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ANDERSONVILLE.

THE WIRZ TRIAL YESTERDAY.

Filthy Condition of the Prison.

How the Institution was Governed.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Sept. 1, 1865.

The Wirz trial was resumed this morning.

Nazarth Allen testified that he was for a time in the Confederate service at Andersonville, and was a guard there attached to the 3d Georgia Reserves; he knew that Capt. Wirz was commander of the prison; he had seen men in the stocks, and in the chain gang; one man died in the stocks; he was thus punished for trying to escape; on one occasion a prisoner stepped out of the ranks to ask Capt. Wirz to transfer him to another mess, when Wirz immediately ordered him back, cursing him, and threatening to shoot him; the witness testified at length to the filthy condition of the prison; the stench was so bad while he was on duty in the stockade, that he was sick pretty much all the time; he and others made complaints to their officers on the subject; a man who was sick, lying on the ground, calling in his distress for his mother, asked the witness for tent materials, but he could not give the articles, as it was against orders; the prisoners were deprived of vegetables, including onions, which they had purchased at the gate; he knew that hounds were kept at the prison to scent those who had escaped.

Cross-examined by the Defense—Witness was conscripted into the Confederate service; he had never seen any of the prisoners shot, nor did he shoot any of them; he never had orders to shoot prisoners who crossed the "dead line;" the hounds were common plantation dogs and not particularly ugly nor savage; he had never seen a man bitten by them.

Capt. J. Heath, who had been on duty in the Andersonville Prison in the Confederate service, testified that in August, 1864, Wirz sent 13 men to him to be ironed; they were brought by a Provost-Marshal attached to Gen. Winder's Headquarters; the next day 12 of the men were ironed; one of them had got away when the hounds were put on his scent; the man was discovered up a tree and a pistol was fired at him; Wirz commanded him to come down; the man asked that the dogs might not be permitted to bite him; the dogs, however, attacked him as soon as he descended, biting at his legs; Wirz could have taken the prisoner, but did not call the hounds off. He recollected of a sick man being put in the chain-gang; he did not know whether the man died or not; he did not like to tell what ailed the man, there being ladies in the Court-room.

Judge-Advocate Chipman said the witness could modestly tell what ailed the man.

The witness then said the man had the diarrhea, and those with whom he was chained, said they "would be damned if they would be fastened to such a man." They had to travel at the same time to the same place for the same purpose, namely, to the sink. The witness had seen the prisoner knock down two or three persons. Once when the movement of the prisoners commenced, because one of them tried to get out in a squad to which he did not belong.

The witness was cross-examined at some length by the defense, saying among other things, before the stockade was extended he heard Capt. Wirz say if any more prisoners were sent thither there would not be room enough for them.

The Court took a recess from 1 till 2 o'clock.

When the Court reassembled, Gen. Thomas, a member of the Court, called attention to an article which appeared in yesterday's *Evening Star* as follows:

"The records of the Andersonville Prison, captured by Gen. Wilson and furnished by the War Department to the expedition sent to Andersonville by Secretary Stanton, to lay out a cemetery, and mark the graves of our soldiers who died in the prison in that place, have turned up missing. Since the return of the party one of the clerks of the Quartermaster's Department, who accompanied the expedition, and in whose hands the records were last seen, has been placed under arrest by the military authorities until he can give a satisfactory account of the disposition made of them. It is thought by some that if the records were stolen instead of lost, it was for the purpose of preventing their use as evidence against Wirz, the keeper of the Andersonville prison, now being tried by Court-Martial here."

Gen. Thomas said he wanted the prisoner tried fairly, and therefore asked whether it was true that the records had been lost or stolen.

Col. Chipman replied the hospital records and the register of deaths with one exception were in charge of the Clerk of the Commission. He did not know on what the article in *The Star* was based. The Government intended to introduce the records at the proper time.

Mr. Baker said he knew nothing about them.

Col. Chipman remarked that the allegation in *The Star* was so indefinite, that it was impossible to tell whether the papers alluded to have ever been in the possession of the Government or not. He repeated the hospital and death register were not stolen and would be introduced at the proper time.

Mr. Baker knew nothing about the statements in the newspapers. He had read them. As far as the counsel for the prisoner was concerned, they would be happy to have produced all records bearing upon the Andersonville prison. He asked that all the prisoner ever did be laid before the Court.

Col. Chipman said the article could not relate to the papers in his custody.

Mr. Baker asked, if not inconsistent with the Judge Advocate's duty, that the records should be placed where the counsel for the defense could have access to them.

Col. Chipman—If you can convince me that I am not capable of taking care of them, I will do so.

Mr. Baker—We made the request with the proviso that it could be done consistently with your duty.

Col. Chipman—That is another question.

Mr. Baker—That was all we asked in all sincerity for our client.

Col. Chapman—It is not consistent with my duty to produce the papers.

Mr. Baker—We made the request civilly for information. We need all the papers very much.

