

New Postage Law. Unjust Taxation of Oregon Letter Writers: Old British "Registration" Scheme Galvanized into Life by a United States Congress.

We see that our California neighbors are up in arms against the powers at Washington, for the recent enactment of a new postage law, an extract from which we publish below.

You will perceive by the bill, that from and after the first day of April, 1855, all letters within the United States must be prepaid. All letters for any distance within 3000 miles in the U. S. are charged three cents, whilst all letters over three thousand miles are charged ten cents, being an advance of almost a hundred per cent on all letters to and from the Pacific coast.

Those who reside within the three thousand mile circle, are only charged three cents, whilst the man who lives a mile beyond, is made to pay more than three times that sum. The laws, instead of abolishing the old franking privilege, as it should have done, still permits our delegate to Congress to overbear the U. S. Mail, with cartloads of party bolstering speeches, worthless documents, and egotistic circulars, addressed to a few personal friends, in the way of body guard attaches, all because those who enacted the law had the power to do so, and preferred to impose a still heavier burden upon the people by the way of increasing the tax on letters, in order to meet the enormous expense of packing around their cartloads of trash, instead of taking the really democratic method of lightening the mails of their present burdens, of matter franked to their constituents, thereby securing the object of meeting the postal expenditures without an increase of the postage tax.

The last section, borrowed in the main from the old British "registration" system, long since exploded and proved to be of no earthly advantage, is decidedly cool:

"See 3. And be it further enacted, That for the greater security of valuable letters posted for transmission in Mails of the United States, the P. M. General be and hereby is authorized to establish a uniform plan for the registration of such letters, on application of parties posting the same, and to require the preparation of the postage as well as a registration fee of five cents on every such letter or packet, to be accounted for by postmasters receiving the same in such manner as the P. M. General shall direct: Provided, however, That such registration shall not be compulsory; and it shall not render the Post Office Department or its revenue liable for the loss of such letters or packets, or the contents thereof."

To be sure there is no compulsion in the matter. You can register or not just as you please, always bearing it in mind that the P. O. Department by receiving your five cents on every letter incur no liabilities provided your letter, containing immense treasure perhaps, is miscarried, stolen or lost, by some one of the thousand black-heads who officiate in the numerous wretchedly managed post offices in the country.— If your letter be lost the department consoles you by a tender of the precious morsel of comfort, that your name will be found on file in the government archives, by your posterity after you, if they choose to look after them.

If man cannot be sent to Congress who are sufficiently honest and capable, to look after the interests of the people, in reference to their postal arrangements better than the present law would seem to indicate their having done, we had better leave the government postal arrangements solely in the hands of the executive, to be monopolized by a few demagogues, merely as a vehicle, for transporting party traps and personal baggage, whilst we turn over our mail matter to the express-men.

We would like to know where Jo Lane was busying himself whilst this iniquitous law was going through the mill, which operates so unjustly upon his constituents in Oregon! Has he left it upon record that he was at his post, and made the many resistances to this imposition upon us? Should have done! We see nothing of any such duties having been performed, and we are left to conclude that he was probably asleep under the counter of some of those grog shops he is so fond of frequenting.

The whole miserable batch being in perfect harmony with the stupid imbecility of this demagogue, leaves us much in doubt as to whether we had any representative in Congress or not at the time of the passage of this bill:

AN ACT further to amend the act entitled "An act to reduce and modify the rates of postage in the United States, and for other purposes," passed March 3, 1851.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That in view of the rates of postage now established by law, there shall be charged the following rates, to wit:

For every single letter in manuscript, or paper of any kind in which information shall be asked for or communicated in writing, or by marks or signs, conveyed in the mail for any distance between places in the United States not exceeding three thousand miles, three cents; AND FOR ANS DISTANCE

EXCEEDING THREE THOUSAND MILES, TEN CENTS.

And for a double letter there shall be charged double the rates above specified, and for a triple letter, triple those rates; and for a quadruple letter, quadruple those rates; and every letter or parcel not exceeding half an ounce in weight shall be charged a single letter; and every additional weight of half an ounce, or additional weight of less than half an ounce, shall be charged with an additional single postage; and upon ALL letters passing through or in the mail of the United States, excepting such as are to or from a foreign country, the postage as above specified SHALL BE PREPAID, except upon letters and packages addressed to officers of the government or official business, which shall be so marked on the envelope. And from and after the 1st day of January 1855, the P. M. General may require postmen to place postage stamps upon all posted letters upon which such stamps may not have been placed by the writers.

Approved March 3, 1855.—*Semi-weekly Calcutta—March 10.*

A Boat of Canvas.

