

# THE MONTANA POST.

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## The Montana Post.

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SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1867.

Our correspondents throughout the Territory will oblige by conforming to the following rules: Limit all communications to a half column. Write only on one side of the paper, plainly and concisely. Mining news should be written separately from other news; brief, statistical and reliable. Write only what will be of public interest. Avoid personalities. Give date and address. The name of the writer must accompany each letter. An adherence to these rules will enable us to give early insertion to communications; a departure from them will account for non-appearance in nearly every instance.

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### OUR CONTINENTAL RAILWAYS.

The great necessity of the Northwest is railroad communication with the States. Montana has the advantage of river communication during a few months in each year, but her rapidly developing mineral resources require something more than the uncertain river facilities and the slow process of wagon transportation. The importance of trans-continental railroad communication has become a necessity to the immense region lying between the Missouri and the Atlantic, and offers the best field for railroad capital in the world. These considerations have induced the organization of five distinct railroad projects, two of which materially interest our Territory. First, the Northern Pacific, tapping the lake navigation at the western end of Lake Superior, and extending westward through Minnesota, Dakota, Montana, Idaho and Washington to Puget Sound, has advantages for us, established and claimed, over all others. It is more direct, would be more central, and is said to have less grade and snow to contend with than other routes. Some years since an act of Congress granted this company 20 sections of land to each mile through Minnesota and 40 sections on the remainder of the route. Nothing, however, was done towards the enterprise, and the original company sold out their interest to another, of which Ex-Governor Smith, of Vermont, is President, for the sum of \$50,000. The estimated length of the road is 3,200 miles, the cost \$211,000,000. Financiers have been endeavoring to secure an appropriation of lands, of the same amount as the Central Pacific, and \$75,000,000 in United States bonds. Their endeavors, however, have not been successful, and we learn by advices from the east that the most persevering and sanguine friends of this route have nearly, or quite, all abandoned hope of any assistance at present. The Government has liberally assisted those central routes for which there is apparently the greatest necessity; they are pushing forward the work with unparalleled dispatch, have thrown immense quantities of bonds on the market at 90 cents on the dollar, and to flood it with that of five rival roads at the same time, would be to incur the danger of a ruinous depreciation and cripple the project. To the south of us runs the line of the Union and Central Pacific, in aid of which the Government appropriates \$64,800,000, besides an absolute title of 12,800 acres of land for each mile along the entire line of 1,332 miles. Last year the Company employed some 25,000 men, of whom 8,000 were Chinese, and the work was pushed through rapidly, in some instances at the rate of 2 1/2 miles per day; and it is stated that when work commences this spring, the first 300 miles west of Cottonwood will be laid in 100 days. The original line of this railroad was from Omaha along the Platte, diverging to Denver, thence to Salt Lake City, Austin, Virginia, Sacramento and San Francisco. During last year the engineers reported unfavorably on the

Denver route and the line was surveyed up Lodge Pole creek, 100 miles north. Recently, however, the abandonment of the Northern enterprise, the advantage of a closer connection with Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, the tremendous grades on the direct line through Salt Lake City, and the impossibility of securing the land grants in the thickly settled Great Salt Lake Basin, with the favorable reports of a better grade and many natural advantages farther north, induced the Company to dispatch Capt. Bates, with a corps of topographical engineers, to examine and survey the route, striking Lander's cut off west of Green river, continuing along this to Snake river, near Fort Hall, down Snake river to Raft river, and thence to Virginia, Nevada. This, it is believed, will obviate a great portion of the 4,000 feet of mountain grade east of Salt Lake City, the dip into the basin and up the grade on the west again; secure the land grants and be as short as the other, while it will assuredly be advantageous to the Territories north of the line, and will render the business of this and the Atlantic and Pacific route running west from St. Louis through Kansas, less liable to come in competition. Should this route be selected, which we have many reasons to believe it ultimately will, the distance from Virginia City to the line of railroad will not exceed 200 miles and opportunities for a branch line will commend itself at an early day.

### ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL.

In Mr. Taylor's report upon Montana he says: "For some years after the California discovery, the demand for coinage induced large deposits at the Government mints, but for the last half of the period since 1848, a great proportion of the gold and silver product in the United States has been cast into bars or ingots by private assayers. This proportion may now be stated at fully one-half. Since, therefore, the United States mints and assay offices report \$5,505,687 30 from Montana for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1866, it will be safe to double that amount as the probable production last year." Upon this he bases our yield last year at \$12,000,000. Now to give Mr. Taylor credit for integrity and perfect impartiality, we are necessitated to believe that he has been imposed upon either intentionally or otherwise, by parties who furnished him the data for his report, or, from erroneous statistics in the Government offices. We happen to know that the gentleman who furnished him the estimate of last year's yield, spent several months in collecting and compiling statistics from the most reliable sources; that the lowest estimate was \$18,000,000, and this amount was stated to Mr. Taylor. He, however, ignored this data, and on the mathematical principle of halves and doubles, in a remarkably novel manner of estimating the production of bullion, cut it down to \$12,000,000. This was upon the amount reported to the United States Mints, which indeed it was very "safe" to double. To show the utter injustice and unreliability of this basis of calculation, we have ample proof, and will cite one instance. We are in possession of 18 receipts from the United States mint in Philadelphia to Messrs. Gurney & Co., of St. Joe, for gold forwarded from their branch house in this city, 16 of which were for dust forwarded from here during three months of last year, and amounted to \$46,520 64. This was forwarded to the banking house of Duncan, Sherman & Co., N. Y., and every dollar of it was credited to Colorado. Taking this as an average of shipment, it would give over \$500,000 as the amount forwarded from one house since its establishment, of which the agent here assures us, never a dollar has been credited to Montana. We do not propose to suggest that there are other houses in Montana which forward dust to the east; that Colorado finds it remunerative to have a highly laudatory, paid for article appear every week in the New York journals; that it would be a sharp financial dodge to allow bankers a nice commission on gold from other territories which could be inadvertently credited to Colorado; that Montana sold and bartered a large portion of the gold in Denver that helped to swell up the yield of Colorado to \$17,000,000 last year; that there are only seven mills in operation in Colorado, and they not paying expenses. We merely called attention to this trifling difference of a half million of gold dust, shipped east by a little shoe shop down street, to show Mr. Taylor that upon these trifles sometimes depend great results, and express the belief that the carefully compiled statistics of the U. S. Revenue office in Montana are fully as reliable as the halving and doubling process.

### THE CLOUD BURSTING.

We have, unfortunately, extremely interesting telegrams in regard to the Indians. Their depredations on the Smoky Hill and Sante Fe routes in Kansas; the hostile manifestations at Fort Mitchell; the reported host of them between Forts Phil Kearney and Smith, and our knowledge of the hostilities of the Blackfeet between the Yellowstone and Fort Benton; the report from Maj. Clinton that Sioux are scattered from Ft. Buford to Ft. Hawley; the almost certainty that to that of the Sioux, Cheyennes and Arapahoes, will be or are now joined the Bloods, Piegans, Gros Ventres, Blackfeet and Crows, and the existence of hostilities in Idaho with the Snakes, gives us an opportunity of realizing the magnitude of this Indian war. Extending as it does from the Arkansas river to Ft. Benton, and from Ft. Kearney on the Platte to the western line of Idaho, there are approximating to 700,000 square miles of territory now infested with hostile Indians; as large an area as occupied by the States lately in rebellion. In the league are the most powerful tribes on the continent, led by the largest and most warlike, the Sioux. If hitherto there have been any doubts of their intention to inaugurate a war at as early as practicable a moment this spring, we think the latest advices will dissipate the blinding glamour of unbelief. They have threatened, they will act, and it is not wise to shut our eyes against even a possibility of what promises to be a matter of so great importance. There is one point which seems strikingly indicative of operations at an early day—the friendly bands seeking the protection of the whites. The Bannacks have all come in to the settlements; the Brahe band have done the same, and it is reported that a band of Sioux at Fort Laramie desire permission to remain at the Fort. We believe that, should not this latter be a decoy, it will prove to be Nave with his band of Arapahoes, who held aloof last summer. If there was not an intention on the part of the League to commence the war this spring these bands would not come in; if it was not the intention to commence at once, they would not travel hundreds of miles to seek protection before the grass had grown sufficiently to recruit their ponies. Gen'l Sherman declared only a few months ago that he could ride through the entire country with 50 men. He has evidently changed his mind, else he would scarce send out 1,500 under Hancock and another strong force under Augur. We will be glad to hear of success reaching Phil Kearney and Smith. Those forts are strong, but Red Cloud is daring, his warriors brave and numerous, and their capture would furnish them with large supplies of arms, ammunition and provisions. Will he attempt it?

