

# Montana Post---Supplement.

Virginia City, Montana Territory, April 21, 1866.

## Winding up of the Christian Commission.

From the Sacramento "Union," of March 17th, we extract the following account of the winding up of the Christian Commission, one of the noblest organizations of this or of any other age:

Rev. Dr. Boynton, Chaplain of Congress, delivered the opening prayer. A psalm was read by Rev. W. S. Taylor. Steward, President of the Christian Commission, then gave an interesting statement of the work, showing that two and a half millions of money had been received and disbursed. Two millions and eight hundred dollars worth of hospital stores were distributed; also more than a million dollars worth of publications, sixty-five thousand dollars worth of stationery one million four hundred and sixty thousand Bibles and testaments, more than a million hymn books, more than eight million knapsack books, two hundred and ninety-six thousand library books, and eighteen million copies of religious newspapers. The total cost of all receipts he stated at \$6,264,000.

Charles Demond, of Boston, who wrote the resolutions adopted at the organization of the Commission, gave an interesting sketch of its history, with many thrilling incidents. He exhibited to the audience a five cent bill which a widow of eighty, who earned her living by the needle, walked miles to give to her pastor for the soldiers; a silver dollar, the dying gift of a mother, and the wedding ring of a widow, who had given her only son to die for his country.

Mr. Coffax stated that at the last anniversary of the Commission, on the last Sabbath, January, 1865, that striking ode, "Your Mission," was sung. Abraham Lincoln, with his tall form, his care-worn face, and his noble throbbing heart, was here, and listened to it, the tears coursing down his cheeks. Subsequently he sent up the program, which Coffax exhibited, on which appears the following request in his familiar hand-writing—written by that hand now lying cold in the grave: "Near the close let us sing 'Your Mission' repeated by Mr. Phillips. Do not say that I called for it."—Lincoln.

Phillips, of Cincinnati, then sang, amidst profound silence, the beautiful ode referred to. Eloquent address followed by Rev. Admiral Davis, Rev. Herick Johnson, of Pittsburgh, Senator Doolittle, of Wisconsin, General Angier and Rev. B. W. Childlaw—Phillips singing between the speeches, "We are Rising as a People, and America."

Bishop Simpson delivered the parting speech, summing up the work of the Commission, its efficient and vital aid to the Government, with a glowing eulogy on women, closing with a brilliant encomium on General Grant and George H. Stewart, whom he declared to be the Lieutenant-General of the Christian Commission. After Phillips had sung "Home of the Soul," and Rev. Prof. Moss, of Pennsylvania, had delivered the closing prayer, the Hutchinsons sang several odes. Dr. Dyer, of New York, pronounced the benediction, and the vast assemblage dispersed. Chief Justice Chase, Secretary Wells, Lieutenant-General Grant, Admiral Farragut, and many other distinguished persons were present.

**A SCENE IN THE LAMBETH POOR-HOUSE.**—A discussion in regard to the place provided by the guardians of the poor in Lambeth disclosed the fact that while the regular apartment for casual poor is well kept, there is another place into which the surplus are packed, of which the "Express" gives the following account:

"Some quarter of a mile from the work-house, and near the river side, is the lodging-house to which all male casuals are now sent who apply for shelter after the casual ward is full. At half past ten, on the night in question, in one of its upper rooms, a cramped little place in which, perhaps, half a dozen small beds might be packed, more than twice that number of men and youths lay huddled on the floor. They were all perfectly naked, and had clustered together for the sake of animal heat, just as sleeping swine are seen to do. They rested upon what seemed to be hay mattresses, but which were ranged close together, without any division, so that they made practically one huge floor bed for each side of the room. The naked sleepers had rugs for covering, and on an adventurous visitor turning down one of these, the brawny figures of three muscular tramps, bare as when they came into the world, were seen to be entwined together, an undistinguishable mass of naked flesh. Youths lay in the arms of men—men were enfolded in each other's embrace; there was neat, fire nor light; nor supervision, and the weak and feeble were at the complete mercy of the strong and ruffianly. The air was laden with a pestilential stench, and though the recumbent figures appeared too red and hot, the scene was as revolting as anything told of in the prisons Howard shuddered at and reformed. The only people in charge of these wretched casuals were the son of the keeper of the lodging-house and an old male servant."

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.**—The following is an amendment now before Congress, having been sometime since agreed upon by the committee on Reconstruction: "That Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper to secure to the citizens of each State all the privileges and immunities of citizens in the several States, and to all persons in the several States equal protection in life liberty and property."

