The Montana Post.

Saturday.....May 26, 1866.

To Advertisers.—*The* POST *is the pioneer newspaper of Montana, has the largest circulation, and contains double the amount of reading matter of any paper in the Territory. Those wishing to bring their business conspicuously before the public, will bear in mind that the* POST *(in addition to its large Eastern subscription) is a regular visitor in every mining camp, town and hamlet in Montana.*

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RECONSTRUCTION.

The principle upon which free governments are alone possible is constant compromise, and the old Latin proverb is sustained every day by the declaration in the shape of votes of the legislative bodies, that the middle path is the safest, always. It is true that this kind of course pleases no one but the wise, and that wisdom being by no means extravagantly distributed among mankind, that both sides are dissatisfied; yet, in the end, when partizan rancor and asperity are smoothed down by the current of time, or by the constant attrition of politics, the most violent are compelled to own the EXPEDIENCY, at least, of such settlements, and this is about all we can arrive at in sublunary matters; for notions of political JUSTICE are biassed and distorted in every possible way by the uncontrollable influences of birth, education, association and mental constitution; so that on this we could never agree. A great and free nation cannot be exclusively governed by any one set of men or opinions, for any length of time, when once intelligence becomes the general characteristic of the people; the course of events resembles, rather, the line taken by a body acted upon by forces of opposite directions; it follows a path entirely consistent with neither of them, but born of the impulses of both; with this controlling influence on the side of immutable justice in human affairs, that

"There's a divinity that shapes our ends,
Rough hew them as we may."

Perhaps there never was a time when such reflections presented themselves with more force to the mind of the patriot than at the present juncture of affairs. The tempest is over; but the Ship of State rocks and reels on the heaving billows that follow the raging of the storm, even more violently than when the hurricane of political strife was at its height; yet the old mariner knows that this is the inevitable prelude of the coming calm. We have attentively watched the progress of the elemental strife, and have, from time to time, predicted what to us seemed the only possible solutions of the problems which have arisen in debate on the momentous questions affecting the settlement of our national affairs; and, now, the tendency of Congressional proceedings is such that we can see, more plainly than ever before, that the future destiny of the nation is taking unmistakable shape and position.

The report of the Reconstruction Committee has been presented to our readers, and with the exception of the third clause, will probably be substantially adopted as the only possible compromise between the discordant views of the opposing parties in Congress. Negro suffrage cannot be adopted now; the disfranchisement af the South till after the next Presidential election is impossible to be carried; the South cannot count political dead-heads as a basis of apportionment in voting; the winners will not pay the debts incurred by the losers in the strife now happily concluded, and it is useless to contend that States which have been definitely overthrown in the attempt at secession are out of the Union. They are, therefore, part and parcel of the United States; but, seeing that they exhibit some strong signs of insubordination and recklessness—not having had time to cool after four years' fever—it is a matter of necessity that they should give some promises of future pacific demeanor, and that they should be represented in the national councils by men whose antecedents are of sufficiently good character to ensure the reliability of their council and action, when taking part in the legislative deliberations of Congress. No matter how fierce the opposition of both parties, to something as nearly like this as can be predicated will matters come at last, and more extreme measures—just or unjust—are useless in discussion, because they are simply unattainable. With the result we have outlined, we should be contented.

The example of Britain is before us. In the days of the first Charles, the question fought about was whether one man was absolute, or whether every man was a king. One man cropped his hair, took a verse of Scripture for his name, assumed a sour expression, and was horridly virtuous, proclaiming that every one who believed as he did had a right to his opinion. Another let his waving tresses hang half way down his back; dressed gaily; swore roundly, and was gallant, gay and detestably vicious, with no particular convictions except on the subject of his own personal superiority to his roundhead neighbor, a belief in the Divine right of certain men to do wrong, and in the Divine right of the masses to do as they were bid by himself and friends. Neither succeeded; but after shedding oceans of blood, the affair was compromised by leaving a King without any material authority, an aristocracy under the control of a democracy, and recruited from their ranks, with as many checks and safeguards as a modern safe lock.

America is far ahead of this state of things; starting unencumbered with the useless paraphernalia of a titled aristocracy, a feudal paralysis of manhood, a useless crown, a state church and a monopolized domain, she stands at the head of the nations.

One bone of contention remained; one "irrepressible conflict" had to be decided. Virtually, this is done, and out of the chaos of civil war arises, in white garments, the Goddess of Liberty, bearing cypress for the fallen, palms for the heroes who died for their country, and the olive branch of peace as the emblem of the future. The wonder of mankind is not that we contend so much; but that we settle our differences with such magic rapidity. The fame of the leaders in the contest will be equally a matter of compromise; but in this matter complete justice can be done only by posterity. Prominent among the living contestants stands the successor of the great and good Abraham Lincoln. The best character that was ever given to mortal man in so trying a position as that of President Johnson, has been awarded by the extremists of both sections, greatly against their will. One party call him an abolitionist autocrat, and the other, a copperhead and friend of secession. The inevitable compromise defines him as neither; but as a friend of all his country and a patriot. "No man is wise at all times," and to be faultless is to be lifeless; still we read the long story of his services with pleasure and pride, and believe that the recording angel bearing to Heaven's chancery the account of any questionable action of his, "sighed as he gave it in, and, dropping a tear upon the record, blotted it out forever."

