

THE WEEKLY HERALD.

R. E. FISZ, Editor.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1877.

HAVE we a Cæsar among us?

MISS ALICE BLAINE is recovering from her wound.

EMPEROR William is to have a golden wedding next spring in Berlin.

GIRLS, if you want a good man to kiss, there's the General, he's Sherman.

OAKEY don't say what has become of Old Gal-with-a-Wart-Under-Her-Ear.

JOHN RUSKIN says that wars in civilized States are wholly the fault of women.

KATE CLAXTON, the actress, recently divorced, has married Chas. A. Stevenson.

A TERRITORIAL people have no rights which a paternal government is bound to respect.

LYDIA THOMPSON should always take her benefits on Friday when playing Robinson Crusoe.

THE Pioneers take no more kindly to the Stamp Tax than the Pilgrims did to the Stamp Act.

THE Alta California says Mr. R. H. Freer, of West Virginia, has been confirmed Secretary of Montana, vice James H. Mills.

As farce we can see, Mr. D. Boucault, there will yet comedy when you will know the difference between a tragedy and something funny.

HERE we are hanging on the ragged edge of bleak December, and not a stick of stove-wood with which to warm one's toes or boil the tea-kettle!

STANLEY, the African explorer, and 120 followers were brought to the Cape of Good Hope in Her Majesty's store ship Industry, which also takes them to Zanzibar.

THE battle fields about Richmond have been already mostly reclaimed by nature, and at Cold Harbor, Fair Oaks, Seven Pines and Malvern Hill scarcely any traces of fight are seen.

A COMPARISON of ancient manners and courtesies with those of modern days is to be laid before young folks in an article by Gail Hamilton in the December number of St. Nicholas.

MARSHAL WHEELER and District Attorney Anderson are corresponding with the Washington authorities with a view to mitigate the hardships of the order relating to wood and lumber seizures.

REPRESENTATIVE SCALES, Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, has introduced a bill to transfer the Indian Bureau from the custody of the Interior Department to the War Department.

THE principal amendments of the Senate to the Army Appropriation bill were concurred in by the House, by majorities varying from four to ten. The limit of recruitment is fixed at 25,000 instead of 20,000 men.

A CORRESPONDENT describes Clara Morris as "the actress that arouses a fellow's and his girl's better nature—the actress that makes the wife and husband hunch up to each other and feel glad that things are as they are."

THE name of Senator Morton's family was originally Throckmorton, and their ancestry is traced to the Earl of Throckmorton in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The Senator's father dropped the first syllable of his surname, and the son adhered to the example.

THE Connecticut Republicans are jubilant. At the recent election they secured both branches of the Legislature, and as half the members hold over and participate in the next Senatorial election the importance of the victory will appear. A Republican is almost certain to be chosen in place of Eaton.

RELEASING THE WOOD.

Several thousand cords of wood—the property of Beveridge, Constance, and others—were released under bond to-day. All seizures under the order from Washington will follow the same course, and the fuel supply will probably not be materially affected by the recent proceedings either as to the quantity daily offered for sale or the market price of the commodity. A good deal of sympathy has been expressed for the woodmen, and especially for the poor, who were expected to suffer most from the effects of enforcing the order at this particular season of the year, but we think the worst of the danger is over. The wood dealers, we trust, will now act wisely, and shun every attempt to "corner" or combine to put up the price of fuel. The Marshal and District Attorney act only as they are expressly instructed, and their correspondence with the Department, it is expected, will result favorably to the interests of our people.

A CAREFUL calculation is made of the probable results of the census of 1880, and the conclusion is reached that the nation will then have a population of about 47,000,000. This will be an average increase the country over of about 21 per cent. for ten years. This is deemed too large by the Cincinnati Times, which thinks the next census will show only 45,000,000.

AN AMAZING BLUNDER.

