

THE AVANT COURIER.

The Pioneer Paper of Eastern Montana.

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1876.

Congress proposes to limit the issue of silver coin for redemption purposes to \$50,000,000.

The residence of the late Samuel Austin at Hartford, Ct., has been burned, loss, \$30,000.

Penney's College, better known as the Emerson Institute, at Mobile, was destroyed by fire lately.

Don Pedro is making his tour of the country, but whether he is looking after the interests of his national game, rancho pedro, is not stated.

Over one thousand additional coolies have arrived at San Francisco, just in time to participate in the threatened Chinese rebellion.

Visitors to the Centennial will be entitled to walk 84 miles through the Centennial buildings in one day for the small sum of 50 cents.

Smith, the democratic journal clerk of the House is likely to be expelled, for dabbling in lobbying schemes, while holding an official position.

THE AVANT COURIER'S DANCING HALL AT THE CENTENNIAL, to cost \$40,000. Of course there will be a large dancing room to show off "hops."

Stanton, the champion bicyclist of England, has defeated McClellan, making twenty miles in three hours and four minutes. Now look out for the velocipedemania of old.

Wm. McKee, formerly editor and one of the proprietors of the Missouri Democrat, was sentenced by the Court for his operations in the crooked whisky business of St. Louis to confinement of two years in the county jail and to pay a fine of \$10,000.

It is now stated that the estate of A. T. Stewart will not foot up more than \$25,000,000. This only shows that you can't tell precisely how much or little a man is worth until after he is dead. We always thought Stewart was rich, and to think he only left a forty-five-million dollars!

Hon. Henry Clinton and William Libbey, surviving partners of A. T. Stewart, have formed a partnership and will continue the business under the firm name of A. T. Stewart & Co. These gentlemen declare that there will be no change whatever in the method of conduct of the stores or fourteen mills, and that all of the deceased's benevolent schemes and projects will be fully carried out. Judge Hilton has had an intimate knowledge of them for a long time.

The Crooked Whisky Business.

A Jefferson City correspondent of the St. Joseph Herald, has the following in reference to the arrest of C. B. Wilkinson, formerly editor of that paper:

Wilkinson arrived in San Francisco about the middle of February last, and in ten days thereafter the government sent officials there who knew of his whereabouts. It seems that a man named Korf, who is now held here as a government witness against the firm of Adler & Furst, met Wilkinson, in Melbourne, Australia. They had known each other in St. Joseph, and their meeting in the strange, far off land was a mutual surprise. Korf, of course knew that Wilkinson had left the country early in August last, but the latter had never heard of Korf's departure. Each made an explanation to the other, and it was found that Wilkinson had left Canada in September, sailing east for England, and thence to Australia, arriving there in the latter part of November. Korf had left St. Joseph in October, going west over the St. Joseph, Denver and Pacific railroads to San Francisco, where he took steamer for Australia.

THE TWO HAD MET

then away in the Southern ocean. Both were weary of exile, and longed for home, being willing to dare almost anything, provided they might once more set foot on American soil; so after a few days of a few weeks in Australia they concluded to return and take the chances. Accordingly they took passage on a steamboat for San Francisco, by way of the Sandwich Islands, and after a tedious voyage entered the Golden Gate at the time before stated. Korf proceeded at once to his home in St. Joseph, and gave himself up to the officers, while Wilkinson lingered in or near San Francisco. I am assured that Korf never told the officers anything about Wilkinson, but he did relate

ALL ABOUT MEETING HIM

and the particulars of his return home to a near relative, who at once communicated the facts to the Government officials who in a few days had a detective in San Francisco, on the lookout for the ex-convict.

The officer kept diligent watch, but only ran across his man on Saturday last, when he at once took him into custody.

Korf was reluctant to disclose Wilkinson's whereabouts, but having communicated the particulars to his relative, in strict confidence, the latter could not keep quiet.

WILKINSON'S BOND.

I learn now that Wilkinson is to stand up, the forfeiture of his appearance bond will be set aside, provided that the securities are willing to pay all the costs the far incurs.

SHERMAN WILL NOT BUY.

I learn from an intimate friend of young Sherman, that there is no truth whatever in the report that the old gentleman contemplated returning and giving himself up. John says his father is safe in a foreign country and is not likely to return and run himself into the "lion's jaw."

TERRITORIAL OFFICES.

A Bill Requiring Federal Appointments to be Made From Resident Citizens.

DEBATE IN THE HOUSE AND PASSAGE OF THE BILL.

Forty-Fourth Congress.

Washington, April 13.

