The Oregon Statesman.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 1859.

POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY.

A few weeks since we published an article from the Washington *Union*, with an editorial reference in which we endeavored to embody what we conceived to be the true Democratic doctrine on the subject of popular sovereignty. Since that time we have had expressions of opinion from various portions of the State—from members of our own political party, and from members of opposing organizations—and, although the newspapers of the State, as far as they have ventured to give expression to their opinions, seem generally to dissent from the position we assumed, yet we have the satisfactory assurance that the Democratic masses of Oregon will unite with us in sustaining and advocating the extension of the democratic principle of popular sovereignty, and its application to the Territories, as a right to which both the letter and spirit of our institutions entitle them, equally with the sovereign States of our Confederacy.

For the views which we expressed in the former article upon this subject, we do not claim the merit of either novelty or originality. Similar views have long been entertained by a large and respectable portion of the Democratic party. The first fruit of the principle was the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, which, although far from embodying the present broad construction of the popular sovereignty doctrine, yet conceded to those Territories a privilege which they had not before enjoyed; and the later recognition, by the majority of all political parties, of the right of the people of all the Territories, to determine for themselves the nature of the institutions under which they will live, preparatory to admission into the Union, was another concession of that principle, though also to a limited extent. Popular sovereignty in the Territories was made the main issue in the campaign of last fall, in the State of Illinois; and the heartiness and unanimity with which the Democracy, not of that State alone, but of the Union, sustained the representatives of that principle, give evidence of its almost entire acceptance by the Democratic party. That the doctrine is not a new one, even in Oregon, is evinced by the hearty response with which the Democracy of the State greeted its avowal and advocacy in our columns.

It is not a reasonable objection to its soundness, that the doctrine is endorsed, to a greater or less extent, by a portion of the republican or other opposition parties. Such an objection only proceeds from artful demagogism, or from narrow-minded bigotry, and is unworthy a moment's consideration by any sensible person. On the contrary, we regard it as rather testimony in its favor, that opposing partisans have the intelligence to perceive and the independence to recognize the truth of the principle, though promulgated by their political adversaries. The question which should be asked, in order to determine the correctness of a principle, is not, whether it is advocated or opposed by this or that man, or this or that party, but whether it is founded upon reason and justice. If it will stand this test, it is established as a sound principle; and although circumstances may cause its suppression for a time, in the end it is certain of triumphant vindication.

But it is not true that the republicans, as a party, or any considerable portion of them, endorse the doctrine of popular sovereignty, in its comprehensive sense. As a party the republicans oppose this doctrine, except in particular cases where its practical application is likely to assist or strengthen their party. The vote in the U. S. House of Representatives on the bill for the admission of Oregon may be taken as a test of the republican sentiment in this respect; for Oregon presented a Constitution having the express sanction of her citizens, and in the adoption of which this principle was fairly illustrated. Out of ninety republicans who voted upon the admission of Oregon, only fourteen voted for it,—seventy-six voting against it, and many of them grounding their opposition to it on the extent to which the Oregonians had availed themselves of the right of popular sovereignty.

An established axiom of our political system is, that all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. The government of the United States is a limited one, and has no other powers but such as are delegated to it by the Constitution. (See Amendments to Constitution, Art. X, where all powers not *delegated* to Congress by the Constitution, are *reserved* to the States respectively, or to the people.) Where, then, did Congress get the power to establish governments for the Territories, and to appoint executive and judicial officers for them? Certainly not from the Constitution, for no such power is therein delegated. We have shown, in the former article, that the article of the Constitution which gave Congress "power to dispose of, and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory and other property belonging to the United States," merely conferred the power to dispose of and regulate the territory, as *property*—soil, or real estate—which Congress holds in trust for the States, and does not confer the right to govern that territory as a *province* or *provinces*. It is held by some that the powers to *dispose of* the territory implies also the power to govern it; but it should be borne in mind that by the terms of the Constitution, all powers not delegated are reserved to the States or to the people; and, even were this reservation wanting, by what strange process of reasoning can the terms which confer only the power over property be construed to *imply* also power over persons and their rights? It is an established rule of law, that although the rule which is made for the greater may sometimes imply the less, that which is made for the less can in no case imply or include the greater.

A wiseacre has (or rather imagined that he has) discovered that the doctrines contained in our former article upon this subject, are opposed to the principles laid down in Dred Scott decision; and he very sagely concludes, without any attempt to prove our doctrines incorrect, that *therefore* we must be wrong! We are always pleased to see due respect paid to the powers that be, from the supreme authority in the land to the lowest county official; but this fellow would have us degrade our respect into blind veneration, altogether unbefitting a man and a Democrat. We do not recognize the infallibility of any earthly authority, however high; nor will we admit that we are necessarily in the wrong, when we conscientiously differ from even such authority as chief justice Taney. But in this instance there is no such difference. Judge Taney, speaking of that portion of the Constitution which gives Congress the power to dispose of the territory, &c., says:

> It does not speak of *any* territory, nor of *Territories*, but uses language which, according to its legitimate meaning, points to a particular thing. The power is given in relation only to the territory of the United States—that is, to a territory then in existence, and then known or claimed as the Territory of the United States. It begins its enumeration of powers by that of disposing, in other words, making sale of the lands, or raising money from them, which, as we have already said, was the main object of the cession, and which is accordingly the first thing provided for in the article. It then gives the power which was necessarily associated with the disposition and sale of the lands—that is, the power of making needful rules and regulations respecting the territory. And whatever construction may now be given to these words, every one, we think, must admit that they are not the words usually employed by statesmen in giving supreme power of legislation. They are certainly very unlike the words used in the power granted to legislate over territory which the new Government might afterwards itself obtain by cession from a State, either for its seat of Government, or for forts, magazines, arsenals, dockyards and other needful buildings.
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> And the same power of making needful rules respecting the territory is, in precisely the same language, applied to the *other* property belonging to the United States—associating the power over the territory in this respect with the power over movable or personal property—that is, the ships, arms, and munitions of war, which then belonged in common to the State sovereignties.