Wm. Dillard, late in the service of the Confederate Army at Andersonville, testified to the filthy state of the prison and the miserable condition of the prisoners, owing to the want of the necessaries of life and from other causes. He gave facts in connection with men in the chain-gang or hunted by hounds.

Calvin Honeycutt, who was also in the Rebel service at Andersonville, said he saw Capt. Wirz draw his pistol and threaten to shoot a man who was sick for not starting up in line. Prisoners attempting to escape were hunted by hounds. He saw one who was torn in the leg by them. Another man was whipped on the bare back with a stick, because he blacked his face and attempted to escape with a gang of negroes.

James Mahan, who was also in the Confederate army, and on duty at Andersonville, testified that he and the Assistant Provost-Marshal took 13 men to the blacksmith shop to have iron collars and chains fastened on them; he received his verbal orders from Capt. Wirz, through an orderly sergeant; one of the men called "Frenchy," however, made his escape; Capt. Wirz said when he heard of it: "That damned Frenchy has escaped again;" and he sent for the dogs, which got on the trail of the man, who was captured near the stream; Wirz got off his horse and went alongside of the dogs; the witness judged that it was Wirz who fired the pistol at the man; the man's trowsers were torn by the dogs; he did not know whether the flesh was injured; witness had heard Wirz remark that he wished all the prisoners were in hell, and himself with them.

The witnesses above-mentioned were cross-examined at length. The last one said it was a laborious and vexatious task to take care of the prisoners; and he didn't think that any one would be ambitious to have the situation.

Judge Daniel Hall of Georgia, residing ten miles from Andersonville, testified: He frequently visited the vicinity of the prison; in December, 1864, the place was so crowded that there really seemed to be no room for more; over Capt. Wirz's office was a sign bearing these words: "Commandant of the Interior Prison;" while there he saw him draw requisitions for rations; the act of the Confederate Congress required one tenth of the farm products to be delivered to the Government and paid in as tax; the act was generally complied with; the supplies were gathered at Oglethorpe, which is ten miles from Andersonville.

Mr. Decker, in the cross-examination, asked the prisoner whether he knew how the prison came to be so crowded. The witness replied that he only knew from what Gen. Winder told him, viz.: that the prison was built for 10,000 only; but, that the rushing of additional prisoners from Libby, Belle Island and other points nearer Richmond, in consequence of Dahlgren's and Kilpatrick's raid, overcrowded the prison. Gen. Winder was proceeding to enlarge the prison, but he found he could not procure sufficient timber and labor; the General informed him that he had impressed all the saw-mills he could, and was unable to furnish all the prisoners with shelter; the witness was asked by Gen. Winder to contract for two houses at Oglethorpe, in which to place some of the sick from Andersonville, but he could not succeed in renting the premises.

At 4 o'clock the Court adjourned until to-morrow.

Cotton Arriving at Providence.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Friday, Sept. 1, 1865.

The first cargo of cotton received at this port, from New-Orleans, since the outbreak of the Rebellion, arrived to-day in the schr. Argus Eye.

Break in the Welland Canal.

ST. CATHARINES, C. W., Friday, Sept. 1, 1865.

Three gates of the Allenburg lock of the Welland Canal were carried away to-day by a schooner. Navigation will be resumed again on Monday.

THE FAILURE OF KETCHUM & CO.

MEETING OF THE CREDITORS.

Letters From Different Members of the Firm.

Affecting Statement by Morris Ketchum.

A Compromise of Sixty Per Cent Agreed Upon.

The following is the official report of the meeting of the creditors of Morris Ketchum & Co., held in this city yesterday. As will be seen, an arrangement for a settlement of the claims against the firm has been made on the basis of 60 cents on the dollar:

At a meeting of the creditors of Ketchum, Son & Co., held pursuant to a written notice of the 23d of August, at No. 40 Exchange place, in the City of New-York, on Friday, Sept. 1, 1865, William R. Cone of Hartford, Conn., was called to the Chair; E. W. Blatchford of Chicago, Ills., was appointed Secretary.

Morris Ketchum presented communications, which he requested might be read to the meeting.

Mr. Francis N. Bangs, the counsel of Ketchum, Son & Co., then read the following:

NEW-YORK, August 31, 1865.

To the Creditors of Ketchum, Son & Co.

GENTLEMEN: A sudden and disastrous blow has prostrated our house. The conduct of one of its members, too painful for me to dwell upon, has deprived us of upward of $2,000,000.

Securities belonging to others are abstracted, as well as those belonging to the firm. The former, we are advised by counsel and mercantile friends, it is our first duty to replace. That being done, and trust funds secured, we have made an assignment of all our property for the equal benefit of all our creditors. I have also assigned all my private property for the same purpose.

Till the morning of the day after he absconded, I never had the slightest doubt of my son's integrity, I never supposed him capable of doing wrong to any one, and least of all to me; even now his conduct is inexplicable, and I cannot believe he was in his right mind when he so cruelly wronged you and me.

