THE AVANT COURIER.

The Pioneer Paper of Eastern Montana.

FRIDAY, : : : APRIL 21, 1876.

A dispatch from Tucson, Arizona, says the war in Sonora is virtually ended, the revolutionists and Federal forces having joined hands, while Pesquiera, commanding the State troops has fled.

Capt. D. T. Roberts will leave Springfield, D. T., next week, with a company of four hundred men, with their own teams, for the Black Hills. The roads are now passable, and the rush to the Hills is on the increase.

On the 6th inst, the Mayor of San Francisco with the six Chinese Companies held a long consultation on a proposition to send all Coolies back to China. Not more than a thousand Mongolians in San Francisco refused to accede to the wishes of the six Companies. The passage will be paid for those who desire returning to the Flowery Kingdom.

Boss Tweed, like old man Bender and Charlie Ross, is likely to turn up in various places before he is nabbed by the clutches of law. The Cheyenne Leader of the 1st gives a long and minute account of Tweeds capture at Arden station by Sheriff O'Brien. Dispatches of a later date state that he was seen and recognized in Italy.

The Odd Fellows of Helena will celebrate the Fifty-seventh Anniversary of American Odd Fellowship by a public ceremony, to be held at the M. E. Church, on Broadway, on the evening of the 26th of April, 1876, to which the public are cordially invited. The ceremonies will commence precisely at 8 o'clock. Also, a grand ball will be given at International Hall, on Thursday evening, April 27th.

The navigation of the Yellowstone river is to be made a successful enterprise this Spring. The Yellowstone Navigation Company's steamboat "Yellowstone" will be up sure. If the stage of water is high enough the boat will come to within thirty-five miles of Bozeman. It may land at Pompey's Pillar or Baker's Battle-Ground. This will depend entirely on the rise in the Yellowstone. It will be of great benefit to our Bozeman neighbors and to the entire Territory. In the absence of a railroad a steamboat is pretty good to fall back on.—[Madisonian.

The editor of the Times seems lonely. Last week it accused the Madisonian of selling out to the Indian Ring, and this week it accuses the Independent of the same offense. If these papers have changed their tone in regard to corruptions supposed to exist in the management of Indian affairs in this Territory it is nothing more than should have been expected of them, if they possess any honor or decency. They had made various and repeated charges against the Agent and contractor of the Crow Agency, which they asserted could be proven. The late U. S. Grand Jury took the matter in hand and a large number of witnesses were summoned. After three weeks investigation the Grand Jury reported to the Court that they had failed in adducing sufficient evidence and they were discharged. This should have settled the question in the minds of all men. If the Times wishes to keep up its fight against imaginary evils, we know of no one who desires to check it, for certainly no intelligent person will believe its assertions.

The Independent succeeded in keeping its readers thoroughly advised of the Court proceedings at Virginia City. If its dispatches were correct it doesn't matter by whom they were sent. The same avenues of information are open to our correspondent that are employed by the Madisonian, and it is hardly probable that any improper channels were sought out. That our report differs in material points from that of our contemporary, gives us no reason to believe that its course is influenced by any other than honorable motives. We have no idea that the "outs" of the Indian Ring has purchased the Madisonian, or that it is mad because Mr. Story declined to buy it. The practice of habitual courtesy to its contemporaries is one of the novelties which the Independent prides itself on indulging. Its extended influence and assured success obviates the necessity of its resorting to personal abuse, or becoming the vehicle of injurious calumny, either of individuals or newspapers. The race for distinction in this line of publication is entirely open to those whose taste and culture admit no question of its propriety.—[Independent.

A correspondent of the Times favors a division of the Territory. In the course of his communication he says:

"Lewis & Clarke, Deer Lodge, Missoula and Beaverhead, are oppposed to any measures of internal or external improvement that will be of any benefit to Eastern Montana, and although the effect of the recent popular verdict is calculated to ruin the common interests of the Territory, a remedy may be found in a division. The business men of Helena desire a narrow gauge road to connect them with the Mormons; the people of Gallatin county desire an eastern connection. The election proves this. It is very evident that the country is too large, and the interests of the people too diverse. What then is best for the people—divide the Territory! Let the Madison river, from its source to the junction of the Three Forks of the Missouri, be the boundary between Eastern and Western Montana; thence eastward to the Missouri river. West and North of these lines there is a large country—sufficient for a State or Territory; while Eastern and Southeastern Montana, with a slice off Wyoming and Dakota, would be sufficient for another Territory. With such a change of boundary all would be content. Rivalry between Montana proper (north and west of the proposed boundary of division) would cease. Helena and Deer Lodge, which are so alarm d at railroad swindles, could have their narrow gauge, and Bozeman and Gallatin City could have some connection with the East."

