

# THE MONTANA POST.

A Newspaper, Devoted to the Mineral, Agricultural and Commercial Interests of Montana Territory.

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WHOLE NO. 129.

## The Montana Post.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1867.

Our Agents in the different towns and mining camps of the Territory and elsewhere, will please take notice that the terms of subscription for the Post have been increased to \$3.50 per quarter, \$5.00 for six months, and \$8.00 for one year.

### ALL TOGETHER.

We have upon some points differed with our cotemporaries of Virginia and Helena. There is one subject upon which we will probably all agree, and which at the present time is worthy of consideration. It is one in which our patrons, radicals, conservatives and Democrats are equally interested. We refer to the present postage law, which imposes upon the residents of the Territories lying between the western line of Kansas and California an oppressive rate of postage on all transient printed matter, that almost amounts to an interdict. The following example may serve to illustrate the working of the present law: On one of the large papers the postage rate from New York to San Francisco, a distance of about six thousand miles, is two cents. From St. Joe, Mo., to Denver, Colorado, a distance of five hundred and eighty-eight miles, it would be nine cents, making the actual difference, counting distance and rate, forty-three times as much between New York and Denver as between New York and San Francisco. Under this law any transient newspapers, books or periodicals are required to be prepaid, at letter rates, or from these Territories. Postmasters are instructed not to forward matter not so stamped. Notwithstanding these instructions, which it is fair to presume are understood by all postoffice officials, we were informed that during the last winter several huge rooms in St. Joe were filled with mail-matter, thrown out there for non-compliance with this requirement. As the amount of mail overlooked in forwarding offices must be but a small percentage of that which is forwarded, some idea may be formed of the amount actually destined for the Territories. The fault does not lie with the officials of the Post Office Department, they are required to follow the instructions of the law, and feel its disadvantages perhaps more than any others. We have cited one instance of the distinctions it makes against us. Another is that foreign mail is not subject to the same rates. If the government makes treaties with foreign powers, guaranteeing a certain uniform rate of postage throughout the United States on printed matter, should not American publications have an equal show for transient circulation? The only argument in favor of the present law is that under a cheaper system, the overland conveyance would be burdened with mail matter that would not pay carriage. Admitting this to be true, do not all new mail routes require to be sustained by the government for a time before they become self-supporting, and would not its advantages more than compensate for the additional expense incurred. Our Territories, principally peopled by miners, have an unsettled class of population largely out of proportion to those who have a settled place of residence. This class are mostly newcomers. Large numbers of newspapers are mailed to them by friends, which they would reciprocate by returning papers from the Territories. Who that has any knowledge of the immense undeveloped wealth of Montana, doubts that the circulation in the States of our Territorial papers would have a good effect in calling to it the attention of capitalists and labor. If we publish the kind of papers we should, this transient circulation, which would inevitably largely increase was the rate reduced, would be the best means of spreading information all over the Union, of the character, resources and prospects of this region, and calling to it the attention of those who with themselves or their money, would add to its prosperity and their own. The press of Colorado are urging the repeal of the present law, let our exertions be added to theirs. In union there is strength. If we put our shoulders to the wheel and give a good push, and all together, we can send up a petition that will command the favorable consideration of Congress, and secure success. What say you Messrs. Herald, Gazette, and Democrat?

### OUR POSITION.

It has been said that anything can be proven from scripture. Had we hereto-

fore been a disbeliever in the assertion we should now feel that the mass of evidence was against us, and coincide. Some two or three weeks since an article appeared in this paper under the caption of "A Protest." Founded upon honest convictions, uninfluenced by mercenary or other improper motives, we gave our opinion of the enactment. If we were right, well and good; if wrong, it is not more than all humanity is liable to be. Whether right or wrong, it was at least entitled to stand upon its own merits, and receive an honest criticism. We are induced to make these remarks by an article in a Helena paper. This article, in which there is neither wit, wisdom or grammar, gives two quotations, or what purports to be quotations, from the "protest." To say that they are garbled, would not fully convey an idea of the process to which they have been subjected. Portions of sentences have been selected here and there, to suit the purposes of the author, and the result presented to the readers of that paper as extracts from our article. Were it not useless we might appeal to that innate sense of justice, (of which every one is charitably supposed to have a portion,) of the writer to at least not make what they pronounce wrong, worse by perversion. Had the discussion been conducted in a straightforward manner, seeking after truth, we would willingly have given it our attention. As it is we respectfully decline a further discussion of the matter with that paper. We have sufficiently advertised it by previous notice, and many will have heard its name through the Post, who otherwise had not known of its existence. We forgive its conceited egotism, and its palpable misrepresentations. We may even applaud its fine discrimination of sexes, and thank it for classing us with that sex it insults by an ill-natured allusion to the frailties of flesh is heir to. Although it would do us infinite pleasure to kick about some of the verbal garbage in which the fine points of a couple of articles in the last number are buried, we let it pass. We made the resolve before entering upon the duties of this office, that in low personalities, and in unfair discussions, we would take no part, and that resolve shall not be broken. The Herald can have it as it will. Henceforth its aspersions shall fall harmless and unnoticed, its language be void of offense. Our paths diverge at the point they have reached, and parting company we wish our little cotemporary no ill, nor a passing cloud to mar the sunshine of "the nephew of his aunt."

