

BOZEMAN COURIER

Devoted to the Development of Eastern Montana and the Encouragement of all Industrial Pursuits.

Vol. 7. No. 13.

BOZEMAN, MONTANA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1878.

Whole No., 325.

Avant Courier.

Addressed, Matt. W. Alderson, Alderson & Son, Publishers.

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400	30	22	14	12	10	8	6	4	3	2	1	1
500	36	26	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	3	2	1
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900	60	42	24	22	20	18	16	14	12	10	8	6
1000	66	46	26	24	22	20	18	16	14	12	10	8

Terms of Subscription: \$5.00 per month, \$50.00 per year.

THIS PAPER is published at the office of Alderson & Son, Publishers, No. 100 North Main Street, Bozeman, Montana.

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AMERICAN AND FOREIGN PATENTS.

Poetry.

Whist.

Here are some valuable rules laid down in a work recently published, entitled "The Theory of the Modern Scientific Game of Whist."

From this modern game of whist would know, from this great principle its precepts flow; Treat your partner as you would your partner's friend, And play not one alone, but both combined.

Your first lead makes your partner understand What is the chief's moment of your hand; And hence here is given the strategy of the game, which is the key to the strategy.

In this, with care and king, lead king, then ace; With king, queen, knave, lead ace and then the queen; With ace, four small ones, or hand first place; With queen, knave, ten, you lead the queen precisely; In other cases you lead the ace.

When you return your partner's lead, take pains To lead him back the best your hand contains; If you received not more than three at first; If you had more you may return the worst; But if you hold the ace, you may return it in most cases to play a second round.

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Washington Letter.

The Silver Question—Presidential Congressional Compromise—Cables—Religious Interest and Temperance Reformation—Millions of Dollars Obligated by Prayer—Mrs. Hayes' Reception—Etc.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 22, 1877.

To the Editor of the Avant Courier:

Three matters are particularly interesting in our political world at present. The Silver bill, the compromise between Congress and the President, and Cables.

Of the first Congressional decision recently reached is the effect that all debts may be paid in silver except the interest on the public debt of the nation, which (at least during President Hayes' administration) must be paid in gold. This has given silver men a substantial victory, in that, since President Hayes cannot bind his successors, the next President and his Secretary of the Treasury may take a different view of the subject and think that what is good enough to pay all other debts is good enough to pay the public debt.

The Presidential Congressional compromise shuts off all hope of civil service reform, in its true sense, during the present administration. It amounts to this: The President and Cabinet officers shall make appointments to fill the more important offices which represent the administration and Congress may control the minor appointments, such as post offices. Congress must have something to do for needed support besides personal integrity and honest efforts for the good of their country, and they propose to use the patronage mentioned by controlling as heretofore the offices throughout the country.

As to cables, Jewett has them on the brain and is now proposing to lay three new ones between Europe and America. He has finished up the charter passed by Congress at the close of the Grant administration, which empowers a Baltimore Company to lay a cable or cables between the continents. Mr. Jewett has been here recently on this business. He endeavored to enlist Jay Gould (now here) in the matter, but that gentleman was so much engaged with his pet scheme—Pacific Railroad—that he had no ears nor mind for anything else. The subject of cable laying has had a long rest; much cable wire is on hand for sale at low prices; all the difficulties of laying the cable in mid-ocean are now so well understood, and more means of communication between the two worlds seem so advantageous that the present movement seems most opportune.

I am most happy to record that a great religious interest and temperance reformation are moving through the Capital city. The church people themselves are revived and working earnestly among the lazzaroni and the drunkards who are becoming interested for their soul's salvation. Francis Murphy, the great temperance lecturer, is expected here soon and will doubtless find many well-wishers. Mr. Miller, the great "Sixth man," from Bristol, England, has been preaching here for the past fortnight. His farewell sermon was delivered on Sunday afternoon last. He is a most wonderful man. For eight and forty years he claims to have been living a life of faith in God. He has obtained millions of dollars for carrying on his immense orphanage, all through prayer. He says he has received all his money, never having asked a single penny from any other source.

Mrs. Hayes' regular reception took place on Saturday afternoon and was very fully attended. Mrs. Hayes and most of the Cabinet ladies were in black silks with rich lace. Mrs. Hayes held a handsome handkerchief and a plain black satin fan in her left hand while the right was in three hours given up to the crowd.

Simmons, the Maine senator, is in town for the purpose of hearing the presentation of a bill in Congress and seeing his statue of Governor King unveiled, which ceremonies will be performed to-day.

ADAMS.

The Worth of Courtesy.

