THE STORY OF "THE CALL."

RISE AND PROGRESS OF A GREAT JOURNAL.

The conductors of THE CALL avail themselves of the present opportunity in the history of their great journal to review, albeit in a cursory way, its past useful and honorable record, to recall its battles in the interest of the public, and the victories gained. By the experiences of the past, carefully studied, valuable lessons are learned for future guidance.

Scanty though the information given, it will at least be of interest to the reader to follow by its means the growth of one of the most successful and valuable newspaper enterprises on the Pacific Coast. He will be enabled to find how, with each succeeding year of this journal's existence, its "cords have been lengthened and stakes strengthened" until it stands to-day impregnable in the confidence and esteem of the people.

Incessant vigilance and clear judgment have been necessary to gain and retain that proud position. A new chapter has commenced in the already ample and brilliant record of THE CALL, and, therefore, it is a proper time to turn to those already written with a feeling of respect for the men who helped to write them.

It is a long cry from 1893 to 1856, when the first number of this journal appeared, but it is intended to bridge as compactly as possible the intervening thirty-seven years by the narration of such important events in THE CALL's career as will give the public in general a fair idea of the character of the paper, of its management and of the satisfactory results that have been attained.

THE FIRST EPOCH.

The names of the men who launched THE CALL on the uncertain ocean of journalism are now almost forgotten. Years have rolled over them, like waves over markings on the seashore sands, and they have been nearly all obliterated. It will be interesting, however, to know who they were, and are. In fact, this brief mention is a necessary part of the history of a journal with such a remarkable career as that of THE CALL.

There were five persons altogether, all practical printers, and all well equipped, in the business of newspaper-making, whether it pertained to the editorial room, the composition room, or the counting-house.

James J. Ayers is still in the land of the living, and in company with Joseph D. Lynch is publishing the Los Angeles Herald; David W. Higgins resides in Victoria, B. C., where for many years he published the British Colonist, after selling out his interest in THE CALL in 1858; Charles F. Jobson died several years ago; Llewellyn Zublin has also passed away. He became dissatisfied with the prospect during the second year of the existence of THE CALL, sold out and went to Honolulu, where he became foreman of the Commercial Advertiser. Years after he returned from the islands and left for his native State, Iowa, to end his days. William H. Carpenter also sold out during the first year of the paper's existence, thinking it was on the ragged edge, and when last heard from, now several years ago, was a compositor on the New York Herald. His interest in the enterprise, which it must be confessed continued doubtful for some time after beginning, was purchased by George E. Barnes in February, 1857. The next change in the original partnership was the sale by Mr. Zublin of his fifth interest to Peter B. Foerster; the third occurred when Mr. Higgins, under the influence of the Fraser River excitement, which prevailed from April till September, 1858, sold out to his partners and left for the supposed new El Dorado in the Northwest. The partnership after this last transaction included but four members—Messrs. Ayers, Barnes, Foerster and Jobson. Ayers and Jobson were the only two who remained of the original founders. Barnes and Foerster owned their shares in the concern by purchase. To these four men is due the success the paper met with from 1858 till 1869, which may be called the first epoch in THE CALL'S history. The last month of 1856, when the paper started, and the year 1857 need not be taken into account, as that period was one of change, uncertain and tentative. Hopes were very few that THE CALL would ever become a great paper. Doubts and prophecies of failure were on everybody's tongue. The odds were very great against the four young men, but they were taken bravely. Their patience, perseverance and pluck won the day.

The reason for the existence of THE CALL was necessity. Many journals—more in later years than formerly—have for their raison d'etre various causes. They have been called into being to help political aims, to promote a commercial speculation, to nurse an individual's ambition in all sorts of schemes; but THE CALL had no such motive in its nascency. It was purely an enterprise started for the purpose of making a subsistence. Like the Picayune of New Orleans, La., and the old Union of Sacramento in this State, the idea was conceived by men reared to the press business, and by them for many years successfully realized. If one reflects that the time when THE CALL first saw light was the most depressed in the business history of the city of San Francisco, the force of the word "necessity," given as a reason for its origin, will be readily understood. In 1856 the golden era of California was in deep decline and the silver era of Nevada had not begun; the social system of the city was still weak from the wholesome but drastic operations of the second Vigilance Committee. Public confidence had not been fully restored; men were yet in doubt of their fellows. All kinds of business languished, and grass was growing, not figuratively, but actually, in some of our thoroughfares. The newspapers of the period were all—with the exception of the Evening Bulletin and Alta California—gasping for breath, and the latter journal was only kept alive by the auctioneers' advertisements. Sale by auction, not the most wholesome method of commercial business, was about the only one in vogue. Frank Soule's California Chronicle was in its last throes; the once popular and successful Herald of John Nugent, also Frank Bonnard's Sun, had the death-rattle. Newspaper ventures were made by the most inexperienced persons; they were born and died in a day, it might be said, with a good deal of truth. No less than fourteen papers, including THE CALL, started during the year 1856 in San Francisco. THE CALL has proved to be the "survival of the fittest." There was no certainty anywhere in the journalistic profession with the exception of the Bulletin and Alta before mentioned. The whole business of the city, mercantile and other, concentrated on these streets, and as they were the special pets of the recently disbanded Vigilance Committee those who did not patronize them were considered in bad form, so to speak, and were looked on with a kind of suspicion. The Town Talk, a lively cheap daily managed by an association of practical printers, had raised its price from 12½ cents to 25 cents per week. As it was also in the confidence of the Vigilance Committee, its proprietors were in hopes the public would stand the raise; but as events subsequently proved they were disappointed. THE CALL supplanted the Town Talk. It was at this juncture of affairs that the intelligent men who originated THE CALL put their heads together and each asked the other why they, too, should not venture into the journalistic field, especially as the Town Talk had abandoned that portion of it which they proposed to occupy. No employment could be had in responsible printing offices, as they were already crowded. The next best thing to do, it was suggested, was to club their small means, amounting in all to about $130, and commence business on their own account.