A. R. Tuckahoe, of Boston, has invented a life boat which is attracting some attention.

Hitherto, ship-owners have been disposed to furnish as few boats as possible, on account of the valuable space which they occupy on the vessel's deck. To obviate this serious objection, the inventor has devised this boat.

The boat is made of strong canvas, saturated with India-rubber, or any other substance impervious to water, and stiffened with ribs of wood. It is so constructed that, when not in use, it can be flattened so as to occupy but one twenty-fourth part of the space filled by an ordinary boat of the same capacity—and can be put in proper shape in a moment's time. In a great emergency it can be thrown into the water in its compressed state, and brought into proper shape by springing on to the middle of it, and depressing the bottom.

It is recommended, not only as a life boat, but from its lightness and portability, as being very valuable for river explorations and military service, as it can be used to transport men and baggage, and when inverted forms a good covering for the camp.

Large load of work.

A train of sixty cars came into Chicago recently, on the Aurora road, with nearly four thousand head of dressed hogs on board.

The Angel Gabriel at Home.

The Glasgow Mail of the 11th of February states that John S. Orr, nicknamed the "Angel Gabriel," has arrived at home, from New York, in the steamer Glasgow. It says:

A most dismal screeching sound from the steerage reached the ears of the loungers on the quay, and in which was soon recognized the old war-note of John S. Orr (otherwise the Angel Gabriel's) trumpet. As the vessel neared the wharf ("the angel" of discord) was only recognized by his old acquaintances by the broken embouchure which he exercised, for he appeared not only to have become a convert to the broad movement, but to allow his hair to grow until it hung over his shoulders.

He sprang upon the quay, took up his old position at the large gas lamp pillars, blew a blast or two on his trumpet, and shortly harangued a crowd of curious lookers-on, pointed to the scars on his head, which he had received in Canada and the United States, in doing battle with Papery, and he would talk to the people of Greenwich for hours on Monday night, of his adventures and hardships, escapes among the Yankees, wheeled round and rolled up the quay, going off to Glasgow by the railway train.

A Funeral Report.

Somebody—to the writer of this unknown—tells a joke that may be worth printing, even at the risk of its being old:

In a small town in one of the counties of Kentucky, a stranger rolls up to the door of a tavern and having demanded, ordered a stall and oats for his horse. A crowd of leaders, that class of independent citizens who are never equal to decent men, except on election day, swarmed about his room doors and standing waiting to be "invited" to the dinner.

Among this crowd the stranger's business was a subject of importunate speculation. One fellow more impudent than the rest made free to inquire of the stranger what occupation he followed; to which the latter replied, that his business was a secret for the present, but that he would probably make it known before he left their town.

Having spent a day or two looking around, visiting places, where whiskey was sold and making various inquiries as to the amount retained, the number of annual drunks in the place, the number of dogs kept by people whose children never went to school or had enough to eat—after fact, making a complete moral inventory of the town, he concluded to leave, and having mounted his horse was about to leave, when his impudent friend stepped up and said:

"See here, Captain, you promised to tell us your business before you left, and we'd like to hear from you on that point."

"Well," said the stranger, "I am an agent for the Devil—I'm hunting a location for him, and am glad I've found a place where it will not be necessary to remove the present inhabitants."

A skeleton was found in a swamp near Bauger, Me., on Saturday, under a rope hanging to the limb of a tree, supposed to be all that is left of a man named Philips, who disappeared three years ago.

We learn from the New York Post, that a new boat has been invented by H. Neiman, Esq., which is capable of being folded up into a small compass, so that vessels can take an adequate number of them, sufficient for saving from shipwreck the crew and passengers of the largest ships. It is made chiefly of India rubber, and the boat is constructed as to have the capability of righting itself immediately in the water if accidentally capsized.

SALMAGUNDI.

Convalescent.

The man who fell into an error is recovering.

Make a Note of it.

Remember that the Human Constitution is one that cannot be amended by a two thirds vote!

The Weather in Ireland.

A letter dated Dublin, Feb. 19th says: "We are still in the depth of an almost Arctic winter—snow, sleet, and frost succeeding each other by turns.

The Price Raised.

The price of getting drunk in Cleveland has been raised from one dollar to three dollars. Magazines are obliged to dispense with the luxury on account of the tariff.

What our Wives Love.

A wife once kissed her husband, and said she, "My own sweet William how dearly I love thee!" Who ever knew a lady, good or ill,

Who would not dearly love her own sweet will?"

Indiana Politics.

