

The President's Message.

When Buchanan was elected to the high post which he has for four years disgraced more than any man was supposed capable of doing four years ago, the organs of slave-breeding everywhere, and even Mr. Buchanan himself, felicitated the country upon the final settlement of the slavery question. Democrats grinned with smiles that wrinkled their joles clear back to their ears, rubbed their palms together with both hands between their knees, and, rolling their eyeballs upwards, exclaimed, "The nigger question is settled—there will be no more agitation—the Union is safe—the people have decided in favor of the Constitution, or what is the same thing, they have endorsed the Cincinnati Platform, the Nebraska Bill, and non-intervention—henceforth the vexed question will be entirely removed from Congress, and thrown into the Territories, where it rightfully belongs." The destruction of the Missouri Compromise, and the passage of the Nebraska Bill, were no more lauded by the Democracy as a "final settlement" of the slavery question, than was the election of James Buchanan in 1856. We knew at the time that the slavery question was not settled—we knew that the election of Buchanan, or any other Democrat, would open up afresh the slavery agitation, and precipitate the country into a convulsion even greater than that which followed the inauguration of the Douglas programme of 1854. We knew very well that the substitute for the Missouri Compromise was the pro-slavery structure, not "by the divine art of Pallas," but at the instigation of the devil—a beast on which the Quixotic Genius of slavery was henceforth to ride around "in quest of adventures." We knew very well that this Genius of chivalry was by no means ready at the inauguration of Buchanan to turn his Nebraska Rosinante into the pasture, hang his lance up on a peg, and dismiss his fire-eating Sancho Panzas, just because Buchanan and the Northern Democracy thought there was no more work for the Slave Power to do. The Genius of chivalry had his work marked out—he had sworn that the "conflict" he had entered should be an "irrepressible" one—that every citizen sacred to human liberty should be destroyed—that the friends of humanity should be "subdued"—and that, failing to smoke out all opposition to an unlimited spread of slavery, he would Sampson-like, bow himself against the pillars of the Government, and involve all in one common ruin.

We saw all this, and predicted it, before Buchanan was inaugurated. But Buchanan, either a hypocrite or unconscious himself that he and his party belonged to the slave-breeding interests, and that fire-eaters had the same power to mould him, that potters have to convert a piece of clay into a "vessel of dishonor," told us that the slavery question had been settled—and that, by one of the happiest of Democratic conceptions! With his head full of this "settlement" by a "happy conception," he sat down to write his first message. Fire-eaters crowded around him, debated the matter of his message, made him doubt about his "happy conception," or even his own identity,—the result was his first message had little else in it but the "everlasting nigger question"—Congress and the country have been kept in a continual uproar on the slavery question, during his whole administration—the Democratic party has been settling this "happily settled" question all the time—and now we are told in the last message (thank God, it is his last!) of this expiring functionary, that the slavery question isn't quite settled yet, and in fact he doesn't see how it can be settled so as to save the Union, unless the majority will surrender all their notions of right and of constitutional interpretation, and let the minority alter the Constitution so that it shall hereafter read very plainly, as it now reads in his through salamander spectacles, and keep on altering it probably as often as the salamanders get new light on the "rights" guaranteed to the Cotton States. Mr. Buchanan seems to be very much opposed to Disunion, yet he really thinks, that in view of the terrible "Northern aggressions," it would be no matter of surprise if the South did break off from the North,—he thinks it is his sworn duty to execute the laws, but really, after very grave research, with the help of Yancey probably, he can't really put his finger on the authority by which he can keep South Carolina from dissolving the Union if she wants to. He thinks that Lincoln will not dare to do it, would, do any act contrary to the Constitution as understood by Buchanan, but, if he does, why then it will be a capital time for the Cotton States to raise the Palmetto flag.

His message, take it all in all, is well worthy of its author, and equally worthy of the Disunion party of which he is the head. His hints to the incoming administration about economy, after his reckless expenditures, and his suggestions about the impropriety of letting Government contracts to party whippers-in only, must appear rather cool to one who has read Covode's book. After reading his message, we have little doubt but that he is at a good understanding with the Disunionists and that the Collector at Charleston is retaining the funds in his hands to put into the new Carolina kingdom's treasury, by aid with the advice of the Administration.

