

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We wish you, dear readers, one and all, a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, and many joyous returns of the season.

Before your eyes shall have fallen upon these columns, Christmas, with its merry meetings and its merry greetings, will have come and departed; the Yule-log will have blazed, and burned, and died out, and turned to ashes, upon many a hearth; households long stranded will have been reunited; parents and children, brothers and sisters, driven by the pressure of circumstances, or, necessarily, widely apart, will have met once more around the hearthstone of the "old home at home," to exchange the greetings of affection, perhaps for the last time; the hearts of the children will have been rejoiced by the accustomed visit of the good "Christ-Kindein," who from his capacious stores has filled their little stockings with toys and sweetmeats; the old heart-burnings and disputes of yore will have been extinguished and forgotten amid the hilarious mirth and jollity which distinguishes this, notwithstanding the storms and gloom of winter by which it is surrounded, as the gladdest, merriest season of all the year.

"A merry Christmas!" How joyously it was shouted from hundreds of happy throats! How merrily it fell from the lips of old and young, upon the morning of the day "wherein our Saviour's birth was celebrated,"—bearing everywhere the glad tidings of "Peace on earth, good will towards men." Let us hope that all have passed a "merry Christmas," and that, as Items said about the last ball at the "nothing of an unpleasant character occurred to mar the general good feeling which prevailed upon the joyful occasion."

Before we again have an opportunity of holding converse with our readers, through the medium of the types, we shall have entered upon another revolution—don't start, reader—we don't mean one of those horrid French affairs, composed of blood and liberty, and all that sort of thing, but a sober, steady-going revolution of the earth around its solar center. In short, if the almanac speaks the truth—and we take it for granted that it does, except when it puffs patent medicines, or attempts to prognosticate the weather—Saturday next, being the first of January, 1859, will be New Year's day; as our friend the pedagogue explains it, the earth on that day will have arrived at the termination of the yearly pilgrimage upon which she set out on the first day of January of the present year, and will have taken a fresh start, hoping, by diligence and perseverance, to again accomplish her circuit within the time prescribed by the astronomer. It is customary on these occasions, as it is upon the setting out of less important expeditions,—such as, for instance, the sailing of a vessel upon an important voyage, the starting of the overland mail upon its journey, or the trial trip of a new forty-horse-power steamboat—to have a sort of general jubilation, by way of giving *accolade* to the affair; at which time those very accommodating individuals who have assumed the control and direction of things terrestrial—who, in their own opinion, are entitled to all the credit of the management of affairs in our little world—take occasion to compliment themselves very highly upon the successful issue of the last trip, and to drink *bon voyage* to the one just commenced. And so we, though only a passenger, yet feeling a deep interest in the result, pour a hearty libation to the New Year.

New Years day, aside from its importance as being the day upon which the good ship The World annually sets sail, according to announcement in all the almanacs, is also distinguished by the initiation of numerous individual enterprises, on a smaller scale. It is the custom with many persons, whose previous efforts have not been of a character to excite a great degree of admiration, to take a fair start with the world on the first day of January, trusting in the strength of certain good resolutions to bring them out ahead in the end of the race. Many of them (we grieve to say it) only add a few more bricks to that infernal pavement, which is said to be constructed of good intentions; while others persevere unto the end, in due time receiving the reward which always attends virtuous endeavor. May you, reader, belong to the latter class. And may each successive New Year be to you indeed a happy New Year.

Some years ago we referred to the necessity of a law requiring steamboats on the upper Willamette to carry anchors, to be used in case of accident near the falls. Since that time, one boat has been carried over the falls, drowning several persons; fortunately, but few were on it. Another has narrowly escaped a like fate. Sooner or later we expect the public will be shocked by intelligence that some steamer has been carried over the falls, and that scores of human lives have been lost. Every boat on this upper river ought to carry heavy anchors, all ready for use, and there ought to be a statute requiring them to do so, under appropriate penalties. If our legislature can spare time from the interminable seat-of-government question, when it re-assembles, will it enact some statute upon this subject? The boats run almost upon the falls, and if any accident there happens to their machinery, or a "tiller rope" breaks, a plunge over the falls, with the destruction of all on board, is inevitable.

Rev. L. L. Driver writes to the *Advertiser* that the Indian, Dick Johnson, recently murdered in Umpqua, "attended meeting and has been a professor of religion for many years." We are informed that the person accused of being the ringleader in the massacre, is a professor of religion, and a prominent member of his church—United Brethren.