At this time of the year, when the people of the Territory are engaged in procuring a supply of firewood in anticipation of the cold weather which we are led to expect by our former experience late in December, there comes an order, we hear, to the proper law officers of the United States from Washington, directing the seizure of the wood from which alone the supply must be met, and on Saturday and to-day some thousands of cords were seized by the U. S. Marshal. We do but feebly describe the feeling over this transaction when we say that it creates a profound sensation. That the U. S. Attorney or Marshal are blameable for this we do not believe. It will be said in extenuation of this crime (for that is its name) that it accords with the letter of the law. So it accords with the letter of the law not only that all liquors west of the Mississippi river as far south as the Osage river shall be destroyed, but also that every man, woman and child in Montana be removed therefrom. No palliation or excuse can be given by pleading the United States Statutes, which, in this instance, under these circumstances are (and were intended to be) "more honored in the breach than in the observance." If a new policy were to be inaugurated it should be announced in advance. It should not come unexpectedly nor in an exigent moment. There can be no greater governmental folly than to undertake by snap procedure to interfere with facilities by which alone these people can obtain their supply of fuel. No money can be made from it for the Government. It can supply under salaried agents with a pittance of fees, but what has already been done before it can be corrected will bear fruit in subjecting women and children and invalids to the biting cold of the coming winter. It is too late to leave the country this fall, for the snows cover the the ranges which hem us in, and there is no transportation for twenty thousand men, women and children. It is idle to expect that this proceeding will continue, but before its folly can be demonstrated and the slow processes of governmental action be set in motion incalculable injury will be done. To undertake to make a little money out of the timber in Montana to pay a few placemen would be the pettiest of petty statesmanship. What a broad statesmanship requires and what the culture and experience of the distinguished Secretary of the Interior leads us to expect is encouragement to build up communities in remote districts; to encourage grazing, mining and agriculture; to give to them American hopes and homes, and to endeavor by generous legislation and administration to inspire patriotism and thrift, and to compensate by exceptional liberality toward these pioneers the deprivations incident to life so far from the centres of social and commercial activity.

We wonder if our cattle fatted on government grasses, the fish grown in government waters, the prairie hens and buffalo belonging to the government are all to be seized, and if it is proposed that the government occupy the buildings of stone and mortar from the public domain. We wonder what statute authorizes a dispensing power in any officer here by which dry timber or the kindling wood in our kitchens is not seized. We wonder if the government is to become a small huckster in trades fatal to enterprises and governmental excellence for the sake of creating places for officers, who shall swarm in large numbers to eat out the substance of thrifty, substantial and patriotic communities. We wonder if it is proposed to seize the desks, counters, tables and houses builded of timber cut on the public domain. We wonder if it is the design of the government to smother the smelting and milling enterprises which induced the presence here of the people of this Territory. We wonder if it is proposed to freeze the soldiers, the Assay Office, the Custom House, the Collector's office, and emphatically to freeze out the courts. We wonder if civil service reforms require of those who build empire that they shall fight hostile Indians all summer and die of the winter's cold. We wonder what indicia of reform is found in a refusal to notify these people of this intended raid some months in advance of these terrible winters and giving them some terms, matured in advance, by which we can get out of the country or provide ourselves with a supply of necessary fuel. As we contemplate this matter the subjects of wonder grow upon us, and we are stunned and amazed at the folly which dictated so wonderful an attempt to squelch the civilization of the West. Perhaps the government means to vacate five or six Territories, destroy mining and other enterprises, reduce to poverty a million free men, and turn over this domain to Sitting Bull and Joseph. It has been said that during the last summer the Surveyor General's office has been relieved of all duties pertaining to the preservation of timber, and that by the influence of Mr. Maginnis, Mr. William Nowlan was appointed a special agent of the government for this purpose, and that he has been giving a small portion of his time to this matter. We trust there will be no riots, but we fear that a speedy culmination of the folly will alone preserve order and maintain law.

NEW YORK Democracy is very indignant over the proposition to disfranchise the non-tax-payers. The proposition is a bad one, but it is only a legitimate result of long continued Democratic rule in New York, that those who have any property left should seek to protect themselves against official plunder by disfranchising their corrupt and worthless plunderers; the movement is the worst advertisement Democracy has ever had.

DOWNFALL OF KARS.