And again:

> "The words 'needful rules and regulations' would seem, also, to have been cautiously used for some definite object. They are not the words usually employed by statesmen, when they mean to give the powers of sovereignty, or to establish a Government, or to authorize the establishment."

The above are, it is true, only detached sentences from the opinion of the chief justice—we have not room for more copious extracts—but they abundantly show that judge Taney did not believe the Constitution to confer any such powers as are now exercised by Congress over the Territories. To discover what his precise position was upon this point, the enquiring reader will peruse his opinion, (it has been extensively published, and is easily accessible) *in extenso*.

In this opinion of the chief justice a majority of the associates "fully concurred." Mr. justice Daniel said further:

> "Scarcely anything more illogical or extravagant can be imagined than the attempt to deduce from this provision in the Constitution a power to destroy or in any way impair the civil and political rights of the citizens of the United States, and much more so the power to establish inequalities amongst those citizens by creating privileges in one class of those citizens, and by the disfranchisement of other portions or classes, by degrading them from the position they previously occupied."

We have therefore the sanction of the Constitution, as officially expounded by the supreme judicial authority of the land, for the doctrines we hold upon the subject of popular sovereignty. Those doctrines are fast taking hold of the public sentiment, and their entire soundness is maintained by the first statesmen of the country. And no man, be he Democrat or Republican, from the north or from the south, can be elected President of these United States in 1860, who does not endorse them in their fullest extent. Let aspirants mark the public sentiment upon this subject, and "make a note on't."

THE JACKSON CO. SEAT OF GOVERNMENT VOTE.—The Eugene *Press* publishes the denials of Messrs. N. H. Lane and I. N. Smith on the above subject, but omits that of Secretary Harding, which explains the nature of the abstract sent to us by the auditor of Jackson Co., and referred to by Mr. Lane. It adds the following, which it asks us to publish; and we do so, although it has no claim to such courtesy, after omitting the explanatory letter of the Secretary:

> Our information from Col. Chapman and Mr. Brumley in regard to what I. N. Smith stated to them, is to this effect: that the Jackson county returns were received at the Quartermaster's Department, at Salem, by express, as the Auditor of Jackson county stated they were sent; they were received with an outside envelop, directed to the Quartermaster, General Drew, with the returns inside directed to B. F. Harding, Secretary of State: that Mr. Bush was present at the time they were received, and took them into his possession, saying he would give them to Mr. Harding, who was not present; that he (I. N. Smith) was present at the time they were received, acting as clerk in the Quartermaster's Department, and saw the returns given to Mr. Bush—saw Mr. Bush take them and have them. Of the above matter we have conversed several times with Messrs. Chapman and Brumley, who have assured us it could be proven that Mr. Smith had stated the above, by many witnesses beside themselves. The statement made by Mr. Nat. H. Lane, we received by Mr. Brumley, and we are informed by him that in one point, though not essentially different, we had misunderstood him—that Mr. Lane stated that Mr. Bush told him that he (Bush) had those returns in his office, and not that Lane had seen them there. Now, sir, we want the editor of the *Statesman* to press forward the threatened examination, and inform us who it is that he has proved in the lie about his having those returns.

We can't tell who is "proved in the lie," until we see what Messrs. Chapman and Brumley have to say. It may be the editor of the *Press*. At any rate, it is sufficient for us to have proved by the gentlemen first given as authority (Messrs. Lane and Smith) that the *Press* had given currency to a "lie" about us. They both aver that they never saw any official returns in our hands, or office, and never heard of any. If Mr. Brumley states that Mr. Lane referred to a *private abstract*, and *not* the official return, he may be correct. But if he states that Mr. Lane said that we had told him that we had, or ever saw the *official return*, designed for the Secretary and for canvass, (and we would like to know if that is what he does mean?) we have no doubt Mr. Lane will very soon contradict him. We never had or saw anything of the kind, never told any one we had, and we feel the utmost assurance that Mr. Lane never did. We don't know Mr. Brumley, but we do know N. H. Lane, and, we have full confidence in his veracity. *If* Mr. Brumley makes an issue of that kind with him, we think Mr. Lane will himself be heard.

As to the story about our "taking into possession" the returns to "give to Mr. Harding," there is not a word of truth in it. We never saw any returns from that County but the private abstract sent us, and those published in the *Sentinel*; the whole thing is a fabrication.—Messrs. Chapman and Brumley are charged by the *Press* as reporting from Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith says in his card that he has "never seen in the *Statesman* office, nor in our hands, or known us to have in our possession at any time, official returns from Jackson county or any other county." With Mr. Smith, and Messrs. Chapman and Brumley and the editor of the *Press*, we leave the question of veracity, merely remarking that *if* Messrs. Chapman and Brumley did tell the *Press* man what he details above, we have not the slightest doubt but that they could have ascertained that it commenced with a falsehood, had they desired to, by writing to Mr. Hoffman, the auditor of Jackson Co. We have no precise knowledge respecting the matter, but we are confident that he never enclosed the returns addressed to Mr. Harding in an envelope to Gen. Drew. The story bears the mark of a falsehood upon its face.