The Clerk resumed the reading of the bill as follows:

And hereafter the salaries of all the officers of the Territories of the United States appointed by the President shall commence only when the person appointed to such office shall take the proper oath and shall enter upon the duties of such office in such Territory, and said oath shall hereafter be administered in the Territory in which said office is held."

Mr. Fort—Mr. Speaker, I move to amend that paragraph by adding thereto the following proviso:

"Provided, That all officers appointed by the President for the Territories shall be bona fide residents of the Territories respectively for which they shall be appointed."

Mr. Baker, of Indiana—I would ask the gentleman what authority the legislative department of this Government has to interfere with the President, the executive department, in the exercise of the constitutional function with which he is charged in making appointments to office?

Mr. Fort—There is no interference with the constitutional prerogative. The question has been fully discussed on other occasions and settled, and it has been held to be no limitation upon the appointing power to restrict the appointments to a certain class of citizens or to citizens of a certain State. This is no sort of objection to this provision. It has been held by the most eminent of our statesmen that the appointing power could be constitutionally limited to persons found to have certain qualifications, and that other branches of the Government may pass upon such qualifications.

Mr. Maginnis—If the gentleman will yield to me the right, I will say, in answer to the several remarks that I hear from gentlemen on the Republican side, intimating that this will be an interference with the Executive, that I do not think so. A few years ago all the Delegate representing the Territories on this floor, at that time, waited on the President, and presenting to him the abuses that resulted from the appointment of strangers to those positions in the Territories, preferred that a request that all appointments to office in any Territory should be made from the citizens thereof. The President agreed with them and promised relief, and, in order to remedy the evil, made an announcement that thereafter he would make all appointments to office in the Territories from bona fide residents of the Territory in which the office was to be filled. I have no doubt that that the President faithfully tried to carry out that promise of reform; but the political pressure from all parts of the Union for these places was so great that he was obliged to abandon it.

Mr. Fort—The politicians were stronger than the President.

Mr. Maginnis—If that be so, then I am sure that the President is the best man for the job. Ever since the days of ancient Rome, Speaker, the pro-consular system of government has been regarded, and rightly regarded, as a wretched and oppressive at the best. In our system of Government all its evils have been aggravated by our wretched system of appointments to offices in the Territories. Barely, if ever, can our home citizens, even of the ruling party—citizens identified with our own interests understanding our wants and known to our people—get appointments to offices among us. These appointments are made from strangers, and generally consist of broken down politicians or inefficient and unworthy persons; or, if occasionally an able man is chosen, it is not so much in the interests of the people which he is to govern as to get him temporarily out of the way of some political rival. They come among our people with no acquaintance with our people or our interests, no sympathy with our aspirations, our hopes, and our endeavors to develop the country, and depend for their continuance in office upon the favor of those who originally sent them to us, rather than upon the good will, the affection or confidence of the people of the Territories.

Governors have been sent to the Territories without honesty or characters, men who not only disgraced the Government, but used their official positions to borrow all the money they could obtain from respectable citizens and then decamped to the places from which they came. We have had Secretaries who squandered the appropriations and defiantly disgraced their positions. We have had Judges who could not pass an examination for admission to the bar and could never earn a living in competition with our local bar, and these have not been exceptions, but the rule.

The Committee in their bill attempt to reform one abuse; that is, where officers are appointed and qualify at home and draw their pay without ever going to the Territories at all. The Committee have in their bill attempted to remedy this abuse, and I hope the House will adopt the further reform proposed by the gentleman from Illinois. (Mr. Fort) It is certainly a long step in the right direction.

Mr. Jones, of Kentucky, I move to amend the amendment by striking out the words "bona fide residents" and inserting "citizens." As the amendment now stands it will not meet the difficulty referred to by the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. Fort, I do not suppose the gentleman wants to strike out the words "bona fide," but merely to strike out "residents" and insert "citizens."

Mr. Jones, of Kentucky, That will be the same thing. I am willing to leave in the words "bona fide," and strike out "residents," and insert "citizens."

Mr. Fort, I accept the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to. Ayes, 75; noes, not counted.

Funeral of Barney Williams.

New York, April 23.

The funeral of Barney Williams took place to-day from St. Stephen's Catholic Church, which was filled to every part, and the street in front was packed with people unable to enter. Every actor in the city and many from abroad were present.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

Special Correspondence of Courier.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 13, 1876.

