THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

The Commercial Reciprocity Treaty with the Pritish Provinces.

ITS POSTPONEMENT BY THE SENATE.

The Long Expected Message of the President on Spanish Affairs.

THE ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS.

Election of State Officers in New Hampshire, &c., &c., &c.

From Washington.

THE FISHERY AND RECIPROCITY TREATY—MR. LATHAM ON CUBAN AFFAIRS—MORE ABOUT THE EXPECTED MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT, ETC.

WASHINGTON, June 14, 1854.

There will probably be more difficulty in the ratification of the treaty just concluded between Mr. Marcy and Lord Elgin, with regard to the fisheries and reciprocal trade, than was anticipated by that worthy gentleman, but not particularly astute diplomatist, Mr. Francis Hincks, when he left this city the other day. Apart from the fact that it is entirely too illiberal to command the sanction of the Senate in its present shape, it is provided that after the Senate shall ratify it, it shall then be submitted to the English Parliament and the Colonial Parliaments. We are very much mistaken in our estimate of Mr. Mason, the able and distinguished chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, if he will agree to any such terms as to submit the proceedings of the United States Senate to the approval or rejection of the petty colonial assemblies. The idea is absurd on its face. It is provided in the treaty that it shall be submitted to the Senate and to the British government, and to the Colonial Parliaments, and if it passes all these ordeals, then the House of Representatives is to be called upon to amend the tariff so as to allow the articles enumerated in the treaty to be entered free of duty.

It is believed here that when the treaty is sent to the Senate it will at once be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and that the Committee will not attempt to make any report upon it until after the colonists and the British government have committed themselves upon the matter. When that is done, the treaty can be taken up by the Senate and properly amended. There is not the slightest necessity for haste, and it can hold over without detriment till next session, especially as the fishing season is over.

The meeting of delegates is to take place at Quebec, but the time of meeting has not yet been determined upon.

Mr. Latham, of California, made a vigorous and healthy speech in the House to-day upon the Cuba question and rights of neutrals. He very properly ridiculed the Buncombe resolutions and vaporing about our rights, which, under this administration, appears to have taken the place of bold acts and manly deeds. Mr. Latham, although in favor of the acquisition of Cuba, believes that our government can more readily buy than conquer it. We have no opinion of the courage of our government at the present time, and, therefore, do not doubt the gentleman from California is correct in his preference. Mr. Latham's speech was listened to with great attention, and is regarded as giving evidence of abilities of no common order. The youngest member of the House, representing the most youthful State of the confederacy, he has to day done both himself and his State credit.

The friends of the administration talk very lustily about the decided stand which General Pierce "is going" to take on the Cuba question. There has been so much backing and filling, however, not only upon this subject, but upon every other, that no confidence can be placed in any declaration which either the President or his Cabinet may make. Although a message has been drawn up, announcing the appointment of the "Peace Commission"—denouncing the Africanization project of Spain, and calling upon Congress to adopt some immediate steps to empower the President to act decidedly in the matter—yet, until it is actually sent to Congress, no one here believes there is any certainty that it will not be ultimately suppressed, or, at all events, emasculated.

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, June 14, 1854.

CHARGE MADE BY THE UNION NEWSPAPER AGAINST MR. CLAYTON.

Mr. CLAYTON, (whig) of Del., made a personal explanation as to an article in the *Union* of this morning, charging him with inconsistency on the subject of allowing aliens to vote in the Territories. Mr. C. said the *Union* charged him with inconsistency in opposing that part of the Nebraska bill allowing aliens to vote, while he voted for the compromise bill of 1848, which allowed the same thing. He then explained his action in 1848, and contended that on the question of allowing aliens to vote his course had been always uniform.

THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

Mr. GWIN, (dem.) of Cal., gave notice of a bill amending the judicial system, by establishing an additional circuit.

THE WORK OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

Mr. PEARCE, (whig) of Md., reported a bill distributing the settlement of claims and accounts among the accounting officers of the Treasury. The bill makes it the duty of the Second Auditor to settle all accounts, &c., of the Interior Department; the Third Auditor, the accounts of the War Department; the Fourth Auditor, the accounts of the Navy Department; the Fifth Auditor, the accounts of the State Department. All other claims and accounts, except those of the Post Office Department, by the First Auditor. All accounts, &c., of Collectors and other officers of the customs to be revised and controlled by the Commissioners of Customs. Audits of the First and Fifth Auditors to be revised by the First Comptroller. Audits of the other Auditors to be revised by the Second Comptroller. All unsettled accounts to be transferred to the proper accounting officers, provided by this bill on the first of July. All claims upon the United States hereafter, coming under the supervision of any of the departments, shall, before the payment, be adjusted and reported upon by the proper Auditor and re-examined and passed by the proper Comptroller. The bill further provides that all disbursing officers and all others having public monies in their hands shall render accounts monthly or quarterly, as required by the department, and on failure to do so for ten days after the prescribed time, the Secretary is authorized to impose a fine not exceeding $500 for each failure. The same to be charged to the officer failing to account.

