



OREGON

One of the most enduring monuments of the lack of wisdom among the statesmen of this age, I think will be the history of the Oregon dispute between Great Britain and the United States. It is a history which is especially disgraceful, because the means are abundant from which better results might have been elicited. Only think, for a moment of the enormity of the doctrine adopted as gospel by both the parties in this dispute, that a country already inhabited belongs to a foreign nation which shall first discover it, or because the discoverers understand the uses of rum and tobacco and certain other accomplishments of civilization; which the natives do not. Think first of the absurdity, and then of the villainy, of such a doctrine. The country is already inhabited, and any one people have a right to own it, and do as they like with their own, any one but a rogue or an idiot would say it should be the people in possession. But no. Our diplomatists proceeded to discuss their respective claims as if there were no such third party in existence! This absurdity and iniquity combined, that will do more all the prominent actors in it to an unenviable notoriety in the history of the times.

Have a few natives, then, scattered over a large territory, a right to exclude all comers? Certainly not. There is no such thing as a necessary for their use, others have a right to occupy it. Must they buy it of the natives? No: because if the natives had a right to sell it they would have right to exclude others from it, and hold it useless while people were starving for want of it; and if new comers had a right to buy it, they would have such a right of exclusion. What, then, is the right? It must be what would produce good results if it were universally recognized. What says common sense? Why simply this: that the inhabitants of a country have a right to be indemnified to make the land fertile, to improve its subsistence, and for other comers, to buy it of them, to the same right, to long as there is land enough in the country, and not till they have the right to exclude others.

But the natives want to hunt and fish, and the new comers want to cultivate. There is no difficulty here. The new comers want less ground than they would otherwise, and they have a right to take what is necessary for their use, where the natives have no protection, and no more. The rest belongs, under the same rigorous restriction, to after comers.

But say, you there must be government, and the hunting tribes and the cultivators must come under one government. If the cultivators found a government to maintain equal right to the soil, and all other equal rights, it will at least afford no ground of hostility, for a mutual interchange of products will be desired, and if no land is taken but for use, encroachments on hunting grounds will be so slow as not to be felt. I have no doubt, however, that if land monopoly were practiced, native races would become cultivators of the soil.

Apply these principles to the Oregon dispute, and they bring out these results: that the governments of France or Russia have as much right over the disputed territory as those of the United States or Great Britain. The people of any of them have a right to go there; but none of them have a right to do wrong after they get there. They have no right to rob, murder, to make slaves of each other. They have no right to sell the land, for nobody has a right to sell it to them. They have no right to take land. Stealing land is taking more than is necessary for use to the exclusion of others. They have a right to form a government to secure these Equal Rights, but they have no right to form a government to violate them. Any government has a right to assist the people of Oregon in establishing a Republican government, but no government has a right to impose on them, or to take them to them, any other sort of government. If they desire the production and assistance of the United States, then it becomes a question whether it is our duty to protect men who have strolled off to such a distance? If they have gone to get land, which through our bad regulations was denied them here, they certainly have some claim of protection from us, should Great Britain, or any other nation attempt to impose on them a monarchial land-selling government. But fighting may be necessary, and we already have a proposed addition to our mounted regiments' of our standing army. 'Who is to compose these mounted regiments? Landless men? Why have any landless men? Is not this a question to be settled first? We profess to be out of the dark ages, and will not seem enlightened policy that a set of men at Washington be charging us eight dollars a day, and mileage, and expenses, for passing laws to raise mounted regiments of lacklacks here to fight at the rate of eight dollars a month for Oregon while not one in ten of them have a foot of Oregon, or any other country, after the slaughter, as they may know by the result of the fighting here.

It does seem to me that our eight or ten dollars a day men, who have such a blood and thunder spirit, would be more rationally employed in finding out why no people are excluded from the land here, why no people are really fought for, that they are obliged to stand away to the sons of their fathers to get a

living, or, at any rate, if they will not do this, and are determined to prepare to fight for Oregon, they should at least provide that the Oregon army be composed of Landlords, of the sort who have the land from which the farmer has to get the land from which the others are excluded.