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VERY DRYERISH.—Dryer's buffoonery in the House is constantly ornamented with metaphors and parables, while his pronunciation would draw a smile from either of those old dames. When he gets aboard about three pints of whiskey, he invariably launches out upon the sea of poetry. His stock of lore in that field is limited, and of ten repeated, inasmuch that the boys in the lobby have it as pat as he has, with his innumerable blunders. One of his favorite figures is "Ereus song," a Greek name for "Syrion song." His drunken allusion of himself on Monday night, in the House, was the subject of general remark.

The Legislative Assembly adjourned Tuesday evening until the 30d of January.—The Council has transacted all the business that has thus far been brought before it, we believe, though but few bills have been introduced into that body. In the House, the usual number of bills and memorials have been introduced, but little business has been transacted. The agitation of the seat-of-government question has blocked everything else there. It was taken up during its order, quarrelled over during the usual sittings, through night sessions, and once from 9 o'clock to 10 P. M., without recess.

APPLES ON THE OTHER SIDE.—In the N. Y. and Boston markets, choice fall apples have this year been worth from \$1 75 to \$3 00 per barrel, while poorer sorts command \$1 50. The best winter apples brought \$3 50. In most of the transactions the dealers paid the farmers from \$1 75 to \$1 87 per barrel.

In Oregon, apples have been worth from \$6 00 to \$10 per bushel. Mr. Wesley Shannon, of this county, has this season sold from his orchard about \$6,000 worth of apples. Gen. Lovejoy, of Clackamas, has realized that, or a larger sum, for his crop.

The last issue of the *Oregonian* contains an editorial correspondence from Salem, in which the charge of incapacity is made against Mr. Pyle, clerk of the House. The charge is wilfully and maliciously false, and it comes with a very bad grace from such an ignoramus as Dryer. Mr. Pyle is an efficient and competent clerk, and discharges his duties faithfully and promptly. No one will ever question Dryer's capacity for bad whiskey who has seen him drink.

Mr. Walter Forward, of this county, has been appointed U. S. Marshal for Oregon, in place of John McCracken, resigned. A good appointment. He is county surveyor of Marion, competent for the post, a worthy citizen, and a sound democrat. He is a nephew of Walter Forward, of Pennsylvania, and also of Jeremiah S. Black, the present Attorney General, to whom he probably owes his appointment.

MASONIC INSTALLATION.—At a regular communication of Salem Lodge No. 4, A. F. & A. M., held on Friday evening last, Dec. 24th, the following officers were elected for the ensuing Masonic year: A. M. Belt, W. M.; F. S. Hoyt, S. W.; J. Donaldson, J. W.; J. M. Shepherd, Sec.; R. M. May, Treas.; H. Gordon, Tyler.

RECALLED.—We learn that orders were received by the last mail from the War Department, recalling Gen. Harney from Oregon to the Department of the West, and that he will proceed across the plains by a northern overland route, as soon as spring is sufficiently open.

FURTHER SURE THROAT.—This epidemic prevails in several portions of Oregon, and generally with fatal effects. Under our ordinary head will be found an announcement of five deaths occurring from it, in one family. A mournful record.

OUR ADMISSION.—Our letters by this mail speak confidently of the early admission of Oregon at the present session; some of them also confirm the opinion we last week expressed, concerning the cause of the failure of the bill in the House last session.

We have letters from Mr. Grover. He had gone to Maine, to visit "the old folks at home," after an absence of eight years, but would be in Washington before the commencement of the session of Congress.

John Owen has been appointed sub-Indian Agent to the Cayuse Indians, in place of Wm. Craig, removed. Wesley B. Gosnell has been appointed sub-agent for Puget Sound, in place of Bolos, killed by the Indians.

Col. Farrar, of Portland, who went to the Atlantic States, last spring, returned to Oregon on a late steamer. We are inclined to think his rumored resignation, published in the *San Francisco Herald*, is "gammon."

THANKS.—Gov. Stevens, of Washington Territory, has our thanks for a copy of the U. S. Official Register, 1857, and for other valuable documents.

Hon. A. M. Berry, member of the Council for Jackson and Josephine, arrived here on Wednesday. The Douglas, Umpqua, Coos and Curry member is still absent.

Mr. James Allen, of Dallas, Polk Co., has lost three children recently from the effects of parotid-sore-throat.

Mr. Bristow, Senator from Lane Co., who has been dangerously ill, is recovering, and is now out of danger.

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LETTER FROM HON. DELAZON SMITH.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 18, 1858.

FRANK BUSH.—Mr. Grover and myself arrived in New York on the 12th, and I reached Washington on the 15th inst. Mr. G. has gone to New England to visit his friends.

