OREGON STATESMAN.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1859.

The Difference Between Oregon, and Minnesota and Kansas.

It will be recollected that the Oregon admission bill went to the House from the Senate on the 20th of May, and slept there undisturbed, until June 5th, just at the close of the session, when, on motion of Mr. Stephens, it was referred to the Territorial Committee, where it slept the balance of the session. Gen. Lane never raised his voice in support of it, or in inquiry after it. His name does not appear upon the journals at all in connection with the bill. We have heretofore mentioned that the bill should not have been referred to the committee at that late day in the session, and that the only effect and object of such reference was to quietly smother the bill. We are firmly convinced that such was the case.

We have been induced to examine the files of the *Congressional Globe* to see what course was pursued in the House with the Minnesota and Kansas (Lecompton) bills, both of which, like ours, first passed the Senate. We find that *none of these bills were ever referred to the Committee on Territories at all.* And, although, like ours, they did not go to the House at the very close of the session, they were not suffered *to sleep sixteen days* before *any* action was had upon them.

The Minnesota bill was received in the House on the 8th of April, and on the 15th of April Mr. Stephens moved to take up the bill: Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, asked "what is the gentleman's purpose when the bill is taken up?" Mr. Stephens replied:

"It is my wish that it should be put upon its passage, if the House takes it up. However, it is for the House to do what it pleases. I want it passed. I see no reason why the admission of Minnesota should be any longer delayed."

A motion to go into committee of the whole on the state of the Union, was made by Mr. Goode. The Speaker decided that this motion had precedence of Mr. Stephen's, and the House voted to go into committee of the whole. On the 17th of April Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, introduced a substitute for the Minnesota bill. On the 3d of May Mr. Stephens gave notice that on the next day he should move to take up the Minnesota bill. On the 4th of May the bill was taken up and discussed at length; *the Minnesota Delegate*, Mr. Kingsbury, *taking an active part in the discussion, and urging the passage of the bill.* On the 5th of May, on motion of Mr. Stephens, the bill was again taken up and discussed at considerable length, and laid over until the morrow, at the request of Mr. Stephens, who said he wished to make a speech upon it before the final vote was taken. May 6th Mr. Ste[illegible] had a second postponement of the bill one day, as he was not prepared to make his remarks; but others discussed the bill for several hours. On the 8th of May Mr. Stephens said, as the House would not be in session on the next day, (Saturday,) and as Monday was "suspension day," he moved that the Minnesota bill stand over, and be set apart for Tuesday; agreed to. May 11th the bill was again considered, and passed; yeas 157, nays 38.

It will be noticed that the bill never went to the Committee on Territories, nor was it suffered to sleep in the House; it was kept moving every day or two, until it passed. Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, moved a substitute for it, which was voted down. Mr. Bingham, of Ohio, moved an abolition substitute for our bill, and our Delegate let it go to the committee with the bill, without a word of objection.

In the same way the Lecompton Constitution was kept moving in the House, until it was finally disposed of. March 23d it passed the Senate; March 25th it was first referred to in the House, by Mr. Stephens, who asked that a day be fixed for its consideration; March 26th Mr. Smith, of Virginia, made a long speech in support of the Kansas bill in committee of the whole, though the deficiency bill was under consideration; April 1st the bill was considered, and the Montgomery amendment adopted; April 7th message received from Senate informing the House that the Senate had disagreed to said amendment; April 8th House resolved to adhere to its amendment; April 14th House was notified that the Senate still disagreed; April 16th a committee of conference was appointed, which committee reported the English bill, which passed the House on the 30th of April.

That is the difference between a faithful support of a bill, and "urgently requesting that admission be postponed," as Mr. Cox says the Oregon delegate did.

The *Times* says that it required the unanimous consent of the House to take the Oregon bill from the files; we have not the rules of the House before us, but we know this, without having them; that rules are made to facilitate business, not to defeat it; and we know where there is a majority in Congress for any bill, and that bill has an *earnest, vigilant friend*, that *there is some way, under the rules, that that bill can be reached and passed.* And to account for the loss of the Oregon bill *upon technicalities*, will be an uphill business before the people of Oregon.

We know that members of Congress help one another; that when one leaves them, his friends all *wish him a return;* when they get in, it is themselves against any whom the people attempt to supplant them with. And, we shall not be surprised to find, that Gen. Lane may get some sort of excuses from some members, endeavoring to explain away the delinquency. But before he can convince the people of Oregon that he performed the duty of a faithful representative, *he must blot out the journals of the last session of Congress. They are witnesses which can't be explained away.* Let us suppose a strictly parallel case: If the people of any county of Oregon had an important measure before the Oregon Legislature; if they had a representative in the House, but none in the Senate; if their bill passed the Senate, through the efforts of a member from another county; if it went to the House about a month before the adjournment, lay there quietly uninquired about for more than half of that month, and then was referred to a committee, and never heard of again,—if their member never named the bill in the House; never asked that it be taken up; never opposed its going to a committee; never in the House asked that the committee be required to report it back; let the session close, without mentioning the subject of the bill;—if their member was to do this, and their bill was to take this course, and be thus lost, we apprehend that, he would find it difficult to convince the people of his county that he did his duty in reference to their measure; we apprehend that it would take a good many explanations and excuses from other members, who might wish to see him returned, to satisfy them! It all went do! It is as clear as sunlight, that Gen. Lane did not earnestly support the Oregon admission bill at the last session of Congress.

