

RAILROADS.

It is astonishing with what rapidity railroads are being constructed all over the world and especially in the United States, within the last decade. Neither internal, nor the prospects of a foreign war, has any influence to retard the onward march of progress in this particular.

When a few years ago Whitney attempted to direct the attention of Congress to the feasibility of constructing a railroad from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean, people regarded him chimerical if not an insane agitator of impossible theories. Thos. H. Benton in the Senate of the United States, met the same opposition, but being possessed of an indomitable will, he would not be silenced.

Already are sections completed and the cars running on both ends of the great Atlantic and Pacific road, furnishing material for the construction of that portion which remains unfinished; but a short time will elapse until St. Louis and Sacramento will be joined together by iron bands. That is a fixed fact and needs no further comment.

BAD THING.—The expresses bring us the news of the destruction by fire of Weaverville Cal. on the 14th of this month. The fire broke out in a China house, and consumed over sixty buildings. The aggregate loss is estimated at \$320,000.

FEET.—Many of our citizens have become interested in various quartz claims in this State and Idaho Territory, and "feet" are becoming quite a topic of discussion on our streets.—Oregonian.

From the returns of the Territorial Engineer, the latitude of the Boise Valley is 43° 31' north latitude, longitude 115° west; from the ocean direct, 390 miles.

ANOTHER NIAGARA.

A correspondent writing from Salmon Falls, to the Washington Statesman, under date of September 23d, makes the following statement in relation to a newly discovered fall in the Snake river that far exceeds Niagara and if the statement be true this is the grandest and most stupendous cataract in the world. This correspondent is attached to Captain Drake's Co. Oregon Vols., lately stationed at Salmon Falls. To this new cataract they have given the name of the "Great Falls." It is 40 miles above the military camp and two miles below the Shoshone Falls, discovered by Mr Gibbs. Capt. Drake, his surgeon and 15 troopers of his command, visited the place on the 20th of Sept., and from actual measurement, ascertained them to be 198 ft. high or 38 ft. higher than the Falls of Niagara.

The roaring can be heard for many miles and until this discovery, has always been supposed to proceed from the upper cataract. The Snake in flowing a distance of two miles, including the Great Falls and the Shoshones, descends 378 feet. The falls of Niagara are only 160 feet in height, and are visited by multiplied millions of wonder-seeking adventurers from countries lying thousands of miles distant, while here within a few days travel of any of the Pacific settlements, a mighty river plunges over a much higher precipice, and that at the foot of a cataract exceeding by 20 ft. that—hitherto considered—greatest wonder in its line in the world. The writer says:

A RICH DEPOSIT.—The following is related by the S. F. Call's correspondent at Steamboat Springs, Nevada Territory:

And possibly it may be interesting to you to know how Governor Roop came to deliver himself of that burst of inspiration. Two years ago during the season of avalanches, Tom Rust's ranch slid down from the mountain side and pretty nearly covered up a ranch belonging to Dick Sides. Some of the boys in Carson City thought the circumstances offered a fair opportunity for playing a hoax on our former simple-minded Attorney-General, old Mr. Bunker, and they got Sides to employ him to bring a suit in a Referee's Court for the recovery of his ranch; which Mr. S. did, alleging that Rust now claimed the surface of the ground as his own, although he freely admitted the ranch underneath it belonged to Sides, who, it grieved him to reflect would probably never see his property again.

"Gentlemen, I have listened with profound interest to the arguments of counsel in this important case, and while I admit that the reasoning of the distinguished gentleman who appeared for the plaintiff was almost irresistible, and that all the law and evidence adduced are in favor of his client, yet considerations of a far more sacred and exalted nature than these compel me to decide for the defendant, and to decree that the property remain in his possession. The Almighty created the earth and all that is in it, and who shall presume to dictate to Him the disposition of His handiwork? If He saw that defendant's ranch was too high up the hill, and chose, in His infinite wisdom, to move it down to a more eligible location, albeit to the detriment of the plaintiff and his ranch, it meet that we bow in humble submission to His will without inquiring into his motives or questioning His authority. My verdict, therefore, is, gentlemen, that the plaintiff, Sides, has lost his ranch by the dispensation of God!"

WHERE DID THEY GET IT.—The shipments of treasure from California to the east since Jan. 1st, 1863, amounts to \$33,955,952, an excess of \$4,329,324 over the same period last year. Wonder if they don't count some Idaho dust in with the lot?

AYBORA, County seat of Mono county Cal. has been found by Surveyor-General Houghton, to be from three to four miles in Nevada Territory.

GOLD ON THE MALHEUR.—We are told by a gentleman from Auburn that the town of Canyon City, in the John Day mines, is almost entirely depopulated by the rush to the Malheur mines, where gold is said to exist in enormous quantities.

