THE OREGON ARGUS.

BY D. W. CRAIG.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

The Argus will be furnished at Three Dollars per annum, if paid in advance.

When the money is not paid in advance, Four Dollars will be charged if paid in six months, or Five Dollars at the end of the year.

Two Dollars will be charged for six months—No subscriptions received for a less period.

No paper discontinued until all arrearages are paid, unless at the option of the publisher.

Single copies twenty-five cents.

The Oregon Argus.

—A Weekly Newspaper, devoted to the Interests of the Laboring Classes, and advocating the side of Truth in every issue.—

Vol. VIII. OREGON CITY, OREGON, DECEMBER 20, 1862. No. 36.

RATES OF ADVERTISING:

One square (twelve lines, or less, brevier measure) one insertion..... $3 00
Each subsequent insertion..... 1 00
Business cards one year..... 20 00

A liberal deduction will be made to those who advertise by the year.

☞ The number of insertions should be noted on the margin of an advertisement, otherwise it will be published till forbidden, and charged accordingly.

☞ Obituary notices will be charged half the above rates of advertising.

☞ Job Printing executed with neatness and dispatch.

Payment for Job Printing must be made on delivery of the work.

☞ The following is the remainder of the President's Message:

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

The new commercial treaty between the United States and the Sultan of Turkey has been carried into execution. A commercial and consular treaty has been negotiated, subject to the Senate's consent, with Liberia, and a similar negotiation is now pending with the republic of Hayti. A considerable improvement of the national commerce is expected to result from these measures

Our relations with Great Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, Russia, Prussia, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, the Netherlands, Italy, Rome, and the other European States remain undisturbed. Very favorable relations also continue to be maintained with Turkey, Morocco, China, and Japan.

During the last year there has not only been no change of our previous relations with the independent States of our continent, but more friendly relations than have heretofore existed are believed to be entertained by these neighbors, whose safety and progress are so intimately connected with our own. This statement especially applies to Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Peru, and Chili.

The Commission under the Convention with the Republic of New Granada closed its sessions without having audited and passed upon all the claims which were submitted to it. A proposition is pending to revive the Convention so that it may be able to do more complete justice.

The Commission between the United States and the Republic of Costa Rica has completed its labors and submitted its report.

THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC TELEGRAPH SCHEMES

I have favored the project of connecting the United States with Europe by an Atlantic telegraph, and a similar project to extend the telegraph from San Francisco, to connect, by a Pacific Telegraph wire, with the wire that is being extended across the Russian Empire.

THE TERRITORIES.

The Territories of the United States, with unimportant exceptions, have remained undisturbed by the civil war, and they are exhibiting such evidence of prosperity as justifies an expectation that some of them will soon be in a condition to be organized as States and be constitutionally admitted into the Federal Union. The immense mineral resources of some of these Territories ought to be developed as rapidly as possible. Every step in that direction would have a tendency to improve the resources of the Government and to diminish the burdens of the people. It is worthy of your serious consideration whether some extraordinary measures to promote that end cannot be adopted. The measure which suggests itself as most likely to be effective is a scientific exploration of the mineral regions of these Territories, with a view to the publication of its results at home and in foreign countries—results which cannot fail to be auspicious.

THE WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS.

The Reports of the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of War are herewith transmitted. These reports, though lengthy, are scarcely more than brief extracts of the very numerous and extensive transactions and operations executed through these Departments. Nor could I give a summary of them here upon any principle which would admit of its being much shorter than the reports themselves. I therefore content myself with laying the reports before you, and asking your attention to them.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