The capture of Kars, of which our dispatches inform us, virtually ends the campaign in Armenia, and places Asiatic Turkey at the feet of the Czar. Until now this great stronghold has resisted all attempts reduce it by siege or carry it by storm. Russian perseverance and courage have finally triumphed, and with the fall of Kars is celebrated the first conclusive achievement of the war. The fruits of the victory cannot be calculated merely by the spoils and trophies of battle wrenched at probably considerable cost of life and large expenditure of money from the vanquished Turks, but must be reckoned by the moral effects and results anticipated and almost certain to follow in the full attainment of a conquered province. It is a blow vastly more significant than any yet inflicted on the Moslem cause, and will be immediately felt not only in the Ottoman Empire, but in England, whose possessions bordering Armenia and included in the Indian Empire it will deem to be menaced and its hold in the East placed in jeopardy. The capitulation at Kars transfers to Russian possession the citadel and fortifications, including the city itself and its inhabitants. Three hundred cannon and a large amount of war munitions, numerous standards, etc., are some of the trophies of which the victors speak. The garrisons, nearly equal in numbers to their assailants, endeavored to effect their escape in the direction of Erzeroum, but the fleeing and demoralized Turks, promptly pursued by the Cossacs, were overtaken and turned back, surrendered prisoners of war. The victory was overwhelming and complete, and ends substantially the struggle of Russ and Turk in Asia.

THE TIMBER QUESTION.

The action here of Government officers in seizing wood cut from the public lands simply extends to Montana the order from Washington some time ago applied and enforced in other States and Territories. Of interest in this connection is the reference of Commissioner Williamson to this subject in his report soon to be submitted to Congress. He says that special agents to detect timber trespassers in the State of Minnesota, report 61,708,564 feet of white pine logs cut and removed from vacant public lands in that State—56,957,808 feet were taken from 1878 to 1876. Some 4,751,765 feet were cut in Wisconsin. Twenty-nine civil suits have been instituted—nineteen have terminated in favor of the Government, and the progress of the others indicate a probable favorable termination in these also. After investigation, twenty-two cases of trespass have been reported from Missouri, and suits will be brought in consequence. In Minnesota some 25,000,000 feet of logs were seized by the United States Marshal and placed in booms in the Mississippi river, near Minneapolis. Extensive suits have been commenced in Colorado against individuals, also against railroad and mining companies for timber cut and taken; and reports from Utah, Montana, Arizona, and other Territories and States on the Pacific coast, indicate extensive deprivations there.

Regarding the stoppage of future deprivations, and the protection of timber, the Commissioner makes the following suggestions: First. That Congress legislate to withdraw all lands chiefly valuable for pine timber from the operation of the homestead and pre-emption laws, and from all manner of sale or disposition, except for cash at fair appraised value. Second. That the Secretary of the Interior be authorized, by Congress, to sell at just valuation timber from public lands in mining districts, where mining laws are now in force; also to sell it from any unsurveyed land not mineral, when needed for actual settlement, before the public surveys are extended over such lands.

Third. That Congress enact a law providing for the care and custody of timber lands unfit for agriculture, and for the gradual sale of timber growing thereon, and also for the perpetuation of the growth of timber upon such lands by such needful rules and regulations as may be required. Further, that Congress be requested to legislate for the appraisal and sale of such timber land as it may deem best to sell; also providing for the care and custody of such lands until sold, and to provide for more specific legislation for fines and punishment for trespass on the timber on all public lands, defining the nature of the action, and by whom to be brought.

The Commissioner further suggests the propriety of legislation, authorizing the United States Marshal or his deputies to seize timber cut from the public lands, without having to resort first to the tedious process of obtaining writs from the courts; also to provide a method for the sale of timber seized and for the disposition of the proceeds.

THE latest Eastern border news will be found in our interesting letter from the Big Horn, printed to-day. Colonel Brackett and his Second cavalry troops are now in occupation of the new post. Detachments are still out on escort, guard scouting, and other active field duty. A budget of Indian, military and other news is entertainingly presented. The writer pleasantly depicts some of the landscape and other scenes about the Big Horn. Other letters from this source are promised during the winter months, now close at hand.

THE "Bric-a-Brac" department of the December Scribner has another installment of Mr. Stockton's take-off on the Complete Letter-Writer.

OUR BIG HORN LETTER.

Progress of Building at the Big Horn Post—Fight Between the Crows and Nez Perces—Autumn Weather—Buffalo Hunting—Military Detachments—The Route to the Union Pacific Railroad.

