

SALUTATORY.

Friends and Fellow Citizens of the west, as a New Year's greeting we send you the result of our humble efforts—the first issue of the STATE REPUBLICAN. And as all will no doubt be curious first to know what position we take in the arena of politics, we will proceed briefly to explain—in our present struggle for the preservation of the Union, it will become us all to forget party differences so far as is consistent with party organization. Men who have hitherto belonged to different factions of different parties, who have all along kept an eye to the safety of the Union, are now called upon to work with us in this mighty contest.

Whatever other or more abstract issues may lie back of this, it is admitted by all loyal citizens, that the great political issue is Shall we, like men, maintain the United States Government, and the dignity of our national character, or shall we, with servile timidity, suffer it to be overthrown? We are proud to devote the influence of our pen and press to so noble a cause, as the affirmative of this issue. Yes, that Government, the foundation of which was cemented by the sacred blood of our fathers, should not want for the sacrifice of ours in its defense, though it were assailed by the combined hosts of every other power under heaven.

The crisis of the Nation's destiny for ages seems to be involved in the war now waging. The contending powers are, a constitutional Government and a rebellious conspiracy. Should the latter triumph, anarchy and ruin will follow in its train; should the former succeed peace and security will again be restored to all. We cannot as some conservative anti-war journals contend, abandon the "war policy," and make concessions for the sake of effecting a treaty with the belligerent seceded States. True, nothing is so desirable as peace, honorable and permanent peace; such a peace as will do justice to our National pride, as well as our national prosperity. But past experience and common sagacity assure us that this cannot be effected by making concessions. We cannot so far sacrifice our interests, or forsake our national dignity, as to admit the validity of a single act of Jeff. Davis and his coadjutors, in the name of the "Southern Confederacy."

It is no part of the policy of our Government to practice oppression; yet it is not even a virtuous forbearance to submit to repeated insults, contumely and invasion of rights, from any foe, whether foreign or domestic. The General Government has adopted war as a last resort, as a last hope or means of preserving our national existence, and now in the determined prosecution of this policy, we heartily coincide. Let the war be carried forward with an unswerving energy until our arms shall triumph over every disunion traitor, and until our glorious old flag with its full quota of stars shall again wave in peace over the sunny rice and cotton fields of our belligerent sister States of the South.

We will adhere to the principles set forth in the Chicago Platform; yet so far as the objects of those principles may be already attained, the labor of further agitation would be superfluous. We will support the Administration, so long as the Administration continues faithful to the best interests of the people—the restoration, security and permanent administration of the United States Government; and by the tone of the President's message, we must express our full confidence that such will be the case while he occupies the Presidential chair. In the language of the California Republican Platform we say, "under the present Administration we look with hope to the speedy consummation of a Pacific Railroad, and the adoption of a free Homestead system in disposition of the public lands." We therefore, "invite all who love the Union and Constitution, and who favor the enforcement of the laws, to unite with us in our great Administration party in support of the Federal Government and the National flag."

SEND US YOUR NAMES.—We would say that notwithstanding the irregularity of the mails here at present, owing to the ravages of the high waters, and also heavy embassments to many citizens from the same cause, we are determined to cast our lot with them and share the burden of the hard times. To those living in this vicinity we propose to furnish the paper and receive in payment, wheat, oats, corn and other marketable produce; to be delivered in Eugene City at convenient times. We send the first issue to many who were subscribers to the People's Press, hoping that they will not fail to become patrons of the STATE REPUBLICAN, and also to induce as many others as possible to subscribe.

The President's Message is an able and forcible document; characteristic thought out of a comprehensive mind. It brings cheering reports of finance, and shows that the men whom we have chosen to guide the ship of State are not asleep. We hope that the President's suggestions respecting Circuit Courts, will not be lightly passed over by the thinking public. He shows his devotion to the "nerve and bone" of the country, by suggesting the establishment of an Agricultural Bureau. Although we received it two weeks before our first issue, we print it on its merit as public data.

FROM THE MINES.

