"If any man attempts to haul down the American Flag, shoot him on the spot!" —*Gen. Dix.*

The Oregon Argus.

W. L. Adams, . . . Editor.

OREGON CITY:

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1863.

A Mare's Nest.

The Salem secesher feels relieved. He imagines he has detected an error in our article exposing the swindle that Dr. Czapkay's Agent has been urging the State and county officials to perpetrate on the hard-working men of Oregon, in extorting gold and silver in payment of State taxes. We have so often detected this fellow in lying, and have been compelled so many times to show up his ignorance, stupidity, and love of barefaced falsehood, that, if it was consistent with the public good and our own character for correctness, we would, out of pure compassion on the blockhead, permit him to crow over an apparent mistake, whether real or not, just to cheer him up and give a favorable turn to his old chronic complaint, which we hear is fast undermining his physical frame. But duty to our country and ourself requires us to set the fellow on the gridiron once more, even if he does feel "sore over it." The fellow quotes from our article a garbled extract containing a typographical error, and in his usual stupid way tries to involve us in a blunder. He quotes from our article where we said—

"While we advocate the [illegible] and expediency of the [illegible] State taxes in greenbacks, and pay them into the State Treasury, we [illegible] the right and justice of the act of the Legislature requiring the [illegible] Federal tax to be paid in coin."

The Agent then proceeds to inform us that the act of the Legislature already passed appropriated [illegible] of the coin then in the State Treasury, to be paid over as Federal tax before the first of March, 1863, the balance ([illegible]) to be paid out of any money in the Treasury *after* the first of March, 1863—and that the Legislature proceeded to appropriate the balance of coin in the Treasury for other purposes, leaving the State to either collect coin to pay the Federal tax with, or to buy the coin with greenbacks.

Now, if this blockhead had any [illegible] body with brains might have done, that we were discussing the right and expediency of an act of the Legislature to cover [illegible] ground fairly and legally, he would have [illegible] a typographical error substituting [illegible] in place of an act, was a poor peg to hang [illegible] of gold and [illegible] upon what should have been done, is shown in another part of the same article, as follows:

"Our [illegible] that the Legislature [illegible] to pay the Federal tax [illegible] there was more than enough in the Treasury when the Legislature [illegible] and then for the Legislature to [illegible] the binding obligations of the act of Congress [illegible] paid in coin [illegible]"

Now, if the Legislature, contrary to what was due the country and contrary to what some of the prominent speakers told us they favored, were [illegible] or [illegible] by any such [illegible] corrupt, and brainless traitor as Czapkay's Agent into passing an act which works a gross injustice to the tax payers, it is not our fault, and [illegible] Asahel again makes an ass of himself by seizing hold of a small typographical error to show that we have made a mistake, or are trying to deceive. "*Them chronics*" must be affecting Asahel's mind. What [illegible] think of him now?

Ben. Harding.—*Jo Lane's* "hand organ" at Salem thinks a little low cunning is a great thing. Down in the mire of treason up to its [illegible], it wants people to think a good many others are there also.—It is now occasionally publishing garbled extracts from letters written by Ben. Harding, to create the impression that Harding sympathizes with Bush's [illegible] Jo Lane, till poor Asahel has got a bad breath. Harding has no more sympathy with the Five Point democracy than Asahel has for patriotism or decency. Ben. Harding's letters have the ring of the right metal, so far, and we have much confidence in his perseverance. A great many weak men have contended that "Harding is no better than Bush." Any judge of men can see by looking in Harding's face that he is not without noble impulses, while the downcast look, furtive glance, and sheepthief countenance of Asahel are all true indices of his low and abandoned character.

Discovery.—A learned Savan in France has been arranging a chronological scale of heights, running back to Adam. He has discovered that the present race are mere Lilliputians, having been getting shorter and shorter from Adam to Moses, and from Moses to the present. He finds Adam to have been 123 feet 9 inches high, while Eve was about 5 feet less. Abraham was only 28 feet tall, while Moses was only 13

Re-elected.—Ben Wade has been re-elected to the U. S. Senate from Ohio, for six years from the 4th of March. He has served twelve years in that body—a terror to the "copperheads."

