

abandoned by the rebels, and is now occupied by Union troops.

The Union sentiment is said to be rapidly increasing in Eastern Virginia.

Senator Polk of Mo. has gone over to the rebels; he is said to be now in Memphis.

The Senate Military Committee will report to-morrow, against abolishing distinctions between Regulars and Volunteers.

St. Louis, Dec. 15th.—John Hogan, a secessionist, and late Postmaster of this city, has been arrested on the charge of embezzlement while in office.

The privateer Sumter, carrying the American flag, has captured and burnt the brig Joseph Park.

QUINCY, Dec. 18.—In the U. S. Senate yesterday, Latham offered a resolution that the Sec. of War be requested to inform the Senate by what law and reason passports are required from passengers from N. Y. to San Francisco. Agreed to.

Sherman offered a resolution that the Sec. of War should furnish the Senate with a copy of all correspondence between Gen. Scott and Patterson. Agreed to.

In the House, Elliot's resolution proposing emancipation of slaves belonging to rebels, caused a warm debate.

Harding of Ken. made a strong speech in opposition.

Dispatches from Tipton Mo., say that our troops had received orders yesterday, to hold themselves ready to move at a moment's notice.

Gen. Pope, at the head of his forces, was already marching towards Warrensburg, for the purpose of cutting off Price, who is trying to unite with Rains and Stein, at Lexington. A battle is expected soon.

The gun-boat Connecticut, has arrived at Ft. Monroe from Port Royal. The reported occupation of Ft. Pulaski by the Union troops, is not true; but it is expected that it will fall into our hands soon.

Our troops now occupying Tybee Island, will operate on Ft. Pulaski.

Sr. Lewis, Dec. 17.—We have information that Ft. Pulaski is in possession of the Union troops.

It is reported through rebel channels, that a battle had been fought at New Orleans between the Union, and rebel forces; but we have no particulars in regard to it.

There is a great financial excitement in N. Y., which it is thought, will probably result in a suspension of some of the banks.

QUINCY, Dec. 18.—Information has been received at Cairo, that New Orleans had been attacked by the Union troops under command of Gen. Phelps, from Ship Island.

Reinforcements have been sent down to N. Orleans, from Columbus.

Sec. Cameron has submitted to Congress a report in favor of appropriating \$1,710,000 for putting the coast defenses in order, from the Lakes, around to San Francisco.

The Federal troops are moving in immense force towards the Tennessee River, from Kentucky.

As regards the battle of New Orleans, (before reported) circumstantial evidence received here seems to substantiate the report that New Orleans has been captured by the Federal troops.

We have not full particulars, or facts fully confirmatory, but the belief here is that New Orleans is in the hands of the Federals.

The Right of Com. Wilkes Seizure.

In seizing the rebel commissioners, Mason and Sidel, and bringing them to Ft. Monroe, Commodore Wilkes seems to have acted entirely in accordance with the right that Great Britain claims, even if it should be insisted that the act was in contravention of the doctrine of the United States on the subject.

If, as has been stated, the neutral vessel from which our rebellious subjects were taken had been engaged in transporting arms, not directly to our enemy indeed, but to a place convenient for the enemy to receive them, the case is made much stronger for our Government.

But our endorsement of the seizure will probably be put upon still higher ground, to wit: the emergency of the case. For this we have a precedent in French history.

In 1804, Napoleon sent 300 cavalry on to the territory of a neutral German State, and seized the Duke d'Enghein, Prince of Coude, on the ground that the Duke was about to invade France and incite to insurrection.

The very day that the arrest was made, Napoleon also sent a special ambassador to the German Power whose neutral rights had been violated, with ample apology, stating in extenuation the urgent necessity of the case.

The Grand Duke accepted the apology, and D'Enghein was tried, convicted, and shot.

As to the paper right of the seizure, the following extracts from Kent, On American Law, if not directly in point, will have a bearing, and will be read with interest.

Says Kent: "In order to enforce the rights of belligerent nations against the delinquencies of neutrals, and to ascertain the real as well as assumed character of all vessels on the high seas, the law of nations arms them with the practical power of visitation and search.