Major Watson of Beaverhead is spoken of for Congress. The Major will reflect credit upon any constituency that honors him for any office.

Gen. Crook's Campaign.

There are conflicting reports regarding the success of Gen. Crook's recent campaign in the Big Horn. The report we publish elsewhere of the loss of 1,000 head of mules we fail to see confirmed.

We publish, from the Cheyenne Leader, the following account of the expedition, which we think may be regarded as reliable:

"By way of premise, and to correct in advance any false opinion which may be formed upon reading this statement, we will say that the information here given has not been obtained from any person who was sworn to secrecy—meaning by this the officers of Gen. Crook's command, all of whom have been entirely too reticent concerning the campaign to suit our reporters. The facts herein made public for the first time have been furnished us by scouts and other employes of the expedition, not a single one having been divulged by any officer of the command.

It will be remembered the Leader gave publication to an account of Crook's fight several days before our telegrams from Reno and Fetterman were received, and that we considered ourselves sold badly at the time, but—as was developed by subsequent events—we were not so terribly mistaken as was at first supposed. The wires had been down between this city and Fetterman for several days, and we now know that an officer reached here from the north in advance of the telegrams on that account, and that our article contained more truth than poetry.

Gen. Crook evinced dissatisfaction with his command when leaving here, and although he said little, it was easily seen he was not at all pleased with the prospects for the sucess of the expedition. Soldier-like, he bravely undertook the campaign, though he undoubtedly knew that there were big chances for failure and but slim for success.

When he had reached the heart of the Indian country, and word was brought him by his scouts of the discovery of the large Indian village of Crazy Horse, and also the location of Sitting Bull's camp, he detailed the officer next in command, with all the troops save two companies, for the attack on Crazy Horse, and, with the pack train and handful of men, himself started on Sitting Bull's trail. Orders were given the officer sent to attack Crazy Horse to destroy his village, capture his ponies, and inflict upon him and his murderous band the severest punishment possible.

Crazy Horse was surrounded and completely surprised, and had Gen. Crook's orders been obeyed, the band of this predatory chief would now be scattered to the four winds. But disobedience and incompetency characterized the actions of the commander of the detachment, and thus balked Gen. Crook's well laid plans, covered himself with disgrace, and filled his superior's heart with such chagrin as only the brave soldier can feel when he himself is doing his duty, but from force of circumstances can neither prevent the mismanagement nor retrieve the errors of others upon whose success and devotion his own efforts and achievements depend.

Captain Egan, with his gallant Grays, was ordered to charge through the Indian village, and another detachment ordered to meet him half way, charging from the opposite direction. Brave Fred did his duty, but was not sustained, the detachment ordered to meet him, which was commanded by an officer of the 3d Cavalry, sitting quietly on their horses in plain sight of the village, though at a safe distance, during the whole fight, which lasted four or five hours. This was the first and probably the worst blunder (mildly speaking) of the expedition, as, had Egan been supported, many Indians would have been made truly good and the band completely broken up.

As it was, however, a number of Indians were killed and some soldiers killed and wounded, though we cannot learn the exact extent of the losses of the command. Over 700 Indian ponies were captured, and these were turned over to the officer commanding the Crazy Horse expedition. Gen. Crook, as has been stated, was 25 miles away during the fight.

On the following morning, in disobedience of Crook's orders, the captured ponies were allowed to be driven off by the Indians, it being done in plain sight of the commander, who made no effort to prevent it, a though a dozen men could easily have held the ponies had he so ordered.

Immediately upon learning of the manner in which his subordinate had conducted the affair, Gen. Crook ordered a retreat, and the Big Horn expedition at once returned to Fetterman and thence to this city.

Had there been no disobedience of orders, Crook, upon the defeat of Crazy Horse, would have immediately marched upon Sitting Bull, and, in our opinion, the Sioux question would have been settled, or very nearly so, by this time. Instead he was obliged to abandon that idea and return.

Another expedition, with experienced officers and men, probably from the 2nd or 5th Cavalry regiments, is now being organized by Gen. Crook, and within a month will be en route to Sitting Bull's headquarters. There will be no more "foolishness" about the business, and we expect to see grand and beneficial results attained by the second expedition.

Mining Items.

The following mining items are clipped from the Husbandman:

Messrs. Lower, Smith & Co., panned out a $37 nugget from their Spruce Bar diggings last week. They also cleaned up twelve ounces of very pretty gold dust from eleven wagon-loads of dirt taken out of the same claim.

The Magpie diggings are yielding heavy dividends to the lucky owners. We are informed that they now have developed a streak of pay eighty feet in width across the gulch, which gives an average of $70 to the set of timbers. The drain in this gulch has not yet reached Mr. Cooney's claim.