After some natural hesitation the suggestion was acted upon.

A meager lot of printing material was purchased and a small room with a glass roof, formerly used as a photographic gallery, over the "Blue Wing saloon," on the east side of Montgomery street, leased for an office. Here THE CALL first saw light on the 1st of December, 1856. It was a very modest offering to the public, being only twelve by twenty inches in dimensions, served at a cost of 12½ cents a week. The carriers received 6¼ cents, and the first week of the publication some 2500 paying subscribers were listed. Not a heavy catch, some may say, for a cheap paper, but it was a good beginning. Its contemporaries scarcely deigned to notice its appearance, and if spoken of at all by the daily press, terms of contempt were used with predictions of speedy death. Still this comparatively unnoticed seed fell upon good ground and seemed to take root, feebly, it is true, from the first.

The public looked kindly on the venture. There was no end to serve by its publication excepting a legitimate one, and at the same time to furnish for public perusal a clean and reliable sheet.

The inception of THE CALL and its early financial troubles at the hands of faithless employes and worthless fiduciary agents reminds one of the genesis of two other journals (elsewhere mentioned), important, prominent and powerful for many years in the daily newspaper circles of the United States, if not of the world—the Picayune of New Orleans, La., and the Union of Sacramento, Cal.—one altogether now out of existence and the other so changed by the lapse of time and political mischance that its best friends, prior to 1861, would not know it. Like THE CALL, both these papers were started by an association of practical printers, who were high in hope and low in coin, and for more than a year the continuance of their publication was doubtful. It was only after the New Orleans associated typos had found a financier in the person of young Holbrook, who showed them that they were several thousand dollars better off than being bankrupt, as they thought they were, that they took heart, made Holbrook captain of the ship, and sailed on. It was only when the Sacramento Union party found on the levee of that city a clerk named James Anthony, who proved a Moses to lead them out of the wilderness of financial difficulty, that they began to believe they had a valuable property in their hands.

The accepted story is that the name "MORNING CALL" was derived from the comedietta of the same title, and the idea of adopting it occurred to the parties proposing to start the paper on seeing a bill-poster pasting an affiche to a dead wall with a staring line announcing that Charles Pope and Mrs. Julia Dean Hayne would appear in the pretty little piece at the old Metropolitan Theater on Montgomery street. The story is correct.

At the start the conductors of THE CALL decided to follow the advice given by Washington in his farewell address. They would make no entangling alliances in the management of their paper. The Vigilance Committee, the all-absorbing event of the year, which began its extrajudicial functions in May, 1856, had concluded them and was in a transition state, passing into an organized local political party for the purpose of controlling the municipal policy of San Francisco. In other words, the committee wished to keep clean a city government which it had already cleansed. THE CALL being started a few months after the disbandment of the committee its members resolved to treat the vigilance question as a dead issue, and only to refer to it when reference could not be avoided. It was a judicious conclusion, as whether for or against the movement, no one cared to talk about it, and all felt pleased that the necessity for the committee's existence had ceased. By a sort of tacit understanding among the best men in the community the subject was laid on the shelf. The work THE CALL addressed itself to particularly was to make as good a local paper as could be done by its limited resources, and as the restricted wants of the city at that time required. In Federal politics it was Union-Democratic, and retained its Democratic coloring up to the time the paper changed hands in 1869. It was independent in local affairs, applying the Jeffersonian text, "Is he honest?—Is he capable?" to every candidate for a municipal office, whether he trained as a Republican, Democrat or Know Nothing.

When the internecine war broke out in 1861 the union sentiment in the State of California was fostered and defended by THE CALL of San Francisco and Union of Sacramento without reserve, while other journals published in the two cities mentioned were at the time only half-hearted on the subject or altogether in favor of the right of secession.