Since the failure of the firm, the two following letters have been put into my hands; they explain themselves. **The writers could never have supposed that the amount** taken was beyond the ability of the house to replace, and the secrecy, therefore, was the dictate equally of good sense and kindness. I do not blame them, for they acted according to their best judgment, and under trying circumstances. They have filled prominent positions in my house for many years, having, deservedly, my entire confidence, unimpaired by the decision they came to in their efforts to regain the securities abstracted.

I have ventured to call you together to render plain to you the state of our affairs, and to ask your advice. Five gentlemen, whom you all know as of the highest character and ability as merchants, Messrs. Moses Taylor, Jonathan Sturges, Edmund G. Howe, Benjamin B. Sherman and John J. Phelps, have been invited to examine our affairs. The letters requesting this examination, and their answer, are subjoined.

I cannot close this communication without expressing to you my deep regret, that any of you should be a loser by our failure. In my prosperity I never supposed this would happen.

It is not the loss of my own property, which causes me my deepest regret, for now, if I could have my son back with his good name and you were all paid in full, I should die content. MORRIS KETCHUM.

[Copy.]

NEW-YORK, Monday morning, Aug. 28.

MR. MORRIS KETCHUM—*Dear Sir:* The events and developments of the past fortnight have been of such an overwhelming character, and the necessity for instant and incessant action in important matters has been so pressing, that I have been delayed in stating to you—as it is my duty to do, and in this form and without restriction upon your use of it—all that is within my knowledge respecting the transactions which have now resulted so ruinously to yourself and all of us. I am especially impelled to do so by the consideration that, without the greatest degree of frankness on my part, one of the junior partners in our house, Mr. Swan, may be subjected to criticism which he ought not to bear alone; while your sons, Franklin and Loudon, might suffer by the suspicion that they were aware of transactions, of which I am confident they knew nothing.

In looking over the loans and securities about the first of June, Mr. Swan found that there was missing some $450,000 United States 7 3 10 per cent notes, $450,000 United States legal-tender five per cent notes, and $195,000 5-20 United States bonds. The current rumors of large stock speculations by our house, which he knew to be unfounded, had aroused his suspicion that Edward was speculating on his own account, and these suspicions now pointed to Edward as connected with the missing securities. Upon being taxed by Mr. Swan with their abstraction, Edward admitted it, and that he was speculating on his own account, but asserted that the securities were within his control, if a little time was afforded him. These bonds and notes appeared, on a thorough examination, to be the only property appropriated by Edward, and he solemnly protested that Mr. Swan knew the entire extent of his defalcation, and yet I now believe, from information about his dealings, gathered since he absconded, that his large losses must have been made before that time, and that his frauds upon us were as great as recently, but conducted in such ways that we did not detect them, and may never know them all.

Mr. Swan informed me of the case at once, and that Edward stated that he would close up his speculations and return the securities—then lodged as collateral with his brokers. Having no conception of the magnitude of his stock speculations, Mr. Swan and myself were both of the opinion that by holding over him the threat of exposure he would be induced to retire from speculations and make good his abstractions.

In this belief, and of course dreading the effect upon the firm, upon ourselves, though innocent, and upon yourself and the rest of Edward's relatives, of the publicity of such transactions as these, we permitted the matter to run along. Edward was not aware of any knowledge on my part, but was told that all the partners would be informed if he did not keep his promise to at once close his speculations, and return our property, and then retire from the firm on some pretext or other. All this he engaged to do with the utmost solemnity of word and manner.

Time passed on, however, and he failed to make good his promises, and about the 4th of this month I told Mr. Swan that we must make one more effort to force Edward to a settlement; and if that failed must inform you of the facts. Mr. Swan, therefore, sent him the note, of which I now hand you a copy, and which was partly composed by myself, stating that if the property was not all returned by the 15th he should inform all the partners of the facts, and urging and imploring him to act as he had promised.

Before the 15th, the detection by other parties of facts of a different nature, resulted in the flight of Edward, and the enormous nature of his past defalcations, and the hopelessness of expecting to regain the securities taken, was disclosed to us—the loss being sufficient, when augmented by the very heavy sums of money misappropriated by him within a day or two of his departure, to cripple and destroy our house.

Mr. Swan's name alone appears on the note inclosed, but I am equally responsible for his course, and must with him bear the consequences.

I have only to add that while we finally saw that the firm would in all probability lose heavily, we neither of us ever for a moment contemplated the possibility of such losses from Edward's dealings as could injure our creditors. Respectfully yours,

THOS. BELKNAP, JR.

FRIDAY, Aug. 4, 1865.