COMMENDABLE ENTERPRISE.—We look upon the completion of the Central ditch of the Virginia Water Company as one of the most important events that has happened in this neighborhood, since Alder Gulch was first struck. To Mr. Jas. McEvilly are the thanks of our citizens due for demonstrating in a practical manner the richness of the mountain slopes which stretch for miles in one vast auriferous belt along Alder Gulch, and for supplying the only means that could make them available. We are glad to say that the spirited individual who has, unaided by our moneyed men, carried through the arduous and expensive operation of conducting an unfailing supply of 700 inches of water from the Highland lakes and Wigwam Gulch, is now rapidly receiving the just reward of the labor, privation and hardship which only indomitable perseverance enabled him to sustain. Judge Dance, we believe is the only gentleman of the mercantile class who has assisted in this matter—the money needed having been supplied mainly by some Irish miners of this district. There are three ditches—a lower, middle and upper one. The first mentioned two are completed; the central and lower one being the feeders of the hydraulic and ground sluicing works mentioned in our local column. The upper level ditch will not be finished till next year, before which time it will not be wanted, as there is much work to be done below before it will be necessary to obtain water to wash the higher slopes of the mountains. The bed rock flume for the gulch is all that is required to place Virginia at the head of the mountain cities, for, of the quality and quantity of the quartz in its immediate vicinity, as well as the certainty of its speedy development, there is no longer any doubt remaining. Our prospects are, indeed, brilliant and of the lasting kind.

Prices Current.

The "Democrat" of the 24th inst., in pursuance of its usual policy, i. e., striving to manufacture a character by detraction of its neighbors, and by rummaging out imaginary insults which it resents on the part of coveted patrons, devotes nearly a column to an attack on our price current. Any attempt at vilifying the "POST," we look upon with indifference—not having a guilty conscience, accusing us of wilful misrepresentation. On the present occasion, however, as the attack is made not "on" us, but "through" us at a most respected and respectable merchant of this city, we are led to bestow a little more attention than we commonly do, to such diatribes as the one complained of. As usual, the Major's good genius sighs and leaves him when he attacks the "POST." How does the Editor of the "Democrat" make up his reports? He sends a little boy around with slips to "leading houses;" accepts nobody's report, but adds them up where they disagree, and strikes an average, thus presenting, according to his own account, an entirely illusory report, for which nobody is responsible, and which nobody authorized. We once, in the days of our legal studies, had charge of a jury case for the defendant. The verdict was against us, but, being a little suspicious of the "ways and means," we picked up the issue paper, which had fallen from the hands of the foreman, and saw on the back of it a verdict "a la Democrat." Down the centre was drawn a line; the left hand was marked "for Plaintiff," the right hand was headed "for Defendant." Each juror had written his name and his "damages," as he felt disposed, in one or other column. The foreman added them up; the less was taken from the greater, and the balance was the Major's market price current—we beg pardon, we meant to say the "verdict." In our prejudiced ignorance we prefer going for information to a respectable merchant; a man of large dealings, and whose name and character are vouchers for the accuracy of his statements. The entire coolness of the statement that the "POST" said such was the price when we, the "Democrat," said it was thus and so, (which, of course, (?) settled the matter,) is not annoying, but it is amusing. On cursorily looking over the commercial wholesale list, which commences at the huge transaction of a $20 bill, says the "Democrat," we, indeed, find a couple of novelties rather startling to people of limited comprehension, comparatively speaking, when weighed in the balances against our didactic neighbor. We there find that an article, intended, we presume, for "molasses," is vended at $5 for the ten (10) gallon keg. We can only suppose that the golden fluid was intended to be sold in conjunction with the "States Butter," which we have had the strongest reasons for not adverting to, for the past eighteen months of its stay in this market. With the exception of a small lot in the hands of a prominent firm we have not heard of any other considerable quantity of merchantable State's butter in market, lately. The foreign substance "Heese," which has appeared regularly, since the 19th of April, marked at 75 cts. per lb., had also escaped our notice; but we promise to look up any transaction in it, for the future.—Ordinary tobacco is likewise mentioned in the article, as having been sold at $1 per lb. On reflection, we should say that under our present form of government, it must be very "ordinary," in fact, extra "ordinary." So it goes with the whole rigmarole, picking out sales on the streets of poor samples, to be re-sold at a large advance by the buyer. It is hardly to be supposed that a merchant sells an article at wholesale for what he buys it. Yet such is the "Democrat's" notion of trade. We give an account of merchants' sales in stores; the "Democrat" wishes that these figures should be the same as those they buy them for from freighters. This is the Major's commercial style, but it is not ours. The first quotation in the document we have been examining, is (speaking of flour,) "Salt Lake, from freighters, $10 @ $10 50. Sold out of stores at $12 50 @ $13," which, in fact, is an admission of the whole matter in dispute. Only one lot was sold on the street at $10, and that under very peculiar circumstances, quite out of the ordinary current of business, and this was mentioned in our last week's issue. The statement that sugars quoted at 52½ to 55 cts per lb. is erroneous, and that all kinds were only 50 cts. is, of course, patently absurd, for no one will give as much for "Orleans" as for "Powdered," and the "leader" contradicts the price current; the latter making the article vary from 45 cts. to 50 cts.—Some tea, the "Democrat" had for weeks at $2 50 @ $1 75, (we should prefer the latter,) when the "POST."—the Major's night-mare—announced teas at $3 to $3 50. All we can say is that we congratulate ourselves on not having to drink any of the infusion of the herb sold at the price mentioned in the "Democrat." We do not intend to cite any more examples where all are of the same sort. We also beg to remark in conclusion, that the idea of quoting low is a mistake in policy as well as in fact. A man in Salt Lake reads: "flour at $10 per sack."—He says: "the commission will be a dollar, and this leaves me only $9. I will hold my goods." If the truth had been told, viz: that it was $12 to $13, the wholesale store price, he would send on his flour. Here lies the case. If a freighter sells in the streets, he cannot get within $2 of what he could realize by consigning it to a merchant, who, of course, would sell the consigned goods at the same price as his own, from the store. But, if the freighter sells to a jobber, he has to lose his profit which is generally more than double the ordinary commission. We will attend to our business as we best can, honestly endeavoring to present a just and correct list of prices, and seeing that the "Democrat's" policy is fixed, we shall not object to some "railing" in a "paper" which is nearly full of "POSTS."

