

## THE RIVER PRESS

Wednesday, November 10, 1880.

## THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION.

By the President of the United States of America, proclamation.

At no period in their history since the United States became a nation, has this people had so abundant and so universal reasons for joy and gratitude at the favor of Almighty God, or been subject to so profound an obligation to give thanks for His loving kindness and humbly to implore His continued care and protection. Health, wealth and prosperity throughout all our borders; peace, honor and friendship with all the world; a firm and faithful adherence by the great body of our population to the principles of liberty which have made our greatness as a nation; wise institutions and a strong frame of government and society which will perpetuate it—for all these let the thanks of a happy and united people, as with one voice, ascend in devout homage to the Giver of all good. I therefore recommend that on Thursday, the 26th day of November next, the people meet in their respective places of worship to make acknowledgment to Almighty God for His bounties and His protection, and to offer to Him prayer for their continuance. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this first day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and fifth.

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, President.

In accordance with the Proclamation of the President of the United States, I hereby appoint Thursday, November 26, 1880, to be kept throughout the Territory as a day of Thanksgiving and Prayer.

Let us keep it with the same devotion that our fathers did who instituted the custom. Let it be a day of rest to all; abstaining from all secular labor and devoting the day to joyful thanksgiving for the blessings that we as a people have enjoyed.

Let us pray that the blessings of the Father may still be on our Territory, our local institutions and our homes; and while we are giving thanks let us especially remember those who are desolate and oppressed, so that the words of the master may be said unto us: "I was an hungred and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger and ye took me in; naked and ye clothed me; I was sick and ye visited me; I was in prison and ye came unto me."

Given at the Executive Department, Helena, Montana, this November 2d, A. D. 1880, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and fifth.

By the Governor,

B. F. FOTTS.

JAMES H. MILLS, Secretary.

Does the Democratic party believe that two ten dollar notes would influence one hundred Democratic votes?

THERE is likely to be a lively time at the meeting of the Democratic Central Committee, where the charges of traitorous conduct will be investigated.

Does the Democratic party of Choteau county believe that their Central Committee, and its most prominent members can be bought for twenty dollars?

THE Democratic party of Choteau county, by their delegates in convention assembled, elected their Central Committee. This Committee are now ordered to step down and out, for reasons which those making charges have not yet substantiated, and which we believe are groundless.

Do the people of Benton believe that the Chairman of the Democratic Central Committee, Mr. Senieur, did loan Mr. Healy's or anybody else's money to William Rowe for the purpose of defeating John J. Healy? Do the people of this county believe that Mr. Rowe is so hard pushed for funds as to be compelled to resort to any central committee for twenty dollars?

THE rate of interest in Benton is lower than at any other point in Montana. Capital is coming in, and with our unexampled resources there is no reason why it should not be the metropolis of this entire region. And it will be if our business men will unite and work together in pushing the interests of the section and town, regardless of petty rivalries and individual differences.

THE Postmaster-General calls the attention of postmasters to the following reduction of postage on newspapers addressed to foreign countries: "It is ordered that on and after the 1st of October, 1880, the postal Union shall be the same as on printed matter generally for the same destination, under the provision of the Convention of Paris; viz., one cent for each weight of two ounces."

THE Board of Trade of Fort Benton has taken action relative to the sanitary condition of the town, in which, we trust, they will be warmly seconded by the citizens generally. It was stated by Dr. Atkinson that he believed the most fruitful cause of the disease that is prevalent this season in Benton, has resulted from the miserable condition of our alleys and some of our streets. Too much care cannot be exercised in this matter, for Benton has passed the limit of the country village or trading post, and the aggregate of the filth that will in a short time accumulate would astonish most of our citizens if they would examine one or two alleys.

WE wish it to be distinctly understood that our columns are open to the public of whatever party, for the expression of public opinion, provided that such party or parties keep within the bounds of respectability; if they should not, they will be rigidly excluded. We shall also set bounds upon communications when, by continuous expressions, they shall get to be a bore. This paper is a newspaper and as such is a public organ, and as such will be conducted solely with a view to the public needs. Under no circumstances will we publish anonymous correspondence,

unless the same is accompanied by the name of the writer, which name, if requested, shall be withheld. This is required as evidence of good faith. We will also state that we are not responsible for the utterances of correspondents.

