Pioneer and Democrat.

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON TERRITORY,

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1857.

J. W. WILEY AND E. PURDIE, EDITORS.

"Truth crush'd to earth will rise again.
The eternal years of God are here."

About the Outgoing and Incoming Administrations.

It is to be supposed, (unless otherwise ordered by Divine Providence), that on Wednesday of last week, James Buchanan, Esq. vacated the chair, as such, and gave place to his successor—our new inauguration—Mr. Buchanan.

In the administration of the affairs of the general government, foreign and domestic, Mr. Pierce, his cabinet, and adherent co-workers generally, have had a rough, and rugged road to travel, during the past four years, and Mr. Buchanan may well esteem himself as being highly favored, should he escape from the "thorn and bramble" of his career, as unscathed, unsullied and unblemished in reputation, as has his illustrious predecessor.

We last week gave insertion to a number of paragraphs, (editorially calling attention to the same), as going to show the state of the treasury—the liabilities of the government, &c., at the time Mr. Pierce was installed in office, as also exhibiting the faithful and economical manner in which the Secretary of the Treasury, Hon. James Guthrie, had performed his duties in the payment of the national debt—honorable to himself—creditable and satisfactory to the government. Sound and unsurpassed as has ever been the New York Tribune, in political, as well as relates to the interests of persons, resident on the Pacific coast—even that paper is forced into an admission, that Mr. Buchanan may consider himself fortunate should he be able to supplant the place of Mr. Guthrie by an equally honest, faithful and competent gentleman, as Secretary of the Treasury. It will be difficult, advantageously and satisfactorily, to supply the positions of Secretaries Marcy and Guthrie. *Would* that they *might* both be unappointed.

As above intimated, the administration of Mr. Pierce was brought to a close on the 4th inst., and it has been a laborious, trying and eventful one. His policy has been firm, cautious and just—fully realizing the expectations indicted by his inaugural message, and which cast a thrill of hope and pleasure through the heart of the entire nation. His administration has been conducted with that economy—with that strict regard to the equal rights of all portions of the country, and with that most faithful adherence to the old landmarks of the constitution—unequaled by any that has preceded it, and only equalled—if at all—by such as those of Jackson, Madison, Jefferson, and the "Father of his country."

The administration of Mr. Pierce, as we have said, has been an *eventful* one—in its peaceful conquests—in its vindication of great domestic rights, and in the condition in which it has left all departments of the public service.

During his administration, war has raged abroad. Nearly all Europe has been in arms. Vast armies and immense fleets have met in deadly hostility; and with all the appliances of war, the great nations of Europe have struggled for about one half of his term of service;—Sebastopol fell, and, that, too, at the expense of all parties engaged, and with a large debt—not including pecuniary considerations—many thousand lives—with very little advantage to either belligerent party.

The firm, practical and discreet course pursued by Gen. Pierce, has vindicated the national honor, and enforced the supremacy of the laws, without disturbing the peaceful relations of the country. His dismissal of Mr. Crampton and the British consuls, for their violation of our enlistment laws—his course in in regard to the Sound dues—the Gadsden purchase—Central American affairs—have all shown a firm, just, and decided policy. He retires from the position as our Chief Magistrate, with the respect of the enlightened friends of freedom and democratic principles, and of clear-headed statesmen both at home and abroad. He has not, however, received plaudits from the enemies and revilers of American institutions and American liberty. *Great Britain* will vouch for the truth of this assertion.

