

FASTING.—Buchanan lately issued a proclamation to the American people, recommending Jan. 4 (we believe) to be observed as a day of fasting and prayer—mixed up with some hypocritical cant about the sins of the people. As far as we have observed, the American people generally very properly paid no attention to his recommendation. The Mariposa Gazette, alluding to the President's proclamation for prayer as a desperate remedy for existing troubles, says: "The people of the North will hardly say much to the Lord on the subject, for they consider his good providence remarkably manifest in the election of Lincoln."

OREGON CITY SEMINARY.—Miss Stroud, who has lately been teaching in this institution, left a few days since for the East.—We are informed that the Trustees had a meeting this week, and secured the services of Mrs. C. S. Kingsley, of Portland, who will take charge of the Seminary, until a teacher can be procured from the East. The experience of Mrs. Kingsley is a sufficient guaranty that the interests of the school will be well cared for in her hands. The term will commence on Monday, the 11th inst.

LYCEUM.—There was a spirited debate at the Lyceum on Wednesday evening last on the Woman's Rights question. The room was well filled, and among the most pleasant features of the occasion was the presence of

"Ladies fair, with pretty faces," who seemed much interested in the discussion, and whose presence no doubt served to encourage the speakers on the affirmative side, and correspondingly depress those on the negative. The Lyceum meets every Wednesday evening.

FREIGHT.—Owing to the inability of the boats to get into the basin below the Falls, a large quantity of freight from the upper country has accumulated at the warehouse, awaiting shipment below. On Friday morning the water had fallen so as to allow the Rival to enter the Basin. We notice that little or no freight is transported up the river.

THE OLD AND FAVORITE STEAMER Jennie Clark, so long running between this city and Portland, is now laid up at the latter place.

Her popular officers, Capt. Myrick, and A. Holland, Clerk, remain on this route, in charge of the Rival, which has taken the place of the Jennie.

TEMPERANCE LECTURE.—Rev. Mr. Atkinson will deliver a lecture at the Congregational Church in this city on Monday evening next. The subject will be, Malt Liquors—especially Lager Beer.

COAL.—A correspondent writes to the Statesman from Coos that the coal mines in that county are being extensively worked, and that a large amount of coal has been shipped to San Francisco this winter.

THE COOK COMMISSION.—The Commission appointed by the last Legislative Assembly to revise and codify the laws of the State met at Portland on the 17th. Col. Jas. K. Kelly and A. C. Gibbs, Esq., attended. Amory Holbrook, Esq., declined to act, in consequence of business demanding his presence in the East. The Commission secured the services of Hon. M. P. Deady, and had proceeded with their duties. The Times says that the practice in the Circuit and Justice Courts will undergo no material change, but that the practice in County and Probate Courts will be reviewed.

J. B. Armstrong, near Milwaukie, will please take notice that the paper we leave in the post-office here, is not for him, but for J. B. Armstrong, who resides on Barlow's place near Molalla. J. B. A., near Milwaukie, can have the paper sent to him by ordering it, and paying for it.

Petitions have been in circulation some time in this valley for signatures, asking that Oregon be constituted a separate Military Department, as lately has been the case. Upon the recall of Gen. Harney, this Department was merged into that of California.

LAND PATENTS.

LAND OFFICE, Oregon City,) Jan. 30, 1861.)

ED. ARGUS: This Office is in receipt of Patents issued on Military Bounty Land Warrants, and are ready for delivery, to Stephen Blank, John Leonard, Thomas Summer, Lemuel D. Beckett, Anthony L. Cannon, John H. Hill, William McCoy, Lucius A. Seely, David C. Her, Sidney Callahan, Lucius A. Seely, John Foursyth, and James J. Benefield.

B. JENNINGS, Register.

PACIFIC RAILROAD.—Intelligence has reached this coast that the passage of the Pacific Railroad Bill through the Senate is almost certain. The 2d of January was the day fixed for the consideration of the bill. Benj. F. Harding, of Marion county, at present at Washington, is named as one of the Corporators of the Pacific Railroad, in the bill passed by the House of Representatives. Dr. Rabe is named as one of the Corporators for California.