THE CALL reaped the crop of libel suits usual to outspoken, independent journals, which are not afraid to expose and attempt to rectify a public wrong. Its harvest of such unwelcome fruit commenced early and occurred at intervals during its early history. The first and most important one was the celebrated Snyder suit in 1859, growing out of real or alleged crookedness on the part of employes of the United States Branch Mint of this city, then under the superintendency of Mr. Charles Hempstead, who himself had been connected with the newspaper business in San Francisco as the editor of Bonnard's Sun. It appears there were two Snyders belonging to Uncle Sam's money-house—one as an assayer and the other (Major Jacob R. Snyder) as United States sub-treasurer, principal financial officer of the Government on the coast. The information concerning shady transactions at the Mint came to the editors of THE CALL through a person who was deaf as a post. He heard imperfectly, and as a consequence related incorrectly. Like the babies in "Pinafore," the surgeons were mixed up with him, and he naturally thought the sub-treasurer was to be arraigned, as he was the highest game at which to fly. His blunder cost THE CALL people a pretty penny in the way of legal expenses, and they narrowly escaped fine and imprisonment besides. The case was tried before Judge Freelon of the then County Court. Colonel E. D. Baker appeared for the prosecution and Messrs. Love and Watson for the defense. Freelon charged dead against THE CALL, but the majority of an intelligent jury, of which the late Henry M. Newhall, auctioneer, was foreman, held that the offense was one of misconception and not of intent, and so they could not agree. The Major was subsequently placated by an ample apology in the columns of THE CALL, and consented that a nolle pros be entered. No honorable and well-conducted newspaper should hesitate to right a wrong done under misconception of facts. As to the effect of THE CALL's general work in regard to this Mint matter, it was beneficial. After investigation before the United States Grand Jury, a revolution took place in the working force of the Branch Mint, and business was carried on correctly, smoother and more effectively thereafter. The flurry at the time was considerable, but as is the case in natural processes, in the calm following a storm, the office air was much more wholesome and agreeable than it was before the trouble began. It is unnecessary to do more than allude to the other suits that followed the Snyder litigations. As before mentioned, they were frequent, but they were mostly brought for the purpose of vexation and blackmail. It became the fashion to sue THE CALL.

The majority of the suits were lost in the shuffle of cases on the court calendar, and in those that were brought to trial no damages, excepting in one case, were given. That case was a suit brought by a colored man named Brown, who was stopped when about to embark on the unfortunate steamship Brother Jonathan. Mr. Nisbet, who had just separated editorial connections with the Bulletin, and was on his way to Victoria, B. C., was drowned by the wreck of this vessel. Brown was detained by a Sheriff's officer, with a writ of ne exeat respublica, or something to that effect. He owed money and was not allowed to leave until he settled up. THE CALL reporter, in narrating the circumstance, called him a "negro," and rounded up his paragraph by the remark, "so the rascality of this man saved his life." Orson C. Pratt sat in the case. He held that the term "negro," as applied to an American citizen, was libelous in the strict sense, and the winding up of the local item was also of the same character. Brown sued for $5000 and the jury gave him $500. The defendants bought up at a small figure some judgments against the man and turned them in in satisfaction of damages. The result of this case was not unexpected. It is only mentioned to show what strained rulings were to be expected when the Judge was color blind and opposed to newspaper men and the press on principle.

One of the struggles THE CALL had to undergo in the early part of its career was that for news by the overland telegraph, completed early in 1861. The high-priced papers of San Francisco, and the Sacramento Union, charging twenty-five cents per week, obtained a monopoly of this privilege, which they were bound to do in order to keep out a popular journal like THE CALL that charged only twelve and a half cents. There was no difficulty in getting the State and court news over the wires of another and smaller organization, called the Alta Company, but the more important overland dispatches were tabu to the columns of a cheap daily. All sorts of expedients were resorted to in order to get the desired information, some of them most ingenious, but they wouldn't work against the business jealousies and opposition of THE CALL's rich and formidable newspaper rivals. At last a plan was hit upon which it was thought might measurably meet the difficulty. A cipher was carefully prepared strictly with a view to the nature of the matter to be communicated—events of the internecine war. Two copies were made, one of which was left with the managing editor of THE CALL and the other taken East by one of the members of the firm in the latter part of 1861.

The offices of the Overland Telegraph managers were in St. Louis at that time, and after a fruitless attempt to make an arrangement with the directors for a partial service at a reasonable rate, the plan originally designed was carried out. The cipher was intrusted to a competent man connected with one of the St. Louis dailies with instructions to send a certain number of ciphers per day. These were transmitted by the telegraph for some time, and being accurately deciphered and well expanded by a competent editor, a column would be evolved from each dispatch. The telegraph charge was 50 cents per word, or $150 per week of six issues. The arrangement fretted the big papers, but it was continued until one fine morning, when THE CALL'S St. Louis correspondent sent, in advance of the regular press dispatches, a cipher conveying news of the battle of Fort Donelson on February 15, 1861, and the success of the Union forces under General Grant. An extra was immediately issued, and a score made in the public mind in favor of THE CALL's enterprise. But unfortunately this was the last news cipher received over the wires. The telegraph magnates absolutely refused to transmit any more for this paper, although required to do so by law, and to all protests and threats of suits for damages calmly replied they would take the consequences. They could not afford to quarrel with their high-priced journalistic clients for the sake of THE CALL. An explanation was made to THE CALL's readers, and particular attention paid to revising, correcting and amplifying the news dispatches of more favored contemporaries copied in each morning's issue. They were varied in diction, and such new matter germane to the subject introduced that the republished news had all the charm of novelty and freshness. At any rate, the circulation of THE CALL went up steadily. Many of its supporters were hard-handed sons of toil, and as they had learned to labor so were they, in the matter of telegraphic news, contented to wait. While attending to this cipher business in the East the gentleman connected with THE CALL also made a contract for the celebrated "Sitanella" letters, for years a feature in its columns. Much curiosity was felt as to their author, and wagers were freely made that the writer was a woman. The letters came from the pen of Colonel John S. Du Solle, literary editor in 1861 of Noah's New York Times and Messenger.