FUTURE TIME OF ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. DOUGLAS, (dem.) of Ill., offered a resolution amending the joint rules of the two Houses, providing that the first session of every future Congress shall adjourn at 12 o'clock M., on the first Monday in May. Laid over.

GOLD MEDAL PRESENTED BY THE KING OF SWEDEN TO LIEUT. MAURY.

Mr. GWIN, (dem. of Cal.) from the Naval Committee, reported a joint resolution, giving the consent of Congress to the acceptance, by Lieut. M. F. Maury, of a gold medal presented him by the King of Sweden.

PAY OF DEPUTY POSTMASTERS.

The bill regulating the pay of deputy postmasters was returned from the House with the Senate amendments annexed. The action of the House was concurred in, and the bill passed.

THE HOMESTEAD BILL.

Mr. WALKER, (dem.) of Wis., said he was authorized by several friends of the Homestead bill, to say they would insist upon making it a special order from day to day till disposed of. Also, that they would endeavor to have action on the vetoed Insane Land bill this week.

THE ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS.

The House resolution providing for the adjournment of Congress on the 14th of August was then taken up.

Mr. GWIN, (dem.) of Cal., moved to amend by striking out the 14th of August, and inserting from July 17 to October 16.

Mr. HUNTER (dem.) of Va., opposed Mr. Gwin's amendment. He preferred the resolution as it came from the House. He thought, however, the subject might be laid over for a while.

Mr. GWIN said the opinion of the House had changed since the resolution was passed. He believed it would now agree to a recess.

Mr. JOHNSON, (whig) of Ga., said if the House was disposed to have a recess, it could take up the Senate's resolution and pass it.

Mr. BUSH, (dem.) of Texas, hoped the resolution (if it passed) providing for a recess would declare members not entitled to per diem during the recess. That was the objection to it in the House.

Mr. DAWSON, (whig) of Ga., said, by the act of 1819, if one session of Congress extended to within ten days of the succeeding session, members were not to be allowed mileage. By having an adjournment over till October, the session might extend to December, and then no member could receive mileage.

Mr. BADGER, (whig) of N. C., said that difficulty could be remedied by an amendment to one of the appropriation bills, allowing the mileage. If the majority of the Senate were in favor of a recess, this resolution could be amended; and if the House would not agree to it, the Senate could recede.

Mr. CLAYTON said no amendment to this resolution could change any law respecting either mileage or per diem. If both houses agreed to have a recess till October, those matters could be arranged by a separate bill.

Mr. WALKER, (dem.) of Wis., was opposed to fixing any day for an adjournment until something definite was done respecting the Homestead bill.

Mr. HOUSTON, (dem.) of Texas, advocated the resolution as it came from the House.

The question was taken on Mr. Gwin's amendment, and it was agreed to. Yeas 27—nays 16, as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Adams, Badger, Bayard, Bell, Bright, Bradbury, Clayton, Cooper, Dawson, Dodge of Wis., Dodge of Iowa, Fessenden, Foot, Geyer, Gillette, Gwin, Hamlin, James, Johnson, Pearce, Pratt, Sebastian, Shield, Sumner, Thomson, N. J., Walker, Williams.

NAYS—Messrs. Adams, Chase, Evans, Fish, Houston, Hunter, Mason, Norris, Rusk, Seward, Shields, Stuart, Thompson of Ky., Toombs, Wade, Walker.

Mr. WALKER moved to postpone the resolution till next Monday week. Lost 13 to 30.

Mr. STUART, (dem.) of Mich., moved that it lie on the table. Lost—yeas 15, nays 26.

The resolution as amended was passed by yeas 25, nays 16.

THE HOUR OF MEETING.

Mr. HOUSTON moved to take up his resolution, that hereafter the Senate meet daily at 11 o'clock.

The motion was agreed to. Yeas 25, nays 19.

Messrs. CLAYTON, BADGER and PEARCE, opposed the resolution.

Messrs. PRATT and HOUSTON supported it.

The resolution was rejected. Yeas 20, nays 26.

After a brief Executive session, the Senate adjourned.

House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, June 14, 1854.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the General Appropriation bill.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Mr. BROOKS, (dem.) of S. C., opposed as unconstitutional the granting of lands for construction of the work—the constitution contemplating a disposition of the public domain in such a manner as will insure to the benefit of all the States.