Mrs. Bigelow, wife of the American Minister in Paris, is seriously ill. The French papers describe the modest "menage" of the republican representative with much admiration for its Spartan simplicity. One journalist found Mr. Bigelow cooking his own ham and eggs, without any attendant to wait on him, and appears to think that these domestic incidents are subjects of public curiosity.

## The Devil has Appeared.

The gentleman of brimstone odor often cuts up his antics on earth, but has rarely, or never, been seen by any person until recently. It is gravely asserted that he has been playing the devil in Kentucky. A correspondent of the New York "Times" writes as follows:

"From an examination of country newspapers in this state, I find that the rumored appearance of the devil is fully credited, and the one much talked of by all is no myth. In a late number of the Mount Sterling 'Sentinel' a statement is published which is regularly sworn to by seven persons, named as follows: Nathaniel Squires, Sarah D. Squires, Minerva Squires, Lucy Squires, Martha W. Dale, Achen Fuqua and Jesse Bond. I copy the following extract:

"Standing to the right of the upper cabin (negro cabin), near the fence that separates the negroes' garden from the hotel yard, was a creature of gigantic stature, and the most horrifying appearance. It was nearly as high as the comb of the cabin, had a monstrous head, not dissimilar in shape to that of an ape; its arms were long, covered with shaggy hair of an ashen hue, and terminated with huge claws, not unlike those of a cat, and armed with long, hooked claws; its breast was broad as that of a large-sized ox; its legs resembled the front legs of a horse, only the hoofs were cloven, it had a long tail, armed with a dart shaped horn, which it was continually switching about; its eyes glowed like two living coals of fire, while from its nostrils and mouth were emitted sheets of bluish-colored flame, with a hissing sound, like the hiss of a serpent, only a thousand times louder. Its general color, save its arms, was a dull, dingy brown. The air was powerfully impregnated with a smell of burning sulphur. The poor negroes were evidently laboring under the extreme terror, and two of them—an old woman and a lad—were actually driven to insanity by their fears. The monster was visible only a few seconds, and then vanished in a spiral column of flame."

"The statement goes on to show that precisely the same apparition appeared at a neighbor's house, except that its head appeared like that of a horse; and at another's, with a head like a vulture's; and at still another's, with a head like an elephant. The Justice of the Peace, of Bracken county, Mr. J. G. Finley, certifies that the affiant is credible and reliable person, and that the statements entitled to full faith and credit."

"From the above description of the Evil One, one may form a faint idea of the terrors he must have inspired in the minds of those who witnessed the phenomenon, and the curdling of blood that resulted. The statement fixes the time of his advent at Monday and Tuesday nights, 12th and 13th ult., and is published in the 'Sentinel' of the 23d ult."

"Thus it appears that not only negroes are terror-stricken, but whites of high respectability are thrown into ecstasies of fear and horror."

**PROFITS OF COTTON CULTURE.**—The following figures are given in De Bow's "Review," and the editor thinks that the resulting profits represent a minimum. The table shows expenses incurred and profits received, in and from the cultivation of 1,250 acres of land—1,000 in cotton and two hundred and fifty in corn.

100 hands at \$10 per month.....	\$12,000
100 lbs pork at \$40.....	4,000
40 lbs molasses at \$10.....	4,000
Clothing for 100 hands at \$50.....	5,000
50 first-class mules at \$150.....	7,500
Wagons and farming implements.....	3,500
Oxen and cows.....	1,500
5,000 bushels corn at \$1.....	5,000
Hay and fodder.....	1,500
Overseer's wages.....	2,000
Assistant Overseer.....	800
Medicines, medical attendance, etc.....	1,500
Carpenter's tools, cooking utensils, etc.....	1,000
Lumber.....	1,500
Incidentals.....	1,500
Fee simple of land at \$20 per acre.....	25,000
Total.....	\$74,400

**COTTON PROFITS.**

1,000 bales—400 lbs each—at 30 cts.....	\$120,000
7,500 bushels of corn at \$1.....	7,500
50 mules at \$100 each.....	5,000
Oxen and Cows.....	1,000
Carpenter's tools etc.....	800
Fee simple of land.....	25,000
Total.....	\$159,000
Deduct expenses.....	74,400
Net profits.....	\$84,600

Say but half of the above crop—two hundred pounds to the acre—is made, and the profits would still be \$24,600, or almost the cost of the land, which with the certain development of the South, must increase in value. It is said, however, that the items for wages, food and clothing ought to be increased.

**AN INCH OF WATER.**—The following is the definition of a miner's inch of water, in Mr. Hanshaw's Bill, introduced in the California Legislature:

SECTION 1. A legal inch of water, sold for mining, agricultural, or other purposes, is hereby declared to be what water may pass through an orifice of one inch square, through plank of one inch in thickness, with a pressure of seven inches measured from the centre of the orifice to the surface of the water; provided the water shall be delivered from a box in which the water has no motion, except that caused by the flow of the water to be delivered from that particular box.