The duty of self-preservation gives to belligerent nations this right. It is founded upon necessity, and is strictly and exclusively a war right, and does not rightfully exist in time of peace, unless conceded by treaty.

All writers upon the law of nations, and the highest authorities, acknowledge the right in time of war as resting on sound principles of public jurisprudence, and upon the institutes and practices of all great maritime powers.

And if, upon making the search, the vessel be found employed in contraband trade, or in carrying enemy's property, or troops, or dispatches, she is liable to be taken and brought in for adjudication before a prize court.

Neutral nations have frequently been disposed to question and resist the exercise of this right. This was particularly the case with the Baltic confederacy during the American war.

The right of search was denied, and the flag of the state was declared to be a substitute for all documentary and other proof, and to exclude all right of search.

Those powers armed for the purpose of defending their neutral possessions; and England did not hesitate to consider it as an attempt to introduce by force a new code of maritime law inconsistent with her belligerent rights and hostile to her interests.

The attempt was speedily frustrated and abandoned, and the right of search has since that time been considered incontrovertible.

The British Government disclaim the right of search in time of peace, but they claim at all times the right of visitation. \* \* \* But the Government of the United States does not admit the distinction between the right of visitation and the right of search.

The Government of the United States admits the right of visitation and search by belligerent government vessels of their private merchant vessels, for enemy's property, articles contraband of war, or men in the land and naval service of the enemy.

But it does not understand the law of nations to authorize, and does not admit, the right of search for subjects or seamen.—England, on the other hand, asserts the right to look for her subjects on the high seas into whatever source they might wander, and will not renounce it.

It was one principal cause of the war of 1812, and remains unsettled to this day.

What They Want. F. W. Haett, of the Ohio State Journal, recently escorted a Southern lady to Columbus, Ky., the headquarters of Gen. Pillow and Polk.

He has written a long letter, giving his experience. We extract the following: INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL POLK.

We found Gen. Polk in much more comfortable quarters than Gen. Pillow, and rather more exclusive in his company.

He is a fine large, gray headed man, rather amiable looking, but distant. My case was presented, and permission readily granted. He began to deplore this war, and wondered what our people in the North intended by it.



—If any man attempts to haul down the American flag, shoot him on the spot!—

The Oregon Argus.

W. L. Adams, Editor. OREGON CITY: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1861.

What the British Expect of the Secessionists in Oregon in case of War.

It will be seen by the following extract from the British Colonist, following in the wake of the Toronto Leader, and Globe, that our British neighbors are on hand to co-operate with peace men of the Joe Lane school, in their devilish efforts to dismember and destroy the American Union.

It is enough almost to curdle the blood in the hearts of all true Americans to hear our ancient enemies prophesy evil against us, and that they should reckon so confidently on the aid of 75,000 traitors, on this coast alone, to more surely effect our destruction.

But if American veins should for a moment chill at such a suggestion, they will immediately tingle with the recollection that British gold, and British arms, have twice before been foiled in efforts for our National destruction.

There were traitors too even in the days of '76, whose names yet stand as synonyms of infamy, only finding fit comparisons in modern days.

Sobriety speaking, whose names should stand first in the order of enrollment as those upon whom the British Colonist is reckoning; arowed or secret secessionists, who would unite with Britain to tear the Pacific stars from the National Constellation, and form per force an appropriate tail end to Cottondom, or British Columbia.

It is barely possible, not in our opinion, at all probable, that present complications may result in a war with England.

The belligerent tone of Canadian, and British Columbia papers, indicates nothing except as it may be taken for a reflection of public sentiment across the water; but her increase of military force in Canada and the chance of an imbroglio, on account of the arrest of Mason and Sidel, lead us to regard England with more watchful eyes.

The Secretary of War, also recommends a large appropriation to put our Coast Defences, which have been sadly neglected, in a state of thorough preparation.