Mr. SINGLETON, (dem.) of Miss., severely commented on the course of Mr. Fillmore for having disgracefully submitted to the conduct on the part of Spain relative to Cuban affairs. A new party has come into power, and Mr. Pierce has given ample guarantees that no filibustering scheme will be encouraged or tolerated by him. Our course, so far from being hostile to Spain, has exhibited marked forbearance. He enumerated various cases of outrage by the Spanish authorities, contending that the execution of Crittenden and his companions was in direct violation of treaty stipulations between the two governments. He would demand instant indemnity for outrages, and assurances that these things shall not be repeated, and that a tribunal shall be established in Cuba with power to settle disputes which may hereafter arise. Should Spain refuse these propositions, so just and reasonable in their character, he would favor bringing all the power of the United States to blockade every Cuban port and take possession of the island. It was not the duty of this government to conciliate Spain, the only hope of the Cubans being in the chivalry of the citizens of the United States. He predicted the time will come when Cubans will be free.

Mr. LATHAM, (dem.) of Cal., said in the midst of our general prosperity, the business community has been startled by various resolutions offered here by gentlemen who have paid attention to our foreign relations, and in whose keeping and overruling providence have been confided the doctrines of this great people. Our new leaders, however, have given them inspiration in the form of inquiry, not even making suggestions. They prefer the Socratic method of questions and answers. There is, unfortunately, one thing which operates as a drawback. There are too many teachers who slightly vary in the doctrines they would inculcate; therefore it is difficult to determine who are the orthodox, and who the false teachers. As a believer in manifest destiny, he wanted the course clear and explicit. He wished not only to see the point arrived at, but the way which leads to it. As to our foreign relations, he first invited attention to the present prosperous condition of this country, and then said he saw no reason why we should assert what we intend to do hereafter. If the world has not the sagacity to see it, it would not be becoming to proclaim our future intentions. The misfortune is, we have too many great men whose puerient ambition stops at nothing, and whose "longing after immortality" is never satisfied till they see their names in print. If they have not sufficient inventive skill to originate new measures, they dress up old ones to answer their purposes. Resolutions have been introduced relative to the rights of neutrals. There are but few reflecting men who do not fully understand this subject. We have acted up to our professions heretofore, and the world has given us credit for it. We have acted out the principles of our forefathers, and the world has applauded us for it. So, now that England and France know we will wipe out any stain they may attempt to stamp on our escutcheon, why affirm what nobody doubts? He had no doubt we will continue to occupy our high position in the eyes of foreign nations, and that we will assert our rights, and maintain them at all hazards. The war of 1812 affords evidence of that fact. Since then our population and national resources have doubled, and we are able to defend ourselves from whatever quarter assailed. If the present war in Europe shall continue for any length of time, good sense on the part of the contending nations will dictate such a course of policy towards us as will avoid any future misunderstanding between us. All we ask is a strict observance of the rights of neutrals. As to the other set of resolutions, introduced here, he admitted our relations with Spain are delicate. We have no idea any nation but Spain will hold Cuba, which is in the condition of a Spanish plantation, badly worked for the proprietor. In the course of time, it will come under the hammer. We can pay a sufficient amount to remove the mortgage; but, at the same time, we will not allow any other nation to bid for it. In the case of accident, or death of the present owner, we will enter as administrators in the estate; but he did not wish to be understood as desiring to make a forcible entry, so long as Spain maintains friendly relations and does not use it as an inconvenience to our property. Let Spain do with it as she pleases, we have no right to interfere; but if she attempts to lay it waste to spite us, and make it a nuisance because we desire its acquisition, then let us enter a complaint and abate the nuisance. Let this, however, be done peaceably, without noise and bluster. The island of Cuba is desirable as promotive of our commerce, the protection of our property, and to restore friendly relations now separated by sectional animosities. If we attempt to acquire Cuba by an unjust war with Spain, it will endeavor to render the island valueless by a violent change in its social condition. She may determine to set her slaves at liberty that they may avenge themselves on the Creoles, who desire annexation to this country. We should not resort to force until we are prepared to do so, and when we do strike let us not strike in vain. After some further remarks about Roman and American greatness, he said he was opposed *in toto* to filibusterism.

Mr. CHANDLER, (whig) of Pennsylvania, said if he could not approve of the general remarks of the gentleman he could approve of their spirit. He was proud to hear the gentleman speak of the destiny marked out for this country, and gladly heard him compare our country with ancient Rome, which met the enemies of the republic, and reduced them to obedience to her manners and customs. While the gentleman was talking about Roman intellect, vigor and courage, he (Chandler) remembered the Roman economy, that while the military Consuls were carrying abroad her conquering eagles, the Tribunes were at home looking to the comforts and healthfulness of the Roman people; and while the blood of enemies gushed out at the point of the sword, every street gushed forth with water, teaching them that cleanliness is next to godliness. He asked gentlemen to be silent that they might hear the remarks which he intended to submit in favor of an amendment to continue the works for supplying the District of Columbia with copious supplies of pure water. Among his reasons was that the public property was in danger of fire, and especially the Capitol, the dome of which is constructed of combustible materials. He mentioned, too, that some of the streets of Washington are so filthy as to invite cholera and other diseases, and only a river let loose can sweep them of their impurities.