Considerable excitement has prevailed among politicians at Indianapolis since the adjournment of the Legislature. The Governor appointed several State officers, but they taking the oath of office the places remain vacant.—*Delta.*

Whitman.

Six seamen belonging to the Norwegian bark Skylde, were yesterday arrested at the instance of the Captain of the bark and ship, on a charge of having mutinously combined to resist the authority of the officers placed in command over them, and of them, and of having threatened to throw him—their captain—overboard.—*Delta.*

A Newly Married Couple in a Quandary.

A passenger in one of the new-blocked trains in the Western prairies, records the following hard case: "Our feelings were considerably excited in regard to a newly married couple, who had been on the cars since Monday morning. The new husband was a little behind last evening in procuring lodgings, and was obliged to take up his quarters for the fourth night in a car seat."

Another American Prospector.

The Edinburgh Telegraph says:—A prospector in Butler county, suspected of entertaining American sentiments, has been removed from office, and a German but a few years from Germany, who can neither read the English language or write a legible hand, appointed in his place. The appointment was made by H. H. Holden, James Campbell, with a full knowledge of the German's infidelity for the position. He is a Roman Catholic we suppose, that was a sufficient recommendation.

Poor Harry Wise.

How miserably Henry A. Wise has fallen from the proud position he once occupied in the estimation of the country. The Richmond Patriot states that he in his speech at the African Church, at Richmond, last week, with an expression of the utmost horror and disgust, exclaimed: "If we are to have a Pope, let him be a Catholic Pope, for God sake, away off in Italy, and not your Protestant Prince kneeling in our Lone Forest."

An expression of the most intense, immeasurable disgust, was thrown into the last few words of this sentence, upon which he placed a tremendous exclamation. The Catholics present were hugely delighted when Mr. Wise made this disengaging remark of Protestant pretensions, and looked at each other very significantly.

Serenity of the Bowie Knife.

The Lexington (Ky.) Express publishes an account of a riot between a number of squatters in Kansas. It occurred in the town of Fremont, where a mob without provocation, entirely destroyed the premises of Rev. Mr. Hammer, and after having beat and stoned his person to such a degree that all reasonable hope of his life was lost, they carried him off by force, together with his wife, who was still clinging to his mangled body, and conveyed them away some five miles, and set them down in the open prairie, there to perish. The mob then returned with yells of triumph, to the residence of A. A. Ward, where they organized, and from whence they started, which is in the immediate vicinity of the demolished premises. They held a mock auction and sold off what remained of building materials. They stole the pots, pans, utensils, chickens, &c., of the still bleeding and supped dead, suffer.

A good Repartee.

A friend recently from Washington has related to us a fable intended that grasped a sharp edge in the Senate Chamber, and which made some amusement among the members.

Mr. Gillette, our Senator, sits near to Tombs of Georgia, and they frequently pass a good humorous joke. A few mornings ago, just before the Senate was called to order, while several of the members were standing near Tombs said to Gillette: "They say, Gillette, that you Abolitionists are mad with the Almighty, or making the biggers black?" "Your informant is slightly mistaken," replied Gillette, "we are only mad with you abolitionists for making them white!" The allusion to the bleaching process that is going on among the colored population of the South, was not carried with them as the only effectual means of accomplishing their object, the Bible, the Law and the Sword.

Christianity received and acted upon in all of its requirements superinduces the use of either of the others.

Christianity rejected forth steps the law for limiting the exercise of human passions within such bounds as shall secure the enjoyment of individual rights. The Bible and the law being both set at defiance, out comes the executioner's sword, and consigns the wretched culprit to a place where he can no longer insult his maker and trample upon the rights of his fellows.

This we consider sound philosophy, and any doctrine which disavows from one another either of these three agencies in the great work of bringing social order and refinement out of the chaos of heathenish darkness, can never claim for itself a higher appellation than a weak philosophical theory, when in all its practical results, will simply prove itself to be entitled, as a label, to the significant "meme mem."

In answer to numerous inquiries, says the Washington Union, we would state that by the late act of Congress the salary of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States has been raised to \$8,000 per annum.

The wire suspension bridge over the Mississippi at St. Anthony, Minnesota, was opened for travel on the 25th January. Its span is six hundred and twenty feet, and the width inside the parapets seventeen feet.

In Chicago on the 25th ult., Miss Mary Smith recovered of G. Checkfield \$1,500 damages for breach of promise of marriage.

Kessuth or War.