Ten days before reaching Panama I was confined to my bed with fever. On arriving at Panama I was too ill to proceed to New York, I therefore remained at Panama two weeks; and for ten days I was unable to leave my bed—for about a week my life was despaired of—I was brought very near death's door. My good friend Grover remained with me, extending every possible attention, and affording me every aid in his power. I am under a thousand obligations to him.

I left Aspinwall for New York on the 3d inst, in a very feeble state of health, but—thanks to kind friends, good physicians, nurses and an all-good Providence—my former good health is again quite restored.

I had intended to visit the Western States before the meeting of Congress, but in consequence of detention on the way and the fact that Gen. Lane telegraphed to me, on my arrival in New York, that the interests of our State required my presence here, I concluded to postpone my visit to the West until after the adjournment of Congress in March.

I perceive that a part of the newspaper press of Oregon are opposing our admission as a State, and for obvious reasons; and another portion are predicting our defeat. The Oregon papers seem determined to mix our application up with "Kansas." And yet here nobody really expects Kansas to trouble Oregon this winter; and here nobody doubts the admission of Oregon. Let me predict that Oregon will be a State within the Union by the time this letter reaches you! I have conversed freely with members of Congress, editors, newspaper reporters, and many others, since I arrived in New York, in regard to our admission, and I have yet to meet the first man who is opposed to our speedy admission! Every body here speaks of Oregon as a State, as much so as though she was already in the Union. It is reserved for a portion of the California press and a small California press in Oregon, to oppose our admission. In neither case is public opinion represented. Three-fourths of the people of Oregon have declared, in the most deliberate manner, that they want a State government; and the people of California want Oregon in the Union, and for the most obvious reasons; and whilst the two Senators and the two Representatives from that State are divided upon other questions, all four are zealously advocating the admission of Oregon, either the President or any member of his Cabinet will oppose our admission. The Committee on Territories in the House will report the Senate bill for our admission back to the House at an early day in the session, with a recommendation that it pass—and it will pass, or I am greatly deceived. But, enough of this; time will tell.

It is impossible to tell whether our war debt will be paid this winter or not. The Secretary of War in his annual report, will renew his recommendation in favor of our claims and urge upon Congress the justice of our demands; and the propriety of payment. The chief obstacle in our way is an empty Treasury. But, if we are admitted, it is probable that the ex-Governor of California will be appointed to the office of Secretary of War, and he will be up again soon. He is on the mend.

The indications now are that there will be a very large emigration to Oregon and Washington Territories in the spring. So mote it be.

Major Ben McCulloch, who so satisfactorily discharged the duties of a Peace Commissioner to the Mormons last summer, starts for Arizona, on Government business, within a few days, probably to the Salt Lake, for new military posts designed to be established in that region.

A dispatch from St. Louis, dated Nov. 25, says that a battle was fought between the Crow and Snake Indians, near the South Pass, on the 29th October, in which ten of the Crow Indians were killed.

Hon. Thomas L. Harris, recently elected to Congress from the Sixth District in Illinois, died.

Senor Antonio Jose de Yrizarri, one of the Ministers from the Republic of Nicaragua to the Government of the United States, has sued the proprietors of the *New York Times* for libel, laying damages to his charge at \$25,000.

The Bermuda papers contain full particulars of the ravages committed by the late storm on the island, including many interesting incidents.

A United States steamer, the *Albatross*, has repaired for repairs afforded direct evidence of the fury of the gale at sea.

Leit McCann, U. S. N. master of the Sabine, furnished a narrative of the rise and progress of the cyclone in which the Sabine was caught, with reports of the sufferings endured by some other vessels.

The Sabine excited the admiration of the islanders, and her presence in their waters caused an animated canvass of the actual relations of the United States Government and the President of Paraguay.

We find in the New York papers various speculations of the prospects of the Pacific Railroad and Secretaries' reports. We give the following: It is understood that the President will in his message recommend Congress to provide for the construction of a railroad through the Territories, to connect California with the Atlantic States, leaving it to the States on either side to make the connection entirely across the continent.

The practicability of the El Paso route having been demonstrated by the successful operations of the Overland Mail Company, Texas has already provided for a road to El Paso, and will do more if necessary. California would desire to have provisions to connect at its Southern limits. Such views, and other considerations as pertinent, will be submitted to the President by the Secretary of War. The President has no preference of route beyond what facts demonstrate as the one most practicable.

The President will take strong ground in his message on the Nicaragua question, and the ratification of the Cass-Yrizarri treaty, and no combinations of European Powers will be allowed to injure the interests of the nation who must use these isthmus routes in its domestic trade a hundred-fold more than all the rest of the world together.