Messrs. Marks, Brassey & Co., are preparing to work their diggings in Kingsbury gulch. These diggings are rather expensive to work, as they have to haul the dirt some distance to get sufficient water to wash it. We learn, however, that it is very rich, and they expect a handsome remuneration for their labor.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

Special Correspondence of Courier.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 29, 1876.

Byron writing about the army of Sennacherib, said.

"The Assyrian came down like a wolf on the fold,
His cohorts were gleaming with purple and gold."

And so it is with us. An army almost as great as that which the Assyrian monarch led into Judea is now here and advancing here. It is an army of witnesses, they come—

"As the waves come when the navies are stranded."

They come from far and near, from the rock-ribbed coasts of Maine to tell what they know of Kitterny Navy Yard—from the everglades of Florida, from the sun-burned plains of Arizona—from where the Pacific leaves the golden shores of California, and the sun, as it follows Horace Greeley's advice to "go west," bids adieu to America—from the "banana belt," through which Jay Cooke's road was not built—from the pine forests of Minnesota, from the great lakes of the north—in fact they are coming from everywhere, and the second and third rate hash house keepers rejoice. Ten cents per mile and four dollars per day, with the opportunity to see the great men of the nation assembled, are inducements not to be sneered at. This army of ours is not like the Sennacherib's, clothed in "purple and gold." They are rather shabby in appearance—look seedy in fact, and not as though they had been fed at the public crib.

For the benefit of your impecunious readers who want to visit Washington and see the babblers in the tower and the great father in the White House, I will tell you how to get here. Let us suppose Smith and Jones want to come. At once Smith indites a letter to Clymer. I give his name and address in full for I want to see Smith and Jones, "Hon. Hester Clymer, M. C., Washington, D. C." In that letter Smith says "Jones," giving his full name and address, "knows something about the sale of a post tradership;" at once Clymer summons Jones. On his arrival Jones goes to Scales, M. C., or Whitthorne, M. C., and says that his friend Smith, giving full name and address, "knows something about Navy frauds or Indian stealings and at once Whitthorne or Scales sends a summons for Smith. So both Smith and Jones get to visit the capital and have their expenses paid by the "dear people." This is just the way the Radicals used to do it, and the Democrats are proving that they are proving that they are good copyists—in fact they are rather beating the original inventors of this plan, for there are more witnesses summoned than ever before. The appropriation is exhausted and the cry is still "give, give."

Except to investigate, the babblers are doing but little. They meet and talk—and talk—and talk—and then adjourn. Occasionally something is said about the appropriation bill, or some law that is needed, but that is all. A resolution was adopted in the House to have three night meetings per week, but it was rescinded the next day, as it interferred too much with the real business of Congress—investigation. I should be glad to see any officer of government exposed, but no sensible man can approve this plan of sending a drag net all over the country and bringing men here to testify, because some irresponsible newspaper, discharged clerk, or unpaid lobbyist has said that some officer has been guilty of wrong doing. Where a definite charge is made by a responsible man, it should be examined into no one would mind the expense.

The case of Hallet Kilbourne, of this city, should attract more attention than has been given to it. The facts are few and simple and I will give them that your readers may judge of what Congress is doing. Some years ago five gentlemen of this city put in $5,000 a piece into a pool to purchase real estate upon speculation. Jay Cooke & Co. put in an equal amount and Kilbourne was made trustee, in whose name the property was bought. They bought extensively and were supposed to have information as to where improvements would be made that would enhance the value of property. Jay Cooke & Co. failed, largely indebted to the Government, and he bankrupt court is looking after his interest in the pool. Some men have asserted that certain officials here were interested in this speculation and have excited curiosity to know whether this is so or not. By some means an investigation of the "real estate pool" has been ordered and Mr Kilbourne summoned to appear before it and produce all his books and papers. He went before the committee and was asked, 'who were the members of the pool?' He declined to tell and politely told the committee "that it was none of their business.'. He also refused to produce his books and papers, as they were only on private business of himself and partners, but offered if any responsible person would make an affidavit that the Government was in any way interested, to produce his books and answer all questions that might be asked. Instead of requiring this the committee took Mr. Kilbourne before the House as a recusant witness. The House decided that he was in contempt and sent him to the district jail, where he has been for nearly two weeks. Under a law of Congress, passed regularly, whenever a witness refused to answer it is the duty of presiding officer to certify the facts to the District Court, and the witness is liable to indictment. Under this law Mr. Kilbourne has been indicted and his body demanded by the District Marshall. On Tuesday the House refused to obey the writ, and Mr. Kilbourne is still held for contempt. I cannot help but think this proceeding is an outrage on the rights of a private citizen, and so I believe will all right thinking people.