ED. ARGUS: In these days of "wars and rumors of wars," it may not be uninteresting to your readers to have laid before them a few of the statistics of the Army of the American Revolution, by whose uncompromising patriotism and indomitable valor, in the hand of the great Ruler of the Universe, the people of this nation enjoy a degree of genuine liberty, prosperity, and happiness, such as, we have every reason to believe, was never possessed by any nation or people before.

From the first enrollment to the memorable day on which it was disbanded, when the glorious consummation of its object had been obtained, the whole Continental Army of the Revolution numbered 231,959 men. Of this number, the State of Massachusetts is credited with having raised 67,907, which is something over 28 per cent. of the whole army, whilst all the States south of Pennsylvania raised only 54,493—or 8,414 less than Massachusetts alone. The number contributed by South Carolina amounted to something less than 4,000 men.

The New England States fitted out and maintained 118,356 men—more than half of the whole Revolutionary Army.

During the years 1777, '78, '81, '82, the quotas of Massachusetts and Virginia were equal in battalions and men. Yet in those years Massachusetts raised 22,981 men, equipped for the field, while Virginia, although bound to raise the same number, fell short no less than 9,578, having given Washington only 13,403 men. This 9,578 is a difference of no small magnitude between two States, and in those times would have made a formidable army of itself.—Times are changed, however; those patriotic heroes have passed away, and a new generation may be said to have sprung up to enjoy the fruit of that glorious Tree of Liberty which they planted with their valor and watered with their blood. What a lamentable spectacle, then, would it be, in the sight of men and of angels, to see the direct offspring of those men, fellow-citizens of different States, rise up in civil war, and inbreed their hands in each other's blood. Forbid it, every motive of philanthropy, patriotism, humanity, wisdom!—Forbid it, heaven!

A friend sends us the following as his sentiments on the treasonable project of a Pacific Republic talked of by a few fools in California. No one in Oregon thinks of such a thing, unless it is some brainless spirit of Democracy who is not able to quit his board bill. Such fellows would be 'chewed up' worse than the Tories were during the Revolution. But to our friend's article:

Ed. Argus: There is not a sane man in Oregon, of honest intentions, that would advocate such a treasonable plot as a Pacific Republic, and those who are so far lost to honest principles should be damned both here and hereafter. The deepest pit of the infernal regions is a perfect heaven in comparison to what such a low-lived cult would richly deserve. The man who thinks there is no hell must confess that there is a link out of joint, and that that institution is becoming indispensable necessary. It is treason in its very thought, and the man that would dream of the like should never go to bed or allow himself to doze in his chair. Nine hundred and ninety-nine men out of every thousand on this coast would spit in a man's face that would approach them in favor of such a damnable plot. So just think what a spittoon reception Old Jo would meet with! a. w.

THE COSMOPOLITAN ART ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK.

Whenever we see an enterprise, or an association, the results of which are elevating and ennobling to our fellow men, we are very sure to find it to be conducted upon good principles.

The Directory of the Cosmopolitan Art Association can scarcely be charged with greediness of gain, when in addition to a Quarterly Art Journal, (of itself worth the full subscription price) a magnificent steel engraving, which, in the hands of private publishers would cost subscribers at least \$20, is included. Add to this that at the expiration of each year the surplus profits over a specified amount are distributed among the subscribers in the shape of prizes, and the subscriber who pays \$3.50 for all this, may feel pretty confident the Association will not get rich too fast.

The name of Messrs. H. H. BANCROFT & Co., Booksellers, San Francisco, being connected with the enterprise, as General Agents for the Pacific Coast, is enough to satisfy us as to the character of the Association. The Association has been in existence six years, sustaining a higher reputation each year. The Engraving now brought out for the subscribers of the Seventh year is entitled "FALSTAFF MUSTERING HIS RECRUITS."—Shakespeare's Second Part Henry IV., Act III., Scene II.