Our Admission—Prediction Verified.

By reading our Congressional and other news it will be noticed that plans were on foot to embarrass the Oregon admission bill in the House with the Kansas issue, coupling them together and forcing them to the same fate. This is precisely the course our Washington correspondent predicted the bill would take, in announcing its *mysterious* failure at the last session, immediately after the adjournment thereof.

From the intelligence received by this mail, we have no doubt the Senate bill encountered a warm opposition in the House, and possibly was there amended by tacking to it an enabling act for Kansas. There appears to have been no serious opposition to the admission of Oregon, *per se*, but simply a determination on the part of the black republicans to make it share the fate of Kansas—to go in or remain out with her. At the last session, it would not have encountered this opposition, for Kansas was not before the House, after our bill went there, and had not been for near a month.

We are still of the opinion that the State of Oregon will be admitted before the close of the present session of Congress, though the result is not unattended with doubts. But, we are strongly inclined to believe we shall go in before the adjournment, on the 4th of March.

It does not appear that the bill had been reported at last dates—Dec. 24—but the committee had ordered it to be reported, and a report has undoubtedly been made.

Presuming our admission will take place this session, it will certainly transpire too late in the session to permit our delegation to do anything in behalf of the war debt. [illegible] time and attention will be absorbed in procuring the admission. It is not, under the circumstances, to expect an appropriation for the payment of our "scrip" this year. We subjoin the following pertinent extract from our Washington correspondence, referred to above:

Your State admission bill, which was passed through the Senate by the efforts of Mr. Douglas, Chairman of Committee on Territories, failed in the House, *and from what cause I am unable to tell. Its passage through that body, after it passed the Senate ordeal, was regarded as certain here, and over the country, and how it came not to be acted upon in the House I have not heard.* It was not called up there I believe. After its passage in the Senate, where you had no representative and "friend at court," I supposed it would certainly go through the House, where you were represented. It was subject to be called up there by a majority vote at any time, in the same manner in which it was taken up in the Senate. I think there was no great opposition to it in the House, and that coming from impracticables and extremes mostly from abolition States.

This failure must be regretted by the Orgonians, for it will leave them in a state of betweenity and uncertainty very perplexing, if not detrimental to their interests. But, it is an ancient maxim that "it is an ill wind that blows nobody good," which will probably apply in your case. While you may regret the omission of the House to concur in the passage of the bill, you call console yourself that the unlooked for failure will be some advantage to your Delegate, in case the State is admitted at the next session. It is presumed here that Gen. Lane will be one of the U. S. Senators, and in that case he will draw mileage and pay, amounting to over $8000, per session, both in the capacity of Delegate and Senator at the next session, (in case you go in then,) making him the comfortable little sum of about seventeen thousand dollars, as his pay and milage for the next three months session. And, if he should chance not to be chosen to the Senate, he would then be Delegate at the commencement of the next session, entitling him to full pay and mileage, while the man who shall be elected will lose nothing; that will in part compensate your people for their disappointment in not going into the Union.

I regard it as unfortunate that your admission bill did not pass both houses at this session, and become a law, *for I believe it could have been much easier got through now than at the next session. Everbody, in and out of Congress, expected its passage now, circumstances favored it now, and this seemed to be the propitious time.* Kansas, with no more, if as much, population as you have, had been admitted conditionally, and thereby the want of population objection was answered. It was thus met in the Senate, and Senators urged as a reason why Oregon should not be required to have population sufficient to entitle her to a representative in the lower branch under the general ratio, that Kansas was not thus required. Northern and Western and some Southern Senators urged this, and other Southern Senators, magnanimously admitted its force and justice, and for that reason accorded their support. But there is a growing sentiment in Congress against the future admission of small states, and in favor of requiring all hereafter to possess population sufficient to entitle them to at least one representative. Gen. Quitman endeavored to embody this sentiment in the shape of a law. This sentiment was made manifest in the debate in the Senate on the Oregon bill, and a general willingness to adopt that rule after Oregon was placed on an equal footing with Kansas, was evinced on both sides. I anticipate that the reckless agitators outside of Kansas, who hope to keep up that excitement, and keep that question open, and to elect upon it a black republican President in 1860, will be able to defeat the English proposition before the Kansas people, and that throws her back under the representative population provision, by the very terms of the English bill. *And there is danger that at the next, and short session that it will be successfully urged that Oregon ought to be brought under the same rule Kansas will then be subjected to. At any rate, the position of Kansas now made for you; in all human probability it will then make heavily against you.* You will get the returns of the Kansas election in about a month. Do not conclude that I dispair of your admission at the next session *though the chances against you then as compared with those of the session just closed, will be as ten to one.* That session will also be a short one, and full of business.

