

DEMOCRATIC BANNER

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FROM CALIFORNIA.

The steamship California arrived at Panama on the 3d inst., from San Francisco. She experienced a heavy gale off San Diego, but suffered no material damage. The steamer Isthmus arrived at Panama from San Francisco on the 7th inst., and the Falcon at Chagres on the 10th. The F. was to sail for New York on the 13th.

The Cherokee does not bring the California mails. They will arrive in the Falcon in a few days.

The notorious Captain Parker H. French, whose swindling operations in Texas are so well known, is stated to have arrived at San Francisco, in company with about twenty others, in the barque J. A. Jessurun, from Guyanas.

The near approach of the assembling of the State Legislature, occasions considerable speculation as to what that body will do towards relieving the State from the financial embarrassments which weigh heavy upon her.

A number of candidates are already in the field for U. S. Senator, but who will be elected is difficult to say. The assembling of the Legislature can alone determine its political complexion, and, of course, party affinities for U. S. Senator.

The San Francisco Herald thinks that the chances of Col. Fremont for the United States Senatorship are very doubtful, and quite desolate. The friends of Mr. Weller are very sanguine of success. The matter, however, is in much doubt.

San Francisco is rapidly progressing and presents a far different aspect to what it did last winter.

The miners are hard at work and labor yields a fair return. Thousands are wintering in the mines, preparatory to commencing operations in the spring.

An exceedingly rich silver placer has been discovered a few leagues from Monterey, where a company is forming to work the mine upon an extensive scale.

The Stockton Times says there is much want of rain in the Southern mines. It is calculated that the daily loss, in consequence of its absence, is one hundred thousand dollars.

The diggings on Feather river continued to yield a good return.

The total amount of gold cleared at the Custom House at San Francisco, from November 12th, 1849, to December 15th, 1850, was nearly twenty-nine million of dollars.

A strong tide of emigration is setting towards the Atlantic States. All vessels up for freights to the U. States are likely to fill up.

The United States brig Dolphin was to leave San Francisco on the 15th December, for Valparaiso and Rio de Janeiro.

Snow has fallen to the depth of several inches at Nevada prior to the 16th December.

A party, consisting of forty-seven Americans, had been attacked by the Indians beyond Mariposa Hill, and all of them killed.

The Stockton Journal records a collision in the vicinity of Moquelume between fifteen Americans and a party of Indians. Quite a fierce skirmish took place, and a large number of Indians were killed.

The military under command of Col. Rodgers, at Placerville, has been disbanded.

Gold continues to be found in abundance. The health of San Francisco, and other cities, has greatly improved. The cholera has nearly disappeared.

The barque Alabama, from Baltimore, and ship Ontario and schr. Nancy Wilkins, from New Orleans, have arrived at San Francisco.

A very rich lead mine has been discovered about 11 miles from Johnson's Ranch.

The brig San Jacinto was wrecked in running out of Humboldt Bay. All hands saved.

Dr. E. R. Chapin has been elected resident physician of San Francisco.

Among the deaths at California are James Lester, of Lexington, Va.; George M. Williams, Missouri; Louis Ellis, Washington, D. C.; S. Caldwell and Allen Watson, Ontario; Westley Castlebury, Geor.

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"UNITED WE STAND—DIVIDED WE FALL."

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and Mr. R. C. Matlack, of Baltimore. Col. Fremont has been confined to the house by a neuralgic attack, the better part of the time since he arrived in California. At the latest advices he was better, capable of taking exercise out of doors.

From the Alta California, Dec. 15. Another Great Fire—Loss about One Hundred Thousand Dollars.

About half-past eight o'clock, last evening, our city was shocked again by that terrible cry, which, most especially in this place, carries so much of fear and horror with it—"Fire!" Our saloons and theatres were at once emptied, our engines were on the run, and crowds rushed pell-mell to the scene. The fire commenced in the new store of Cook, Brothers & Co., near the foot of Sacramento street.