THE card of Mr. Tattan, published in another column, recites a series of the gravest charges against prominent citizens of Benton, and members of the Democratic Central Committee, and Mr. Adams of Sun River, impeaching them of the grossest venality possible to a depraved human nature, and of official dishonesty hardly paralleled anywhere. There is something repugnant and unhealthy, and a degree of moral turpitude hardly credible, in a mind which would recklessly make assertions of the character that have been applied to those gentlemen, and only the most positive assurance of their truth should influence the making of these statements. It will bear heavily upon the gentlemen who have made the assertions detailed in the card of Mr. Tattan if they are not able to show the most convincing proof of their truth.

The gentlemen who are accused have lived here too long, and the sterling qualities of their character are too widely and favorably known to succumb under assaults from any source unless they are backed by absolute proof. Will they present that absolute proof?

## AFTER THE STRUGGLE.

THE great struggle for political supremacy in the United States between the two great parties is over. The Democratic party has exhausted the efforts of political strategy to combine elements of strength sufficient for a successful issue, and has lost. The South staked its last to create solidarity, and that solidarity has proved its most vulnerable weakness; and after twelve years of ineffectual struggle, in which the Democratic party was once well nigh successful, it again lies prostrate, and whether it is not destroyed is only a question.

It was necessary for the destruction of the sectional issue that one of the two parties should overwhelmingly control the power of the government, and thereby render further resistance on the old lines impossible, and it is fortunate that this decisive victory has followed the creation of this very sectional issue. It is fortunate because no party will dare again to go before the country with a solid South behind it, and with the solid South will go the solid North, and the sectional issue will disappear as the great distinctive factor of American politics.

If the expressions of Southern newspapers is a true reflection of Southern public opinion, the Southern people are inclined to take this same view of the Democratic defeat, and are ready to enter upon a path in accordance with the logic of their economic and commercial necessities, and will devote its political energies to the development of its limitless resources, and it will even accept the assistance of the Republican party rather than to be further misled by the *ignis fatuus* of Democratic supremacy, which even if maintained, could only be by its subservency to Northern ideas and policy, and between Northern policy as represented by the Republican party, and the same as represented by the Democratic party, the South has but to little choose.

Leave out the sectional issue and there is no great line of division between the two great parties. On the tariff and on the questions affecting the finances, the division is between the commercial and manufacturing interests of the sea-bound States and the agricultural interests of the Mississippi States, divisions upon which the North and South are equally interested. In the East there is a social tendency toward exclusion, and a gradual accretion of power into the hands of an unrecognized, but powerful and irresponsible oligarchy; in the West the tendency is for a broader democracy and a fuller popular influence upon the government of the nation, and in both these tendencies the expression of either party is divided according to the differing interests of the two sections. And it is upon these broad lines, with the thousand smaller issues that flow from each, that the politics of the nation will eventually be divided—and they will be thus divided as soon as the issue between the North and South shall disappear.

The policy of the Republican party has been dictated in the past by the Eastern or oligarchic faction, and this has been its greatest weakness, one which would have before now destroyed it if its existence had not been rendered necessary by the greater evil of a hostile South. Can the Republican party in this day of magnificent triumph discard its incubus and represent again the popular tendency and sympathy as it did in its first and most glorious days? If it can it will maintain its power for an indefinite period. If not it will go the way of all things useless and destructive.

Can the Democratic party throw aside its old-time and worn-out traditions and enter into the spirit of popular necessities and the sympathies of the great producing classes of the country? If it can there will yet be room and a time for it, but if it can not it will remain the nonentity it is to-day.

But the teachings of time have shown that old parties, like old people, seldom imbibe new ideas, and we believe the natural result of the disintegration of the South as a solid political factor will be the destruction of both parties, or their thorough reformation on new bases.

