THE MONTANA POST.

D. W. TILTON, & CO., Editors & Proprietors.

"My Country, May she Always be right, But My Country, Right or Wrong."

TERMS:--$7,50 In Gold Per Year in Advance

VOL. 1. CITY OF VIRGINIA, MONTANA TERRITORY, SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1865. NO. 30.

The Montana Post

D. W. Tilton, & Co.,

D. W. TILTON. BEN. R. DITTES.

PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS.

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Boot & Shoe maker, Virginia City, Montana Territory. The best of custom work always on hand. Give me a trial. 1-6m

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French Baker, Nevada City, Montana Territory, would say to his numerous customers that he is always on hand to stuff the mouths of the hungry.—Give him a call. 1-6m

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Physician and Surgeon, formerly assistant in the Hospital du midi in Paris, and attached to the New York Hospital, New York—recently from Dubuque, Iowa. Office in Virginia City, opposite the hay scales, main street. 1-6m

S. T. BUTLER,

Practical Watchmaker and Jeweler. Particular attention paid to repairing all classes of watches. Any part of any watch can be made new at this establishment, and warranted to give satisfaction.—Cell and examine specimens of Jewelry made from the native gold. 1-1v

CALIFORNIA HOTEL,

Nevada City, Montana Territory.

LOUIS BELANGER, - - - - - PROPRIETOR.

This hotel is situated on Main street, and in the best part of the City. The table supplied with the best the market affords, and the saloon furnished with the best liquors.

Rooms and beds can be had at reasonable prices. Charges for board moderate. 2

FOUND.

A CERTIFICATE OF TEN SHARES OF THE consolidated Silver Star Company. The owner by proving property and paying for this advertisement can have the same at the City Book Store, Virginia City. 4—tf

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MEET regularly every Monday, at 7 o'clock, P. M., at Masonic Hall. By order of

6—tf TOM. BAUME. Captain.

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IDAHO HOTEL,

Wallace street, Virginia City, M. T. J. M. Castner proprietor. The proprietor announces to his old friends and the public generally, that he is now prepared to accommodate boarders by the meal, day or week at low rates. His table furnished with the best the market affords. 1-1y

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HAIR DRESSING ROOM.

Hai Dyeing and Cutting Done in GOOD STYLE.

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3—1y

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ROATH & CO.,

AMERICAN WATCHES JUST RECEIVED DIrect from the manufactories.

Every description of Jewelry manufactured from the Native Gold. Call, Examine Specimens, and then judge.

Sign of the MAMMOTH WATCH,

VIRGINIA CITY, Montana Territory.

Virginia City, Sept. 10, 1864. 3m—18*

J. T. HENDERSON,

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Office on Cover Street, Viginia City. 5—6m

LIME AND BRICK.

BY

HENRY BAIER.

Also Flue Building, and all kinds of brick work one to order. 5—3m

Wm. CHUMASERO.

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MUSTACHE AND HAIR COLORING.

South Side of Wallace Street, Va. City

LYONS & WHITE, Proprietors.

2—1y

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ALLEN & MILLARD'S BANK.

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Idaho street, Virginia City, M. T. James Gennall, proprietor. Keeps constantly on hand all kinds of the best lumber, which will be sold at low rates. 1-1y

STAR BAKERY AND SALOON,

Nevada City, M. T. Patrick Ryan, proprietor.—All persons wishing good bread are requested to call. Prices low. Also, beer furnished with the best of drinks. Here is the place to get an honest loaf, a cake or pie, and "something to wash it down." 1-6m

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Drs. CORNELL & WARD.

PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS.

(Successors to)

Drs. BROOKE & GLICK.

Office on Jackson Street, below Wallace, Virginia City, Montana Territory. 1y—12

WISCONSIN HOUSE.

Idaho Street, Opposite Recorder's Office.

Will give Board and Lodging at $14 00 per week. Any one who wants warm, comfortable and clean beds, meals and liquors, let them call and see

CARPENTER.

12—6t*

Virginia City Council, No. 2, U. L. A.

