

# THE MESILLA VALLEY INDEPENDENT.

Vol. 1.

Mesilla, New Mexico, Saturday, November 10, 1877.

No. 21.

## Professional Cards.

**O. B. WOODWORTH, M. D.**  
Office and residence Main Street, Las Cruces, N. M.

**D. GEO. H. OLIVER,**  
Office and residence Mesilla, New Mexico.

**W. W. BLACK, M. D.**  
Office on Main Plaza, Mesilla, New Mexico.

**W. L. RYNERSON,**  
(DISTRICT ATTORNEY.)  
Attorney at Law, Las Cruces, N. M. Prompt attention given to all business entrusted to his care. Practices in all the Courts of Law and Equity in New Mexico.

**S. R. NEWCOMB,**  
Attorney and Counselor at Law, Las Cruces, N. M. Office on Main Street.

**A. J. FOUNTAIN,**  
Attorney at Law, Mesilla, N. M. Practices in all the Courts of Law and Equity in the Territory.

**W. M. T. JONES,**  
Attorney at Law, Mesilla, New Mexico.

**JOHN M. GINN,**  
Attorney at Law, Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico. Will practice in all the Courts of Law and Equity in New Mexico. Prompt attention given to all business.

**ALEX. A. McSWEN,**  
Attorney at Law, Lincoln, Lincoln Co., N. M.

**JOHN D. BAIL,** **S. M. ASHENFELTER,**  
**B. A. ASHENFELTER,**  
Attorneys at Law, Mesilla, New Mexico.

**THOS. B. CATRON,** **W. I. THORNTON,**  
(U. S. Attorneys.)

**CATRON & THORNTON,**  
Attorneys at Law, Santa Fe, New Mexico.  
Will practice in all the Courts of Law and Equity in the Territory. Business promptly attended to. One member of the firm always to be found at office at Santa Fe.

**DAVID P. SHIELD,**  
Attorney at Law, Lincoln, N. M.

**M. A. UPSON,**  
Notary Public, Land Agent and Conveyancer.  
Box 222, Lincoln County, New Mexico.

## Special Notices.

### TRAVELLERS, ATTENTION!

R. S. Mason having leased the place heretofore known as

#### SLOCUM'S RANCH,

situate 25 miles west of Mesilla on the road to Silver City and the west, informs the public generally that he is prepared to receive and accommodate travellers, and to supply passing trains or herds of animals with water.

This is the only watering place between the Rio Grande and Fort Cummings. I always have an abundance of water on hand, which I will furnish at reasonable rates.

My table will be kept supplied with the best the market affords.

I have pleasant and comfortable rooms furnished with clean beds for the use of travellers. Also comfortable and secure stabling for animals. I always keep a good supply of hay and grain on hand.

Travellers will find at my place everything requisite to supply their wants and add to their comfort, my charges will not be found unreasonable.

R. S. Mason.

I have on hand a large stock of NATIVE WINES and BRANDY of my own manufacture, which I offer for sale in quantities to suit purchasers. My GRAPE BRANDY is the best liquor, whether native or imported, in the Territory.

THOMAS J. BULL,  
Mesilla, N. M.

### Masonic.

Regular communications of Aztec Lodge No. 109 A. F. & A. M. held at their hall at Las Cruces, N. M. on the first Saturday evening of each month. Sojourning brethren in good standing are fraternally invited to attend.

W. L. RYNERSON, W. M.  
J. H. ROBERTS, Sec'y.

## FROM OUR REGULAR SAN ANTONIO CORRESPONDENT.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, 1  
Oct. 25, 1877.

### EDITOR INDEPENDENT:

Since my last the "Sangerfest" has come and gone, it was a success in some ways, and in others it was not; the weather was delightful and everything passed off very smoothly, but there was not that great influx of strangers, we all had been led to expect; instead of counting them by thousands, we did not have the hundreds, and a very few hundred would cover all arrivals. Great preparations had been made, and two or three thousand visitors could have been well entertained, but they came not; those that did come seem to have been fully satisfied with the "welcome" they received.

