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The Montana Post



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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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SELF-PRESERVATION IS THE FIRST LAW OF NATURE.

As intimated not long since, the Indians have commenced hostilities along the river, fortunately not until the majority of the boats have safely landed their cargoes at Benton. The congregating of large numbers of Indians in that vicinity, manifesting a decidedly hostile spirit, was reported at Omaha by Benton steamers, and later by the Lexington, the officers of which stated that the Indians declared no more boats should pass above Fort Randall. Why they permitted the numerous earlier boats to ascend without molestation, while they made predatory attacks upon the Kansas and Colorado routes, is one of those mysterious manifestations of strategic skill that ranks with the Napoleonic achievements of '63, on the Peninsula, and is equally inscrutable. In this connection comes up the opinion and suggestion of General Buford, that the 80,000 square miles of territory lying north of Nebraska and west and south of the Missouri, to the mouth of the Musselshell, bordering over 2000 miles of the only navigable water-course reaching Montana, and completely enveloping the northern mail route now established, the Minnesota road used for years and on which are now travelling 400 emigrants destined for Montana, the proposed Northern Pacific Railroad route, the greatest material project tending to the development of the northwest; the Bozeman route, saving several hundred miles of the distance between this and the North Platte, on which a stage route should have been established this summer; fully one third of all the territory within the borders of Montana, embracing the fertile valleys and rich gold regions of the Yellowstone and its tributaries; all these it is proposed to wrest from civilization and turn over to the barbaric horde, where no military will be permitted or white man allowed to set foot, "except agents, teachers and duly licensed traders." It will not do. It would cripple and crush out the life of Montana, the second gold producing commonwealth of the world. Cut the arteries and the system is destroyed. Blockade the avenues of trade and commerce dies; shut off immigration and young empires will go into premature decay. But primarily the idea is farcical. The American Indian cannot be taught the arts of Peace. He is a nomadic barbarian by nature, and all the legislation of Congress cannot eradicate his love for stealing, murdering and migrating. The exceptions to this prove the rule. New England and the Middle States waged a war of extermination purely in self-defense. The Indian west of the Missouri is the Indian of Wyoming, with many of the vices of the white and none of his virtues. Every attempt to better their condition has proven a costly failure and a speedy extinction of the victims. There are no exceptions to this. The pioneer of the west will never submit to the ignominious of legislation, and recognize a boundary line where his foot may go and no

farther. "Tis 'gainst nature." Whose claims are paramount in the estimation of Congress, the red enemies or the white friends? the advance guard, we might say, under present circumstances, the forlorn hope, who are extending the developed boundaries of the Great Republic, or the treacherous enemy who have baptized in innocent life-blood every vantage ground from Plymouth Rock to the Pacific? The people of this Territory and of all the west are disgusted with that morbid, impractical sentimentality now controlling legislation and the conduct of Indian affairs. The idea of a general Territorial Convention has fallen through, but let us send our several delegates men who appreciate these absurdities, have ability to combat them and character, energy, moral influence and sympathy enough with the Government of the United States to give weight and effect to their representations. By these we can accomplish what has become a vital necessity for our welfare, and "twere well done if twere done quickly."

WHERE THEY STAND.

Since the day when the confusion of tongues was heard at Babel's Tower, there has scarcely been convened a more heterogeneous multitude than formed the Democratic Convention in Helena. Adopting a platform that has not one redeeming quality, saving the catch resolution thrown to the Militia for a bait line, they nominated for Delegate a person who has barely been in the Territory a sufficient time to be eligible, without a claim upon the people or any identified interest in its welfare. One who has persistently followed new communities, urging his adaptability to hold office, with an utter disregard as to what were the political principles he advocated, and while failing to secure his own election in Colorado, did succeed in one thing, the humiliating defeat of the same party that has now nominated him, and thereby securing the contempt of every Democrat and the denunciations of every Democratic paper in Colorado. The consideration that principally aided in securing his nomination was fear that he would run independent if they did not put him on the ticket. Maj. Bruce, whom we believe to be at least a Union man, now laboring under the disagreeable necessity of keeping very bad company, Mr. Mayhew, the late Speaker of the House, Col. Woolfolk, the advocate of a Northwest Confederacy, Mr. Sam Word, a lawyer of ability, and Colonel Johnson, all Missourians, and on that account entitled to the nomination, were thrown aside as unavailable, and Cavanaugh, whom the *Democrat* "hoped the party would not be reduced into the support of," nominated. While making up his record we will meantime regale our readers with that prepared by Major Bruce for the Democrats of this Territory, in his paper of Feb. 28th, 1867. To show the status of the party here, and prove that in hot-headed, "radical" Democracy, so-called, notwithstanding their adoption of the word "Conservative," they are a full length ahead of all competitors, we state, first, that there is not a word in their platform even recognizing allegiance to the United States, and that for aught in the word or spirit of their platform, as a commonwealth of the United States, it might have as consistently been adopted by the Cannibal Islanders. Mr. Wade presented a series of resolutions, carefully selected to suit the exigencies of the case, from the platform adopted by the Democratic Convention of the State of California, June 19, 1867, of which the following resolutions are a portion:

