

# The Benton Record.

BENTON, M. T., MARCH 1, 1875.

## Local Items.

Mr. John Largent arrived by stage of the 20th instant. Everybody was glad to see John.

The Buffalo are winding their way north; a sure sign of the near approach of Spring.

Brigham says that Major Culbertson possesses no "tall form," that he is about his size, and that a challenge would be acceptable.

T. C. Power & Bro. have fitted up and enlarged their store for the reception of an extra large and varied stock of goods for the coming season.

Jeff Perkins applied to-day (Feb. 26) to be released on bail, but owing to the low condition of Solomon, Judge Mills refused to admit the application.

Good cows can be bought in this locality for \$10 to \$25, and butter sells readily at seventy-five cents per pound. This is only one of the many inducements to immigration.

Mr. Moses Solomon, who was dangerously wounded in an altercation with S. J. Perkins, is doing as well as can be expected under the circumstances. Hopes of his recovery are entertained.

Benton can boast of citizens who, for scientific purposes, are equal to barometers of the latest construction. One of them prognosticated the late snow storm correctly. He is an *East(ern)man*.

Major Fanton, Dr. John Power, Dr. Keeler, and Col. Thum started for Fort Belknap on the morning of the 21st inst. Col. Thum and Dr. Power, occupying the same seat, felt rather uncomfortable.

On the evening of the 20th instant, news reached town of the capture of 700 robes belonging to parties engaged in illicit trade at Whoop-Up. The capture was made by Major McLeod, of her Majesty's service. No particulars.

Col. M. C. Thum—no relation of Tom Thumb—has arrived in town on his way to Fort Peck. The Colonel looks well and is at present engaged in making propaganda for Dr. Hostetter's Bitters. The Colonel's errand is a humane one.

Mr. Patrick Murphy, lately arrived from California, reports that he could find no country like Montana for a poor man. This seems to be the opinion of everybody who has ever resided in the Territory for any length of time; and we know of several persons who left the country with pockets full of money, and the brightest prospects ahead, who would now be glad to return if they had the means to pay their way back.

The statement of S. J. Perkins concerning the shooting of Mose Solomon has been presented to the Court. It appears from the statement that there was an unfriendly feeling existing between the men previous to the affray, as this feeling, however, was the result of mere suspicion, they remained on speaking terms. It would be only natural for any one who has known Perkins to believe that a very serious injury, or a very strong suspicion of serious injury, would alone cause him to do what he has done. That portion of the statement relating to the existing feeling of the parties, we at present refrain from publishing. In relating the important occurrence, Perkins says: "I was inside and Solomon on the outside of the counter. I had placed upon the counter the glasses and bottle. Some general conversation had been going on regarding his suit with the Government for selling whisky to soldiers. My attention was turned away for a moment, after something, and returning again, it immediately appeared that he was under some great excitement, and I quickly discovered him having a pistol in his hand, which pistol, when I saw it, immediately dropped to the floor. He stooped to pick it up, and as he raised up, alarmed by

the situation I drew a pistol lying under the counter, and shot him twice in succession. My shooting was prompted on the impulse of the moment, entirely under the inspiration of alarm caused by Solomon's pistol and his excited appearance. The conviction flashed upon me that he intended to shoot me, and I acted accordingly.

We have the pleasure of recording another social entertainment at Fort Shaw, and according to the accounts received, one of the most successful of the season. The occasion was the 28th birthday of 1st Sergeant William A. Hood (Company "A," 7th Infantry), a Non-Commissioned Officer of excellent ability, and in high esteem with the members of his company. The party took place in "A" Company's "Literary Association" room, adjoining the mess-hall. The festivities consisted of vocal and instrumental music, social games, toasts, speeches, &c., &c., concluding with one of those excellent suppers for which Fort Shaw is famous. The merriment continued until several neighboring roosters had repeatedly announced the approach of morning. With the exception of some confusion occasioned by the presence of an unusual number of individuals answering to the title of "Mac," everything passed off to the entire satisfaction of the gallant Sergeant and his numerous friends.

Severe weather has driven large numbers of Sun River cattle towards the Benton Range, and it is feared that many have got mixed up with the buffalo.