WILL meet every Tuesday evening, at 7 o'clock. By order of A. M. TORBET, Pres't.

H. J. PAULISON, Sec'y. 18—tf

PLANTER'S HOUSE

Corner of Idaho and Jackson Sts., Virginia City, Montana Territory.

WM. & JOHN A. SHOOT

(Formerly of the Planter's House, Hannibal Mo.)

PROPRIETORS.

THE ABOVE NAMED HOUSE, FORMERLY conducted by Wm. Sloan, Esq., having been enlarged and re-fitted is now open with every facility for the accommodation of Guests and Boarders. Comfortable rooms and beds are provided and the atble is carefully furnished with the best the market and seasons afford.

Passengers for the early Stage Coaches can obtain good lodgings here and be wakened at the proper hour. The patronage of the public is respectfully solicited. WM. & JNO. A. SHOOT,

4—tf PROPRIETORS.

JUSTUS COOKE.

GENERAL AUCTIONEER.

Particular attention given to the sale of Live Stock and Real Estate, sales of Stocks of Goods in Store. Office at the Elephant Corral, Virginia City, M. T. 3m—18*

SECORD & FAUCETTE

SADDLERS & HARNESS MAKERS.

CONSTANTLY on hand and manufacturing from the best material, all styles of Saddles, Bridles, Single and Double Harness, or anything else made in a first class saddler shop. 1m—14

MONTANA BILLIARD HALL,

Virginia City, Montana Territory. Sabolskie & Poznanski, Proprietors. 26-tf

From Last Chance.

LETTER, NUMBER THREE.

HELENA, Friday Evening, March 3, 1865.

DEAR DOCTOR.—Since writing the short note which goes with this asking certain favors, I find time and a comfortable place—the latter a rare thing here—to give you a few items, perhaps of interest to you. Building, which had been going on so briskly for two or three weeks, has been brought almost to a stand still in this town by the extreme cold, though to-day I notice a few venturesome ones doing what they possibly can towards completing cabins to shelter themselves from the cold, but what with running to the fire, say every five minutes, to warm themselves, and commencing at 10 A. M., and quitting at 4 P M., they accomplish but little. Less than four weeks ago when I first came here, Helena could boast of not over a dozen houses, and now it is more than half the size of Virginia, and is growing as rapidly as ever, or will, as soon as the weather moderates. A week ago last Sunday there was a stampede to a new gulch, called Skelly's gulch, about fifteen miles from here. The gulch has not been prospected yet. Forty-five cents to the pan was had on the bar—this is no humbug. Some four hundred claims of one hundred feet each were taken on the gulch—some of them perhaps over the range. Last Sunday there was another stampede, thermometer at zero at the time, to the left-hand fork of the foregoing gulch, called Greenhorn's gulch. In this last prospects from five to twenty-five cents to the pan were had, and part of the prospects I saw taken out myself, and believe the gulch will prove as rich as anything in this country. Notwithstanding it was so cold I went on this last stampede, starting at midnight and reaching the gulch all the way on foot—almost four in the morning and back again a little past noon on the next day. Pretty well for an old man like myself; but the pursuit of gold is exciting, and what will man not do to obtain it. The knowing ones are whispering round to their friends that another rich discovery has been made to which there will be the "biggest stampede" of the season as soon as the weather will admit. Also, I have it from a friend, an acquaintance of yours, that an excellent thing has been struck some fifty or sixty miles from here, and believe there is something in it. There have been a good many prospecting parties out during the winter, and by the time snow disappears we can show you in this and Jefferson county the richest mining section in this or any other country, California not excepted. I speak what I honestly believe. In Grizzly gulch, which is now attracting so much attention, and for claims in which such prices are being paid they have sunk shafts through what they have heretofore considered the bed-rock and at a depth of twelve feet below the first bed-rock have struck another bed-rock. The original, evidently, which prospects in some places as high as eight dollars to the pan, presenting the novelty of two pay streaks, one above the other. You probably hear fabulous stories about Grizzly gulch, such as that it has gravel six feet deep which prospects anywhere from one to three dollars to the pan. Such stories are all *bosh*. It will not go ever twenty-five cents to the pan on an average, and this you know is big, when you consider that it has pay dirt six to eight feet deep and no draining to do in nearly half the gulch. Twenty and thirty dollar prospects are frequently obtained, but it is of course picked dirt. The largest nugget I have seen which was taken out of that gulch weighs about two ounces. Snow which when I last wrote you was but a few inches deep is now over a foot, and further up the gulch two feet. Nelson gulch, about eight miles from here is increasing in favor and is paying well, but the "streak" is evidently narrow.—Claims which when I first came here were selling at from one to two hundred dollars will now sell for from five hundred to one thousand dollars. Dry gulch running parallel to Last Chance and only half a mile distant, is paying well generally, and a few claims largely. From this last gulch nearly all the gold in circulation here is taken; the dirt being hauled from half a mile to a mile and a half to water. But very little mining is going on here just now. Everybody is waiting for the snow to melt to furnish water for sluicing. In a month or six weeks from this we can probably show you as much gold taken out as ever was taken out of the same number of feet in any country. It will take several months, perhaps a year, to equal Alder Creek in its palmiest days. It is said we are, in the course of two weeks, to have the first steam saw mill—and the only one—ever set up in this Territory; it will make more money this summer than any mining claim. One would suppose Virginia City, and indeed, the whole of Alder Creek deserted, by the number from there one sees in the streets. I presume many are here merely to look around during dull times in Alder Creek, yet I hear of many who have made money out of elaims there investing to quite a large amount here. As I said in former letters some will wish they had kept their money in their pockets. I hope the mails will soon be running regularly from the States. Yours as ever, C. H. S.