Resolved, That the Government of the United States is the paramount Government of the country, and that the allegiance due from the citizens to such Government is a binding and perpetual obligation to be observed with fidelity and good faith.
Resolved, That the questions involved in the late rebellion have been practically settled by the war, and it is the duty of all to acquiesce in this settlement, and endeavor to restore friendly relations between the different sections of the country and re-establish the Government in its constitutional authority throughout the Union.
Resolved, That in order that our national difficulties may be speedily adjusted and the Union restored on a permanent and satisfactory basis, the States lately in rebellion should be dealt with in a spirit of kindness and forbearance, and we regard the course of Congress in what are known as the reconstruction measures of that body as harsh, illiberal, oppressive, and more likely to result in a hollow truce than enduring peace.
These were rejected after a short discussion, simply because they acknowledged an allegiance due the Government of the United States, and held that the war was ended, something not contemplated by the left wing. There was still another resolution, from the same series, offered by Mr. Wade, if possible still more obnoxious to them:
Resolved, That the payment of the public debt is a solemn duty resting upon the Government, and that the people should cheerfully submit to any just system of taxation necessary to enable the Government to discharge this duty, but no tax should be levied

except to meet the necessary expenses of the Government and sustain the public credit.

This was wholly inadmissible, as Brick Pomeroy, the Orpheus of Montana Democracy, had recently struck the following key notes, which, although discordant, even logically, are greenback notes of harmony to disloyal ears:

There is not the least doubt but the present national war debt, the monstrous labor-strangling results of Republican legislation, fraud and incompetency, will be repaid in less than four years, as it should be.

A little further on in the same article he says:

If the South is a conquered nation, it is the law of nations that the conqueror must pay all debts owed by the conquered, and this must be done sooner or later in this instance.

While we regret that we are compelled so to do, by the irresistible logic of facts, we are necessitated to believe that the Democratic party, so-called, of Montana, are inimical to, and prejudiced against, not only the Union party, but the Government of the United States, having no heart interest in its honor, welfare or perpetuity, except when in the hands of olden Democrats or their illegitimate modern namesakes. It is impossible to conceive of a more humiliating and degrading position than that now attained by that party, and if, at this day, on a platform so utterly devoid of every principle dear to the American heart, and ignoring all interest in the development of the Territory, they can elect a candidate whom themselves have denounced as "wholly unreliable," we will have mistaken American character; for we hold there are no more worthy representatives of it than the rough-handed, large-hearted, impulsive, brave and energetic pioneers of the mountains.

GRANT-CURTIN.

We nominate for President of the United States, Ulysses S. Grant, General; for Vice President of the United States, Andrew G. Curtin, Ex-Governor of Pennsylvania—subject to the decision of the National Republican Convention. These, the highest offices in the gift of the American people, should be bestowed on those entitled by ability, character, experience, faithful service, steadfast loyalty, and enduring, ever trusting faith in man's ability for self-government, to the highest honors in the land. There are no two better representative men than Grant, from the field, the man of many thoughts and few words, whose actions are language that may not be misinterpreted; and Curtin, from the forum, the man who is indomitable of heart as Grant—and each in his proper sphere working unceasingly to accomplish the preservation of the Union—have, in the last six years, been developed and portrayed to the eyes of the people as men eminently fitted for the positions we have named. Of the grand convention of States, we are a mere lobby member; but "just for luck," we nail up our choice on the golden summit of the Rocky Mountains, and will stand by it with a hearty good will.

FIRE.