It gives me pleasure to report a decided improvement in the financial condition of the Post Office Department, as compared with the several preceding years. The receipts for the fiscal year 1861 amounted to $8,349,296.40, which embraced the revenue from all the States of the Union for three-quarters of that year. Notwithstanding the cessation of revenue from the so called Confederate States during the last fiscal year, the increase of the correspondence of the loyal States has been sufficient to produce a revenue during the same year of $8,299,820 90, being only $50,000 less than was derived from all the States of the Union the previous year. The expenditures show a still more favorable result. The amount expended in 1861 was $13,606,789 11; for the last year the amount has been reduced to $11,125,364.13—showing a difference of about $2,487,000 in the expenditures as compared with the preceding year, and about $3,750,000 as compared with the fiscal year 1860. The deficiency in the Department for the previous year was $1,551,966.98; for the last fiscal year it was reduced to $2,112,814,57. These results are in fact owing to the cessation of mail conveyance in the insurrectionary States, and in part to a casual review of all expenditure in that Department, in the interest of economy. The efficiency of the postal service, it is believed, has also been much improved. The Postmaster General also opened a correspondence through the Department of State with foreign Governments, proposing a Convention of postal representatives for the purpose of simplifying the rates of foreign postage and to expedite the foreign mails. This proposition, equally important to our adopted citizens and to the commercial interests of the country, has been favorably entertained and agreed to by all the Governments from whom replies have been received. I ask the attention of Congress to the suggestion of the Postmaster General in his reports respecting the further legislation required, in his opinion, for the benefit of the postal service.

THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

The Secretary of the Interior reports as follows in regard to the public lands: The public lands have ceased to be a source of revenue. From the 1st of July, 1861, to the 30th of September, 1862, the entire cash receipts from the sales of public lands were $137,477.26, a sum much less than the expenses of our land system during the same period. The homestead law, which will take effect on the 1st of January next, offers such inducements to settlers that sales to such cannot be expected to an extent sufficient to meet the expenses of the General Land Office and cost of surveying and bringing the land into market. The discrepancy between the sums here stated as arising from the sales of public lands and the sum derived from the same source, as reported from the Treasury Department, arises, as I understand from the fact that the periods of time, though apparently so, were not really coincident at the beginning point. The Treasury report includes a considerable sum now which had previously been reported from the Interior Department sufficiently large to greatly overreach the sum derived from the three months now reported upon by the Interior and not by the Treasury Department.

INDIAN HOSTILITIES.

The Indian tribes upon our frontiers have, during the past year, manifested a spirit of insubordination and at several points engaged in open hostilities against the white settlers in their vicinity. The tribes occupying the Indian country south of Kansas revoked their allegiance to the United States and entered into a treaty with the insurgents. They who remained loyal to the United States were driven from the country. The Chief of the Cherokees has visited this city for the purpose of restoring the former relations of the tribe with the United States. He alleges that they were constrained by superior forces to enter into treaties with the insurgents, and that the United States neglected to furnish the protection which their treaty stipulations required.

In the month of August last the Sioux Indians in Minnesota attacked the settlers in their vicinity with extreme ferocity, killing indiscriminately men, women and children. This attack was wholly unexpected, and therefore no defense had been prepared. It is estimated that not less than eight hundred persons were killed by the Indians, and a large amount of property was destroyed. How this outbreak was induced is not definitely known, and suspicions which may be unjust need not be stated. Information was received by the Indian Bureau from different sources, about the same time hostilities were commenced, that a simultaneous attack was to be made upon the white settlements by all the tribes between the Missouri river and the Rocky Mountains. The State of Minnesota has suffered great injury from the Indian war. A large portion of her territory has been depopulated, and as a severe loss has been sustained by the destruction of property, the people of that State manifest a strong anxiety for the removal of the tribes beyond the limits of the State as a guarantee against more hostilities. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs will furnish full details. I submit for your special consideration whether our Indian system shall not be remodeled. Many wise and good men have been impressed with the belief that this can be profitably done.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

I submit a statement of the proceedings of the Commissioners, which shows the progress that has been made in the enterprise of constructing the Pacific Railroad, and suggests the earliest completion of the road and also the favorable action of Congress on the project now pending before them for enlarging the capacities of the great canals in New York and Illinois, as being of vital and rapidly increasing importance to the whole nation, especially to the vast internal region hereinafter to be mentioned at greater length. I propose having prepared and laid before you, at an early day, some interesting and valuable statistical information upon this subject. The military and commercial importance of enlarging the Illinois and Michigan Canal, and improving the Illinois river, is presented in the report of Colonel Webster to the Secretary of War, and now transmitted to Congress.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