Mr. COBB, (dem.) of Ala., said he was in favor of Cuba coming in as a ripe apple would fall from a tree. He entered his solemn protest against this government, or individuals, engaging in an unlawful expedition to seize the island. He indicated the points of a speech he would write out, saying in conclusion he had the honor of being a member of the Select Committee which reported the Pacific Railroad bill. He did not approve of it in its present form, and would offer amendment thereto.

Mr. FLORENCE, (dem.) of Pa., made a personal explanation about a meeting that appeared in the newspapers relative to his official conduct with regard to appropriations for the District of Columbia. He should, as heretofore, continue to support such measures as commended themselves to his judgment. In the introduction of water he felt a deep interest, having been a water drinker for the last fifteen years. It concerned him very much to have a full supply of that liquid and nothing stronger for a beverage. (Laughter.) Therefore, he should vote to supply the District with water.

Mr. STANTON, (dem.) of Ky., opposed Mr. Meigs' scheme for supplying water; it was too expensive; besides, better and cheaper plans had been recommended to government by its own officers. He spoke of the impropriety of military officers superintending civil works, and essayed to point out blunders and business misdoings of military superintendents.

Mr. ALLEN, (dem.) of Ill., asked and obtained leave to print a speech on the Pacific railroad bill.

Mr. KEITT, (dem.) of S. C., as a member of the select committee on civil versus military superintendence of civil works, did not agree with Mr. Stanton, and intended to present a minority report on the subject in favor of maintaining the system as it is.

The Committee rose, and the House adjourned.

From Baltimore.

THE SOUTHERN MAIL—A REPLY TO ARCHBISHOP HUGHES' LETTER.

BALTIMORE, June 14, 1854.

New Orleans papers of Thursday last are received, but contain no news of interest.

Rev. Dr. Fuller, a distinguished Baptist clergyman of this city, author of the first petition presented by Genoese on the subject of religious freedom, has taken up the controversy with Archbishop Hughes, and his reply will appear in the *American* to-morrow.

Navigation of the Ohio.

PITTSBURG, June 14, 1854.

The river is in fine navigable order. It now measures four feet nine inches in the channel, and is rising rapidly.

New Hampshire Legislature—Election of State Officers.

CONCORD, June 14, 1854.

The convention of both branches of the Legislature balloted for State officers to-day, with the following results:—

For Secretary of State—John L. Hadley, of Concord, (democrat) had 168 votes; Geo. L. Towle, of Lebanon, (whig.) 109; Moses A. Cortland, of Lee, (free soil,) 44; blank, 1. Hadley's majority, 15. Every member was present and voted, except one democrat, absent from sickness.

For State Treasurer—Walter Harman, of Concord, (democrat,) had 169 votes; Richard P. Kent, of Lancaster, (whig.) 108; Nathaniel L. Derby, of Hebron, (free soil) 44.

For Public Printer—William Butterfield, of the *Patriot*, had 157 votes; S. McFarland, of the *Statesman*, 99; Geo. G. Fogg, of the *Democrat*, 45; Barton & Hadley, of the *Reporter*, 11; scattering, 7; blanks, 2. No choice.

The House discussed the anti-Nebraska resolutions up to the adjournment last evening, but to-day they have not been taken up.

Visit of the Baxter Blues to Stamford.

STAMFORD, (CONN.) June 14, 1854.

The Baxter Blues of New York, accompanied by Shelton's band, visited this place to-day as the guests of the Stamford Light Guards, who turned out with the Stamford Cornet band, to escort them from the depot.

Both companies presented a fine appearance, and after going through with the several military evolutions did full justice to the well spread tables of Mr. Fisher, at the Stage House, where speeches and toasts were exchanged, and everything passed off in good style. At 6 P. M. the Blues left for New York, evidently well satisfied with their reception.

From Plattsburg.

BRUTAL MURDER—ESCAPE OF A CONVICT AFTER ROBBING A SHERIFF.

PLATTSBURG, June 14, 1854.

A murder was committed in the town of Clinton, Clinton county, last evening, by a man named Cornelius Austin, who killed Patrick Sweeney. The difficulty grew out of an ejectment suit. The weapon used was a gun and Sweeney was shot dead.

A man escaped from the jail here to night taking with him $40 and some wearing apparel, &c., belonging to Commodore Lott Chamberlain, Sheriff of the county.

Episcopal Convention—Election of a Bishop.

PROVIDENCE, June 14, 1854.

At the Episcopal Convention to-day, the Rev. Dr. Crocker, of this city, received two majority for Bishop in the Clerical House on the tenth ballot. In the other House the vote was three majority against him.

The Alabama at Savannah.

SAVANNAH, June 13, 1854.

The steamship Alabama, from New York, arrived here early this morning.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Col. Fremont's Narrative of the Exploration of the Central Route.

[From the Intelligencer, June 14.]

While the proceedings in Congress are occupying public attention, more particularly with the subject of a Pacific Railway, I desire to offer to your paper for publication some general results of a recent winter expedition across the Rocky Mountains, confining myself to mere results, in anticipation of a fuller report, with maps and illustrations, which will necessarily require some months to prepare.