Fire and water are good servants, but bad masters. The one we can guard against, and it is our duty to do it. There are few places in which fire will work more complete destruction than a mining town. It may break out in a moment and waste a city in an hour. We have had warnings enough. If we fail to heed them, we are past profiting by the teachings of events. The loss by conflagration in this country is increasing to an alarming extent. From 1859 to 1864, the average losses by fire in the United States were \$18,000,000 per annum. In 1865 it was increased to \$43,000,000. In 1866, it was \$100,000,000, and from the large number of destructive fires recorded during the first half of the present year, it will not probably be decreased for 1867. The fire in Idaho City, in May, destroyed 440 buildings, at an estimated value of over \$1,000,000. The fire in Council Bluffs, on the 24th of June, destroyed \$300,000 worth of property. No city in Montana has yet suffered from a great conflagration. Escape in the past guarantees no immunity for the future, and a hundred homeless, homeless and penniless families may weep to-morrow over the ashes of the roofs that shelter them to-day. It is too late to act when the evil is accomplished. Prevention is better than remedy, and it is only by a thoroughly organized, equipped and efficient fire department in every town and city that the residents have an assurance of safety by day or night. Virginia has an organization. It is composed of good citizens, the best of our people. They have the necessary equipments, but can you have your company together and the apparatus on the ground in five minutes by day or night? If you cannot, it will be inefficient under the most dangerous circumstances, an early morning fire, with a stiff breeze. Does the fire Marshal make careful and regular in-

spection of pipes, chimneys and flues? Remember that summer fires are as frequent and more dangerous than those of winter. Helena has no organization. It is abandoned for want of the most meagre support from interested parties. The town is courting destruction, its people ruin. How many merchants have insurance to cover their stocks, or funds to meet their liabilities, if they are destroyed? A careful and constant inspection, by a capable Fire Marshal, and a well organized fire department are the surest preventatives. Some day it may be too late to think of these things. A few dollars from each property holder, invested in apparatus and a central building to contain it, and these committed to capable and vigilant men, who are to be found in every town, would be the best investment they could make.

OVER THE VETO.

The tidings come by telegraph that Congress has accomplished the work for which it was convened, and the body has adjourned until December. The military commanders have been sustained; Stanbery and his unwarranted voluntary, stilted "opinion" in a case not within his jurisdiction, left out in the cold, and apparently the last hobby of the enemies of the country has had its back irreparably broken. Johnson's veto, a stale, rapid relash of the arguments used in aiding and abetting treason, probably furnished him by O'Connor and Greeley at the usual rates for such services, was read, spread upon the records, and the bill voted aye by every Union man in Congress. To all this we say, amen and amen. We believe the principles of reconstruction, as embodied in the Military Bill, to have been, and are, just and right, tempered by mercy and magnanimity. Laying aside the hackneyed phrase of "military tyranny," we have yet to see one argument to show that it is unconstitutional or wrong, from the press of this Territory. If it was right in its inception and correct in its details, it is fitting that it should be followed up to a successful accomplishment, and had the Fortieth Congress failed to sustain those it had empowered to execute its provisions, it would have been justly chargeable with deception, trickery and moral cowardice. The Union party has endorsed the policy and will stand by it, for the good of the country, while an open enemy or secret foe throws hindrance in its way, or a State remains unrepresented. Johnson mourns over the grief of his proteges, the rebel officials of the provisional governments. No man will deny that it rests with Congress to determine upon the admission of new States, and that it is held responsible for the form of government existing therein. No such prerogative is vested in the Executive. A form of government not recognized by Congress is void. It has not recognized the unconstitutional governments of the rebellious States, but has defined what it considers a republican form of government, provided for the erection of it on the ruins of rebellion, and assigned officers to see that these requirements are complied with. This constitutes the sole purpose of the reconstruction act over which so many crocodile tears are shed and post-office sighs heaved from the heavy hearts of the Democratic party—so-called.

EXCELSIOR.

The generous patronage bestowed upon THE TRI-WEEKLY POST has made the experiment a permanency. It has long been the intention of the proprietors to enlarge the paper in proportion to the liberal patronage, but an inability to procure paper has, until the present issue, kept the project in abeyance. Through the courtesy and remembered kindness of Messrs. Wilkinson and Rehan, of the *Rocky Mountain Gazette*, who have expressed us paper in advance of the arrival of our own from Benton, we are enabled this (Saturday) morning to present the enlarged tri-weekly. It is now increased over eleven columns in excess of the former issue, giving us opportunity to present a largely increased quantity of reading matter, while displaying better the advertisements. For some time our advertising patrons have crowded in their favors until our readers or they had to suffer. We have divided the suffering as equally as we were able, and now can accommodate all. Neither rates of subscription or advertising are increased. Our expenses and circulation are increased and increasing. If you want to keep up with the times you must read the papers. If you would succeed in business you must advertise. We will try to furnish the people of Montana with as good a paper as they manifest a willingness to sustain. Hitherto our patronage has been generous and liberal, enabling us

to furnish a journal that we can say without egotism, has been an advantage and a credit to the Territory and the people. Our aim is to improve. The enlargement of the tri-weekly will enable advertisers to reach the principal business communities through it, and leave us nearly forty columns of the weekly for reading matter. These, we believe, are all the apologies we have to offer in presenting this morning our enlarged paper. The subscription books are now open.