Certificates of Membership, entitling the holder to the Art Journal, Engraving, and all the advantages of the Association can be obtained from JOHN FLEMING, at the Post-Office Book Store in this city, at \$3.50 each. The name of the subscriber is at once transmitted to the books of the Association in New York and the Art Journal mailed from New York direct to the subscriber. Should subscribers prefer them, or wish to make more than one subscription, either of the elegant engravings, "Shakespeare and his Friends," or "The Village Blacksmith," may be taken. We say to all, encourage whatever tends to make the highest order of Literature and Art cheap and popular.

Ralph Farquhar, the old Revolutionary soldier, is dead.

[FROM OUR EXTRA OF THURSDAY.]

NEWS BY THE PONY.

Changes in the Cabinet—Washington Threatened—Forts Pulaski, Jackson, and Morgan taken—U. S. Arsenal at Mobile in the hands of the Secessionists—Fort Sumpter besieged—Military Preparations, &c., &c.

By the stage last (Wednesday) evening, we received the Red Bluff Independent of Jan. 22, containing the following news brought by the Pony Express:

FORT CHARLESTON, Jan. 20. The Pony Express arrived here at 4 A. M., with general advices to Jan. 1st, and special dispatches to the Union, by telegraph to Fort Kearny, to the night of Jan. 4th.

It appears from Washington reports that there was a new Cabinet yesterday. Secretary Thompson and Thomas resigned; and Gen. Scott was appointed Secretary of War. This created great indignation among the secessionists, who were aware that Scott was in favor of extensive military preparations.

Subsequently the differences were reconciled, by the withdrawal of Scott's name, and placing the War Department in charge of Holt.

It is said that Thompson will now stand by the President, and that troops have been ordered to Charleston.

Gen. Scott was neither at the War Department nor the President's house yesterday.

Thompson and Thomas attended the Cabinet meeting on Monday.

The Charleston Courier pronounces Maj. Anderson's action as the opening of civil war between American citizens, by an act of gross breach of faith; says he has violated a solemn pledge given by his chief, and that he had the assurance of South Carolina that his honor, position and duty would be respected, until a proper and open declaration of war; also, that he had fortified himself in Fort Moultrie, into which he could have retired with safety, and have blown up the other forts when he had a mind to, and laid trains ready for the application of a match. It also says, on Christmas Maj. Anderson dined with the authorities of Charleston, and retired in good feeling.—This casts a dark shadow on the authorities, and favors him in carrying out his plans.

The Committee of Investigation on the Bailey frauds organized Dec. 30. There are no new developments. The bonds missing have been recovered.

A caucus of Maryland Senators has issued an address to the Governor, urging an early convention of the Legislature. It is signed by eleven Senators, who profess to speak for five others, making sixteen out of twenty-two Senators of the State. They profess to desire the preservation of the Union, and think the time has arrived for Maryland to express an opinion. They refer to the fact that Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee Conventions meet next Monday, and say, although they cannot divide what the action of those States will be, it is impossible for Maryland to act with them unless it is put in condition to do so. They promise to consider no other matters than what relate to the national crisis.

In the House, yesterday, Bingham, of Ohio, (Republican,) introduced a bill to further provide for collection of Duties. It looks to an increase of the President's power to enforce the Revenue Laws.

In the course of the proceedings, Davis, of Indiana, (Anti-Lecompton Democrat,) asked leave to offer a preamble reciting the secession ordinance of South Carolina, with a resolution instructing the Committee on the Judiciary to report what legislation, if any, is necessary in consequence of the position of South Carolina.

Lowry, of Illinois, (Republican,) and Brinkley, of Mississippi, (Democrat,) objected.

Davis moved a suspension of the rules.

Holman, of Indiana, (Democrat,) wished to offer a substitute asserting that no State has a right to withdraw; that neither the President nor Congress has authority to recognize such State; that the Government is invested with power to collect revenue and protect public property—and directing the Committee to inquire if additional legislation is necessary for the purpose.

H. H. of Georgia, (American,) moved to lay the subject on the table. Lost.

Without coming to a conclusion, the House adjourned till Wednesday.

Other proceedings were had, but of no definite character.

The proposal of the Committee of Thirty-three was adopted December 29th. Messrs. Merrill, of Vermont, Robinson, Washburn, and Tappan, of New Hampshire, voted against it. Morse, of Maine, declined to vote. Stanton, of New Jersey, was absent. The other seven Republicans voted aye. It provides an enabling act for New Mexico as a State—thus settling the Territorial question.