## DESERT LANDS.

THE instructions of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, published on the seventh page of this number of the RIVER PRESS, will undoubtedly prove interesting to our readers. It puts the quietus upon all argument as to what constitutes desert lands, within the meaning of the act relating thereto. The act of Congress, which the Commissioner interprets, was apparently intended to facilitate the reclamation of barren lands so extensive in the Territories to which the act applied, but, through accident or design, in its operation it became an instrument towards defeating the very object which Congress evidently intended to promote. In view of the very favorable and satisfactory interpretation of the Commissioner, we refrain from analyzing the characteristics of the different sections of this act, in contradistinction to those of the homestead and pre-emption acts, believing that, although land grabbers, as they are termed, took advantage of the imperfections of the enactment, there were many entries of a bona fide character made under its provisions.

The decision of the Commissioner is definite and the instructions to those required to take proof of the desert character of land are clear and pointed, leaving no opportunity for reasonable doubt of their meaning. "Land along streams and around bodies of water, which produce grass suitable for hay without artificial irrigation, is not desert land within the meaning of the law, nor is any land which will produce any crop whatever without irrigation, and such lands are not subject to desert entry." There can be no possibility of mistaking this language. Its meaning is too clear, plain and explicit to admit of any doubt as to what constitutes desert land; and under this decision, which must be accepted as binding and final, how many acres in Choteau county can properly be classed as desert lands? Not upon the Missouri bottoms, nor upon the valleys of Sun River, Teton, Marias, Highwood, Shoshone, Belt or Arrow creeks can an acre of land be pointed out which, within the meaning of the act of Congress, can be termed desert, or which, under these rules, can be properly entered and purchased as desert lands. The bench lands, even, may yet be preserved to the settler, for except in years of unusual drought they produce more than average crops of hay.

The importance to this county of the ruling of the Commissioner cannot at present be justly estimated. In a few years, when the oppressed of foreign countries, and the overcrowded farmers and ill-paid mechanics of the Eastern States, become settlers in our midst; when the pick and plow shall emerge from obscurity and unite, to reveal the now hidden resources of our lands; when the day-dream of the past five years—now being gradually and unmistakably transformed into a reality of prosperity—shall, by the aid of merchant, miner, mechanic and farmer, vanish into gigantic enterprises, the growth of their conception, then shall the citizens of this county fully realize the blessings that attend free lands for the homes of free people.

## IMPORTANT TO MINERS.

FORT BENTON, November, 5th 1880.

To the Editor of the River Press.

There has been a good deal of discussion here, lately, about the time allowed by Act of Congress for miners to perform the necessary work upon claims located since January 1880. Will you end the matter by publishing in your paper, if possible, an answer to the following question? What length of time is allowed to locators of quartz mines, discovered since January last, to put the required \$100 in work upon their claim?

I am, sir, yours etc.,

QUARTZ MINER.

There seems to be some misunderstanding existing among miners, and those interested in mines, in this locality, relative to the period allowed by the United States statutes, wherein improvements may be made upon unpatented mines, and quartz leads located during the past summer and fall months. For the information of our correspondent, and our readers generally, we publish in this issue the section which applies to the improvements of unpatented mines, as amended by Act of Congress and appears upon the statutes, and also the letter of Commissioner Williamson concerning its interpretation. As will be seen from this section, locators of mines discovered subsequent to January last, are not compelled to perform the required work upon their claims prior to next January; they are only required to have their annual expenditures made some time prior to January, 1882.

SECTION 2324. The miners of each mining district may make regulations not in conflict with the laws of the United States, or with the laws of the State or Territory in which the district is situated, governing the location, manner of recording, amount of work necessary to hold possession of a mining claim, subject to the following requirements: The location must be distinctly marked on the ground, so that its boundaries can be readily traced. All records of mining claims heretofore made, shall contain the name or names of the locators, the date of the location, and such a description of the claim, or claims located, by reference to some natural object or permanent monument as will identify the claim. On each claim located after the tenth day of May, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, and until a patent has been issued therefor, not less than one hundred dollars' worth of labor shall be performed, or improvements made during each year. On all claims located prior to the tenth of May, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, ten dollars' worth of labor shall be performed or improvements made by the tenth day of June, eighteen hundred and seventy-four, and each year thereafter, for each one hundred feet in length along the vein until a patent has been issued therefor; but when such claims are

