

To Advertisers.—The Post is the pioneer newspaper of Montana, and has the largest circulation, which is being constantly increased. Those wishing to bring their business conspicuously before the people, will find this in mind.

Job Printing of all kinds.—Cards, Billboards, Ball Tickets, Show Cards, Wedding and Visiting Cards, Posters, Hand-Bills, Circulars, Theater Programmes, etc.—done at the Post-Office in the best style and at low prices. Satisfaction guaranteed.

ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO ROB MINERS.

The following telegram, dated Washington, December 5th, contains the intimation that another attack will be made upon our purses and our property, by the greedy and unscrupulous among the Eastern men in Congress. The dispatch reads as follows: "Senator Sherman introduced a bill for the survey and sale of the mineral lands of the United States."

This announcement is, to mountaineers, strikingly similar in tone and effect to the shout of warning that heralded the Portneuf Canon massacre—"Road Agents! Fire!" We hope that the news will not be too late to be of service to us. From Arizona to the British possessions, there dwells neither man, woman nor child whose entire fortune will not be more or less affected and jeopardized by this seemingly just, yet really most unrighteous measure.

We are no grumblers at taxation. We believe in rendering "unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's;" but we deny, in toto, that there is either policy or common honesty in robbing Peter to pay Paul. The Senators, Representatives and Delegates of the West, must be up and stirring, if they would prevent the utter ruin of their constituents' prospects, together with the depopulation of the Mountains and of the adjacent country. It is the old and abominable theory of the Aristocracy of Capital, that is again sought to be enforced; the miner to toil on in hardship, isolation, perils of all kinds, sickness, massacre by savages; and then—when he has demonstrated the fact of his country's riches, and has rendered them available for the use of the people—some political (not "Road Agent," but) Mine-Agent rises in Congress, and demands that the fruits of his toil shall be handed over to the capitalist; for, in case of a sale of the mineral lands, not one miner in a hundred could buy. We wish that our tax-masters and their allies would occasionally read the last clause of the Tenth Commandment; and, if it were possible, we should like to raise the Eastern markets, for a season, to Mountain rates—flour, \$30 per sack; sugar, 80 cents per pound; tobacco, \$6.50 per pound, etc., etc.; and then, after receiving the delicate attentions of the Internal, Territorial, County and City tax gatherers, they would have taken a good, practical lesson in Western politics. Obstinate members might require to be chased by Indians, or to be frost-bitten while prospecting, in order to complete a cure.

The survey and sale of mineral lands is a most shocking absurdity. Who can tell their value till they are worked? Who can fix their limits till their existence is demonstrated by discovery, and defined by development? Lot number one may be worthless; lot number two, a gigantic fortune; and lot number three, a perfect Maelstrom for greenbacks. Will the country organize such a gambling lottery as a uniform price would necessitate? A poor prospector frequently, nay, generally, toils for long and weary years without doing more than the keeping of body and soul together; at last he strikes something rich; but no sooner would his check flush with joy at the prospect of a reward for all his labor, suffering and privation, than a painfully barbed, perfumed, patent-leathered and broad-cloth-enveloped official would shout: "Ho, such an one! turn in hither; that's Uncle Sam's, only he didn't know it. Come and buy it of me; or, if you have no money, get out! I guess I'll take it myself." If our mines must be made productive to the country, to an extent even greater than at present, let the Government (as the produce of our labor; but to sell the mineral lands and destroy the very motive which urges men to endure the hardships of a mountain life, would be a policy both nefarious and suicidal. All our gold goes East, in due time. We found the gold for carrying on the war. We must, in the end, pay the national debt. Alder Gulch alone, has contributed \$30,000,000 to the national resources. Is not that enough?

Is not ours a most magnificent market for the products of the East, and will it not daily increase? Is not this, of itself, more enriching to the commercial and producing part of the United States than any income that could be derived from the sale of mineral lands of unknown value? It is surely satisfactory, if we contribute ten times more than our share to the resources of our country, by direct shipments of gold and silver, benefiting not only the consignors, but the consignees, by establishing a thrifty commerce for our mutual advantage. We find the gold and you find the machinery. Tax our produce, if really necessary, but do not cut down the orchard to get the apples. We send you the gold. All we ask is that you will not meddle with the mines. We risk our health and lives. You reap the benefit more than we do; for the product of our labors is spent in your midst. The conditions under which we obtain the coveted bullion are such that no fair and impartial scheme for the sale of the lands containing it, can be devised, and we simply ask to be let alone.

ORIGIN OF THE SPIRIT OF FENIANISM.