Get his Speech on.

That brilliant exponent of Democracy, the Corvallis Union, has been reviewing Mr. Trumbull's speech at Springfield, through a pair of leather spectacles. Of course the Union doesn't like Mr. Lincoln's policy, and objects to it after this wise: "Therefore, when Mr. Trumbull says that Lincoln as President 'would defend the State in which he received no vote against any encroachment on their constitutional rights as soon as he would one in which he received the highest majority,' we understand that he will protect States in such rights only as he, the President, may construe the Constitution to guarantee to them; that is to say, he will administer the government upon strictly republican policy, disregarding the rights of the Southern States as they are claimed by them."

That is, Lincoln, like Jackson, will support the Constitution as he understands it, and not as Jo Lane or the Corvallis Union understands it. What a pity that Mr. Lincoln shouldn't, like the Old Public Functionary, conclude to enforce the "rights of Southern States as they are claimed by them," instead of securing them such "rights" as he, and Washington, and Jefferson, "held" they had. Among the "rights of the Southern States, as they are claimed by them," is now classed the "right" of disunion. It is said that even the Old Public Functionary is quite doubtful about this being a constitutional right "as held by them," and talks some of enforcing the laws as understood by him.—The Union has with a masterly hand struck the key note that will harmonize all discords, and make the whole Union jingle like a jews-harp. Here it is—A President in administering the government must regard the Constitutional "rights of the South as claimed by them" (the fire-eaters), and at the same time regard the rights of the North as claimed by them (the Yankees)! No living soul but the Union could have studied up such a noble plan for harmony. If the South doesn't forgive him now, for packing "those cold victuals," it will be because he hasn't yet eaten dirt enough to ensure a pardon under the "Constitution as understood by them."

HONEST CONFESSION.—The Albany Democrat, which has all along thought that the election of Lincoln would be the death-knell of the Union, has since the election, submitted Republicanism to a pressure in the best machine that he got up on short notice by the 'devil' of that office, and has actually squeezed out the real 'disolution' oil that has so terribly alarmed the Democracy, and caused such a howl to go up from the fractured throats of more than a hundred thousand Federal office-holders. The Democrat, like a faithful sentinel on the watch-towers of modern Democracy, takes a calm and dispassionate view of the 'impending crisis,' 'Northern aggressions,' or 'irrepressible conflict,' that will most surely be inaugurated by the administration of that terrible 'rail-splitter,' and calls on all Democrats whom it may concern to set their 'houses in order.'—But we know that the Land Office in this city is impatient to see the elephant as discovered by the Democrat. Well, here it is—

"The most it (Lincoln's administration) can do is to reach the pockets of individuals who are Federal office-holders. The Democrat has hit the real 'disunion' nail squarely on the head. Let the Union-loving 'federal office holders' give vent to their grief—let them shed great salty tears over this 'busted Union' just as fast and as big as they will—let their tears be bottled up and sent to Jo Lane to be stowed away in the archives of the new kingdom of South Carolina, to be used by the clergy of the Methodists South, for baptismal purposes."

THAT FAMILY.—Mr. Martin, a rabid disunionist, lately made a speech in South Carolina, in which he said that Jo Lane of Oregon had promised them the assistance of himself and sons, in case South Carolina met with resistance from the General Government in her secession movements. Joseph probably intends to organize himself, Hibben, and the rest of his family, into a 'Southern rights' anti-'irrepressible' 'pat-rol,' to prevent the niggers from interfering with the diggers in their chivalrous work of digging up South Carolina's sand banks and shipping them off to Cuba. Joseph has looked into the Constitution, and he 'can't find any clause there, that don't prevent no State from gwine out to stand.'