This is of course, but necessary precaution, and if the Colonist will be kind enough to wait a little while before taking possession of Oregon and California, we shall feel ourselves under everlasting obligations.

Here is the language of the British Columbia organ: "If, however, it be the policy of the Federal Government to make the outrage a *cassa belli*, and should a rupture take place with Great Britain, we may safely predict the final dissolution of the United States.

England would at once recognize the independence of the South; become their ally offensively and defensively, raise the blockade of Southern ports, but in turn blockade the Northern ports and destroy their merchant marine; whilst with Canada in the North, the Confederate army in the South, and the British fleet in Northern waters, they would force the Federal Government to make peace with England, and recognize the independence of the South.

On this Coast, the Pacific fleet, augmented by a squadron from the Chinese Sea, would capture, and hold, San Francisco, command the Columbia River, and make Washington Territory, a British Province, and combined with the 75,000 Secessionists in Oregon, and California, the Pacific States would pass from under the Federal sway during the continuance of the war, either through being held up by England, or consolidated into a Pacific Republic, under her protection."

In view of possible danger let the people look well to their own interests, and if the sapient Editor of the British Colonist comes down to combine with those 75,000 secessionists, let him be caught and caged while living, and carefully studied when dead, to be preserved as a curiosity.

The Flood in Yamhill.—A correspondent writing to us from Yamhill county last week, says: "The flood took off Williams & Lippincott's store in Dayton and a good many other buildings. It was up to the eaves of Wolfe's warehouse at Lafayette, and destroyed about 8,000 bushels of wheat in it, besides some oats.

The Lafayette bridge is gone, also the Watt bridge, the Haun bridge, and the North Yamhill bridge, all between Lafayette and McMinnville. All the bridges on North Yamhill, except Chick Smith's, are gone.

The damage to fences on the bottoms is of course very great, many farms on the low grounds adjacent to the Willamette and Yamhill rivers being nearly swept of improvements.

Haun's dwelling-house opposite Dayton floated, but was secured so that it is still on the farm. Nearly all the damage done in Yamhill was occasioned by back water from the Willamette.

Rock Island, while it backed the water to the ruin of many up the river, saved Oregon City. If it hadn't been for Rock Island, the Argus Office would have been now located somewhere about Astoria.

The secession scoundrels up here expressed themselves well reconciled to the flood, provided it had swept away the Argus Office; but I am glad to hear the loss in your city is no greater."

Go to John Fleming's, and get a counting-house Almanac for 1862.

State Teachers' Institute.

The State Teachers' Institute will meet with the Marion County Teachers' Institute, in the city of Salem, on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 1862. The following Professors and Teachers are invited to be present and take charge of the several branches of education during the session of the Institute:

PHIOLOGY. Orthography and Orthoepy—C. M. Sawtelle, Salem; Mary E. Stone, Dallas. Phonography—J. A. Wayne, Eola. Grammar—Geo. C. Chandler, McMinnville; G. W. Lunt, Silverton.

Elocution—Mary Miller, Salem; Rt. Rev. Bishop Scott, Milwaukie. Penmanship—A. C. Daniels, Salem. Composition—Mrs. J. G. Wilson, Salem; S. Penney, Salem.

MATHEMATICS. Mental Arithmetic—Miss Jordan, Salem; W. R. Dunbar, Liberty Hill. Practical Arithmetic—H. N. George, Albany; Ramsey, Bellspass. Algebra—W. E. Barnard, Salem. Geometry—Prof. Rowland, Plum Valley.

NATURAL SCIENCES. Physiology—T. M. Gatch, Salem. Philosophy—C. H. Hall, Portland. MORAL SCIENCE. O. Dickinson, Salem; D. Rutledge, Salem.

GEOGRAPHY. Miss Draper, Salem; Mr. Raymond, Salem. ASTRONOMY. B. C. Lippincott, Olympia, W. T. HISTORY. Rt. Rev. Bishop Scott, Milwaukie.

LECTURES. 1st Evening—B. C. Lippincott: School Houses and School Discipline. 2d Evening—Prof. Lyman, Forest Grove: Qualifications and Duties of Teachers.