Courtesy is always agreeable, and exerts a kind of magnetism. It tells even in business, and draws custom. Cyrus Butler, a Providence millionaire, first made his name popular by reopening it one night to sell a little girl a spoon of cotton. A lady of great wealth was repelled by a dry goods store by the rudeness of the clerk, and his vulgar wit turned thousands of dollars from the firm. Mrs. Chapman in the Watchman, tells a charming incident.

Late one Sunday afternoon, three or four years ago, two ladies were returning home when one of them lost a glove. Remembering she had none suitable for church next day, she proposed turning into Winter street to buy a pair. According to the summer rules the stores had closed early, but one door was open, and that of a small fancy and trimming store, into which at any other time they would not have thought of going for gloves.

When asked as a favor to see their gloves, the young girl, though doubtless weary with standing all day, replied very courteously, and manifested as much patience and eagerness to please as if it were only morning, and she fresh for her own work, or as if the business were her own. The gloves were bought and also some other little articles that lay in sight on the counter; and on receiving the money, this young girl said, "Thank you, as if the favor had done herself instead of her customers."

When the ladies left the store, one of them said to the other, "That is what I call courtesy; now let's come here again."

Neither had ever been in that little store before, but after that they went there for everything they wanted in such goods. They always met the same patient desire to please and to do right, from the proprietor and all the young girls employed there; and they know to-day that they have added largely to their man's list of customers, although neither he nor any of his attendants ever heard of their first introduction to the store.

Most of their faults women owe to us, whilst we are inclined to them for most of our better qualities.—Lanslet.

Wonderful Memories.

By all Means be an Editor.

An editor is the happiest being on earth. He has little or nothing to do, and his pay is all that he could wish. His sanctum, with its Persian rug and Turkish carpet, its costly rosewood furniture, its magnificent mirrors, its beautiful pictures, its complete library of splendidly-bound books, its silver bell summoning an attendant, and, in short, with its everything that human ingenuity can devise for his comfort and pleasure, is a perfect little paradise, where he sits or lounges and reigns a young lord, with the world of fashion and pleasure at his feet. And then, anybody can be an editor—no study, no preparation, no brains, nothing but a little money to start with, and once started, the money pours in upon you in a steady stream, and the chief labor of your office is to spend it.

As for the labor of editing a newspaper, that is mere moonshine. A mere glance at the columns of a newspaper is enough to convince you that it requires no labor to edit it, and less brains. It is certainly a glorious life, that of an editor; a life of luxurious ease and of elegant leisure—a life filled, like that of the young lover in his first dream of requited love, with flutes and roses and moonbeams. That all men are not editors is one of the strangest things beneath the stars. True, there must be doctors and lawyers and merchants and shoemakers and preachers and the like, and all these must be filled by somebody, but there are enough to fill them, and why they don't become editors and lead the life of opulent princes is a thing that staggers us. But, after all, it may be that it is a mere matter of taste. It may be repugnant to some natures to become editors. The life of ease and elegance and luxury, and exemption from all cares and toils and debts and duns, would soon become a bore to him, and he would spend his nights in dreaming of ploughs and pickforks and reaping machines, and squander his days in devising some plan for swapping places with a blacksmith's apprentice, or a street-car driver.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Speaking about mules," remarked a six-footer in Arkansas, as he cracked his whip at market. "I've got a mule at home which knows as much as I do, and I want to hear somebody say I'm half a fool."

No one said so, and he went on.

"I've stood around here and heard men blow about kicking mules till I've got disgusted. When you come down to kicking, I want to bet on my mule. A friend of mine went to look dinner the other day, and as he seemed a little down-hearted, I took him out to see Thomas Jefferson, my champion mule. I was telling the good man how the mule would flip his feet around, and he said he would like to see a little fun. He'd passed his whole life in the South, but had never seen a mule by his whole soul into a big time at kicking. "Well," he said, after borrowing some tobacco, "I took Thomas out of the stable, held him up, and gave him a little kick on the ear, and we stood by to see the amusement. It was a good place to kick his dumbest, and what 'y' e'pose he did? In ten minutes by the watch he was out of sight. In five more we couldn't find him with a twelve foot pole, and—fed him the crowd began to yell and sneer, and the narrator looked around and asked: "Does anybody think I'm lying? Would I lie for one mule? Right here under my arm is a pound of tallow candles which are to light the hole for to go in after Thomas; and I got word not an hour ago that a blind horse of a mule were sticking out of a hole thirty-nine miles as the bird flies, where my mule went in. I'm staky on religion, gentlemen, but our family never had a liar in it."

Webster's Courtship.

