

Iron Ore.

Mr. James M. Moore has laid upon our table specimens of iron ore, which have been recently taken from a bed in Chelala mountain some twelve miles above Moore's mills and about two miles from the Tualatin river.

This being the case, we shall soon be manufacturing our own iron.

We learn that the drift is now nearly all removed from the Tualatin river, and the Transportation and Navigation Company will proceed to put in a dam at Moore's mills and complete the works as early as practicable in the spring.

R. H. Broughton, Esq., has opened a store in Linn City, where he threatens to sell goods on terms that will make it an inducement to farmers from the Plains to come to Linn City to do their trading.

By reference to another column it will be seen that a special election is to be held in this city on the 25th February, to take the sense of the people on levying a tax for bringing water into the city for fire purposes.

The U. S. Mail steamer Columbia arrived at Portland on Monday morning last. Through the kindness of J. N. Banker, Esq., Agent of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express, we received files of the latest California and Atlantic States papers.

J. W. Sullivan, as usual, has supplied us with liberal files of the latest papers.

Father Matthew, the great Apostle of Temperance died at Cork on the 9th of December, aged 66.

England has declared war against Persia on account of the latter's persistence in waging war on Herat. The declaration has created considerable dissatisfaction in some parts of England.

HILLSBORO, Feb. 3, 1857.

Mr. Editor—I notice the papers are speaking of an organization just entered upon in the city of New York, styled the "New York Committee of Pacific Emigration." Now it would seem that the best wishers of Oregon and California must hail this as a new era in our history, and of great promise to our rising country.

The steamship Texas left New Orleans on the 27th December for San Juan, with two hundred and fifty recruits for Gen. Walker. The Tennessee left New York during the same week with a large number of men and a supply of stores for the Nicaraguan army, but was obliged to put into the harbor of Norfolk in a disabled condition.

The Florida War probably ended.—General Harney has suspended hostilities against the Seminole Indians in Florida, until he communicates the intentions of Government to them. At Tallahassee it was believed the war would be concluded by negotiation.

ing gathered up such information touching the object as he has published on the subject, go to the meeting with all who will go with him, and there secure, at least, some one or more whom his county can rely upon as affording reliable facts touching the available opportunities and openings of such county and vicinity to the various classes of useful inhabitants, so much needed for the development of the rich and abundant resources of this new and rising country, and who will also stand in such correspondence and co-operation in their behalf with the New York committee of Pacific emigration as shall be found appropriate and useful.

Yours, &c., J. S. GRIFFIN.

Salem, O. T., Jan. 29, 1857. Mr. Editor—Will you permit me to say to the friends of Zion that we organized a Christian congregation the 4th Saturday in October last, by the name of the Freedom Baptist Church. I suppose this is the first one on the Pacific coast that recognizes in her covenant the great principle of human rights.

Since her constitution we have enjoyed a continual refreshing from the Divine presence. The last meeting, just closed, was one long to be remembered; six were immersed, and seven others were received, and four are yet waiting to be baptized.—This makes twenty-four received during the three meetings, and total number twenty-nine, and the prospect is very flattering for many more.

We ask all those whom "Christ has made free" to give glory to God and pray for Freedom.

Yours, in hope of immortality, WILLIAM M. DAVIS.

News from the Atlantic States.

LOSS OF THE ELECTORAL VOTE OF WISCONSIN.—In consequence of a furious snow storm on the first Wednesday of December, the day fixed by law for the assembling of the Electors of President, all communication with Madison, the capital of Wisconsin, was cut off, and consequently the vote for President was not cast upon that day. The Madison Argus is of the opinion that the electors cannot now legally discharge their functions, and that the vote of the State is lost.

Huntington, the Wall street financier and forger, has been convicted and sentenced to four years and ten months imprisonment in the State's prison.

The Hon. S. R. Mallory has been re-elected United States Senator for Florida by the Legislature of that State, for the full term of six years from the 4th of March next, when his present term expires.

General Persifer F. Smith has been unanimously confirmed by the Senate to the Brigadiership in the army, created at the last Congress.

The steamship Texas left New Orleans on the 27th December for San Juan, with two hundred and fifty recruits for Gen. Walker. The Tennessee left New York during the same week with a large number of men and a supply of stores for the Nicaraguan army, but was obliged to put into the harbor of Norfolk in a disabled condition.

The Florida War probably ended.—General Harney has suspended hostilities against the Seminole Indians in Florida, until he communicates the intentions of Government to them. At Tallahassee it was believed the war would be concluded by negotiation.