DEAR EDWARD: I was in hopes that you would have before this closed up your outside operations as you promised, and returned the securities of the firm which you have been using for your own purposes. I am satisfied, however, that you are as deeply engaged as ever in these speculations, and I tell you frankly that I *know* that the amount of your abstractions from the assets of the firm are *much greater* than you admitted to be the case when I first spoke to you upon this subject, many securities being taken of which I have not spoken to you. Now I have no wish to injure you, and if you are in difficulty you will find myself, and I have no doubt the other junior partners, ready to do every thing that can be done in the matter to aid you, but your speculations are doing the firm great injury, and if they should turn unfavorably may ruin us all, as well as your father, and I cannot let things go on in this way any longer. If the securities which you have taken from the firm are not *all returned* by the 15th of this month, I shall lay all the facts of the case before the other members of the firm. Now, Edward, I beg that you will at once set about closing up this business. I am sure that I can promise that all of us would do everything in our power to help you if you are in trouble. You are aware it is for our own interest that no one of us should suffer in this way for the *exposure* of such a matter as this, however brought about, would bring disgrace upon the firm that would cling to the individual members as long as they live, and be a worse injury to them than any pecuniary loss that your operations may bring upon them. If you will only close up, and keep from all outside operations, and let us know how you stand, I am sure we can keep you along, and with our business you can, by devoting your attention entirely to it, work out of any money troubles. This is certainly the only way in which this thing can be kept quiet. I can't but think you will do this if you reflect upon the trouble and sorrow that you would bring upon your father and family, and upon your other partners and families, by pursuing any other course. You must know that it is a hard task for me to write to you in this manner and on a subject like this, but you also know that I am bound to do what I think is my duty. Yours, &c., L. M. S.

NEW-YORK, August 31, 1865.

MESSRS. JOHN J. PHELPS, B. B. SHERMAN, MOSES TAYLOR, JONATHAN STURGES, EDMOND HOWE.

GENTLEMEN: In view of the calamity which has overtaken our house so suddenly and unexpectedly, we venture to ask the favor of you, as representing in so high a degree the mercantile community, to examine into our affairs, and to state, for the information of our creditors, what you find to be our condition, and what course you should recommend for a just and speedy settlement. If you should think that we can make more for our creditors than the assignment can do, will you suggest some plan by which that end may be accomplished, and oblige, respectfully yours, KETCHUM, SON & CO.

NEW-YORK, August 31, 1865.

Messrs. KETCHUM, SON & CO.

GENTLEMEN: Upon the receipt of your letter of this date requesting us to make an examination of your affairs, we have attended at the office of your assignees, and gone over the sworn inventory made up by you, and have ourselves made a careful valuation of your assets. It appears that the total of your liabilities is $3,965,608 35, including $250,000 in dispute, and $32,500 unadjusted; and that the total of your assets, together with those of your senior partner, is $3,003,639 63, including $243,500 disputed.

The conflicting claims between different classes of creditors, which have already risen to some extent, and which will certainly arise to a greater extent if a speedy settlement is not effected, will greatly embarrass the assignees, and create a long delay in the final settlement of the estate.

Taking these circumstances into consideration, and bearing in mind the nature of your business and the character of your liabilities and assets, we are of the opinion that you can make more of your assets than your assignees can, and that it is best for your creditors, as well as for yourselves, that by some arrangement you should be permitted to take the assets and settle with the creditors. Upon the whole, we advise you to offer, and your creditors to accept, fifty per centum in cash, and ten per centum in your notes at twelve months, without interest, in full for your indebtedness, and this being done, that the estate be surrendered back into your hands. Respectfully yours,

MOSES TAYLOR, EDMOND G. HOWE,
JONATHAN STURGES, JOHN J. PHELPS,
B. B. SHERMAN.

After some general remarks by the Chairman, calling for suggestions from any creditor present,

Mr. F. W. Bangs, counsel, stated that a settlement must be made with all, or none of the creditors; that the gentlemen above-named had no interest as creditors, except E. G. Howe, for a small balance.

The question was asked by a creditor, why pay only 60 per cent, when the assets showed 75 cents?

Counsel replied, that though the nominal assets amounted to about 75 per cent, it was very doubtful whether, owing to the difficulty of reconciling claims of gold and currency creditors, and other circumstances, the estate would, on the whole, yield even as much as 60 per cent.

Counsel also stated, in answer to inquiries, that the forged checks are not included in the liabilities of Ketchum, Son & Co.—not a dollar—and that no money whatever had been expended, nor any provision whatever made for taking up such checks.

Mr. James Laughlin, President First National Bank of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, suggested that a Committee of creditors should be appointed, for the purpose of further inquiry.

Mr. Bangs stated that $1,300,000 had been paid to replace bonds abstracted, on the advice of counsel and friends, that not a dollar of the forged certificates had been paid; that all private property of Morris Ketchum and all the firm property were included in the assignments, and that $30,000 was the estimated value of the property of the junior members, outside of the assignment.

On motion of James K. Place of New-York, seconded by E. W. Blatchford, it was

Resolved, That this meeting accept and adopt the report of the committee as a basis for the settlement of creditors with the firm of Ketchum, Son & Co.

Mr. Bangs then read the form of agreement with creditors in conformity with the above report, and which was adopted and passed, *nem. con.*

The time to make the cash payments was fixed for November 1, 1865, and all blanks were filled for that time.