If land monopoly is a benefit to a nation, and a proper institution of republican government, the monopolists must be the principal gainers by it, and if it is to be upheld by fighting, to do this fighting is a duty they owe to posterity. It is perfectly clear that it would be wrong to ask landless men to fight for a country which does not allow them to possess a foot of ground. If our eight dollars a day men, therefore, are determined not to secure the territory already reserved to the people, they certainly cannot be so shameless as to ask any but the Landlords to fight for Oregon!

If common sense, reigned at Washington, as it probably will in two or three years: ("Common Sense" spread very fast) just previous to the outbreak of (seventy-six) if common sense prevailed at Washington now, among the eight dollars a day men, they would say, first, "Those men that pay us the eight dollars a day have a right to live without begging for work." They shall no longer be excluded from the land. Jefferson was right when he said the land of the land belonged to the people. The public lands should no longer be said a source of revenue; but was right in saying that the "rascaling speculator" should no longer be allowed to live upon the settlers, and the National Reformer are right in saying that the public lands should be laid out in farms and lots for the free and exclusive use of actual settlers." Then they would go to work as men should do who are paid eight dollars a day, and in three days they would make the necessary law, and have it on their statute books. And then having secured the right to sell the land to the soil, they might with some propriety ask the Oregon people to adopt the same plan, and invite England to "step out."

If the National Reform plan, offering to every man a farm or a lot, were adopted south of latitude 49 or any other, how could Great Britain get people to settle north of that line? It would be rather difficult, fancy; and Oregon would be ours, without any fighting or bluster, not in mere words, as the United States are "ours" now, but in fact, every family having their own Homestead.

Every landless man, every poor man, every workman, should fight at every fellow, in or out of Congress, who blusters about fighting for Oregon; till the people have secured what they have already fought for. As for John Quincy Adams, who has made a windy war speech, who thinks twelve dollars a month good wages for a landless man, and who thought it right for England to force upon down the throats of the Chinese at the point of the bayonet, the old man is excusable when we consider the school in which he has been educated, and the circumstances in which he has been brought up, and as for Giddings, who has been a member of the House of Representatives with that class of Abolitionists who one minute will call slaveholders robbers and murderers, and the next tell them that free labor would be cheaper than slave labor, and that if the slaveholders would make their slaves free the land would be worth more than the land and slaves are now.

Every day experience gives force to the conviction that it is almost impossible for these men to do a day's work, who all their lives have had in other words, labor rather at the North or South, to talk occasionally on any subject connected with the rights of the people. Men must be sent to Congress who believe that every man should do a day's work for the proceeds of every day's work that he gets. Then we shall settle the Land question, and the bluster about Oregon, California, Panama, Cuba and the Devil knows where, shall cease.

Consistency—The world talks much of consistency, without appearing to care about it. It is understood what sort of consistency is really desired. That man should always retain the same opinion, that he should shut his eyes and his ears, learn nothing, obstinately adhere to his first conceptions—no one who loves and properly appreciates the value of truth and knowledge could possibly desire. One of the most powerful obstructions to the advancement of knowledge is the too great reliance on the Bible, which makes up their minds, and they are bound by it, and restricted in what they have seen, and they who speak with fervor are ever open to new evidence—even ready to reconsider, re-survey and to the opinions they hold. They deem themselves infallible. They are tolerant of how views, and explore with candor the ground which they are supported.

The population of Washington, D. C., is estimated to be 37,744. Number of houses built last year was 3887. The population in Newark, N. J., is 25,400. Increase in 60 years, 5,100. The population of Illinois now amounts to 780,000—fully equal to the Old Bay State. The population of Michigan is 204,585—Increase in the last five years 50 per cent.

FEMALE DEPARTMENT

As is Woman, so is the Race.