### THE INDIAN WAR.

The well founded reports of an alliance of Indian tribes, comprising the largest and most warlike in the country, for the purpose of carrying the war into the settlements, the information of the large quantities of arms and ammunition in their hands, and their intense anxiety to procure more, added to the recent massacres to which almost every day's telegrams add another, and the fact that the troops are insufficient in numbers to afford any protection, and that months will elapse before any aid can be expected from them, calls for action, immediate and earnest, on the part of the residents of Montana, especially those occupying the more exposed portions of the Territory. So far we have heard of no depredations committed against settlers, the savages confining their warfare to picking off detachments of soldiers and trains, these offering them a better opportunity of securing arms and stock than an attack upon settlers. When, however, their passions are fully aroused by the excitement of carnage, and the presence of large bodies of troops in their country, they will naturally evade a conflict with them and endeavor to wreak vengeance upon isolated miners and the exposed settlements. We know of none more liable to attack than the inhabitants of the Gallatin valley and the isolated body of miners on the Yellowstone. The region of country beyond them is the familiar haunt of the Sioux and other hostile tribes, and the presence of friendly Indians in that region offers no immunity from danger. As soon as spring opens, or on the approach of their enemies, these small roving bands will be likely to either leave the country or join the alliance. The fact that the Sioux have not been above the Yellowstone canyon or in the Gallatin valley for years, is no promise of safety. It is only a year or two since their war-parties reached within a few miles of Bozeman, and killed residents of the valley almost in sight of the town, and as lately as last summer, one of their chiefs described to one of the Big Horn ferryman the location of Bozeman and its surroundings as accurately as could one of its inhabitants. There are at the Yellowstone less than one hundred men, at least thirty miles from any other settlement by a mountain trail, exposed to

attack along the entire distance. There are in the Gallatin valley probably near two thousand persons capable of bearing arms, but scattered over an area of 400 or 500 square miles; many of them with families and immense herds of stock to protect. As they are now, it offers a fine field of operation to the Indians, and we believe is in imminent danger. The emergency calls on an organization for mutual protection and defense. Let there be places designated and prepared where the families will be safe under a small guard; a plan decided upon for the removal of stock to a secure place at short notice. The services of some of the friendly Indians, or, better still, some of the half-breeds, be secured to act as scouts when it is deemed necessary. The fighting men organize under chosen leaders, and these different organizations have a thorough understanding and sympathy, each man having definite instructions as to his particular duty in case of attack. Measures of this kind or of similar purport are not entailing loss of time or an expenditure of money; they may save life and property, and can do no harm. The suggestion is offered for the consideration of the Gallatians, as we believe if attack is only a possibility, it is better to be prepared than to wait until the destroyer comes, and have repeated in our valleys the horrid scenes of Minnesota.

### ORGANIZING.

Judging from present indications, the Union is very likely to be restored if the Republicans and Democrats in other places are as determined on the subject as they are in Montana. They have in Helena a camp of the Grand Army of the Republic, a Union League and a Democratic Club—all pledged to the Union, and all working vigorously. There happens, however, to be a radical difference of opinion as to how this is to be accomplished, the Republicans claiming that Congress is endeavoring to preserve it; the Democrats, that it is endeavoring to destroy it. As Congress has not yet adopted any measures forcing humiliating or unnecessary conditions upon the Southern people, but have simply and in a perfectly legitimate and Constitutional manner submitted to the States such amendments to the Constitution as the exigencies of the government require, and the constituents of the Representatives have decided in favor of by a majority of four hundred thousand votes at the late elections, we think that there is something else than is apparent on the face of the "Address" of this "Club," that is the real mainspring of its action. How would it have answered to designate it "An organization of the Democrats of Helena to insure the success of the Edgerton county Democratic candidate for delegate to Congress?" We think it would have covered the entire purpose of the organization, without leaving the field open for misconception. The address calls on "all conservative men, of whatever past political predilections and affiliations, who are willing to sacrifice party prejudices," to join them. Their constitution declares that "the object of the association shall be to promote the cause of Democracy." We cannot quite see the "similarity." The Democrat is only requested to publish the address, because Major Bruce might take alarm if he read for publication the constitution; but the Gazette was requested to publish them both, the former four times, because Mr. Wilkinson is in the Edgerton county ring, and is to be one of the principal performers in the great wire-pulling exhibition soon to come off. The Major has been too long in the business to have sent thrown in his eyes in that manner however, and sees the intent and purpose of the organization perfectly. In his comments, prefixed to the address, he "hopes that its sentiments will have some influence on the Gazette and all other Democrats," and adds:

"We insist that all shall be entitled to equal rights and privileges in the party. It has been too much the practice of some politicians to assail parties who are now acting with the Democratic party, because they have been Union men or old Whigs. We have had no other antecedents, yet when it suits gentlemen, we are twitted on that account. We united our fortunes in 1862 with the Democratic party, and have been faithful in all things. We claim the same rights and privileges in that party as any members thereof. The principles belong to all who embrace them, not to any special members of the party, and the principles enunciated in the Helena Address, if practiced and carried out in good faith, will insure the final triumph of the Democratic party."

It will be seen that there is not any too much faith placed in the action of the Helena Club, and the probability is that another Union saving club will be organized by the Democrats of Virginia, to give our Congressional aspirants a chance with those of Helena.

It is an old English custom, when there is no criminal calendar, for the Sheriff to present to the Judge a pair of white kid gloves.

### NAIL THEM DOWN.

The reports from Montana indicate serious danger from a famine in that Territory this winter. The cold season set in earlier than was expected, and the supply of provisions is very meager. Starvation prices have already been obtained in the mining towns.—[Cincinnati Times.]

As to the women of Montana, many of them young and good looking, go about dressed up in men's clothes, wear short hair, and have the swaggering gait of a gambler and drunkard.—[Correspondent of the Kearney Herald.]

Different persons are differently constituted, and view objects through a medium tinged with a color corresponding to their mental condition. It is this feature that in a great measure gives variety and spice to correspondence, but it is unfortunate that in some cases writers are so constituted as to contribute such foul slander and base calumnies as the above are examples of. It is indubitable evidence of the total depravity to which mankind may be reduced. These are not the only instances of misrepresentation we have noticed going the rounds of the press, nor the worst. Scarcely an arrival of exchanges but contain expressions fully as untrue as the above, clipped from some windy correspondence; and paper after paper copying them, giving an incorrect and injurious representation of our Territory. It has been stated that a man's life is not safe in the streets of our largest cities in broad day; and that it is no unusual occurrence to see three or four men shot down in cold blood by murderous desperadoes who defy all law and order. Who was before aware that last fall "the cold season set in much earlier than was expected?" We had thought that when the thermometer indicated 35° during the day until the middle of December, that it was rather a pleasant winter. "The supply of provisions is very meager." There is grain and flour sufficient in the Gallatin valley, grown and ground there, to feed the people of this Territory six months; and there is scarce a warehouse in Virginia or Helena that is not piled from floor to ceiling with flour, bacon, coffee, sugar, and every necessary of life. "Starvation prices have already been obtained." Yes! Flour is selling here for \$9, and other commodities in proportion, while in the valley it is so abundant that holders are unable to realize on their large stocks. "The women of Montana go about dressed up in men's clothing, etc." The only instances we have seen of this kind have been among the Chinese, and short hair is a luxury they do not indulge in. The Gazette in calling attention to one of these statements, demonstrates it to be a "concentrated lie," which is about the best and truest name it could receive, although there is not much "soft soap" in it for the writer. Our Territory is only in its infancy, its mineral and agricultural resources still comparatively undeveloped, and society only resolving itself from the crudity attendant upon the ushering of an immense mass of people into one locality from every portion of the world. We have, however, great veins of rich minerals and extensive placer mines extending throughout its length and breadth; and wherever they have been properly worked have not failed to make rich returns. Our valleys have yielded bounteously to the hands of the husbandman. Peace has bound her golden cestus around the hearts of our people, and Plenty emptied her cornucopia at their feet. Life and property are as safe as in any Eastern city or rural district, and to say the least of it, the writer of the above statement was very unfortunate in his associations when he saw so many "women with the swaggering gait of gamblers and drunkards." Correspondents should state the places in which they gather their items, to prevent mistaken ideas on the part of readers. As base a slander as we have quoted is conclusive that the writer had not been received into that class of society which fortunately predominates in the Territory.