PUBLIC EXECUTIONS.

The object contemplated in the public execution of offenders capitally convicted, is the salutary effect supposed to be produced upon the morals of the community, by the example given of the just retribution which inevitably ensues upon the perpetration of crime. It was formerly believed that, as the penalty attached to capital offences is intended, not as a reparation for the evil done, but as a warning, to restrain from the commission of similar offences, the end in view could best be attained by making the punishment as public, and by investing it with as many factitious terrors as possible. To this consideration we owe the high scaffold, the coffin, the shroud, the black cap, and the various solemnities and ceremonies which accompany a public execution, and which were first employed, because they were deemed effective in inspiring the spectators with a wholesome dread of the consequences of crime, and a due respect for the authority and majesty of the law.

But experience has shown that public executions generally produce a directly opposite effect to that intended and desired. Those who attend them are generally influenced only by a morbid curiosity, stimulated by a depraved and unhealthy moral taste; and they regard an execution merely as they would any other extraordinary spectacle. They may perhaps experience a thrill of horror when the drop falls, and the unfortunate victim of offended justice struggles in his death-agonies; but the emotion is but a fleeting one, and rarely gives rise to salutary reflections upon the inevitable connection between crime and its punishment, and the certainty with which the one follows the other. Every other feeling and consideration is swallowed up in the novelty of the scene, and in the gratification of vitiated curiosity. Such exhibitions also tend to blunt the feelings, and to destroy that tender sensibility to human suffering, and that high estimation of the sacredness of human life, which belong to all undepraved minds. Satisfied of the pernicious and demoralizing tendencies of such exhibitions, many of the States have directed that executions within their respective jurisdictions shall be conducted privately; and the result has proved that the ends of justice are as fully subserved by private as by public executions, while the demoralizing influences which never fail to attend the latter, are avoided.

When a verdict of guilty has been found against an individual tried for a capital crime, the sentence of the court, which condemns him to suffer the extreme penalty of the law, and the certainty that that sentence will be rigorously carried into effect, are sufficient to be made public in order to fulfil the purpose contemplated in the law, which is to restrain others from the commission of like crimes. And the further exhibition of the culprit's dying agonies upon the gallows, serves no other purpose than to stimulate and minister to a perverted and unnatural taste for the horrible, which had much better remain ungratified.

We trust that the plan of private executions, which prevails in many of the Atlantic States, may be adopted here, and that never again in the State may be seen the exhibition which was witnessed in this place on the 2nd inst., when gray-haired old men and women, young mothers, and maidens, and children of tender years, mingled in the crowd, and jostled each other round the scaffold, to feast their unhealthy curiosity on the expiring struggles of the wretched Roe. Such an exhibition is of itself enough to condemn public executions, and to render them intolerably obnoxious to a moral and intelligent community.

POSTAGE.—In the Senate, on the 1st of March, an amendment offered by Mr. Yulee, raising the postage on letters for 1,000 miles or less, from three, to five cents, was added to the post-office bill, by a vote of 29 yeas to 28 nays. The bill failed through the disagreement of the House, which was strongly for cheap postage, and the postage remains at three cents. Of the Pacific delegation, Lane, of Oregon, voted for Yulee's amendment, and Broderick, of California, against it. Smith, of Oregon, and Gwin, of California, were absent, or did not vote.—There has always been a pressure at Washington in favor of making the post-office department self-supporting, by raising the rates of postage. We have ever regarded the scheme as founded in radical error and wrong. There is no more reason why the post-office department should be expected to be self-supporting, than there is that the Indian, war, or navy department should. Cheap postage is the most direct benefit which the mass of the American people derive from the general government; and it is essentially the peoples' measure.

☞ We have said that it was the custom of members of Congress and Placemen at Washington to *help one another*—that when in, it is *themselves against all outsiders*. In the last Washington Territory *Pioneer and Democrat* is a letter over Gen. Lane's signature, highly eulogistic of Gov. Stevens, the Delegate from that Territory, designed to aid that gentleman's re-nomination. With the praise of Gov. Stevens we do not propose to take issue; we regard him as a man of good abilities, a gentleman of education fitting him for Congress, an indefatigable worker, and efficient Delegate. But what we wish to refer to, is this practice of members of Congress endeavoring to *keep each other in office by certificates*. As though their constituents heard and knew nothing about their official standing and acts except what they themselves supplied them. They had all better let their record speak for them, and leave *newspaper puffs* to patent medicine advertisers.

☞ In the U. S. Senate, on the 22d and 23d of Feb., Mr. Smith of Oregon, made speeches upon the Kansas question. We do not find the full report, but the telegraph says they were "of some length." The question was introduced by Hale, of N. H., and lengthily debated. On the 23d, Mr. Clingman, of N. C., said:

"The Senate is now in debating society, and might as well discuss the question of 'Was Cæsar or Hannibal the greatest warrior?'"

WAR ON CHINA.—The miners in some of the northern counties in California commenced operations against the Chinese, with the intention of driving them from the mines, and, if possible, from the State.

☞ We are indebted to Mr. Geo. H. Jones, for a package of Eastern and California papers by the steamer Commodore; also to McCormick, & Levinson's Express, for similar favors, on the following day.

☞ Gov. McMullen, of Washington Territory, is trying to get a nomination for Congress from his district in Va. If they take him, they must be "hard up" for timber.