LATEST.—It is said that the South Carolinians are now driving a brisk trade with the Boston Yankees. The latest arrival noticed in the Charleston papers, was one of Cushing's vessels with a cargo of long-handled shovels from Boston. South Carolina being bent on going out of the Union, and not wishing to engage in an "irrepressible conflict" with the government, it is reported to have come to the wise conclusion to dig up the dirt within her noble limits and ship it "hoddadically" over to Cuba. Several ship loads of her "sil" are said to be already on the way to that island. "Jo Lane and sons" are said to have free tickets for cabin passage on the craft that leaves Charleston with the last load of dirt.

Late news from Amoor river says that the Governor General of Eastern Siberia had signified his intention to grant lands on the banks of the Amoor to foreigners who acknowledge the Emperor.—The emigration from Germany was very large.

Facts to be Remembered by the Necessaries and their Friends.

- 1. That the repeal of the Missouri Compromise was a Southern and a Democratic measure.
2. That John Bell, of Tennessee, and General Houston, of Texas, were the only Southern Senators in Congress who voted against the Kansas-Nebraska bill.
3. That of those voting for the bill in the House of Representatives, ninety-five were Democrats and fifteen were Whigs.
4. That the Whig and some Democrat papers of the North opposed the repeal with all their power, styling the bill the 'Nebraska Iniquity.'
5. That a large meeting in the Park at New York, addressed by Hon. B. F. Butler, Gen. Jackson's Attorney-General, adopted an address against it, declaring that "The repeal of that compromise would be the virtual repeal of all compromises between freedom and slavery, and will terminate forever all confidence between the North and the South. The extension of slavery to Nebraska would secure to the Slave States a permanent preponderance in the Federal Union, which would enable them to sway the Government in all its branches, legislative, executive, and judicial, with reference only to the interest of some 300,000 slave-holders, and without regard to the will or the welfare of 2,000,000 of free citizens."

Resolutions were adopted of a similar import, and pledging the citizens to their utmost endeavors to prevent the repeal of the Missouri pledge of freedom, and, if it should be carried, then to new and untiring efforts to restore freedom. They recommended petitions so long as the door was open.

- 6. That of the one hundred in the House who voted against the bill, there were 46 Democrats—44 of them from the free States—and 50 Whigs, 45 from the free States.
7. That on March 4, 1854, Mr. Everett submitted to the Senate a memorial containing the signatures of 3,500 clergymen of New England and New York city, remonstrating against the Nebraska Bill.—When Mr. Everett resumed his seat,

Senator Douglas took the floor, and denounced the memorialists, impugned their motives, and challenged the charge that the passage of the Nebraska bill was a breach of faith, as a base falsehood, designed for political effect.

Senator Houston replied warmly and eloquently, defending the rights of the petitioners and the course they had pursued.

"In the House Mr. Appleton presented a petition 250 feet in length, signed by 3000 clergymen of New England, against the repeal of the Missouri Compromise.—The petition was not received."

- 8. Remember the view of some Southern men on that Bill—as seen in the following from the N. O. Crescent:
SOUTHERN VIEW OF THE NEBRASKA BILL.—The Fruits of Victory.—The Nebraska bill has passed; a solemn compromise which protracted our Union thirty-four years, has been trampled in the dust; the followers at the beck of the Executive, in anticipation of profit from its patronage, have raised the yell of victory, and cannons have been fired in the national capital in honor of the auspicious event! And what, we ask, are the fruits? Disaffection, grief, distrust, indignation, and loss of confidence in Southern honor throughout half the States of the confederacy.—N. O. Crescent.

Remembering these things, and many more such, it will be seen by every fair man that the South have prepared the way for their own present troubles. LINCOLN'S CABINET.—The wise scribes of all political parties are still fixing up a cabinet for Mr. Lincoln. Northern Democrats and Southern Know-nothings, it is predicted by the 'savans,' will be invited to take a seat in his Cabinet, while men of the same political complexion are to fill some of the high offices within the President's gift. These opinions have been squeezed out of rather spongy 'savans' by the present disunion pressure. Those who think that Mr. Lincoln is spongy enough to be pressed into a triangular shape by either devils or Democrats, will be undeceived by and by.

"We wish we could reach the ear of every mad-cap in the land."—Albany Democrat.

