, Senator from California, works for us with a will. He is devoted to our interests.

In haste, I am, respectfully yours,

DELAZON SMITH.

RE-BAPTISED.—The prospective paper, at Corvallis, first christened *Equal Rights*, has been renamed *Democratic Crisis*. Mr. T. H. B. Odeneal, "national," is announced as publisher. No name is given as editor; but it is rumored that Hall, of the defunct *Ox*, is to edit it, behind the curtain. The last name would indicate the mission to be to manufacture a new *crisis* in the democratic party. The softs and soreheads have annually had a *crisis* in our ranks for the last seven years. Popkins thinks, however, that the name was changed, because some wicked wag, taking advantage of the old name, circulated a report that it was to be a "Woman's rights" organ, and edited by some "strong minded" sister.

PROHIBITION.—The bill providing for the submission of the question of a prohibitory liquor law to a vote of the people, passed the House with little or no opposition, but was defeated in the Council. We presume that, "in pursuance of previous notice," the blacks will make this question an issue in the next canvass. The following, from the Concord (N. H.) *Patriot*, shows how the system has worked in other States, and how it would probably work here:

THE MAINE LAW.—The Boston Transcript says:

"Since the Maine Law was passed, hundreds of new dram shops have been opened here, and many of them are only closed from midnight to sunrise through the year. These nuisances are doing immense evil among the foreign population, and call for an earnest effort for their suppression, from every man who has the public interest at heart."

The same is true of New Hampshire; since the Maine Law was passed, liquor shops have doubled in number and intemperance has probably increased in proportion. No intelligent man, with his eyes open, can fail to see ample evidence of this in every large place in the State.

KANSAS.—The following paragraph from the Springfield (Mass.) *Republican*, the leading New England colored organ, probably contains the republican programme respecting Kansas and Oregon.

The Kansas question will not come up before this session of Congress, except in a proposition to amend the Oregon bill so as to give Kansas the same chance as that territory. It will be pushed to test the adhesion of Congress to the disability of the English bill, and is not unlikely to be adopted in the House. A portion of the free state men in Kansas desire to have the Leavenworth constitution, so called, pushed in Congress; but most of the republican members are even unfavorable to this. The Leavenworth movement was killed by the fact that the convention seemed more anxious to speculate in town lots than to get the territory into the Union as a free state.

☞ We understand that a person attempted to fell a tree on the steamer *Clinton* as she lay at the bank at some point above Corvallis. She had steam up and escaped before the tree was cut through. We cannot imagine why any one could perform such an act, unless he had a contract to deliver wood aboard, without the dimensions being specified.

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.— We learn that the blacks have called a Territorial convention, to meet at Salem, on the 21st of April next,—the day following the Democratic convention. We presume the object of the blacks, in holding their convention after ours, is that they may pick up some of our refuse material for Congressman.

STABBED.—Mr. Foster informs us that a quarrel between two men on the *Mountain Buck*, on her downward trip Thursday evening, resulted in the stabbing of one in the side. A rib was broken, but the extent of the injury was not known.

THE TREASURY.—There were ten thousand dollars in the Territorial treasury, at the time of the adjournment of the legislature; but a good many thousands have been drawn out since that time.

TAXES.—The Territorial tax was increased from one mill to one mill and three-fourths, by the late Legislature. County Commissioners are required by the act to levy that sum, the coming year.

DOCUMENTS.—The report of House Military committee, and Gen. Harney's letter, are in the hands of the Door Keeper of that body, of whom the members can obtain them.

CURRANT.—The *sanctum* returns thanks to Dr. Warren for a bottle of choice currant wine. We tried it first on a black-republican to make sure that the Dr. had not *pizened* it.

CROWDED.—A couple of columns of editorial matter is crowded out. We shall have more space, when we receive our new establishment.

DUCKS.—The *Statesman* is indebted to John Byrne for an "illegant par" of water fowls.

PORTLAND, Jan. 26, 1859.

ASAHEL BUSH, Esq.,—*Dear Sir:* Will you please to state in your next number that the publication of the *Democratic Standard* will be resumed on Wednesday, Feb. 2d, and oblige Yours respectfully,

JAS. O'MEARA.