NOTICE

The Penna. Labor Reform Association will meet on Tuesday Evening, at 8 o'clock, at their Reading Room, 25 South Second Street, all ladies are invited to belong to the Association, and to devote means by which to promote the common interests of all the Laboring Classes. Also to discuss all subjects which shall come before the meeting. Every female who realizes the great necessity of a Reform and improvement in the condition of the working classes, and who is desirous to place women in that elevated station intellectually and morally which a beautiful Creation designed her to occupy in the scale of being, is most cordially invited to attend and give her influence on the side of virtue and intelligence. HARRIET L. STONE, Secy. Lowell, January 9, 1846.

Why wait until after death? Why have a little Heaven of this Earth?—&c. &c.

Let heavenly hopes, and heavenly joys, Renew the spirit daily; Let us wait to mingle dust with dust, To taste His love divine. Do right—'tis sin to stir the cup, From the Elysian shrine; Nor wait to mingle dust with dust, To taste His love divine. "The pure in heart" shall know their God; And see His glorious shine; Nor wait to mingle dust with dust, To taste His love divine. "Then let us all our strength renew, And live in His love true; Nor wait to mingle dust with dust, To taste His love divine." MARY. Lowell, January 9, 1846.

The Ten Hour System and its Advocates

As we proposed to give some of the inducements to labor for the Ten Hour System; we will consider some of the objections before entering directly on the subject. One of the strongest reasons urged by those who oppose it, is that the time allowed to the operatives would be spent in vicious indulgence, and among the peaceable citizens of our city. Now to me, it seems somewhat contradictory, to hear those who contend long and loud, that we have a moral and social evil, which it is hardly possible for an operative to be vicious if he is kept upon the corporation day (night), talk about the "virtuous and pious" children of the New England farmer, being kept within the walls of a cotton mill longer than is consistent with their physical or intellectual condition, to keep them virtuous. Think you the benevolence of the "powers that be" ordained the "all day system" of labor? was it not rather their aversion? Ye actors for decency and propriety—why do not they give the operatives a few minutes more for their meals; they would not stay from the corporation, and this would be doing something to improve their condition. How many of our successful men, who have examined its relative claims to the morality of the masses.

At one time, they tell us that our "free institutions" are based upon the virtue and intelligence of the American people, and the influence of the mother, food and mould the man—and the next breath, that the way to make the mothers of the next generations virtuous, is to enclose them within the brick walls of a cotton mill from twelve and a half to fifteen hours a day. Do not look for the part in the premises, lest you come to wrong conclusions. There cannot be found an individual who claims for himself common observation who will admit that the operatives of our country have a suitable portion of time for improvement. No man will allow his own children the situation of a machine tender and expect her to read French or Latin, or be skillful in mathematics. He takes the child from the mill, and sends her to school; if he wishes to have her improve, he will see that she engage how the operatives spend their "leisure hours?" we will take it for granted, that their leisure is a lady.

Let me remind you (for you know) of the young woman goes to herself in the way of personal appearance. The factory girl has to wash and iron every article of clothing used by her, except her mill dress. Her pocket handkerchief, collars, hose, &c., &c. are to be washed nearly every week, if she attends to her own cleanliness, and she would suppose for a moment that on a short evening in the week, would be sufficient time to consume in that department of taking care of oneself. But let us enquire how much time the operative has to look after her child. She has no time in the morning, for she is called from the table to the mill. She has no time at noon, thirty minutes only are allowed her to go to her meals—eat and return to her work. How is it indeed? The lamps are to be lit at five o'clock, and the operatives in the morning to assist in the preparation to labor before the morning light, is again re-lighted, and she must toil on until seven and a half, or according to Boston time, until ten minutes of eight o'clock. You would not expect her to go to her boarding house and take her evening walk in less than fifty minutes and according to Lowell time, it would be eight o'clock and still later by the Boston time. Now taking into the account, the duties, the operative owes to herself in taking care of

her clothes, doing their own sewing, knitting and repairing, where do you find their "leisure hours?" (Continued next week.) S. G. B.