Important News.

The news which arrived as we were going to press is of great importance, more especially as far as the territories are corcerned. The bill which has passed the House prohibits the Territorial Legislatures from granting special charters, but they may pass general incorporation laws, and it declares null and void all special charters that have heretofore been granted. No officer appointed by the President is to receive pay unless he shall have entered upon his duties within the Territoty, and no pay for absentees without leave. The Legislatures to be prohibited from granting divorces, which will be obtainable in the U. S. Courts. The ninth section declares that in territories there shall be no denial of the elective franchise, because of race or color, to citizens of the U. S., and all shall be equal before the law. The Territorial Secretary is to have the same pay as the Governor while performing the Governor's duties. The House refused to strike out Sec. 9 by 76 to 36, and passed the bill as above.

Jeff.'s indictment accuses him of levying war against the United States, at Richmond, Henrico county, Virginia.

Colorado's admission is vetoed, because it is not necessary for their welfare. Population not settled, and varying from 25,000 to 40,000. The Territorial Government will be less expensive; it is not certain that a majority really wish for State Government; the last election was irregular; the inequality and unfairness of admitting the Colorado delegation, representing so small a population, compared with older States, is also shown; that there is no assured or brilliant career for Colorado comparable with that which was certain in the case of California. Lastly, it is a wrong time, when eleven States are unrepresented, to bring in new ones; the Federal power is not wielded for the benefit of any one State, but for the good of the whole country. The bill is dead, and as it cannot possibly pass over the veto, in the Senate, it will not come before the House, at all.

Italy and Austria are expected to be at war in a fortnight. Napoleon, the great wire-puller who pushed Bismark, now pushes La Marmora, so that war seems inevitable; and while Napoleon talks peace, he incites to war.

It is thought that Seward has already sent a protest to Austria, against the sending to Mexico of Austrian soldiers, in room of the French about to leave.

ON THE OTHER FOOT.—The "Democrat" says, "we are apprehensive that our cotemporary of the 'Radiator' has gone clear over to the enemy, and joined the 'Stinkingwater regiment' of 'loyal men of Montana.'" We supposed that every child knew that the regiment under the command of the "soldjaw from the Stinkingwataw," or following his political lead, never claimed to be "loyal men of Montana," but to be either heroes of the "shirt and pumpkin vine banner," or outcasts from all parties.

INDIAN CREEK.—The reports from the diggings on Indian creek are very encouraging. A party of three young men, who had run a ditch on to their bar claim, cleaned up $60, after about five hours run. One of the partners states that though the gulch has been little explored, owing to the high water, yet the bars are good wherever they have been prospected, and they extend more than ten miles. Where the bars pay so well, it is only reasonable to suppose that the main gulch is also highly auriferous.

HEAVY MISFORTUNE.—A young man named Henry Garrett, from Ogden Hole, Utah, having discharged his freight, finding it impossible to proceed beyond the first crossing of the Stinkingwater, was returning in his empty wagon, drawn by four fine American mares, when the force of the current swept them away, and, becoming entangled, they were all drowned. It is a severe loss to the young man, the lost animals constituting his principal property.