The New Territory.—It is said the Committee on Territories in the House will report against the memorial of the inhabitants of Arizona, asking the establishment of a Territorial Government.

SPEAKER OF THE MISSOURI HOUSE.—Robert Harrison, the anti-Benton old-line whig candidate, was on the 30th ult. elected Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives. The vote stood—for Harrison, 69; for Wilson, 52.

POPULATION OF ST. LOUIS.—The population of St. Louis, according to a census just completed, is 125,201. Total white population 122,313. Free colored persons 1,230. Slaves 1,649.

Nicaragua.

We have news from Nicaragua to the 24th December by the Panama Star and Herald.

Gen. Walker had possession of Rivas with 800 or 1000 men. Nothing is said of Gen. Henningsen, who by the last accounts was surrounded at Granada, and it is presumed that he had succeeded in joining Walker, from the fact of the latter's force being so large.

The most important move of the allies as yet, was made by the Costa Ricans about the 22d of December. They had surprised and taken possession of all the forts on the San Juan River from the Lake to Greytown, together with the latter place, and all the steamboats on the river and two of the Lake steamers.

This is the most effective blow that has been struck at Walker yet, and, unless he can open and hold the Transit route again, so as to get assistance from the Atlantic States, he will be compelled to leave the country.

The late census of Minnesota Territory shows the total number of inhabitants to be 170,000.

IMPORTANT FROM CHINA!

Bombardment of Canton by the British Fleet!

Participation of the American Fleet!

Storming and Destruction of Several Forts by the Americans!!

1000 CHINESE KILLED!!

Owing to some trouble with the Chinese authorities at Canton about the last of November, the British and American fleets bombarded the city, and captured and destroyed several forts. The news was brought to San Francisco by the clipper ship Mary Whitledge, and is given below.

The origin of the trouble seems to have commenced as follows, as stated from the Friend of China, of November 15th:

By treaty, should suspected criminals be on board vessels under our flag, it is incumbent on the Chinese authorities, if they wish to obtain them, to make application to the nearest Consul, that officer, on being satisfied of the guilt of the parties charged, at once gives them up. That such suspected men were on board a Lorcha, registered as belonging to the port of Hong-kong is admitted, but without making the prescribed reference, the Governor General of the Province directed that they should be seized. This was done.

The British Consul remonstrated and demanded their return to the vessel they were taken from. The Governor General treated the application with contempt.—The Plenipotentiary, by the Consul, then informed him that unless he did as was wished, and at once apologize for the insult to our dignity as a State, the matter should be placed in the hands of Admiral Sir Michael Seymour. To this the Governor General replied by sending some of the men to the Consulate—not to the vessel. He averred afterwards that the vessel in question was not British owned; he had offered no insult to our flag, for that none was flying when she was boarded; that his subordinate knew nothing about the treaty, and, in fine, that he had committed no intentional insult and had nothing to apologize for.

All this may be as you say, in effect, responded Admiral Seymour, (when the reply reached him,) but come, why not permit me to visit you at your official residence within the city and let us talk the matter over, face to face!

This the Governor General refused point blank, consequently it only remained for Admiral Seymour to pay the visit without his leave. The Governor General was not at home. He had retired to the Inner City and to induce him to come out, a bombardment was kept up on the public offices for one whole day and part of another. This, too, was insufficient, so the Imperial Navy was destroyed, and finally the Bogus Forts taken. Seven hundred Chinese were killed. The British loss could not be ascertained.

The following is the manner in which the Americans were forced to take part in the affray:—On the 18th of November the American force were drawn into the war by having a boat belonging to the United States sloop-of-war Portsmouth, with the American flag flying, and containing Captain Foote of the Portsmouth, and three other Americans, fired into several times from one of their forts, between Canton and Whampoa. The Portsmouth and Levant were towed up to Whampoa, (the San Jacinto drawing too much water to accompany them,) to punish the insult, when three other forts in the neighborhood opened fire upon the vessels. This obliged our forces to capture the four forts, which they accomplished in three days, though with a loss of six men killed and eighteen wounded. No apology being made by the Viceroy for the original insult, Commodore Armstrong proceeded to completely destroy the forts, after which the vessels were to proceed up and anchor off the city, and cooperate with the English.

It is expected that the whole foreign trade with China will be stopped by the bombardment of the other four forts.—The Viceroy of the two Kwangs has already ordered, through the Mandarins, that the people of Foochow and Amoy cease trading with the foreigners. At Swatow, a large depot for sugar and opium, the foreigners have been obliged to flee.

ORIGIN OF THE DIFFICULTY WITH THE AMERICANS.