Much has been said and written about Fenianism, and sides have been taken on this question with great acrimony of feeling. The Protestants of Ulster—the northern province of the island—are generally opposed to its principles; while the Catholics of the eastern, southern and western divisions—that is to say, Leinster, Munster and Connaught—regard its anticipated triumph as their day of jubilee. The great property-holders through Ireland are mainly arrayed against it, from purely selfish motives. It is the purpose of this article to give a short resume of the leading facts in the history of the "Green Isle," which bear upon the question; and to show that, with a nation of ardent patriots, the present movement is nothing more than a logical consequence of past events.

In 1172, Henry the Second, of England—a wily, unscrupulous, powerful, and most politic prince—having long set his eyes and heart upon the acquisition of Ireland, for the imperial, but somewhat unsatisfactory reason that he wanted it, Strongbow—with some fifty mail-clad knights, and the usual retinue of archers, &c., that made up the force of a feudal army—landed in Ireland as the ally of one of the most ambitious of the native chieftains, (then called kings), and the people, being divided in their interest and allegiance, fell an easy prey to the numerous and well-disciplined army which soon gathered under the standard of this doughty warrior. (This is not a history, but the briefest form of narrative, and consequently particulars must be omitted in order that the inflexible rule of space may not crowd out the spirit for the sake of the letter.)

From the landing of Strongbow, till this 16th day of December, 1865, the original inhabitants of Erin have been steadily and persistently opposed to the rule of their invaders, and blood (in greater or less quantity) has been shed in every year that day to this, directly or indirectly on that account. The English—or at that time, more properly, the Norman-French—conquerors of Ireland, treated the natives precisely as they would wolves. The instruments of civilization employed were the sword, the arrow, the axe, the gibbet, the rack, &c. The central and eastern part of the island in their actual possession, was said to be within the "pale," and the feudal leaders were called "Lords of the Pale." The invaders had every advantage which arms, discipline and resources could give them, and they used them mercilessly for the maintenance and extension of their authority. Many of the "people's party" turned renegades, at different times, and aided the conquerors; being—as proselytes always are—far more barbarous than the men whose friendship they sought to secure, by their unrelenting persecution of their natural allies.

The whole history of Ireland, from the time of the first invasion up to 1803, is a dreary and disgusting recital of actual and horrible hostilities, or of temporarily exhausted but smothered hatred, waiting its opportunity for vengeance. Especially during the reigns of Elizabeth and Charles the First; under the protectorate of Oliver Cromwell; in the stormy days of the Reformation, and the two revolutions of 1648 and 1688, when blood flowed like a river—was this spirit of mutual antipathy between conquerors and conquered most bloodily exemplified. At first, the conflict had been a fierce struggle for empire; but a religious animosity was engendered by the appropriation of all the property of the Roman Catholic church, at the time of the change in the national faith and worship of England, called the Reformation. The English people and the ecclesiastics, generally, acquired in the new order of things. In Ireland, a portion of the ecclesiastical dignitaries, and the inhabitants of English and Scotch origin—with a few unimportant exceptions—alone acknowledged their adherence to the Protestant faith; and hence it is, that the property of the church of three-fourths of the people is used to support the religion of the small minority. At this day, after seven centuries of contest, the mention of a man's name is sufficient to tell whether he is Irish or British origin. Probably five-sevenths of the land in the possession of the descendants of the British monarchs or their assignees—the real title of the owners, when traced back to its origin, being the sword. Between these two classes, there is an irreconcilable antipathy of sentiment. The one Irishman naturally looks forward to the freedom from the British yoke; the other is more ultra British than the Cockneys of the metropolis. In Upper Canada, it may be remarked, that two-thirds of the settlers from the mother country were, probably, either actually by birth and parentage, in one or other of these classes, or else are the descendants of men so situated.

GENERAL CONNOR.—We are happy to announce that our citizens have taken the best means in their power to put the authorities in possession of their views on the subject of Indian fighting, in general, and of General Connor's method, in particular.

In the columns of this paper have so often appeared arguments on this subject—the soundness of which is now endorsed by our people—that we shall not attempt their repetition now. The news has reached us that Butterfield's Express Co.'s stage has been stopped, and six passengers murdered. One man, who shot three of the red devils, had his heart cut out, and his body was roasted over a slow fire. The Blackfoot broke their treaty two days after it was signed. Treating with savages who are grinning at our folly and pouching our purses, is played out. A bloody and tremendous punishment should be administered to them. The meeting—reported in another column, and which was very numerous and respectfully attended—was addressed by Maj. Bruce, Judge Strickland, Professor Dinsdale, Judge Tallaferra, Col. Deimling, Judge Lovell, and the Rev. A. M. Hough. The General would have been proud of such a gathering of good men, all anxious to endorse his policy. Connor is the man for Indian fighting; he is incorruptible, energetic, brave, and he knows his trade, which can be said of but few, and they never were sent out. The Department know "how not to do it" perfectly. If Gen. Grant would speak a word on our behalf, the blood-stained robes would soon be wiped out. The superseding of Gen. Connor is either the most stupid blunder or the result of the most unholierlike malice that we have read of for years.

