



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY EDGAR SNOWDEN.

ALEXANDRIA: THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 25, 1858.

The Charlestown Free Press says that, in a recent speech, Mr. Faulkner said that "the believed Cuba was an essential limb of this continental republic—important to our military and commercial interests, and as vital to the preservation of our southern institutions as was the acquisition of Texas, and that he was prepared to stand by any administration, whether of his own choice or not that would fairly, openly, honestly, and honorably add with its present social institutions, this gem of the Antilles to our republic—whether acquired by the power of the purse or by the power of the sword." This is going it strong!

Oregon dates are to the 16th of October.—They say that Col. Wright's column had returned from Walla-Walla, and that the artillery battalion under Captain Keyes was on route to Vancouver. The remains of Captain Taylor and Lieutenant Gaston have been buried at Walla-Walla. Michael, nephew of Kaminski, the leading merchant of the Indian Agent, Buloze, three years since, has been captured by Major Garrett and confined at Yakima. An Indian chief was killed while attempting to escape from Col. Wright's command.

The Richmond Enquirer hopes that Mr. Letcher may withdraw; and promises, if he does, an earnest support to the nomination of any other man upon whom the friends of Mr. L. may unite. This is what is called "a compromise." Certainly, after what has passed, and with a full belief that a large majority of the Democrats of the State desire his nomination, no such "compromise" will be entertained by Mr. Letcher's friends.

We have reports and rumors of an attempted interference in Mexico, by various European powers, for the purpose of establishing a monarchy in that country. Also, of "various complications" gathering with regard to Cuba. It is probable that the most of these rumors are of home manufacture designed for the special purposes of those who set them afloat.

Victoria dates are to the 18th of October. They mention the arrival of nine hundred ounces of gold dust by express, besides several parcels in the hands of passengers. The accounts from the mines are more favorable, and they were turning out much better than anticipated a month previous. New diggings had been discovered, and more miners were going up the river than were coming down.

It is stated that five thousand tons of the Jarvis Island guano are now on the way to New York, on board of four clipper ships, viz: The White Swallow, Flying Eagle, Flying Dragon, and Keyward. The company, it is added, have just concluded a contract with parties in New York for the sale of guano, to be delivered at the island amounting to nearly \$1,000,000.

Dr. Theodore Gaillardet, who was convicted of felonious assault and battery upon Mr. Cranston, proprietor of the New York Hotel, and who was confined in the Tombs, awaiting sentence, succeeded in making escape from one of the officers attached to the Court of General Sessions on Saturday, and has not since been heard of.

The President, it is reported, has completed his examination of the list of dropped and furloughed officers of the Navy, reported to him by Secretary Toucey. Most of the officers will probably be restored to active duty.

The Democratic legislative caucus in North Carolina has nominated Mr. Clinchman for the United States Senate to fill the unexpired term, and Mr. Bragg for the whole term of six years, commencing the 4th of March next.

The navigation of Fraser river for trade with British Columbia, has been thrown open to all parties.

Adams Bailey, an old and esteemed citizen of Boston, for many years Deputy Collector of that port, died on Saturday last.

Dr. Buckler of Baltimore has proposed to the City Councils of that city, a plan for filling up the basin, leveling Federal Hill, &c.

Thomas Fulton has been appointed a pursuer in the Navy, vice James B. Danforth, resigned.

Secretary Floyd has recovered from his late illness.

Nonplussed.—The Commissioner of the Revenue was put to his "wit's end" the other day in the discharge of his duty. It seems that a party of showmen came on the Fair Ground with a skeleton boy, a man who broke rock with his fist with the same ease that a strong man could break stone with a hammer, and a wild cat. In going his rounds, assessing and collecting the State Tax for the exhibition, the Commissioner came to the Wild Cat tent. The proprietor told him he had made money enough to pay expenses. The officer insisted on his demand, as required by law, and finally gave notice that he would seize the grand caravan with official dignitaries, etc.—The other day returned to the scene would involve the State in the expense of housing a Wild Cat, and doubts as to ability in getting him in at any respectable establishment—no the wild cat show was allowed to slide! A wise conclusion.—Fred. Herald.