I respectfully ask your attention to carrying out the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 15th of May last. I have caused the Department of Agriculture of the United States to be organized. That Commission informs me that, within the period of a few months, this Department has established an extensive system of correspondence and exchanges both at home and abroad, which promises to effect highly beneficial results in the development of a correct knowledge of recent improvements in agriculture, in the introducing of new products and in the collection of agricultural statistics of the different States. I am also informed that it will soon be prepared to distribute largely seeds, cereals, plants, and cuttings, and has already published and liberally diffused much valuable information in anticipation of a more elaborate report, which will, in due time, be furnished, embracing some valuable tests in chemical science, now in progress in the laboratory. The creation of this department was for the more immediate benefit of a large class of our most valuable citizens, and I trust that the liberal basis upon which it has been organized will not only meet approbation but that it will realize at no distant day all the fondest anticipations of its most sanguine friends, and become the fruitful source of advantage to all our people.

☞ A great sensation was created among the Free Masons of Connecticut a few days ago, occasioned by Mr. Charles Stratton, alias General Tom Thumb, being initiated, passed, and raised to the degree of a master mason in St. John's Lodge, No. 1, of Bridgeport.

BATTLE OF WILLIAMSBURG.

Another Letter from Gen. Kearny Concerning Gen. McClellan.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5, 1862.

To the Editor of Wilkes' Spirit: The elections are over, and the tender-footed can now have no possible compunctions in reference to the so called attacks on Gen McClellan. I therefore send you a long letter from Maj Gen. Kearny, under date of May 15, 1862, in advance of those already published, *which was intended for publication*, as fully appears on its face.

It is a blistering review of the battle of Williamsburg in general, and of Gen. McClellan in particular. Its telling truth and uncontrovertible logic and facts speak trumpet tongued to the nation, "the imposture," duplicity, want of generalship, "weakness and unreliability" of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Potomac; and must prove a deadedly "wet blanket" to the favorite assertions and excuses, such as "Abolition forgery," "unwarrantable exposure of private correspondence," "splenetic, petulant, after-dinner letter" etc., with which certain sharpeties have heretofore amused themselves and the public.

I am at a loss to know precisely what new dodge the worshippers of the brazen idol will invent to break the force and effect of a condemnation so deliberate, scathing and terrible, from a military reviewer so thoroughly independent, popular, capable and accomplished.

In the glare of the truth thus revealed, how "stale, flat and unprofitable" the low-bred, vulgar abuse of Pet Halsted for his assumed, wanton disregard of the wishes and memory of his dear friend, favorite hero, and military idol, the brave Kearny.

I can only rejoice that the General thought proper to place in my keeping that record, which will enable me in spite of threats, intimidations and revilings, to vindicate his great name and fame, and at the same time expose, from a high military stand-point, the assumptions and pretensions of one, of whom, as an officer and gentleman, he evidently entertained an opinion so unfavorable and contemptible.

Your obedient servant,

O. S. HALSTED, Jr.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD DIVISION,
HEINTZELMAN'S CORPS CURTZER'S LANDING,
Virginia, May 15, 1862.

Dear Sir: I am sorry to find that, very far from military chiefs being immaculate, that their subordinates, relying on their straight forward conduct and truthfulness, may at disregard political influence as extraneous and unnecessary, so grossly have I been outraged (and I say so as representing my Division) by the intrigues of the General Commanding this army, that I now appeal to you and my friends for protection against imposture.

Gen. McClellan is the first commander in history, who has either dared, or been so unprincipled as to ignore those under him, who have not only fought a good fight, but even saved his army, himself and his reputation. And here, precisely, is the point. From a want of frankness and reliance in his native superiority, he fears to admit the services of others (my division in particular) lest he thereby condemn himself for a want of generalship, which gave rise to the dangerous crisis. So a great and successful battle, where the unprecedented number of 2,000 have fallen, is passed over by him in silence, while the day after that fearful fight he forestalls the glory of the victors by vamping up, in a deceitful official telegram, a mere flurry of a skirmish, where Hancock (a charming officer and gentleman), with preponderating numbers, drives, for an instant, a paltry few of the enemy, with a *pittance* of a loss, which bespeaks the littleness of the transaction.