For a time, the whole vicinity was in imminent danger, the buildings being mostly of wood and of light structure. But the well systematized and most efficient exertions of the firemen, who were early at the ground, succeeded by almost superhuman labor in arresting the flames before they could so far get command as to lay, as heretofore, whole squares in ruins.

We regret to have to state that a set of harpies flocked around the scene of conflagration, seeking and seizing every occasion for plunder and robbery. Many of them were marked.

Below we give the names of the sufferers and their losses, nearly as possible. The amounts are, probably, pretty near the truth.

Sacramento Street.—Messrs. Cook, Bros. & Co.'s, new zinc storehouse, just erected; the merchandise and building completely destroyed; loss will probably amount to \$15,000 including building.

Messrs. Butler & Baxter, general merchandise; totally destroyed; loss about \$15,000.

John M. Huddart, grocery and commission merchant, totally destroyed; loss about \$6,000.

The building owned by T. H. McKee & Co., general commission store. Mr. Selby's loss on the building reaches \$4,500; Mr. McKee's loss must have been great, the whole of the stock having been completely destroyed. The basement of this house was used as a bowling alley, by Hitchings, Lord & Co., whose loss reaches \$1,000.

Trotten & Eddy, general merchants; loss \$5,000.

Boardman, Bacon & Co., hardware and merchandise; loss about \$2,000.

Atlantic Hotel and Restaurant, totally destroyed—loss not ascertained.

Hawley, Sterling & Co., general dealers, partially destroyed; building and stock in a measure ruined.

Delong, McNeil & Co., general dealers, corner of Montgomery and Sacramento streets; building pulled down by order of some of the authorities; loss heavy.

Butler & Baxter's stove store, on Leidersdorff street, was also totally destroyed. Their loss in this must have been heavy.

The corrugated iron building, on Leidersdorff street, belonging to Capt. Feleom, was partially destroyed. Damage slight.

Considerable time was lost by some of the engine companies, from the circumstances that their machines were undergoing repairs. The St. Francis Hook and Ladder company carried their apparatus by hand from the workshop to the fire.

We have also another account of the fire, from the San Francisco Courier office. It differs from the above, in estimating the total loss at only fifty thousand dollars.—Cook, Baker & Co's it puts down at \$10,000. The San Francisco Herald says the whole loss is about \$40,000, of which \$10,000 falls on Delong, McNeil & Co.

The following summary of events since the departure of the previous steamer, is published in the "Public Balance," a new journal, which made its appearance in San Francisco during the first week in December. We copy from the paper of the 14th.

The business interests of the city have not only had to encounter the inactivity usual upon the setting in of the rainy season, but the injurious effect of having very heavy stocks of all the principal articles thrown upon the market, by the arrival within the last twenty days, of a fleet of vessels from the Atlantic, with full cargoes.

The depression produced cannot, however be more than temporary. In the case of any staple article, the cessation or diminution of importations, for a week or ten days, produce a very perceptible effect in strengthening the market.

The business affairs of California are every day settling down to a substantial and permanent basis, and the natural workings of a heavy trade must inevitably correct the fluctuations and anomalies which have occasionally marked operations on the Pacific.

In the political world, here more contracted and unimportant than in any other State

of the Union, the main topic is the election of United States Senator. The real candidates are, we suppose, on the Whig side Col. Collier, the Collector of the port, and Marshal Douglass, of the Northern District; and on the Democratic side, Col. Fremont, Judge Heydenfeldt, (whose brother is whig Senator from this district,) Hon. Thos. J. Henley, and Col. Weller. The canvass promises to be exciting, and there is a smart prospect for plenty of log-rolling and lobbying at San Jose this winter.

The health of the city is completely restored, the clear and bracing weather of the last week having driven out the cholera with its train of diseases, though not until it had snatched away several prominent and valued citizens.