A committee for prosecuting and procuring the abstracted bonds for the benefit of creditors was formed, consisting of

J. K. PLACE of New York.
JOHN L. BUNCE of Hartford, Conn.,
A. IVES of Detroit,

with power to fill vacancies in their number.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent, *sine die.* W. R. CONE, Chairman.

E. W. BLATCHFORD, Secretary.

NEVADA.

Great Humboldt Desert—A Tour Through It—The Montezuma Mine—Its Wonders and Resources—The Humboldt Series.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

MY DEAR G: You had a bird's-eye view of the GREAT HUMBOLDT DESERT in your rapid transit down the valley of the river by the Old Emigrant Road, and along the famous SINK, years before SILVER was known to be scattered so "loosely" around, and so profusely, too, as to be in danger of losing its ancient value. You wouldn't have given at that time a "Bungtown copper" for enough of these Sage Plains, and desolate, treeless mountains, to have made up half a dozen German Principalities, but rather wondered what our Uncle Samuel, or any of his peregrinating children, could ever put such an unfinished piece of creation to.

Over miles and miles of these same alkali plains, up and down the roughest and most precipitate mountain cañons, along the summits where lie deep patches of snow in the mid-July sun, encountering fearful storms of hail and sleet and snow, with the thermometer in the valley below marked 80° not half a dozen miles away, have I traveled in the examination of the various "ledges" of silver-bearing rocks and ores, since the "Glorious Fourth" was re-celebrated as a Jubilee of Freedom throughout the Republic.

Something of what I have seen, and the impressions made upon my mind as to the future of this wonderful land, I propose to jot down for the million readers of THE TRIBUNE.

As the overland stage whirled you along down the Humboldt River toward the Sink, you hardly dreamed of the immensity of the mineral wealth hidden in the sterile-looking mountains on either hand. On your left, in a low range of hills approaching within three miles of the river—twenty miles or so north of the Sink—is probably one of the most marvelous mineral districts—explored only within the limits of a square mile—of all this marvelous land. It has been fitly named "ARABIA," for its physical appearance, and its entire destitution of water, tree, or useful plant; it is a desert indeed. Yet here is a recently opened MINE that, in the character, massiveness and richness of its ores, is destined to take no second rank among the most famous mines of the world.

This mine is called the "MONTEZUMA," and consists of six individual locations or "claims," of 300 linear feet each. The width of the "lode," as it is developed in a shaft at the depth of twenty feet, and along which drifts have been run for forty feet more, is *eighteen feet*. The vein matter or ore fills the entire space from wall to wall, and appears like a conglomerate mass of *fused minerals*, or *volcanic scoria*, or slag, reddish brown, purple, yellow, leaving on the hands stains as of ochre, but of great specific gravity, as *hematite* or *galena*. By furnace process, this ore yields 25 to 30 per cent. of lead, or from 500 to 600 pounds per ton, and from $100 to $300 in silver. There is also in it arsenic, antimony, and some zinc. The lead is mostly in a state of oxyd. In the last few weeks, 150 tons have been raised, and worked by stamps and the usual methods of amalgamating argentiferous ores. At first, the product was only $38; but, by constant experiment with various chemicals, the amount of silver obtained increased to $47, $52, $66, $74, and the last lots *gave $86 per ton*. The lead, as oxyd, passes away in the "tailings," and is lost by mill process. There is no classification of ore—*it is all apparently alike in quality, and is all worked without variation in result*. With cheap fuel, or transportation, which the Pacific Railroad will give to this mine in two years, no one doubts that the net product will be doubled by smelting, instead of stamping and amalgamating. The value of the lead will more than pay all expenses of treatment. The 150 tons mentioned was worked at Webber's Mill in Trinity, and may be taken as an adequate proof of the richness of the mine. Its extent is a matter of eye-sight in fact—it being estimated that not less than 5,000 tons of ore are shown and indicated by the present degree of development.

In the same locality, within the compass, as I said, of a square mile, I visited about thirty parallel ledges a foot to six or eight feet in width, of *the same character of ore* as the "Montezuma," which satisfies me that within this limited space is an amount of mineral beyond all estimate or comprehension—a mass that a hundred mills can hardly make an impression upon in a century, and which will yield more silver than would pay the National Debt. Of the Humboldt Mining Region, bear in mind that this "Arabia" is but a section or two of acres in extent.

On your right hand, in the lower foot-hills of the main Humboldt Mountain, is another remarkable mineral district, a few miles in extent, called "Sacramento." Six months ago, the "Bullion" ledge was located, (since purchased by Gov. Bigler). This is a mass of quartz twelve or fifteen feet in width, showing richly in mineral, and producing about $70 per ton by mill process. A few months later, one of the most extensive mines in this State was discovered and located, called the "Montana." It is an immense ledge of dark or bluish quartz, filled throughout with sulphurets of silver, fully eighteen feet in width, and cropping out in heavy masses sometimes to a hight of ten or fifteen feet for a distance of more than a mile. Assays of the *poorest blossom rock* give not less than $60 to the ton, while selected portions show several hundred dollars. The quantity of ore is incalculable, and the tests of its quality leave no room for doubt that it will take rank among the best in this State.