VOICE OF FREEDOM INDUSTRY.

What We Labor for.—The abolition of ill-favored and oppressive; the prevalence of industry, virtue and intelligence.

LOWELL, JANUARY 16, 1846.

Our subscribers must recollect that when they send their papers, they should inform us of every rate and remittance at once.

FREEDOM OF THE PUBLICLANDS.

We call the attention of our readers, to the Petition, on the last page of our paper, memorializing Congress, to free the Public Land in the possession of the General Government, and the individual States, to actual settlers. We do not say, that many look upon this measure, as one of the radical notions, of this radical age; because it differs so widely from their views of Republicanism, or in other words, because it approximates so near that Republicanism which has some practical merits. As radicals as this measure, may appear to men, who talk loudly of Democracy and a "free people"; but who deny the first principles of freedom, by refusing to grant any redress to the people, the absolute means of "Life, Liberty and the pursuits of happiness"; still we do not hesitate to acknowledge our entire sympathy with the movement, and our only regret is, that amid the many preliminary, and to some degree local questions, which have urged themselves upon our attention, we have been so long in coming to the question, that attention is claimed from the working classes, and every true friend to the greatest good of the Country and the Race. That our Country has adopted some radical evils, the increase of poverty, want and criminal and social anarchy clearly prove. To remedy these evils, requires radical, or more properly speaking natural laws, and among the foremost, stands that of free soil. What we mean by a free soil, is that God gave the Earth, as a common heritage to the race—he made no distinctions or divisions between one class and another—he granted no charters of privilege to his favorites, nor patents, nor monopolies, nor any kind of individual or collective capacities, can hold or monopolize more of the soil, than they can cultivate, or will any degree add to their good, while others are deprived access to the land, or obliged to labor as tenants, servants and slaves.

Prove to us National or individual rights to monopolize the soil, and we will establish the right to hold slaves; for access to the soil is essential to freedom; and although men and women may be nominally free, under a system of Landlordism, yet to all intents and purposes, their liberty, as far as lives, and the control of labor, is to be lost to the land. Look at Europe, with her people groaning under this feudal system of Monarchy—Are they free? Can they act and think for themselves? Certainly not; they are slaves, and the best energies of their bodies and minds are bought and sold in the market, to pamper aristocratic pride and lordly greatness. Look also to our own America, with her cities and towns filled with beggars, and an increasing surplus laboring population pressing on us on every side; and, while her rich and proud are rolling in luxury and ease, far and wide, and every day of existing and supporting with all the comforts of life, at the present scientific stage of the world, almost its entire population; remains uncultivated in the hands of Government speculators who are gambling it away, at the tune of from eight to one hundred dollars per day. The freedom of the Public Lands would produce invaluable changes, upon the present condition of the working people of our country. It would draw off the surplus population, that is glutted almost every department of industry, along the Atlantic, and Middle States, causing destructive competition, bankruptcy and poverty, among them. It would restore to a great degree, just relations between capital and labor, by giving the latter ample material to operate upon, without being dependent upon the heartlessness of the former, as is now the case. Finally it would tend to abolish vice, crime and misery, among the masses, and raise up a virtuous, industrious and peaceable population, the vast domain, which remains uncultivated, upon the jurisdiction of the United States, thereby rendering our penal laws obsolete, our prison houses unattended, and our Gallows a relic of barbarism. Philanthropists, is not this cause worthy your sympathy and co-operation? Is not the whole spirit of Republicanism and Christianity, opposed to a land monopoly? And are we not sanctioning the principle, that only wants time, to produce a hundredfold increase of wealth and happiness, as that of the old Country? Situations which will you spend your efforts and the peoples' money, in party strife and contention; big with the fruits of commercial anarchy, industrial discord and social antagonism, while an important measure is neglected in your country, that will increase the number of the oppressed and de-frauded millions are rising in the midst of their strength.

to assert their "inalienable rights," among which an equal right to the soil, which the "Christian" gave to man, and the few, who may possess it by a home-produce system which originated in feudal times, and with slight modifications, has been adapted by our Republic, Friends give your own aid and your influence; recollecting that rational freedom can never be enjoyed there equal right to the soil is not practically recognized.