A "HULL GRIST" OF 'EM.—A Mr. Hawkins, wife, and *fourteen daughters* are reported among the arrivals in San Francisco by a recent steamer.

THE RISE AND FALL OF "NATIONALISM"—SPEECH OF DR. HENRY.

Dr. A. G. Henry, of Yamhill, one of the early fathers—perhaps *the* father—of the "National" faction in Oregon, stated some interesting facts connected therewith, in a recent speech at Lafayette. We quote from it, as follows:

> It is well known, more especially here in Yamhill county, that I bore a prominent part in bringing about the National organization, believing as I did, that the great principles of Republicanism were in danger of being lost sight of, in a party scramble for office and power. The first step in that direction was taken here in the spring of 1857, and the vote given at the June election following, proved conclusively that if Col. Kelly had yielded to the earnest solicitations of his friends and run against Gen. Lane for Delegate, that he would have been elected. It was well understood that Col. Kelly's reason for refusing to run was his conviction that Gen. Lane was opposed to the obnoxious resolutions of the Salem platform, and would at the proper time so declare himself. I believed this and voted for him in Portland, in June 1857; *and I was most fully confirmed in this opinion* by a personal interview I had with Gen'l Lane, the day after the election, when it was thought he had been run very close, if not actually defeated. On his way through Oregon City, he expressed himself more strongly to Col. Kelly than he had done to myself the day before; saying, among other things, that I "*was the first man to tell him the truth in relation to the public sentiment with regard to those resolutions.*"
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> This interview confirmed Col. Kelly in his policy of nominal adherence to the Democratic organization, and induced him to readily acquiesce in my suggestion, of having an opportunity afforded Gen. Lane for "setting himself right in the estimation of his old friends in Yamhill, and in other parts of the Territory." It was agreed, that I should propose to our friends in this County, the propriety of sending him a letter explaining their reasons for voting against him. I wrote to my friend Judge Olds, urging him to get up a letter of this sort, in which I expressed the confident opinion that Gen. Lane would not only thank them for it, but would return such an answer as would effectually annihilate the "Salem Clique," body and soul. The letter was written and signed by five of our most respected Democratic citizens, concluded in earnest, but most respectful language; men who have never in their lives cast other than a Democratic vote until that election.
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> Gen. Lane did not reply to the letter, for the simple reason, that those who for the time being assumed the control of his political action, did not deem it expedient to let him know anything about it, much less to read it.
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> That I do the kind-hearted old gentleman no injustice in thus placing him in the hands of keepers, the following statement made by his authorized spokesman and political guardian, Ethelbert C. Hibben, most conclusively proves:
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> The editor of the *Times* in an editorial written while Gen. Lane was on the eve of leaving Oregon for Washington, commenting upon the Yamhill letter, says—"*To this day he* (Gen. Lane) *has never seen the letter addressed to him by Messrs. Olds, Kinney & Co.* * * * *The manifesto arrived in Lane's absence, and was taken out by Capt. Mosher, his son-in-law, who* DISPOSED *of it*, [wonder if it wasn't sent to Mr. Bush?] *without ever having submitted it to Gen. Lane. Except what Gen. Lane may have ascertained from our review of the letter*, [it was sent to Hibben it seems,] *he knows nothing of one word it contains.*"
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> The answer of Gen. Lane to this letter, or rather the one made for him, satisfied even Col. Kelly that all hope of correcting the abuses complained of, "by working inside of the regular party organization," should be abandoned, and active steps were taken to form a Territorial organization on the Yamhill platform, and for the objects set forth in a series of articles written by myself, and published in the *Standard*, over the signature of "Democrat."
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> Until a short time previous to the meeting of the Eugene convention, I supposed that all hope of conciliating the support of Gen. Lane had been abandoned, although I was at a loss to account for the sudden and unexpected transfer of the *Standard* from the editorial control of Mr. Leland, into whose hands it had a short time previous been placed by an association of gentlemen, for the express purpose of preventing its falling into the hands of Mr. O'Meara, who was known to be a pro-slavery man. But the subsequent action of the Eugene convention solved the mystery. Their endorsement of Gen. Lane and Mr. Buchanan's Kansas policy, could not be accounted for on any other principle but on the supposition that Mr. O'Meara had privately shown letters from Gen. Lane expressing sympathy with their movement. This, gentlemen, was my understanding of the matter, and consequently I took no part in the canvass, except so far as to express my unqualified disapprobation of their action in a speech I made in Oregon City. How gentlemen composing that convention could screw up their consciences to the sticking point of adopting the following resolution, I was at a loss to determine:
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> *Resolved*, That we have full confidence in the *ability* of our *esteemed* Delegate in Congress, Hon. Joseph Lane—and that he merits the approbation of the Democracy of Oregon, for the untiring zeal and devotion he has manifested in his efforts to procure our admission into the Union, and secure the payment of our war debt.
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> It is not possible that they could have done it, until Gen. Lane had, through his quondam friend O'Meara, or some other source, pledged to them his countenance and support.

Above we have, among other things, the fact that *Kelly* instead of *Lawson* would have been the candidate in 1857, if Gen. Lane had stood firmly upon the democratic platform. Kelly was prepared to leave the democratic organization then, and only desisted under the expectation that Gen. Lane would *publicly* repudiate the democratic platform of that year.