Yesterday this city was gratified by the reception of a dispatch, stating that Water Davis had written a letter saying that the Committee of Thirty-three had granted all the demands of the South, and the whole question would be at once submitted.

The regular Committee will present a unanimous report, embracing an act for New Mexico, providing that no new States be admitted without the consent of other States, and advocating the repeal of the Personal Liberty Bills.

Republicans here say the terms are not correctly stated; but express the belief that the difficulty will be settled.

Washington dispatches indicate a change of policy on the part of the Administration towards South Carolina, to be conciliatory, but firm in the execution of the laws.

The ship of war Brooklyn and another vessel had been ordered to Norfolk to be in readiness for immediate action.

In the Senate, Jan. 2, the President sent in the nomination of William McIntyre of Penn., for the office of Collector in the neighborhood of Charleston harbor.

Republicans wished to go into an extra session, but the Democrats—except Latham, Bigler, and Powell—carried an adjournment.

Latest accounts from Charleston say that 1,000 negroes are occupied in the

effect of fortifications at the mouth of the harbor, which has been obstructed by sunken vessels, and the Governor has received the offer of 10,000 volunteers out of the State.

Movements are on foot in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Vermont to put the military on war footing in aid of the Federal Government.

Dispatches were forwarded, Jan. 2, by the Republican members of Congress to Harrisburg, asking the friends in the Legislature to postpone for the present, appropriations for military purposes.

Nothing important from Charleston.

Maj. Anderson informs the Government that no reinforcements are needed at Fort Sumpter.

The proceedings of Congress, Jan. 2, were unimportant.

B. K. r., in the Senate, made a eloquent Republican speech.

St. Louis, Jan. 4—P. M.

The promises of peace are not confirmed. It is feared that the report was a stock-jobbing operation.

Forts Pulaski and Jackson have been occupied by the State troops of Georgia, by order of the Governor, and it is said, on purpose to prevent a spontaneous uprising of the populace. The Revenue Cutter was seized, but returned.

It is believed the secessionists have carried Georgia.

There are rumors at Charleston that Anderson's communication has been cut off; that Fort Sumpter was besieged, and Fort Moultrie repaired and ready to open fire on Fort Sumpter. [Doubtful, says the report.]

The rumors are renewed that there is a combination to take forcible possession of Washington. Gen. Scott has made preparations for the emergency, by order of the President.

The Florida Convention met yesterday, with a feeling decidedly secessionist.

The order for the removal of the cannon from Pittsburg, has been rescinded.

The Governor of South Carolina has appointed his Cabinet.

The Delaware Legislature rejected the secession ordinance of Mississippi.

Gov. Banks, of Massachusetts, in his valedictory address, denounces secession, and advises the repeal of the Personal Liberty Bills.

Gov. Jackson's inaugural Address, of Missouri, advocates a Convention, and cooperation of Southern States.

Senator Baker concluded his speech, on Jan. 31.

Senator Douglas spoke, and said the issue was compromise or war—he preferred compromise.

The troops at Leavenworth have been ordered by Gen. Scott to be in readiness to proceed to Fort McHenry, at Baltimore, at a moment's notice.

Senator Cameron, of Pennsylvania, it is thought will be appointed Secretary of the Treasury by Mr. Lincoln.

Latest Dispatch.

St. Louis, Jan. 4—10 P. M.

The United States Arsenal at Mobile, was taken this morning by Alabama State troops without resistance.

It is rumored that Fort Morgan was taken last night.

FROM SALEM.—The letter of our correspondent "Allyn" came too late for insertion in full this week. We make one or two extracts:

"The Ladies' reception which came off at the Court house on Tuesday night proved to be highly entertaining to the 200 persons in attendance. The Ladies conferred a great credit on the enterprise.—Taste of the highest order was displayed both in the decorations and the supper. For one dollar, only think what pleasant hours were spent in social intercourse by the too distant citizens of our city. My own experience teaches me that the frequent mingling of men and women in such innocent pastimes is productive of a better state of feeling in society—in short, the health of society.