The fierce excitement which was consequent upon the passage of the "Kansas-Nebraska" act of Congress—the acts of outrage on both sides—the venality and corruption of some of the officers appointed to administer the affairs of those new Territories, imposed a most trying duty upon President Pierce. When we reflect upon the fact, that this excitement not only prevaded the political world, but entered with an uninvited and an inexplicable attitude, into the sanctuaries of religion, and infected the ministers, too, of their laws—when a large portion of their energies were applied to fanning the flames of a national agitation, and that they called upon the God of mercy and of justice to visit the land of their birth or adoption with "sword, pestilence and famine," rather than Mr. Buchanan should be elected as our President;—when we reflect upon these things, we say, we can readily appreciate the nerve, hand and heart of the President, who has taken us for the last four years, in safety over a tempestuous, turbulent sea of foreign and domestic difficulties, and has at last safely moored the ship of State in the embrace of a safe and capacious democratic harbor. And yet the Nebraska act simply recognized the equal rights of the Territories. It left slavery where the constitution had left it, and would have met the most sanguine expectations of the friends of the measure, had it not been for the interposition of fanatics on both sides. We equally dislike Kansas "shrickers," and "shrieker" on the other side. We deplore all fanaticism and excitement. We desire that all citizens of this great Republic should repair to their new homes in the Territories, on the Pacific and elsewhere, endowed with the right, quietly and unrestricted, save by the constitution, to establish their own municipal regulations; and such has been the policy indicated by the administration of Gen. Pierce. He has inflexibly persisted in maintaining it, and it is a source of congratulation to the whole country, that his policy has resulted in the restoration of peace to Kansas, and the general repression of agitation throughout the land. The agitators are justly regarded as enemies of our government, and opponents of our constitutional liberty. For his course in regard to Territories, *alone*, Mr. Pierce merits a high position on the roll of our country's *hero* Presidents—who deserves, and will receive the heartfelt gratitude of the people of both States and Territories.

But his administration has been most beneficial in its financial policy. It has enforced economy upon all branches of the public service, and has required a strict accountability in all its monetary operations. There was, when it came into power, a tendency to "Galphin" peculation and extravagance—the natural result of an exuberant and constantly increasing prosperity. There was a desire to embark in a magnificent system of internal improvements by the general government, contrary to the established usages and doctrines of the democratic party, and in conflict with the spirit of the constitution of our common country. Those improvements, as has been amply demonstrated, can be perfected with more economy by the several States, and those States are now in the most prosperous condition, which have awarded their public works to the care of private enterprise.

President Pierce arrested the extravagance of the times by his many vetoes; and it is to hoped that there will ever be at the helm of the ship of State, a President, having the nerve to enforce economy in the direction of public affairs, by the use of the veto power.

Well, it is to be supposed that Mr. Buchanan is now our President, and that he has, ere this, organized his cabinet. As far as the interests of this Territory, and the Pacific generally, is concerned, it is of the highest importance that judicious selections be made to fill the positions of Postmaster General, and Secretaries of War and of the Interior, as also of Indian Affairs.

Quite a number of leading democratic journals in the States strongly recommend, as Postmaster General, Col. Samuel Medary—editor of the *Ohio Statesman*. In connection with a highly complimentary notice of Mr. Medary for that post, by the editor of the *Boston Times*, Col. Pike's excellent democratic *National Flag*, of a late date, published at Bloomington, Illinois, contains the following:

"It gives us real pleasure to endorse the above. We know it to be true, and therefore use this occasion to urge upon the incoming Administration the claims of the gallant Colonel to a favorable consideration. We commenced editorial life the same year, in the same State, with Col. Medary, and have been a faithful man-at-arms with him ever since. We have stood shoulder to shoulder with him in many of the hardest fought political battles ever fought in Ohio, and for the past twenty-five years, no man has rendered more valuable services to the Democracy of the Union, than he. He has been in the front of every battle and the last to quit the field. A warmer hearted friend lives not beneath the sun, and a more worthy gentleman would be hard to find.

"No man in America would make a better Postmaster General than Col. Medary. His long political experience, and intimate acquaintance with the Post-office regulations of the country, eminently qualify him for that position, and nothing would please us better than the hear of his appointment thereto, at the proper time."

We maintain that *now* is the *time* when the services of such a man as Col. Medary, of Ohio, or Senator Bright, of Indiana, is demanded by the country for the place of Postmaster General. We have known Col. Medary from our boyhood, and for three consecutive sessions of the Legislature of Ohio, was an employee in his office; and it was in the composition of articles from his pen, concerning the Pacific coast, that our first favorable impressions of Oregon were obtained. He was always an inflexible advocate and defender of the American title to the country up to the northern 54° 40' line, and we have no doubt, should he be selected by Mr. Buchanan, as the head of the Post-office Department, his course in giving direction to affairs on this coast would strangely and surprisingly contrast with the illiberal and narrow contracted policy of Mr. Campbell. Col. Medary "is, exactly," the man for the place, and we earnestly hope it will be tendered to him. In a few weeks, the character of the cabinet will be known here. Let us all hope that the selections will be such as to afford satisfaction to the democratic party and the country.

The Commission on Indian War Claims.