This movement of Hancock's based on information that the enemy had abandoned their minor defenses opposed to our right, to concentrate their forces on our left, was gotten up at half past four P. M., expressly to relieve from pressure the severe fight on the third corps, enacted by Hooker from seven A. M. until my division, at near three P. M., entered under fire and took the place of his exhausted remnants, demoralized by fatigue, abandonment and want of cartridges. The fire that lasted from about half past four for some twenty minutes, and which then ceased, was most distinctly without results, for it was not followed up by any advance; and left me, used to the fields of battle in Europe, as in Mexico, with the full belief that an attempted succor had been given up, and that I must alone look to myself for my own means of success. For I well know that, besides the repeated messengers that had been detached to the right, by Gens Hooker and Heintzelman, that all there must be aware of our severe fight, from our cannon and musketry, which still rolled with the full tide of battle. This fire, tantamount to that of a half brigade, which I allude to, from about 4½ to 5 P. M., was the only one that took place within three miles of my position after my arrival, at 2½ P. M., for I was ever constantly far in advance on the plain, in the midst of the heavy abattis.—Yet Gen. McClellan vaunts the one and assumes to ignore the other—the engagement where a similar loss in the army of the Allies constituted the great battle of the Alma—an engagement where my few (five) weak regiments suffered more (some 450 killed and wounded) than the 12,000 men of a French division, where, in 1859, it won for its General a world wide fame as the victor of Montebello.

But when Gen. McClellan passes over, as if in ignorance, an engagement of such great proportions, it proves, beyond the blackness of the deed, which breaks down by its iniquitous injustice the spirits of his entire soldiery, that it has been the result of a malignant design of covering up from the scrutiny of the American public a weakness of his own, a flaw in his generalship which, he well knows, if once made patent to our people, would bring him down from his accidental superiority lower than the world ever dreamed of when exercising retribution toward McDowell for the disasters of Bull Run.

This action of Gen. McClellan has but one parallel in history, his incarcerating Stone, one of the *ablest* men of the army, on the plea that it was done on the *pressure* of the Abolitionists, when it in reality was to damn, past being listened to, one whom he knew, if questioned by a Military Committee, would not avoid bringing to light the incapacity (and subsequent contrivances to smother it) which had exposed Col. Baker, and then left him, helpless, doomed and unsupported, at the battle of Ball's Bluff.

There is a secret in this matter, and although patriotism, on the eve of an expected action, may prevent me from publishing to the world the weakness of the man, to whom are confided our Union destinies, it does not preclude me from vindicating for myself and my command a recognition of our services and exposure (no officer has ever exposed himself as I did, *for the crisis* demanded it), and unburdening myself to friends.

As Stone has been militarily killed under a false pretense, so the secret of McClellan's sending an official bulletin on the 6th inst., after entering Williamsburg, in which he ignores all but Hancock, and is perfectly silent as to us, and our battle of serious war (although perfectly instructed by Col. Sweitzer, his A. D. C., whom he had sent on the night of the 5th to me and Heintzelman for information) is this, that he might obtain for Gen. Hancock an important character in the crisis of the 5th, the *first* prestige of its capability of fighting (which invariably petty disasters and long inaction had induced many to mistrust), with which, with the eagerness of the whole North, it was ready to greet the first victor in the Army of the Potomac, and thus kill the military success before the country, of the real persons, so entitled, from the fact of the public being satiated by the first news. More serious than this, not only taking from those who merit the high sentiment of first prestige, but more particularly divert the minds of the country that the culpable fact was, that he (McClellan) had allowed Hooker's single division to fight unsupported from morning until my arrival, near 3 P. M., and from the fact that his "communications," from this being the direct and nearest road from Williamsburg to Yorktown, were thus put in jeopardy; and that had a panic, or even a defeat, resulted here, that all his army confusedly huddled together, with an impassable, obstructed, single defile in his rear, where trains and artillery pieces were helplessly jammed together and stalled, must have been victims worse than at Bull Run. The case would have been irretrievable.