Louis Kossuth has addressed, through the English newspapers, a letter to the Society of Friends, in answer to the "Christian Appeal" condemning war as anti-Christian and unlawful under a Christian dispensation. The Hungarian leader uses pretty much the same arguments that men usually resort to when they feel that something stronger than patient endurance is necessary to resist oppression. He says: "To allow iniquity bear the sway when the sword could have arrested it, is to let the chains of oppression over nations by treaties, when the sword could have severed the shanks—a work of iniquity, and not of peace." Christian religion, he says, is essentially the religion of charity, and one Christian nation is as much bound by its religion to relieve the public sufferings of another nation, as one Christian individual is bound to aid another individual in distress. He makes no difference between public and private charity. He adds:

Your doctrine of "peace at any price, and war at no price," is good-will to ill-willing men, and ill-will to good-willing men. Bear good-will to all men, but when you see the wolves devoting sleep after sleep—then if you stand by indifference, or entrench yourself behind your own comfortable security, or behind your good towards all—behind your good wishes and your prayers, and you let the wolves go, and entreat others likewise to let them go, weakly, I say unto you, your peace is iniquity, and your religion is not. Christian

I call on you to be charitable to the just against the unjust, to the oppressed against the oppressor, in the sleep against the wolves—to humanity, in a word, and not to some crowned pirates and perfidious murderers. I call on you to love your neighbors, the nations. I call on you to love the moral dignity of men; to love not the contumacious and turbulent pursuits of the passing moment, but the lasting welfare of your own and of foreign nations. Patriotism the noblest source of civic virtue, and justice the noblest source of political virtue—Christian religion unites them all because it is charity. But "You may bestow all your goods to feed the poor, and still have no charity," says the Lord.

Makes deputes yield to justice and right, without laying them compelled by force of arms, and ye shall be blessed. But since ye do this, preach not impulsive security to tyrants, by doory necessary wars. For "these things must first come to pass," says the Lord.

War is a terrible remedy; but a remedy it is. The fire burns sume, but it warms all.—The hurricane uproots trees, and dashes the ships to fragments, and buries men in the deep, but it cleanses the earth, and keeps off stagnation from the air and the sea. Would you put out the fire, and stay away with the hurricane? These things must be done with just and necessary wars. Help to make them advantageous to mankind, but do not shout "Peace!" while there is oppression, or else you are guilty of shouting "Tyranny!"

The non-resistance doctrine so popular with some may look exceedingly pretty on paper, and may be a very soothing sort of theory to the nerves of the timid quiet philanthropist, but in the present organization of society it is practically worthless in bringing about the tremendous revolution which the present upheavings of the mighty moving masses in every nation under Heaven seem to indicate as the approaching crisis pointed at by the finger of prophecy. The sword as a means of producing the results indicated by the word of inspiration near at hand is as emphatically marked as any other agency employed in the arrangement of Heaven for accomplishing the end desired, and winding up the grand drama on the theatre of this world, when all human society shall be subjected to the rule of an infallible King, and enjoy the long looked for millennium of Universal peace and "good will to man."

There never has been as yet a school of truly wise, cool-headed, and efficient reformers, harnessed to the golden car of real progression, in social society and religious reform, who upon their advent into any given district of the world, as a field of operations, have not carried with them as the only effectual means of accomplishing their object, the Bible, the Law and the Sword.

Christianity received and acted upon in all of its requirements superinduces the use of either of the others.

Christianity rejected forth steps the law for limiting the exercise of human passions within such bounds as shall secure the enjoyment of individual rights. The Bible and the law being both set at defiance, out comes the executioner's sword, and consigns the wretched culprit to a place where he can no longer insult his maker and trample upon the rights of his fellows.

This we consider sound philosophy, and any doctrine which disavows from one another either of these three agencies in the great work of bringing social order and refinement out of the chaos of heathenish darkness, can never claim for itself a higher appellation than a weak philosophical theory, when in all its practical results, will simply prove itself to be entitled, as a label, to the significant "meme mem."

Several parties have recently gone out to Kansas. One left Boston on the 6th inst.; another on the 13th, and a third leaves on the 20th. Within a few weeks 250 persons will leave Cincinnati, Ohio, for the Territory. They are farmers and mechanics, some of them are worth from \$15,000 to \$20,000.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

A letter dated Dec. 22, from Utah, in the editor of The Mormon in this City, states that the judges Col. Steptoe with his officers, and the United States Territorial officers, and the merchants of Salt Lake City have petitioned President Pierce to re-appoint Brigham Young Governor of the Territory. They are farmers and mechanics, some of them are worth from \$15,000 to \$20,000.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

got it at last.

Ex-Senator J. Clemens has fallen heir to

General Shields' Successor.

The Chicago Tribune says that Gov. Matteson will not give Judge Trumb