If, as you say, you have a circulation of 2000 copies, you probably 'reach the ear' of most of them. If you are lucky enough to 'reach the pockets' of even half of those whose 'ears' you 'reach,' you will be fully as fortunate as the majority of dough-faces who depend for a living on the subscriptions of 'mad-caps.'

BOOKS AT AUCTION.—Messrs. Crandall & Co. have arrived in town with a large and well-selected stock of Standard and Miscellaneous Books, which are now to be had at auction and private sale. Their stand is in the first building north of the Main St. House. Call early. They will be apt to close out this evening.

Snow.—Last Saturday night snow fell here to the depth of five or six inches, and in consequence, three or four days of this week afforded more sleighing than has been witnessed here in five years. On Thursday, however, rain set in, and under its drenching showers the snow rapidly disappeared, to the great grief of numerous belles and beaux in town.

We are requested by Mr. Thomas, the sheriff, to state that he does not intend to charge mileage in the tour he is about to make for collecting taxes, as we intimated last week.

ED. ARGUS: I saw in the Portland Times that some one writing from this city spoke slightly of our improvements and the stand-still character that this city has assumed for some time past. There is a very good reason for this state of things, which I will not here attempt to deny.—The fact is patent here that we have had little or no representation at court, to amend the wrongs committed against Oregon City by the Donation Act. Now I have reached the source of all the mischief, which I will here briefly state. In the donation act, passed Sept. 27, 1850.—There was incorporated in that law a provision reserving the Oregon City claim for University purposes. And although the law has been passed over ten years, still there has been no attempt made to realize anything from said claim. Nor has there been anything, in the shape of lands, selected for that purpose. But the law is a dead letter; no person knows the precise situation of things, nor does any person seem to care whether school keeps or not. Had either Mr. Stout or Jo Lane made a fair representation in Congress, this mischief might have been corrected, the University been better off, and the heirs of Dr. John McLoughlin had justice done then, and no person would have been wronged.

I had hoped that Mr. Stout, who is fully posted in this regard, would have done something more, during his brilliant career, to distinguish it, than the mere act of going out at Charleston. But in this we have all been disappointed. I had looked for some redeeming act on the part of Old Jo, but in this too I have been disappointed.

The Legislature of Oregon memorialized Congress upon the subject, and the people petitioned largely in favor of it, but to all this our Solons at court gave no heed, nor have they deigned to notice these appeals for justice. Thus the matter rests, and thus it will continue to rest, I suppose, until the people's men take the matter in hand. The persons who have been instrumental in perpetuating this wrong, seem to be leagued (in interest, at any rate,) with those who enacted it in the first place.

ED. ARGUS: I was present on New Year's Day at an exhibition given at the McAlpin School House by the Pleasant Hill Lyceum, and was well pleased to see the exertions put forth by the members of the Lyceum to school themselves in the art of oratory. An oration was pronounced by Rev. T. H. Small, which was followed by addresses from the following gentlemen: T. H. Wilson, on the Progress of the Age; H. H. Savage: Union—W. R. Dunbar: Object and Aims of the S. of T.—Oregon: Intemperance—K. L. Hebbard: The American Union. During the intervals, the audience was enlivened by music from the Belpassi Brass Band, and singing by the choir. A discussion also took place between W. Cranston and W. R. Dunbar as to which was the greater evil, war or intemperance. After the discussion came the reading of compositions, all of which were highly creditable to their authors.—In the evening, the exercises consisted of songs, dialogues, and declamations, the actors being, V B Towner, W Cranston, J L Cleary, K L Hebbard, J P Watkins, R O Dunbar, Gen. Smith, John Hunt, T B Hunt, Doc. Reed, J A Kemp, Foster Johnson, and H H Savage. Short and pertinent addresses were then made by the following named members of the Belpassi Brass Band: J O Johnson, John Kemp, —Zanniser, —Fiester, —St. John, and Columbus Brown.

I omitted to mention that the exercises of the day were opened with an appropriate prayer by Rev. T. Powell. The whole proceedings were managed well, reflecting great credit upon the marshal of the day, J. Burnett, Esq., who superintended, upon the Lyceum which participated, and upon the community surrounding, and presented a remarkable contrast to the hilarity and boisterous reveling in which the day is frequently spent.