The following extracts are from a letter written by Mr. Wm. A. Atenc, agent of Tracy & Co., at Oro Fino, to a citizen of Eugene City, dated Nov. 25th:

"All who have fully determined upon trying their fortunes in the mines, I would recommend to strike for the 'Salmon Diggings.' They are by far the richest in all this country. Of their extent we know but little. The diggings having been discovered so late in the Fall, and the apprehensions of all who first entered those mines having been excited about the prospect of a fight with the different bands of Nez Perce Indians, headed by Eagle of the Light, prevented any prospecting without the limits of six or eight miles square, to which the diggings are at present circumscribed. I hear that a few persons who first entered the diggings from Elk City took a hasty view of the country for thirty miles above where the diggings are at present located, prospecting a little here and there on the way. They report that the whole country over which they passed bears the same peculiarities in every particular, and think wherever the gulches and ravines are found like those in the diggings, gold will be found in like quantities. The advantage those diggings have over diggings in this vicinity, is that they are worked with but little expense, not requiring the machinery and experience of old mines to prepare the claims for operating to advantage."

"Good stout teams can come from Walla Walla to Lewiston at any season of the year. Stages were running from the Dalles to Walla Walla all winter, last season. Those who come here single handed to mine, should leave Eugene about the first or middle of February, so as to get over the Pa ha la hekan prairie before the snow leaves it, or gets low enough for animals to break through it. This prairie commences some thirty miles beyond Cold Springs, and is from 15 to 20 miles wide. The extent of it in length is not known. There is no trail known to go around it, except the trail across from Elk City, which is not accessible till the latter part of June. This prairie or canvas bog, the Indians say, is impassable after the snow leaves it for nearly three months. The ingenuity of the white man when in pursuit of gold, I think, however, may be equal to the task of getting over it by some kind of invention."

"Take with you rocker irons, ready punched nails, a whip saw and free, mining tools, and all the grub you can pack—not forgetting grain to feed your animals."

"Those coming up for the purpose of merchandising, can make their calculations to have goods freighted through to Lewiston, by the first or middle of April. They should bring with them a good large tent to use as a store, and an old sail to cover goods with."

"Lewiston is the point, above all others, for business next summer. It will be the Sacramento of all this country. Building is prohibited there yet, but build they will before the first of July next, notwithstanding the objections of the Indians, or rather of the Indian Agents and their coadjutors. The Indians have virtually given their consent to have the place built up some 6 months ago. But those parties have a speculation in view, by urging this prohibition on the part of the Indians. It seems to be the general impression that the Snake River cannot be navigated higher up than the Rapids above Lewiston, which is supposed will remain a permanent barrier to navigation above that point. Those merchants who succeed in getting the first goods into Salmon in the spring, will make a good strike. At present, from one to two dollars per pound for provisions can be had readily, or 75 cents per pound at the foot of the mountain on this side. This mountain is 25 miles over, or as the boys say, 'it is twelve miles up the hill and as many miles down again.'"

"Flour, bacon, sugar, yeast powder, fruit, t. h. hoes, wool socks, stout boots, rocker iron, nails, mining tools, whip saws, irons, gold pans, blowers, gold scales, warm wool clothing, gun, tools and gl. ves. steel for sharpening p. c. s. h. o. s. nails and horseshoe iron, are among the first and most essential articles required in the diggings."

"The distance from Oro Fino and Lewiston to Salmon diggings, is about the same—say 100 miles. The market in the mining region cannot be glutted at any time during the next summer. The rapid increase of population expected here during the next season, will more than exceed the field we have for transportation. Teams and packers will make more money than the merchants. Their pay is always cash; whereas the merchant will trust the miner, more or less, who seldom permanent, but ever ready for a move, whenever any excitement springs up at a distance, of better diggings than those he is operating in, and is not particular whether the bill is paid before leaving or not. Every merchant in this place has suffered, more or less, by the stamped on Salmon diggings."

"Farmers, I would advise to remain where they are, till they get their crops in. We want all the flour and bacon they can make next season. There will, in my opinion, be an emigration from California to this country, next season, of forty thousand people, who must be fed."