Above, too, we have Gen. Lane's *soft* side upon the democratic platform of 1857—or the "obnoxious resolutions" contained in it. Below, we give an extract from Gen. Lane's letter of acceptance that year, containing his *hard* side upon those very "obnoxious resolutions." Gen. Lane wrote as follows:

> In accepting the nomination, I cordially endorse the resolutions of the Convention, as expressive of the principles and will of the democracy of Oregon, and while it is to be regretted that either any portion of the press or individuals claiming to be advocates of the principles, or members of the democratic party, should persist in a course inevitably leading to the violation of the "cherished usages of the party," the production of confusion and discord, and overthrow of all party organization indispensable to the maintainance of our political principles and measures, it is both the right and duty of the people, through their delegates in Convention, to condemn and repudiate the same whenever and wherever it may exist.

This language refers directly and entirely to what Dr. Henry styles the "obnoxious resolutions," and completely and "cordially" covers and endorses them. The letter of acceptance was pretty certainly written by Mr. Hibben, who had been at the Convention, witnessed the will and determination with which those resolutions were adopted, noticed the purport and intent of the resolution offered by Mr. Smith, endeavoring to place Gen. Lane on the platform, and the *meaning* of the delegates in adopting it—Mr. Hibben, just arrived in the country, had been a spectator of all this, and knew that the members of that Convention were not going to be satisfied with an evasive and doubtful position respecting the "obnoxious resolutions;" and Gen. Lane's letter of acceptance, quoted above, comes squarely up to their endorsement.

DRAMATIC READINGS.—M'lle Marie Duret's readings and recitations, given in this place on Saturday evening last, were attended by a respectable audience, and were received with evident satisfaction. Her recitations, particularly, were very good.

THE WAR DEBT.

The only item we find in the papers by this arrival concerning our war claims, is the following from the N. Y. *Herald's* Washington correspondence:

> THE WASHINGTON AND OREGON WAR DEBT.—The modest demand of some six or eight millions of dollars made upon the general government, to compensate the volunteers of Washington and Oregon Territories for the expenses incurred by them in making Indian forays, came before the House in the tenth week of the session, in the shape of a resolution directing the third Auditor of the Treasury to audit these accounts on a fair given basis (the same as for the army), and report to next Congress. As that course might possibly reduce the claims from 40 to 80 per cent., it was of course opposed by the delegates from those Territories, and others; but the House, nevertheless, thought the proposition fair and proper, and adopted the resolution.

A letter from Gen. Lane, published in the last Olympia (W. T.) *Pioneer*, expresses the opinion that the next Congress will pay the claims *as reported by the 3d Auditor*. It is as follows:

> You will see by the papers that the war debt has been placed in the hands of the third Auditor for adjustment. Next Congress will no doubt pay all that may by this second adjustment be found due.

This act will take effect as soon as the Governor receives official notice of our admission, and issues a proclamation calling the State organization into operation.

The Eugene *Press* publishes the bill passed at the July session of the Legislature, with the above comments. If it ever took effect, it was when the act passed providing for the admission of the State. We understand the validity of the bill is a question of doubt with lawyers—or, rather, that it is maintained by some (and all, for aught we know) of them, that it is without validity. Judge Boise is holding his courts under the law of the Territorial Assembly, passed last winter. Judge Deady, we understand, will do the same in his district.—The other two judges we presume will hold none until after the meeting of the legislature.

PORTLAND ELECTION.—The Democratic City ticket was chosen by majorities ranging from 150 to 250. Eight of the nine Councilmen chosen, were also upon the democratic ticket; for that office Shattuck, republican, beats McCarver, "national," thirteen votes.—That was the only successful name upon the opposition ticket. The *Standard* says:

> In the evening, bonfires were lighted about town, 100 guns were fired, a torch-light procession formed, and the large crowd paraded the principal streets of the city. After an hour's marching, they formed in front of the Metropolis Hotel, and were addressed by Messrs. Farrar, Page, Douthit, and Vansycle. The speaking over, the line formed again, and visits were paid some of the successful candidates, who were treated with pleasing serenades by the band.

The total number of votes polled was 675.

FAITH IN OUR FUTURE.—One of our patrons, who has taken the paper from the beginning, sent us $21, to be passed to his credit as a subscriber. He reasons that money just now is more essential to the paper's welfare than it will be after it shall have become older and possessed of more ample pecuniary resources. He has also great faith in the *permanence* of the *Advocate*, for he has now paid in advance seven years. This is an encouraging sign. Bro. ———, of ———, is the liberal subscriber alluded to.—*Advocate*.

It is a striking *coincidence* that the gentleman above referred to (we omit the name) took the *Statesman* "from the beginning" until less than a year ago, when it was discontinued "at the option of the editor," and never paid *anything for it*. He owes forty-seven dollars for subscription.

Gen. Lane is not striving to build up a personal party in Oregon. He will form no combination with any Senatorial candidate in order to secure his own or any other's election. He is clear of the accusation preferred in regard to our non-admission last year.—*Standard*.

This is a very happy way of disposing of "stubborn facts;" it is not exactly original, however. The plea of "not guilty" has before been resorted to, in cases where there was no other defense.

We don't believe the editor of the *Standard* feels as confident as he would like to in regard to his *apparently* confident assertion that "he will form no combination," &c. Has he read Hibben's officious letter in the last *Times*? Does he think Mr. H speaks without permission and command!