GENERAL CONNOR.—An item from the "Vedette," on our first page, announces the mustering out of General Connor, one of the few men who are thoroughly respected and even beloved in the mountains. The reasons for his extraordinary popularity are his devotion to duty; a certain cold, stern and precise method of discipline and command, which Americans loudly decry, but which they intensely admire when genuine; and at the bottom of all—the making of the man—honesty of purpose, constitutional intrepidity, with ability to plan and to execute his designs. These qualities have been shown by the late Major-General on every occasion on which his services have been needed, since he first buckled on his sword. From Bear river to Powder river it has been always the same unstained record. Living FOR his country, and not ON it, his compatriots will remember his name with pride, and tell with a glow of enthusiasm, in years to come, "I was with him in the old Third." We trust that the probability of his accepting rank in the regular service will become an accomplished fact, and that the eagles will grace the shoulders of one so eminently worthy to wear them. Be this as it may, the General is entitled to the thanks and the continued esteem of the Western people, for his unswerving patriotism, his soldierly conduct, his upright course and his impartial justice to all under him.

THE DACOTAH.—We had the pleasure of a visit from Colonel N. E. Wood, who is now busy with plans, designs and actual work upon the great Dacotah lode, at Bannack. His claim (No. 12) is really well developed, and his machinery, well proven on some of the very quartz to be operated upon, will ensure a large fortune to the fortunate possessors of this wonderfully rich mining property. In the liver colored ore, the gold shines like small diamond points. At a depth of eighty feet, the crevice is eight feet wide, certainly, and how much more will be demonstrated when the other wall-rock is reached; twelve feet is calculated upon. The apparatus to be employed is, first, a Bullock's Crusher, with vertical jaws, which cracks the quartz into small lumps; it is then finished off by passing under vertical crushing wheels, running like a flax-break, in a circular pan which revolves at half the speed of the wheel, causing a dragging and grinding motion, which reduces the quartz to an impalpable powder. The bed is supported on regulating springs, which adjust and equalize the pressure. If a steel hammer were thrown in, it would be ground up in a few minutes, without injury to the machinery. For desulphurizing, the pulp is placed in a tub which has a lateral motion. A vertical steam-pipe throws out jets of hot steam into the mass treated with diluted sulphuric acid, and with such effect that the sulphur rises in flour to the top. By means of a small leaden chamber, the required sulphuric acid can be made from this very sulphur. There is then no difficulty in amalgamating. The Dacotah was our first worked lode, and we are glad to say that it has proved rich on several claims. It was discovered by accident. A man sliding timber down hill, the log tore up some quartz which led to the discovery of the lode.

THE NULLIFICATION BILL.—The "Democrat," which was, according to the open admission of hundreds of the party it affects to represent, completely worsted in the argument about the right of the Governor to call the late Legislature together, has now, Narcissus like, fallen in love with its own shadow to such an extent that it actually reprints the whole of its principal attempt at argument on the subject, which, however, skips every difficulty, and omits to notice the constructive but distinct prohibition contained in the clause in the Organic Act regulating the prescribed apportionment of the Territory, and the subsequent calling of the new legislature, and further, the "Democrat" now tries to demonstrate that Congress is bound to sustain the legality of the Legislature, because the editor of this wonderful journal is of the opinion that such should be the case. The principle is the important matter to be decided by Congressional action, and it seems likely that the bill will pass the Senate and be approved. We do not anticipate any great injury to private and innocent parties in that event, because we shall have a Legislature that would do justice in the premises, before any final decision of the Supreme Court would invalidate bona fide contracts made under its "quasi" authority, and sanction. Most of the public acts, and many of the charters would probably remain annulled. One branch of the Legislature has given its opinion, conclusively, in favor of the arguments put forward by the Union party. The feeling must be very strong on the subject, in the House, as otherwise any ordinary irregularity would be passed by, rather than the uncertainty and confusion caused by the nullification of forty days legislation should be caused by act of Congress. It is therefore to be presumed that the House is determined to put on record its condemnation of dictatorial and usurped authority.

LYING AND COWARDICE.—A liar is a bad man—the worst kind of a man—anywhere; but a man who tells a lie of a woman, or of a class of women is, in addition, a coward. An assassin of this stripe has just written, to Wisconsin, his opinion of the ladies of Montana, which we give below. The fellow must have consorted with low females of the baser sort, who having planned escape from the bonds of matrimony, in the States, came hither where they were not known, and consummated their desertion and adultery in the mountains. There are a few, a very few, instances where inhumanity, desertion, intemperance or infidelity of the husband, have made good women leave their tyrants, and with a perfect justification for so doing; but the majority of the runaways behaved most kindly and most humanely by levanting from their husbands, and thus ridding them of the greatest of earthly miseries, a lewd companion. The hundreds of upright women—ladies by right—who stand as examples of probity in this community, in every locality that can boast of a cluster of log houses, is a sufficient and well-known proof of the utter falsehood of the nameless and shameless libeller of his mother's sex. Every batch of exchanges brings us the news of more suits for divorce than have been instituted in any year of our history. Finer women are not to be found than those who have stood the test of perfect freedom to do evil, and yet in these mountains prefer to do well. We are thankful that the name of these is LEGION:

"UNRELIABILITY OF THE FEMININE ELEMENT IN MONTANA.—One of our citizens recently received a letter from a friend at Virginia City, Montana Territory, says the Wisconsin "Capital," in which he gives much advice and information, among which is the following: 'I would never bring a family here, as every other man who has come here with his wife has lost her. Women can earn money here faster than men, and they very soon become dissatisfied with their husbands and take up with other men, and that is the last of them. You may have a woman with mind enough to stick by you; but, if so, she will do better than the women who have come here by hundreds, even old married people.'"

WESTERN MEN.—In every part of our Territory, we meet with large numbers of excellent citizens hailing from the Golden State and other parts of the West. No men are more welcome. As a body, they will go together, and can be counted as on the right side. We are very glad that the illiberal proposition so urgently made to a member of the House of Representatives, "so to legislate that the Californians could not vote at the next election," being found impracticable, was reluctantly dropped. Such men as the old miners of the West, we want as citizens; they know something, and can do what they know at short notice, or all the time, as required. We are glad to see that the "Other-siders" and the "Eastern men" are fraternizing so amicably in Montana, and that illiberal and local distinctions are fast fading away, all claiming the over-riding and superior privilege of a common American citizenship. All enlightened men are glad at heart to welcome the large addition to our numbers, of good citizens from every locality, and though we have most decided political opinions, yet we are willing to welcome with sincerity of heart, every one who can contribute in the smallest degree to the advancement or respectability of our Territory. All we ask of an American citizen is a patriotic love of his country, a determination to abide by its laws, and to sustain the authority of its chosen rulers, irrespective of party or creed. In matters of policy, we yield the right to others which we claim for ourselves: freedom of opinion and the right of discussion of all public measures, in a manly and gentlemanly style. The roads are thronged with the immigration to Montana, and mile after mile is lined with the slow moving freight trains bound for our Territory. Here is the country where all good men are welcome, come they from North, East, South or West. Let all sectional struggles be merged in the persistent effort to do the most for our common country, and for the welfare of the region and of the people among whom our lot is cast.

HELENA LETTER.

HELENA, M. T., May 22d, 1866.

Our town is in a predicament directly at the antipodes of that in which our Territory finds itself—the latter is too much governed, the former not enough. It may be a magnificent eulogy to the genius of American liberty, that a compactly built city of eight thousand inhabitants, gathered from the four quarters of the globe, should, without a government of any kind, be preserved in quiet and prosperity. It is, indeed, an especial eulogy to that liberty which finds its home in perhaps no other place than the mountains of Montana, that such a city should enjoy peace and thrift, without even so much of a governing machine as would be found in a one-horse country town in New England, with scarcely 30 inhabitants to the square mile. But really, and throwing eulogies, poetry and theory aside, and turning to the practical, this town has quite long enough been left to follow its own blind instincts. Streets we have as contorted in surface, and as crooked in their vertical sections, as ever was the conscience of a border State politician; streets with abandoned shafts yearning to welcome some benighted pilgrim to a hospitable grave; streets with mud holes, swill sloughs and ditches interspersed between ash heaps, patiently standing wagons, old garbage, wood piles and a choice sprinkling of dead dogs. On every hand we find the slaughter houses, almost within a stones' throw of the heart of the city. Even were not their disgusting filth every day thrust upon our sight, the sickening odors which load the air with death, which transform our otherwise pure mountain breezes into the breath of pestilence, would compel us to acknowledge the presence of these Golgothas. Corrals seem to crowd, by preference, into the very heart of the city, where their unhealthful influences and dangerous contents of combustible materials can do most damage, both to health and property. Putrifying animal matter, old hides and bleaching carcasses, which are not more horrible to the sight than smell, are allowed to lie around in every corner, rot, be eat up by worms, and disgust humanity. Laying aside, then, all considerations of convenience, beauty and even safety from conflagration, and viewing the matter merely in the light of health, no one can fail to see the necessity for some kind of a town organization. Simplicity and efficiency should be its characteristics. Let us have an organization after the fashion of a small country town, be at least supplied with three selectmen, who may be Fire Commissioners, Health Wardens, Street Inspectors and all. We suggest it is for the people who have their own good and the prosperity of the city at heart, to act.