Sec 2. This act shall take effect from and after the first day of May, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six.

## Transmutation of Metals.

The following extract from an article in the San Francisco "Mining and Scientific Press," of March 24th, is extremely interesting. It recalls to our minds the days of alchemy and the search for the Philosopher's Stone:

"The question of the transmutation of metals has recently made a new advance, thanks to the learned researches of Dr. Henry Favre, and of M. Franz, the metallurgist, of Paris. The possibility of transforming silver, copper and mercury into gold, announced by them, has strongly attracted the public attention. Nevertheless, in making their discovery public, the object of the inventors has been less to prove that they have succeeded in making gold than to demonstrate the essential instability of elementary substances, the importance of which fact, in the scientific world, is very great. \* \* \* A certain quantity of chlorhydrate of ammonia (sal ammoniac) is dissolved in ammonia. The salt should be well filtered if it is turbid. This solution is perfectly white, is then added to it, and the flask is shaken. The chloride of silver dissolves, and the liquor immediately becomes turbid, assuming at the same time a yellow color. Upon resting a while, a yellow powder is deposited, which is collected with care. The following are the characteristics of this powder:

1. Treated with aqua regia, it dissolves completely and a new addition of ammonia re-precipitates it.
2. It is not fulminating.
3. It furnishes gold by electrolysis, that is, at the two poles of an element of Bunsen.

It will be seen that there is here produced a most remarkable fact; that is, a transformation and a separation simultaneously. The ammonia is the solvent of the chloride of silver, and at the same time the reagent of the metal transformed by copper and mercury into gold. The question is well worth the trouble.

Such a subject deserves, perhaps, to be treated more in detail; but we refer to it when M. M. Favre and Franz shall have published their proceedings relative to the transformation of copper and mercury into gold. The question is well worth the trouble.

**CHINESE SERVANTS VS. WHITE GIRLS.**—The San Francisco correspondent of the Chicago "Times" writes thus of the Celestials in California:

"We are trying to civilize the children of the land of Confucius, and they are improving wonderfully. We have about sixty thousand Chinamen in California. Some of them are in the mines; others on the farms and vineyards, and a vast number working as servants in white families. Nearly every family in San Francisco, that can afford it, has a China boy for a servant. They make good ones too, but occasionally they play sad havoc with the morals of the young females of the household. I know of three maidens, in this city, who have been on too familiar terms with their almond-eyed servant boys, and were brought disgrace on themselves and their families. The girls were very beautiful and much loved by those who knew them. Being in constant contact with the China boys, they became imprudent and were ruined. It is sickening to think of beautiful white girls being seduced by these copper-colored young scoundrels. But such is the fact, and as a veracious correspondent I record it. Those Chinamen first learn our ways, and become schooled in our vices more readily than in our virtues. Why, a decent merchant had occasion to go to his residence at an unusual hour recently, and found, to his horror, his wife in the arms of a Chinese servant. The Chinaman barely escaped with his life, while a separation took place between the merchant and his wife. These things are kept out of the newspapers and are not known." Is there no help in California?—[Ed.]

**THE KEITH PROCESS.**—The Miners' "Register," of Central, Colorado, speaking of the success of the Keith process in its issue of the 20th of March says:

"At one establishment on Clear Creek—we refer to the Mammoth mill, conducted by Behr & Keith—the average yield for nearly a month has been over three hundred ounces of gold per week, and valued at five thousand four hundred dollars. The gross expense for crushing, amalgamating, and hauling ore is estimated at only six hundred dollars per week—the ore producing, say on an average, five hundred dollars per cord, which is less than any has yielded treated by their process. When these works shall have been completed, and their capacity doubled, as is now being rapidly done, the yield may be multiplied by two. In short time we can safely estimate the production of gold from this establishment alone at two thousand dollars per day, or six hundred thousand dollars per working year of three hundred days." We also learn from the same paper, that the laws of amalgamation has had a practical trial which has demonstrated its power of collecting all the gold and silver in the powdered ore submitted to its operation. The plan is to force powdered quartz to the bottom of a receiver, or trough, filled with a mass of molten lead, eighteen inches in depth, through which it rises by the operation of the laws of gravity, and floats off exhausted of the coveted minerals. An assay of the tailings showed only a bare trace of silver, and this, in all probability, contained in particles of the lead unavoidably scraped up with the tailings.

A bullock was lately killed in New York, which weighed 3,795 pounds gross, and made 2,475 pounds of clear beef. He was sold for \$1300.