A WELL-INFORMED LEGISLATOR.—In the Illinois Legislature, last winter, Mr. Bane, from Adams county, offered a resolution that Senator Trumbull be instructed to vote for the admission of Oregon into the Union with her present Constitution. Mr. Peck, black republican, with a flourish, moved to amend the resolution, and make it read "*provided* said constitution *does not recognize involuntary servitude.*"

We have often heard the supposition thrown out that Mr. Bush, some time in his life, had held and advocated the abolition doctrine that Congress, under the provisions of the Constitution, had the power to abolish slavery as it exists under a local State form of government.—*Eugene Press.*

We have often heard *more* than "the supposition thrown out" that there was an unscrupulous black republican falsifier in Lane county, and in the above contemptible insinuation we have indubitable proof.

NEW DRESS.—We this week present the *Statesman* to its patrons, and the numerous class who always beg, borrow, or steal it, printed upon new material throughout. Not knowing when we should be able to get our power press in operation, we concluded to put the new type upon the hand press for the present. We think the typographical appearance of our paper is not excelled by any printed on the coast.

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION.—It will be seen that Gov. Whiteaker has called a special session of the Legislative Assembly, to commence Monday, May 16th. That is in very good time, and as early as is practicable. Special elections have also been ordered to fill vacancies in Linn, Yamhill and Clackamas Counties.

PEDESTRIANISM EXTRAORDINARY.—A man named James Kennovan lately performed, in San Francisco, the unparalled feat of walking four hundred miles in ninety-eight hours and twenty minutes.

☞ At the Democratic convention in Coos county, James Flanagan was unanimously elected delegate to the State convention, with power to appoint a substitute.

☞ Mr. Campbell advertises to "renew brass furniture." Dryer had better let him try his skill upon his *face*. Can *brass* soaked in whiskey be "renewed?"

☞ The President has removed judge Lecompte, of Kansas, and appointed John Pettit, of Indiana.

☞ Preparations for the construction of several brick stores in this place, are in active progress.

POLK DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

We have received the proceedings of the Polk county democratic convention, had last Saturday, but have not room for them in full this week. They will appear entire in our next.

J. W. Nesmith, Benj. Hayden, I. F. M. Butler, L. Heath and H. N. V. Holmes were chosen delegates to the State convention.

The subjoined resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the democracy of Polk county have an abiding faith in the principles of the democratic party of the Union; and that "measures, and not men," is their motto.

Resolved, That we are in favor of an economical administration of our State government, that we will repudiate any and all debts contracted by our legislature in excess of the fifty thousand dollars provided as the maximum in the constitution, and that we have full confidence in the honesty and integrity of our members of the Legislative Assembly, and believe they will exercise due diligence and resist all attempts at *Shartleizing* the government.

Resolved, That we as democrats will not aid in building up a personal party for any man, no matter what may be his present position or future prospects.

Resolved, That the recommendation to set the State government in operation before we had the sanction of Congressional authority, meets with our disapproval.

Resolved, That we are in favor of rotation in office, and a strict adherence to that doctrine should be required by the democratic party.

Resolved, That we repudiate the doctrine that the federal offices in Oregon belong to the persons who happen for the time being to be our representatives in Congress, and we insist that in making appointments the democratic party have the right to be heard by their recommendation, and that the recipients of office are not necessarily bound to an eternal personal fealty to the representative in Congress who happens to present their names to the President, for appointment, but to the party of which they are members.

Resolved, That we have full confidence in our much esteemed and worthy citizen, Gen. J. W. Nesmith, and highly endorse his course as Superintendent of Indian Affairs, for the zeal, energy and ability displayed in said office, for which he has been fully sustained by the department at Washington.

Resolved, That we extend the hand of fellowship to those nation democrats who acted against us at the last election who will unite with us in the support of our principles and nominations.

Resolved, That we as members of this convention pledge ourselves to support the nomination made to day and the nominations to be made at the democratic State convention to be held at Salem April 20th, 1859.

Resolved, That the delegates from this county be and are hereby instructed to use their influence to secure the nomination of Mr. Grover for Representative to Congress.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this convention be published in *The Oregon Statesman*, with a request that other democratic papers copy.

STATES' NEWS.

On the 27th of February, in Washington City, Hon. Daniel E. Sickles, of New York, M. C., killed Philip Barton Key, United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, for the seduction of his wife. Sickles had for some time been aware of an intimacy between Key and his wife, but he had unbounded confidence in the latter, and supposed that the intimacy was nothing more than an innocent flirtation. But indubitable evidence of the criminality of the parties having been laid before him, he proceeded to take summary vengeance upon the seducer, by shooting him. The affair has created great excitement in Washington City and elsewhere, on account of the high standing of the parties, and their extensive connexions.—Sickles is under arrest, having immediately given himself up for trial.

Congress adjourned at noon on Friday, 4th March, having failed to pass a Post Office Appropriation Bill, on account of which omission Postal affairs will perhaps be seriously interrupted. It is almost certain that the President will call an extra session, probably in the month of June. Until the Thirty-sixth Congress passes a Post Office Appropriatiation Bill, the contractors, route agents, and others in the service of the Department, must wait for their pay.—No new routes can be opened, and no existing routes can be renewed. The Department is making every effort to overcome these embarrassments, and a Cabinet Council has been called upon the subject.

An act was passed, extending the laws and judicial system of the United States to the State of Oregon, and providing for the appointment of a U. S. judge for Oregon. No appointment is yet made.

An act granting public lands to the several States which may provide colleges for the benefit of agricultural and mechanic arts, was vetoed by the President. Also, the resolutions providing for the deepening of the bar at the mouth of the Mississippi, and the bill for the improvement of St. Clair Flats.

The re-issue of the twenty millions treasury notes was provided for.