BIG HORN POST, M. T., Nov. 10, 1877.

At last the houses at this post are approaching completion, and on the second of this month Col. Brackett moved up from his camp on the banks of the Little Horn, and was the first officer to occupy quarters at the new post. These quarters are commodious and convenient, and in years to come this will be a most desirable station for both officers and men. It is now a lone out-post in the heart of the Indian country, and in the best portion of the Indian country; but in a few years it will be surrounded with settlements and good farms. Already many white men have moved in and a new town is springing up near the mouth of Big Horn river, bearing the high sounding name of Big Horn City. If white men could be allowed to take up farms on the Crow Indian Reservation, I believe the future of this region would soon be definitely settled, greatly to the advantage of all concerned.

On the 27th of last month seventeen Crow Indian Scouts arrived here from the Agency. While on their way they met four Nez Perce Indians who were making their escape from Gen. Miles, and, falling upon them, the Crows killed three of them, the fourth making his escape. The Crows were very proud of this achievement and approached the fort shouting, firing their guns, and running their horses. They have thus added their number to those of the Nez Perces who had already fallen, and contributed their share toward the destruction of Joseph's band. With red and white Navajo blankets, their vermilion feathers and beaded buckskin, these Indians make a most picturesque appearance, and are not outdone in this respect by any red men on this continent. They have the most intense hatred for the Sioux, brought about by the wars which have been carried on against them for many years past. Their lodges on the banks of the Big Horn make a pretty scene, half hidden as they are amid the leafless trees and bushes, with their hardy ponies lariat out near by. Away off beyond are the Yellowstone hills, and on the intervening plain are plenty of buffalo. So wild a scene is befitting so grand a frame as that made by the gray rocks of the mountain chain.

The cavalry bugles wake the echoes in the morning, bringing to mind Tennyson's beautiful lines:

"O hark, O hear! how thin and clear,
And thinner, clearer, farther going;
O sweet and far from cliff and scar,
The horns of Elidun faintly blowing!"

Blow, let us hear the purple glens replying:
Blow, bugle; answer, echoes, dying, dying, dying."
This is all poetical enough, but the steam whistle at the saw mill roasts everybody out at an extremely early hour in the morning, and then we all proceed to the top of the bluff and commence work on the new quarters. The autumn weather has been delightful thus far, and we have been able to continue work uninterruptedly up to this time. The cottonwoods in the river bottoms long since shook their yellow and brown leaves, while the red bushes and cream-colored grass show that the frost has already been at work. The hill sides are brown and russet, with here and there clusters of black sage sticking up near the rocky ledges. The river bottom is filled with great trees whose branches look gaunt and dreary enough. The old Indian and buffalo trails stretch in long black lines over hill and dale, looking like huge tangled threads laid on here and there leading to and from the water courses. Some of these trails are very steep, and this morning I saw an Indian ride up the almost perpendicular bank of the Big Horn river, along one of them, in search of some strayed horses. The bluffs in rear of the post are very steep indeed, and, if horse or man falls over he will either be killed or drowned in the river.

Buffalo still swarm in this section and the Indians seem content to kill only as many as may be necessary for their immediate wants. In this respect they are different from white men, who often boast of the great number of these animals they have killed in a day, a kind of glory which I wholly fail to appreciate. After a man has enough for food, why is it necessary to kill any more? Aside from the absolute cruelty of the act, there is the wanton destruction of so much valuable food which might do a suffering immigrant and his family a world of good. I have no patience with these wholesale slayers of buffalo, and think they ought to be put out of the way as public nuisances. We all know by this time that it does not require as much skill to kill a buffalo as it does a Texas cow, and the world contains no other so absolutely stupid a creature as a buffalo calf. Killing buffalo can scarcely rank as a reasonable pastime in any sense of the word, the merest tyro being as successful as the oldest hunter.