Rapee.

A Portland paper has an article headed "Pacific City and Other Humbugs," which has been injected into it by some "evil genius" anxious to vent a little personal spite at the Editor of the *Argus*. The article is written "in the editorial style," and, for the want of a regular editor, the paper has been "served" by some "genius" with a head of malice on, who has come wooing, no doubt, by quoting 1st Corinthians, vii. 9. The article starts off with a big *growl* at Pacific City, St. Helens, Vancouver, and Astoria; soon turns to *hissing* at us in true gander style; and then turns back and waddles all around and through Portland, *cackling*—"See there! I've scratched compost on all your rivals, squirted at all your foes, and waked you up to the fact that you are 'firmly planted on the bed rock.'" The *Mountaineer*, which we presume is as innocent of hostile intentions toward Portland as we are, also catches it, and is coupled with us as follows:

"The *Mountaineer* barks like a happy dog with a new found bone, not knowing that it is as old as its [illegible] and as dry and dead as its [illegible] * * * The Astoria [illegible] of the *Argus* chimes in with the other [illegible], only he don't want to go to Pacific City, but will make out [illegible] where the [illegible] Custom House is, and around it his own dwelling, which we are glad that in these greenback times he has been able to build.—With both it is an awful thing that vessels and steamers [illegible] coming to Portland [illegible] because the business of the city demands it, and they should [illegible] to remove the business, and [illegible] stop the ships where they can [illegible] the trade."

Now the cause of all this [illegible] when [illegible] in the fact that we suggested a short time ago that a town of some importance might sooner or later spring up near the mouth of the Columbia River. We have some reasons why we thought so, but in a previous article we went into [illegible] discussion to show why we thought Portland had no reasons to fear a decline such as we are now [illegible] predicting. If the Portland paper would discuss the merits of the case, and give good, substantial reasons why the burthen of trade must go in this or that channel, instead of [illegible] like a donkey in a barrel's end every time anybody proposed to put up a shanty on the Columbia River, it seems to us that they would better satisfy the sensible property holders there than by a [illegible] personal tirade, which while it might operate as effective political capital on Lone Tree [illegible] other purposes with an intelligent community tend to produce the conviction that somebody is badly frightened every time it is proposed to stop a vessel at the mouth of the Columbia River, *then* long enough to put off a passenger. The assault upon us to which we are alluding is [illegible], so far as we have ever [illegible] anything derogatory to the [illegible] of Portland. It is a [illegible] to vent a little personal [illegible], under the impression that a little [illegible] over Pacific City [illegible] which to [illegible] a Cornwall canoe to operate [illegible] in an effort to run into a creek that [illegible] an insolvent Federal officer, [illegible] private personal [illegible], it seems to [illegible] add to the growth of Portland and all the other towns on the river, [illegible] public [illegible] and loyal [illegible]. If such assaults afford any pleasure to our enemies, we are willing that they should "lay on," as we assure them in all candor that they never cause the slightest ripple on the [illegible] of our community. If anybody in Portland feels flattered by being cackled at in this style by a bird which depends upon its rear to keep off imaginary *foes*, he is certainly welcome to the pleasure of being [illegible] by its beak, but we beg to be excused from standing in the way of its gases.

"One Little Nigger."

Our readers will many of them recollect the song published by Bryant, perhaps at [illegible] the Presidential canvass of 1860, representing the Buchanan and Floyd democracy as charging the Republicans with having sent John Brown into Virginia with "ten thousand niggers." *Before* the election, the song started with "one little nigger," and finally got up to "ten thousand little niggers." *After* the election, it gradually [illegible] along the downward scale, till it slid down to the old starting point—"one little nigger." We have noticed a great howl among the secession press for a good while back about Lincoln's having appointed "*a great many* niggers to office." We have known this to be a great lie, but thought that, like other lies generally, it might have had something to start from.—We have therefore spent a good deal of time in searching out the *egg* from which these nigger stories all started. We learn from Mr. Holbrook, that at the time Czapkay's Agent was back in the States, he induced Col. Baker to get him appointed as visitor to West Point, for which he pocketed the pay and mileage of a member of Congress—about $7,000. It will hardly seem credible here that the Administration could have been so imposed upon, but Mr. Holbrook assures us that such was the fact. *This* is what the secessionists got hold of and harped upon, till they got it up to a "*great many* little niggers in office," whereas, when the truth is known, it slides down as before, to "*one little* nigger," ☞ and a *base* one at that.