Venture.—The late snow in the mountains in the Western part of this county, will afford the hunters a good opportunity to track what few deer are in these unfortunate domains, and may succeed in their capture, in which case, venison will make its appearance in our market, where it is sure to command a good price—any from 10 to 15 cents per lb., according to quality. We hear of several hunting parties who were out, and in some instances, they killed 6 or 8 deer, but mostly returned with but few trophies of their expedition.—Cumberland Free Press.

Virginia News.—From the 11th of October to the 10th of November, inclusive, says the Woodstock Tenth Legion, twenty-two marriage licenses were issued by the clerk of Shenandoah, in addition to which there was one "runaway match" who went to the "other side of Jordan" to get spliced, and one refused upon the petition of the friends of the parties, making a total of 23 marriages in the county for the month.

Great anxiety is felt in Lee and Scott with regard to the Eastern terminus of the Virginia and Kentucky Railroad. The contest is between Abingdon and Bristol. The Abingdon Democrat says "nine-tenths of the parties in Scott and Lee are in favor of Abingdon and the Eastern terminus." The Western terminus is at Cumberland Gap.

The Richmond Whig says:—"We hear it stated on what is considered good authority that fifty-seven out of the hundred delegates appointed by the Spartans to represent the Democracy of Richmond in the Petersburg Convention, are resolute and determined anti-Letcher men?"

The receipts of the late Agricultural Exhibition at Lynchburg, Va., were \$17,171, and its clear profits over \$2,000. Messrs. A. McDonald, Secretary, and J. F. Slaughter, Commissioner, of the Society, have been re-elected.

Rev. A. W. Aston, of Russell county Va., who lately entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in connection with the Tennessee Conference, has become insane. It is hoped the affliction may be temporary.

On Tuesday morning last, a fire occurred at Berkeley Springs, Va., which consumed the store-house of J. Casler and the houses of John Cross, George B. Dyche and Dr. L. S. Allen. Mr. Casler's loss is \$5,000.

The Dismal Swamp company had their annual meeting in Suffolk last Thursday.—We learn that the dividend was less this year than last, attributable, it is said, to a depression in the lumber market.

There are ten more students matriculated at the University of Virginia, this season, than ever were matriculated on the corresponding day of any previous session.

Mr. Massie, of Orange county, on a visit to Norfolk, lost about \$90 from his pocket on Saturday. The amount was found by a negro man; only \$45 of it was recovered however.

An accomplished young lady from Albemarle, Va., was baptised recently in the river Jordan, by Dr. James T. Barclay, missionary in Jerusalem.

Washington Letter.

[Correspondence of the Baltimore American] WASHINGTON, Nov. 22.—Since public opinion was invoked pretty unambiguously, upon the subject, that the project now favorably entertained here of recommending a duty on tea and coffee, for the purpose of augmenting the revenue, the Administration has concluded to reconsider its meditated purpose, and the idea is entirely abandoned.

Mr. Rives, of Virginia, has been here on a brief visit, to examine political papers which are not accessible elsewhere, and to perform some friendly offices. Country life, and absence from those exciting scenes in which he was long accustomed to act a conspicuous part, seem to have freshened the laurels which he bore away from the public councils, and have brightened his mature years with the strong colors of rugged health.

The Administration is not likely to be supported with the zeal or fidelity which it received last winter on its own side of the house. There are various tokens of dissatisfaction, and no concealment of complaint in various quarters. Most of the few Northern Democrats who were fortunate enough to escape the recent popular revulsion, are not flattering in their expressions of the President's Leontine policy, and some of them openly condemn it as suicidal and gratuitous, like the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. Mr. John Cochrane, of New York, is not reserved in his estimate of the whole concern, nor does he much scruple to say, it may seek aid where a sense of gratitude will justify the recognition.

It appears the Administration made no effort to assist his re-election, but expended most of its influence upon the return of the redoubtable Dan. Sickles. And as the so-called Democratic papers have habitually misrepresented and assailed the alleged abuse of the elective franchise in Baltimore, it should be known that the United States troops stationed at Governor's Island were marched over, as if on regular duty, and appeared at the ballot-box to neutralize the votes of substantial citizens.

It will be impracticable for the Department of State to prepare the answer to Mr. Benjamin's resolutions, calling for a digest of the opinions of American citizens against foreign governments, since the year 1816 until the month of January. The task is one requiring great care and laborious examination, and at least, must be only an approximate statement, from the limited time and help allowed for the investigation.