## The Progress of Reconstruction.

An English lady who has travelled through Georgia on Sherman's track, has written home a letter, which is copied in the London "Spectator." The "Reveille" extracts the following:

"I should say that 'reconstruction' was proceeding just as fast as one could expect or desire. Two months ago, here in Georgia, the planters would take nothing but gold for their cotton; now they won't have gold, and are taking and spending greenbacks as fast as any people in the country; and then the travel! Every hotel, every railway train is full to overflowing; all the men go North to buy goods, and all the women to buy clothes and furniture; and Northern people come here to see their friends and relatives. In the cars the two sections did not speak, and some Southern men looked rather gloomy; but from time to time there was talk meant for the others to hear, and then there was very good-natured comment. As—says, the Americans, North and South, always reconcile themselves to an accomplished fact. I even fancy that I can trace a feeling of relief at being done with slavery. It was, I know, to many a heavy care, which yet they feared more than disliked relinquishing. However that may be, they are glad to have passed Christmas, at which time an insurrection was much dreaded; and now the chief concern is lest in the middle of summer, when every effort has to be made to secure the crops, the field hands should desert or prove refractory. They must run the risk, however. People are preparing to plant on all hands, and an Englishman long resident here told me, last night, that he was convinced that in six or seven years they would raise as much cotton as ever. As regards the general treatment of the freedmen by their late masters, in the hypothetical case of the latter being restored to the full control of their internal affairs, that is, a return to the 'status quo ante bellum,' minus slavery, so far as its name is concerned, I cannot believe they are safely to be trusted."

**THEIVING MANIA.**—Dr. Gall mentions having seen a person in prison, at Fribourg, who had set fire to his house four times in succession; and who, after he had set fire to it, tried to put it out. Some have an irresistible desire to steal without any other mark of insanity. Gall says that the first King of Sweden was always stealing trifles. Instances are mentioned of one who constantly pilfered; and of another, who, having a desire to steal, entered the army, hoping the severe discipline there would restrain him. But he gave way to the propensity over there, and was very near being hanged. He then became a friar with the same hope; but he still felt the same desire, and carried all the things he could to his cell; but as he could only get trifles, he was not noticed. Gall also mentions that a person at Vienna, in the habit of stealing, hired a lodging in which to deposit his thefts; and when he got a stock he sold them. He stole only household matters. The wife of a celebrated physician never went into a shop to buy anything without stealing; and a countess of Frankfurt had the same propensity. Another lady, notwithstanding all the care with which she was brought up, had the same desire to pilfer. You will find it related of a physician, that his wife had to examine his pockets in the evening, and restore to his patients the things she found there. He always took something as well as his fee. Merit speaks of a criminal who, at the moment he was about to be executed, stole the confessor's snuff-box. Dr. Barner, who was one of the physicians to the King of Bavaria, speaks of a person who enjoyed abundance, and had been well educated, but who, notwithstanding, was always stealing; and was made a soldier by his father, and at last got hanged. The son of a celebrated and learned man—himself very clever, and respectfully connected in every respect—could not resist the temptation; and I could go on and furnish you with instances without end of individuals who acted thus, as it would appear, from necessity; not from any criminal motive, but from a blind desire too strong for them to resist.

**NEWSPAPER INFLUENCE.**—A correspondent of the German "Reformed Messenger" mentions the impression produced upon a traveler from Europe while in a western city, by witnessing the eagerness of Americans for newspapers. He says:

"He hastily approached me with eyes gleaming with admiration and delight. 'What a wonderful race the American people are,' was his earnest outburst, 'every man with a newspaper! See the drayman there, sitting on his box, eagerly reading his newspaper; and yonder that laborer, stopping on the corner to buy his newspaper; and further, a workman with his paper just sticking out of his pocket, where he has placed it for further reading as he has leisure.' So I have seen it in every American town and city. There is nothing like it in Europe. No other people, through all its ranks, can be so thoroughly versed in the current information of the country and the world. Wonderful people, was his pointed summing up, as if to hint at the profound philosophy embodied in this popular phrase and fact. The expression brings up to view the vast educational value and effect of the newspaper, secular and religious in American society, touching our social, civil or individual interests—moulding and fashioning national, social or political character."

**A SINGULAR RULE.**—The Boston School Committee have so amended their school regulations as to forbid any teacher from receiving a present from any scholar or class in the public schools in that city. Not even a graduating class is allowed to make any demonstration of that kind of their appreciation of a teacher under whose direction they received their education. Such a rule appears unnecessarily arbitrary and severe, and would hardly be thought of in any other locality than here. "City of notions;" albeit Boston has some excellent notions, and especially about school teaching.