The room in the Blue Wing building soon became too small for the increasing business of the young journal, and a move was made in 1858 to the two-story house on the southeast corner of Clay and Montgomery, where after remaining three or four years, the office of the paper was partially destroyed by fire that broke out in the lower portion of the building. Fortunately the fire occurred on Saturday morning after the paper had gone to press, and while the "forms" were still in the pressroom. Some of the "good-natured friends" of the paper concluded that it could not survive the disaster, and there would be no further issue. But they mistook the temper and spirit of the young men who had the infant enterprise in hand. There was no Monday morning issue, and consequently there were two clear days in which to turn around. A notice was published in the Alta that THE CALL would appear as usual on Tuesday morning, which, after reading and looking at the still smoking ruins, many smiled incredulously. "How will the boys be able to do it?" they asked each other. This is how the emergency was met. A section of Munson & Valentine's printing establishment on Clay street (where it is still located) was leased, and before many hours things were in train to enable THE CALL proprietors to keep their promise to the public.

The paper appeared on Tuesday morning, the regular day of issue, as if nothing had happened. True, the sheet was a little patchy in places on account of a difference in the face of the type; but otherwise it was satisfactory. When the limited resources at command were considered, the feat was applauded by the public and THE CALL gained considerable prestige.

Desk-room for business purposes was leased from George W. Gastini, who dabbled in newspapers, and then had an office on the east side of Montgomery street, near Clay, where he was preparing Nugent's moribund Herald for the grave. THE CALL'S awkward arrangement was continued for a few months, and then the establishment was moved to a new brick building above and adjoining the old United States Branch Mint (now the Sub-Treasury), on the north side of Commercial street, above Montgomery. Here it remained till 1869, when the new proprietors removed it to its present quarters on Clay street, between Leidesdorff and Sansome.

As an illustration of how closely the people of this State, and particularly of the city of San Francisco, were wedded to a hard-money circulation in the early history of the war the following incident, in which THE CALL was concerned, may be mentioned: The leading Federal officers on the coast combined in 1863 in an endeavor to force greenbacks into circulation, an effort that was stubbornly resisted by the people at large. There was also a struggle in the State Legislature of 1863 to force a currency of legal-tender notes on California. A mass-meeting was called on one occasion at what was known in those days as Platt's Music Hall on Montgomery street, by United States Sub-Treasurer Cheeseman and other officials, at which it was urged that California should give the Government material as well as moral support by accepting the greenback issues. The result of this meeting was that Cheeseman was mobbed by the audience on leaving the hall, and had it not been for a cordon of active friends and sympathizers who surrounded him at Wakelee's corner, might have been seriously maltreated. Previous to this emeute Collector Charles James and two or three others had visited THE CALL editorial rooms and requested that the paper instruct its readers on the subject of greenback currency, as a matter of importance to the General Government. It was a risky business, considering the condition of the public mind, but it was agreed to feel the public on the subject. Two or three suggestive articles were written in a tentative way, and it was thought that the idea might be eventually broadened with advantage; but this was abandoned when the carriers reported at the business office next collection day. Many of the subscribers on the different routes tendered postage stamps in payment. The carriers were uneasy and wanted to know what was in the wind, but they were not enlightened. It was found however, that the public, like Ephraim of old was joined to its idols, and the greenback question remained undisturbed in the future.

The bulkhead bill, one of the most important introduced in the State Legislature during the accidental governorship of John G. Downey in 1860, was zealously opposed by THE CALL as a measure fraught with mischief to the best interests of San Francisco, inasmuch as it was proposed to give to a syndicate of foreign capitalists—principally French—possession of this city's water-front, with the privilege of collecting tolls there for fifty years. The principal agent and fomentor of the scheme was the well-known Judge Levi Parsons, a man of great energy and infinite resources, but not nice in the manner of exercising these qualities. It was said at the time he had subsidized one or two San Francisco papers to advocate this measure, which THE CALL fought vigorously up to the time Governor Downey finally extinguished the hopes of its promoters by his veto. It was a very bitter fight while it lasted, and in some quarters the defeat of the bill was keenly felt.