—Three million five hundred and eight thousand three hundred and twenty-five dead letters were received at the dead letter office during the past year—over nine thousand a day. Many of these letters contained money, deeds, bills of exchange, drafts, checks, jewelry and other valuables. Some of them were misdirected, others not directed at all, others unstamped, and others only partially directed. Thousands of these dead letters were returned to their owners; but the great majority had to be destroyed. This statement ought to teach the public to be more careful in their correspondence, for the amount of suffering caused by these lost letters is incalculable.

Bannack Correspondence.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

BANNACK, Feb. 9th, 1865.

DEAR POST.—It is gratifying to be able to mention a rare instance of conscientious adherence to firmly settled convictions on the part of one of your Madison county delegation.

There has been passed by both houses of the Assembly "An Act to provide for *vacancies* in the Legislative Assembly." Now it is due to Mr. Huffaker to say that this act received from first to last unflinching and obstinate opposition. His reasons for this course were well set forth in his lucid argument against the bill wherein he conclusively demonstrated that the Assembly had no constitutional right to vote themselves pensions. This reminds me of the legislation concerning extra compensation. The Governor and Judges have $2,500 voted them from the Territorial treasury, not unusual, and hence, strange to say, not wrong. The Secretary, Attorney General, Surveyor, &c., are left out in the cold.—The members of the Assembly voted themselves extra compensation, not wrong unless we consider the amount, which is twelve dollars per day, making their entire pay sixteen dollars per day, beside mileage; a nice bill for the Territory to pay.

A bill has also passed crediting all persons who paid taxes under the Idaho laws, the amount so paid on the tax for Montana upon their producing the receipt to the tax collector, as evidence of such payment—a most excellent law. The tax law will make tax payers groan, especially when they know where the taxes go, and travelers in Montana will curse this assembly so long as its monuments (toll-gates) remain.

We are all becoming wearied with the dull monotony of our duties here and with the changeless routine of the assembled wisdom. But for Courtright in the House, and Bombastes Furioso in the Council, the ennui would be terrible and stagnation complete. We are also relieved by occasional acts which illustrate the peculiar legerdemain which prevails. A House bill passed both houses, received the signatures of their presiding officers and was carried to the Governor for his approval. Here it was confronted with a petition signed by a majority of the members of the House asking him to veto it, which he did, and then it went back to the House which passed it over his accommodating veto.