From the mining districts the amounts are generally satisfactory. The rains which have now fairly set in, though they have driven the miners from the rivers, will enable them to prosecute their operations in the "dry diggings" with energy and success. The quartz mining receives more and more attention daily, although it requires capital for its successful prosecution, and will prove more profitable to associated than to individual exertion.

The cholera has released Sacramento city from its baneful presence, and business there is reviving fast, especially since the rising of the Upper Sacramento has opened the usual winter trade between that city and the towns and settlements above.

The amount of remittances by the steamer of the 15th is always considerably less than those dispatched by the steamer of the 1st, but this time it will be less than usual; owing mainly to the unwillingness of consigners to close account sales at the present unsatisfactory rates.

Nearly every vessel that leaves our shores, by sails or steam, for Panama or Raelajo, takes its complement of passengers bound for "the States." The regular intercourse to and fro between the Pacific and the Atlantic, now engages continually a large number of these travelers, and a great many are going Eastward to return in the spring.

Sandwich Islands.—We have received, by this arrival advices from the Sandwich Islands to the 9th of December. Eleven houses were destroyed by fire at Honolulu on the night of the 6th.

Meetings had then held for the formation of a police to protect citizens from the depredations of thieves and burglars.

ANOTHER CASE FOR MR. FILLMORE.—Mr. Richardson, the gallant and conservative Democratic member of Congress from Illinois, has addressed the following letter to the President on the subject of the fugitive slave law. The letter is brief and to the point, and the tender-footed "higher law" U. S. Attorney should at once receive his walking papers. No answer, it is said, has yet been received. We hope that the President will now show a little of the moral firmness and energy, which were so lamentably and fatally deficient in the case of the Boston Marshal:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Dec. 20, 1850.

The President of the United States:

SIR: I ask the removal of A. Williams, Attorney for the United States for the district of Illinois.

On the last election day in said State, at the precinct of Melrose, in the county of Adams, Mr. Williams, in a speech which he made to the electors of said precinct, as I am informed and believe, represented that the fugitive slave law, passed at the last session of Congress, suspended the writ of habeas corpus and abolished trial by jury.

If Mr. Williams honestly believed that said law did what he represented, he is not qualified to discharge the duties of his office. If he did not believe what he said, he is not honest enough to have confided to him the business of the government.

I forbear to argue the impropriety of an officer of this government interfering to nullify the law of the land; by poisoning the public mind by misrepresentations. If deemed necessary, I will furnish the proofs of the facts above given.

I have the honor to be, your ob't serv't, WM. A. RICHARDSON.

DIDN'T LIKE THE JUC.—A wealthy, popular and gay young gentleman, once boasted that he could walk home with any one of the members of a certain division of the Daughters of Temperance, from church; accordingly he, after services were over the next sabbath, spruced up to a fair damsel, and with a polite bow tendered his arm. The young lady, as by instinct, drew back as from a serpent, and exclaimed:—"No, sir! I'll never put my arm thro' another jug handle as long as I live."

Our thanks are due to Hon. Philander Draper, for important State documents.

THE BASIS OF REPRESENTATION IN THE SOUTHERN STATES.

The following information in regard to the basis of representation in the slaveholding States, we have compiled from a neat little volume, called "American Constitutions," published by Hogan & Thompson, of Philadelphia, says the Richmond Republican Advocate:

North Carolina.—The Senate is based upon taxation, and the House of Commons upon federal numbers, which enumerates all the free inhabitants, and counts five slaves as equivalent to three freemen.

South Carolina.—Both bodies upon white population and taxation combined.

Georgia.—In the Senate each county elects one member, and the House of Representatives is organized upon federal numbers, as we desire it to be done in Maryland.

Kentucky.—Representation in both branches according to the number of qualified electors, or voters.

Tennessee.—Representation in both branches according to the numbers of qualified electors or voters.

Louisiana.—Representation in both branches according to the number of electors or voters.

Alabama.—Representation in both branches according to the number of white inhabitants.