An event that had the appearance of a crisis in the history of THE CALL occurred in 1864. On the 8th of November in that year Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States for a second term, beating General George B. McClellan, the Democratic candidate. When the campaign preceding the election opened actively in this State and city, a delegation of the Union-Democratic party waited upon the managers of THE CALL and more than requested now the war was as good as over that the paper should throw its influence for General McClellan. It was almost insisted, in fact, that this course be taken, with a threat that if it were not a Democratic boycott would be established against THE CALL. No attention was paid to the almost mandatory request, and the result was that Democratic names began to fall from THE CALL's subscription list like leaves from trees in November. On election day the paper had lost nearly half its circulation, which before the political disaffection reached 10,000 copies daily. The situation began to look serious, but THE CALL continued faithful to its convictions that under the circumstances of the time Mr. Lincoln was the best man for the Presidency. The hollowness of the Confederacy had been shown, and when the internecine difficulties were settled Mr. Lincoln would be first in the work of pacificating the Southern country as he had been in punishing that misguided and unfortunate section. The bloody tragedy that followed the second election of this great and good man and deprived the distracted country of his services when they would have been more valuable than ever need not be mentioned further than to show the influence it had on the public mind. The shock of it caused such a revulsion that all minor considerations were lost. Political spites and hatreds appeared puny in the presence of this great calamity. The political boycott of THE CALL was forgotten, the wisdom of the paper's course applauded, and the dissidents repented of the temporary animosity they had shown toward it. They brought forth fruits meet for repentance. Within two months after the death of the martyr President the circulation had risen to 12,000 copies. It is such events as these in its history that show how close an honest newspaper is to the hearts of the public, even through the mists of prejudice; and how much a straightforward course is appreciated by its readers.

The great movement with low-priced papers commenced in 1856-57, THE CALL being the avant-courier so far as success was concerned. Then followed the Chronicle, Republican, Post, Mail, Echo, Globe and half a dozen others which were commenced, but discontinued after a few months' existence. THE CALL had great success, but the older and larger-priced papers suffered in consequence.

THE SECOND EPOCH.

The second epoch in the history of THE CALL began in 1869, when Mr. Loring Pickering and his partners, Messrs. Fitch and Simonton, came into possession of the plant and good will of the paper by purchase. Mr. Pickering became director and managing editor. The old proprietors had disappeared from the scene. Ayers had gone to Honolulu to publish a paper for the Hawaiians, and perhaps at that early day sowed seed that found growth in the recent Provisional Government. Barnes was in South America. Foerster and Jobson were in their graves. The office of the paper had been removed from the rather too snug quarters on Commercial street to the building on Clay street, south side, below Leidesdorff, where it still is, having taken in much more space recently to accommodate THE CALL's growing wants, both in regard to the editorial and mechanical departments of the business. Mr. Pickering entered on his duties with a cheerful alacrity, which showed that the position suited him, and that his heart was in his work. He always held the idea that for a leading journal a morning daily was the most available, and had sought to get into the position he occupied at the beginning of 1869 for some time. It was to realize this favorite idea that he had bent all his energies to the purchase of THE CALL as being the paper best calculated for the object he had in view.

Taking up the history of the paper under Mr. Pickering's administration and just after he had entered on the direction of its affairs, we find it was almost immediately enlarged and improved in many other respects.

Mr. Pickering was a journalist by habit and instinct, and was fond of the employment—equally self-controlled and placid, whether success or failure awaited him. In his lifetime he had been connected with no less than seven newspapers, first beginning with a one-half ownership in the Hennepin Herald, Illinois, in 1845. In March, 1846, he removed from Hennepin to St. Louis, Mo., where he purchased an interest in the Missourian, and published it under the name of the St. Louis Union, beginning in August, 1846. His first newspaper venture after arriving in California was the purchase of the Placer Times in Sacramento in connection with Mr. Aldrich and Mr. Joseph E. Lawrence. Subsequently the Placer Times was united with the Transcript, a journal published by Mr. G. K. Fitch before Mr. Pickering's arrival in this State, and the publication was continued under the name of "The Times and Transcript." This paper was afterward sold to Messrs. Vincent Geiger, B. F. Washington and George Kerr, and subsequently removed to San Francisco. In 1855 Mr. Pickering, in company with Mr Fitch, purchased the Alta California from Annis Merrill, and sold it to Frederick MacCrellish & Co. in 1856. Mr. Pickering went abroad after this transaction and returned to California in 1860. He rejoined the Alta California at the solicitation of Mr. MacCrellish, but he left it in about two months, as things were not as agreeable there as they might have been. The same year he purchased an interest in the Evening Bulletin, and in 1869 acquired THE CALL, disposing of interests in the paper afterward to Mr. Fitch and Mr. Simonton.

It will be seen by this brief record of Mr. Pickering's connection with journalism that he must have acquired considerable experience in the business and was in every way well qualified for the task he had undertaken to pilot THE CALL on its new departure. With the exception of the bulkhead monopoly no very important measure had occupied the public mind during the ten years preceding his taking possession of the paper and becoming its manager. The period might in truth be called the war decade. There was restlessness and uncertainty in all branches of business in California, particularly that of journalism; but the years of the next

Daily Morning Call.

VOL. I. SAN FRANCISCO, MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 1, 1856. NO. 1.

DAILY MORNING CALL

IS PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING (MONDAY EXCEPTED) AT 138 MONTGOMERY STREET, SECOND FLOOR, BY AN

Association of Practical Printers.

Subscription....12½ Cents per Week.