This board having examined the rolls and passed upon the basis of report in reference to the personal service of Oregon, have adjourned to visit Olympia, in Washington Territory, for the purpose of receiving the reports of the volunteer departments of that Territory, and more particularly the rolls of personal service there, with the view of putting them into the hands of clerks, under instructions to make up the pay rolls concurrently with those of Oregon.

We learn that the commissioners have expressed a commendation of the manner in which the rolls and portions of the reports of the Quartermaster and Commissary Departments which have been submitted have been made up.

It is understood that the Board will return to resume its session at this place in May.

It is probably that the several prominent points of supply during the late war will be visited, after the principle labors of the commission have been completed, for the purpose of examining such claims as may for any cause be suspended.—*Statesman.*

Second Judicial District.—A term of the U. S. court for this district, was commenced in Olympia on Monday—chief justice Lander, presiding—in conformity with the late law of congress, and in compliance with the acts passed at the late session of the legislative assembly, making the statutes of the territory—the criminal, practice act, &c.—passed at former sessions, applicable to said act of congress. Several cases—criminal and civil—have been tried and disposed of. The trial of the notorious Leschi—the accredited war-chief in our late Indian war, on the western side of the Cascades, has not, as yet, been reached in the callender. We expect to have something to say about this matter next week.

☞ The *Washington Republican*, to be published at Steilacoom, Pierce county, under the editorial direction of Frank Balch, esq., will, we are informed, make its *debut*, in the political ring, about the 3d of April. *Courtesy* will be expected, and *courtesy* will be extended. We never had, or never expect to have a feeling of *dread* for a *worthy* political opponent. "Come along."

☞ The communication of our faithful and intelligent Whashington City correspondent, was received too late for insertion in this issue. It will find a place in our columns next week.

☞ The weather, for the past week—"speaking generally"—has been "so-so" or "cumtux." On the *whole*—not *bad*.

☞ Our thanks are due to Hon. J. Patton Anderson, delegate in Congress for this territory, for congressional documents, etc., received by the last mail and express.

☞ The Connecticut *Courant*, published at Hartford, enters upon its ninety-fourth year and its ninety-fourth volume on the 1st of January next.

☞ The New York Commercial Circulars variously estimate the cotton crop, of 1856 at from 3,000,000 to 3,300,000 bales.

☞ The man who thinks laboriously will express himself concisely.

Dalles, Walla-Walla, Ft. Colville, &c.

Arrival of the Government Express!

Mr. John Dunn, who, for more than a year, has been a regular and faithful expressman between this place and the country east of the Cascade mountains, arrived here, direct from the Dalles on Thursday evening, having left that place at the close of last week.

He informs us that Fred. White, a german, who we stated last week had been taken prisoner by the Indians, and retained by Kamiakin, as his secretary, had been released, or made his escape, and had arrived in safety at the Dalles, just as Mr. D. was on the point of taking his departure. Having been in the confidence of the leading war chiefs of the hostiles, it is to be supposed that he is in possession of much valuable information as to their future plans of operation, &c.; and hence we may look for some future important developments.

When Mr. Dunn left the Dalles, Kamiakin and some five hundred warriors were reported to be encamped on Camas prairie, near the Palouse river, over two hundred miles from the Dalles. Although Kamiakin, and other chiefs, profess friendship, and although they promised to return the beef cattle, horses and mules recently stolen by the Indians, in the Simcoe valley, belonging to the command of Capt. Woodruff, Ft. Simcoe, they have, as yet, taken no steps to comply with their promises. Their *professions* of peace are regarded by the people of the Columbia river, as *professions—only*. No further acts of hostility or robbery have occurred since our former advices.

The Dalles is steadily advancing in permanent improvements. The winter, east of the Cascades, has been unusually severe, and a lamentable per centage of the stock there, died of starvation on account of the depth of snow on the grazing lands.

The excitement concerning the gold region, in the vicinity of Ft. Colville, is growing more intense along the Columbia river, and small parties, almost every week, are leaving the Dalles for that section of country. About thirty persons spent the winter in the mines—most of whom, it is said, realized a handsome return for the time and labor bestowed. There, too, the winter has been uncommonly severe.

Mr. Woolf, a merchant at the Dalles, and trader in the mines, recently returned from Ft. Colville, with $2000 or $3000, in *dust*, for a fresh supply of articles, subsistence and otherwise, for the miners. He gives a most favorable and flattering foreshadowing as to what the future of our northern gold diggings are destined to be. He reports that "Skloom," one of the chiefs of the hostiles, has promulgated an edict, forbidding all "Bostons," and others, from passing to or from, or operating in the gold mines, during the coming summer. His *caution*, however, Mr. Dunn says, will not be observed. He says that business and general prosperity is rapidly increasing along the Columbia and Cowlitz rivers.