Drowned.—A man by the name of A. C. Angels, aged 32 years—native of Vermont—was drowned while crossing Scott River on a log, on the 4th instant. His body has been recovered.—*Sentinel.*

A Pretty Kettle of Fish.

Pacific City, which, under the operations of a boss mechanic, with several assistants, sent up by the "Company" at San Francisco, had been improved by having the brush cut away so as to show the old Holman house from the Bay, and also by the erection of a rough temporary store-house, has already taken a back-set. The mechanics have all been discharged by the boss, as there is no more work to be done till the Company is heard from in the way of supplies, and new orders from headquarters, as to further operations. In addition to the want of a harbor and other natural obstacles in the way of building up a city on Dr. White's old claim, it turns out that the title to Pacific City site is in dispute. We see by a map from the Surveyor General's office of Washington Territory, that more than half of Dr. White's claim is covered by a military reserve. The rest of it is claimed by Mr. Loomis, of Shoal Water Bay, who has appeared and ordered a suspension of a further desecration of the sod by men in the employ of Dr. White's Company. We believe that in 1852 the Pacific City claim, in addition to Dr. White, had two other claimants, Loomis, and one Cameron. When White abandoned the claim in 1853, perhaps Loomis and Cameron still remained, Loomis claiming one portion, and Cameron the rest. Cameron, who lived out his four years and perfected his donation right, sold out to Loomis, who thus became owner of the whole claim not included in the U. S. reserve, which was made after White left. In 1855, Congress donated the claim to Dr. White with the proviso, as is said, that such donation didn't interfere with any Government reserve, or any prior claim.—Loomis sets up a "prior claim" made good by the provisions of the donation act, a claim which Congress knew nothing about in 1855, but the possibility of the existence of which Congress recognized in the act giving the land to White, provided nobody else had a better claim. Loomis has for years been recognized in that vicinity as the owner of Pacific City site and improvement. He sued Capt. Dodge of Portland for a claim taken from the old Pacific City saw mill, and recovered. In addition to the want of a cash capital, the want of a harbor, the want of that "hundred families" that was to come up on the Herman, and the want of the Herman to bring them, besides the dangers and difficulties of navigating the Columbia from Astoria with river steamers through the sands and breakers intervening between that and Baker's Bay—this business of a contested title, and parties to quit cutting down the beach trees, threatens to make a pretty kettle of fish for proprietors to quarrel over.

Butler's Farewell to New Orleans.

On the eve of Major General Butler's leaving New Orleans, he issued an address to the citizens of the city, resting the benefits of a stable government, [illegible] the [illegible] power of the city since he had been there, and the [illegible] protection that had been given to life and property. It seems by the close of his address which we give below, that the General has materially changed his views on the "nigger question" since he supported Breckinridge and Lane in the Charleston Convention:

"If you desire to leave to your children the inheritance you received of your fathers—a stable constitutional Government—if you desire that they should in the future be a portion of the greatest empire the sun ever shone upon—return to your allegiance.

There is but one thing that stands in the way.

There is but one thing that at this hour stands between you and the Government, and that is Slavery.

The institution, cursed of God, which has taken its last refuge here, in His providence will be rooted out as the tares from the wheat, although the wheat be torn up with it.

I have given much thought to this subject.

I came among you, by teachings, by habit of mind, by political position, by social affinity, inclined to sustain your domestic laws, if by possibility they might be with safety to the Union.

Months of experience and of observation have forced the conviction that the existence of Slavery is incompatible with the safety either of yourselves or of the Union. As the system has gradually grown to its present huge dimensions, it were best if it could be gradually removed; but it is better, far better, that it should be taken out at once than that it should vitiate the social, political and family relations of your country. I am speaking with no philanthropic views as regards the slave, but simply of the effect of Slavery on the master. See for yourselves.