held in common, such expenditure may be made upon any one claim; and upon a failure to comply with these conditions, the claim or mine upon which such failure occurred shall be open to re-location in the same manner as if no location of the same had ever been made, provided that the original locators, their heirs, assigns, or legal representatives, have not resumed work upon the claim after failure, or before such location. Upon the failure of any one of several co-owners to contribute his proportion of the expenditure required hereby, the co-owners who have performed the labor or made the improvements may, at the expiration of the year, give such delinquent co-owner personal notice by writing, or notice by publication in the newspaper published nearest the claim, for at least once a week for ninety days, and if at the expiration of ninety days after such notice in writing or by publication such delinquent should fail or refuse to contribute his proportion of the expenditures required by this section, his interest in the claim shall become the property of his co-owners who have made the required expenditures: Provided, that the period within which the work required to be done annually on all unpatented mineral claims shall commence on the first day of January succeeding the date of such claim, and this section shall apply to all claims located since the tenth day of May, Anno Domini eighteen hundred and seventy-two.

Approved January 22, 1880.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 15th, 1880.

SIR:—In reply to your letter of the 14th ult., you are informed that the second section of the act of January 23d, 1880, to which you refer, intends to provide that the locator of a mining claim shall have the residue of the year in which the location is made, and the whole of the next including year, dating from January 1st, in which to make the first annual expenditures required by section 2324 revised statutes. He is not compelled to commence work at any particular time, but must have made his first annual expenditures as aforesaid sometime prior to the expiration of the calendar year next succeeding his location. Very respectfully,

J. A. WILLIAMSON, Com'r.

## MARTIN MINING DISTRICT.

THE excellent indications of the general prosperity of the Barker Mining district, together with the favorable report of the development of the Grey Eagle and Barker mine causes that district to be the center of attraction of capitalists and miners. An important rival, however, is now looming up in the Martin Mining District, which is distant from the Barker about twenty-five miles. Several good-looking leads have been located in this latter district, but the only one which is at present being developed is the Bismarck lode, which shows a vein of solid galena two feet in width. The actual width of the vein has not yet been determined, one wall only being defined. A tunnel is being run seventy-five feet below the surface, the completion of which will discover the true width of the vein at that depth. The Bismarck mine is located in the immediate vicinity of Mount Baldy, in the Belt mountains, and is about fifteen miles distant from Yogo gulch, and about the same distance from Benton as the Barker mines, with the advantage, however, of having a much better road. The recent developments of the resources of this district most assuredly indicates an era of permanent prosperity unsurpassed in the history of any other section of the Territory. And it only requires that we should all glide along this prosperous path now opened, aiming more to promote general interests than to specially serve individual ends, to make this condition of affairs speedily sure and certain.

## TAILINGS.

In Benton, when the sun was low,  
All bloodless were the beaten foe;  
And dark and dismal was the woe  
Of poor old McElhinny.

No newspaper man ever was President of the United States.

To the Helena Herald—for the best display of election poultry—a leather medal.

Sixty-one good Indians have been found. It was just after Victoria and his band were killed.

"Too Thin; or, Skeleton Sara. Her Realistic Life and Adventures; a novel. Published by Mullen & Stalk.

Residence in law is where a man gets his washing done. Is it possible that editors have been illegal voters?

We are trying to think why it is that the Helena Independent is filled with so much interesting miscellany just now.

The wires have been down ever since the election returns began to come in. But what has that to do with David Davis.

The hero of Gettysburg and Spottsylvania Court House is now among the immortals. His name has been used to do service as a cigar brand.

The Elmira Free Press, (Dem.), very angrily wants to know what the idiots of the Republican party see that is so funny in the recent elections.

We said the other week that Daniel Searls was editor of the Butte Miner, but it is officially stated in its columns that it will be done Brown.

Wonder how that telegraph operator at Cleveland knew that Captain Page voted at Sun River, or that Jas. M. Arno and Jim Wells were in Benton Friday.

Dr. Draper says that fish do not contain an excess of phosphorus, but that the phe-

nomenon of phosphorescence is due to the oxidation of carbon. There goes another theory, and one which will have a depressing influence on the fish market and a couple of bucking lawyers.