In vain would he plead that he disgraced Sumner by sending him back to Yorktown, from dissatisfaction at his not having extricated Hancock, after his pseudo victory, and for sending away to the rear for me, the last troops in the far defiles, to support Hooker, overpressed in the front. For it was not for Gen. Sumner, commander of a defined command, to substitute himself for McClellan, the Chief. In vain would he plead that Heintzelman should have proved a genius, and improvised some stroke of strategy, for the old General has never pretended but to do his duty in his sphere, and the General-in-Chief is head of all to furnish plans, and to expressly blend into a whole the energy of all, which was impossible, as he was not there.

In vain will he impute to Gen Hooker the committing himself to a general fight involving the whole army, when a few regiments would have sufficed to hold his own until the designs of the chief were made known; for if that chief is miles in the rear when his army is in full career, there are very few Generals, however superior their talents (and of such class is Gen Hooker) who, under the long known duplicity and favoritism of Gen McClellan, would have ventured to risk his casting opprobrium on them for hesitation, or do any more than the best they could, and rely on him for justice.

Such is the secret of this incomprehensible mystery, and it is within the comprehension of the first cadet's minds that will spread before him the map of Virginia.

But if one point in this malignity, working with a monopolized telegraph and a trammeled press, has created with me more indignation than another, it sadly is that the fate of my two most gallant aids and very dear friends, Captain Wilson, Assistant Adjutant General, and Lieutenant Bernard, have been purposely kept from the honors due to their gallantry; the same as was the case when my skirmish at Sangster's Station produced the enemy's hurried retreat from Manassas, I was debarred, by every underhand influence, from having published to the world the heroic end of that most noble martyr to the first cavalry success, Lieutenant Hedden. Yes, this is a repetition of those times, for then, as now, I was the first general officer whose reports had been excluded from the press. Gen. McClellan, from the early commencement of his career, seems to have singled me out (the thirteenth on the list of 212 Brigadiers, nearly the senior Division General on the list) to be the marked victim of his indirect injustice.

However, in this matter I am not acting, however outraged, from personal motives, but to unveil to the country, when opportunity shall permit, the weakness and unreliability of the General in command.

I inclose to you my report of the battle of the 5th. Very truly yours,

PH. KEARNY, Brig. General,
Commanding Third Division, Third Corps.

To O. S. Halsted, Jr., Washington.

N. B.—[The following is in pencil, at the bottom:] This letter is not intended for publication now; but I hope, without forestalling the fearful condemnation that must follow Maj. Gen. McClellan, for I care not to make trouble, that you will show it to all my friends as due to me and mine. KY.

THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE PROCLAMATION.—Judge Curtis of Boston, has written a pamphlet on the constitutionality and expediency of the Proclamation of Emancipation; of course he is "against the President." Professor Parsons, of Cambridge, in reply, sent the following terse communication to the Boston Daily *Advertiser:*

There are three questions concerning the President's Emancipation Proclamation.—One, has he a constitutional power to issue it, as a civil, political or admisistrative act? The second, was it expedient? The third, has he constitutional power, as Commander-in Chief, to issue, at this time, as a military act? These questions are perfectly distinct. One of the most common and most fruitful causes of error upon all subjects is the mingling of questions which are distinct in themselves, but so near each other that they confuse each other. Judge Curtis mingles these questions so entirely, that no study of his pamphlet enables me to see clearly, as to much of his argument, upon which of these questions it is intended to bear. Let us separate these questions.

I am sure that the President has no power to emancipate a single slave, as a civil, political or administrative act. Was it expedient? I leave this question to the President. For he is honest, he is capable; he has considered the question long, carefully and painfully, and in all relations it can present itself. However wise I may be, or Judge Curtis may be, on this subject, the President must be wiser, or all rules of probability fail.