The last number of the Oregon *Times* says, that contracts have been let and the work commenced, for building two new steamers; one to ply between Portland and Cascades, and the other between that place and Cowlitz. They are being built at Milwaukie.

On his arrival here, Mr. Dunn placed us in possession of Oregon papers, of March 7th, and from San Francisco, of March 6th.

From the S. F. *Herald*, we are advised of the death of Hon. Preston S. Brooks, of South Carolina, and of Sumner memory, who died at Washington City on the 27th of January, of croup.

By the same paper we are informed, that on the 31st January, a bill was passed the U. S. Senate appropriating nearly $700,000 for the restoration and maintainance of peace, etc., in Oregon and Washington Territories.

Also, that the Central American Treaty was recommitted to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, by a vote of *five* to *one*. This indicates its rejection by that body, as a two-thirds vote is required to confirm it. Such a proceeding cannot fail to complicate the relations between Great Britain and this country.

☞ Gen. Harney has recommended active hostilities against the Indians in Florida. The latest advices state that the savages were concentrated in the woods near New Smyrna, and that Gen. Harney had called for more troops for the purpose of surrounding them.

☞ The number of blind persons in Japan is said to be numerous. In Jeddo, the capital, 30,000 is the computation.

☞ Four and a half million dollars worth of raw silk are annually imported from China into this country.

☞ It is said that of the twenty-six members of the famous Hartford convention, noted in our political annals, every one has passed to his grave.

"Sanctum" "So-So's," &c.

Received by the Last Mail and Express!

Our files of Oregon papers, received by the last mail, (March 5th,) contain no local news of importance, Indian, or otherwise, concerning that territory.

☞ The San Francisco *Herald*, of Feb. 20th, says that two distinct shocks of an earthquake were felt in that city on the evening previous to the date as above. It appears that no serious consequences resulted from the shocks, and that the sensation was not, as on former occasions, of a rocking and oscillating motion, but resembled more the sudden jar of a subterranean explosion of powder, being accompanied with considerable noise. The interval between the shocks was about ten seconds. Much consternation was manifested throughout the city.

☞ The *Sea Bird*, and other vessels, have recently taken their departure from San Francisco, with over one hundred passengers—emigrants, ostensibly, for the new territory of Arizona.

☞ The San Francisco *Herald* is about to be enlarged again to its double, former size. It is decidedly the best *newspaper* published in that city, and for its manly light in the late presidential election for democratic principles, richly deserves an adequate support from the party.

☞ It is said that the notorious Ned McGowes, of San Francisco vigilance committee memory, has finally turned up in China—having had himself shipped in a coffin to the "Celestial Empire." The *Herald* is disposed to discredit the "yarn."

☞ A dreadful typhoon has recently visited the Chinese sea, by which, out of a fleet of twenty-two junks, from various ports, from Shanghae to Tientsing, seventeen foundered, and the remaining five were dismasted. Loss of life estimated at one thousand.

☞ A series of resolutions were introduced at a meeting of the members of the members of the Mechanics' Institution, Southampton buildings, London, proposing a further, more vigilant and vigorous search in quest of the two remaining missing vessels, connected with the Arctic ocean exploration, commanded by Sir John Franklin. This occurred in December last, after the missing ship *Resolute*, commanded by Capt. Hartstein, of our navy, had been restored to Great Britain. The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

☞ We learn from the New York *Mercury*, that the 9th infantry, a portion of which command has been stationed in this territory for over a year past, is now "in the field" for a "Colonel." The same paper says that Capt. Murphy, of the 11th, is the favored one. If the regiment is to remain in service, in this territory, for God's sake let the Colonel be—*somebody*.

☞ We have a report from Washington City, that Mr. Villiers, a relative of Lord Clarendon, has been appointed British Minister for our government. At the same time we observe by our exchanges that he will not receive the appointment.

☞ The New York *Herald* learns that Gen. Duff Green is preparing a book under the title of "Recollections of a Washington Politician who was thirty years out of the Senate." The intention is to make head against Col. Benton's work of Thirty Years in the Senate.

☞ The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. *Herald*, says that the house committee have agreed to report the Pacific railroad bill gotten up by T. Butler King and Robert J. Walker, both of whom are now in Washington.