### MEXICAN ATROCITIES.

The recent moral intervention of Congress in the affairs of Mexico, by appealing to Juarez, through our Minister, for a revocation of the infamous order of Escobedo, sentencing the foreign prisoners, taken at the battle of San Jacinto, to death, was criticised by some as unwarranted intermeddling in the affairs of a foreign power, and likely to cause a rupture between the Liberal Government of Mexico and the United States. While the sympathies of the American people are with, and our government has recognized the Mexican Liberals, it furnishes no excuse for blindly failing to see, to protest against and even to resist by armed interference this most inhuman butchery of helpless prisoners, this murderous assassination of disarmed soldiers, whom every better impulse of the heart, every feeling of humanity, and every precedent of modern warfare, pleads for. Even in Mexico, where it has been customary to shoot commissioned officers captured in battle, there has not for many years been any record of indiscriminate execution until the massacre of February 3d. One hundred and twenty-three unfortunate victims marched out unflinchingly, singing the Marseillaise, and were shot down in succession, the bodies left lying as they fell. The most unprecedented butchery occurred on the 3d of April, at the capture of Puebla, where, it appears from the laconic dispatch, "no quarter was given," that native and foreign troops were alike sacrificed, and that fully 8,000 men must have been wantonly put to death. The Imperialists were fighting within the defenses, and their loss in this engagement would have been less than the attacking party, yet the Imperialists were 10,000, the Liberal 2,500. It is only reasonable to suppose that the garrison capitulated, and "no quarter given" explains the rest. This is atrocious and perfidious as even the most horrible of our Indian massacres, and of

government is direct of duty, as a civilized, christian power, if it does not interpose to prevent a repetition of these horrid barbarities.

The following is a careful translation of General Escobedo's order to execute the prisoners of war captured at San Jacinto:

MEXICAN REPUBLIC, ARMY OF THE NORTH, GENERAL-IN-CHIEF.  
"The constitutional aims have been over-magnanimous with the armed foreigners who have come to wage the most unjust war entered in our annals; when those foreigners have brought a flag, although hostile, it could in some measure protect them in their belligerent rights, but when that flag has been turned aside from the intervention which they wish to impose on us, and those who served under it without belonging any longer to it, neither to the Mexican nationality, have voluntarily enlisted in the service of the usurper, to take part in our domestic dissensions, to excite the passions and agitate civil war, besides committing depredations and assaults, by which humanity is outraged, as has been done by the foreign forces, which lately invaded the capital of Zacatecas, have lost all right to all considerations of humanity; have converted themselves into bandits—the declared enemies of humanity and the peace of society—it becomes necessary to make, through them, an example which will punish them and satisfy public opinion about the horrible outrages which they have committed. Therefore, the officer commanding will proceed to execute all the foreigners taken prisoners with arms in their hands, in the glorious battle of the 1st inst., with the exception of the wounded prisoners, and give due notice of the execution of this order to these headquarters.  
Independence and Liberty.  
To Citizen Colonel Miguel Palacios, Major General of the First Division of this Army Corps—Present.

A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION.