Crandall & Co., itinerant booksellers, disposed of many books here."

THE LAST SOUTHERN "COMPROMISE."—A new and rather startling series of "compromise" measures is proposed by the Montgomery (Alabama) Mail. The following are fine specimens:

"Make a full and complete surrender of all fugitive slaves to the South, and also all that are in Canada, and pay two hundred dollars per annum hire for the men, and one hundred and fifty dollars hire for the women, from the time of their escape to the time of surrender.

Surrender immediately, dead or alive, the confederates of John Brown.

Hang Lincoln and Hamlin on the saw-gallops on which John Brown was hanged.

Congress to pass a law making it treason for any man to introduce the subject, either by petition or otherwise, into its halls, and make the punishment imprisonment for life."

The Island of San Juan, says the Pioneer and Democrat, that so lately brought to the mind images of war, is rapidly becoming a peaceful Arcadia. There are about 60 settlers, all of whom, we believe, are Americans, opening farms and engaging in industrial pursuits. Lime manufacturing is carried on to a considerable extent, the most of it being exported. The British and American troops are still in camp on the Island. The most friendly intercourse subsists between them.

A letter in the Mountaineer, dated 30th Nov. from Fort Owen, in the Bitter Root country, makes an earnest appeal for protection against the Indians in that vicinity,—within 160 miles of the Fort there are 200 to 250 lodges of Indians. The Palouse, Cour d'Alene and other tribes are impudent, while the Nez Percés, even, are not to be trusted. A petition has been circulated, that the Commander of the Department order troops there at the earliest practical moment, but as all such things must now be arranged in California, there is no telling how long it will be before the matter receives the proper attention; not probably before some of our citizens are murdered.

Buchanan's Administration Photographed

The following Photograph of Buchanan's career as Usurper and Dictator is true to the life:—"For four years past our government has been extravagant in the extreme. It has become corrupt to the core. Look to Washington. Venality sits enthroned in the Executive mansion.—Rogues peep out of the windows of the departments. Rottness oozes out of the crevices of the Capitol. Peevishness and robbery pervade every branch of the public service. The corruptions which have been proved, by competent testimony, upon the Administration of Buchanan, are almost without a parallel in the history of civil government. Read its inquiries in the reports of the Investigating Committees of the present Congress. How they reek with rascality. But the venality of the Administration is paralleled by its reckless extravagance. See the millions wasted in its despotic effort to force Slavery upon Kansas, its fruitless attempt to drive the Mormons out of Utah; its foolish expedition to settle a paltry private dispute in Paraguay. It has run up an immense debt, has provided no means for its payment, has lived from month to month by a process of "shliming," that would disgrace a carter's broker in Wall street, and, at the close of its four years of incompetency and improvidence, will coolly turn over its obligations to be liquidated by its successor."

THE PRESIDENT.—The "Old Public Functionary," though hardly up to the mark in his treatment of the secession question, appears to be wise enough about some things, and to be getting wisdom about others. The Washington correspondent of the New York Commercial Advertiser says:

"The President ridicules the idea that England will make any favorable commercial treaty with the cotton States. He is too well acquainted with the feeling of the British public and the members of the British Government on this subject, not to know that no treaties could be made between the parties without a provision requiring the gradual emancipation of slaves and the prohibition of the slave trade.—King Cotton will be without allies, abroad or at home, after he has withdrawn from the protection of the Federal Union."

The following from the Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Press is also in point:

"There is no doubt that the President feels the awful responsibility now devolving upon him, and begins to look with distrust upon his old advisers. I have it from a good source that he was visited last night by Senators Slidell and Gwin, and that they had not long been in conference before Mr. Buchanan expressed his belief that they were both disunionists, and that he greatly regretted that he had ever been governed by their advice. He also expressed the opinion that Douglas was right in the position he had taken on the Lecompton question, and his mistake had been in quarrelling with him, for he was a patriot, and loved his country. The two Senators left in anger."

ITEMS.—Fort Moultrie was evacuated by the U. S. troops, on the night of the 26th, and save four men left in charge, the troops proceeded to Fort Sumpter. Before leaving, they spiked the guns and set fire to the gun carriages.