Look around you and say whether this saddening, deadening influence, has not all but destroyed the very framework of your society.

I am speaking the farewell words of one who has shown his devotion to his country at the peril of his life and fortune; who in these words can have neither hope nor interest, save the good of those whom he addresses; and let me here repeat, with all the solemnity of an appeal to Heaven to bear me witness, that such are the views forced upon me by experience.

Come, then, to the unconditional support of the Government. Take into your own hands your own institutions; remodel them according to the laws of nations and of God, and thus attain that great prosperity assured to you by geographical position, only a portion of which was heretofore yours."

☞ Gen. Wright has ordered all soldiers absent without leave to report at San Francisco or Fort Vancouver.

Details of Eastern News.

Washington, March 14.—Gens. Schurz and Stahl were yesterday nominated and confirmed as Major Generals.

A vacancy exists on the Bench of the Supreme Court, the confirmation of Andrew Wilde of Virginia for that position having been reconsidered.

The excitement in the Army of the Potomac on Wednesday was caused by a false report of the enemy having crossed the Rappahannock.

United States official letters from La Paz, in Arizona, speak of recent discoveries of very rich gold, silver and quicksilver mines there.

The working of the Internal Revenue Law begins to be most satisfactory, and with weekly receipts of over $1,500,000 the interest of the public debt is safe.

The War Department is closely employed arranging the machinery for the coming conscription.

Louisville, March 15.—Apprehensions exist here, in which military circles participate, that a formidable rebel invasion of Kentucky is imminent, with the view of the permanent occupation of the State.

New York, March 15.—The Arago has arrived from Port Royal, with dates to the 12, with Gen Naglee (Foster?) and part of his staff as passengers. It is thought at Port Royal that a personal difficulty existing between him and the Secretary of War caused his recall. Gen. Terry commands Gen Foster's forces.—Gen Hunter had issued an order drafting all able-bodied negroes for martial duty.

New York, March 16.—The Commercial says that Mr. Chase left this morning for Washington. Whatever the effects may be which will eventually proceed from the consultations, it is believed that nothing has been accomplished at present, either in the establishment of a bank under the new law of Congress, or the placing of the loan in the market.

M. Gallardet, writing to the Courier des Etats Unis from Paris, Feb 27, says: There is a rumor on the Bourse to-day of an insurrection in Hungary corresponding to that of Poland. This looks improbable on its face. It is alleged that a resolution has been suddenly taken by Napoleon to recall the French army from Mexico and treat with Juarez, upon the report of Gen. Forey, recognizing that the popularity of the Mexican President insures his re-election. It is added that the Emperor wishes to avoid the conflict, daily growing [illegible] with the Northern States, through the aid they offer the Mexicans by the [illegible] and the rebels that the Washington cabinet to accept the last proposal of France.

A Washington special dispatch says: [illegible] no doubt but the rebels will evacuate Vicksburg, if they have not already.—The rebels succeeded in destroying an important bridge, and will probably retire to Jackson, which is strongly fortified. This exposes Port Hudson and renders its fall certain.

Gen Stahl has been placed in command of the cavalry in front of Washington.

Gen. Burnside is still in Washington awaiting final orders as to his new command.

A vessel from Matanzas on Saturday reports of that place, without [illegible], by two French gunboats to Feb. 9.

The steamer from Havana [illegible] late Mexican news. The French army started for Puebla on Feb. 16, and it is [illegible] an attack was made by March 1st.

Alarming reports prevailed in St. Domingo, that [illegible] resulted under Gen Lugo, and troops were being sent from Cuba, and several war vessels ordered there.

Washington, March 16.—The Committee on the Conduct of the War, it is understood, were closed their testimony, and will make their report in about two weeks.

The expedition to recruit [illegible] under Dunham has been indefinitely postponed by the President.

It is understood that all general and staff nominations [illegible] by the Senate and not absolutely refused by that body, will be reviewed by the President, and the [illegible] nominated by a [illegible] and be immediately filed.