On Saturday, the 18th November, says the China Mail, of November 21st, about half past 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the ship Portsmouth's six-masted pinnace, in which were Com. Foote, his First Lieutenant, Mr. Sturgis, and the Rev. Mr. Macy, was pulling up from Whampoa to Canton, and when abreast of the lower fort a gun was discharged at them, which fell across the bow a little ahead. Mr Sturgis took the flag from the stern of the boat, stood up and waved it to show the Chinese they were Americans, and told the men to "pull away—it must have been a mistake;" but scarcely were the words uttered when a second bullet passed close to them, followed by a shower of shrapnels, which dashed up the water all around them. The men pulled ahead, and as soon as they passed the second fort the party received from it the like treatment, the guns in the latter instance being, if possible, better served, so that it was a miracle how the party escaped. They did so, however, but about, and returned to Whampoa, where they reported

the circumstance to Com. Armstrong, and he promptly determined to destroy the forts, and then wrote to the Governor-General what he had done, and his reasons for doing it, and intimating at the same time his contentment with the satisfaction he had taken. In execution of this resolve, a boat was dispatched on Sunday morning to sound and ascertain whether the depth of water was sufficient to permit of the Portsmouth and Levant anchoring within a close distance of the forts; the boat, in doing so, was fired upon, and one man killed, his head being taken off by a round shot.

CAPTURE OF THE FORTS BY THE AMERICANS.

The future plan of operation having been agreed upon by the three Commanders, early on Friday, the Cum-fa towed the Levant into a situation much nearer the forts, the barrier stakes alone preventing further progress. The boats of both ships were then manned with a storming party, and the capture of the fort at the entrance of Fidler's Beach resolved on. At eight A. M., the Cum-fa, (under the able direction of Volunteer Captain W. M. Robinet,) with the launches and cutters in tow, started for the fort under cover of the Levant's guns, and in the face of a galling fire from the three forts. The shots whistled and roared over and around her, but she escaped without injury to the ships unscathed, after having been exposed to a sharp fire for upwards of an hour, amid the hearty cheers and congratulations of all hands. But not so with the boats. An 8-inch shot struck the San Jacinto's launch, in charge of Lieut. Lewis, of that ship, on the starboard bow, killing one man instantly, mortally wounding two, who died shortly afterward, and wounding two or three slightly. The shot was a hollow one and after striking the bread bag in the stern of the boat, quietly reposed there and remains a captive to the boat's company. The landing was effected without further trouble, and although the men had to cross a deep ditch up to their knees and some to their waistbands, the stars and stripes were upon the fort in ten minutes. The landing party reached the fort with but one man injured by a rocket from the retreating Chinese.

The party entered the fort at about 9 o'clock, and the work of destruction commenced. The buildings were all set on fire and destroyed—powder and shot thrown into the river, and everything burnable burnt. Such guns as could be burst were sent into fragments; those that could not, were spiked, trunnions blown off and so defaced as to be made quite useless. This fort mounted forty eight guns, none of which were less than twenty-four pounders, and some as high as forty cwties. Two of them were beautiful brass guns, which the landing party turned upon the opposite forts with much effect—to which, however the Chinese replied with vigor, but no loss however to the American side.—The work of demolition occupied till past noon, when it became necessary to take measures for further proceeding, and to capture the Island or Round Fort was then determined upon. Through the able advice of a gentleman volunteer present, well skilled in Chinese warfare and local information, a plan was decided upon, and at about 3 o'clock P. M. the troops sailed out of the western gate, and under cover of the raised bund or road along the river side, marching up to a point opposite the southern door of the Round Fort, and in a line of the Square Fort, while the boats were tracked up along the shore. While here waiting for the boats to come up, some Chinese soldiers made a sally from behind the hill at the Lob Creek pagoda, and discharged volleys of arrows and rockets, but with no effect. They were speedily driven back by the marines and the Portsmouth's howitzer, and made good their retreat to Honam Island. By this time the boats had arrived at the embarkation, seeing which, the Chinese troops in the Round Fort, knowing that it was all up with them, speedily took to their heels, and the forces landed without opposition at 4 o'clock P. M. Thus three or four forts were captured with the loss of five killed and five wounded, on the boat and shore duty, and two wounded on the ship. The Levant suffered but trifling—two shots in her hull, one through into the berth deck, main stay shot away, and one thirty-two pounder materially injured by a round shot striking the muzzle of the gun and splitting it to the muzzle ring. One man lost the calf of his leg by a cannon ball.—This last fort contained thirty-eight guns, some of which were of enormous calibre, and the eastern embrasure of the approach from Whampoa was defended by a veritable Leviathan gun, made of brass or copper, eight inches in the bore and twenty-four feet in length! Its construction showed marks of being recent casting, and upon an approved model. Everything pertaining to this fort was destroyed as far as practicable—but the work was not accomplished—there remained one fortification to be captured, and the Chinese could be seen reinforcing it with powder and shot during the day, and showing every determination to maintain a vigorous resistance.