On this "Montana" ledge are already located the "ETNA," a New-York company, and a Rochester company, represented here by Dr. Loomis, both of which have commenced work upon their respective claims.

In the same low foot-hills, parallel with the "Montana," are many other ledges, some of them quite heavy and all showing good assays. It is another locality similar to the Arabia, where seem to be concentrated immense deposits of paying ore, favorably situated for mining.

Passing eastwardly from the "Montana" two miles to the summit of the mountain, we stand upon another immense mass of quartz—some five or six heavy ledges, from three or four to twelve feet in width—called the "Humboldt Series," which assays on the outcrop $20 and upward, giving evidence, when the quantity of ore is considered, of a first-class mine—for every ledge yet opened has shown a rapid increase in richness with depth. At thirty or forty feet, it will be remembered, the Comstock ore assayed less than $20; yet at four or five hundred feet in depth it is regarded the most productive silver mine in the world.

I have visited many other mines more or less developed by shafts and tunnels, and from many of which lots of ore have been worked at the Union Mill of this town; and from all the facts I am well satisfied that incalculable amounts of gold and silver are hidden in these Humboldt mountains, beside mines of lead and copper. The field for judicious and profitable investment of capital is a large one, and those who first occupy this field will secure advantages not to be obtained at a later day except by heavier outlay.

Mr. Webber, the proprietor of the Trinity Mill, who has worked a large quantity of ore from the "Montezuma" mine, told me this morning that the average yield by mill process was $84 per ton at the depth of 20 feet; that the ledge showed from 16 to 25 feet in width, *all of which was alike in quality*, with no doubt of increasing richness as the mine was worked at greater depth. Even as the ore now yields to stamps, combining some other improvements suggested by experience, the average can be increased to $110 or over per ton. It is certainly one of the most astounding bodies of "pay ore" that I have ever seen or conceived of.

In my next, I shall give you some facts in regard to the agricultural capabilities of the country, the expense of staple products, &c. In regard to health, there is not, I believe, any region of the globe more salubrious than this; it is not so bad a country to live in and enjoy life as city people think. We have telegraphic communication with all the world, and *that* is evidence that we are in the neighborhood of civilization. Soon the cars, and then a degree of progress known nowhere else than in this grand Republic.

Yours truly, J. W.

Unionville, Nevada, July 29, 1865.

FROM THE FAR WEST.

Return of the Wagon-Road Party—Impracticability of the White River Route—Raids by the Indians—Three of the Party Killed—A New Route to Montana.

FORT LARAMIE, Friday, Sept. 1, 1865.

The wagon road party under Col. Sawyer, from Sioux City, arrived at Fort Conner, on Powder River, after many hardships, in a destitute condition. They report the route by Nimeraza and White Rivers impracticable. They were sometimes two days without water. The Indians attacked them several times, but were driven off. The party lost three killed, among them Col. Sawyer's brother.

The route to Montana from this place, via Fort Conner, Powder River and Clark's Fork, following the east base of Big Horn Mountains, is reported practicable. It cuts off 450 miles of the distance by the old trail. Plenty of wood, water and grass are said to be had on the route, which is very direct. The post for Powder River is located on this route.

Visitors to Alex. H. Stephens—The New Collector of Boston.

BOSTON, Friday, Sept. 1, 1865.

A brother of Alex. H. Stephens, in company with Col. Johnson, a friend of both brothers, went down to Fort Warren this morning, with a permit to visit the late Rebel Vice-President.

The Hon. Hannibal Hamlin, the newly-appointed Collector of the Revenue Customs at the port of Boston, took possession of his office this afternoon.

Oil Market.

NEW-BEDFORD, Friday, Sept. 1, 1865.

The ship Asia, Capt. Eldridge, from Honolulu May 9, arrived to-day with 1,122 barrels Sperm, and 300 barrels Whale Oil, and 700 pounds of Bone.

The Oil market continues excited, with a brisk inquiry for both Sperm and Whale Oils. Holders are firm, and not disposed to sell at quotations, asking upward of $2 30 per gallon for Sperm, and $1 70 for Whale. Whalebone has also advanced; the stock in the country being only 26,000 pounds, and is held at rising $2 25 for Arctic. Sales of 875 barrels Sperm Oil on private terms, and 500 barrels Whale at $1 65 per gallon.

The Charlottesville (Va.) *Chronicle* says that the town of Winchester, in that State, was occupied by the Union and Confederate forces, successively, seventy-six times.

SOUTH AMERICA.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Engagement at San Borja.

Disbanding of Urquiza's Troops.

LETTERS OF URQUIZA.

The latest news received here from South America announced the departure of the Emperor for the seat of war, and the disbanding of Urquiza's troops. Further details show that both of these events had excited much comment.