THE MUSSEL-SHELL ROAD.—The expedition mentioned in our last issue has returned. Captain Ray W. Andrews—the leader—reports the road from Mussel-Shell to Helena as being under two hundred miles in length, and probably not more than one hundred and eighty. The wood, water and grass along the line is splendid; the level is low, and only one easy crossing of the Belt Range of mountains to be encountered. The river running along the road for many miles is called Pemberton creek. The company will spend from \$10,000 to \$12,000, on the line, in order to have it opened for travel by next spring. A site is laid off for a town, to be called "Kercheval City;" ranches are pre-empted and deeded to the company, and every preparation has been made to insure a successful start in the much needed enterprise of establishing a town at the permanent head of navigation on the Missouri. The principal officers of the Company are: F. B. Kercheval, President; N. P. Langford, Vice-President; Warren Toole, Secretary. Messrs. A. Fall, Kercheval, Vivion, Pemberton and Richard Leech, compose the Directory. Either by a branch or by a direct route, the month of the Mussel-Shell is equally accessible by a good road from Virginia City. The citizens of both Helena and Virginia will well feel gratified at this news. A good road between the great quartz and placer mining centers of Montana and the head of navigation, will do more to establish their permanent prosperity than anything that could be devised, short of railroad communication with the East.

METEOROLOGICAL PHENOMENON.—A meteor, which the profane and vulgar would pronounce as something larger than a stable bucket, and intensely luminous, was observed at about nine o'clock, on Monday evening, shooting across the firmament from east to west. It was seen, most clearly, in Hot Springs district. The meteor burst like a star rocket, sending showers of sparks in all directions. It is a pity, in view of the latter development, that it did not occur where ladies are more numerous. About two minutes afterwards, there was a loud explosion as of heavy artillery, followed by a rumbling noise of considerable duration. 1866, as the Rev. Mr. Cummings politely informs the readers of his prophecies, is to be the year of the "Fall of the beast," and other remarkable occurrences. The sun has got a black eye, we are told, and divers appearances of a wonderful character, are accepted by the lovers of the marvellous as tokens of warlike times. The prophecies are, for the most part, got up like a cracked bell, according to fancy, and with a due regard to the state of the sky, and the digestive organs. Men given to late supper prognostications hereby.

THE DISTRICT COURT for this District will meet Dec. 26th, of the day succeeding Christmas. Judge Munson is busy holding the Courts at Helena.

Mass Meeting, Endorsing the Conduct and Policy of Gen. Connor.

At a mass meeting of the citizens of Virginia City and Nevada City, Montana Territory, held at the latter place, on the 14th inst., 1865, pursuant to call, Hon. J. M. Castner, acting Mayor of Virginia City, in the chair, F. C. Deimling was duly elected Secretary, when the following resolutions were read and unanimously adopted: 1st. Resolved, That the citizens of Virginia City and Nevada City, in the Territory of Montana, feel bound to give public expression to their warmest admiration for Brigadier-General P. Connor, which animates this entire community; not merely in the character of a military leader, but inasmuch as he has displayed on every occasion, skill and personal gallantry in the defense of the soil, but in deep appreciation, moreover, of the stern integrity and indomitable resolution with which he has prosecuted every enterprise that has been committed to his charge.

2d. Resolved, That the spirit which has ever animated General Connor in his masterly operations against the hostile Indians of the plains, is in perfect accordance with our conviction, deliberate as it is unalterable, that these savage enemies of civilization and humanity should be chastised by the sword, and that the peace of the Territory, and in emphatically declaring our full concurrence in Gen. Connor's policy of dealing with these enemies of our race and country, we refer to the very satisfactory relations that have existed between the whites and the Snake Indians, ever since the crushing defeat of the latter by Gen. Connor, at the battle of Bear River.

3d. Resolved, That the recent brilliant and successful campaign of Gen. Connor on Powder River, having been conducted within the Territory of Montana, we consider it peculiarly appropriate that the people of this Territory should express their warmest appreciation of the services of this gallant officer, as well as to the officers and men of his brave company, for the eminent and essential service he and they rendered our Territory, by the frequent defeats the Sioux and other savage tribes, and their removal to the west, which it is our firm conviction, would have resulted in the complete pacification of the plains and mountains, beyond and about our Territory, had General Connor been adequately reinforced and permitted to carry out fully his masterly plan of Indian warfare.

4th. Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the newspapers of this Territory, and that copies be transmitted to General Connor, and to the War Department at Washington.

On motion, That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to acting Mayor Castner, and the City Council, for their activity in responding to the request of the citizens for the calling of this meeting.