The last issue of the Democrat contains an elaborate and foreign argument under the caption of "Radicalism vs. Democracy." As a premise it says: "The Republicans of the present claim that to be a Democrat, in this our day, is to be disloyal. Let us see if the charge can be sustained." It is a rule in logic to draw legitimate inferences from admitted premises, or principles assumed to be just. We object to the assumption on the part of our worthy senior cotemporary, claiming that his assertion is not correct. To be a Democrat to-day does not necessitate a man to be less loyal or patriotic than in the days of Jackson. There does exist a parasite party, claiming the name of Democracy, that has been disloyal, and is yet. Major Bruce admits this, so will every Democrat. They assume the name of Democrats, act with them, and in fact have controlled them since the day the Charleston Convention broke up in a row. To be one of that faction is to be actively disloyal, and in this Territory they have been in the ascendant since its discovery. There have been assertions made in the Legislative halls of Montana as arrantly treasonable as ever were uttered in the Richmond Senate, and the Democrat dare not set those assertions at the lead of its columns under the names of its candidates, in the ensuing campaign. In calling the Democratic party of this Territory disloyal, it has been done because a disloyal element, acting under that name, controlled it. To have been less delicate and more truthful, the name of copperhead might have been substituted; but loyal Democrats who have permitted themselves to be passively led by themose along the slimy trail of this serpentine faction, deserved that the stigma of disgrace should rest upon the name they revere. There are scores and hundreds of loyal Democrats in Montana. We ask them to measure the loyalty of the dominant party in the Territory for the last four years, and say if the crimson of shame does not mantle their cheeks at the remembrance of their connection with them, and the vow come on their lips, we will be numbered with them no more. We know that very many of them have done this. They are not less Democrats, but the nobler and more honest men—shaking off the dust of disloyal paths from their shoes, they have set out in a new direction and turned their backs on the tempter, marching in the ways of the founders of Democracy, and keeping step to the music of the Union. Heaven forbid that we should call these men hard names. Again, the Democrat says the Republican party favor centralization of power. We do claim the supremacy of the central government; but we ask which most approximates to the centralization of power—a House of Representatives, consisting of 192 Representatives and a Senate of 52 members, coming up from the people, or a President false to the promises he made that "treason should be made odious," false to the principles upon which he was elected, and false to the loyal States; having shown by these that he was the tool of a clique, and that clique the abettors of the rebellion we ask, which looks to centralization of power, the supporters of the Congressional or the President's policy? Our neighbor still further waxes eloquent, ay, even sublimely so, (there is only one step between that and the ri-

diculous) over what the Democratic party is fighting for. Now, the Major would not tell fibs, we know; he is a man of family, and of course avoids anything of that kind. We do not suppose for a moment that Major Bruce ever wrote that article. It has not the ring of "forty years" in it, and savors not of his peculiarly happy and argumentative style; but, inasmuch as our Helena cotemporaries do not hesitate to publish editorials emanating from erudite Blackstonians of Virginia, it would be unkind not to acquiesce in granting the Major all the credit, and consequently all the responsibility for the sentiments contained therein, and we cheerfully do so. But all the moonshine about the fight for principles is humbug. The so-called Democratic party are fighting for power and post offices, government pap and political plunder; the Major is making personally a heavy pull for Congressional Delegate, and farther than this, principle has very little to do with the defunct organism tottering about to save funeral expenses, and whose dead carcass is becoming so offensive that even its dearest friends will scarce consider it worthy a decent funeral or a final requiem.