The bill relating to printing the laws, requires the printer to make *sense* of them; an arduous task certainly. Should he succeed in the onerous task he will figure largely and creditably in history as the eight wonder of the world.

So much of the Governor's message as related to Federal affairs was referred to a Committee whose report surprised every one who knew that Dr. Leavitt and Mr. Thompson belonged to it, but it has transpired that Mr. Bagg, made it on his own responsibility; and Mr. Thompson openly stated that he had never heard it until it was read as the report of the Committee; and I presume that Dr. Leavitt only awaits a proper opportunity to repudiate it also.

The truth is there are several members of the assembly of whose political *status* I am ignorant, and the trouble is they are no better informed than I.

They mean pretty well but some of them are swayed easily by other considerations, to take all sides of all questions. In my next I will try and give the *finale* of the two houses. FRANKLIN.

From Austin.

AUSTIN, Nevada, Feb. 6, 1865.

EDITORS POST.—I have been very busy of late, in a mill; so I have neglected to write, but you have not lost much, for times have been very, very dull here, and the weather intensely cold for the last month. Cattle are turned out to pick for themselves, and they freeze and starve to death by the hundreds. All our beef is turned to mahogany of a blue cast; but that is easy to account for; for the wind blew cutting and cold all the month, and the people are getting blue with blue noses. I think times are getting bluer every day; half the mills are idle; tied up for debt or some other cause, I don't know what; and even those that are running can't pay their help a dollar in cash. There are some new companies preparing to build, and they only pay three dollars per day for laborers. Flour is twenty dollars per hundred, and the whole provision market *pro rata*. What are we coming to? If a man works all the time all he can get is a living. Every working man I speak to says he shall leave for some other place as soon as the spring opens; some for your Territory and others for Arizona. All agree in voting this place a humbug; but I cannot agree with them altogether. I think there are many good ledges here, though in this immediate vicinity the ledges are narrow, broken and hard to be traced. When they are followed down to a depth of two hundred and fifty and three hundred feet, they are generally rich; but it takes some money to develope them properly, and many failed in their operations, which discourages others; still many no doubt will be successful. Labor is a species of commerce; and where there is not an equivalent return for time or money expended, trade or business must soon stop. Our friend J. H. H., started for your city last evening, and will probably reach there before this does. I shall most likely start from here in a couple of months; but where I shall bring up, well, I don't know; so for the present, *au revoir*.

QUARTZ.

TWO MORE OVERLAND TELEGRAPHS.—The San Francisco Call is informed by a gentleman who arrived on the last steamer that a company has been organized in New York for the purpose of erecting two more lines of telegraph across the continent to San Francisco. All the stock has been subscribed and ample capital is now in the hands of the company to carry out their project. It is to be hoped that the report is true.

From Biven's Gulch.

BIVEN'S GULCH, March 6, 1865.

EDITORS POST.—We have just passed through as severe a week of cold weather, as we have had this winter. The coldest day being Wednesday, thermometer standing at 7 o'clock in the the morning, at 18 deg. below zero. The old saying "Come in like a lamb go out like a lion," was verified in the month of February. The first day of February was, according to the thermoneter, the warmest day we have had this winter, and the last day one of the coldest, it being 14 deg. below zero. March bids fair to keep up his reputation as a boisterous old fellow, if the five days we have had is a sample. The snow has drifted worse during the last week than all the rest of the winter together. Roads are just about impassable.

The past week put a quietus on all mining operations. Week before last some good strikes were made. Paine & Co., took out from a sort of sink or pocket in the bed-rock, filled with quick-sand, some five hundred dollars. Kane Bros. & Co., took out and are still taking out, at the rate of eighty and ninety dollars per day, to the four men. This is called in this gulch good diggings, as the claims have already been worked over and large amounts of money taken out.