FRIENDS OF ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the New England Poultry Society, will be held in Boston, Tuesday, January 27th, at 11 o'clock, A.M. The meeting will be continued through the day and evening. Distinguished gentlemen of the Association will be present and address the Meeting. The friends of a Reformation in the relations of Capital and Labor, to individual progress, and of a better order of society, are earnestly requested to attend. GEORGE RIPLEY, President.

BUTTERFIELD, Secretary, January 14, 1846.

We call the attention of our readers for the article upon Oregon, copied from "Young America." It is full of sound reasoning, and shows up in its true light, that patriotism which is so often displayed in the country war, even at the expense of all the territory of Oregon, would sell at government price, anything of the sacrifice of life; rather than restore it to the people to whom it rightfully belongs and whose intelligence and industry would prove a better defence against invading than hosts of warriors and naval armaments. Talk about Oregon, belonging to Britain or the United States! It belongs to those who now, and shall hereafter settle upon it, and if they see fit to unite with the States or Canada, they have a right to do so.

CORPORATION DICTIONARY.—We understand Agent Bartlett of the Massachusetts Corporation in the exercise of his speculative regulations, has prohibited those overseers who are about to leave the corporation, to engage in the new Prescott mill; receiving presents from the girls under their charge. He has also issued an edict to the girls upon the same subject. This is acting the dictator in the most pharisaical style. We suppose he is fearful these little tokens of friendship from the operatives will not harmonize with the interest of the corporation. What next, under this system of factory labor, will be the interest of the manufacturer and operative are mutual.

Our agent, S. A. S. of Leominster, will pardon us for not sending his paper according to agreement; it being entirely unattended on our part. As to postage he should recollect that the Post Office Law provides, that letters containing money, or the name of subscribers who wish to discontinue, may be so post-paid "Post Office Business" at the office where they are entered, and sent free. Tell all our Agents and Friends, who may hereafter send us subscribers or money, take this into consideration.

We ask those of our subscribers who are indebted to us for six months' subscription; if it will not be just to do us as we have done by them?—if so, send in your dollar. Also those who have subscribed for a less time.

All friendly to the establishment of a WORKMANS' PROTECTIVE UNION, are requested to meet at the Mechanics' Reading Room, next Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock. A punctual attendance is requested.

Our subscribers at Cambridge will be informed, that they will find their papers, after the present No. at the Book and Stationery store of E. F. Brown, where they will be ready for delivery on Saturday.

John C. Cluer will address the citizens of Newton Upper Falls, next Monday evening (Jan. 19th) upon the Rights of Labor.

FRANK MERRICK next Sunday at CLASSIC HALL, Methuen St., commencing at the usual hours. Mr. Cluer will be present and address the meeting. Mr. C. will also deliver a lecture in the evening, at the same place, commencing at 6 1/2 o'clock.

The "old Bostonian" who remains over the editorial department of the Fitchburg Sentinel, is informed that his picture sheet is not wanted, as we have plenty of waste paper already.

No. 1 of Vol. 5 of the American Philosophical Journal, is before us, an entirely new dress, and filled as usual with valuable and interesting matter upon Phrenology, Physiology, Magnetism and other scientific and highly useful subjects. For terms, see notice in last week's paper.

The Lynn Convention meets this day. We shall by having our readers' full reports of its doings in our next.

The 14th day of January, on an average of years is the coldest day in the year. The Boston and Providence Railroad has declared a dividend of 1 per cent payable on the 1st of Jan.