### UNREQUITED LOVE.

The 'Virginian' quotes the 'World's' suggestion about the propriety of armed resistance to the legislation of Congress if it could only be successful, and says it has an indistinct recollection of similar aid and comfort promised six years ago by people who afterwards fought against it for the South. And it does not hesitate to say that for the encouragement given by Democratic journals and politicians North, the Southern people would not have resorted to secession as a remedy for the undoubted wrongs they were then suffering in the Union.  
The above is a most ungrateful remark to come from a people for whom a great party, strong in numbers, in the prestige of power, the association of honored names and the possession of patriotic principles, sacrificed all but the name of Democrat to retain in their party the Slaveocracy of the South. It shows that the South, still smarting under the infliction of chastisement for their sins, with those dread concomitants that follow in the train of unsuccessful war, poverty, famine and the graves of unnumbered dead, know full well who encouraged and urged them in the continuance of a hopeless warfare against liberty, right and justice. It goes farther; it does not hesitate to lay at the feet of "Democratic journals and politicians North," the inception of rebellion. The suggestion of the World probably emanated from the Gazette, as we remember an article in that paper some two months since, broadly hinting at that resort, and they can see from the above how highly their sympathy and advice is appreciated by those who have once worn the armor of rebellion; worn it bravely but unfortunately, and laid aside, from present indications, forever.

### THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF MINING.

Every mill man and quartz operator should take a good mining journal, devoted exclusively to mining matters and the diffusion of the latest information in regard to the reduction and treatment of ores. The American Journal of Mining has long occupied the front rank in this class of American journalism, and has recently been enlarged to twenty pages, published at \$4 per annum. It contains, each week, a review of the entire mineral country, illustrations of machinery, market reports of stocks and scientific articles from eminent contributors; in fact, it is a *volume moun* for all practical and scientific men interested in gold and silver developments.

### MINING MATTERS.

"M," writes from Jefferson City on the 28th as follows: The work upon the different lodes in this vicinity goes steadily forward, still flattering owners with golden (or rather silver) promises. The Gregory, upon which so much depends, that is, the rapid development of our section of country, seems to understand its responsible position and in consequence, continues to grow better and better. Native silver can be distinctly seen in considerable quantities in all the quartz taken from any portion of the ore. The shaft is 145 feet deep, and 14 feet from wall-rock to wall-rock, paying ore the entire width. Indications are that this good example will be closely followed by several other lodes.

THE NEW MINES IN MISSOULA COUNTY.—The new placer diggings which have lately been discovered in Missoula county are creating considerable excitement in that vicinity. But little is as yet known about them; but what is, appears to be of the most favorable character. The discoverers are reported to have said that they have not as yet reached the bed rock, but the present prospects would indicate \$10.00 to \$15.00 per day to the hand, with a strong probability of their far exceeding the latter amount. The diggings are situated on Vermilion creek, a tributary of Thompson's River. The latter stream empties into Clark's Fork of the Columbia, about twenty miles from the mouth of the Vermilion. The following are the distances from this point to the new discovery, as given by Mr. Barrett, and are, as nearly as can be correct: From Helena to Missoula, 142 miles; Missoula to the Flat Head Agency, 20; from the Agency to the crossing of the Pan d'Oreille river, 22; from that point to the mine on the Vermilion, 40. Total distance, 214 miles. Should the further development of the new placers meet the expectations of the discoverers, which we fervently hope, it will create an extensive stampede, and those who are on the lookout for big things had better be on the *gal* and keep posted. We have made arrangements to receive the earliest information in regard to the future developments, and shall by them before our readers as early as possible.

### The Murder of Bozeman.

Gen. T. F. Meagher, Virginia City:

Sir—On the 16th inst., accompanied by the late J. M. Bozeman, I left here for Forts C. F. Smith and Phil Kearney. After a day or so of arduous travel, we reached the Yellowstone River and journeyed on in safety until the 20th inst., when, in our noon camp on the Yellowstone, about seven miles this side of the Bozeman Ferry, we perceived five Indians approaching us, on foot, and leading a pony. When within, say 250 yards, I suggested to Mr. Bozeman that we should open fire, to which he made no reply. We stood with our rifles ready until the enemy approached to within 100 yards, at which time B. remarked, "Those are Crows, I know one of them. We will let them come to us, and learn where the Sioux and Blackfeet camps are, provided they know." The Indians meanwhile walking towards us, with their hands up, calling "App-sar-ake," (Crow.) They shook hands with B, and proffered the same politeness to me, which I declined by presenting my Henry at them, and at the moment B. remarked, "I am fooled—these are Blackfeet." We may, however, get off without trouble." I then went to our horses, (leaving my gun with B.) and had saddled mine, when I saw the chief quickly draw the cover from his fusee, and as I called to B. to shoot, the Indian fired, the ball taking effect in B's right breast, passing completely through him. B. charged on the Indian, but did not fire, when another shot taking effect in the left breast, brought poor B. to the ground, a dead man. At this instant, I received a bullet through the upper edge of my left shoulder. I ran to B, picked up my gun, and spoke to him, asking if he was badly hurt. Poor fellow, his last words had been spoken some minutes before I reached the spot; he was "stone dead." Finding the Indians pressing me, and my gun not working, I stepped back slowly, trying to fix it, in which I succeeded, after retreating, say fifty paces. I then opened fire, and the first shot brought one of the gentlemen to the sod. I then charged and the other two took to their heels, joining the two that had been saddling B's animal and our pack horse, immediately after B's fall. Having an idea that when collected they might make a rush, I returned to a piece of willow brush, say 400 yards from the scene of action, giving the Indians a shot or two as I fell back. I remained in the willows about an hour, when I saw the enemy cross the river, carrying their dead comrade with them. On returning to the camp to examine B, I found, but too surely, that the poor fellow was out of all earthly trouble. The red men, however, had been in too much of a hurry to scalp him, or even take his watch—the latter I brought in. After cutting a pound or so of meat, I started on foot on the back track, swam the Yellowstone, (a cool bath) walked thirty miles, and came upon McKenzie and Beshaw's camp, very well satisfied to be so far on the road home and in tolerable safe quarters. The next day I arrived at home with a tolerably sore shoulder, and pretty well fagged out. A party started out yesterday (Sunday) to bring in B's remains.

From what I can glean in the way of information, I am satisfied that there is a large party of Blackfeet on the Yellowstone, whose sole object is plunder and scalps.

T. W. COVER,  
GALLATIN HILLS, BOZEMAN, APRIL 28, 1867.  
FROM JEFFERSON CITY, *Cal.*

### Special Correspondence.

EDITOR POST: As I sit alone in the deepening twilight of this Sabbath evening, my thoughts revert to my old home and the "scenes of my childhood," where the inviting voice of the old church bell was gently wafted, at this sacred hour, on the breeze—seeming, in persuasive tones, to cry, "Whoever will, let him come" to the house of worship and praise, and let the closing hours of this day, which belongs not to men, be passed in returning thanks to "Him who hath kept us and lengthened our days."

Perhaps no privation of our mountain life has exceeded this; for the mind cannot be chained entirely to our earthly interests; innumerable are the ways sent to direct our thoughts into a higher channel. Holy aspirations will unconsciously take possession of our mental faculties, and awake an unsatisfied yearning for help to lift our hearts above the cares of this life, and meditate upon the never-ending and uncertain future. Thinking like this, I instinctively look upward; but all there seems dark and cheerless; the curtain of night has hid the varying beauty of the horizon, and left only a blank, monotonous space—"But suddenly a star appears," like the vision of a friend; another and another drops silently into the "limitless blue," and gradually the sky seems filling with devotional occupants, and unconsciously I murmur, "The Heavens declare the glory of God." "Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge." Slowly and stately the full moon enters the sanctuary, and with a mighty voice speaks of the Omnipotent One who created, preserves and judges all; "The stars sing together for joy," "The whole Heavens rejoice," and unite in the vesper hymn; and with my heart made lighter by the pleasant illusion, I draw the curtain and seek in oblivious slumber to dream of home.

My soul shall fold her wing  
In the calm shadow of Almighty love!  
My ear shall hush to catch the faintest ring  
Of harmonies above.

My eyes in trust shall turn  
Toward the green pastures of eternal rest,  
The far and shining portals half discern,  
Of mansions of the best." G. O.