The country examined was for about three fourths of the distance—from the Missouri frontier, at the mouth of the Kansas river, to the Valley of Parowan, at the foot of the Wahsatch Mountains within the rim of the Great Basin, at its southeastern bend—along and between the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth parallels of latitude; and the whole line divides itself naturally into three sections, which may be conveniently followed in description.

The first or eastern section consists of the great prairie slope, spreading from the base of the Sierra Blanca to the Missouri frontier, about 700 miles; the second or middle section, comprehends the various Rocky Mountain ranges, and inter lying valleys, between the termination of the great plains at the foot of the Sierra Blanca, and the Great Basin at the Parowan Valley and Wahsatch Mountains, where the first Mormon settlement is found, about 450 miles; the third or western section comprehends the mountainous plateau lying between the Wahsatch Mountains and the Sierra Nevada, a distance of about 400 miles.

The country examined was upon a very direct line, the traveller route being about 1,850 miles over an air-line distance of about 1,300 miles.

THE FIRST SECTION.

Four separate expeditions across this section, made before the present one, and which carried me over various lines at different seasons of the year, enable me to speak of it with the confidence of intimate knowledge. It is a plain of easy inclination, sweeping directly up to foot of the mountains which dominate it as highlands do the ocean. Its character is open prairie, over which summer travelling is made in every direction.

For a railway or a winter travelling road the route would be, in consideration of wood, coal, building stone, water, and fertile land, about two hundred miles up the immediate valley of the Kansas, (which might be made one rich continuous corn field,) and afterwards along the immediate valley of the Upper Arkansas, of which about two hundred miles, as you approach the mountains, is continuously well adapted to settlements as well as to roads. Numerous well watered and fertile valleys—broad and level—open up among the mountains, which present themselves in detached blocks—outliers—gradually closing in around the heads of the streams, but leaving open approaches to the central ridges. The whole of the inter-mountain region is abundant in grasses, wood, coal, and fertile soil. The *Pueblos* above Bent's Fort prove it to be well adapted to the grains and vegetables common to the latitude, including Indian corn, which ripens well, and to the support of healthy stock, which increases well, and take care of themselves summer and winter.

The climate is mild and the winters short, the autumn usually having its full length of bright open weather, without snow, which in winter falls rarely and passes off quickly. In this belt of country lying along the mountains the snow falls more early and much more thinly than in the open plains to the eastward; the storms congregate about the high mountains and leave the valleys free. In the beginning of December we found yet no snow on the *Huerfano* river, and were informed by an old resident, then engaged in establishing a farm at the mouth of this stream, that snow seldom or never fell there, and that cattle were left in the range all the winter through.

This character of country continued to the foot of the dividing crest, and to this point our journey resulted in showing a very easy grade for a road, over a country unobstructed either by snow or other impediments, and having all the elements necessary to the prosperity of an agricultural population, in fertility of soil, abundance of food for stock, wood and coal for fuel, and timber for necessary constructions.

Our examinations around the southern headwaters of the Arkansas have made us acquainted with many passes, grouped together in a small space of country, conducting by short and practicable valleys from the waters of the Arkansas, just described, to the valleys of the Del Norte and East Colorado.

The Sierra Blanca, through which these passes lie, is high and rugged, presenting a very broken appearance, but rises abruptly from the open country on either side, narrowed at the points through which the passes are cut, leaving them only six or eight miles in length from valley to valley, and entirely unobstructed by outlying ranges or broken country. To the best of these passes the ascent is along the open valley of watercourses, uniform and very gradual in ascent. Standing immediately at the mouth of the Sand Hill Pass—one of the most practicable in the Sierra Blanca, and above those usually travelled—at one of the remotest head springs of the Huerfano river, the eye of the traveller follows down without obstruction or abrupt descent along the gradual slope of the valley to the great plains which reach the Missouri.

The straight river and the open valley form, with the plains beyond, one great slope, without a hill to break the line of sight or obstruct the course of the road. On either side of this line hills slope easily to the river, with lines of timber and yellow autumnal grass, and the water that flows smoothly between is not interrupted by a single obstacle in its course to the ocean. The surrounding country is wooded with pines and covered with luxuriant grasses, up to the very crags of the central summits. On the 8th of December we found this whole country free of snow, and Daguerre views taken at the time shows the grass entirely uncovered in the passes.

Along all this line the elevation was carefully determined by frequent barometrical observations, and its character exhibited by a series of daguerreotype views, comprehending the face of the country almost continuously, or at least sufficiently so to give a thoroughly correct impression of the whole.