The following letters had been written by Urquiza to Metre:

HEADQUARTERS AT BASUALDO, July 4, 1865.

MY ESTEEMED GENERAL: I yesterday set out, as I had announced, to see the President, and had to return when nearly half way, having been informed that a portion of the men of the divisions was disbanded.

This event is the effect of some disorder or false reports respecting my march, but it has been restrained, and I hope that those who abandoned their duty will return. Fearing that at a distance too much importance may be lent to the occurrence, I hasten to communicate it to you. Some have already returned.

Yours, &c., JUSTO J. DE URQUIZA.

TROUTOS, July 7.

MY ESTEEMED PRESIDENT AND FRIEND: It is with the most profound regret that I inform your Excellency that I was to-day unavoidably compelled to return with the forces under my command, and to disband them for some time, being confident they will shortly return to their ranks in great numbers.

I shall personally go and give your Excellency an account of this occurrence and its causes, or will send competent persons if an unforseen personal impediment should arise. Your Excellency may rest assured that I took this grave resolution without awaiting your orders, because it was not otherwise possible to avoid making barren, by demoralization and disorder, elements which ought again to contribute to the national defense, as your Excellency may be sure they will, and as will I, sacrificing myself alone if need be.

This will be followed by full information. Your Excellency's loyal friend and servant,

JUSTO J. DE URQUIZA.

The Paraguayans are in possession of South Borja, which place they are fortifying. A column of 11,000 men is on the march to attack Itaqui, in front of which town, and on the other bank of the Uruguay, they have 6,000 men. An engagement had taken place near South Borja, between the vanguard of the Paraguayan army and a brigade under the Brazilian Colonel Fernandes, which had received reinforcements, and compelled the Paraguayans to fall back, leaving 700 men on the field, beside 3,000 horses, mostly saddled, some arms and baggage, and two flags. The official report states that the Brazilians had 151 men killed and wounded.

On the 1st a terrible gale did a great deal of damage to the shipping in the port of Rio Grande, and several lives were lost.

BUENOS AYRES, July 5, 1865.

The following is an extract from a private letter:

"Things are approaching a crisis. The Paraguayans occupied the town of Uruguayana (in the province of Rio Grande) and at the same time (27th June) that of the Restauracion, with 25,000 men. The same day they dispatch 8,000 men to the Quariem. With these latter went Laguna-Orrego and the Salvairas, Poor 'Banda Oriental.' In Mercida the militia were called out, and marched. On the way they were made to cross the river just as they were, many half naked. During the night half of them ran. The Brazilian squadron, on 29th ult., was preparing to fall down the river to Goya, because the Paraguayans were erecting batteries below Bella Vista. My correspondent writes from there: "We are on half rations, short of ammunition and coals. Commodore Barros and his officers distrust Urquiza. The Paraguayans recovered all the cannon in the vessels they lost, and those of the Jaquibohns as well, which were eight of 56, 60, and 70 pounders.' To-day we hear of a battle in which the allies were defeated. The Paraguayans appear likely to carry the day, and General Mitre and the Emperor will rue the day they lit up civil war here."

FROM MEXICO.

Later from Mexico—Fraternization of Union and Imperial Officers—An Ancient City Discovered—Important from Texas—Military Matters—The Confiscation Laws—Repairing the Railroads.

The Matamoros *Ranchero* of the 15th is received. Great rains have fallen throughout Mexico.

Cortinas has crossed into Mexico again with artillery and with money to pay his hirelings. Federal and Imperial officers are on the best of terms, meeting at dinners, balls, &c. The *Ranchero* says a very pleasant ball came off on the steamboat Camargo, given by the authorities of the heroic city, in honor of the distinguished Minister Senor Don Louis Robles. The ball was attended by the fair ones of Matamoros and Brownsville. All the distinguished characters on either bank of the Rio Grande were in attendance. Federal generals and Imperial officers joined hands in the best of feeling, and in every reasonable manner whiled away the hours of night. We have been assured that full confidence between the Imperial and Republican representatives was evidenced on the occasion, much to the gratification of all participants. The *Ranchero* hopes the confidence there shown may lead to peace and quietude along the entire frontier border.

The same paper states that ruins of a very extensive aboriginal city have been discovered in the forest of Jicorumbo, in the province of Tlaxleala. The Temples are of immense size, some with vaulted roofs, and so well preserved that ancient paintings appear fresh. The courts are filled with hideous and grotesque idols, and pyramids surmounted by the same. The whole is enveloped in a dense forest of cedar and ebony trees. Some of these cedars are of such immense size, that eight men taking hold of hands together, could not reach round one of them. These forests are on healthy table lands, about 50 miles from the port of Tuxan.

THE BALTIMORE SWINDLE.

Further Development of the Breckwith Frauds—The Parties Under Arrest—How the Thing was Done.

BALTIMORE, Friday, Sept. 1, 1865.