ONE YEAR (in advance)..........$5 00
SIX MONTHS.....$2 75 | THREE MONTHS $1 62

☞Advertisements received at extremely low rates.

The Daily Morning Call.

Monday Morning, December 1, 1856.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMER GOLDEN AGE.

ELECTION OF JAMES BUCHANAN!

ELECTION NEWS FROM ALL THE STATES.

ANOTHER TERRIBLE RIOT AT BALTIMORE.

Important News Items—Later From Europe.

The Pacific Mail Steamship Company's steamer Golden Age, Commodore Watkins, with the mails and passengers, arrived last evening at 8½ o'clock. She brings dates from New York to Nov. 6th, and from Liverpool to 25th Oct.

MEMORANDA.

Pacific Mail Steamship Golden Age, Com. Jas. T. Watkins, left San Francisco at 6 P. M. Oct. 20. On the 27th, at 1 P. M., arrived at Acapulco, and left at 8 A. M. Arrived at Panama, Nov. 2d, at 6 P. M. Passengers, mails and treasure crossed the Isthmus, and sailed from Aspinwall on the 3d. The health of the Isthmus is good, the rainy season being about over. The Railroad continues in excellent order. U. S. frigate Independence, and sloop of war St. Marys, are still lying at Panama. The sloop of war Saratoga is still at Aspinwall—officers and crew all well. H. B. M. ship Orient, 90 guns, and a frigate (name unknown) arrived at Aspinwall on the 16th inst.

Left Panama at 11 P. M. on the 17th, with 831 passengers, 315 bags U. S. mails, and 689 packages merchandise and freight, having connected with steamer Illinois, which left New York on the 6th inst., and the Grenada, from N. Orleans on the 5th.

At 8 A. M. on the 20th, exchanged signals with H. B. M. ship Monarch, steering S. and E.

On the 23d entered the harbor of Acapulco, and left at 1 P. M. for San Francisco. On the 25th at 3 P. M. met steamer John L. Stephens, 120 miles below Cape St. Lucas, bound down.

Died on board, Nov. 27th, Alfred Nighswonger, of Chambersburgh, Pike County, Illinois, of dysentery, aged 25 years.

Nov. 30—At 12 M., broke main shaft, owing to which the steamer was detained about eight hours.

PASSENGERS.

Mrs Maj Wise and two children, Mrs Smith, G Reed, J S Earle, Mrs Sawyer and child, N Rose and lady, W A Macondray, Mrs Blain and daughter, Miss Phillips, Mrs W H Hanford, Mrs Stowell, L A Bartlett, lady and two children, Mrs H N Norcross and child, D Newhouse, W Newhouse, Mrs Abeline and child, E F Crane and lady, E F Northam, Mrs Joy and daughter, J Hinton, Mrs Chenery and son, Mrs Hubbard, E Davis, W Coles, W H M Caine, A Hamburger, lady and infant, Mrs R McCullough and infant, Gov Burnett, W Smith, Miss Smith, Miss S Owens, Mrs Ryder, infant and servant, A A Hole and lady, A Stiles, J Lowden, lady and child, W L Lowden and lady, Rev John Henley, J Hilt, Mrs Halsey and two children, J L Sprague, Mrs Sweetland, Wm M Fleming, Mrs Pitney, T R Stoney, G F Geiss, F Bonacina, Mrs Cunningham and infant, Mrs Graham and infant, J Stanton and lady, R S Easton and lady, Rt Rev A Blanchet and servant, Rev Chaplain and five Sisters of Charity, Mrs Van Vranken, H Duncan, F Shellberger and lady, J J Bradshaw, F W Gross, Wm McCall and lady, Miss B Zay, Miss L J Misser, Mrs Gage, W W Cole and lady, H Hazeltine, lady and two daughters, G W Spencer, Mrs H C Macy and two children, L D Denham, Mrs A J Hutchins and child, F J Nutter, lady and child, L A Buckner, R C Moore, A Maronda, J Ritson, Mrs E H Flood and two children, Mrs R Riley, A M Weeks and lady, C Miller, P Hussey, R Calmer, P M Cluter, S S Shreve, W Bryden, J M Selden, Dr Messersmith, U S N, Capt W H Osgood, J Pollard, Mrs Rubert, Baron de Morner, D C Levy jr, J N Posey, wife and child, Mrs Damrell and child, Dr Dengler and wife, F Larco and lady—and 100 second cabin passengers and 500 in the steerage.

At half-past 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon the Golden Age was telegraphed, and from that hour until the arrival of the steamer at the wharf, at half-past 8 o'clock, the excitement on Montgomery street was intense. Thousands were in waiting to hear the news, and politicians on each side were sanguine as to the success of their favorites for the Presidency. The result of the vote, as far as known to a certainty, is:

For Buchanan	174
Fremont	114
Fillmore	8

This is the summing up of the New York Herald, which gives the particulars of the vote in different States as far as heard from.

NEW YORK.—Buchanan, 134,802; Fremont, 145,285; Fillmore, 75,614. Fremont's majority over Buchanan, 10,480.