### THE IMPEACHMENT.

Various opinions are entertained in regard to the decision of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives on the impeachment resolution offered by Ashley of Ohio. So far the evidence in hearing has been on the side of the resolution, and it is not probable it will be closed for some days. That the evidence in favor of the President will receive a deliberate and impartial consideration from the committee, we believe. Although composed almost entirely of Radical members, their honesty and ability is beyond question. Awar of the immense responsibility attached to their decision, the investigation is being conducted with the circumspection its importance demands, and it is not improbable that the Thirtieth Session will expire before their labors can have been fully completed, and the subject be considered by Congress. This will devolve the duty upon the succeeding one, the composition of which will be stronger Radical than the

present. The following members compose the committee to which the resolution was referred: Wilson of Iowa, Boutwell of Massachusetts, Thomas of Maryland, Williams of Pennsylvania, Woodbridge of Vermont, Morris of New York, Lawrence of Ohio, Cook of Illinois, Rogers of New Jersey. The last named gentleman is a strong political friend of President Johnson's.

### Indian Massacre.

The following is a full account of the recent Indian massacre at Fort Phil. Kearney:

FORT LARAMIE, Dec. 27.

The recent massacre of United States troops by Indians did not occur near the old Fort Kearney, Dakota Territory. The fort is situated in the forks of the two Piney creeks in the centre of the mountain district of the Military Department of the Platte, and in the heart of the region occupied by the hostile tribes, the Sioux and the Cheyennes. Its defense consisted of a well made stockade of timber, pierced with loopholes for guns, the logs eighteen inches in diameter.

It is thought that the post was captured by treachery, as the force there should have been able to stand a siege, and it seems hardly possible that it could have been captured by Indian assault.

On the other hand, the savages have so constantly manifested their hostility that it is difficult to see how the troops could have been beguiled into any relaxation of vigilance. We hope to have more particulars soon; but there is no reason to doubt the full extent of the calamity, as reported yesterday.

The Indians are very troublesome, and the troops at Fort Phil. Kearney have been almost in a state of siege for weeks past. On the 23d a number of Indians came near the post, and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel W. J. Fetterman, Captain J. H. Brown and Lieutenant Grummond, all of the Eighteenth Infantry, gathered hastily eighty-nine men of Company C, Second Cavalry and forty-five men of the Eighteenth Infantry, and went after the Indians. The troops were gradually drawn on until at a point four miles from the fort, when they were surrounded and slaughtered. Not a man escaped to tell the story of disaster. The bodies were stripped of every article of clothing, scalped and mutilated. Thirty bodies were found in a space not larger than a good sized room. Nearly all the bodies were recovered and buried in the fort.

Fort Phil. Kearney was not captured, as would be inferred from the above. A sufficient number of troops have been sent from Laramie to insure its safety.

### PROCLAMATION BY THE ACTING GOVERNOR.

Mr. Chiles, city attorney, has received a semi-official communication from A. H. Barrett, private secretary to acting Governor Meagher, now in Helena, stating that a proclamation would be issued and published in to-day's Gazette, calling an extra session of the Legislature, to make such changes in the present election law as are necessary to hold an election for a delegate to the Fortieth Congress, which convenes on the fourth of March. It is believed here that the session will be convened for that and other purposes, including further legislation upon the "funding bill" and the granting of another series of charters for toll roads, etc. The candidates for delegate are all alive to the importance of the occasion, and Democracy is on the qui vive generally. We will have exciting times shortly. If the political campaign and the Indian campaign should happen to come off in conjunction, there will be a splendid chance to make votes in Gallatin valley.

A HISTORY OF THE MOUNTAINS.—The "History of the Settlement of the Rocky Mountains," from the pens of H. N. Maguire and Neil Howie, will undoubtedly be a success. These gentlemen, than whom there are none more competent to produce a work of literary excellence and reliable data, are actively engaged in writing up the history and securing the services of the best talent and information the country possesses, to aid them in the compilation of the work. Colonel Cavanaugh has consented to prepare the portion of the work devoted to Colorado. We are not informed as to the time of publication, but shall, as we have no doubt all others interested in the history of this region will, await its appearance with anxiety. The ability of the gentlemen who have charge of the work is sufficient evidence of its success, and the good results that will ensue from its circulation in the East are unquestionable.

THAT POSTAGE LAW.—We have heard great results attributed to faith. In writing the "protest" against the present postage rates on papers, etc., we had the fullest belief that if the matter was presented to Congress in due form, we would have a redress of grievances. The paper in which it was issued was scarcely off the press when the telegram arrived, stating that the Postal Committee had decided to recommend the repeal of the present law. The recommendation by the committee is almost a guarantee of its passage. So mote it be.

### JOHN BRIGHT.

[From the New York Independent.]