"Nothing happens but the impossible and the unexpected," as Cicero said to Marcus Antonius when the returns from Etruria gave 23,000 majority, and created a solid North. "It will make Rome howl," answered Marcus, as he turned away to go and finish his novel on the last of the Tarquins.

"Happy is the man," said Solon "who can discuss the political situation with candor and without acerbity." "Yes," said Aeschylus, "only yesterday the disgraceful epithet of shyster was applied to one of my friends who is teaching school down on the Puerus, who thought of coming to Athens to expound the law." "Let virtue be its own reward," said Solon, as he turned on his away to consult the oracle.

There will be none more thankful than editors that the political campaign is over. Suppose we should all club in and give our candid opinions about politics and politicians as seen from an editorial standpoint—just be as frank for instance as our dear readers, candidates included, are in expressing their opinions about us.—*New Northwest*. 'Nough said, Capt., just you lead out in your usual happy vein, as evidence of good faith, you know. But it would be a dirty job, though.

## A CARD.

To the Editors of the Record:

As the chairman of the Democratic Central Committee of Choteau County has called a meeting of said committee, to be held at the court house, at 7 o'clock p. m. on Thursday, the 11th inst., and as you have seen fit to make your paper the vehicle of disgraceful slurs and libelous imputations upon the aforesaid committee, both as members and in their individual capacity, I demand that you appear at said meeting and make good the charges published in your paper of last week, which charges are as follows:

That Gus Senieur, John F. Murphy, J. C. Adams and John W. Tattan, members of the Democratic Central Committee, were parties to a deliberate plan, and conspired to defeat Healy and Hamilton, Democratic candidates for Sheriff and Commissioner.

That Gus Senieur loaned the Republican candidate for Sheriff, twenty dollars, for the purpose of buying Democratic votes.

That John F. Murphy, secretary of the committee, distributed tickets with the name of Rowe and Weatherwax thereon, instead of Healy and Hamilton, as candidates for Sheriff and Commissioner; that the bogus tickets thus distributed by said Murphy, were circulated by J. C. Adams, at Sun River, and that the money paid by Messrs. Healy and Hamilton, candidates for sheriff and commissioner, to said Murphy, as campaign assessments, were used by him to aid a conspiracy to defeat said candidates.

That John W. Tattan, member of said committee and candidate for Probate Judge did, secretly, all in his power to defeat Messrs Healy and Hamilton; that he was a party to a bargain and sale of said candidates, and through fear of exposure stood aloof from the polls to avoid suspicion.

These are the charges made by you, editors of the Record, and I demand that you appear, at the time and place above stated, with your proofs.

As far as the charges against myself are concerned, I could here and now prove them to be deliberate falsehoods—and I know the other charges are false—and, further, that you who made them knew them to be false; but justice to those gentlemen with whom my name has been associated, requires that proper investigation should be made and that those who published the above libelous charges should have full and ample opportunity to prove them.

Do not fail to appear with your proof, and by the way you may as well be prepared to answer a few pertinent questions that may be asked of yourselves.

JNO. W. TATTAN.

## Change of Bishops.

[New North-West.]

Episcopalians have long desired the segregation of Montana from the Montana, Utah and Idaho diocese and its establishment as a separate and independent diocese, and have strongly seconded the efforts of Bishop Tuttle in that direction. But it was not with the object or expectation of losing Bishop Tuttle, who has been Bishop of this Territory for some thirteen years and is undoubtedly held in greater esteem with the majority of people than any other clergyman who has been in the country. This appears, however, to have been the result, and Rev. Dr. L. R. Brewer, of Watertown, N. Y.; succeeds as Missionary Bishop of Montana. As an organizer and builder up of churches and congregations, Bishop Tuttle is one among ten thousand especially adapted to the task in the west. We do not know the abilities or special qualifications of Bishop Brewer in this direction, but those who have heard him in the East speak in the highest terms of his ability in the pulpit and his high standing as a Christian gentleman. He will be welcomed as his predecessor will be regretted, and while in hopes the former may succeed to the latter's mantle of esteem, we would be pleased to hear of the Pioneer Patriarch being given higher preferment and taking another step on the rounds of that ladder which even prelates are glad to climb.