That gold exists on the Malheur is a fixed fact. We have conversed with several intelligent gentlemen who assure us that they have procured good prospects there, but being in haste to get through to the Boise Basin, they did not stop to thoroughly investigate the matter. Indications such as red dirt, quartz rock, quartz gravel, and bowlders are abundant, and the eye of the practiced miner at once recognizes in it the general appearance of a gold country. It will form an important link in the chain of communication that is one day to connect us with northern California and southern Oregon. If the diggings prove to be good and extensive, it will relieve us to some extent from the thralldom of the O. S. N. Co. that, like the vulture on Caucasus, is forever preying upon the liver of Idaho.

THE QUARTZ MINING INTERESTS.—In order to secure a quartz claim it is necessary to put a notice on each end of said claim and within six days thereafter to record the same in the office of the county Recorder. Fifty dollars worth of work is required to be done immediately thereafter, and if the work is not continued, the notices must be renewed every three months, which work being done and notices kept renewed, holds the claim good for six months. But before the expiration of one year another fifty dollars worth of work is required to be done, making in all within the year one hundred dollars. Joseph Midlemias of Placerville, a gentleman of good business habits and acquisitions, having given the subject much thought, and made himself fully acquainted with the quartz and other mining interests of this Territory, will leave during the coming week for San Francisco, where he intends locating for the purpose of devoting his entire time and attention to representing facts now being developed in regard to the boundless gold-bearing quartz-fields of Idaho. Mr. M.'s former connection with large business houses in California, will give him a prestige among capitalists that will insure attention, and cannot fail to be a benefit to the development of our mineral resources.

PROBATE COURT.—The Probate Court met in this city yesterday morning. Hon. Daniel McLaughlin, presiding. The Probate Court in this Territory has extraordinary jurisdiction. It takes cognizance of all civil matters over one hundred dollars, and under five hundred dollars. In all suits for debt or in dispute involving a sum between the figures mentioned above, it fills the place of a District or Circuit Court in other States and Territories. The present session will doubtless be a long one, as we understand a large amount of business has accumulated that it will be within the province of this Court to adjudicate. The District Judges appointed for Idaho have been tardy in coming into the Territory, only one of whom has yet arrived; consequently, it has been impossible to assign them to their respective districts. Parties wishing to litigate matters involving large amounts, will have to wait on their motions. We hear that Judge Edgerton is at Beaver Head but has never reported himself to the Territorial authorities.

GREAT Consolidated Boise River Gold and Silver Mining Company.

There's a name for you; nevertheless, such a company does exist. The deed of trust has arrived and the Co. will soon be organized and at work. The claims of the incorporation embrace the Pioneer and Landon Lodes in this county. Mr. G. C. Robins of Portland took to San Francisco between eight and nine thousand dollars that had been taken out with arrastras, which was an immense argument in favor of the organization. Rock taken from the same lodes was assayed and turned out all the way from \$62.50 to \$21,963. The capital stock of the Co. is 1,673,300 divided into 16733 shares of \$100 each. The trustees are E. Rankin, W. H. Mills, W. L. Boothby, W. D. Robertson and T. A. J. Dias.

LOUSY.—Mr. Thompson of Thompson & Co., miners on Cal. Hill, brought into our sanctum, on Wednesday last, a lot of reddish clay taken from the bed-rock in their claims, that was perfectly lousy with pure bright gold. It looked about as if a pint of gold and a pound of mortar had been kneaded together and dried. Mr. T. informed us that there appears to be the bed of a stream running through the claims, and that dirt of this quality is found wherever this dry bed is struck they have made as high as \$291 to the rocker in a day. They are working a small sluice head, but have not cleaned up. When they do so we expect to hear of them taking out a hat full. These claims are on the south side of Meigs's creek and are owned and worked by five men, each claiming one hundred feet in width.

SNOW.—A fall of snow to the depth of three-fourths of an inch, visited Placerville one day last week, but did not remain long. It merely came as a kind of Teeler to see how the people would stand it. There is plenty more where that come from.

EASTERN NEWS.

W. W. Chapran, Jr., of Tracy & Co.'s Express, furnished us with the daily Oregonian, of the 19th, from which we make the following summary of news:

The news from the east this week, except so far as it relates to the Pennsylvania and Ohio elections, is not of very great interest. Vallandigham has been beaten by John Brough, for Governor of Ohio, by 60,000 independent of the soldier's vote, which, it is estimated will swell Brough's majority to 100,000.