The Commander determined upon their plan of operations; and by 12 o'clock at night the Fidler's Beach Fort was vacated, and the total force quietly bivouacked in the Island Fort. About midnight the moon arose; and although Chinese soldiers might be seen hurrying to and from the

square fort not six hundred yards opposite, at four A. M., Saturday morning all hands called after a few hours repose on the cold granite floors of the fort, and the separate divisions were ordered quietly into their respective boats. All preparations were made by the dawn of day—three howitzers, with their crews and ammunition, were stationed in the ports of the northern side, commanding the square fort—and at five hours forty-five minutes the boats pushed off. As they opened out from the fort, the order was given to fire, and under cover of the three howitzers, which kept up a withering fire of schrapnell upon the opposite fort, into its center, through the port holes, and upon the retreating troops, the boats touched the opposite shore after having been exposed to the raking fire of eight guns, loaded with round shot and grape, and in fifteen minutes from the embarkation the lowest flag was upon the ramparts of their last strong hold. Although it was a perfect shower of grape over, about and around them, the boats escaped. The Island Fort kept up a fire upon the retreating Celestials, until they were out of reach, and although they rallied once or twice and honored the victors with a shower of rockets, the advance howitzers drove them back several miles under cover of the villages in the eastern suburbs of Canton.

The rest of the day was occupied in the destruction of the two last captured forts, and it is to be hoped that ere the ships withdraw they will raze them to the ground. They were defended by guns of enormous calibre, say from eight to eleven inch, and the labor of destroying them in earnest cannot well be conceived. There were—Barrier Fort, 38 guns; Fidler's Beach Fort, 48 guns; Island Fort, 38 guns;—Square Fort, 41 guns; grand total, 165 guns; which are either totally destroyed or rendered unfit for further service. The fortifications were materially injured, by the ship's fire; and the loss of 165 guns, and the destruction of his most important defenses in the very stronghold of the Empire, must teach His Majesty's Honorable Member of the Privy Council, Mr. Yeh Ming Chin, a lesson of foreign diplomacy he will not soon forget.

In continuation of our tale of the American difficulties, we are told of a letter having been sent to Yeh, requiring an explanation. It was Commander Armstrong, not Dr. Parker, that sent this letter, and twenty-four hours were given for a suitable reply. This period expired at eight A. M. of Thursday, but an hour before that the Americans commenced with a brisk cannonade on Napier Fort. This continued for an hour and a half or two hours, when the Chinese were driven out, and the United States marines and small arm men landed with a field piece at a hamlet a little distance in the rear of the Fort—two American seamen being shot dead as they were getting out of a boat, by the accidental discharge of a comrade's rifle. Here they were met by some thousands of "braves," hardly with what might be called resistance, however, as none of the Americans were hurt. The havoc among the Chinese, on the contrary, is said to have been awful. Flags had been prepared by the men before landing, on which were inscribed the words—"Remember Mullins," (the lead-man first shot) and there was no quarter from the hands of his infuriated messmates. With the taking of this Fort the day's work ended.

Yeh's reply was sent to the American factories a little before noon. In its tone, it is said to be most conciliatory and respectful. The Americans, Yeh says, were told some weeks ago they had better go away from Canton, and he was under the impression they had left. In any way, their boats had no business under the Forts—and, in short, it served them right to be shot at. Yeh had no apology.

Yesterday morning the attack was made on Howqua's Fort. Firing continued for about half an hour only, and was promptly returned by the Chinese defenders, one shot killed two and wounded eight in one of the Portsmouth's boats. It was believed, when the postal steamer passed Whampoa last evening, that the work was completed, the three forts were captured, and American revenge satiated.—Friend of China, Nov. 23d.

YEH'S DECLARATION OF WAR.

"Now, the barbarian rebels have raised disturbances, attacked our heavenly dynasty, destroyed forts, burning ships and making war on our city. The anxiety on this account has entered our very bones and marrow, and your united wrath, too, has been aroused. Now I have received the Imperial command firmly to hold and resolutely to fight and maintain the war from the public treasury, to blockade the river and sea, and sweep out every fragment. You must on behalf of the Emperor, exert your strength as brave soldiers, in order that not a fragment of the foreign robbers may remain."