WASHINGTON, March 5.—The Senate met to-day at 12 o'clock, in Executive session, and confirmed various appointments by the President, as follows: John Hubbard, of Maine, as Boundary Commissioner; John Pettit, of Indiana, as Chief Justice of Kansas Territory; Bartholomew Fuller, of North Carolina, as Fifth Auditor of the Treasury; Robert S. Ould, District Attorney for the District of Columbia, in place of Philip Barton Key; M. Vanceave, U. S. District Attorney for Washington Territory; Andrew J. Thayer as District Attorney for Oregon; Robert McLane, of Maryland, as Minister to Mexico; Joseph Holt, the present Commissioner of Patents, as Postmaster General, in place of Governor Brown, deceased; G. W. Jones, formerly U. S. Senator from Iowa, as Minister to Bogota.

James Y. McDuffie, of Georgia, has been appointed by the President Superintendent of Indian Affairs for California.

G. W. Gholson, of Mississippi, has been appointed Governor of Washington Territory.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—The Senate to-day in executive session, ratified a number of treaties with the Indians of Oregon and Washington Territory.

The Cass-Herron treaty with New Granada was so amended that those who have not presented their claims against that government, may do so at any time before New Granada takes final action upon the treaty.

In the Senate, after the executive session, Vice President Breckinridge presented a memorial from numerous citizens of Nebraska, protesting against the annexation of a portion of their Territory to that of Kansas.

Postmaster General Brown died at his residence in this city this morning, of a very prevalent disease, which is variously styled quinsy, catarrh, and pneumonia. Governor Brown was a few months ago, apparently the most hale, hearty and vigorous member of the Cabinet.—His age was nearly sixty, but his habits of philosophic sobriety, regularity and good temper, preserved him in an admirable condition of body and content of mind.

TORONTO, (Canada) March 8.—The Colonial Parliament, now in session at this place, passed a resolution to-day petitioning the President of the United States to recommend to Congress the passage of an act to incorporate a company for the purpose of connecting America and England by a submarine telegraph via Greenland, Iceland and Fair Island.

VICKSBURG, March 7.—There was a heavy rain storm here yesterday, with a repetition of the sulphur shower, which we experienced a few days since, leaving the ground covered with a yellowish powder.

HOSTILE MEETING.—A duel was fought last evening at the Oaks, between Messrs. P. Canonge and E. Hiriot, gentleman connected with two city papers. Three rounds were fired with duelling pistols, at ten paces, but, fortunately, neither received any wound.—*N. O. Bulletin*.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTION.—The entire Republican State ticket has been elected in New Hampshire. The republicans have also elected the three members of Congress.

WASHINGTON, March 5.—The Interior Department has certified to the State of Iowa, 223,000 acres of land under the Congressional grant, for the benefit of Railroads in that State.

The Hon. E. A. Hannegan, formerly U. S. Senator from Indiana, and minister to Prussia, was found dead in his bed, on the morning of February 27th, at a hotel in St. Louis, where he has resided for the last two years.

WASHINGTON, March 2, 1859.—In the Senate, Mr. Pugh, of Ohio, moved to take up the Homestead bill, which was defeated by a vote of 26 to 29. The California Senators voted to take up. The Oregon Senators were absent, or did not vote.

ILLINOIS.—Great excitement prevailed at the Illinois capital. The democratic majority of the legislature passed an apportionment bill, which the republican Governor vetoed. His secretary when he brought in the veto was forcibly ejected from the floor. A democratic member snatched the obnoxious document from the page's hands, and threw it upon the floor. A republican placed it upon the speaker's desk. The speaker promptly knocked the document off, and the democratic member again took the paper up and deposited it in his pocket. Finally the republican members (all but three who it was said remained to move calls of the House, and protect the journals from being made a record of incorrect statements,) abandoned the capital, and left both houses without a quorum. As the Illinois legislature meets but once in two years, this unfortunate termination of the session will be very serious in its effects. The republicans alleged that the object of the apportionment bill was to elect a democrat to the U. S. Senate in place of Trumbull.

LETTER FROM DOUGLAS COUNTY.

ROSEBURG, OREGON, March 24th, 1859.

FRIEND BUSH—I observe by the last number of the *Arkansaw Traveler*, that the editor of that sheet takes exceptions to a letter which I addressed you some weeks ago, relative to the state of politics in our county. The old gentleman seems to be quite warmly enlisted in the cause of Gen. Lane, considering the position he occupied a little more than three years ago.—*Then*, he was supposed to be "*furnenst*" Lane and "*fur*" T'Vault; and as Lane's family and friends couldn't brook opposition to the General then any more than they can now, Mosher, who happened to be cognizant of one of the Col.'s little peccadilloes, resolved to make it the instrument of his punishment. So he persecuted him for *perjury*. The intensity of the Colonel's feelings upon his escape from conviction was such, that he never found vent for them until two or three weeks ago, when he inserted them *into* the *Traveler*, in a little paragraph commencing "There *air* times," &c.—While the trial was in progress, it was suggested by a member of the bar, that the indictment should have been headed "Territory of Oregon *vs.* W. G. T'Vault. Indictment for not supporting Jo. Lane." After the trial, the Col. indulged in some animadversions against his prosecutor, which resulted in hostile feelings between the parties, which subsisted, I believe, until quite recently, when Mosher, thinking the *Traveler's* influence might be useful to the Lane interest, opened negotiations with a view to a pacification. I am gratified to say that the result was highly satisfactory. The first interview between this *now* very cordial pair, is said to have been deeply affecting. The meeting of David and Jonathan, or of the Emperors Nap. and Aleck. at Tilsit, wasn't a circumstance. What happy concatenation of circumstances combined to produce this *entente cordiale*, of course *I* don't know. Do *you*?