Despatches from Nashville, bearing date Oct. 9th, state that Gen. Cook, commanding a brigade of cavalry, has had a fight 12 miles beyond Franklin with a portion of Wheeler's rebel cavalry; 125 rebels were killed and wounded, and 300 prisoners taken. Our loss is not known. Gen. Sherman reports to headquarters that many of the best Mississippians are clamoring for peace, on terms acceptable to all who do not wish the entire destruction of the country. Little Rock, Ark. letters say deserters from Price's army are coming into the Federal lines and joining the army by hundreds. Several guerrilla bands have laid down their arms and returned to peaceable pursuits. Kirby Smith and Price are said to be marching on Little Rock. Gen. Mead has been making some skillful movements by which he seems to have changed his base and crossed the river without the knowledge of his adversary, where he is prepared to give or accept battle. Dates from Chattanooga are to the 9th. The telegraph was in perfect working order and the railroad would be running to Bridgeport within a day or two. The Yankees, according to Georgia dispatches, were still working on their outer line, and Rosecrans had undoubtedly been reinforced, as a new line of tents were visible from Missionary Ridge. No material change in affairs at Charleston. Magruder reports a brilliant victory at Labine Pass. Gen. Mitchell had an engagement at Shelbyville on the 6th; the enemy were completely routed leaving a hundred dead on the field. Partial returns from five counties in Pennsylvania, give Curtin 1000 majority over Woodward for Governor.

FOREIGN NEWS.—The London Times says Alex. H. Stevens has sailed for France with power to make terms with the Emperor for the recognition of the Confederacy on an Emancipation basis. The same paper also states that California is anxious to secede and join the Mexican Empire. The Paris Siecle says: The time for recognition has passed if it ever existed; the South by arming the negroes shows that their power of resistance is exhausted. Maximilian has answered the Mexican deputation. He is ready to accept the throne on the free, spontaneous expression of the population, and with a guaranty for the independence and integrity of the country. The Florida at Brest would be ready for sea in three weeks.

ARRIVAL OF THE EXPRESS NINE DAYS FROM SALT LAKE—ONE DAY LATER FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

A slip from the office of the Deseret News, has dates to the 15th:

Twenty-six counties in Iowa give Stone 7988 ahead. His majority in the State would probably reach twelve or fifteen thousand. Curtin's majority is probably between 30 and 31 thousand in Penn.

A severe battle has been fought near Amosville, Virginia, in which Gregg led in person and was driven back some distance, but at latest advices was holding the enemy in check. A rumor says a general engagement began at daylight on the 14th on the old Bull Run battle ground.

STILL LATER. A letter from the express agent, to J. C. Henley, agent at this place, dated Salt Lake, Oct. 16th, says:

"A great battle is now going on between Mead and Lee; the news is passing over the wire, but is not printed.

By the arrival of this express we have New York dates to the 20th of Sept, the Deseret News of the 15th of October, and the Rocky Mountain (Denver City) News to the 21th of Sept.

ELECTIONS.—The Maryland election was held on the 4th, and Pennsylvania and Ohio, on the 13th inst. The New York election will take place on the 2d of November; Wisconsin, Nov. 5th; Delaware, Nov. 10th; Massachusetts, Nov. 3d; Minnesota, Nov. 3d; Iowa, Nov. 10th; Western Virginia will elect three Members of Congress this fall but the date of election is not stated in the papers. Idaho will hold an election on the 31st of Oct. and elect a delegate to Congress, members of Council and Assembly. Governors are to elect in Massachusetts, Minnesota and Iowa.

THEORY VS. FACTS.—In these days of impracticable facts, we are forcibly reminded of what an eminent French theorist, once said, if facts do not agree with theory, so much the worse for the facts. Theoretical miners will prove the correctness of this, as they always have done in the past, whenever they discard experience, and attempt to follow science, in the acquirement of gold as practical miners.

TAXABLE property of Boise county, according to Assessor's report—\$1,083,300.

Solomon advised the sluggard to "go to the ant." The sluggard of the present day goes to the "uncla."

OREGON ITEMS.

Crosby, Melgoff, Farnsworth and Edwards have been appointed pilots at the Columbia bar.

Louis Breitenbacher accidentally shot himself with an entire load of shot, in the left arm, near Salem.

John Landon was drowned in the south fork of Santiam river.

The house of Mrs. R. A. Williams was burned, in Clackamas county, on the 30th ult.

Articles of Incorporation have been filed by the Union Mining Company, to work the Santiam mines.

F. Birdseye had his house robbed, on Rogue river, of all its bedding, clothing, provisions, guns, etc.

A man by the name of P. Stevenson was found, dead twelve miles from Walla Walla.