Two tunnel-like passes pierce the mountains here, almost in juxtaposition, connecting the plain country on either side by short passages five to eight miles long. The mountains which they perforate constitute the only obstruction, and are the only break in the plain or valley line of road from the frontier of Missouri to the summit hills of the Rocky Mountains, a distance of about eight hundred and fifty miles, or more than half-way to the San Joaquin valley. Entering one of these passes from the eastern plain, a distance of about one mile upon a wagon road, already travelled by wagons, commands an open view of the broad valley of San Luis, and the great range of San Juan beyond on its western side. I here connected the line of the present expedition with one explored in 1848-'49, from the mouth of the Kansas to this point, and the results of both will be embodied in a fuller report.

At this place the line entered the middle section, and continued its western course over an open valley country, admirably adapted for settlement, across the San Luis valley, and up the flat bottom lands of the Sah-watch to the heights of the central ridge of the Rocky Mountains. Across these wooded heights—wooded and grass covered up to and over their rounded summits—to the Cochetope pass, the line followed an open easy wagon way, such as is usual to a rolling country. On the high summit lands were forests of coniferous trees, and the snow in the pass was four inches deep. This was on the 14th of December. A day earlier our horses' feet would not have touched snow in the crossing.

Up to this point we had enjoyed clear and dry pleasant weather. Our journey had been all along on dry ground; and travelling slowly along waiting for the winter there had been abundant leisure for becoming acquainted with the country. The open character of the country, joined to good information, indicated the existence of other passes about the head of the Sah watch. This was desirable to verify, and especially to examine a neighboring and lower pass connecting more directly with the Arkansas valley, known as the Poow-che.

But the winter had now set in over all the mountain regions, and the country was so constantly enveloped and hidden with clouds which rested upon it, and the air so darkened by falling snow, that exploring became difficult and dangerous, precisely where we felt most interested in making a thorough examination. We were moving in fogs and clouds, through a region wholly unknown to us, and without guides; and were therefore obliged to content ourselves with the examination of a single line, and the ascertainment of the winter condition of the country over which it passed; which was in fact the main object of our expedition.

Our progress in this mountainous region was necessarily slow, and during ten days which it occupied us to pass through about one hundred miles of the mountainous country bordering the eastern side of the Upper Colorado valley, the greatest depth of the snow was, among the pines and aspens on the ridges, about two and a half feet, and in the valleys about six inches. The atmosphere is too cold and dry for much snow, and the valleys, protected by the mountains are comparatively free from it, and warm. We here found villages of Utah Indians in their wintering ground, in little valleys along the foot of the higher mountains, and bordering the more open country of the Colorado valley. Snow was here (December 25) only a few inches deep—the grass generally appearing above it, and there being none under trees and on southern hill sides.

The horses of the Utahs were living on the range, and notwithstanding that they were used in hunting, were in excellent condition. One which we had occasion to kill for food had on it about two inches of fat, being in as good order as any buffalo we had killed in November on the eastern plains. Over this valley country—about one hundred and fifty miles across—the Indians informed us that snow falls only a few inches in depth, such as we saw it at the time. The immediate valley of the Upper Colorado for about one hundred miles in breath, and from the 7th to the 22d of January, was entirely bare of snow, and the weather resembled that of autumn in this country.

The line here entered the body of mountains known as the *Wah-sach* and *Au-ter-ria* ranges, which are practical at several places in this part of their course; but the failing snow and destitute condition of my party again interfered to impede examinations. They lie between the Colorado valley and the Great Basin, and at their western base are established the Mormon settlements of Parowan and Cedar city. They are what are called fertile valleys, offering inducements to settlement and facilities for making a road. These mountains are a great storehouse of materials—timber, iron, coal—which would be of indispensable use in the construction and maintenance of the road, and are solid foundations to build up the future prosperity of the rapidly-increasing Utah State.

Salt is abundant on the eastern border, mountains, as the *Sierra de Sal*, being named from it. In the ranges lying behind the Mormon settlements, among the mountains through which the line passes, are accumulated a great wealth of iron and coal and extensive forests of heavy timber. These forests are the largest I am acquainted with in the Rocky Mountains, being, in some places, twenty miles in depth of continuous forest; the general growth lofty and large frequently over three feet in diameter, and sometimes reaching five feet, the red spruce and yellow pine predominating. At the actual southern extremity of the Mormon settlements, consisting of the two enclosed towns of Parowan and Cedar city, near to which our line passed, a coal mine has been opened for about eighty yards, and iron works already established. Iron here occurs in extraordinary masses, in some parts accumulated into mountains, which comb out in crests of solid iron thirty feet thick and a hundred yards long.

In passing through this bed of mountains about fourteen days had been occupied, from January 24 to February 7, the deepest snow we have encountered being about up to the saddle skirts, or four feet; this occurring only in occasional drifts in the passes on northern exposures, and in the small mountain flats hemmed in by woods and hills. In the valley it was sometimes a few inches deep, and as often none at all. On our arrival at the Mormon settlements, February 8th, we found it a few inches deep, and were there informed that the winter had been unusually long continued and severe, the thermometer having been as low as seventeen degrees below zero, and more snow having fallen than in all the previous winters together since the establishment of this colony.