The following has been related as the manner in which Mr. Webster became engaged to his loving and devoted wife. He saw her first when he was a young lawyer at Portsmouth, and she was Miss Grace Fletcher. At one of his visits he had, probably with a view of utility and enjoyment, been holding skeels of silk thread for her, when she suddenly stopped, saying: "Grace, we have been engaged in untying knots; let us see if we can't tie a knot; which took not untie for a lifetime." He then took a piece of tape, and after beginning a knot of a peculiar kind, gave it to her to complete. This was the ceremony and sanction of their engagement. And in the little box marked with the words "Precious Documents," containing the letters of his early courtship, this unique memento was found—the knot never untied. To the memory of the lady who was his earliest affection, who shared the trials and the triumph of his early manhood, Mr. Webster retained to the end of life an unflinching devotion. He could never speak of his first wife without visible emotion. Grace Fletcher Webster was a woman of very delicate organization, both physically and intellectually; yet she was energetic, and when occasion required she exhibited a rare fortitude. To her husband's welfare she was entirely devoted, she presided over his household with peculiar grace and dignity, and really seemed to live for him. When he was at home she sought his comfort and pleasure; when he was absent her thoughts, as her beautiful letters testify, were of him day and night. She wrote to him almost daily.

Writing for the Press.

Waste no time on introductions. Don't begin by laying out your subject like a Dutch flower garden, and telling your motives for writing. The key note should be struck, if possible, in the very first sentence. A dull beginning often damns an article; a spicy one whets the appetite, and comments will follow to both editor and reader. Above all, stop when you are done. Don't let the ghost of your thoughts wander about after the death of the body. Don't waste a moment's time in vindicting your productions, against editors or critics, but expend your energies in writing something which shall be its own vindication.

Minor Questions that Puzzle Grammarians.

Richard Grant White, in New York Times.

For example, I have of late received no less than nine epistles—one of them from the Pacific shore—asking me to decide a dispute whether it was right to say to-morrow is Sunday or to-morrow will be Sunday, and I am speaking within bounds when I say that, within the last ten years, that question has been put to me personally or by letter more than one hundred and fifty times, and I have lately received seven letters, three during the past week, asking whether it is "grammatical" to say I feel bad, or I feel badly.

As to the former momentous inquiry, I might truly say I don't know which is right and don't care. It is not worthy of five minutes' consideration by any reasonable human creature. Either form of expression is perfectly intelligible; and both have the support of good usage. As to the latter, which, trifling as it is, does really present a point for decision, there seems to me that "I feel bad" is right. I cannot believe that any one of my querists, who, rising in the morning felt low spirited, would say "I feel badly," but "I feel blue." Nor would any one who speaks English well without thinking about it (and only such persons speak well) say, "that grass looks greenly," but "the grass looks green." But we say, and should say, "that woman dresses badly," or "the air bites keenly." When the verb expresses action or suffering, and adverbial required; but when it expresses a condition of the speaker, as "I feel bad," or an appearance to him, as "the grass looks green," an adjective is proper. But even under these conditions good usage and good sense admits both forms. We may say either "the sun shines brightly," or "the sun shines bright," "the river flows darkly," or "the river flows dark." There are many such cases in which the adjective is the better word; and, so long as the adverb is rather a sign of grammatical and dictionary style of speech and of writing than of one which comes of a spontaneous conformity of good usage and an unconscious mastery of one's mother tongue. And it should be added that no one can learn to speak good English "grammatically" by fretting over such questions as these; that it is to be attained only by an unconscious conformity to the usage of the best speakers and writers, as I have had occasion to say before.

Why He Was Impolite.

About 6 o'clock last evening a young man, carrying a babe about a year old, entered a car bound for West Philadelphia, and dropped into a vacant seat beside a spruce-looking young man. As she was busy searching for a ticket, the younger, attracted by the glitter of the young man's watch chain, made a grab for it and all over his lip. The mother quickly reached for the child, and as she did so, she threw a heavy frown on the young man's brow, so with trembling voice she muttered an apology. Instead of receding the frown on his brow grew deeper, and he snatched a paper from his pocket and pretended to read.

A few blocks further on, as a tall, sharp-featured woman arose and left the car, the young man heaved a sigh of relief, folded up his paper, and, turning to the disconcerted mother, he whispered: "Excuse me, madam, for behaving so much like an idiot; but I had to pretend to be a fool just for the car lives next door to the young lady I call upon, and if I hadn't pretended to be a fool, she would have kicked up a muss by telling my girl that I was married, for she saw me have my wife and baby with me in the cars. It is very rude, I know; but I hope you will excuse me when I tell you that the girl's father is worth over \$400,000 and I don't want anything to cause bad feelings between us."—Philadelphia Chronicle.