President making is still going on and the babblers and bummers are hard at work. My word for it, before the time comes for making selections of candidates, the people will have something to say in the matter. "So mote it be" is the prayer of SAXON.

The mines on the head of Clark's Fork will be worked upon this season to a great extent. We hear of some Eastern capitalists who, while having for their object the visiting of the Park, also intend examining into the Clark's Fork mines, with a view of investing.—[Herald.

CROOK'S CAMPAIGN.

He is Defeated by Crazy Horse and Loses 1,000 Head of Mules.

Sitting Bull Boastful and Confident.

Through the courtesy of M. C. C. Drake we perused a letter from a reliable and trustworthy friend of his, dated at Cheyenne, April 7th. The writer says that Gen. Crook suffered a sore defeat at the hands of Crazy Horse, and lost about 1000 head of stock, a large portion consisting of good pack mules. Crook's command, what was left of them, was expected to arrive at Cheyenne on the 8th. The General passed through Cheyenne on the Saturday preceding, on his way to Omaha for additional troops. A party of twelve miners, while en route to the Hills, were massacred by the Indians. The writer further states that the country is full of savages on the war path, and that Sitting Bull is boastful and confident of coping with any force the Government may send against him. In the correspondent's opinion it will take a vast force to conquer these devils of the plains.

A $200,000 HOTEL.

What Dr. Pierce is Doing--An Important Enterprise.

We learn that Dr. R. V. Pierce, proprietor of the "World's Dispensary," in this city, has perfected the purchase of a large lot of land, on which he proposes to erect a large hotel for the accommodation of his numerous patients, coming hither from all points of the compass. The land purchased by the enterprising Doctor is 231 feet front on Prospect avenue, running through to Fargo avenue, 332 feet; also an adjoining cut street. It is in the midst of our extensive system of public parks, fronts the old and beautiful Prospect Park, is but a short distance from the "Circle" in one direction, and the "Lake Front" in the other. The site selected is a fine one, being both beautiful and healthful; is one of the highest portions of our city, easily accessible, yet sufficiently retired to secure quiet, and commands a pleasant view of the lake and river, as well as of the surrounding city and country. We understand that it is the intention of Dr. Pierce to erect a hotel at the cost of at least two hundred thousand dollars, when those who come to enjoy the benefit of his treatment may find all desired accommodations under one roof, instead of being scattered over the city, as at present. We are further given to understand that our architects will be invited to submit plans for the proposed structure without delay.—[Buffalo Express.

KILBOURNE.

The Disposition of his Case by the House.

WASHINGTON, April 16.

To-day will be decided the important question in the House in relation to Kilbourne directing the Sargeant at Arms to make careful return to the writ of habeas corpus that the person is held by the authority of the House to take with him the body of Kilbourne before the court when making such return. We cannot approve this form and rather favor the minority report recently submitted by Lynde.

A. T. Stewart's Property

It appears that in addition to the power of attorney given to Judge Hilton to manage her estate, Mrs. Stewart yesterday filed in the Register's office a transfer and assignmen of all of her late husband's share in he business of A. T. Stewart & Co., as well as all his property, real and personal, except real estate included in the city of New York, to Judge Hilton, for the sum of $1,000,000. Both instruments are dated April 14th, 1876.

Indian Depredations.

CHICAGO, April 12.

The Tribune's St. Paul's special from Custer's expedition against Sitting Bull, arrived at Fort Lincoln yesterday, and reports the massacre by Yankton's near Little Rocky River, of seven whites and two squaws. The Yankton's pretended friendship, and often visited the camp. They finally came armed, and at a given signal fired and killed the entire party. Taylor also reports these and other Indians allied with Sitting Bull's band, brag of murdering McCall and successfully stealing horses. The procure ammunition and information of the whites through the Indian Agencies.

Conflicts in Jurisdiction.

New York, April 17.

The Herald's Washington special says that Republican partisans in the Kilbourne matter are trying to force a conflict between the House and the Court which they fondly hope may prove serious and involve an outright act of force by the President. It is fair to say that party lines are not strictly drawn in the matter, and both parties are found on either side.

Crook in Omaha.

A gentleman just arrived from the East states positively that he saw Gen Crook in Omaha, and that his expedition has met with a disastrous defeat. The failure of the enterprise is ascribed to the fact that he divided his forces and that Capt. Webb failed to obey orders in the night attack on Crazy Horse's camp. Reynolds is supposed to be in the valley of the Big Horn making his way to the Yellowstone.—[Independent.

Lost Faith in Babcock.

New York, April 17.

The Tribune's Washington special says that Grant is understood to have lost faith in Babcock finally and has thrown him over board. One of the first results is said to be the request by the President to Bristow to discharge twelve clerks in the Treasury Department appointed at Babcock's request. It is generally believed that the President will veto the bill reducing his salary.

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