3d Evening—C. H. Hall: Relations of Parents, Teachers, and Pupils. 4th Evening—Bishop Scott: Subject to be selected by himself.

The Teachers of the State, and friends of education generally, are earnestly invited to attend. Arrangements will be made for the accommodation of Professors and Teachers free of charge.

Teachers, on their arrival in Salem, will please call on C. Hoel, at the Union Store, or A. C. Daniels, Principal of the District School, who will conduct them to the place selected for their lodgings.

Teachers will please correspond with the Executive Committee at Salem. T. M. GATCH, A. C. DANIELS, C. F. CRANDALL, EX. COM.

SALEM, Dec. 17, 1861. ED. AMBUS: As you have no correspondent in this place at present, I hope I will not be presuming too much upon your indulgence in sending a few lines for publication at this time—and should it be agreeable, I may follow with a letter occasionally.

Nothing of importance has taken place since the waters of the Willamette swept through our town, and although business was for a time almost entirely suspended on account of the flood, things are now beginning to take their accustomed course, and the shadows of gloom so lately visible upon the faces of all are gradually disappearing, and the beams of hope are beginning to shine in their stead.

Of late, several of our most worthy citizens, and those too occupying high official positions, have been subjected to a series of scurrilous attacks published in the Albany organ of secession, and acknowledged by a chap who signs himself "Fulton."

The person against whom these unmanly and disgraceful assaults are directed, do not choose to even notice the malignant viper and his assistant calumniators, and they certainly evince an unusual amount of good sense in thus treating them with contemptuous silence, as it would be impossible for men of their standing to attempt a controversy with such low-bung dogs, without lowering themselves in the esteem of all respectable persons—and, besides, any attention shown by these gentlemen to the meddlesome scribbler, would only inflate his already livid and eruptive carcass beyond its power of endurance—and we, of this town, who are just beginning to recover from the effects of the flood, wish to be preserved from the stampedede that would inevitably occur should the body of this big buck "Fulton" collapse in our streets.

In such an event, we would need to have the whole volume of Willamette's flood swash through our town for the space of a week, at least, to clear it of the stench. Therefore, I, a private citizen, untrammelled by any such notions, deem it a duty to interpose a word for those whose tongues are tied by the rigid rules of dignity, and as I possess correct information of the identity of this fellow "Fulton" and his accomplices, I shall be compelled to speak in plain words of him and them—but, of course, with the same respect already shown them. So, let them look out.

"Whatever goes up, must come down: Let every fellow watch out for his own crown."

This Salem scribbler of whom I am speaking may always be recognized by the poetry he quotes in his various effusions—(nearly all the correspondence from this place, in the secession organs, emanates from the same source)—rarely ever omitting to work in a few lines into his productions. I do not profess to have much acquaintance with the poets, but I have laid up a few facts respecting "Fulton" and his coadjutors, and when I quote any poetry, it will be to the point.

HORATIO. MERINO BECKERS.—Those who want to buy a few merino bucks low, will read an advertisement in this week's issue.

The following items are principally from Washington correspondence of date the 20th November:

A new punishment of Virginia is at hand. Congress will probably be called on to change the Territorial boundaries of Delaware so as to give the little State all the land between the Chesapeake Bay and the Delaware river, and to change the boundaries of Maryland so as to give her all the Eastern counties of Virginia, and to leave to the State of Virginia as organized by the Convention at Wheeling the territory between the Blue Ridge and the Ohio.

The soldiers at Beaufort and the slaves on the Island will soon be picking the ungathered cotton—the former, under an order from the War Department, the latter upon the impulse of wages directed to be paid them by Gen. Sherman.

The Planter's Advocate, lately published at Marlborough, in Maryland, has been suspended, in consequence, it is said, of the following order from the Post Office Department forbidding its transmission through the mails:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Oct. 15. It appearing to the Department that the "Planter's Advocate," published at Marlborough, Maryland, is a treasonable sheet, advocating the overthrow of the Government, and giving aid and comfort to its enemies now in arms against it, it is ordered that the same be excluded from all mails and other postal facilities of the United States.