Missouri.—Representation in both branches according to the number of free white male inhabitants.

Mississippi.—Representation in both branches according to the number of white inhabitants.

Arkansas.—Representation in both branches according to the number of white male inhabitants.

Texas.—Representation in both branches according to the number of free white inhabitants.

Florida.—Representation in both branches according to federal numbers, which, as we say alone, counts every free inhabitant and three-fifths of the slaves.

Virginia.—In this State there is a sort of arbitrary arrangement by which the State is divided into four grand divisions, and each division allowed a given number of Senators and Delegates. It approximates far nearer, however, to representation according to population than the Maryland basis. The Virginia convention in session, it is confidently asserted, will annul this arbitrary arrangement, and establish a representation, both in the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the number of free white inhabitants. The Richmond Republican Advocate, to which we are indebted for the above facts, warmly urges the white inhabitant basis.

Maryland.—A convention is now in session, and will decide the question.

THE DEAD-LETTER OFFICE.

The whole number of dead letters returned to the Department we can only vaguely estimate. Thus, in one quarter, the bulk of opened letters equalled about 6,000 bushels, crammed; each bushel is supposed to contain 1,000 letters.—The number returned in a quarter is therefore about six millions, or twenty-four millions a year! Unclaimed moneys, less the discount, are handed over to the general treasury, subject to the demands of the rightful owners; but we believe that for the half year ending June 30th, 1850, the amount of these was not more than about \$1,700.

Drafts, deeds, and other papers of value, and also jewelry, mementoes, &c., are preserved in the dead letter office. These are often recovered by their owners with much delight. In one instance, not a great while since, a gentleman, for want of certain documents believed to have been lost from the mail, found himself in the power of an unscrupulous person in a matter in which property to the amount of ten thousand dollars (all the gentleman was worth) was involved. As a possible means of obtaining the papers, he applied to the dead-letter office, and in about three minutes they were produced! The package had been improperly addressed.

Dead letters are usually unpaid letters. The custom of prepayment has become vastly more general since the reduction of postage to five and ten cents. In the fourth quarter of 1850 the No. of dead letters received from Cincinnati, not prepaid, was 8,700; the number prepaid, 1,200. In the third quarter of 1850 the prepaid letters from the Boston post office numbered 1,612; of letters not prepaid, 9,401. These instances are taken at random.—[Republic.

Men are as easily caught as catfish—all that's required is a difference in your bait. If you would catch a young man for instance, bait with a petticoat. If you are after an old sinner, fasten on your hook a doubleton.

Hallo, Ben! Hallo back again!—What ye want?—"I'm pretty well—mother's smart's usual—Jim and Tom's kicken' an' father died last night. "Your father died!" Yes—he kicked the bucket 'bout twelve o'clock; and I've got his watch!"

HOW TO FIND LEAP-YEAR.—Divide the given year by four, and if nothing remains, it is Leap-year; but if there is a remainder, it shows the number of years after Leap-Year.

Long trains to ladies' dresses are about being revived in New York. They will do down there, but out West the girls much prefer long trains of beaux to trains of velvet.

People who are always talking of sentiment, have usually not very deep feelings. The less water you have in your kettle, the sooner it begins to make a noise and smoke.

DESPAIR OF DISAPPOINTED LOVE.

A SAD SCENE IN A TELEGRAPH OFFICE.

The Cleveland (O.) Plain Dealer furnishes the following account of a pitiable scene which occurred a few days ago in the telegraph office of that city:

A case of melancholy interest, to one of the parties at least, occurred here the other day, which we will relate for the public good. A young lady (we forbear names although known) arrived here from the State of New York, on her way into the southern part of the State, whither she was going to consummate a marriage contract entered into some ten years since. Her intended was a young man who had been born and reared near her father's residence, but who in all things did not suit the "old folks," and consequently the latter opposed the match. The result was, the young man left the country, but has kept up a most intimate correspondence with the lady ever since, until last summer he informed her by letter that as she could not be married at home she had better meet him at —, in this State, in the month of August, and be married. To this she consented, but it was found inconvenient for her to leave home at that time, and she did not arrive on her mission of love until a few days since.