The companies of the Second cavalry at Tongue river post have been sent off to guard the Nez Perce Indian prisoners on their way to Fort Abraham Lincoln, where the Indians are to be kept during the winter. Detachments from the same regiment have been sent out from here to guard the hay cutters in the upper portion of the Little Horn valley,

and to look out a new and more direct road across the country from this place to the head of navigation on the Missouri river. So all are busy enough, and there is no danger of their rusting out for want of use. Many of the mechanics that were at work here have been sent down to the Union Pacific railroad, their work being completed for the winter. These men are under charge of Lieutenant Coale. The road down is not over three hundred and forty miles in length, and some fine day there will be a mail line from Medicine Bow, or Rock creek, via this post and Bozeman to Helena, it being in fact along the old Bozeman trail which the Government tried so hard to establish several years ago with such disastrous results. There is no doubt that the authorities are in earnest in endeavoring to open this country so that it shall be of some benefit to the nation.

B. H.

GOVERNMENT RELIEF.

Of the citizen volunteers of Missoula county who bravely bore their part in the battle at Big Hole, over a fourth of their number were either killed or wounded. Some proper recognition—some adequate recompense—for services performed, for wounds sustained, for lives freely sacrificed, is due from Government. These men gallantly rallied to the standard of Gibbon when the veteran hero had but a paltry soldier squad with which to confront a wily, alert and thoroughly armed foe of three times his own force. The families of the dead and the maimed who survive are entitled to substantial reward. They cannot be pensioned, but in a measure they can be recompensed by an act or acts of Congress voting them monetary relief. We should be glad to see a movement looking to this end started in Missoula county. It would meet with the prompt moral aid of the whole Territory. Gen. Gibbon, we are sure, would cordially favor any reasonable plan having in view so laudable a purpose. General Sherman could also with certainty be relied on to promote all efforts in the direction suggested. Thus inaugurated and directed Delegate Maginnis could undertake the work in Congress with every assurance of success. Let the Missoulian and the substantial citizens of the county start the movement and push it to its consummation.

Territorial News.

[From the Missoulian, 16th, inst.]

A. G. England, one of our thrifty farmers, raised over 5,000 bushels of grain this season.

E. G. Maclay, of the Diamond R, which company has the contract for government transportation in this Territory, came down Tuesday to see to the removal of the Seventh Infantry from fort Missoula. He did it in good shape, the soldiers of the Seventh starting within an hour after those of the Third arrived.

The parting of the Seventh regiment from the family of the late Captain Logan was deeply affecting. The children were born in the regiment, and strong men shed tears as they bid farewell to the wife and little ones of a beloved comrade and officer.

W. E. Bass states that, on account of his reputation as a fruit man, he has received application for fruit trees from all sections of the Territory, some of them even coming from as far as the Yellowstone.

Henry Chambers is decidedly of the opinion that the best interests of Missoula county demand the early construction of a wagon road to Bannack, to open up for us new markets, and to extend our business relations with other parts of the Territory.

In making his charge to the grand jury, at the opening of court last Monday, Judge Knowles gave it to the jury to make diligent inquiry of all violations of the law in the matter of selling liquor to Indians, and he instructed the jury that selling liquor to half-breeds was a violation of this statute. He also gave the jury strictly in charge the matter of inquiring into violations of the statute concerning the sale of liquor to soldiers.

Southern Montana Items.

The following items we find in our Virginia City exchange:

The Highland flume company deposited 800 ounces of Alder gulch dust at Banker Elling's on Thursday.

Mr. B. S. Marshall, who has been spending a couple of months on the coast, returned to Sheridan last week.

We are sorry to learn that Judge W. A. M. Young broke his leg, while jumping from a wagon near Twin Bridges a few days ago. We have not received full particulars of the accident.

One day last week, two of Carey & O'Brien's wagons were overturned in the Beaverhead river, near Point of Rocks. Some damage was done to cigars and tobacco which were on the wagon. The teams were uninjured.

Rev. L. W. B. Long, who was appointed presiding elder of this M. E. church district at the last annual conference, has been transferred to Nebraska, and is now pastor of the M. E. church at Fairbury, in that State.

On Monday, as Dr. I. C. Smith was driving down the gulch, and passing over the narrow grade between Central and Nevada, his horse was frightened by an Indian, and ran off, precipitating the buggy over the declivity, which was about ten feet deep. The Doctor was very much bruised, and will glad to learn, not seriously injured, and will soon be around again. Neither the horse or buggy was damaged.