THE FUTURE OF CALIFORNIA.—The following extract, from the New York Sunday Times, is a beautiful and eloquent portrayal of the future of California:

"California is stretched out by the Almighty as a vast canvas, such as no tribe of men ever conceived, for the genius and fidelity of colonists to fill with beauty. One of our own citizens has recently indulged an artist's dream of what the State may look like a hundred years hence. He sees in vision 'long ribbons of fields stretching to Fort Tejon, each gold a different color: green grapes, brown furrows, emerald vines, fringing hedges, grain growing—cream-colored grains, grains aureate and russet; houses dotted along like dew-drops in clover fields; houses reaching forth like mosses in the crystal brook; houses clumped, houses grouped; hamlets modest, hamlets booming and luxurious like gorgeous creeper-villages with spires; towers with burished domes; glided by the sun and silvered by the moon; cities with columns, cities with tall, needle chimneys, pouring to God the frankincense of labor; terraced foothills laughing with generous villas; sloping forelands alive with herds; swelling mounds nestling with vines; oval knolls crowned with festoons of fruit blossoms, breathing sweet perfume to the sky; mountain gorges rolling out metals, mountain peaks staring at opposite peaks from the bold-faced palaces, mountain rivulets murmuring to trellised, re-hidden cottages, mountain in valleys creeping away to live God in dreamy repose."

POLITICS.—The present week closes the political campaign in Idaho. Torch-light processions, parades, speeches and public demonstrations will all be "played out" after Saturday night. Campaign papers are about to go to their graves, and unsuccessful candidates to seek the head of Salt river. The Boise News will keep on in the event tenor of its way, publishing all the news of the basin, regardless of political or elemental storms and strifes. The result of the election on Saturday next will be published in the News as early as we can possibly obtain information from the various counties in the Territory. Boise county will poll the largest vote, and may, if very one-sided, control the election, either one way or the other, and it may be that returns from this county alone will be sufficient to tell which way the Territory has gone.

WHAT AN EDUCATED MAN OUGHT TO KNOW.—An educated man ought to know these things: First, Where he is; that is to say, what sort of a world he has got into; how large it is; what sort of creatures inhabit it, and how; what it is made of and what may be made of it. Secondly, Where he is going. That is to say, what chances or reports there are of any other world besides this; what seems to be the nature of that other world. Thirdly, What he had better do under the circumstances. That is to say, what kind of faculties he possesses; what are the present state and wants of mankind; what is his place in society, and what are the readiest means in his power of attaining happiness and diffusing it. The man who knows these things, and has his will so added in the learning of them that he is ready to do what he knows he ought, is an educated man; and the man that knows them and is uneducated, though he could talk all the tongues of Babel,—[Husk.

EXCURSION DOWN SNAKE RIVER.—Capt. Molthrop, and a party selected by him for that purpose, will start down Snake river, in about three weeks from this date. Their intention is, to ascertain definitely whether it is possible to navigate the river or not; and, at the same time, prospect for gold, silver, and other precious metals. Our friend Ireland, of the Idaho Democrat, will constitute one of the party. We hope they may "strike rich." The boat in which they intend to make the trip is now building at Buena Vista. It will be a nice thing for this upper county, if the river proves navigable to the mouth of Boise. Mercantile friends of the enterprise in this city will furnish necessary supplies, while the Buena Vista saw-mill is contributing lumber for the boat.

FELL UPON THE ROCK.—In January, 1861, Daniel C. Vance and R. N. McCulland gave a note to Morris Wise, of San Jose, California, for the sum of thirteen hundred dollars, bearing eight per cent. interest per month, and compounding monthly. At the last term of the District Court, in San Jose, Mr. Wise sued upon the note, and obtained judgment against the parties for the nominal sum of one hundred and sixty millions of dollars.

CORRECTIONS.—In our last issue we incorrectly stated that Mr. Goodrich was keeping the indigent sick of the county for twenty dollars per month each. The price is twenty dollars per week. Our figures were wrong again in estimating the depth of the Catholic Church on Wall street. Forty-five and not seventy-five feet would have been correct.

"What is the meaning of a backbiter?" asked a clergyman at a Sunday school examination. This was a puzzler. It went down the class until it came to a simple urubia, who said, "Perhaps it is a flea."

Jerry's notion of a wife at forty was, that a man should be able to change her like a bank note for two twenties. The matrons in his vicinity were inexpressibly shocked at his hardihood.

Don't you remember old Tower, dear Kate, old Tower, so shaggy and kind; how he used to play day and night by the gate, and seize lute-lappers behind?

A western paper, annoyed by the phrase, "American citizens of African descent," offers "unbleached Americans" as a shorter and more expressive term.

A lady editor says that if the men want their children to look like them, the fewer jaunts they take to California the better.