Colorado Glimpses and Rats.

Although Mr. Conant, who discovered the giant rat on exhibition in Denver, is in all probability telling the truth as regards the manner by which he came into possession of the monster, it is quite likely that it is the work of human hands. Scientists who have just examined it pronounce it a statue made many years ago by the Aztecs who inhabited Southern Colorado. Attributing to the giant as being a hoax, the Denver News retraces the minds of its readers about the Pike's Peak rat hoaxes which were perpetrated about two months ago. It says:

"The most successful hoax of modern times, and one that seems destined to live in history, is the story of a child having been devoured by rats at the signal station on Pike's Peak, and the terrific combat waged against the army of rodents by the child's parents. A late number of *Laska's Illustrated Times* reprints this clever hoax, with a cut showing the progress of the battle in the signal office—Sergeant O'Keel being shown in the act of clubbing an army of rats, while his heroic wife, having thrown a coil of wire like a lasso about her husband, is about to 'turn loose' the electric current from the battery, by the aid of which, it will be remembered, the rats were driven off, but not until after they had eaten up half the newspaper of the world, and translated into a dozen languages. Everybody has read it, and every visitor to the Pike is anxious to hear about the rats and see the grave and monument of the poor child.

"Long articles have been written and published by scientists to prove that rodents do not inhabit rocks above the timber line, but all to no effect, for people are more ready to believe a good story than a dry truth, and so the rat story is everywhere credited. It seems almost superfluous, therefore, to say that it was only a clever hoax; that there are no rats on Pike's Peak; that they never ate a baby, and that there was no baby for them to eat."

The Human Face.

Carlisle on Job.

The countenance of every nation defines the characteristics of its people. Every human face indicates a moral training as well as the temperament and ruling traits of its owner. Just as much as every human form indicates the quality and amount of its physical exercise. This is proven by the variety of human faces everywhere visible. Those whose lives have been given to physical labor, unlightened by an education of ideas, have always a stolid, stupid expression, even while their limbs and muscles are splendidly developed. The more savage the people, the uglier they are in facial development. The very features of their faces are disfigured by violent and uncontrolled passions. People whose employments are intellectual have invariably a large, clear gaze, a bright, outgoing expression, as if from an inward light shining through an eye. Where a large organization and a deep sensibility accompany the practice of intellectual pursuits, often the features take on a transparent, luminous look.

A person can do a great deal of work if he will only sleep and eat enough to supply the waste of body and brain. Mental work is more exhaustive than the hardest physical labor.

A very eminent physician says that "more teachers and scholars break down from lack of sufficient nourishment than from any other cause."

Those who do much head work need a good, generous diet; plenty of food, and that of the most nourishing kind; plenty of beef and that of the best.

The more active the brain, the greater the exhaustion following. Rejuvenation must come through sleep and food.

A remarkably healthy, efficient lady of Cambridge says: "I have seven children in school, and they are going ahead rapidly."

"Are you not afraid of their health?" she asked.

"Oh, no. I think it very essential that they should have good, nourishing diet, and see to it that they do. They have no trouble with their work, and are perfectly healthy."

"When I first met my father," she continued, "he was an invalid, and never expected to do anything in his profession; was thought to be 'just gone in consumption'; but it was only dyspepsia, and I nursed him by attention to his diet. He has been perfectly well and a great worker ever since we were married."

Horse Mann had a will that seemed to overcome all obstacles; at twenty, he had only been to a common district school, but in six months he fitted himself for and entered the Sophomore class.

Having obtained a bookship of \$300 a year, he devoted every energy to his studies; but he neglected his body, and lived on bakers' bread and molasses; or rather tried to live on bread, for he soon began to fall, and almost died.

Some ladies, hearing of his case, invited him to their house, where, with proper nourishment and care, he soon recovered, and graduated with the highest honors.

Mrs. Mann always attended very carefully to her husband's diet, which was by no means the least part of her usefulness and assistance to him.

Husband for Sale.

A strong-minded woman married a man not noted for activity of body or energy in character, and before the honeymoon was over upon awaking one morning, he found his spouse in tears.

"My love," said he, "what is the matter?"

"Oh, I have had such a dreadful dream," she replied.

"Why, what was it?"

"I thought I was going up Broadway, shopping, when I saw a sign, 'Husbands for Sale.' So many women were rushing in, that I followed, and just then they sold a splendid specimen for fifteen hundred dollars."

"But did they all bring as much as that?"

"Oh, no! They went at a thousand dollars, five hundred