AN EDITORIAL HOLIDAY.

The knights of the quill, in the goodly and glorious State of Wisconsin, to the number of one hundred and fifty, with some fifty State officers and others, guests of the Editorial Association, have recently been honoring their brethren of Minnesota with a fraternal call *en masse*. We are impressed with the idea that the occasion was rendered as cheerful as poor humanity is capable of enduring. They had "side-wheel" banquets where resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting were passed by "spontaneous combustion," and processions of Gophers and Badgers through the streets of the principal cities; assisted the old Minnesota First in celebrating something; witnessed East Lynne at the St. Paul Opera House, where they "wept in their handkerchiefs till they were wet;" had more banquets; took a run to Minneapolis, and had more banquets and speeches tuned to the key note of "gorgeous and glorious," and finally, at last accounts, had returned to La Crosse without losing a man. *Vive la compagnie!*

JAMES M. CAVANAUGH.

At a meeting of the Young Men's Democratic Club of Helena, last February, Mr. Cavanaugh delivered an address in which he animadverted severely upon Major Jno. P. Bruce. In the succeeding number of the *Democrat* the Major devoted a two column article to the Honorable gentleman, which as it is apropos to the campaign now opened, and was pronounced at the time by many Democrats to be the "best article that ever appeared in the *Democrat* from the Major's pen," we give the concluding portion devoted particularly to the "itinerant wanderer." The article appeared in the *Democrat* of Feb. 28, 1867.

"The personal allusions, which Cavanaugh chose to make in regard to us, are rather surprising. We have never done the individual any harm. On the contrary, upon his arrival in this city in June last, at his request, we inserted in the *Democrat* a long complimentary notice from a *Radical* paper, (the *Denver News*), referring to him socially and professionally. Afterwards at his written request, we strained our conscience to its utmost forbearance to puff his speech before the Supreme court, in the Foster case, which was regarded by both judges, bar, and by-standers as the weakest effort ever made in that court. This we did gratuitously, although he offered to pay. For such courtesy, we received in return from this man Cavanaugh, abuse, and he terms us a "dirty bed-fellow." The only defilement that we can conceive attaching to us, is having anything to say in favor of a man, who exhibits such low manners as to assail one that never injured, but endeavored to serve him. We can assure Mr. Cavanaugh that he wholly mistakes the high-toned sentiment of the people of Montana, if he imagines for a moment that indulgence in blackguardism towards an opponent will insure their support, or is a recommendation to the party that indulges in it.

Since it was probable that there would be an early election for Delegate to Congress, the names of various gentlemen have been mentioned as candidates. Messrs. Tutt, Mayhew, W. L. Irvine, E. B. Waterbury, Judge Orr, Col. Johnson, Word, Shober and Cavanaugh, as well as John P. Bruce, are spoken of by their respective friends, and we have been clearly of the opinion, that any one of the gentlemen named, except Cavanaugh, would be acceptable to the Democracy of Montana, and would make good Representatives in Congress. We have given expression to this opinion in private conferences with some Democrats, and doubtless it was communicated to Mr. Cavanaugh, and hence his abuse of us, and we propose, as he has forced the issue on us, to give the reasons why James M. Cavanaugh is not a proper person for the Democracy of Montana to select as a candidate for Delegate to Congress. In the first place he has not been a citizen of the Territory twelve months. The Legislature of Montana in its discretion, has passed a law requiring a citizen to reside that length of time before he can run for Delegate. Whether the Legislature had a right to prescribe such a qualification or not, the people and succeeding Legislatures have acquiesced in it, and we think a man must be very thirsty for office, and have a very hard cheek that would thrust himself on the people for office, before he lived in the Territory twelve months, and who believe Cavanaugh never rendered any public service in the interest of the people he seeks to represent.