The frauds brought to light here upon the Government by means of fraudulent muster-rolls based upon forged descriptive lists issued by Capt. D. S. Breckwith, Assistant Commissary of Musters for this Department, promises to assume large proportions. Breckwith and a number of his accomplices in the fraud are now in close confinement here, and Col. Wooley, Provost-Marshal, is actively engaged in investigating the matter, and has brought to light important information which completely exposes the mode of operations pursued by Breckwith. The Paymasters' Department here is in no way implicated in the affair. The payments were made according to descriptive lists and in good faith. The accomplice of Breckwith would personate different parties, going from one hospital to another, assuming to be sick, obtain their discharge, and then draw the money from the Paymaster and divide the spoils with Breckwith.

The Northern Central Railroad—Sale of the City of Baltimore's Interest.

BALTIMORE, Friday, Sept. 1, 1865.

The interest of the City of Baltimore in the Northern Central Railroad Company was sold to-day for $881,000. It is understood that the Northern Central Railroad Company were the purchasers.

ANOTHER RAILWAY MASSACRE.

A Freight Train Collides with a Stage Coach.

Terrible Mutilation of the Passengers.

One Killed—Six Seriously Injured.

BOSTON, Friday, Sept. 1, 1865.

Yesterday afternoon, at 1 o'clock, a stage-coach, with a party of twelve ladies and gentlemen, neighbors, was on its way from Levell's Corner, South Weymouth, where they all resided, to the beach at Cohasset, the party proposing to stay some days at the last-named place. In crossing the South Shore Railroad track at West Hingham, where the county road and the railroad crosses each other obliquely, running almost parallel, the two horses slowed a little at the approach of a freight train, and one of the coach wheels caught between the rails and the wooden planking of the road-crossing. At that moment the cow-catcher struck and shattered the wheel, turning the coach over on Mr. Levell, and killing him instantly; and seven others of the party of twelve were badly injured.

One man was thrown from the top of the coach on to the engine-tender, and was not injured.

A lady was thrown on the cow-catcher, and carried on it till the train stopped, losing one of her eyes and being in other respects badly injured.

Mr. James Windell was very badly hurt.

Mr. M. Holbrook had his head injured, and was considered worse this morning.

Mr. Austin Poole had his leg shattered, and it was amputated. It was thought this morning that he would not live through the day.

Mrs. Levell's lower limbs are paralyzed, having been injured in the spine.

Mrs. Poole is seriously injured.

Both these ladies are in a very critical condition.

The other passengers were none of them dangerously injured, although severely jarred and bruised.

A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY.

The Wife of a Physician Shoots Her Husband and Daughter, and then Herself—Mental Derangement the Probable Cause.

BOSTON, Friday, September 1, 1865.

A horrible tragedy occurred in South Dedham last night, a man, his wife and daughter being shot dead.

Dr. Carlos Marston, a homeopathic physician, and his daughter, an interesting girl of 10 years of age, were shot by Mrs. Marston, the Doctor's wife, who finished her dreadful work by shooting herself.

Mrs. Marston has been sick for a number of weeks past, and has at times given evidence of mental derangement. For several days past she had been growing worse.

From North Carolina—Health of Newbern.

NEWBERN, N. C., Tuesday, Aug. 29, 1865.

The undertaker of this city reports only six deaths in Newbern among the white population during the present month, two of which were accidental, two from bilious fever, and two infants, which presents a state of health not equaled by any other city of its size in the country. This should be an answer to the malicious report that Newbern is an unhealthy city.

NEW-JERSEY.

Opening of the Political Campaign.

The active political campaign in New-Jersey opened on the side of the Unionists and anti-Slavery men in a grand mass meeting last evening at Newark, the residence of both the rival candidates for Governor. Concert Hall was crowded to overflowing with the enthusiastic friends of Marcus L. Ward.

The meeting was organized by the election of W. T. Russell, a highly popular and prominent citizen, as President, with Daniel Dodd, James S. Barnes, Dr. Fridolino, Nathan Hedges, and others, as Vice Presidents.

The resolution submitted by John T. Foster of *The Newark Daily Advertiser*, and carried with great acclamation, is as follows:

Resolved, That this meeting, representing the Union voters of the City of Newark, do hereby most heartily ratify the nomination of Marcus L. Ward as the Union candidate for Governor of New-Jersey; and that we point to his record as a man, a citizen and a patriot, as affording conclusive evidence of his eminent fitness for the most exalted position in the gift of our people; that standing with him on those principles of Liberty and Union—those ideas of coherent life in the State, indestructible and eternal, which have been vindicated by our veterans in the field, we invite all men of whatever past party faith, who now desire to see all the fruits of our costly struggle secured for all posterity, to unite with us in a sublime endeavor for the redemption of our State and the overthrow of all doctrines and all organizations which stand in the way of the Nation's complete and perfect deliverance.

The Hon. Frederick F. Frelinghuysen was the first speaker. In a cogent and vigorous way he placed before his h