NEWS.—We will regard it as a special favor if the readers of the *Statesman* in both of the Territories will, from time to time furnish us any incidents and occurrences of public interest, happening in their several localities. Write us an account of the same at once, and send it to us by the first mail, or other opportunity. We are always thankful for such information.

RENCOUNTER IN THE HOUSE.—On Saturday, about 12 M., Mr. Lasater, of Marion, in addressing the House upon a resolution ordering the printing of report of Indian War Claim Commission, characterized some statement of Mr. Dryer, of Multnomah, as "false"—repeating "it is false, and he knows it." Mr. Dryer said something about "settling that outside of the House." Mr. Lasater turned to him and replied he was "prepared to settle it in the House or out of the House; anywhere and in any manner." He then proceeded, repeating, "when that gentleman (Dryer) says Democratic members have been fairly or correctly reported in the *Oregonian*, he utters what is false, and he knows it." Mr. Dryer interrupted him, saying he never took a challenge from a blackguard. Mr. Lasater proceeded—"he is a blackguard, and he knows that." Mr. Dryer threw an inkstand at him, hitting, but not hurting him, at which Mr. Lasater rushed upon him, aiming a blow at his head. Mr. Dryer dodged under, and eluded it. Mr. Lasater then clinched, the crowd rushed about them and they were parted, without much injury having been done. During the melee the House adjourned. Mr. Dryer went immediately to his room, and returning, went up street. About fifteen minutes after the difficulty in the House, Mr. Lasater, in going to his hotel, encountered Mr. Dryer in front of Mr. Mark's store. Mr. Dryer made an attempt to strike him with his cane, but inflicted no injury. Mr. Lasater instantly clinched him, rushed him into the store, where a scuffle ensued. The result of which was, Mr. Dryer was pretty roughly used, his face badly bruised and cut, and his eyes blackened and bunged. Dryer cried "take him off," whereupon the sergeant-of-arms of the last House took him off. Mr. Lasater was not marked or injured. It is a melancholy spectacle to see a man of Mr. Dryer's age involved in such a difficulty, even when commenced by himself, and we sincerely pity his misfortune, as we doubt not does Mr. Lasater. But, it is the almost universal testimony of the House that he deserved all that befel him. He has been very abusive of Mr. Lasater during the whole session, and many others, upon the floor. With his accustomed recklessness, he has uttered his slanders as though he was without responsibility; has seemed to regard himself as a privileged libeler.

Mr. Lasater was in his seat, as usual, after dinner. Mr. Dryer did not again make his appearance in the House.

WATCHES.—The only watch manufactory in the U. S. has been recently started at Waltham, Massachusetts; and it is the only manufactory in the world where the insides or "movements" of a watch are made by machinery. One hundred and thirty men are employed, and thirty watches per day turned out. The business is very profitable. Three styles [illegible] cheapest costing about $20, and the highest $[illegible]. This without the case, which is additional and may be made in the factory in any desirable style, even to an aggregate cost of $200 for the complete watch, though few beside those of silver are now manufactured. All the different parts of the watch, even to the smallest details, are made so uniformly alike, that they may be indiscriminately exchanged, or the loss of any part supplied by order from the factory. The manufacture so far consists principally of the "movements," which are sold to be cased elsewhere, according to the fancy of the retailer, or purchaser.

THE MEMBER FROM MULTNOMAH BEFORE THE FIGHT.

DALLAS.—At Dallas, the county seat of Polk county, a thriving and substantial town has grown up within the past two years. It has a pleasant location, and is a pretty little village. At Eola, also, there has been a decided improvement during the past season. A number of business houses, and a large number of neat residences have been constructed. At Independence, and Monmouth too, we understand the recent increase of business has been considerable. Polk county, for its size, is second to no county in Oregon. Their assessor's return exhibits the greatest amount of wealth, in proportion to its population, of any of the counties of the Territory.

IN OR OUT?—So far as we have been able to gather public opinion, since the arrival of the last mail, the belief is most common that Oregon will not now be admitted into the Union. That the Kansas bill will successfully obstruct the Oregon bill. We do not concur in the opinion. There was unquestionably some doubt about the matter, at last dates, but we think we shall go in.

☞ Robert Hanna of Indianapolis, Ind., an ex-U. S. senator and the last surviving member of the first Indiana constitutional convention in 1816, was killed recently walking on the track of the Peru and Indianapolis railroad.