In the second place, we know that J. M. Cavanaugh, now of Helena, did run as an independent candidate for Congress in Colorado, in 1865, and that his vote added to that of the regular Democratic candidate would have elected him, and we read his card announcing himself as

such candidate, yet in the report of his speech in the *Gazette*, Cavanaugh brands the statement in the *Montana Post*, in which the actual vote in that race is published, "as a falsehood," when it is true, and he admitted to a gentleman, since the article appeared, who is, also, an aspirant for Congress, that he did run as an independent candidate at the time stated. This is another evidence of hard check on the part of Cavanaugh. We have had it from the lips of gentlemen, to whose statements we would give more credit, than to any denial of Cavanaugh's, that in that race in Colorado, Cavanaugh on the stump, stated that he was asked if he would accept a Democratic nomination, and that he had replied "that he wanted no nomination from the Democrats, that he had been endeavoring for eighteen months to spew up all the Democracy in him"—that "he regarded Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, as wise and useful in its conception, and that it would render Lincoln's name immortal."

In the third place, we know, that during the race for Congress in 1865 in Colorado, that our Democratic exchanges from there, were all down on James M. Cavanaugh, and continued so, until his departure to come out here, and the only complimentary notice of him, that came under our observation was in the *Denver News*, a Radical paper, and is the article which he requested us to publish.

Again, in all that we have heard from gentlemen in Montana, who knew Cavanaugh in Colorado, the opinion generally entertained in regard to him, was, that he was wholly unreliable as a politician, and that no confidence in that respect could be reposed in anything he said.

In view of all the objections above, besides others we have heard of, it was our deliberate wish that the Democracy of Montana would not be reduced into the support of a man of such doubtful political principals. These objections do not have their first movement from us—they came from the persons who knew Cavanaugh's antecedents—men who stand high in the confidence of the Democracy of Montana.

We heard a Democrat, who has filled high positions in this Territory ever since its organization, say he would not support Cavanaugh even if nominated by a regular convention of the party. We have never gone so far in regard to any aspirant.

Notwithstanding the broad denials of Mr. Cavanaugh, we shall wait for better evidence, and our opinion as to his political status in Colorado, remain unchanged, for a great deal of what is charged against him is established history, and he cannot escape from the force of it.

It has afforded no pleasure to go into this expose of any one claiming to act with the party to which we belong. The whole thing has been forced upon us by the unwarranted assault made by Mr. Cavanaugh. It was wholly unexpected from such a source, considering the relations existing between us. The excuse of which the gentleman availed himself, that Gen. Meagher was assailed by the *Democrat*, had no foundation in fact, and was seized upon in order to ride into favor by identifying himself with the acting Governor. We have always considered Gen. Meagher perfectly competent to defend himself, when assailed, and all who know him are fully aware he does not lack the courage, no difference who may be the assailant. If Mr. Cavanaugh had not improperly, and very indelicately, outraged himself on the Democracy of Montana, he would not be surrounded by his present difficulties, and these grave exposures of his political recreancy and unreliability, would not have been published, although they were known in private circles. For our part, we entertained very kind feelings personally toward the gentleman, and never dreamed that we should ever have any controversy with him. We were taken very much by surprise when we read the report of his speech in the *Gazette*. And, aside from this, we never regarded Mr. Cavanaugh as a formidable candidate for Congress—there is not a gentleman named in connection with that office that has not stronger claims on the Democracy of Montana than Cavanaugh, and who cannot command more votes in a convention, and we never believed for a moment that he would be nominated, and therefore, thought his aspiration as springing only from vanity and impudence, of which he has an abundance.

But, this late speech of his, is just a repetition of his career in Colorado. There he was constantly engaged in stirring up strife and wrangling in the Democratic ranks, which resulted in his being an independent candidate, and defeating the regular nominee. What other gentleman, aspiring to a seat in Congress, has made an assault upon another, because he was probably his competitor for the same position? Has Judge Mayhew, Mr. Waterbury, Judge Orr, or any of the other gentlemen spoken of assailing any one? It is left to this wrangler and broiler, all the way from Massachusetts in search of Congressional honors, "swinging around the circle" of the Rocky Mountains, and taking desperate chances, for political advancement, but pulling up stakes for a new latitude every time he fails. We know of no hope for the success of his ambition except he can go to Washington as Delegate from the "Bad Lands" of which he would in name be a fit representative.

TURN OUT.—The Union voters of Madison county should read the call of the Committee for an election of delegates, on Saturday evening, and turn out.

FOURTEEN years ago, Robert Bonner, of the *New York Ledger*, was employed by Hiram Fuller in the office of the *New York Mirror*. The former is now enjoying the rich fruits of energy and enterprise and the latter is a used up secessionist in a London jail.