By order of the Postmaster General, JOHN KASSON, Assistant P. M. Gen.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES.—The Government is now expending, it is said, about one million of dollars per day. This sum is mainly distributed in the loyal States.—Nominally, the outlay is to carry on the war—to crush out treason—to rub out rebellion. Practically, however, this immense sum is a premium to the industry of the loyal States. Not only do our brave soldiers and sailors receive an honorable recompense, but the money of the people employs our mechanics and operatives of many kinds, gives business to our factories and foundries, and to those who deal in all sorts of provisions and supplies.

As the war goes on, its benefits to the home communities of loyal people will be more and more apparent.

Last week, the Supreme Court, in pursuance of its rule adopted at the last term, admitted a class of seven young men to appear as attorneys there and in the district courts. An examining committee of lawyers subjected the candidates to the ordeal of hard questioning for several hours in open court. It was a pretty thorough trial as well of the mental capacity as of the legal attainments of the young men.—Statesman.

THE WEATHER.—On Sunday morning last, an inch or two of snow had fallen, and this had scarcely disappeared during the week, while the air was growing colder gradually, until Thursday afternoon, when it was almost arctic. At this time the snow began to fall merrily, and the weather moderated considerably, though the snow has not entirely melted. We understand from Mr. Sam'l L. Campbell who has lately returned from East of the Cascades, that stock are suffering, to some extent in that direction, from the blanch grass being rotted by unusual storms.

CHRISTMAS DAY.—This oldest and most widely observed Holiday, passed off with perhaps less than its usual excitement in Oregon City. Services appropriate to the day, were held in the Episcopal, and Catholic Churches, while numberless turkeys were sacrificed in accordance with the time honored custom, prescribing "Roast Turkey," for Christmas dinner.

COMMISSIONER AT LAST.—Our worthy friend, Simeon Francis, Esq., Editor of the Oregonian, who has been appointed by report, to several offices, has at length received his Commission as Paymaster in the Army. This report we believe is true, though we have seen no official notice of it.

The unsettled condition of affairs since the flood, probably explains why we have not had communications and expected remittances. We should be glad to hear from several of our friends, who are in armies, but to whom we have not sent bills. Please send by Tracy & Co., when convenient.

We notice that the Portland Advertiser has got a new head, which adds very much to its typographical appearance. If its editor would only get a new head, the matter of the Advertiser would be vastly improved, and its subscribers would stand a chance to get the worth of their money.

CHANGE OF TIME.—The Steamer Union, Capt. James Miller, has changed her trips so as to stop above, over Sunday. She comes down on Monday, making her trips on alternate days through the week.

BRIDGES.—The County Commissioners at their last meeting made appropriations, and authorized contracts to be let for replacing several bridges, carried away during the freshet.

NEW BOOKS.—At Fleming's, may be seen a variety of popular works, lately received, as well as a choice lot suitable for presents and the season.

LARGE LOAD.—The Onward, on last Saturday, brought down 146 tons, mostly apples.

Look out for the Carrier, with his annual Address, on New Year's Day.

Gen. Butler on his late visit North, addressed the Vermont Legislature. In his said:—Being myself a citizen of the United States, I can give answer; God or any other foreign nation does interest us as if they were brothers. When they bring any foreign power into the war, they make themselves, what it would seem they would wish to be, foreign enemies.

But when the freedom of the North are called upon to fight against enemies, we will black, white or gray. (Applause.)

The Statesman has the following: The statement that a difficulty had occurred with the Indians at Siletz is confirmed. They had taken possession of the storehouse at the agency, and bidden defiance to the few white men there. A small detachment was sent from Ft. Hoskins, and a messenger dispatched to Ft. Yamhill for additional force. Capt. Scott sent thirteen men of his command, since which no news has reached here from that quarter.