The Postmaster General will recommend a plan for sending small sums of money through the mails, by drafts of the Department, upon the banks of that now successful and so popular in England. The returns to the dead letter office show that large amounts are annually misdirected, from the want of some system which would be accessible to the classes who are ignorant of the modes of ordinary transmission. AMERICUS.

Telegraphic Despatches.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—It is said that the President's message and the reports of the heads of the various departments, with the exception of that of the Secretary of the Treasury, are nearly completed.

The Postmaster General has issued an order for a weekly mail from New Orleans to connect with the regular coaches of the San Antonio line to El Paso, where it will be transferred to the Memphis overland mail to San Francisco.

Secretary Floyd has so far recovered from his recent illness as to attend the cabinet meeting to-day.

WATERBURY, Conn., Nov. 20.—The heavy iron truss-rod of the new rolling mills of Brown & Brothers, of this city, fell in this afternoon, killing one man and injuring four others. The loss falls heavily on the contractors.

MEMPHIS, November 22.—Major's cotton shed was burned on Saturday night. Five hundred and thirty-nine bales of cotton belonging to Dwight, Gill & Co., were destroyed. The editor is insured in B-st.

NEW YORK, November 23.—General Sanford has ordered out the first division of New York volunteers to escort G. N. Packer to New York to the steamer for Vancouver.

Mexican Affairs.

It is stated that Señor Tassara, the Spanish minister resident here, has been asked by this Government for an explanation of the intentions of Spain towards Mexico, as connected with her recent movements respecting that country. The impression prevails that Spain purposes to interfere in the favor of Zuloaga, who is the contestant. It is stated that a government of Mexico has been sent from Cuba to Tampico for this purpose, and that another more extensive one is to follow at an early day.—Wash. Star.

Letter from the West.

Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette. DUNQUH, Iowa, Nov. 20.—The heading of this letter will advise you of my whereabouts. I reached this city on Sunday last, and have been "bobbing round" ever since, seeing what is to be seen, and getting at least an outside view of western character.

This is certainly a fast country, and it may be said with equal truth, a great country. Unlike the slow movements of the people of the east, the masses here are possessed of an energy which puts at defiance the small-like pace of eastern enterprise. To use a phrase peculiar to your locality, the people here are "hard to keep down." To-day the tide of fortune may carry the luckless adventurer to the bottom of the wheel; to-morrow he will be found struggling up on the other side, and ere long, he is up on the top of the wheel again, shouting a brave note of defiance to his former ill luck! Such is the phase of western life, as illustrated by the people of Iowa, and of contiguous States.—The trying ordeal through which this State is now passing, consequent upon the derangement in the monetary affairs of the whole country, has checked, if it has not entirely stopped, the tide of immigration which was pouring in upon her some months ago, in untold numbers. But the present state of things cannot long continue. The country will soon recover from its paralysis, and assume its wonted activity. The richness of Iowa soil will invite the capitalist to her borders, even if there were no other inducement. But there are many reasons why capital should seek investment in Iowa. The published statistics of health show that she stands second on the list among the States of the Union.—And then as to her resources, Gypsum, Lead and Iron ore abound in great abundance, while her fields of bituminous coal cover more than twenty-five thousand square miles.—Four lines of railroad traversing the entire length of the State from east to west, with collateral branches as feeders, are already projected. The most important of these roads is the one from Dubuque to Sioux city, a distance of three hundred and twenty miles, thirty-eight of which are already completed—the cars passing over it twice each day from east to west, and vice versa.

It is to be regretted that all these railroad enterprises are at present at a dead stand still. The monetary pressure which has recently swept over the whole land, has been felt in no section more keenly than in Iowa. As matters stand at present, nothing short of State aid will enable the Railroad companies to prosecute to completion, these various lines of improvement. And here a difficulty presents itself. It is thought by some that the Constitution of the State forbids the Legislature from affording such aid. The better opinion, however, seems to be that it would be just and equitable to do so.

Should this be done, those who make investments in broad acres now, will find themselves handsomely rewarded for their outlay. In any event, money expended in the purchase of real estate at this time, must be a source of profit at no distant day, as the making of these roads is only a question of time.

The city of Dubuque is beautifully located, and contains about 17,000 inhabitants.—Every variety of character is found here—the lowest grade of Yankee-land and the highest of F. V. S. Society, however, taken as a whole, is good. The morals of the city are under the guidance of a strong religious element, judging by the number of churches in the place. There are 2 Presbyterian churches, 2 Methodist, 3 Catholic, 1 Baptist, 1 Episcopal, 1 Congregationalist, 1 German Reformed, 1 Universalist, and 1 Christian.