Nearly every night of the past week has been ushered in with a drizzle, and consequently, the Irwins have not had as full houses as might have been desired. With the return of pleasant evenings we expect to see the ladies again out in force, (as they have been several nights at the theatre,) for we have at last a respectable place of amusement where no true lady need feel ashamed to go, and from which only those need keep away whose precariously poised character requires constant balancing. We have no space for a thorough criticism. A general remark which will apply to all the performances is that in proportion as the various parts confined to the Irwins, the acting is excellent—in proportion as others are engaged, we are sorry to say there is a strong tendency in the other direction. To this general and perhaps too harsh criticism, there are some exceptions. Miller, with his perfect, self control, plays his peculiarly appropriate comic parts with infinite humor. Mrs. Waugh does quite well, and would *seem* to do better did she not appear upon the same stage as the talented Artiste, Mrs. Irwin. The versatility of this latter lady's talent is surprising, and she finds her fittest place in those pieces which give the greatest opportunity for displaying it, such as "Scenes in India," "In and out of place," and "A day in Paris." Her personation of the French woman in the latter piece, in dress, action and speech, is not to be excelled. We do not remember to have ever seen a more pleasing character than that of Mrs. Irwin as the little "She-shaver." Harry Rainforth disappointed us much in not playing the "Aw, my dear fellow," as well as he might, (for the Gov. can beat him at that,) and second in his excellent dancing. The grace and lightness with which he performs the Sailor's Hornpipe is charming. What shall we say of Sel. Space compels us to answer "nothing," save that he acts splendidly, particularly excelling in his rendition of Edward Ardent, the persistent lover, and in Gen. Daly, the gouty, irate and sarcastic old war dog. But we *can't* tell you all the good things to be seen four nights in the week at the upper end of Bridge street, and what's more, we *won't*, so if you wish to know all about it, go and see for yourselves.

Property on the west side of Main street is "going up" in good earnest—quite a row of buildings near the City Hotel, and also in the vicinity of Joe Gray's old place having met with a change, and ascended to a higher sphere through the united agency of sundry long levers and various stout boys.

On the 17th inst., Walker & Bros. unloaded the cargoes of eleven prarie schooners at their store, in front of the Post Office, and opened out a general assortment of staple articles.

Stafford & Harper's train of six six-horse Concord coaches arrived on the 18th inst., bringing thirty-five passengers. We understand they may put a line upon the Benton road. C. C. Huntly has already established a line upon that route, having sent out his first coach on the 16th inst., and his second on the 20th inst. He will establish stations upon the road and stock them, and as soon as he is fully in working order, make the trip in two days. Several six-horse coaches will soon be added to his line.

Henry Comstock, of Nevada, the discoverer of the great Comstock lode, is in town, and affirms that our quartz is very fine. That isn't strange, it's what they all say.

There have been numerous additions to the legal fraternity lately—the other side furnishing the recruits. Among the arrivals we notice that of Wm. H. Clagget, of Nevada, who will doubtless make himself heard in the country.—By the way, Travis has got back, and if he don't make himself heard, no matter. Why, he wouldn't have Pegasus in his stable, but would throw him out for bad stock.

We bathed the other day in the Devil's Bath Tub. It may be found at the Hot Spring House, on Ten Mile creek—F. J. Wassgeiler acting as bathing superintendent, or, as X would say, "he's wagon master." A large swimming pond, 50 x 25, will soon be in readiness, and then all dirty ones, if ye can't wash for the good of the thing, do it for fun.

A little fight was caused on Sunday, by the persistent efforts of an auctioneer trying to make a bystander "chew soap." Auctioneer, soap and all, was speedily knocked down.

New dance halls and new saloons are constantly going into operation under the direction of favorites of ten years, more or less, standing. EVERYWHERE.

P. S.—May 24th.—E. G. McClay, clerk of the steamer Deer Lodge, arrived here yesterday. Three boats—the St. Johns, Deer Lodge and Cora—arrived at Benton on the 18th inst., and a number of others are but a short distance behind. Captain Mathews lost his entire train and stock of goods by a sudden rise in the river, caused by the breaking of an ice gorge, while he was encamped on a flat near the junction of the Missouri and Milk rivers. E.

Protection to Emigrants.

The following important letter from General Sherman appears in the Des Moines (Iowa) "Register." We cannot too urgently recommend entire acquiescence by travellers on the plains, in the measures proposed, and a faithful adherence to both the letter and the spirit of the instructions therein contained. By keeping on the protected routes, both the members of the emigration and the military force will be combined and effective agencies for the prevention of attack by the Indians, and they will probably remain peaceful. On the other hand, the foolish hardihood of some man with "cut-off" on the brain would probably result in the loss of his own scalp, and in a general war; for the Indian, like the wolf, knows neither rest nor truce when he has once tasted blood:

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF MISSISSIPPI,
ST. LOUIS, MO., April 7th, 1866.