The opinion of those in the confidence of the Administration, is that the President will recommend the adoption of the tariff of 1846. He is decidedly opposed to putting a duty upon tea and coffee.

Secretary Cobb is said to be against any augmentation of the tariff, but will have to yield or quit his post.

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For contingencies in the Army.....25,000

Total.....\$8,066,900

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Latest News.

The steamer Columbia arrived at Portland on the 23d inst., bringing dates from San Francisco to Dec. 18th, from New York to Nov. 20th, and from New Orleans to Nov. 20th. From our exchanges we gather the following summary of news:

A lot of Oregon apples, 854 boxes in all, sold in San Francisco, Dec. 9th, at from 17 to 28 cts. per pound, averaging 23 to 30 cts. A choice lot of the same apples sold for 30 cts. per pound. The coldest weather ever experienced in California has been within the present month. Snow fell in some of the mountain towns to the depth of a foot, and in some places the snow was frozen over. A man named Miller was frozen to death near Stockton on the night of the 4th Dec.

A child named O'Dowd, in San Francisco, gave a young man named Bradley a dose of poison by mistake, which produced death in a few hours. O'Dowd, upon learning the fact, swallowed a quantity of prussic acid and was found dead in his room.

A party of farmers and ranchmen on King's river, in Idaho county, recently carried off a quantity of Indian and removed them to the reservation. The Indians had been stealing and killing cattle.

The tales on the San Joaquin river, some miles below Stockton, have been on fire for several days past. The high winds of Thursday and Friday drove the flames over a vast extent, and the acute fire spread rapidly, and the smoke was so dense that it was impossible to see more than a few rods in any direction. There is now over half a million of dollars in the State Treasury. A considerable portion of this amount will be required to pay the coupons which are due on the State debt, on the first of January.

Gen. M. G. Vallejo, it is said, has obtained over 6,000 gallons of wine from his vineyard, this season. O'Dowd, upon learning the fact, swallowed a quantity of prussic acid and was found dead in his room.

A dispute dated St. Louis, Nov. 17th, announced the arrival of Senator Broderick in that city. He left Salt Lake City Oct. 1st, and encountered a great deal of snow and severely cold weather on the mountains. On reaching the stage, some distance west of Kansas City, Mr. Broderick had a rib broken, and was otherwise severely injured. He also had a foot frozen while passing over the mountains.

The friends of Senator Douglas had a grand celebration in Chicago on the 17th Nov., in honor of the result of the recent State election. Besides the citizens, there were present large numbers of visitors from different parts of the State, the whole number in attendance being estimated at from ten to twenty thousand. The procession, which might be described as a grand and magnificent one, was a mile and a half long. Many buildings along the line of march were splendidly illuminated. At the Tremont House, the friends of Douglas were gathered, and a speech was called out by his friends, and responded in a short speech, congratulating the Democracy on their victory. The official program for the day, was the election of Douglas as Senator, and the election of Broderick as State Treasurer. 373 votes. The total vote of Daugherty, the Administration candidate for the same office, is only 5021.

The *New York Times* announces that the government have determined to order General Harney from the Oregon department to the department of the West. The reason assigned is that he is deemed no longer necessary in Oregon. It will be ordered by the Secretary of War to order General Harney, when he returns, to come with a force of 500 men, to the Oregon coast, where he may be ordered, by a overland northern route. It is said such a force, starting in May, would have no difficulty, as settlements and posts were scattered over the mountains, in a few hundred miles or so. Besides, it would have an excellent effect upon the numerous tribes of Indians who inhabit the frontier, and facilitate the opening of that region.

The *Times* correspondent says, that the Department has no idea of withdrawing all the troops from the Oregon coast, and that the proposition styled the Department of Oregon, will be continued, and as I said, under the command of Colonel Wright, who has so successfully conducted the operations in that region.

Governor Stevens is pressing on the War Department the necessity of retaining a large military force on the Pacific, in order to maintain the advanced position of the United States.

The last Legislature of Minnesota, which was Democratic, passed an act that its successor should not assemble in two years, unless called to do so by the State Legislature. It is very evident that the Legislature is republican, which renders it exceedingly probable that Governor Sibley will never call it together at all.

Judge Eckles, having in charge Henrietta Pollock, who was executed from the Mormons on a writ of *habeas corpus*, at the request of the British Government, has arrived at St. Louis. This girl fled from Gloucester, England, four years ago.

The President has tendered the appointment of Gen. Harney to the office of Secretary of War, Ohio. Col. Medary telegraphs that he will accept the Government.

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