PENNSYLVANIA.—In this State the Democratic gains since the late election have been very large, and the 27 votes have without any doubt been given to Buchanan.

MICHIGAN.—Has gone for Fremont by about 2,500 majority.

ILLINOIS.—Result not ascertained, but set down for Buchanan by a decided majority.

TENNESSEE.—The twelve electoral votes given to Buchanan by over 3,000 majority.

INDIANA.—Returns received sufficient to know that the State has given Buchanan a decided majority.

WISCONSIN.—Has given her five electoral votes for Fremont by over 2,000 majority.

KENTUCKY.—Buchanan has carried the State by at least 5,000 majority.

OHIO.—It is said has gone for Fremont by about 20,000 majority.

DELAWARE.—Gives near 2,000 majority for Buchanan.

MARYLAND.—The only State voting for Fillmore, gives him near 3,000 majority.

VIRGINIA.—The Democratic majority very large—figures not given.

NORTH CAROLINA.—The same.

SOUTH CAROLINA.—The Legislature elected an elector with instructions to vote for Buchanan.

GEORGIA.—Democratic by 15,000 majority.

ALABAMA.—5,000 majority for Buchanan.

MISSISSIPPI.—Returns show Democratic gains—certain for Buchanan.

LOUISIANA.—Democratic by a small majority.

MAINE.—Gives a very large majority, say 20,000 for Fremont.

RHODE ISLAND.—Has gone for Fremont by 4,500 majority.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—As far as heard from Fremont's majority is 4,154.

VERMONT.—Fremont's majority will reach 25,000.

MASSACHUSETTS.—The vote complete gives Fremont a majority of 42,207.

CONNECTICUT.—Fremont's plurality will reach 7,000.

From all these returns we may set down to a certainty the following as the result:

FOR BUCHANAN.

Illinois	11	Mississippi	7
Indiana	13	Missouri	9
New Jersey	7	North Carolina	10
Pennsylvania	27	South Carolina	8
Indiana	9	Tennessee	12
Arkansas	4	Texas	4
Delaware	3	Virginia	15
Florida	3	Georgia	10
Kentucky	12	California	4
Louisiana	6		
Total			178

FOR FREMONT.

New York	35	Ohio	23
Connecticut	6	Iowa	4
Maine	8	Massachusetts	13
Michigan	6	New Hampshire	5
Rhode Island	4	Vermont	5
Wisconsin	5		
Total			114

FOR FILLMORE.

Maryland	8
Whole number of votes	296
Necessary to a choice	149

In the House of Representatives the members will stand, as near as can now be ascertained, as follows:

Democratic	135
All Opposition	99
Democratic majority	36

The Democrats will therefore have a decided majority in both houses of next Congress.

Election Riot in Baltimore.

From the Baltimore American of November 5 we learn that the election on the preceding day was characterized by the wildest excitement. At an early hour in the morning several of the polls were taken possession of by bands of armed men, and all those who did not favor either the Fillmore or Buchanan ticket were driven away. In the melee that ensued some fifty persons were wounded, and one man shot dead. The fighting in different sections of the city was carried on all day, and altogether it was one of the bloodiest riots that has ever taken place in the country.

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EUROPEAN NEWS.

The Steamship Canada, Capt. Lang, from Liverpool, Oct. 25, arrived at Halifax Nov. 5th.

The Moniteur says that when the Congress of Paris broke up, the great Powers saw elements fraught with danger to peace in Belgium, Greece and Naples; that of these States Naples alone refused to accept friendly advice, and that in consequence the Western Powers will cease to hold diplomatic intercourse with her.

The British fleet is somewhere in the Mediterranean, and the French ships continue at Toulon ready for sea.

In the meantime dispatches are contradictory—while one statement says the ministers will not leave for some months, another asserts that Baron Brenier, the French Envoy, has announced to the Neapolitan Government that if he did not receive a satisfactory communication within two hours he would present his last instructions—said instructions being doubtless to demand his passports.

The statement that the Emperor of Russia has urged the King of Naples to avoid a rupture by making some concessions, seems to be confirmed by numerous communications in the continental papers.

The Cologne Gazette and the Independence Belge express themselves very positively on the subject.

The advice of the Emperor it seems was that King Ferdinand should change some of his ministers and place Prince Sariano at the head of the government. While warning him against the ill-will of England, the Emperor is further represented as having recommended to the King to trust to the moderation of the Emperor of the French, and to accept him as a mediator.

The hopes of a speedy re-assembling of the Paris Conference begin to be shaken. The resistance is said to come from the British government, whose views seem to prevail.

Great Britain.

Parliament has been further prorogued till December 16.

The citizens of Dublin gave a banquet on the 22d ult. to nearly 4,000 troops who served in the Crimea. The mayor of Dublin presided, supported by Lord Lieut. Carlisle, Lords Gough, Talbot and many other gentlemen. The city of Edinburgh will give a similar banquet on the 31st.

France.

Numerous arrests have recently taken place in the Department of the Deux Zones, where a secret society of a dangerous description has been discovered. The society was organized by tens and hundreds, all trained to obey orders for the destruction of the rich. Sixty persons were apprehended, but the peasants, armed with pitchforks, attacked the escort and rescued the prisoners.