The belief in the evacuation of Vicksburg is very strong to-day in all circles.—It is based on the grounds that the Federals forced the evacuation by cutting off the supplies and nearly surrounding that city, and also that Port Hudson will be left to hold the Mississippi, if possible, while the rebel troops at Vicksburg fall back to the interior and eventually reinforce the rebels in East Tennessee.

The Navy Department has a dispatch from Admiral Porter, dated Vicksburg the 9, which says he had heard the signal agreed upon by him and Commander Smith so soon as the latter should get into the Yazoo river.

The Postmaster General has authorized postmasters throughout the country to frank all official communications of Collectors and Assessors of Internal Revenue with their Deputies and Assistants.

The young lady, who it is ascertained betrayed Gen. Stoughton into the hands of the rebels, has been placed in prison. On her person were found letters apprising her of another raid, which was to be summarily prevented.

New York, March 16.—The bank statement shows a decrease in loans of $3,000,000; a decrease of specie of $3,500,000; and a decrease of deposits of $1,700,000. Money is easy at 6 per cent. Sterling Exchange, 171½; Gold, unsettled, closed firm at 155; Government stocks firmer, 6's of '81, 103½; Certificates, 99½; 7 3-10th notes, 105¾ a 105; California 7's, 134.

3 P. M.—Gold, 154.

Washington, March 16.—The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has decided that promissory notes for not exceeding thirty days, including three days' grace, shall bear a one cent stamp; exceeding thirty-three days and not exceeding sixty, including three days' grace, a two cent stamp; exceeding sixty-three days and not exceeding ninety-three days, including grace, a three cent stamp; consequently, a note of sixty-three days, including grace days, would possess a legal value having a two cent stamp affixed thereto.

Charleston and Mobile papers, of the 14, are received. There were seven blockaders off Charleston.

Richmond papers of the 13 announce the arrival of the captured Gen. Stoughton, and others.

Mr. C. M. Conrad, of Louisiana, introduced resolutions on the 11 in the rebel Congress, alludi[illegible] to peace.

New York, March 17.—Gold 54; sterling exchange, 169.

A Washington special says that Hooker and the Medical Director pronounce the Army of the Potomac as healthy as any in the world.

It is said that the difficulties which constrained Sigel to resign, have been adjusted, and that he will withdraw his resignation and return to his old command.

The steamer Champion, from Aspinwall, will be up this evening.

A meeting was held at the Exchange to aid the Atlantic Telegraph enterprise. It was addressed by Cyrus W. Field, and others. Quite a large amount was raised on the spot. A committee was appointed to act in unison with the Chamber of Commerce in obtaining subscriptions.

New Orleans advices to the 8 are received. Preparations had been made for an immediate attack on Port Hudson. Banks and Grover had left Baton Rouge.

The pirate Florida called on Barbadoes on the 24 ult., and left the following day.

Washington, March 17.—A dispatch from Rosecrans, dated Murfreesboro, March 16, reports the gallant conduct of our cavalry, under Col. Nintz, who captured a rebel captain, 17 wagons, 40 mules and 114 prisoners. The place of capture not stated.

The Navy Department has received intelligence of the capture, off St. Juga Sound, of the schooner Blank, from Havana to Mobile, and the schooner Anna White, trying to run the blockade off the Suwanee river.

Washington, March 17.—Secretary Chase made a proposition to-day, for designs of the new Treasury notes, for denominations of 5's and upwards.

A regular commission issued by Gen. Stuart, of rebel fame, has been found on the person of Miss Ford, who is charged with having betrayed Gen. Stoughton into the hands of the enemy.

The official list of officers reported for dismissal in the army for different offenses, if they do not make a satisfactory defense of the charges against them, will be issued to-morrow from the War Department.

An important treaty has been concluded between the Chippewa Indians of the upper Mississippi and the Government, by which the Chippewas cede to the Government five reservations, comprising the most valuable tract in Minnesota. The Indians agreed to move sixty miles farther [illegible].

The Court of Claims has adjourned to the first Monday in May, when it will reconvene with four Judges, as lately [illegible].

The recent act of Congress in regard to reenlistments for two years of all those whose time will expire this summer, [illegible] [illegible] along the regiments.