She stopped at one of our best hotels, preparatory to her voyage South. She appeared cheerful, was exceedingly well dressed, sported a gold watch, and other paraphernalia peculiar to the "gentility." Previous to her departure, she stepped into the telegraph office to inform her lover—who by the way was an operator himself, stationed in a southern office on the same line—that she had got so far on her joyous way, and would like to hear from him at this point. After her dispatch was sent and waiting a reply, one of the operators, who was very well acquainted with her intended, remarked that the young gentleman to whom she sent her message had fallen into a "streak of luck." The lady was observed to startle considerably, and asked what he meant by a "streak of luck." He told her the young man was married. She fell back into her chair and fainted, almost instantly. The operators and clerks were much frightened, but managed to bring her to by the use of water, &c. She could not believe the report, and requested them to telegraph again and ascertain the truth. The operator stepped to his key, called the office where the young man was employed, but found him not in. A clerk in the office, however, answered the message, saying Mr. — was actually married on the 17th of October, and was then "keeping house." When this was read to the weeping lady she instantly swooned away again, and for a time seemed quite lifeless. She was resuscitated and taken to her hotel in a most frantic condition, where for the whole day she remained entirely insane.

Oh, grief beyond all other griefs, when fate First leaves the young heart desolate In the wide world, without that life, For which it wished to live or feared to die."

Kind care and time, that curer of most heart's diseases, have now nearly restored her. She exhibits letters showing with what fidelity she had trusted in the one now false to her; that during the ten years of their engagement she had refused several offers; had furnished her betrothed money, her parents being rich and he poor; had endured the contumely of her friends at home opposed to the match; and all for his sake. She is now in our city, among strangers, alone as it were, in the world, having clandestinely left her father's roof to meet her lover here, and now deserted by him; her constitution shattered and spirit broken. Earth seldom produces in human form so miserable an object. No wonder she went mad—

"Her wretched brain gave way, And she became a wretch at random driven, Without one glimpse of reason or of Heaven."

She is now better, but the picture of desolation! Young men can here see the danger of trifling with such affections, yea, the dark sin of creating hopes or raising expectations in a heart too true and confiding to survive such disappointment.

A SPUNKY WIFE.—A middle-aged farmer and his wife were enjoying a winter evening cozily together, when the conversation turned upon religious matters, as described in the Bible, which the man had open before him.

"Wife," said the farmer, "I've been thinking what happy society Solomon must have had in his day, with so many wives, &c., as is here represented."

"Indeed!" replied the wife, somewhat miffed; "you had better think of something else, then. A pretty Solomon you would make, truly; you can't take care of one wife. What a figure you would cut, then, with a dozen wives, and all of them as spunky as I am!"—[Boston Post.

ATTENTION SUBSCRIBERS.—One and all hear the law.—Jasper Harding, of Philadelphia, not long since recovered a large sum (about \$120 we believe,) for a subscription to the Philadelphia Inquirer of a man residing in Rhode Island. The circumstances were these; the subscriber took the paper for some time and then sent to the publisher notice of discontinuance—without forwarding the money for payment. The publisher took no notice of this, nor of several subsequent notices of refusal to take the paper from the post office. The result was, notwithstanding the Rhode Islander did not receive the paper for several years, he was forced to pay Mr. Harding the whole amount up to the period claimed by the bill.

It is an indisputable fact that a man might as well try to sail round Cape Horn in a wash tub, as attempt to do a successful business without advertising.

The Marchioness of Deura, daughter-in-law to the Duke of Wellington, is considered the most beautiful woman at the English court.

Fanny Ellsler is now in Moscow, Russia. She has recently sold all her diamonds for the sum of 39,000 thalers—about \$75,000.