Hon. James Wright, Secretary of State, Des Moines—DEAR SIR: Yours of April 4th, with the preamble and resolutions of your Legislature touching military protection of emigrants bound for Montana and Idaho, is received. The subject has received our earnest attention, and I believe, if the emigrants will be reasonably prudent, they can pass with all safety to their destination. No people are better aware than you of Iowa, of the fact that our regular army is very small to cover the vast area of our country, and that we will commit a silly and foolish mistake if we attempt too much. The emigrants will do a very foolish thing if they persist in going by Niobrarah, when I tell you we cannot undertake to guard that road this year; but if they will go to Omaha, to Forts Kearney, McPherson and Laramie; and thence by Fort Reno, they will find a well-guarded road all the way. We will also attempt to make a new road, pretty well guarded, by the Big Cheyenne, north of the Black Hills, to Powder river, intersecting the other road near the headwaters of the Yellowstone. And furthermore, we propose to guard as well as possible, the Missouri river route. This makes three roads to Montana, convenient for your Iowa emigrants, and this is all we can or should attempt. Indeed, if emigrants will disregard our published plans by choosing intermediate routes, they not only shall have no protection; but if we find it likely to produce Indian hostility and collisions, we may interfere.

In order to afford the best possible protection to the emigrants of this year, we have made the region of Montana, and the routes thereto, a separate military department, of which General P. W. Geo. Cooke is the commander; and he will, in a few days, go to Omaha, the better to give these interests his personal and official attention.

I am, with great respect, W. T. SHERMAN,
Maj.-Gen. Com'd'g.

Another Challenge.

The position of Champion of America, seems to be no sinecure. First, Patsey Marley has to be "knocked submissive"; then Hugh O'Neil makes a most dangerous grab at Con Orem's laurels, and he shows no symptoms of letting go his hold. This, by no means trifling impediment to the peaceful enjoyment of the "belt," even if overcome, necessitates the sockdolagizing of Patsey Foy, who is waiting his turn; and up to the last dispatch, given below, *only* Wm. M. Davis remains to be conquered. Con's opponents appear to grow like the heads of the Hydra. We should rather prefer a quieter method of chiseling a niche for our statue in the Temple of Fame. In the mean time, we recommend the plucky John Condle to have a number of photographs taken, that in case he survives with an eye capable of service, he may be able to see what kind of a man he once was:

St. Louis, April 20th, 1866.

Mr. Nuttall—Dear Sir: A friend of mine, on his way to New York, passed through here yesterday, and on his learning from me that it was my intention to go there and fight Mr. Orem, as he has challenged any man in America, says he thinks I must be included; you will, therefore, please notify Mr. Orem of my intention, and tell him I shall be out there as soon as possible. He informed me you would, if requested, make known my intentions; if you do so I would feel much obliged to you, indeed. Mr. Orem can depend upon my being there, if alive; and when there, of a fight. You will also give him my regards and wishes for the continuance of his good health. Hoping this may find you in excellent health, I remain your most obedient, etc.,
WM. M'CAL DAVIS.
Champion of America.

FOR MONTANA.—The Red Bluffs (Cal.) "Observer," of the 5th inst., says: "J. B. Wells, James Tolly, Henry Tolly, William Tolly and Mr. Patterson, are fitting out to-day for Montana. They have two four-horse coaches, for their families, and two ox teams loaded with supplies, purchased at Tipton & Burtt's. These parties are from Trinity county. They go by way of Surprise Valley and Fort Hall.

TELEGRAPHIC ABSTRACT.

DATES TO MAY 14th.

Government Losses by the Failure of Banks--Destructive Fire at Oschkosh, Wisconsin--The British Ministry Stand or Fall with the Reform Bill--A Policeman Shot in Dublin by a Fenian--Austria and Prussia Still Belligerent but not Advancing --Austria and Italy Preparing for War---Movements of the Hostile Fleets---The Senators Elect from Colorado Deny that they are Politically Pledged to either Section of the Union Party--Five Cent Coins to be Substituted for all Fractional Currency Less than Ten Cents--The Senate Largely in Arrear of Business--The Delegate from Arizona Credits the Report of the Massacre at Fort Goodwin, etc., etc.

Washington, May 13th.—The Government will lose between two and three hundred thousand dollars by the failure of banks in Western Pennsylvania, holding public deposits; these banks were ruined by the failure of Culver, Penn & Co., oil operators.

Chicago, May 13th.—A fire at Oshkosh, Wis., destroyed thirty buildings in the business portion of the city. Loss. $100,000.