Gen. Wool sustains Maj. Anderson in two letters, and urges a firm stand against rebellion. He says that if Fort Sumpter is surrendered to the secessionists, in twenty days two hundred thousand men will take vengeance on those who betray the Union into the hands of its enemies.

Benjamin made a secession speech. He said the South never would submit. At the conclusion, there was great applause in the galleries and much excitement.

On motion of Mason, the galleries were ordered cleared.

B. K. r. obtained the floor, and the Senate adjourned.

The South Carolina Convention Dec. 20th, passed an ordinance making State currency receivable for customs.

The Governor has called an extra session of the Texas Legislature for 17th Jan.

The Speaker of the House has ordered the names of the South Carolina members kept on the roll. He does not recognize the secession of that State.

Mitchell, Secessionist, was elected to the United States Senate from Arkansas, over Hempstead, Conservative.

Gen. Albert S. Johnston arrived on the Uncle Sam, to take charge of the Pacific Military Department. He was commander of the famous Utah expedition to Salt Lake, three years ago.

Mr. Stont, of Oregon, introduced a bill in the House asking that Congress may make some appropriations to be expended in the removal of obstructions to the navigation of the Columbia and Mississippi rivers, for the purpose of facilitating travel by that route.

SALEM.—Within the past few months in Salem a large number of dwellings and other building have been erected. As important to the country, we mention the iron foundry of Messrs. Nation & Drake, now in operation. Mr. DuRelle, whose saw mill was burned last summer, has built another much more safe and substantial than his old one. We learn that many persons contemplate building next summer. The complaint of "dull times" is still kept up, but people seemed to have learned to do pretty well without much money.—Statesman.

QUARTZ DISCOVERY.—We have received two pieces of gold quartz, sent to us by Oliver J. Evans, which were taken from a vein lately discovered by him in Josephine county. Gold is visible in each piece, and the rock closely resembles that found in Fowler's Applegate lode, which has proved so rich in product.—Sentinel.

THE SOUTHERN MINER.—We condense the following mining news from the Jacksonville Sentinel:

The diggings in the immediate vicinity of Jacksonville are quite generally worked, a few paying high wages, and almost all yielding fair average pay. The snow and thaws of the past week have been of much benefit, and with a few days of rain every claim along the hillsides and banks could be steadily worked.

The Williamsburg mines are full with water plentifully for present labor, and the miners realize quite as handsomely as in former days. The prospect of a constant supply of water from the ditch during the better part of the dry season is good.

At Applegate, some new diggings have recently been discovered in the hill and along the upper waters of the several small streams, which prospect flatteringly. At Willow Springs several of the claims pay good wages, and if water were had, it is more than probable that the weekly product would abundantly prove that that section is second to none in golden store.

The reports from the newly discovered diggings in the vicinity of Plover, which come from perfectly reliable sources, give assurance that no richer mines are worked in the country. Where water is had, extravagant wages are made, and the extent of the gold deposit is sufficient to insure good mining to hundreds whenever water shall be furnished plentifully.

On Sam's Creek, several miners are profitably employed. The diggings are by no means thoroughly prospected, but those who own them are confident that in time they will prove extensive and productive.

We hear rather unfavorable reports of the diggings beyond Rogue river, along the Oregon road, although they are worked with hydraulic appliances.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE.—The Assembly of California, after an arduous struggle of ten days, on the 10th ballot elected H. Bunnell, of Amador county, (Douglas) Speaker. He was the Douglas nominee after Conness withdrew, and was elected by a vote of 40 to 36 for Wood, by the help of republican votes.

MARRIED: In Pleasant Valley, Clackamas county, Jan. 26, 1861, by John W. Bates, Esq., Mr. NATHAN NEWBY, of Linn City, to Miss MARIANA ALLEN, of Pleasant Valley. May happiness attend them, Nathan!

Oct. 25, 1860, at McCoy's Station, Indiana, by Rev. Wm. Perkins, Mr. ORSON TOMSON, of Greensburg, Ia., late of Oregon, to Miss ZILLA MCCOY, of Greensburg.

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