At this season their farmers had usually been occupied with their ploughs, preparing the land for grain.

At this point the line of exploration entered the third or western section, comprehending the mountainous *plateau* between the Wahsatch mountains and the Sierra Nevada of California. Two routes here suggested themselves to me for examination: one directly across the *plateau* between the 37th and 38th parallels; the other keeping to the south of the mountains, and following for about two hundred miles down the valley of the Rio Virgen—Virgin river—thence direct to the Trejon Pass, at the head of the San Joaquin valley.

This route down the Virgin river had been examined the year before with a view to settlement this summer by a Mormon exploring party under the command of Major Steele, of Parowan, who (and others of the party) informed me that they found fertile valleys inhabited by Indians who cultivated corn and melons, and the rich ground in many places matted over with grape vines. The Tejon Passes are two, one of them (from the abundance of vines at its lower end) called Caxon de las Uvas. They were of long use, and were examined by me and their practicability ascertained in my expedition of 1848-'49; and in 1851 I again passed through them both, bringing three thousand head of cattle through one of them.

Knowing the practicality of these passes, and confiding in the report of Major Steele as to the intermediate country, I determined to take the other, (between the 37th and 38th parallels,) it recommending itself to me as being more direct towards San Francisco, and preferable, on that account, for a road, if suitable ground could be found; and also as being unknown, the Mormons informing me that various attempts had been made to explore it, and all failed for want of water. Although biased in favor of the Virgin river route, I determined to examine this one in the interest of geography, and accordingly set out for this purpose from the settlement about the 26th of February, travelling directly westward from Cedar city, (eighteen miles west of Parowan.) We found the country a high table land, bristling with mountains, often in short isolated blocks, and sometimes accumulated into considerable ranges, with numerous open and low passes.

We are thus always in a valley, and always surrounded by mountains more or less closely, which apparently altered in shape and position as we advanced. The valleys are dry and naked, without water or wood; but the mountains are generally covered with grass and well wooded with pines; springs are very rare, and occasional small streams are at remote distances. Not a human being was encountered between the Santa Clara road, near the Mormon settlements, and the Sierra Nevada, over a distance of more than three hundred miles. The solitary character of this uninhabited region—the naked valleys without water courses, among mountains with fertile soil and grass and woods abundant, give it the appearance of an unfinished country.

Commencing at the 38th, we struck the Sierra Nevada on about the 37th parallel about the 15th of March.

On our route across we had for the greater part of the time pleasant and rather warm weather; the valley grounds and low ridges uncovered, but snow over the upper parts of the higher mountains. Between the 20th of February and 19th of March we had several snow storms, sometimes accompanied with hail and heavy thunder; but the snow remained on the valley grounds only a few hours after the storm was over. It forms not the least impediment at any time of the winter. I was prepared to find the Sierra here broad, rugged, and blocked up with snow, and was not disappointed in my expectation. The first range we attempted to cross carried us to an elevation of 8,000 or 9,000 feet and into impassable snow, which was further increased on the 16th by a considerable fall.

There was no object in forcing a passage, and I accordingly turned at once some sixty or eighty miles to the southward, making a wide sweep to strike the Point of the California mountain where the Sierra Nevada suddenly breaks off and declines into a lower country. Information obtained years before from the Indians led me to believe that the low mountains were broken into many passes, and at all events I had the certainty of an easy passage through either of Walker's passes.

When the point was reached I found the Indian information fully verified; the mountain suddenly terminated and broke down into lower grounds barely above the level of the country, and making numerous openings into the valley of the San Joaquin. I entered into the first which offered, (taking no time to search, as we were entirely out of provisions and living upon horses,) which led us by an open and almost level hollow thirteen miles long to an upland not steep enough to be called a hill, over into the valley of a small affluent to Kern river; the hollow and the valley making together a way where a wagon would not find any obstruction for forty miles.

The country around the passes in which the Sierra Nevada here terminates declines considerably below its more northern elevation. There was no snow to be seen at all on its eastern face and none in the pass; but we were in the midst of opening spring, flowers blooming in fields on both sides of the Sierra.

Between the point of the mountains and the head of the valley at the Tejon the passes generally are free from snow throughout the year, and the descent from them to the ocean is distributed over a long slope of more than two hundred miles. The low dry country and the long slope, in contradistinction to the high country and short sudden descent and heavy snows of the passes behind the bay of San Francisco, are among the considerations which suggest themselves in favor of the route by the head of the San Joaquin.

The above results embody general impressions made upon my mind during this journey. It is clearly established that the winter condition of the country constitutes no impediment, and from what has been said the entire practicability of the line will be as clearly inferred. A further account hereafter will comprehend detailed descriptions of country, with their absolute and relative elevations, and show the ground upon which the conclusions were based. They are contributed at this time as an element to aid the public in forming an opinion on the subject of the projected railway, and in gratification of my great desire to do something for its advancement.