RUSSIA AND ENGLAND.—

The British news shows with what extreme jealousy the English people look upon the gigantic railway schemes set on foot by the Czar, whereby he proposes to connect the most distant parts of his empire, on its western frontier, with each other, for military purposes. Capitalists on the continent are asked to invest in the scheme; but they are cautioned on the other side not to furnish funds for a project to which patriotism and profit are alike opposed.

The iron trade is very dull in England, owing to the falling off in the demand from this country.

THE REVOLUTION IN CHINA.—REV. W.

P. A. MARTIN, an English missionary at Ningpo, China, has published an intelligent account of Chinese affairs. The revolutionary party, in whose ultimate success he sees great hope of material and social progress, he says are still gaining upon the Tartar dynasty, plucking from them one city and province after another, and making sure the ground gained by ample defenses and improvements in government that secure the firm allegiance of the people. Mr. Martin expresses great mortification that so many Americans and Europeans have entered the service of the old dynasty against the insurgents. The Emperor has recently called into his service seven wild tribes of Mangols, but this only exasperates and alienates his own subjects. Mr. Martin is confident that the dominion of the Moushu sovereigns is about to expire, and predicts that its overthrow will introduce a new era of progress, and bring China into intercourse with the rest of the world, to the great advantage of commerce and the spread of knowledge and christianity among the Chinese.

STATISTICS OF 1856.—Twenty-two men have died during the year over 100 years old, and the same number of females.—A slave woman in Virginia attained the age of 127; another in Louisiana 124, and one 120.

The number of steamboat accidents in our lakes, rivers and bays, which have been attended with loss of life, or injury to persons, is 29. The number killed 358, and wounded 127.

During the year just expiring thirty revolutionary soldiers have died. The number on the pension list in July last was 514.

227 fires have occurred, where the amount of property destroyed has been estimated at, and over \$20,000. The aggregate loss is set down at \$21,159,000.—If the amount of property destroyed by fires where the loss was under \$20,000 were added, the total would probably reach twenty-five or twenty six millions of dollars.

The number of human lives lost by fires during the year, is 193. The above we find in the Journal of Commerce.

The Monmouth Illinois Tragedy.

The startling tragedy at Monmouth, Illinois, some weeks since, in which a young man killed two brothers, to whose sister he was engaged to be married, has excited an extraordinary degree of public interest.—The particulars of the affair are thus given in the Aurora Beacon, as furnished by a reliable gentleman who was in Monmouth at the time:

Mr. William Crozier, a very respectable young man of Monmouth, a man of good character, good morals, and a member of one of the churches, became deeply attached to a daughter of Mr. William Fleming, of the same place, which attachment was strongly reciprocated. But alas for the young man, although possessed of an excellent character, he was poor. This was sufficient to array the father, who was reputed to be wealthy, and the sons against him. They all bitterly opposed his aspirations for the hand and heart of the young lady, and sought every opportunity to show their feelings and express their contempt for the poor young man. It is reported that he had been accosted by the old man Fleming even in the streets, and taunted with his want of wealth.

"Ah! young man, you are getting up in the world! you would like to marry old Fleming's daughter, and get some of old Fleming's money, wouldn't you?"

The young man, stung to the very quick of his sensitive soul, would put up, in silence, with the graceless insults, and not taunt back again, restrained by the deep affection for the daughter. To stifle, if possible, the love of the young lady, her father determined to send her away to Pennsylvania, so that, by absence and distance, he might estrange her acknowledged affection for the young man. In accordance with this resolution, she was sent, but on taking the cars she was heard to express her intention yet to marry Mr. Crozier, in spite of the unkind efforts of her friends to prevent it. After the young lady had been gone some time, there were some movements on the part of Crozier, which led the Flemings to suspect that he intended to follow her to the seclusion they had provided for her. This led to the horrible tragedy.

On Thursday morning, December 11th, Mr. William Fleming, with his two sons, Henry and John, and a lawyer, who was employed by them for the occasion, proceeded to the Baldwin House, in Monmouth where young Crozier boarded, and between the hours of eight and nine in the forenoon, requested an interview with him at his room. He went with him as requested, and when he had entered the room the elder Fleming locked the door. There they remained our informant said, from about 9 o'clock A. M. to 2 P. M., locked in. During the time they were thus locked in, every effort was made by the Flemings, both father and sons, and by the lawyer, to induce Crozier to sign such a writing as they should dictate, renouncing the young lady in question forever. This he resolutely refused to do in spite of threats and persuasions, which were freely used. A sort of compromise writing was finally agreed upon and signed, which was satisfactory to the father but not the sons. They declared they would have re-