As to the remaining question, I have not the slightest doubt of his constitutional power, as Commander-in-Chief, to issue this proclamation as a military act. If Halleck, when before Corinth, might have sent a force a hundred and fifty miles to catch and bring into his lines a hundred negroes with the wagons, horses and provisions they were bringing to Beauregard, the President and Commander-in-Chief, sitting in the center, with wider views, wider necessities, may, if he can, prevent the whole mass of slaves from laboring to feed the rebellion. He may, if he can, by the danger of insurrection, of starvation, or of loss of property, dishearten the rebels and drive their armies home. To say otherwise, would be to say that he might strike at rebellion, but must be careful not to strike away the corner-stone.

Can he do it in fact? This question touches the expediency of the measures, and this I leave to him. But it does not touch his military right to threaten it, and to do it if he can. Judge Curtis speaks much and eloquently of the President's right to inflict "penalty" and "punishment," and the right of the rebels to the protection of the law. Rebellion has no rights. If rebellion means anything, it means the renunciation and destruction of all law. And, therefore, it is accused before God and man. No rebel has any right, a regard to which would weaken or obstruct any military measure needed to subdue the rebellion. Judge Curtis' argument would give the Constitution and the law to the rebels, as their sword to smite with, and their shield to save them; and leave it to us only as a fetter. Then he tells us the innocent must suffer with the guilty. This is true and it is sad. But when the mingled fire and hail of God's vengeance run along the ground they pursue no devious path that they may leave the homes of the innocent unharmed; for when national sins bring national calamities, the innocent suffer with the guilty.—This may be one of the mysteries of Providence; it is, at all events, a fact. And what has been will be

THEOPHILUS PARSONS.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO SANITARY FUND.—By request, I have prepared (omitting fractions) the following statement of contributions received by me, showing what has been subscribed in each county in Oregon and in Washington Territory. Nothing has been sent to me from Coose, Curry or Tillamook, and $40 forwarded by Jesse Applegate, Esq., from Umpqua is included in the amount received from Douglas. The statement will, I hope, suggest to the people of some of the counties reasons for more earnest patriotic efforts:

Multnomah	$4,610
Clackamas	2,378
Jackson	2,300
Linn	1,804
Wasco	1,267
Marion	970
Benton	473
Josephine	468
Yamhill	433
Polk	355
Douglas	303
Lane	382
Washington	276
Clatsop (one person)	60
Columbia (three persons)	30
Clark County, W. T.	554
Other places in Washington Ter.,	462
Grand Lodge of Masons, Oregon	1,000
	$18,303

A. HOLBROOK.

UNITED STATES EXCISE TAX.—The following is an abstract of assessment for District No. 3, Multnomah county as furnished by Mr. Coulson, Dept. Assessor:

Apothecaries, 3; auctioneers, 4; brewers, 3; bankers, 2; billard rooms, 6; confectionaries, 2; dentists, 5; eating houses, 12; hotels, 14; lawyers, 22; livery stables, 5; manufacturers, 28; photographers, 2; physicians, 11; wholesale dealers in liquors, 8; retail 55; wholesale dealers in general merchandise, 45; retail 91; tobacconists, wholesale, 2; retail, 8. Amount of assessment for licenses, $9,013 00; monthly reports of manufacturers, brewers, steam and ferry boats, slaughtered animals, &c., 2,066 08; total, $11,079 09.

Tillamook, Clatsop and Columbia counties, total amount of assessment, $582 20.