New York, May 13th.—The steamers City of Paris and Germania have arrived from Liverpool and Southampton on the 2d, and Queenstown on the 3d. Contrary to general expectation, the British ministry refused to regard the close vote on the reform bill as equivaleut to defeat; Gladstone announced to the Commons that the franchise bill would be passed, but the bill for redistribution of seats would be introduced on the 7th, so that both might be considered together; in reply to the inquiry whether the government would stand by the bill, he said so long as the bill stands we stand, if it falls we fall. The liberal papers rejoice that the issue is now plain, and that the liberal members must now face the simple question without the protection of an evasive amendment. A police constable has been shot dead in Dublin by a Fenian. The German question continues warlike, but Austria and Italy are decidedly menacing; both governments deny aggressive designs, but both are represented as vigorously preparing for war. The Italian Parliament promptly voted authority to the government to raise means for the defense of the country. There had been a popular meeting at Naples in favor of government armaments, and universal enthusiasm is represented throughout Italy; in view of probable war it is asserted that the Italian government has called out 150,000 men; the Austrian force in Vienna is represented at 160,000. The Florence correspondent of the London "Times" says there can be no doubt that the Italian government desires war, as the only means of extrication from an exceedingly false and difficult situation. Austro-Prussian relations show no improvement; a Berlin dispatch talks of a probable increase of armament by Prussia, There is a severe panic on change in the London and Paris funds, and securities are materially depressed. Napoleon presided at a special council of ministers on the 30th, report says to consider the Austrian proposition that Austria and Italy should simultaneously disarm; one rumor says it was determined at the meeting to prevent Italy taking the aggressive, and insist on the proposition. The latest news is that intelligence from Germany and Italy continues exciting, and armaments are vigorously pressed forward; the Italian fleet had left Genoa, destination unknown. The Austrian ironclads it is stated, have received orders to put to sea; their destination is believed to be the German ocean and the Baltic. A Berlin telegram says the reply of the Austrian government to the last Prussian dispatch, dated 26th, states that Austria will withdraw into the interior the troops now on the Prussian frontier, but will, at the same time, continue her armaments against Italy; the Prussian troops upon the frontier are said to have advanced nearer the Austrian territory. A Berlin telegram of the 1st says it is believed that the Prussian armament will be shortly increased. A reply, dated 26th, to the Austrian note, has been sent to the Prussian Ambassador at Vienna, stating that Prussia does not agree to the Vienna Cabinet's proposals, in reference to the Duchies; it lays special stress upon the community of interests of Prussia and Italy, and gives an evasive answer to the Austrian proposals for disarmament; immediate war between Austria and Prussia is, however, not expected, as Austria will submit her proposals to the Federal Diet, but affairs continue critical. The Vienna "Press" of the 1st states that negotiations between the Prussian Cabinet and the special envoy of Italy continue. The official Vienna "Gazette" publishes a notice that an increased number of army surgeons are required. In a dispatch to the Italian Republic, General La Marmora states that at the moment when the disarmament of Austria and Prussia was expected, Italy saw herself directly menaced by Austria, who increased her armaments and gave them in Venetia an overtly hostile character towards us; it therefore became indispensable for the security of the kingdom that both the land and sea forces should be increased; in taking the military measures required for the defense of the country, the government has only acted in accordance with the state of things created by Austria. A Florence telegram says a proclamation has been issued by the minister of war, calling under arms the soldiers on unlimited furloughs.

New York, May 14th.—The Senators elect from Colorado emphatically deny the imputation that there was a bargain and agreement to secure votes for the passage of the bill admitting Colorado, by promising their aid to the Congressional majority against the President, and they further say their call upon the President, which has excited the comment that they were pledging to support him, was simply to present such facts and documents as show the population, substantial wealth and permanent prosperity of Colorado, and had no reference whatever to politics. The Senate, on Thursday, passed the House bill for the coinage of five cent pieces, composed of copper and nickel, in such proportion, not exceeding twenty-five per cent. of nickel, as shall be determined by the director of the mint; the standard weight is to be seventy-seven and sixteen-hundredth grains, with no greater deviation than two grains in each piece; this act requires the withdrawal from circulation of all fractional paper currency of less denominations than ten cents. Higby asked for unanimous consent to introduce a bill, on Thursday, granting the right of way and making a grant of land to the Sierra Nevada and Central Costa Irrigation and Canal Company; Mr. Wright objected.

Washington, May 14th.—The Senate is much behind the House in the matter of business, chiefly appropriation bills, which have passed the House, and it is not expected, therefore, that the reconstruction report will be pressed to immediate action, seeing the debate might be interminable and delay legislation which it is desirable to get out of the way as soon as possible. Governor Goodwin, delegate from Arizona, does not agree with Ross Browne in doubting the Indian news from that Territory, but believes it may be true.

LETTER LIST.

Letters remaining unclaimed in the Post-Office, Virginia City, Montana Territory, May 24th, 1866.

To obtain these letters the applicant must call for "advertised letters," give the date of this list, and pay two cents for advertising.

Aughe Sam-2	Albert P C	Allen Nelson
" Jos	Andrews J A S	Abbott M D
Armitage Jos R	Anderson H P	Armstrong Thos
Alexander J R	Allen Jno B	Arnold Jno N
Anson J B		
Bentley Jas T	Bellows A	Benge S M
Bailey Mrs M A	Beatie Jas	Bradley J M
Baker G W	Burns Robt K	Bray Walter
Bates J S	" Jesse	Brown H B
Backman C W	Bush Jno R	Bermingham E R
Babcock Wm H	Buchanan Robt	Beatty R E
Barnes Phil S	Burgess Hiram	Blay Wm
Baymiller Jerry-2	Brison Elijah	
Casley Jas	Collins Fred	Crist Jas B
Cameron Jas	Corner J J	Curtis Jos W
Carter Ben F-2	Cody