### OUR FAIR.

According to programme our Fair was inaugurated on the 23d inst., and bid fair to be a grand success—the day of opening was one of those lively fall days, that are peculiar to our Texas climate—neither too hot or too cold. Just the weather for out door exercises of all kinds; the attendance at the Fair grounds was very large, much larger than the managers anticipated; there was a fine display of stock, and an exciting race or two. The other departments are not as well filled as they ought to be, and this seems to be more of a "Stock exhibition" than an Agricultural Fair—this, however, is to be expected of all Fairs in Western Texas; as everybody knows this is par excellence a "stock country." The first day passed off agreeably, and all were well satisfied; the managers prepared for a great rush on the 2nd day, and thousands had made their arrangements to attend, but alas for human calculations, during the night the sky became clouded and in the morning a drizzling rain set in and continued at intervals all day—the streets leading to the grounds soon became muddy—the race track too heavy for running or trotting races, the few people who went out in the morning returned to their homes and thus ended the 2nd day's Fair. This morning (Thursday) the 3rd day has opened unpropitiously—the rain is falling at intervals, although the sun bursts through the clouds now and again and seems inclined to dispel them—this was to be the grand day, the Hon. Judge Ireland was to deliver the address and the "turn out" to hear him would have been immense, if this unfortunate rain had not have made the roads impassable, thereby keeping all the country people from coming to town, and confining our own citizens to their homes; it is very discouraging to the "Association," and the managers thereof, who have labored incessantly to make this Fair a grand success, which it would have been, if the "Fates" had not conspired against them.

### EL PASO COUNTY RIOTS.

The news from San Elezario created quite a ripple of excitement here, as both Howard and Cardis are well known in this city, the former having lived here for a number of years. We hope quiet has been restored at last, it is absolutely necessary that the government should have more troops from El Paso to the mouth of the Rio Grande, that is, if it is the intention of the National Authorities to protect the lives and property of citizens from mobs, both native and foreign. We all know that when any disturbance occurs between Americans and Mexicans, along the Rio Grande, that shallow stream is no hindrance, and Mexicans from the other side pour over to help their

brethren out, and when any Mexican on our side commits a crime, he is received with open arms on the other side; the only way to stop this "international" business is to garrison each and every town along the river, with one or two companies of United States troops.

### IVAR.

The war excitement seems to be somewhat allayed, although all eyes in this part of the country, are turned towards Washington, and the action of Congress is eagerly watched. Many were disappointed because "Uncle Rath," in his message, failed to make any remarks upon "our relations" with the "Sister Republic" across the river; it is now believed that no action will be taken until the Regular Session of Congress, and if something isn't done then, we in Texas will feel like "wading in a little gore" if we have to ford the "creek" to do it. "Patience" is exhausted. "Forbearance" has ceased to be a virtue, and things have come to that pass, when if the National Government fails to make the most ample provision for the protection of the citizens of Texas; and immunity from these thieving, murdering, jail-breaking raids, why the Texans are very liable to protect themselves even if they have to make a little war of their own, to do so; the insecurity of life and property that prevails along the Rio Grande, reaches way into central Texas, by its demoralizing influence is felt even to the Red River. The murderer meditating over his crime, says to himself, "When I reach Mexico I am all right," the roving cattle thief knows if he can only get his plunder across that "mystic stream," his person is safe, and he has a good market for his stock; even the men who robbed the Union Pacific train were striking for Mexico. "The Land of the Thief and Home of the Raider." The only significant thing in relation to the "Mexican Question," that has occurred lately is the departure of the Mexican Minister sent by Diaz, from Washington, he came for recognition, and he must have discovered that Congress was not very favorably disposed towards his Administration, or he would never have left. Well, "we will soon see what we shall see."