☞ During the year 1856 there arrived at Philadelphia 1934 vessels, of which 122 were from foreign ports. The imports of foreign merchandise for the year amounted to $17,858,617—showing an increase of $2,754,139 over 1855, but only $58,407 over 1854. The amount of cash duties received at the custom house was $4,292,123.

☞ Arrived at New York from foreign ports last year 3809 vessels, with 159,284 passengers; besides 11,925 passengers from California.

☞ It is remarkable that during the same year, 1620, in which the Pilgrims emigrated to New England, the first negro slaves were imported to North America and sold to the settlers in Virginia.

☞ Thomas Jefferson wrote of Andrew Jackson—"He is a clear-headed, strong-minded man, and has *more of the old Roman in him than any man living.*"

☞ A card from Hon. A. H. Stephens is published in the Augusta Constitutionalist, posting B. H. Hill for cowardice in declining a challenge.

☞ John Van Buren in a letter to a democratic committee in Boston, says that General Scott voted for Mr. James Buchanan.

☞ The New Orleans *Delta* suggests to Mr. Buchanan that Gen. Quitmen is the proper man for the office of secretary of war.

☞ Caleb Croswell, of Wisconsin, has been appointed as the consul at St. Petersburg.

☞ Dr. Livingstone, the African traveler, arrived at Marseilles on the 6th of December from Tunis, having just returned from a tour through Central Africa. This had lasted seventeen years, during all of which time he had disused the English language, and on reaching a British ship-of-war he found great difficulty in speaking a word of English. He was accompanied from Africa by a native of the interior of that continent, who, on reaching the Mauritius, was so excited with the steamers and various wonders of civilization, that he went mad, jumped into the sea and was drowned.

☞ In 1852, 1,260,000 squirrel skins were exported from Russia to China, in exchange for tea. Most of the skins came from Siberia.

The Oldest Man in America.—Peter Nassau, a colored man, now resident of Woodstock, Vermont, has reached the extraordinary age of 129 years! and is doubtless the oldest living man in this country. His history has been traced out by N. Haskell, esq., town clerk of Woodstock and it appears he was born two years before Washington, was 46 years old at the date of the declaration of independence, and long before the second war with Great Britain broke out he had passed the scriptural limit of life—three-score years and ten.

☞ Near Edith, (S. C.,) says the Mobile Advertiser, a crop is about to be gathered of four acres of sun-flowers. The seed will be used for oil and to feed cattle and poultry, as in the south of France; but the chief object is to obtain the fibres of the stalk for paper-making. If the cultivation succeeds it is expected to supply abundant material for fine writing and printing paper as well as fine and coarse for paper hanging.

Cotton.—The main dependence of the world is on this country for cotton, and last year 3,500,000 bales were sold out of a product of 4,200,000. The failure of one crop would be most disastrous.

☞ The sugar crop of Texas, for the past season, will probably not exceed 3,000 hogsheads.

☞ There are 551 rice plantations in Georgia. North and South Carolian, each raising 20,000 pounds and over. There are 16,745 tobacco estates of 3,000 pounds each, and over, in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. There are 1,726 in Maryland.

Ancestors on Both Sides.—The grand father of Wm. H. Prescott, the historian, commanded the American forces at Bunker Hill, while the grand father of his wife commanded a British ship of war, which bombarded the American works in the same action. The historian has the swords of each, at his residence in Boston.

☞ The Boston editions of Mr. Prescott's histories bring him in $20,000 a year.

☞ Some enterprising citizens have purchased all the trees growing on the Mount Vernon estate, and intend converting them into Washington canes.

☞ Mr. Joseph Jackson, formerly of Cincinnati, Ohio, is the Postmaster General of the Sandwich Islands.

☞ The population of Cuba is estimated at 1,446,602 souls.

☞ There are hundred and fifty newspapers published in the State of Virginia.

☞ The population of the United States is twenty-seven millions of souls—26,964,312.

Buchanan an Irishman.—The Belfast (Ireland) Morning *News* claims that Mr. Buchanan is a native of Omagh, County Tyrone!

☞ The Cleveland *Herald* says that enough is known to lead to the belief that the losses upon the lakes for the season just closed, amount to over $4,000,000.

☞ It is said that 20,000 song birds of various kinds are sold in New York every year.

☞ The cost of a message by electric telegraph between the Crimea and London is said to be $600.