OREGON CITY, Jan. 15, 1861.

MAN FROZEN.—Ed. Argus: Mr. J. A. Knowles, of Douglas county, came very near being frozen to death not long since. He left Coos River Dec. 19, on his way from Empire City to Looking-glass Prairie, a journey that is generally made by this route in one and a half or two days, the distance being about 40 miles. Mr. K., however, was detained a short time in the first part of the journey, and during that time the snow blocked his trail so as to render it very difficult traveling, and he was compelled to travel eight days and two nights before he reached the settlements in this valley. He arrived at the house of Mr. Weekly completely exhausted, being unable to either walk or stand, having crawled some distance on his hands and knees before reaching the house. His feet and hands were badly frozen, and he was bleeding at the nose and mouth. He was four days without provisions, and left seven horses and mules in the mountains, only four of which were alive. The snow on the summit of the Coast Range was seven feet deep.

ROSEBURG, Jan. 5, 1861.

DOUGLAS ON THE CRISIS.—Senator Douglas has assumed the role of defender of the Northern States. In the Senate, on the 13th, in reply to one of the Wigfall harangues, Senator Douglas confessed that there were instances of refusal to obey the Fugitive Slave Law, which he regretted; and then said: While I make this declaration, I am compelled to say that nine-tenths of the complaints on that subject are unfounded.

Tony News.

Fort Moultrie abandoned by U. S. Troops. Sr. Louis, Dec. 28.—P. M. Senator Baker had a warm reception at Springfield, Illinois, on the 27th inst.—James C. Conkling delivered a reception address, in the Court House. Baker's reply occupied three quarters of an hour.—He expressed earnest hopes of Union, and discarded all idea of a Pacific Republic.

A Democratic State Convention is called to meet at Springfield on the Jan. 16th, to confer regarding the existing national crisis.

An enthusiastic meeting was held at Memphis on Dec. 27th. Resolutions were passed opposing separate secessions and coercion, and favoring a convention of the Southern States.

An informal meeting of merchants, members of the bar, and others, was held at Barnum's Hotel, Baltimore, on the night of the 27th. The meeting was of conservative, Union-loving men.

Several army officers of South Carolina have resigned, and resignations of post-masters of that State are recorded daily.

Gov. Hicks, of Maryland, positively refuses to call an extra session of the Legislature for fear of excession, as alleged.

The Committee of Thirty-three have rejected Rust's proposition by a strict party vote.

The dispatch in relation to Maj. Anderson's movements at Fort Moultrie, created great excitement in Congress. Three hundred men have been sent from Charleston navy yard to the ship Macedonia, at Portsmouth, Virginia.

St. Louis, Dec. 30.

Fort Moultrie and Castle Pinckney were in possession of the South Carolina State troops, under instructions from the Governor to hold peaceable possession for the protection of Government property. The two forts were held by about twelve U. S. troops, who probably surrendered without resisting. No collision was anticipated.

The excitement was subsiding. On the 28th Captain Humphreys was still holding the arsenal. The Cabinet was in session six hours on the 28th.

There are conflicting reports of the proceedings of the South Carolina Commissioners. One is, that the Commissioners demanded the immediate withdrawal of the United States troops, or they would return to South Carolina to prepare for the worst. Another is, that they asked the President if Anderson's movement was by his orders; to which, it is said, the President responded negatively, stating that Anderson acted on his own authority. They even requested the President to order Anderson back to Fort Moultrie; on which request, no action was taken by the Cabinet at its adjournment.

It was stated that Postmaster-General Holt urged defence of the Forts, and other members urged further evacuation, if necessary. The act of Maj. Anderson is generally commended by the Union men at Washington, and all over the country, for this, among other reasons, that Fort Moultrie was comparatively weak, and might be taken by a mob. Fort Sumpter is impregnable, and could be retaken only by siege, thus avoiding an immediate conflict.

A letter from Maj. Anderson to a friend in Baltimore, dated Dec. 25th, shows that he then contemplated the movement.