It seems a treason against mankind and the spirit of progress which marks the age, to refuse to put this one completing link to our national prosperity and the civilization of the world. Europe still lies between Asia and America. Build this railroad, and things will have revolved about: America will lie between Asia and Europe: the golden vein which runs through the history of the world will follow the iron track to San Francisco, and the Asiatic trade will finally fall into its last and permanent road, when the new and the modern Cathaya throw open their gates to the thoroughfare of the world. I am, gentlemen, with much regard, respectfully, yours.

WASHINGTON, June 13, 1854. J. C. FREMONT

The Rock Island Excursion.

OUR EXCURSION CORRESPONDENCE.

CHICAGO, June 11, 1854.

The Party Returning—Festivity and Fun—Amusing Mock Trial—Some Reflections on Trade and Travel—A Railroad to connect the Mississippi and the Lake Superior Copper Mines, &c.

The return passage from St. Paul's to Rock Island was performed in thirty-five hours, arriving at the latter place at 10 o'clock on Saturday morning. No stoppages were made, only to take in wood, except to land half a dozen of the party at Dubuque. The time was occupied in every species of available amusement. The party on board the Sparhawk was the most agreeable and pleasant. Though there were several on board of the white neckcloth, severed from all participation in the natural outpourings of the heart at home, they were not a whit behind the most obdurate sinner in the flock in cracking jokes themselves, and laughing at those perpetrated by others. Whilst the merry dance was going on, and euchre and whist played, these reverend gentlemen seemed as well pleased, and remained from their couches as late as any o the party.

We had a mock trial on board which produced much merriment and elicited a fund of repartee. Doctor Campbell, of Boston, entered a complaint against Colonel Schouler, editor of a Cincinnati paper, for committing an assault and battery upon him, in having suffered one of the slats of his berth to fall upon the Doctor's head, during the night. A grand jury found a bill of indictment, and the accused was brought before the criminal court for trial. The accused had for counsel Moses Kimball and a Mr. Haskell, of Boston. Judge Begert, of Tompkins county, New York, presided. The District Attorney read the indictment, which was drawn with legal acumen, the prisoner pleaded not guilty, and the Clerk proceeded to empannel a jury. Much difficulty was had, as in all important criminal cases, to obtain the requisite number who were competent. Some were prejudiced in the matter on account of having read elaborate accounts of the affair in the daily papers; others were opposed to the principle of the stringent laws on the Mississippi rivers which declare the crime of assault and battery punishable by death; and others, believing themselves incompetent to render an unprejudiced verdict on account of their knowledge of the prisoner's conduct while a citizen of Boston. After a long contest, a jury was at length obtained, and among them was a Mr. Merritt, who assumed the quaker garb, and sat with his head covered with the largest broad brim on board the boat. The witnesses on the part of the prosecution were examined by the District Attorney, and duly cross-examined by the prisoner's counsel. The testimony finally concluded, Mr. Kimball addressed the Court and jury in defence of his client. He spoke for three quarters of an hour, and though the whole affair was a mere farce to kill time, still the ingenuity of his argument, the deductions he drew from the testimony, and his eloquence throughout, elicited the most rapturous applause and enthusiastic cheering. The trial lated until late in the evening, when the judge adjourned the case until ten o'clock the next day. The crier made proclamation, and the prisoner was remanded to the custody of the Sheriff. The trial afforded great amusement to the ladies, and it was the theme of conversation, and the cause of joke and mirth during the remainder of the passage. Colonel Schouler is a wag of the first water, and enacted his part in the farce with admirable tact.

Meetings were held on each boat, and resolutions adopted, expressing the thanks of the party to the contractors and directors of the Rock Island Railroad Company for this excursion. The guests on each of the five boats adopted resolutions complimenting the officers and assistants for their exertions to please the party, and purses varying from three to five hundred dollars were subscribed as presents to the officers, servants, &c. At one o'clock on Saturday the party took the cars at Rock Island and reached this city in eight hours precisely with the time table, and the excursion party was finally disbanded.

The importance of this passage through Illinois and up the Mississippi to its navigable source will prove incalculable. The extent of country now lying in a state of perfect nature, now viewed for the first time by statesmen, millionaires, mechanics, merchants, speculators, farmers, divines, editors, and nearly every other class constituting society in our Northern and Eastern cities and towns, has struck them all with perfect astonishment. They had all read of the mighty Father of American Waters, its navigation for ten thousand miles, from its mouth up to the barrier of St. Anthony; they may have read some graphic sketches of the scenery along its banks, and the green velvet garniture of its mountain sides and summits; and they may also have pictured to their minds the dense forests lying for hundreds of miles upon its flatlands; but all, everything, each attempt at description is as far from the reality as the twinkle of the dullest glow worm in the Florida everglades bears to the effulgence of Luna in her maturity in the clear heavens above. Upon either bank of that majestic water, from St. Louis to the Fal