New arrests have also been made in the Faubourg St. Antoine.

The report of the Bank of France is more favorable, although the bank has adopted yet more stringent measures and will not make any advance at present on railway shares or rentes. Commercial bills having sixty days to run are always objected to, so that virtually the term is reduced to forty-five days.

Spain.

Accounts from Madrid speak of a new ministerial crisis, the object being to throw Narvaez overboard and restore the absolutists. The Marquis of Viluma is spoken of as the coming man, but he, in the meantime, declines the responsibility. It is said that O'Donnell is put in command of the household guard as a check upon Narvaez.

Italy.

The Grand Duke of Tuscany, taking alarm at the demonstration against Naples, appears disposed to grant some concessions to his people by reviving, with some modifications, the constitution of 1848.

Switzerland.

The Neufchatel prisoners have been dismissed. The federal government is making an effort to be represented in the Congress of Paris.

Turkey.

The Sultan had sent orders to Reschid Pacha to form a new ministry. Reschid declined. The real cause was a difference of opinion with the French minister respecting the principalities.

News Items.

The Hon. Samuel Hoar died on the 2d ult. at Concord, Mass., aged 78 years. He was retained in nearly all the great cases, civil and criminal in the State, for thirty or forty years. He was a perfect type of the sterling virtues of the New England character, with but few of its prejudices.

The amount of money subject to draft in the U. S. Treasury is upward of $25,000,000—of which amount there is reported at San Francisco the sum of $2,750,000.

The news from Kansas is to the 28th ult. On that day a numerously attended convention organized at Big Springs and nominated Gov. Reeder as the Free State candidate for delegate to Congress. The State prisoners were on trial at Lecompton.

An accident occurred on the Williamsport and Elmira Railroad, when near Crescent station, on the 1st inst. In consequence of breaking a rail the whole train was thrown off the track. A baggage master was killed instantly and several passengers badly hurt.

A duel was fought on the 1st inst. a few miles below Richmond, Va., between Roger A. Pryor, editor of the Richmond Enquirer, and Dr. Finney, Senator from Accomac County. Dr. Finney was wounded in the right hip.

There was a violent gale on the 4th inst. on Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. A large number of vessels were wrecked.

Montreal was visited on the 4th inst. by a terrific hurricane. A good deal of damage was done to the buildings in the city and neighborhood, but no loss of life is reported.

The Church of the Epiphany at Philadelphia sustained the vestry in the rebuke given to the pastor, Rev. Dudley A. Tyng, for preaching politics from the pulpit. Dr. Tyng will resign the pastorate.

The powder mill of Nathan Pratt at South Acton exploded on the 1st inst. and killed two men employed in the building.

Arrival of the Columbia.

By the arrival of the steamship Columbia last evening we are placed in possession of Oregon papers to the 22d ult. The following is the memoranda and list of passengers:

MEMORANDA.

Left San Francisco at 10 A. M. Nov. 20, and crossed Columbia Bar Nov. 24th and arrived at Portland on the evening of the same day. Discharged freight, mails and passengers. Left for San Francisco at 12 M. on the 26th. Arrived at Port Orford on the 28th, delivered mail and left for C. City, where we arrived at 7 A. M. on the 29th. Left at 12 M. the same day; experienced a succession of heavy S. E. gales, which prevented any communication with the shore on the up trip, either at Port Orford or Crescent City.

PASSENGERS.

L Flagg, Mr Meek, Mrs Stanton and son, S Wilson, H Elkins, S Blummer, J Mitchell, Mr Kelendge, Manning and family, Geo White, J B Knapp, Kohn, Stork, Pritchard, French and lady, Mrs Hunt, W Ward, J W Smith, D Ingalls, Major Garret, U S A, Lieut Wandell, U S A, Captain Winder and lady, Dr Mapon and lady, Mrs Coyle and 21 in the steerage.

The Oregonian contains news of the capture of Leschi, the head chief of the Nisquallys, who was leader in the late difficulties West of the Cascade mountains. He was made drunk by some friendly Indians and delivered into the hands of the whites. He was to have a trial in the U. S. District Court, Judge Lander presiding.

In that Court Col. Shaw of the Washington Territory Volunteers was fined three hundred dollars for contempt of Court last Spring in executing the order of Governor Stevens enforcing martial law.

The U. S. troops under Major Haller were all stationed at Port Townsend.

The revenue cutter Jeff Davis was cruising in the Sound. The U. S. steamer Massachusetts was at Seattle.

A gambler by the name of Orlando Neill was shot at the Dalles on the 19th ult. Three balls entered his breast. Suspicion rests on a man by the name of Dennis.

Fox has had his trial at Portland for shooting T. J. Crawford some time since and acquitted. Crawford had seduced the sister of Fox and refused to marry her. Fox shot him, and the jury considered him justifiable.

THE DEAD AND THE LOST.—From forty to fifty children are lost annually in New York City, and none of their relatives ever hear of them afterward. Double and triple the number of dead bodies are found every year, of which no one knows anything and for which no one appears to care, except to remove them as a nuisance.