The Lafayette prisoners have been sent to Ft. Warren, in Boston harbor.—They were a motley set. Among them were Ex Minister Faulkner, Marshal Kane, Col. Pegram, Com. Barron, Col. Tyler and 42 officers from Hatteras, and a good many other notorious individuals.

The Rebels have an enemy in their midst which will soon prove more formidable and tend more certainly to inaugurate terror among them than Gen. McClellan's army or the secret naval expedition. It is the deplorable condition of their finances, and the great want of the "shiners of war." There is a reckoning day approaching in which shipplasters will be forced to show their value.

Mr. C. S. Drew, just from Washington city, informs us that bonds for Indian war claims in the lands of Rogers & Co. and Duncan Sherman & Co. have already been issued, and that others will be issued in their order. Bonds of \$500 are worth 92 1/2 per cent in gold dust. A set of his last days work, about \$1,000 sends down by the "Jonathan" for 300.

The Yreka Journal says that \$400 has been raised there to fit out a company to explore a route from that city direct to the Salmon mines, and that the amount will soon be increased to \$1,000.

The rebel general, Lockwood, and his troops, in Accomac county, Va., the home of Henry A. Wise, have surrendered, and the Stars and Stripes are flying at Drummondstown.

ONE OF THE RAISERS.—The Times says: Mr. Jacob Wieser, just from the Salmon mines informs us that with eight days labor he took out of his claim with rocks upwards of \$20,000 in gold dust. A part of his last days work, about \$1,000 sends down by the "Jonathan" for 300.

PRICES CURRENT FOR SALMON RIVER PRODUCTS.—Common China sugar, \$1 per pound; good bacon, \$1; flour \$1; coffee \$1; tea, \$2; common overshots, \$4 to \$6 each; undershirts, \$4 each; wool hats; long-handled shovels, \$12; chopping ax, \$3; and everything else in proportion.—Beef is 15 to 20c per lb.—Oregonian.

The Yreka Journal says that men paying \$5 and \$10 a day there, are deserted; and that the miners are so struck with the Salmon River gold fever, that one hundred ounce diggings would not hold them.

NEW POSTMASTERS.—George Mene, Corvallis, Benton county, Jesse Appleby, Yoncalla, Umpqua county, Charles F. Cooke, Independence, Polk county, Royal C. Smith, Monticello, Coos county, W. T. D. Hinely, Seattle, King county, W. T.—Oregonian.

The tolls this season on the Ed Canal up to the 22d inst., amount to \$5,054,649 26, being an increase of \$101,007 11 over last year, and \$4,107 more than any year since the construction of the canal.

The Boston Board of Trade having protested against the purchase of any clothing in England, the War Department has officially declared that the goods thus ordered will be made up in this country.

Gen. Shields has accepted the office of Brigadier General and will proceed from San Francisco to Washington, for active service.

A large number of pack trains are on the way from California to Salmon river. One of these trains, numbering over a hundred mules, is now opposite the Dalles.

A Canadian steamer, with a large cargo of arms and clothing for the rebels, has been captured on the coast of Maine.

Fisher's cider-mill, which was stopped by the freshet, is running again, and making plenty of the best cider.

MARRIED: In Portland, Dec. 24, by Rev. F. B. Chamberlain, Mr. H. A. Hogue to Miss Sarah L. Adams, daughter of W. P. Adams, Esq.

CALIFORNIA MARKET.—Flour, Extra domestic, \$7, per bbl. Wheat ordinary, \$1.75 per 100 lbs. Barley, \$1, per 100 lbs. Oats, \$1.12, per 100 lbs. Potatoes, 2 1/2 cts per lb.

NOTICE.—I desire to give notice that I will deliver a lecture on the 23d of Feb. 1862, 2 o'clock; at the house of Mr. Robert Arthur, on the following subjects: Causes of the present war, Spiritualism, Temperance, and Partyism.

W. W. HARRIS. Merino Bucks. I HAVE a few three-quarter blood MERINO BUCK LAMBS, which I will sell low. My place is six miles west of Lafayette.

O. H. ADAMS. Dec. 30, 1861.