

OREGON FREE PRESS.

FOR THE

VOL. I.)

WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1848.

(NO. 25.)

"Here shall the Press the people's rights maintain, Unawed by influence, and unbribed by gain."

TERMS OF THE "FREE PRESS."

One copy, per annum, (in advance,) three dollars and fifty cents, cash—for six months, two dollars.

ADVERTISING.—Each square, (12 lines or less,) first insertion, two dollars—each subsequent insertion, one dollar. A reasonable deduction made on yearly advertisements.

Currency and produce taken at their cash value.

PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRACY.

The news from Europe shows that the political world is eminently "progressive," at this moment. The cause of freedom is advancing with rapid strides, not in France only, but throughout Europe. The Provisional Government of the French has adopted proper measures for the formation of a Republican Government under wise guaranties' by which the right of the people to govern themselves will be duly admitted and secured. Under the "regime," just overthrown, the placemen outnumbered the electors, and it was literally true, that corruption was the principal engine by which the Orleans dynasty was so long upheld. The Guizot Ministry had contrived to control the 500,000 electors, or rather a majority of them, by distributing offices and contracts among them, and by open bribery. The trial of TESTE and others opened the eyes of the people to the depth in corruption to which the Ministers had descended. Of the 34,000,000 of inhabitants, upwards of 27,000,000 had no political rights whatever. The communes throughout the kingdom were subject to the arbitrary control of the Prefects and sub-Prefects, and thus even municipal legislation, confined by the laws to a limited and unimportant range of topics, was virtually an empty form even within its legal and narrow sphere of action. About 500,000 electors alone exercised the right of suffrage, and more than one million persons were clothed with office—the placemen of the crown outnumbering the voters. The pauper list contained over 1,800,000 names. Paris was surrounded with triple fortifications, and by the law of conscription, about one-third of the young men on arriving at the age of twenty-one, were enrolled in the army for a term of years. Force and corruption were the two levers with which LOUIS PHILIPPE sought to control France. Yet in how few hours was all of his carefully constructed fabric of Power leveled to the earth! A more potent instrument than bristling bayonets, countless cannon, huge fortifications and tempting bribes, was working a mighty change—an instrument of power in modern civilization and in free States which is yet to revolutionize the world: we mean concentrated public opinion.

Wherever the mind turns at this hour, all is hope. The age is "progressive"—the people advancing,

"Progressive Democracy" is doing its work, and who will now, in the face of enlightened public sentiment, deride the "progressive" spirit of the Democratic faith.

But we are not to overlook another important fact in this great work: we mean the influence of American triumphs on the battle field, as well as in peace. The United States have demonstrated that the people, springing suddenly to arms, are able to conquer long trained and well disciplined legions—that the masses issuing from their work-shops and farms, need no longer fear the serried ranks of standing armies. As the news of our triumphs in Mexico has spread over Europe, the most profound sensation has been produced, leading to wide spread discussions of the peculiar character and efficiency of our militia system, which at the first call, offers more than three hundred thousand volunteers for the conflict, turning peaceful citizens into the most effective soldiers. Gradually the people of Europe have learned, that there was no peculiar mode of tactics or of discipline, or of military education necessary for such results—that the masses have the power every where, by voluntary organization, to triumph over all regular armies. In a word, our recent victories have taught the people of Europe their own power, whether opposed to foreign invasion, or internal oppression.

Every true American must rejoice at the progressive character of the age, and at its Democratic tendencies. He must hail with joy the spirit which is now abroad, promising the happiest results for down trodden-humanity, and be encouraged to persevere in the great work of human advancement and elevation. (Ex. paper.)

THIS IS LIFE.—If we die to-day, the birds will sing as sweetly, and the sun shine as pleasantly to-morrow. Business will not be suspended for a moment, and the great mass will not bestow a thought to our memories. 'Is he dead?' will be the solemn inquiry of a few, as they pass to their pleasure or their work. But no one will miss us except our immediate connexions, and in a short time they even will forget us, and laugh as merrily as when we sat beside them.

Thus shall we all, now active in life, pass away. Our children crowd close behind us, and they will soon be gone. In a few years not a living being can say, I remember him. We did business in another age, and our companions have long since slumbered in the tomb. Thus is life. How it passes; O, blessed are they who are held in everlasting remembrance.

DIALOGUE IN A BOARDING HOUSE.—"Mr. Squib, is your tea strong enough?" "Not quite, madam; the butter is, however."