THE PATRIOTISM AND HUMANITY OF OREGON.—The following communication from Dr. Bellows in acknowledgement of donation from Oregon, appears in the New York Evening *Post* of Nov. 4th:

In the splendor of the gifts of California to the sick and wounded, through the Sanitary Commission, the noble sacrifices of distant Oregon must not be permitted to suffer eclipse. She has already sent over seven thousand dollars to the treasury of the Commission, and promises through Amory Holbrook of Portland, Oregon, to contribute still more. "Send us a victory" (for the loyal arms), he writes, "and we will send you $25,000!" When we consider the penury, the paucity and the sparseness of the population of that young State, such liberality in reality is really equal in dignity and significance to anything yet done for our cause. The widow's mite was worth all the gifts of the rich combined. Oregon's gift is not a mite—though a mite would have been Oregon's share. But the Columbia does not roll the proper name of our country through her wilderness without waking the patriotic blood that flows in the veins that thinly people its banks. Oregon's heart is warm and loyal. She stands a stern, faithful sentinel on the north-west outpost! The Pacific Ocean allows neither meanness, inhumanity or disunion to pollute her coast. The western line of the continent is even truer than the eastern. God bless noble, generous, faithful Oregon! Respectfully yours, HENRY W. BELLOWS,
President.

SUFFICIENTLY EXPLICIT.—The Hon. Joel Parker, the distinguished Professor in the Cambridge Law school, and universally recognized as an able publicist, is also remarkable for using great plainness of speech in giving expression to his ideas. Called recently to comment on some observations made on the "proclamation of freedom" by one of those clergymen who imagine themselves profound constitutional lawyers—for no other reason, perhaps, than they know little or nothing of theology—he writes as follows:

"I need hardly say that I respect and reverence the clergyman who gives evidence that he duly appreciates the high and holy mission. And I do not deny to him the right, at the proper time and in the proper manner, of discussing important political principles. But when a clergyman assumes to know more of constitutional law than those who have spent their lives in the investigation of its principles, he is apt to exhibit himself an unmitigated ass."

PRISONERS OF WAR—THE EXCHANGES IN OUR FAVOR.—Colonel Ludlow, an able and intelligent officer on the staff of Gen. Dix, has just completed arrangements with the rebel Commissioners for a mutual exchange of all prisoners of war. The result, as given in a report from Fortress Monroe, is more favorable to us than was generally expected. The boasts of the rebels, of the immense number of prisoners they have taken from us, prove to have as little foundation as many of their other assertions; and the account now stands in our favor by about six thousand privates and six hundred and seventy officers. Thus, though at Harper's Ferry and on some other occasions we have lost more than the enemy, and thus given him occasion for his boasts, it appears that on the whole, and taking the West with the East, the advantage is largely with us. What is thus true of prisoners is true equally of the general results of the war. The rebels may have gained some slight advantages in the East; but their blows have been returned with heavy interest in the West; and our losses on the Peninsula have been made up by the successes of the armies under Rosecrans, Grant, Schofield, Curtis, Mitchell, Morgan, and others. The average of success, like the surplus of prisoners held, is on our side; and now that an energetic and hitherto always successful Captain is at the head of our greatest army, we may hope to see the East retrieve for itself what it has lost, and rival the West in the celerity and value of its operations. *New York Evening Post, Nov. 13th.*

A SCENE WITH GENERAL DUMONT.—A Nashville letter to the Philadelphia Press tells this story:

One of the "Union" men once went to Gen. Dumont to effect the release of a guerrilla whom the General had himself captured. Said the solicitor: "General, I've known the prisoner a long time, and although he differs from you and I in politics, he is certainly a reliable gentleman.—You know, General, I am a Union man, and if I did not know the prisoner personally I would not compromise myself by endeavoring to effect this release." "Yes," says the old General, gruffly, "h—l is paved with such Union men as you are!—You expect the rebels back here after the battle at Corinth, and you expect your friend to be on hand in case you get in jail. I'm sick of such Union men, and if I had a gun big enough I'd blow them all to the lower region!"

PRICE OF NEWSPAPERS.—Printing paper is now worth about 100 per cent. more than it was a year ago, and Eastern journals are raising their prices fifty per cent. The Rockport (New York,) Republic has the following: "Most of the large daily papers in Western New York have advanced the price of their issues. Many of the country journals have also been published at increased prices. The advance is caused mainly by the advance in printing stock."

"GREENBACKS."—A bill was introduced in the Nevada Territorial Legislature, on the 21st ult., with heavy penalties for discounting "Greenbacks."