The news from the northern mines continues to be exciting. So many are going from this portion of the Valley that we fear there will hardly be men left to supply the bread of life, and just now there is great need of laborers to repair the damages occasioned by the high water. Sagacious tradesmen, are predicting high prices for grain, corresponding with the late elevation of the aqueous element. The loss by the flood, has been immense all along the river and valley lands, but comparatively little loss of life. The damages to Oregon City alone, are estimated at \$164,700.

TELEGRAPHIC DISPATCH.—The President's message was issued at the office of the Alto, San Francisco, forty three and a half hours after it was read in Congress, a distance of over 3,000 miles; being reported seven times, and also delayed by the breaking of the wire beyond Salt Lake, and containing 8,000 words. Fellow citizens of Oregon, is it not worth a vigorous effort on our part to meet the wires at Yreka, and have the news early as well as our California brethren?

LATEST EASTERN NEWS.

N. Y., Nov. 21.—A letter from Hatteras Inlet, dated Nov. 18, says North Carolina, by a convention of delegates representing 45 counties has declared a provisional Government, and has entirely repudiated the secession act of the State, reaffirming her loyalty and devotion to the Constitution of the United States. The convention met at Hatteras on Monday last. The Act passed contained several sections, the substance of which is—

- 1st. Declares vacant all the offices of the State.
 - 2d. Names Marble Nash Taylor, Provisional Governor.
 - 3rd. Adopts the Constitution of the State, with the statutes and laws contained in the Revised Code of 1856.
 - 4th. Repudiates the Ordinance of Secession passed at Raleigh on the 20th of May, together with all other acts then adopted.
 - 5th. Directs the Provisional Governor to order a special election for members of Congress.
 - 6th. Gives the Governor authority to make temporary appointments to official vacancies.
- The Convention then adjourned, subject to the call of the President.

Gov. Taylor then issued his proclamation for an election in the Second Congressional District on Nov. 27th.

The Southern papers are advocating the abolishment of the elective franchise.

Gen. McClellan is in favor of a regular exchange of prisoners.

St. Louis, Nov. 23.—The other day the Federal forces in Ft. Pickens opened their batteries on the rebels in Pensacola. After a bombardment of about twenty hours, the rebels showed signs of weakening, so that troops from the Federal side were sent to make a lodgement on the main land. This they did successfully, and Pensacola, together with all connected therewith was captured by the Federal forces.

Gen. McClellan is moving toward Leesburg and Gen. Smith and Porter are extending their lines forward, while McDowell and Franklin are watching the enemy's center, which is growing weaker every day.

St. Louis, Dec. 5.—Great excitement and consternation exist at Charleston and other towns south. At Charleston the rebels are burning all their cotton and rice to prevent it falling into the hands of the Federals.

Prices says he shall make Kansas his future field of operations. He has 15,000 men. McCulloch quarreled with him and left.

It is said that 10,000 volunteers are called in Canada to defend the frontier.

Capt. Goodwin, of the slave Erie, is to be hung in February.

The rebels are falling back from the Potomac before the slow advance of the Union troops.

OPDYKE, [Rep.] is elected mayor of New York.

Gen. Butler's expedition arrived at Port Royal on the 7th.

Com. Foote wants 1,000 scudm for the Mississippi Naval Expedition.

There are 13,000 sick men in the army on the Potomac.

The black flag has been raised at Columbus, Kentucky.

Gen. Prentiss captured 500 rebels in Northern Missouri, on the 8th.

QUINCY, Ill., Dec. 10.—It is stated that in the U. S. Senate, to day, Sumner presented petitions asking for the emancipation of slaves under the war power.

SENATOR NESBITT, introduced a bill in the U. S. Senate to provide for the protection of the overland emigrants to California and Oregon which was referred to the Committee on Territories.

The Norfolk Day Book, of the 9th, learns that a battle is immediately expected on the Potomac as the settlers were removing stores.

St. Louis, Dec. 10.—Major Marshall on Saturday captured 30 rebels at Glasgow.

The Union men in Kentucky have nominated Garrett Davis for U. S. Senator.

Gen. Price is on the Osage River with 8 or 10,000 men.

Federal force in St. Louis 20,000.

Gen. Fremont's body guard has been ordered to report at Washington.