And now a word as to the politics of the North-West. Politically, every thing is in a very unsettled condition. Just now, many persons finding it very difficult to ascertain their exact whereabouts in relation to the existing parties. Democracy, as defined by the powers that be, is at a very low ebb. It is more than idle to talk of running at present, from North to south, or from East to West. There is not a single man in the North-West, who is not in a state of confusion as to the course he should pursue.

Norfolk receives a good deal of custom from the Seaboard Road, and I hope they get a commission, at least, out of it. It is generally found by way North very quickly.—The trade in timber, staves, and corn is large; but the merchants appear to be content, for fear of risking loss, with doing very little with foreign markets, or on their own account.

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Virginia Matters.

Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette. NORFOLK, November 20, 1858.—Having some business in Richmond, on Wednesday last, and being at leisure at night, I attended the meeting of the "Spartans," as they call themselves, i. e. the "Democracy of Richmond," about the Petersburg Convention. You have, doubtless, had the proceedings; so I need not give them here. It is sufficiently evident that there is enough bad blood engendered in this contest for Governor to keep the "party" in a very irritated state for some considerable time.

The Chivalry don't like Governor Wise; that is clear. He "don't work well in the traces," but has a troublesome way of thinking for himself, and will not submit to be told what to do. Another thing is certain: he is an energetic business man; says what he thinks boldly and above-board; and lets consequences take care of themselves. He is deservedly popular with the masses, and I would not be at all surprised if he should be the Democratic candidate for President in 1860. Great efforts, of course, will be put forth to defeat this, and more particularly in Virginia; but his course on the Kansas question has made him hosts of friends in the Free States. With a certain party in Virginia, Governor Wise stands just as the indomitable John Minor Botts has stood heretofore in the metropolitan district—both hated and feared for his manliness and straight-forwardness, and for nothing else.

The Whigs and American Whigs, it would seem, in 1850, that ran Botts for the Presidency. In good times and bad times, John Minor Botts has been the same man—true as steel. Look at his record—clear and unclouded!

Leaving Richmond, I took the Richmond and Petersburg Road, intending to have a look at the new Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad. As usual, on this Richmond and Petersburg Railroad, they seem extremely particular about the description of the Virginia bank bills they receive—refusing Wheeling bills, although I believe, it is generally understood that Wheeling is in the Commonwealth, and that it would be well for the Legislature to require these Companies to receive any current Virginia bank notes. It is time there was an end of such nonsense. It is a great annoyance to travellers. I beg leave to call to the attention of Mr. Daniel, the President of the Company. People can stand the 25 per cent. advance on the fare, better than to be annoyed by a refusal of their money.

Leaving Petersburg in the Norfolk and Petersburg cars for Norfolk, I was not long in discovering that I was upon a first class Railroad. At the Petersburg end, the road, and the accommodations are as yet incomplete; but they are looking to a two-third completion with the Government. The road is laid with iron of 60 pounds to the yard. The bridges are of iron upon granite piers, and are of the most substantial character. The station houses are neat and handsome, and the wood and water houses very complete. The bridge over the Elizabeth River, at Norfolk, is a most durable one—the piers being granite, and the roadway of iron. I will not let for a moment credit upon the Engineer, William Mahone, Esq., and may be safely pronounced the model road of the State. Let every Engineer who desires to witness the latest improvements take a look at it. The only regret to be expressed is that the travel over it is so small. They have yet, however, made no through ticket, which, is no doubt, the cause. Mr. Mahone is now at Chattanooga, with the view of arranging through connections. The City of Norfolk has a large interest in the work, and so has the State; and for the sake of the friends of the road, and the people of the State, I would be glad to see the road completed at a look at it. The only regret to be expressed is that the travel over it is so small. They have yet, however, made no through ticket, which, is no doubt, the cause. Mr. Mahone is now at Chattanooga, with the view of arranging through connections. The City of Norfolk has a large interest in the work, and so has the State; and for the sake of the friends of the road, and the people of the State, I would be glad to see the road completed at a look at it. The only regret to be expressed is that the travel over it is so small. They have yet, however, made no through ticket, which, is no doubt, the cause. 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