A camp of herders has been established at Flathead Coolie, to keep the buffalo from crossing the river between that place and the mouth of Sun River.

The double wedding announced in last issue of the RECORD, will come off at Fort Shaw, on or about the 15th of April.

Mr. I. M. Swartz, Quartermaster's Department, Fort Shaw, is the happy father of another fine boy.

Mr. Healy, of Sun River, has collected quite a number of Indian curiosities for the Centennial.

SUN RIVER, M. T., January 23, 1875

The co-partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned, under the name and style of Furnell & Co., engaged in saw-mill business, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. John Largent is authorized to settle all outstanding business.

JOHN LARGENT,  
MATTHEW FURNELL,  
JOSEPH S. HILL.

SUN RIVER, M. T., January 23, 1875.

Having this day purchased the saw-mill and lumber yard belonging to Furnell & Co., we will continue the business at the old stand, under the name and firm of Largent & Adams, where we will always have on hand a large assortment of first-class lumber, and will sell at low rates for cash.

JOHN LARGENT,  
JAMES C. ADAMS.

Still the cry of suffering comes from ravaged Nebraska and Kansas. Our people are responding handsomely to the call, but still much more might be done than has been accomplished for the immediate relief of the pressing wants of the sufferers.

"A young lady in this vicinity," says an Eastern local, "goes into convulsions every time she sees an apple." We have known children that were similarly affected, but principally when the apples were beyond their reach.

Kalakaua thinks the American women handsome, bold, and forward. He blushes a dusky red at the thought of having received several letters containing proposals of marriage from fair ones in New York, Washington, and (tell it not in Gath!) Boston.—*California Alta*.

AN INSTITUTION OF THE COUNTRY—The Montana Steam Cracker Company, North Main Street, Helena, has become one of the institutions of the Territory, and deserving of patronage. They manufacture just what is needed in this section. Hard Tack; Soda, Butter, Pic-nic, milk, and Sugar Crackers; Ginger Snaps, &c., &c.; and deal in Groceries, Flour, Grain, Assorted Merchandise, and Baker's goods generally. Send to Lockey Bros. for anything you want.

The British Canadian Mounted Police, stationed on the frontier, have made another raid, and have captured a large number of robes. To the scarlet uniform belongs the fame—we will not mention the gain—of destroying the whisky traffic, or at least checking it beyond restoration. The administration of this country has too much to engage its attention in checking or upholding the political traffickers, to spare a moment's consideration to frontier affairs, otherwise we would have as many men and posts on the frontier as the Britishers have. The mounted police are doing the best they can to effect their purpose, and in the present case have shown that they can go a step or two beyond what is right, in their endeavor.

The firm of Wetzel & Weatherwax carry on an extensive trade with the Indians. They ship their goods across the line, paying the required duty on the same. Among their large assortment of Indian goods there cannot be found any article of contraband nature, or that would come under the ban of prohibition. Mr. Berry is also a trader, and it appears that he is suspected of having traded whisky to Indians. A short time since, Berry was "outfitted" by the firm of Wetzel & Weatherwax, the outfit consisting of goods known in the trade as "legitimate," in payment for which he transferred to W. & W. several hundred robes. On suspicion that these robes had been obtained in exchange for whisky, they were seized by the mounted police, and taken from their lawful owners. This is simply robbing the firm of what goods, or their value in robes, Berry had received from them in a fair and legitimate trade. We defer further comment until fuller information is received.

About two weeks ago, two white men—one named George Horn, and the other, who is a stranger in this vicinity, called "Sandy"—were attacked by Indians at Cow Creek. The men were engaged in hunting, and at the time of the occurrence were sitting around their camp fire situated beneath a cut bank. They were surrounded and surprised. The first intimation they had of the approach of Indians was the discharge of firearms. The volley was well directed and effectively delivered. Horn was killed and Sandy was badly wounded. Nothing daunted, however, Sandy managed to escape, and made his way to Carroll. On hearing the sad news a party went out from Carroll, recovered the remains of Horn, and buried them near the town. Sandy is still at Carroll recovering from his wound.