☞ The total wealth of the United States is, "say" $11,317,611,072.

☞ The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal chronicles a case where a child was born without eyes.

☞ Letters from Liberia state that the culture of sugar has been carried on so prosperously that several sugar growers are talking about exporting it largely to the United States. One of them, named Richardson, expects to ship two hundred hogsheads of sugar, of his first grinding.

☞ A small telegraph apparatus has been invented, not larger than a tobacco box, which can be attached to the wire at any point along the line, at the instant, and a message sent as desired.

Gen. Wool.—In an apology for not giving publicity to a communication concerning the course of Gen. Wool, and his departure for the Atlantic states, sent for publication to editor of San Francisco *Herald*, that paper of the 20th ult., contains the following. The *apology*, we doubt not, in comparison with the letter to which it refers, would partake somewhat of character of some *pitchers* of which we have heard—the *handle* larger than the *pitcher*; or of a disease, in which death would be a trifle to the remedy. "We have received," says the *Herald*, "from an esteemed and valued friend, a severe letter on the departure of Maj. Gen. John E. Wool. However much we may agree with him as to the justice of his mordant strictures on that officer, we forbear to give them publicity in consideration of the age and the former services of Gen. Wool. In his high office, he has, as we have already demonstrated, committed a grave crime against the constitution, by refusing the means of his command for the suppression of revolt; but his present position is so lamentable as to disarm all resentment. He has, indeed, lost the regard of his former friends, to an extent that is painfully apparent. The pseudo-proffer of a public entertainment by members of the Vigilance committee, and notorious sympathizers with that lawless organization, published in this morning's papers, is a most damaging commendation to an officer in the army; while the fact that to that document there are but three signatures of gentlemen who were in favor of maintaining the laws—and those affixed from motives of personal friendship—constitutes a humiliating and bitter reprimand to one who, three years ago, on his arrival in this city, was received with open arms by all classes. It would then be ungenerous and ungracious to use harsh language in commenting on the course of Gen. Wool. His present attitude—the loss of esteem—the alienation of friends—the circumstances under which he leaves—the bulk of the signatures to that card of sympathy—all this forms sufficient condemnation. For ourselves, we wish Gen. Wool all happiness and prosperity; but our wish is not based on his conduct in the Vigilance Committee excitement."

"The amount of gold received at New York from California during the present year is $40,319,929, which is $1,362,605 less than was received last year."—*N. Y. Herald.*

In answer to the above, the San Francisco *Herald*, of Feb. 20th, 1857 says, it is, possibly, true that there has been a falling off in the imports of gold from California at the port of New York of about a million and a half during the past year; but we have nevertheless exported during the same period *upwards of six millions more than in* 1855, *and eleven millions more than they received in New York.* The exports of the past year amounted to $50,981,834, while those of 1855 only reached the *sum of* $44,640,090. The falling off in the receipts from California has been attributed in the Eastern States to the gradual exhaustion of the mines; but we on the contrary know that the yield is increasing. There is every reason to believe that a much larger amount of gold will be taken out of our mines this year than in any year since the discovery of gold. But though the yield this year will probably be less. Agriculture is in a flourishing condition, and our manufacturing interests are daily growing more important. In a few years our dependence on the Eastern States will be very light indeed.

Chinese New Year.—The Chinese calendar reckons the year from the 25th of January, and the custom of celebrating its advent prevails with them as with other nations. On New Year's Day they pay their debts, so far as they are able, (a custom which might, without any great injury to society, be imitated by our own Yankee Nation,) and are released from payment if they are without means; thus, commencing the New Year with "a fresh start," and though John may not have a dollar in his pocket, yet he has the enviable luxury of feeling that he is free from the paralyzing influence of debt, and owes no man a dollar. In this country, the Chinese devote three days to the New Year's festivities—at home they are kept up much longer.—*Alta California.*

California Refined Sugar.—We were shown last evening, by H. M. Hale, Esq., one of the agents of the San Francisco Sugar Refinery, a sample of refined sugar just made at that establishment. In point of whitness and thorough crystalization, it compares favorably with any sugar we have ever seen, and the samples we saw last evening were even whiter than samples of Stuart's and Lovering's sugars placed alongside of it. The establishment of this refinery will be the means of keeping in California a large amount of money, which annually goes out now in payment for refined sugar; and anything which will tend to this is deserving encouragement and success.—*S. F. Herald.*