On the night of the 28th troops were pouring into Charleston from all directions. The Georgia troops had been called to join the South Carolina forces.

South Carolina resisted the forced loan; the \$500,000, previously ordered, having been apportioned among the wealthy men of the State, under the penalty of their being considered disaffected.

Postmaster-General Holt has sent orders to the Postmaster at Charleston to remit the balance due from his office; and if not complied with, the demand of the Federal Government will be enforced. He will also order the stoppage of the mails if interfered with.

Maj. Anderson had discharged his carpenters, because they refused to bear arms against South Carolina.

The city of Wilmington, Del., fired a salute of 135 guns in honor of Anderson and his gallant band.

The Harriet Lane was getting ready for sea with sealed orders.

All was quiet at Raleigh, N. C., on the 28th Nov. Members of the Legislature were going home. Meetings had been held in various counties. A Union sentiment prevailed, but hope was nearly gone.

Florida advices of the 27th show that four-fifths of the delegates elected to the Convention were in favor of secession.

Bids for the four million loan were opened on the 28th. The offers ranged from 6 to 10 per cent. discount.

No progress was made in Committee's compromise. The Republicans manifest a great disposition to concession, but it was not satisfactory to the Southern extremists.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 31st, 6 p. m.—Secretary Floyd has resigned; the resignation has been accepted. The reason given is because Maj. Anderson was not ordered back to Fort Moultrie.

Thompson will not resign till the Indian bond matter is settled. The President will not disturb Anderson.

GEN. SCOTT ON THE CRISIS.

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Journal, speaking of Gen. Scott's solicitude as to the fate of the country, says:

Lieut. General Scott is here on official business. He is greatly concerned about the condition of the country, and this morning spoke of it with tears in his eyes.—He said he was three years old when the Constitution was adopted, and was now, therefore, on the verge of eighty. He did not wish to survive the downfall of the Union. He is making earnest appeals to Gov. Dennison of Ohio, and Andrews of Mass., both now here, to agree upon a compromise founded upon just principles.

The 'President of South Carolina' has telegraphed to Mr. Buchanan to withdraw, instantly, the revenue cutter lying in the port of Charleston, or she will be blown up. A Cabinet meeting was held on Sunday, the 23d, and the President, upon the advice of Jefferson Davis, who was present, decided not to do it.

A company of his former friends called on the President to know if he would reinforce the Forts and execute the laws, or resign his office to Breckinridge? They would not reveal his answer, but it is understood that he evaded the issue.

A Springfield correspondent of the Bulletin, says: An editorial from the Daily Journal, of this place (the central organ of the Republicans of the Prairie State) is subjoined. It appeared yesterday, and is positively known to have been inspired by the President elect. Says the Journal:

"STAND FIRM—BE TRUE.—We feel indignant sometimes when we hear timid Republicans counseling an abandonment, in part, of Republican ground. We are asking for nothing that is not clearly right.—We have done nothing wrong—we have nothing to apologize for—nothing to take back as a party—we have fought a hard battle—we have come out of it victorious, and shall we now call back the routed, flying enemy, and busily surrender all that we have gained? Never!—Let us stand fixed as the eternal hills upon the Republican platform, and 'turn the Government back into the channel in which the framers of the Constitution originally placed it.'" Some there are who are counseling Mr. Lincoln to take into his Cabinet two or three gentlemen who do not agree with him politically. They do not know the man. On the 17th of June, 1858, in a speech delivered in this city, Mr. Lincoln said:

"Our cause, then, must be intrusted to, and conducted by, its own undoubted friends—those whose hands are free, whose hearts are in the work—who do care for the result. Two years ago the Republicans of the nation mustered over thirteen hundred thousand strong. We did this under the single impulse of resistance to a common danger, with every external circumstance against us. Of strange discordant, and even hostile elements, we gathered from the four winds and formed and fought the battle through, under the constant, hot fire of a disciplined, proud and pampered enemy. Did we brave all then to flatter now—now, when enemy is wavering, disserved and belligerent?—The result is not doubtful!"

The South Carolina papers now style the despatches from the North 'foreign powers,' and the Bell organs are demanding of Buchanan that he shall resign.