### MURDER.

We have had a couple of murderers tried at this term of our District Court, one named Colbaltis, who killed a colored man wantonly and unprovoked, and came near killing a colored woman with the same shot. I reckon he hadn't much money or many friends, as he got sent up for life—the other is named Wasson, he killed a man named Woodson—both strangers here; at the time of the tragedy, it was pronounced a cold blooded murder; the evidence before the Coroner's Jury proved Woodson to have been unarmed, when it came to trial a "little hatchet," in some manner found its way into the dead man's hands. "Wasson" only got two years at Huntsville. Oh Money! how potent Thou Art, for good or for evil! Thou maketh us many friends; Thou maketh even the stranger to love us; Thou permitteeth us to do those things for which the life of our poor neighbor would be demanded; Thou turneth the "Scales of Justice" in our favor, "Oh Almighty Dollar," why should we not bow down and worship Thee—when Thou doesn't all these things for us? While this trial was progressing, while the clarion voice of our prosecuting attorney was heard in the court-house, making his argument before the Jury; another sound was heard, the sharp crack of the ready revolver, smote upon the ear, the shriek of the victim rose above the busy hum of trade and traffic, and another fell to rise

no more; however, it was only a "Nigger Barber" this time, and "they say" he had a "razor" in his "pocket," it will probably reach his hands by the time the trial comes off, a la the Little Hatchet; next!!!!

### OUR RAILROAD.

Having occasion to go down the road the other night, I was much surprised at the amount of stock being shipped from this point; the train had over twenty cars and nearly all loaded with cattle, horses and sheep. Our merchants are buying and shipping a large amount of wool, which commands a better price here than at any other point in the State—it is expected that at least a million pounds will be handled here this fall and winter.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

Our new Post Office will be ready for occupancy on the 1st of November—it will have the regular patent brass boxes, and all other modern conveniences, and will be a great improvement on our present ante diluvian style of office.

While I have been writing, the weather has become favorable; the wind is from the north, and all hope for a clear day to-morrow, in order that "our Fair" may go on.

A. I. L.

## A DASTARDLY OUTRAGE IN THE NAME OF RELIGION.

We copy the subjoined article from the Belton Journal, of the 18th instant:

There has been for a considerable length of time, in the neighborhood of Little River Academy, in the lower edge of this county, an association of Free Thinkers, with Dr. L. J. Russell as their acknowledged leader and advocate.

We are informed that on Saturday night, the 6th inst., a man went to the Doctor's residence and told him he was a mover and had his family at a camp on a branch a few hundred yards away; that some of them were sick and must have his services as a physician immediately. The Doctor and the man repaired to the place, only to find three other men, with six shooters in hand. Dr. Russell was ordered to divest himself of his clothing, which he did. His hands were tied in front of him, and were held by one of the party, who stood with a six-shooter in his right hand while he held the rope with his left. Russell was told that "he must take a whipping;" that they believed he was an honest man, and a good physician, "but by the help of God," they would put a stop to his career as a Free Thinker in that section of the country.

They informed him that if he made a noise it would be at the peril of his life, and struck him one hundred licks, inflicting a terrible and excruciatingly painful castigation. He was then released and allowed to go his way.

We have known the Doctor for several years, and have never heard anything alleged against him, except his connection with the Free Thinkers, which seemed to cause general regret so far as we have heard an expression.

We are no advocate of such a belief as seems to have brought about this trouble—neither are we an advocate of lynch law, and justice demands that the unknown parties to this dark deed be arrested and caused to answer to the State of Texas, that they may receive such punishment as may be prescribed by the laws of the land.

On Saturday, the 13th inst., the following advertisement was found near the place where the above deed was perpetrated:

### NOTICE.

This is to certify that on Saturday night the 6th of October, 1877, the Rev. Dr. Russell was called to see a mover's wife, camped at this place, and on the Doctor's arrival, three other men came out and captured him, and hit him a hundred licks with a leather strap, and let him loose on condition that he would not lecture or debate on infidelity any more in this country. Now a word to Nunley, Posey, Marshall, and in fact to all the leading men of the infidel club: If any of you take this place, we will burn you out of house and home, and hang you until you are dead. If any man in this county is injured on account of what has been done, we will burn you all out. We have got fifty men to back us. Gents, we mean business, infidelity has got to stop in this county as well as stealing.