New York, March 18.—A special dispatch from Washington says the new postage currency [illegible] paid to the Treasury for payments they will be paid in gold.

The reports from Europe [illegible] that Napoleon is [illegible] a [illegible] Mexico [illegible] diplomatic [illegible]. On the other hand, it is thought that the French army in Mexico will be [illegible] the [illegible] by the Government.

[illegible] Mexico of the 23 [illegible] Gen. Forey [illegible] 15 [illegible] Puebla.—Preparations were made at Puebla for [illegible] Mexican [illegible] The Mexican Government ordered the [illegible] of the [illegible] to return to their [illegible] the money raised by forced loans, and [illegible].

San Francisco, March 21.—Further examination of the papers [illegible] Chapman [illegible] The [illegible] to aid in the Southern Confederacy by a very [illegible] known as a vessel. An [illegible] paper has been found which was to [illegible] and [illegible] secret [illegible] throughout the State. It appears they were to furnish themselves with arms, and collect at [illegible] at a given date, seize a steamer, cut the telegraph wire, go to Benicia, seize the arsenal and then come down and take Fort Alcatraz and Fort Point by surprise; after that California was to be declared out of the Union and a member of the Confederacy. The Chapman's guns were two 12-pounders, 229 [illegible] rifles, 50 kegs of powder, 2,000 loaded shells for hand grenades or howitzers, 118 12-pounder shells, small arms, &c.

Treadwell & Co. have published a card stating that in 1860 they imported the brass pieces and shells, found in the Chapman, for an agent of the Mexican Government, and that they arrived after the war was over, and were left on hands until a broker purchased them a few days ago, representing himself as an agent for Mexico.

New Publications.—H. H. Bancroft & Co., of San Francisco, have issued new publications of the following titles:

"Bancroft's Map of the Washoe Silver Region of Nevada Territory," containing a list of the mining companies, etc.

"Bancroft's Guide to the Colorado Mines, containing an elaborate map of Southern California and Western New Mexico, with tables of distances."

"Bancroft's Map of the vicinity of Richmond, and the Peninsular campaign in Virginia."

"Colton's Topographical Map of the Seat of War in Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina."

H. H. Bancroft & Co. have also just issued a new and enlarged edition of the *California Practice Act*, carefully and fully annotated by a member of the San Francisco Bar.

The Hand-Book Almanac for the Pacific States, we noticed in our last issue.

Not Through Yet.—Upon the fourth day of the siege of Murfreesboro, Gen. Bragg sent an officer to Gen. Rosecrans with a flag of truce, requesting permission to bury his dead. The indomitable Rosecrans made no objection to this merciful request, but told the officer to assure the rebel General that he was not through killing yet.

Clackamas County Circuit Court.

Spring Term, 1863.

Hon. E. D. Shattuck, Judge; W. C. Johnson, Prosecuting Attorney; Jas. Winston, Clerk; Wm. P. Burns, Sheriff.

Jacobs, Wolf & Co. vs S. W. Moss.—Judgment against deft. for costs. Johnson for motion.

Conroy, O'Conner & Co. vs Rossi & Co.—Judgment against deft. Bartels for $4,588.89. Page and Johnson for pliffs.—Holbrook for deft.

J. M. Moore and wife vs E. S. Alitree and E. W. Aldrich.—Judgment against defts for $1867.50. Huelat, Wait, and Kelly for pliffs, Williams for deft.

Osborn vs Boone.—Settled. Johnson for pliff, Huelat for deft.

Peter Bilyeu vs Isaac Laswell.—Judgment for $300 against deft. Johnson for pliff, Wait and Kelly for deft.

M. B. Dunbar vs Chas. Cutting, Sr.—Judgment on award of arbitrators against deft. for $105. Johnson for pliff, Elliott for deft.

Hillenbrand vs Foster. Settled and dismissed. Johnson for pliff, Wait for deft.

Foster vs Hillenbrand.—Settled and dismissed. Wait for pliff, Johnson for deft.

S. A. Miles vs H. M. Knighten.—Jury disagreed. Continued. Page and Huelat for pliff, Williams for deft.

Hughes vs Hughes.—Divorce. Decree for pliff. Crawford and Johnson for pliff.