I observe that the Col. don't take the trouble to dispute the *facts* which I stated in my letter, but contents himself with a few little paragraphs,—intended either to be very funny or very serious—written in his "usual happy and effective style." One of them might, perhaps, be tortured into a denial that "Burnett preferred Deady to Lane," last spring. So I'll just reiterate *that* statement again. Burnett *was* for Deady, at that time, in preference to anybody else; and for that reason, and no other, it was decreed at the land office at Winchester, that Burnett should not be elected to the Legislature,—and he wasn't.

At the same time, an attempt was made to extend the land office influence into Coos and Curry counties. By the advice and approval of the tenants of the land office, a Lane man was brought out against Tichenor, the regular democratic nominee, and anti-Lane. This man, who was merely a tool in the hands of Lane's friends, and who ran altogether upon the Lane issue, received just the opposition vote, and of course was not elected. The land office influence was not powerful enough to control the sturdy democracy of the coast.

If Lane's friends do not succeed in making the Democracy of Douglas county shoulder the General for life, it will not be for want of untiring exertion. The tenants of the land office, who depend upon Lane for their means of livelihood, show a lively appreciation of their obligations to him; and one or the other of them is generally traveling about the country, strengthening the weak and comforting the faithful in the cause of Jo. Lane. One of their strongest catches is, to awaken a feeling of county pride, on the ground that the General is a citizen of Douglas county; but it is well known that Lane considers Washington City as his home, and has no intention of residing in Douglas county, or anywhere else in Oregon, unless he is obliged to.

The *Traveler* wishes to know if "Douglas pretends to say that Gen'l Lane has no principles, or that he has violated the rules and regulations of the Democratic party?" I admit that Gen'l Lane has this advantage over the editor of the *Traveler*, that he has some principles, although he has a peculiar way of laying them very quietly to one side, when they are likely to prove troublesome, or to make a vote against him. I *do* say, however, that he has most assuredly violated the rules and regulations of the Democratic party, in procuring the appointment of grossly incompetent persons to responsible offices (of which we have an example in our own county), and in countenancing and encouraging bolters and disorganizers, and retaining them in office, contrary to the expressed will of the party.

Notwithstanding the combined influence of the *Traveler* and the land office, people in these parts are beginning to do their own thinking. The sentiment is fast gaining ground that Lane and his favorites have fattened long enough at the public crib, and that they ought to give place to others. DOUGLAS.

LETTER FROM WALLA WALLA.

FORT WALLA WALLA, March 23, 1859.

EDITOR STATESMAN—As there is quite an excitement in the Willamette valley about this Walla Walla country, and as many statements are made from honest convictions, and many, no doubt, from design, and as many have spent time and means in coming to see the Walla Walla valley, and as many more contemplate seeing it the coming summer, allow me to apprise all such in advance, that when they do see it, they will see an extensive plain, with a semi-occasional small stream, that sometimes affords water and sometimes don't. Some of those do afford *some* good land, but that same is so small a portion, when compared to the extensive range of waste land in the intermediate country between these small streams, that it is impracticable for farming to any reasonable extent.—Across this valley from the 46th parallel N. to Snake river, the distance is about 55 miles, the Military trail passing through the very best portion of the valley, and in this distance you pass over eight miles of as good farming land as is on this coast. Say nothing about the entire absence of good timber for fencing, or building purposes, or even wood of a respectable quality or reasonable quantity, I have summed up the extent of settlements that can be made in this valley—and I have seen it all from the mouth to the source, or as near the source as can be got for snow—and I make the number of settlements 150, all told, and those in such detached settlements as to forbid the idea of schools, or any social influences for civil or religious purposes. The present geographical limits of the Walla Walla country are from the 46th parallel to mouth of Snake river, thence up the main channel east to the summit of Blue Mountains, thence south to 46th parallel, thence west to middle of Columbia, giving an area of some 2,800 square miles, and one hundred and fifty settlements, pre-emption settlements—I don't mean such pre-emptions as ——— ——— has taken, a farm of some two hundred acres near Fort Walla Walla, another on Dry Creek of as many thousand, with another fractional part on Tum-a-lum, on which he expects to seed three hundred acres oats, nor yet ——— pre-emption, embracing already several hundred acres now in process of cultivation, neither do I mean such pre-emptions as ———. This claim is like ———, and ——— is like the tetterworm, spreads all over the valley, or a distance of ten miles from the extremes. But I mean legal pre-emption claims of 160 acres each, which will embrace all the lands susceptible of cultivation lying in bodies sufficiently large to justify. This gives an insignificant fraction to the area; the remaining portion is well adapted to grazing, and nothing else.

The winter here has been cold, with occasional snow, but not to remain long enough to injure stock; spring backward; farmers not done seeding; stock looks well; beef on foot 12c., in market 20@25c; flour is worth $20 50 to get it here, and every one who could, tried to get rich by the flour trade this winter, and glutted the market for the next two months.

I wish you would see Nesmith and talk to him about the common practice of selling whiskey to Indians, and giving *cultus pot-laches* to squaws. This is all wrong, decidedly wrong, and the very best way to remedy the matter is, to say to the Col., just give Cain, Indian Agent here, instructions to buy all of Massey's flour, and let the old fellow come home, get away