

The Avant Courier.

The Pioneer Paper of Eastern Montana.

MATT. W. ALDERSON, Editor.

THURSDAY, FEB. 21, 1878.

The News.

Morriss has recovered. The Russians have entered Constantinople.

Dallas, Texas, has had a nine inch fall of snow. Henry C. Leighton, a prominent editor of Iowa, died lately.

The mansion of Daniel Webster, in Mansfield, Mass., was lately burned. The sixteenth amendment was lost in the House Committee, February 5th.

Pomeroy's fourth Democratic is dead, and "he has not been married this year." While law Red has been re-elected, editor of the New York Tribune for five years.

A Washington telegram states that the Military Academy appropriation bill has passed. The English fleet has passed through the Dardanelles accompanied by an Austrian vessel.

Dr. Walker, the "vinegar-bitters" manufacturer, was put in jail lately for refusing to support his wife.

A Canadian laborer's wife, at St. Benoit, has given birth to twins, united like the Siamese twins.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company have reduced their laborer's wages to ninety cents per day.

The Senate by a vote of forty to nine decided that it is inexpedient to reduce the present tax on shirts.

A package containing \$1,800 has disappeared from the United States Treasury in a very mysterious manner.

The chances are reported favorable for the Bill appropriating \$80,000 for the improvement of the Missouri River at Omaha.

The Sub Rosa gold mine, forty miles from Boise City, with a ten-stamp mill, is paying over four hundred dollars a day, clear of all expenses.

Labor contracts have been made which will take five hundred Chinamen to Missouri, to work in coal mines, and two hundred more to Arkansas.

The waters of the Sacramento recently overflowed its banks, spreading over the valley below Sacramento city, and doing damage to the amount of one million dollars.

J. Madison Wells has voluntarily surrendered himself to the authorities at New Orleans and will soon be tried on the charge of making fraudulent returns on the late Louisiana election.

It is stated that Polk, the Doorkeeper of the House will certainly be removed unless he resigns. The evidence shows an utter disregard of the laws; that he has been lobbying for certain interests and doing other unbecomingly acts.

There is so much suffering in San Francisco that five dinners are given daily to the poor, and a considerable amount of money is spent in relieving the necessities of those who are too proud to let their poverty be known to the public.

The Snow Drift salar, near Helena, has been bought by Mr. L. C. Trent, who agrees to pay \$300,000 for the mine, if taken. Seventy-five thousand dollars are to be paid within sixty days, and the balance in installments. He has the privilege of repudiating the contract by a forfeiture of \$5,000, should he deem it advisable to do so.

Information from Washington represents that gentlemen who have recently conversed with President Hayes have been impressed with the seriousness which his countenance evinced when allusion was made to the failure of the Southern policy to keep faith as to letting bygones be bygones. According to this authority the President is certainly disappointed, while many of the prominent gentlemen who have counseled acquiescence in the pacification policy toward the South have given evidence by very positive utterances of their discouragement, saying that in the light of ten months' experiment made with the Southern policy of the Administration there is nothing from which real encouragement can be drawn.

Land Commissioner Williamson has recently given a decision that affects the ownership of a large and very valuable tract of land in question. At least such is the decision of the Land Commissioner. An appeal has been taken to the Secretary of the Interior, and unless he overrules this decision a very important although unprofitable portion of Chicago, will be left to the city, which claims to have a clear title to it now.

A REMARKABLE CASE. Our readers will remember a short item in our news columns two weeks ago, stating that three men had been buried alive by the caving of a mine near Dubuque. It has since transpired that Thomas Alsop, one of the miners, was unearthed alive. Physicians pronounce his recovery alive as one of the most remarkable cases on record. He was covered for fifty-six hours with sixty feet of earth, impossible to move an inch, lying with his head lower than his feet, with neither air nor food, and a decaying corpse almost against his face. When rescued his impression was that he had been there only a few hours. At least accounts he was still in a very weak condition, but slowly recovering.

Anderson's Case. NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 13.—This morning when the motion for the new trial on the Anderson case came up, the defense filed, as additional grounds, a statement that the accused could prove by Littlefield that he never had any connection whatever with the forger and uttering of the forged returns, to which fact Littlefield had already testified before the Congressional committee in Washington; that Littlefield, after a year's absence, had clandestinely returned and hidden himself until after the evidence had closed, and the argument was opened, thereby depriving the accused of his testimony. The accused can also prove by Col. Zacharie, a Democrat, that he was not present at the opening of the returns for Vernon parish; that the Democratic clerk made errors in the returns, for which there could also have been made a criminal charge, and the incorrectness of the Returning Board proceedings, as reported by Collins, the stenographer, were often referred to during the proceeding. The motion was continued until Friday.

WHY DOES NOT THE GOVERNMENT MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS?