Six Southern States, in all, have called Secession Conventions; Florida, which was to meet Jan. 3d; Mississippi and Alabama, both of which were to meet Jan. 7th; Georgia, which was to meet Jan. 16th; Louisiana, which is to meet Jan. 27th; and South Carolina, which was by last accounts in session.

Senator Douglas has submitted a plan, proposing amendments to the Constitution. It was read a first and second time, and referred to the Committee of Thirteen.

LATE FROM CHINA.—By way of London and New York, we have news confirming the report received across the Pacific, that the Allies have taken Peking; that the Emperor's summer palace had been sacked, and that the Emperor had fled to Taryu.

Parks and Lock, the English prisoners, had returned; two others had died from ill treatment; two more are still unaccounted for. The Allies are to winter in Peking and Taitzing."

The French entered first and occupied the Palace, and obtained rich booty in gold and silks. The English were a day behind and got nothing. The Rebels were fast getting possession of every district in China.

The French Minister says that twelve months hence there will not be a foreigner left in Japan.

The officials place obstacles in the way of trade.

A letter, received in San Francisco from Senator Baker, and addressed to his son-in-law, says the disunion sentiment in the South is not half so strong as it was sixty days ago.

SALEM, Jan. 23, 1861.

ED. ARGUS: Of late the world wags rather heavily in Salem—rain, snow, sleet, and abominably commingling with the earth, make it not only laborious for pedestrians to perambulate, but remarkably disagreeable to their senses. In fact, owing to the extreme inclemency of the weather, almost all kinds of business have been suspended—with the exception of "raising a howl" to cushion and carpet the M. E. Church here; and even that would stand still, but that the committee of arrangements is composed of females, who, though "the weaker vessels" in most things, are in this particular mightier than the mightiest of their lords. This amiable combination of beauty is busily engaged in gathering from the four quarters of the city, and even from the adjoining country, peck, beans, and potatoes, the constituent elements of a grand supper, to which everybody is invited to attend—at the reasonable charge of one dollar admittance to the hall, another to be allowed to gaze in the dining-room, another to partake of the fruits of your own labor (your donation), and then another to be permitted to depart in peace. It is truly refreshing to witness the efforts of this angelic delegation in their blessed labor of love: so zealous are these laborers that no portion of the field is left unengaged—the widow's mite is considered of more real value than the wealthy man's dollar. (Query—wonder if it is not so because the former is never before taken place in the market—though even it should happen to be the only one the poor forlorn and disconsolate possessed). The known ability to manage such affairs of those who are 'the head and front' of this pious speculation, is a sufficient guaranty that it will be excellent.—Rev. O. Dickinson's congregation are preparing to build him a new edifice wherein to dispense the gospel light in the future. The enterprise is a laudable one, and deserves every encouragement.

The San Francisco M. Austrels passed through here last week, and humbugged several of the sharp cut of a good-old-d 'send. A more complete well never before took place in the capital. These cosmopolitan loafers came within one of being seized, the audience being worked up to a high pitch of indignation. The Democratic quartette from the metropolis—Messrs. B. T. Mcand B.—were among the sufferers by this avindie. This detestable fraternity were here having a democratic reunion—an imbibical spree.—The saloon-ke pers were in high glee during the stay of these disingenuous gentlemen.

The Baptists are having a revival here. Several converts have been made already, and the prospect is good for many more.

J. D. Loxey, whose initials have so often graced the poet's column in the Argus under some very pleasing productions, passed through here a few days since, bound for the rural districts, to recalculate. It is to be hoped that his muse will wobble up, and let us hear from him again.

Joseph H. Lane, of 'Black Hawk' notoriety, is here, making arrangements for the coming season. He and his kind of men are most certainly friends to Oregon.

The friends of the temperance cause are busily at work—at the last meeting a somewhat spirited discussion took place, in which the abolitionists got rather worked up. N. T. Cason and J. S. Smith, Esq., took anti-abolition ground. I think there are some temperance enthusiasts who in their years certainly will learn that there are some things in heaven and earth that are deemed of in their philosophy. HENRY.