QUINCY, Ill., Dec. 11.—We learn that there was a debate in Congress yesterday afternoon—in the House of Representatives principally, on the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus. Petitions against the suspension of the writ were tabled—108 against 36—in both Houses.

The death of Senator Bingham, of Michigan, was announced. Eulogies were made and usual resolutions passed.

ETHRIDGE, Clerk of the House, received a letter from Tennessee, stating that the rebel leaders had begun to impress Union men, who were fleeing to Kentucky for protection.

Parson Brownlow's army had been increased by the Unionists from North Carolina and Alabama. He is giving the rebels much trouble.

The House Investigating Committee will report next Thursday.

The rebels are said to be approaching our lines on the Potomac, in force. A large rebel force has taken possession of Sprigfield, near the Potomac river. McClellan is closely watching their movements.

QUINCY, Ill., Dec. 11, P. M.—The general Government has decided to fill up the number of regiments in the field to 1,040. It is necessary to do this in order to keep up imperfect regimental organizations.

The question of the exchange of prisoners seems to be fairly settled; the President, Gen. McClellan and all the Cabinet are in favor of the plan. Thirty prisoners were exchanged yesterday.

Our Government has replied to the invitation of England, France and Spain, declining to take any part in the Mexican expedition.

It is understood that the Legislature of Kentucky will abolish slavery, reimbursing loyal masters.

The Norfolk Day Book, of the 13th, gives an account of a negro insurrection in South Carolina at Charleston. The plot of the negroes was discovered and checked.

Norfolk and Richmond papers, of the 14th give full particulars of the great fire at Charleston. 57 buildings were destroyed, including the Roman Catholic Church, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Cumberland street Church, the Methodist and Circular Churches. The loss will be from \$5,000,000 to \$7,000,000.

There are letters of marque in New York, issued by the Mexican Government, to prey upon the commerce of England, France and Spain, and vessels are fitted out under a similar decision to that allowing the Nashville to be fitted out at Southampton. The vessels will sail under the Mexican flag as war vessels, and are entitled to bring prizes into neutral ports.

Lansing's resolutions to return fugitive slaves came up. Stevens and Lovejoy made speeches against it.

Nesmith of the Senate announced the death of Senator B. C. Dyer. He paid a tribute to his worth and history, and offered the usual resolutions of respect to his memory.

Latham eulogized with a most beautiful, eloquent and truthful eulogy on the deceased, when the Senate adjourned.

Wilson's resolutions to return fugitive slaves to increase cadets at West Point.

Washington dispatches say that notwithstanding the belligerent attitude of England the Cabinet and Congress are not frightened.

The [experte] demand for the release of Mason and Sidelles causes great excitement, but the sentiment of defiance is universal.

Congress will adjourn on Thursday the 19th for two weeks, to enable the members to spend the holidays at home.

The bill to raise 20,000 more troops for Kentucky was opposed by Lovejoy and Stevens, but was afterwards passed.

In the United States Senate, Hall offered a resolution to the effect that the Committee on Military Affairs enquire into the expediency of providing a uniform plan for dealing with the slaves of rebels, which was agreed to.

The bark Agnes, arrived at Baltimore, reports a fight between the pirate Sumter and the United States gunboat Inopros, off Martinique.

St. Louis, Dec. 15th.—The privateer Sumpter carrying the American flag, has captured and burnt the brig Joseph Park.

Wilkinson offered a resolution to expell Jesse D. Bright.

Dispatches from St. Joseph, Mo., state that a battle was expected soon between the rebel forces at or near Lexington Mo., and the troops under Gen. Prentiss. It was Prentiss' intention to cross the river on Saturday at a point above Lexington, and attack the rebels. The rebels are 2,500 strong; the Federals 4,000.

The excitement runs high over the English news. The markets are depressed in consequence.

St. Louis, Dec. 10th.—The English papers are exceedingly belligerent in their remarks by reference to the arrest of Mason and Sidelles. They say the sentiment of the British Cabinet in relation to the matter, is denunciatory of the act of arrest.

QUINCY, December 17th.—The Cabinet have considered the matter of the Mason and Sidelles arrest, and think that newspaper bluster is not a true indication of the intention of the British Government; but the impression is that England will make a demand for the release of Mason and Sidelles.