If at high noon to-morrow, a vote were to be taken throughout England, by a show of hands, upon the question of being for or against John Bright, nearly all the hands that would go up for him would be without gloves of kid or any other material; still John Bright would win the day.

By one infallible test we are forced to decide that Mr. Bright is the foremost man now extant in England. When Dr. Johnson was congratulated on the success of one of his terrific pamphlets against the American colonists, he replied with a growl, that the pamphlet had not succeeded; that it had not been sufficiently abused, and that for his own part he always estimated the force of the blow by the rebound. The intellectual, the emotional rebound against Mr. Bright in this country is something superb; it constitutes his crown, it leaves him beyond all rivalry, the supreme Englishman alive. Throughout these islands every number of every Tory paper and of every demitry paper, as surely, as systematically flings its little stone or its little dust, or its little mud, at John Bright, as it prints its heading in big letters and its leaders in small ones. It was said of a certain Frenchman that he held his place in Paris society on the tacit understanding that he should always be witty. Fortunately for the Tory papers, no such necessity is laid upon them; but they do hold their places in the conservative party on the tacit understanding that they shall be always abusive of John Bright. In the House of Commons, too, the case is the same. You would be amazed on looking over Hansard, to find what an enormous majority of the parliamentary speeches there embalmed during the last fifteen years contain thrusts at this one man, and you could not sit through a debate on any conceivable subject without being nauseated with these incessant and spiteful allusions to the "honorable member from Birmingham." Indeed, these five words constitute the one expression most thoroughly stereotyped in the vernacular of that assemblage. Its use in a tone of dislike is now more than a party shibboleth; it has blossomed into cant. Meanwhile, John Bright sits there at the head of the second bench below the gangway, the most undisturbed and the most impregnable looking man that can be imagined of a stout, square, and solid frame, with a broad, open, English face, his massive brow shadowed by the wide brim of his hat, with lips firmly compressed by thoughtfulness and determination, and carved of that peculiar shape that denotes them the fiery steeds of eloquence, he seems no more concerned in the knightly patter about "the honorable member from Birmingham" than if that celebrated member was a person in whom he had not the most distant interest. Indeed, I imagine that these references to himself are positively no longer heard by him, on the principle that sounds off-recurring and despised come to have no more effect upon the sensorium than sounds not made at all—as the sleepy Frenchman at last snores majestically through the diabolical clatter of his alarm-clock and the sacred twang of the prayer bell.

The spectacle of John Bright in the House of Commons is one of the grandest in Europe. For myself, I should not have regretted my voyage over the Atlantic, had it conferred no other happiness than a good long look from the Speaker's gallery at John Bright sitting in the Parliament of Great Britain—the great champion of popular rights, honored, though feared among the elegant, scornful and fezzed contemners of popular rights, the kingliness of his towering intellect, the splendor of his Thor-like eloquence, the earnestness of his big, warm, indomitable heart, all personated in that noble presence, and all contrasted by the unreality, the chatter, the school boy sing-song, the petty, nibbling arguments, the rapid, frivolous, unmeaning, unending flow of foppish politics and of aristocratic impertinence, which make up the most of an evening's discussion in that celebrated legislature which Bishop Coxe very justly described as "the Senate of Lilliput."

But, while he is thus politically hated—while he is the mark for every verbal brick-bat that any Tory arm can fling across the broad aisle—he is said to be personally a great favorite. I am told that in the coffee-room no other member is so soon surrounded by a group of friendly talkers. Indeed, it seems that the conversational fascinations of John Bright are even greater than the fascinations of his public oratory; and that the grandest speeches that ever came out of his lips came out as he sat in the coffee-room, with a cigar in one hand, a glass of sherry in the other, and a crowd of delighted and enthralled political enemies swarming about him.

When, a few years ago, his health gave way, and the greatest fears were excited, grief and alarm pervaded all England—not alone the Liberal party. Every post came to him laden with letters of sympathy and regret from the chiefs of that old nobility against whose political pretensions his whole life has been a battle. Every palace and castle, and baronial hall in England would have opened its portals to receive and give repose to the man whom all Englishmen know to be one of the greatest masters of the English language, one of the noblest apostles of Christian statesmanship, a fearless, rough, hard-biting antagonist—an honest man!

Devonshire, England, Oct. 9, 1866.

A CHANCE FOR A FIGHT.—The Idaho Times of the 23d ult. has the following: News reached Boise City last Sunday evening, that General Crooks had surrounded four hundred Indians near Camp Smith, and had sent to that post for subsistence and reinforcements to give them battle. His present force is some one hundred men, including twenty-five partly civilized Boise Shoshone Indians.