On motion, That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to the Rev. Mr. Hough, and the trustees of the Methodist Church, for granting the use of the church building, for the purposes of this meeting.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

J. M. CASTNER, Acting Mayor of Virginia City, President. F. C. DEIMLING, Secretary.

TELEGRAPHIC ABSTRACT.

Letters remaining unclaimed in the Post Office, Virginia City, Montana Territory, December 14th, 1865. To obtain these letters the applicant must call for "unclaimed letters," give the date of this list, and pay two cents for advertisement.

New York, Dec. 5th. The Treasury, the payment of the January coupons will be continued. The newest smuggling dodge is filling coffins with silks, &c. The fractional currency received at the Department is counterfeited. S. C. Durant, vice-President of the Union Pacific railroad, is now in Washington, making arrangements for the examination and acceptance by the government of the route of the proposed Kansas, giving decisive information of the belligerent status of the tribes in that section. The report that has obtained, in regard to the burning of the coach by the Apaches and Cheyennes, on the Smoky Hill route, on November 10th, is fully substantiated. The massacre of Frederick Merrill and five others, then traveling on the coach. It is also represented, that after committing this outrage, the whole force attacked successfully, five mail stations along the route, which they destroyed, and the passengers of the live stock along the line of their devastation. They then departed in a south-easterly direction.

Chicago, Dec. 5th. An able synopsis of Gen. Grant's report of his active operations in the field, from the date of his assuming the command-in-chief, appears in the "Tribune." He says his policy was to fight heavy battles and strike decisive blows; that the contents of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, &c., were necessary to take the conceit out of the enemy. A correct statement, made at Lowell, Mass., compares Butler's position at Bermuda Hundred, to that of being in a bottle closely corked. He pays a handsome tribute to Meade, as the real commander of the Army of the Potomac.

Letter from Junction City.

JUNCTION CITY, Dec. 12th, 1865. EDITORS MONTANA POST.—GENTLEMEN: For the first time I propose communicating to your columns a few items, presuming that the many readers of your paper in this part of the County, as well as many other portions of Montana Territory, would like to see on account which forms an item in the recent history of this locality. This, you know, was one of the most flourishing mining camps in Alder Gulch; but the rich claims which then sustained the town have been worked out, and hundreds of the hard-fisted miners who formerly paraded our streets in clean shirts, on Sunday, have left for the Atlantic States, or for the valleys of other Territories. But we who are left are hopeful that the little town will awake from the torpor into which it has been thrown for some time, and once more put on the smiling face which so well became it, in the days of its former prosperity. At last, seven companies have combined to form a frame one hundred and eighty-four feet in length, eight feet wide and four feet high, for the purpose of carrying all the water from the middle of this Gulch, over on Dixey Bar, where there has been a shaft sunk twenty-three feet into the ground of the West Cornwall Company, who have some six feet from the bottom of the shaft, through a rich strata of gravel, which will exceed any discovery made here yet. It is supposed that it will pay one dollar to a bucket of dirt; and the Company say they are not through the streak as yet. By all appearances, it continues to run down the whole length of the Bar. The companies have received a new impetus, and have gone to work sinking shafts, cutting new ditches, and boarding up drains for the use of the seven companies, at an expense of not less than \$2,500, and have them now in operation. There are also some ten miles of tunnels further down; but I will reserve an account of them until some other time, fearing to cram your columns. I must not, however, neglect to say we have numerous families in this vicinity; and I assure you of greater part of the lady portion of them are as estimable as the best of the gentlemen. There are numerous boys and girls. Among other improvements, we have a nice little church, which was built under the direction of a town committee, which collected, on their first meeting night, nearly sufficient to pay for the frame; and in two weeks our house of worship was completed. The dedicatory ceremonies were conducted by the Rev. A. M. Hough, of Virginia City, who preaches here every two weeks. Mr. W. James and Mr. Robert Dunkin officiate on the Sabbath evenings, the afternoons and evenings. There has been established a Sabbath school, which comprises two Bible classes of adults, both male and female; besides numerous classes of boys and girls. We have a singing school for the children, on Tuesday evenings; and every other night there is a meeting to pay for the frame; and in two weeks our house of worship was completed. The dedicatory ceremonies were conducted by the Rev. A. M. Hough, of Virginia City, who preaches here every two weeks. Mr. W. James and Mr. Robert Dunkin officiate on the Sabbath evenings, the afternoons and evenings. There has been established a Sabbath school, which comprises two Bible classes of adults, both male and female; besides numerous classes of boys and girls. We have a singing school for the children, on Tuesday evenings; and every other night there is a meeting to pay for the frame; and in two weeks our house of worship was completed. The dedicatory ceremonies were conducted by the Rev. A. M. Hough, of Virginia City, who preaches here every two weeks. Mr. W. James and Mr. Robert Dunkin officiate on the Sabbath evenings, the afternoons and evenings. 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