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

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

Ben. McCullough is in Richmond.

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

Dispatches from Tipton, Mo., say that our troops had received orders yesterday to hold themselves ready 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.

St. Louis, Dec. 17th.—We have information that Fort Pulaski is in possession of the Federal troops.—[Fort Pulaski commands the entrance to Savannah, Georgia.]

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

Lord Lyons, British Minister at Washington, has received no dispatches from his Government in relation to the Sidelles and Mason affair.

Secretary Cameron has submitted to Congress a report in favor of appropriating \$4,710,000 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.

Bonds for Oregon war scrip are being issued. The question of issuing bonds to assignees or attorneys has been decided affirmatively.

SPECIAL dispatches from Washington state that a resolution will be offered in the House, punishing any officer of the army for returning fugitive slaves to their masters.

F. P. STANTON still claims the seat occupied by Lane in the U. S. Senate.

Col. HIXKS says that the defeat at Bull's Bluff, where we lost 900 men—150 killed, 250 wounded, and 500 taken prisoner,—was caused by bad selection of the ground of attack.

It is reported that John Ross, chief of the Cherokee, has declared for the Union, and is pitching into the secessionists.

EUGENE CITY LEVEE.

At a meeting of citizens, to take into consideration the propriety and importance of building a levee, to protect our town from future inundation, a Committee was appointed to make a report of proper plan; and an adjourned meeting, on the evening of December 23rd, the report was received, and ordered to be published, that all may be ready to act at the adjourned meeting, next 10th of January, in the evening, at the Court House, to which all are invited.

The following is the report of the Committee: They would recommend building an embankment across the slough near Mr. Marlin's, commencing on the bank two feet above high water in the south east corner of Mr. Mitchell's lot.

The levee as far as Mr. Marlin's is to be sixteen feet wide on top, with a height of eleven feet to the deepest filling. Under this embankment, near where there is now a ditch, is to be placed a wooden truck, with a gate to stop the flow of water through it; this truck to be 60 feet in length; from Mr. Marlin's mill, to pass through or near the rear of lots on the highest ground near the race, and conforming in line to the curves and bends of the race. This part of the levee need not be more than six feet wide and two feet high generally, and across the street near Mr. S. Ellsworth's would cut on the high ground in Mr. Shaw's lot.

A level was run from Mr. Mitchell's lot following High Street to Dr. Handley's; thence the street to Mr. Ellsworth's. It was found that this would require an embankment so high as to injure the building sites it passes, besides cutting off many lots and houses from its protection. It was also objectionable on the score of greater expense, and would cost at least \$2,000, if built substantially and to answer both for Street roadway and levee. The line on the margin of raceway, would cost from \$700 to \$800 less, and though not answering the purpose of Street, would be less objectionable on other accounts, and afford equal protection to more parties. We therefore recommend it to our fellow citizens.

If right of way across the lots cannot be secured, we would recommend the building of the embankment across the slough at Mr. Marlin's, and the end of street at Mr. Ellsworth's.

We recommend that the money necessary, be raised by subscription, and that a Committee be appointed to draw up proper subscription papers, and solicit subscriptions; and that a Committee of the subscribers, be empowered to enter into contract, or to employ responsible men to construct the levee, when a sufficient sum has been subscribed, to effect the plan decided upon by them.

All of which is respectfully submitted by the Committee.

GEO. H. BELDEN, Chairman.

After the report of the Committee had been accepted, it was suggested that the line of levee should be so graded as to make a Street, and three gentlemen owning lots cut by it, voluntarily offered to give the right of way for such a plan, besides giving liberally towards its construction. The Committee, by their Chairman, add this to their report, and concur in its recommendation.

GEO. H. BELDEN, Chairman.

The remains of Col. Baker are deposited in the Lone Mountain Cemetery, near San Francisco, by the side of Senator Broderick, a lot having been donated for that purpose. A fund is being raised for a monument to his memory.

He is said to have no will. His son-in-law, Mr. Stevens, Superintendent of the Mint, will settle his business as administrator.

The celebrated California temperance lecturer, feral S. Diehl, has been appointed U. S. Consul to Java.