If my memory serves me right I have intruded in other letters that there were some investigations being conducted in this city. Last Monday they found a man among the babblers of a more inquiring turn of mind than any of those who have heretofore moved for investigations. His name is Jones and he presents a portion of "old Kaintuck" in one end of the lower jaw, but it is a fact that we have water readers here, (as well as the wind ones at the tower), and our supply of water is drawn from the Potomac. For some days past the water has been muddy—so muddy in fact that it was not good to drink or even wash in, and on Monday Jones, of Kentucky, introduced a resolution directing the District Committee to inquire why the water in the Potomac acquired such a muddy. And it was passed. Just think of that—our babblers are going to find out what muddies the water. Their highest ambition will be gratified and to most of them the subject will be a new and interesting one, as they generally neglect water for more exhilarating beverages. I am drawing a preamble and resolution and shall get one of the babbler to introduce it, directing a committee to inquire why the moon falls so often a full face every night, and thus forces the people to expend money for street lamps. The preamble sets forth that it is the result of a foul conspiracy upon the part of the man in the moon with some parties in this city to defraud the Government of money, and as our gas company furnishes a bad article of gas and charges a high price for it, I shall charge the president of the company with being in the conspiracy, and have a subpoena duces tecum issued for him and the man in the moon, summoning them to appear before the committee with their books and papers and answer the charge. I can get you appointed as assistant sergeant-at-arms to carry the summons to the moon, if you would like the job, because I praise the babbler so much that I am exceedingly popular with them. Just let me know if you desire the appointment. It is an absolute fact, though, that Jones, of Kentucky, did move the resolution as stated and that it passed. One only has to say "investigate" and at once everybody votes "aye" in his loudest voice. It is becoming monotonous. A man now asks you to take a drink of water, saying "let's investigate;" if you were here I would whisper it in your ear, but as you are not I will wait till one of the babbler comes along and he will say it to me, so that I shall save twenty-five cents. I don't know what you thought he then who live away from the capital think about that, but we had an idea once—now dissipated, that the Congress of the United States met to make laws for the governance of the nation. These babbler have taught us better. They are sent here to "investigate," and they will spend their time as profitably dabbling in the muddy pools of the Potomac as in the muddy pools of politics.

And they have stirred some mud. Whately, ex-Detective, and possibly ex-Whitey, has testified to the famous at-bus Alexander by what is known as the bus burglary conspiracy. Whately says Babcock told him to put up the job, and it may be so, but as during the trial, only eighteen months ago, Whately swore that he knew nothing of it, his testimony is not considered conclusive. Babcock catches it on every side. "Give dog a bad name" applies to his case with great force. For I find a great many people who believe the stories told by this self-confessed perjurer, Whately, and by B-I-I, the man who acknowledges that he received pay from two sides and betrayed both. Ordinarily such men would not be accepted as witnesses against a man's dog, but in these days when every man is charged or suspected of being a rascal they are believed.

Hallett Kilbourn, the rascal at witness, sued out on Tuesday a writ of habeas corpus, before Chief Justice Carter of the District Court. Kilbourn's attorneys are Joe Black, Matt. Carpenter, and Dan W. Voorheis. The decision is not yet rendered and will hardly be final so matter which way the Court decide, as an appeal will be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States. It is important that this case should be decided by the highest tribunal known to our jurisprudence, because the arrest of Kilbourn involves a question of personal right of the first or second class, and should the Supreme Court decide that the House has no right to imprison Kilbourn, as I have no doubt it will, that will not do to refer its mandate ordering its release and a check will be given to usurped authority. No graver question was ever presented to the Court and the decision will be looked for with great interest. It is not merely Kilbourn who is interested, but every citizen of this land from the humblest to the highest, for the right to arrest and imprison Kilbourn supplies the right to arrest any other man, and it will not do to refer to cases that occurred during the rebellion, for a well understood maxim of law is expressed in the sentence "later alms silt not legs," which might be literally translated "the laws are imperative in time of war." There is no war now and if the dangerous power to imprison citizens without charge and without trial belongs to any department of our Government, the law should be so amended that the power be taken away.

Nothing of the slightest interest to any body being done in the tower of babbles, except perhaps the postal bill. There is a speck of war on the Mexican border. Quintana, one of the Mexican cattle thieves who commands a part of the federal forces was stationed at New Laredo on the Rio Grande. He made a forced loan, and Mr. Diamond, a American citizen, refused to pay. Quintana put Mr. Diamond in jail; Major Merriam commanding the American forces across the river, went to Quintana and demanded Diamond's release, which was refused in terms more forcible than polite. The other cattle thieves who are called revolutionists attacked New Laredo and eight stray shots crossed the river, wounding some Americans, and the guard at the ferry was fired on. Major Merriam took his artillery and drove the thieves away. It is unfortunate that he did not kill them all on both sides, for every one of these "grazers" killed is a positive gain to humanity. They are worth more for fertilizers than any thing else. The authorities here sustain Merriam.

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