During last winter a company was formed at Bagdad, in this gulch, and a charter obtained by them, to bring water into this gulch from the Rams Horn, but little has, as yet, been done to the ditch, except to survey it. But on the opening of spring the work will be pushed rapidly forward. It is the intention of the company to buy claims that have been worked, or partially worked, and by constructing a bed-rock flume, use this water either for ground-sluicing or by means of hydraulics, and so work the ground over. It will undoubtedly be a good thing, and be the means of putting a snug little sum in the pockets of the company. Other companies are forming for the same purpose, and claims are changing hands correspondingly. Some miners have just returned from Last Chance, who have been to see the country, and report big things there. In fact, I have seen, nor heard, no bad accounts of the new El Dorrado. Quite a number have sold out and are going to the Prickly Pear Country as soon as the weather will permit. Others seem to think that the Last Chance is the *best* and are making preparations accordingly, among whom you can count on

SCRIBBLER.

Miner's Meeting.

At a miner's meeting, held at the store of E. E. Thomas, in Brown's District, Biven's Gulch, Madison County, Montana Territory, on Sunday, March 5th, Joseph Harper was chosen Chairman, and H. N. Elliott Secretary. Mr. Stanley in a few remarks stated that the meeting had been called to consider the propriety of making some change in the laws of this District, in relation to the owning and holding of claims. Nearly all the claims in this District were worked out, so that it would not pay miners to work them, unless by changing the laws, giving every one a right to hold what he might purchase, until such time as water could be obtained in sufficient quantities to work them to advantage. Several already owned more claims than they could hold under the present law, and it was thought advisable to make some change.

On motion of Mr. Huffaker it was moved and carried, that the section of the law restricting the number of claims be repealed.

On motion of Mr. Stanley it was *Resolved*, That any person, company or companies, shall have the right to purchase and hold, all purchased mining claims, on Biven's Gulch, in Brown's District, by representing the same according to the laws thereof.

On motion of Mr. Rumsey it was *Resolved*, That the laws of this District, requiring two day's work for each claim, per week, be changed so as to read one day.

It was moved and carried that we proceed to elect a new Recorder, and on motion, Mr. E. E. Thomas was duly elected.

A committe, consisting of Mr. Stanley and Mr. Huffaker, were appointed to wait on the former Recorder, Mr. Perkins, and request him to deliver over to Mr. Thomas, all books and papers belonging to the Redords of the District.

On motion it was carried, that the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and recorded in the Records of this District.

On motion it was *Resolved*, That a copy of the minutes be sent to the MONTANA POST for publication. The meeting then adjourned. JOSEPH HARPER, Chm'n.

H. N. ELLIOTT, Sec'y.

NEVADA CLAY.—The Virginia Union reports in full many of the speeches delivered in the legislative halls at Carson. The following is one:

The following, we are told, is a verbatim speech of Hon. Jake Smith, notwithstanding the report given in the proceedings of the House, published this morning: "Mr. Speaker—I rise to a question of privilege. It was said in the fore part of this session that my colleague, Dr. Bien, was an ass in voting for State Printer." (Turning to Bien he said, "What did you want me to say, Doctor?") (Laughter.) "Well I guess I won't say any more."

—Some don't believe in civilizing the "noble red man," as poetry conceives him. A Western editor says:—"The far west Indians are about as susceptible of cultivation as a last year's calf is of religious influences. The chief of the Kickapoos, although highly cultivated, could not resist the impulse to *brain his mother-in-law* with a pump handle, a few months ago.—Select the best Indian on the plains, bring him to New York, give him a brown stone house, and all the comforts of an elegant home, and in less than a week he will yield to the fascinations of gin and sugar, and smash the furniture."

AN ACT

To preserve the District Records in relation to Leads, Loads and Ledges.

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Montana.

§ 1 That all mining district records of all Leads, Lodes and Ledges, Ranche, Water or Mill claims that are now, or shall be deposited within the next ninety days hereafter succeeding the passage of this act, in their respective County Recorder's Office, are now, and shall become a part and parcel of said County Records, and shall be evidence in any court or courts of competent jurisdiction.