If we accept the above occurrence in accordance with Indian signs, we are in for a rough time of it this spring, unless the Government takes active measures to punish the guilty ones. Indian outrages are not frequent in Montana at the present time, but if allowed to pass without check or restraint, they will soon become a serious bar to settlement. An ounce of preventative is said to be better than a pound of cure. Let us have the ounce, but let it be of the Baker kind.

About the 12th inst., a war party of Piegans visited their allies and friends (?) the Assinaboines, at their encampment on the Missouri River, and stole several head of horses—the horses, by the way, formerly belonged to a resident of Benton, and were stolen by Assinaboines. In the last report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, it is stated that, "In May a treaty was entered into between the Piegans, Gros Ventres, and Assinaboines;" but no mention is made of the amount appropriated to cover the expense of the job.

Gen. Cass, President of the Northern Pacific, announces that "freighting is entirely open to competition without any discrimination."

For the RECORD.

### LINES TO PET.

BY CAVALIER.

Of all the flowers that deck the plain  
And breathe their fragrance on the air,  
Were I to choose one from the train,  
'T would be the violet I would wear.  
And were I by the heavenly powers  
Enabled and commanded, Pet,  
To change all women into flowers,  
I would make you the violet.

For the RECORD.

### THE PRICKLY PEAR.

As the common cactus, or prickly pear, abounds in many parts of Montana, the following information, drawn from various sources, as to how it may be rendered useful, may be of interest to the readers of the RECORD.

Dr. Perin, U. S. Army, cured several cases of scurvy by cooking the leaves in hot ashes, and then expressing and straining the juice, which was administered, with or without sweetening, in doses of two or three fluid ounces three times a day. Almost immediate improvement followed its use, and a few days sufficed for a complete recovery. In a communication published in a medical journal, he pronounced it the most efficacious remedy for scurvy yet discovered. Gen. Weitzel, about the close of the war of the rebellion, also caused it to be employed for scurvy among the troops of his command in Texas with very satisfactory results; the juice, however, was obtained from the fresh leaves in a common cider press, and seems to have been far less palatable than by the process adopted by Dr. Perin.

The leaves may also be used as food by cooking them in hot ashes, peeling off the skin, and seasoning and serving as egg-plant, or by boiling as cabbage until the skin can be removed, and then treating as egg-plant. If to be boiled, the thorns should first be burned and rubbed off. The Mexicans are very fond of the plant so prepared, and Americans who have tried it pronounce it palatable food.

Mules and horned cattle eat it with avidity, and get fat upon it. It is first burned over a brush fire until the skins will come off, and then chopped into pieces of a suitable size. It would scarcely be profitable to attempt to use the small leaved variety of Montana in this way, but for an emergency it will be well to remember.

The leaves will quickly settle and render pure the most turbid water, by thrusting a stick through half a dozen with the edges trimmed off to expose the flesh, and then stirring them about in the water for a few seconds. A cluster thus prepared will last for several days by keeping the edges fresh. A reliable gentleman of my acquaintance informs me that a few leaves, pared as just described, will render the foulest alkali water sweet and pure, by immersing the leaves in the water for a few hours. CAVALIER.

Twenty clerks in a store, twenty hands in a printing office, twenty apprentices in a shipyard, twenty young men in a village—all want to get along in the world and expect to do so. One of the clerks will become a partner, and make a fortune; one of the compositors will own a newspaper, and become an influential citizen; one of the apprentices will become a master builder; one of the young villagers will get a handsome farm, and live like a patriarch—but which one is the lucky individual? Lucky? There is no luck about it. The thing is as certain as the rule of three. The young fellow who will distance his competitors is he who masters his business, who preserves his integrity, who lives cleanly and purely, who devotes his leisure to the acquisition of knowledge, who gains friends by deservng them, and who saves spare money. There are some ways to fortune shorter than this old dusty highway; but the staunch men of the country, the men who achieve something really worth having—good fortune, good name, and a serene old age—all go this hard, dusty road.

The New York gamblers are busy selling pools on the result of the Beecher trial. At last accounts \$50 were given for the first choice that the jury would disagree; \$25 that there would be a verdict; \$2 that the verdict would be in favor of Tilton, and \$1 that it would be in favor of the defendant. It is thus apparent that the gamblers consider Mr. Beecher's chance of obtaining a verdict exceedingly small; but then, as a rule, the gamblers are wrong.