If it is a general conceded fact that all citizens owe true allegiance and fidelity to the Government, it also follows that the Government owes to its citizens, not only protection to life and property, but also the good and wholesome example and influence of justice, business integrity and common honesty. In other words the duty and allegiance of the citizen arises mainly, if not wholly from a sense of duty and impartial justice, on the part of the Government to all its subjects, united with a feeling of personal obligation for privileges and benefits conferred. We regard the benefits and obligations, on either side, as simply interchangeable and reciprocal. It is not enough that the Government should extend its protection and patronage indiscriminately, or to each community or individual alike, without regard to condition or external circumstances. It should take into accurate account the diversified, and in many respects the dissimilar needs and conditions of the whole people collectively and individually. We have been led to these remarks from hearing the sentiment so often expressed that the citizens of Montana Territory are under special obligations to the General Government for its military protection and liberal patronage. That we are largely if not wholly indebted to it for our prosperity, if not our existence even. Now what is the true state of the case, and where are we as a community the recipients of special favors to which we are not justly entitled? Is it in the fact that a few temporary military posts with a few hundreds of U. S. troops have been located amongst us, and on our borders during our infancy, and while we are not only furnishing these same troops with all necessary supplies at lower prices than the same can be obtained elsewhere, but at the same time are digging out and contributing to the nation's wealth millions of gold and silver every year, besides carving out and building up a rich and prosperous commonwealth, and all this under the most adverse and discouraging circumstances? The life of the frontiersman is one of self-sacrifice, exposure, hardships, isolation, personal bravery and, too often, unrequited toil; but these are matters so generally overlooked and unappreciated by the masses that we hardly have patience to call attention to the subject, much less to urge their just claims to the grateful appreciation of all patriotic citizens, and the prompt protection and patronage of the General Government. The history of the Great West will never be fully written up, especially that portion of it within the bounds of Montana Territory. The past fifteen years have been so many long years of unceasing strife and perpetual warfare between a handful of brave and enterprising citizens of Montana and the lawless hordes of savages who have ignored every sentiment of humanity, every mode of civilized warfare and who, of late years, have set at defiance the whole power and authority of the Government. When we think of the unceasing warfare, the unequal contest, the dangers past, the remarkable manifestations of personal bravery so often manifested, the hundreds of brave lives that have been sacrificed, the money expended and the property destroyed in Eastern Montana alone, in order to maintain a foothold and develop its inexhaustible resources for the nation and for future generations, surely we are not required to look upon the action of the General Government in placing a few troops and extending a partial protection over these exposed and struggling settlements at the eleventh hour, as one of unparalelled kindness and unassuming liberality. If Montana is not justly entitled to the fostering care, protection and patronage of the Government, then no frontier settlement ever was.

Washington Letter.

The Great Event of the Capital Session—Marriage of Spain's King Alfonso—Ladies Toilettes—Banquet in the Senate—Ceremonies in Honor of the Death of Italy's King—Etc.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 30, 1878. To the Editor of the Avant Courier: The great event of the Capital season took place last week—a week that was full to the brim of all sorts of amusements, interest and excitements; for besides an unusual variety of social entertainments in the way of receptions, dinner-parties, dances and the like, a regular old-time fight took place in the Senate between Blaine and Messrs. Daves and Hoar; the death and funeral of Victor Emmanuel, King of Italy was celebrated, and the marriage of Spain's King, Alfonso. The latter fête is the one to which I refer as the crowning event in society. It was given by Senor Antonio Manilla (the Senor Don Antonio Manilla de los Rios is Minister Plenipotentiary from Spain in Washington) and was the scene of the grandest display that has occurred here this winter. A calcium light placed opposite the entrance of their hotel gave brilliancy to the grand reception room. The china used upon the banquet table was manufactured for the occasion in Paris and bore Madame Manilla's coat-of-arms as did also the napkins and table damask. Every lady wore her most elaborate costume, and every gentleman who had a uniform or a medal or badge of any sort, was arrayed thereon, and the result was a perfect glitter of gold lace, jewels and spangles. No toilet excelled in richness that of the brilliant hostess, which was of heavy white satin and silk net with a profusion of pearls and diamonds. The waist was cut very low and was sleeveless. The crowd was so great that the richest dresses were scarcely noticeable from the plainest. The Japanese Minister's little wife (who dressed in native style for some time after coming to this country) was dressed in a quality beautiful red Japanese silk over a white satin petticoat. Mrs. Speaker Randall wore pale salmon-pink silk combined with cardinal velvet. A few of the older ladies wore heavy black silks with rich laces but light costumes were mostly worn and some of the young debutantes were lovely in pure white India muslin.

Last week was signalized by three brilliant events which, as they can neither be repeated nor eclipsed, will of necessity make it the notable week of the season. That which will be most universally known and commented upon throughout the country is the presentation to the Government by Congress of the King statue, which would not be especially significant but for the row kicked up over it in the Senate by Messrs. Blaine, Daves and Hoar. Blaine caused it all and has been both lauded and blamed therefor, some of his friends crying "bravo!" the old split of light is still there?" and others considering his attack as unnecessary and out of place; while his enemies unanimously decried to make open old wounds as he did. Anyway, it was a good time for the spectators—such a one as they have been looking and longing for all winter, for you must know nothing so much delights the lookers on in Congress as a malicious and spiteful tilt, no matter how unjust or vicious, between some of our great and dignified (?) law makers. This is our human nature (7).

In the other remarkable events mentioned the antithesis of rough life were presented most forcibly to our American senses, being ceremonies in honor of the death of Italy's King conducted by the legations. The funeral obsequies should not fall of seeming farcical to those not particularly interested, of burning candles and incense and sprinkling holy water over an empty coffin must needs be ludicrous. The display, however, was grand and imposing in the extreme. None such has been witnessed here since those attending the burial of Abraham Lincoln. The floral decorations were exceptionally fine and tasteful being mostly of white blossoms, scarlet leaves and vines of smilax—representing the Italian national colors, white, scarlet and green. The Diplomatic Corps was out in uniform to those not particularly interested, of burning candles and incense and sprinkling holy water over an empty coffin must needs be ludicrous. The display, however, was grand and imposing in the extreme. 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