§ 2 That it shall be the duty of all mining district recorders to file any and all records pertaining to all Leads, Lodes, Ledges, Ranche, Water and Mill claims in their respective County Recorder's Office, within ninety days from and after the passage, approval and the printing in the *Montana Post* of this act, and upon failure to do so they shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof may be fined in a sum not to exceed one thousand dollars or by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment, and shall be subject to a suit in civil action for all damages.

§ 3 That it shall be the duty of the County Recorder when any such District Records are tendered him to receive the same and place them on file in his Office for which he shall receive a fee of fifty cents to be paid by the District Recorder and upon his refusal to receive said District Records he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof may be fined in a sum not to exceed one thousand dollars or by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed one year or by both such fine and imprisonment and shall be subject to a suit in a civil action for all damages.

§ 4 This act to take effect and be in force from and after its passage, approval, and ninety days after its publication in the *Montana Post* three consecutive weeks: PROVIDED, That nothing in this act shall be so construed as to admit any District Recorder to deposit more than one set of books, or to continue recording from and after the passage and approval of this act, by the Governor.

Approved January 17, A. D., 1865.

A Correction.

HELENA, March 4th, 1865.

ED. MONTANA POST—Dear Sir: In your issue of Feb. 25th, your correspondent, "C. H. S.," speaking of Prickly Pear Gulch, says: "On this gulch were the first discovered mines in the present Territory of Montana." Being one of the early gold prospectors in this country, I know "C. H. S." to have been misinformed. The first mining gulch discovered in the present Territory of Montana, was the "Pioneer Gulch," situated in the valley of Gold Creek, a few miles westwardly of what was in 1862 called Johnny Grant's—now Cottonwood. Here three sets of sluices were in operation in the spring of '62, before Prickly Pear diggings were discovered. For truth of this I refer to Granville and James Stewart, to Johnny Grant, Frank Worden and Major Graham; all residents here before the gold excitement.

While "on it" I would ask you to correct a statement I saw in a pamphlet issued in Minnesota, viz: "The Bannack diggings were discovered in the fall of '62, by some Minnesotans." The Bannack diggings in fact were first discovered in the summer of '62, by John White, from Colorado, before the Minnesotans had ever seen the Beaver Head country. Col. McLane, Wash Stapleton, and others who came from Colorado at the same time, will verify this.

These matters are of small moment to us at present, but the historian who may in future write the history of the early days of Montana, should have the facts as they are. Yours, respectfully,

JAMES H. MORLEY.

DESPERATE GAMBLING.—Prof. Goldrick tells of a verdant chap who came to Denver for the purpose of beholding the Lion in all his huge and magnificent proportions. He was taken by a party of friends to the Diana saloon on Blake street, where he soon became fascinated by the brilliant gaze of the "Tiger," "Monte," etc., and began betting very high and winning very seldom. Sanguine that the fickle goddess Fortune would surely smile upon his hand, before the game was over, he kept on betting until his purse "busted," after which he put up collaterals and borrowed until he left the outside party as fundless as himself. Finally, in a fit of desperation, he put his glossy black moustache against ten dollars, which the facetious "dealer" at once advanced. Down went the greenbacks, and up went the moustache which "Mr. Dealer" proceeded to shear carefully but closely. This is the latest case of despearte gambling, on record, and also the most novel and original. But then they do queer things in Denver.—*Black Hawk* (Col.) *Journal.*

NEW SILVER MINES.—About 100 miles north-east from the head of navigation on the Colorado river, and about 300 miles from Great Salt Lake City, silver mines of unparalleled richness are said to have been recently discovered. They are in what is called Meadow Valley, and the ore is so rich as to be malleable under the hammer. The assays are said to show these mines to be worth more than the famous Washoe lodes.

—At a Paris theatre all ladies are required to take off their bonnets. This proviso has been found necessary since, owing to the present fashion of female attire, it is almost impossible for persons sitting behind a lady with her bonnet on to see what is going forward on the stage. The end has been attained by placing printed bills about the theatre with the following announcement: "All young and handsome ladies are politely requested to take off their bonnets. All others may keep them on."