Carr vs Parker. Settled and dismissed. Mitchell and Dolph for pliff.

Austen vs Austen.—Divorce. Decree denied. Johnson for complainant, Huelat and Kelly for deft.

Shuley vs Brown.—Decree of foreclosure for $677.71. Huelat for pliff.

Evans vs Evans.—Divorce decreed.—Johnson for pliff.

Poujade vs Poujade.—Divorce decreed. Huelat for pliff.

Report of the Grand Jury.

To the Hon. Circuit Court of Clackamas county:

The Grand Jury respectfully state that they have finished the business which came before them, having found three bills of indictment.

They have examined the county jail and find that from some source the water makes its way into the inside of the structure. They recommend an examination, and the remedying of this defect. Otherwise the jail and public offices are in good condition and order.

M. Patterson, Foreman.

March 19, 1863.

Barbarity of Missouri Guerrillas.

Headquarters Fifth Cavalry Missouri State Militia, Independence, Missouri, January 11, 1863.—General: Private Johnson, of the artillery company, was [illegible] in dead to-day. He is the fifth [illegible] murdered last week, four from the artillery and one from the militia. If you could see their mangled bodies, you would not wonder why it is that I write you that guerrillas should be forced out of the country. They were all wounded, and [illegible] the most horrible manner [illegible] were that [illegible] and several of their faces are [illegible] to pieces with [illegible]. [illegible] was exploded in one man's ear, [illegible] off [illegible] his head. We [illegible] committed [illegible] Kansas, [illegible] treated [illegible] have been, by millions, is more than I can bear.

Ten of these men, armed as they are, with their wives and children to act as [illegible], are equal to twenty-five of mine. [illegible] threatening. Union women in the county [illegible] the wives and sisters of some of the most notorious [illegible] to prevent them from carrying their threats [illegible]. They have also [illegible] an agreement upon the loyal men of the county, and are collecting it very fast. There are many complaints on the subject, by some of those [illegible] claim to be Southern sympathizers. Some of the [illegible] have asked me if the order respecting your assessment applies to the one spoken of above. I tell them I do not know, to ask J. Brown Hovy.

Yours, truly, W. R. Penick,
Colonel Fifth Cav. M. S. M.
Gen. Ben. Loan, Jefferson City, Mo.

Copperheads.—A gentleman requests us to explain the significance of the term "Copperheads," applied by Union journals to Northern secession sympathizers. We cannot do it without venturing in the field of conjecture. The South Carolinians, a brave, frank, outspoken class of traitors, adopted for their flag motto, the rattlesnake, a reptile common to the South on this continent, venomous, but magnanimous, and not a whit sneaking in its habits or attacks. Its tail always sounds the alarm before the attack; in which respects it is very like the Southern traitors, who, venomous as they are, are not sneaks, but outspoken enemies, and long since gave the alarm that they meant to uncoil and strike. In the North is another reptile—(that's what Gen. Jackson called James Buchanan)—known as the "copperhead." It has all and more than the malignity of the rattlesnake, without a particle of the latter's magnanimity. The "copperhead" hides in the darkest covers and closest corners, and, without the least notice bites the intruder when he is not suspecting danger. It bites and runs, and is considered the meanest snake anywhere to be found between the Potomac and Penobscot, in which it resembles the Northern Secessionists with this advantage in its favor, that while the snake don't profess to be anything but an enemy, they do, and still bite.—*Stockton Independent.*

Arming the Negro.—Among the changes in the great metropolis of the nation, says the Sacramento Bee, those of John Van Buren and James T. Brady are not the most notable, for even the New York Herald and the New York World and Enquirer have withdrawn their opposition to arming the negro, and now go heart and hand for putting black armies in the field. The world goes marching on.

Three Enormous Ironclads to be Built.—Our Government has determined upon building three enormous ironclads, to be 400 feet long, and much more formidable than either the British Warrior or the French Gloire. The iron armor of the turrets will be two feet thick, and the iron bow as sharp as a knife-blade. The batteries, it is said, will surpass anything of the kind hitherto conceived.