FIRE.—The *Sentinel* says the residence of Dr. McCully, at Jacksonville, was destroyed by fire on the 26th ult. The family had barely time to escape, and did not save even their clothing. Loss reported at $2,000.

PARDONED.—Rodney M. Backus, formerly of Oregon, sentenced to 2½ years confinement in California penitentiary, for manslaughter, has just been pardoned by Gov. Weller.

☞ Mr. John Herren has thanks for a sample of blackberry wine, a good article.

WISCONSIN STATE HOUSE.—The citizens of Madison, the capital of Wisconsin, have been indulging in a little sharp practice respecting the State House. The old building, 50 feet by 160, built in the primitive days of log cabins, became incommodious to the public business and an eye sore to the good people of Madison, through whose instrumentality, and under an offer of $50,000 in bonds, a simple *extension* was authorized by a reluctant legislature. A magnificent wing, larger than the original building, in the form of a semi-eclipse, has therefore been built on one side for the Assembly Hall, the city of Madison promptly paying its $50,000 and the State the other $35,000; and now, because the thing looks badly every way, it is proposed that the state shall go ahead alone, erect a corresponding wing on the other side for a Senate chamber, lengthen out the old building by additions of fifty feet at each end, and then tear down the old walls and leave in the centre a rotunda surmounted by a dome! It will probably cost the state a half million before the job is done; but the Madison people say, "the old building will look *so* much better!" They probably recollect the story of the boy who repaired his jacknife by first adding a new handle, and then putting in a new blade—insisting that it was the same old knife still.

☞ The neutral paper at Eugene City has been discontinued, and a black republican journal, called the *People's Press*, started upon its ruins, B. J. Pengra, editor. The editorial columns, of the first issue, evince some talent, more than those of any of the other Oregonopposition papers; but an utter contempt is manifested for certain musty rules laid down for the form of speech by one Lindley Murray. The *Press* apparently intends to side with the *Airgoose* wing of the opposition. Dryer is not making any headway with his "people's" branch.—"Nary" meeting has been held under his call for "organization," and "public meetings." The straight blacks are unmistakably destined to "head him," and force him to either "tail on," or die from standing out in the cold, alone. Won't somebody furnish Dryer a new tune? The old one has been worn out far more than half a dozen years.

"But, to prosper, pray send me some further supplies,
A set of new types, and a set of new lies."

WASHINGTON TERRITORY.—The Olympia *Pioneer* says the brig *Cyrus*, an old Puget Sound vessel, was wrecked during the late gale, at Port San Juan, Vancouvers Island, and is a total loss—rigging and sails only being saved. Messrs. Mitchell & Stewart, of Olympia, lost a valuable horse. He was attached to a dray, and in the act of being backed round upon the wharf for the purpose of hauling a load of freight therefrom, backed off the wharf, and falling into the bay was drowned.

HABEAS CORPUS.—The prisoners George Freeman and Milton B. Mason, (Black Hawk) confined in the Polk county jail, on charge of obtaining property of [illegible] sued out a writ of *habeas corpus*, alledging that they were committed on insufficient testimony. Judge Boise last week gave the case a hearing, concluded the evidence *was* sufficient, held them to bail in the sum of $1,000 each, in default of which they were recommitted.

BRODERICK AND THE MORMONS.—Senator Broderick, of California, was treated with much consideration by the Mormons, on recently passing through Salt Lake City. They offered him the compliment of a public dinner, in the name of Brigham and the twelve apostles, which he declined, for want of time. When he departed they presented him with a handsome fur cap, lined with silk.

THE MEMBER FROM MULTNOMAH, AS HE APPEARED AFTER THE FIGHT.

☞ We call attention to the letter of Mr. Amis, on our first page. We have no acquaintance with that gentleman, but he reasons sensibly, and concludes wisely. The determination he comes to is both correct and patriotic. We would invite all other "old line whigs" to go and do likewise. Mr. A.'s daguerreotype of the republican party is faithfully accurate.

NOT FIRST RATE WHISKEY.—One of our agricultural friends says he last summer bought a barrel of "choice old Bourbon" "for harvest-hands," of a Portland dealer. On getting it home, he thought he would see how much it contained, and inserted a broom-handle in the bung-hole, for that purpose; upon drawing it out he found the paint upon it had been entirely taken off!

LICENSE.—There has been a spirited contest at Eugene City, between the supporters of license and anti-license, upon application to the county commissioners for license to sell spirituous liquors. The petitioners finally outnumbered the remonstrants, and licenses were granted.

"WHOM GOD HATH JOINED TOGETHER LET NOT MAN PUT ASUNDER."—The House had an evening session on Monday night, continuing till midnight; during which *twelve* divorce bills were passed.

"IT IS NOT GOOD FOR MAN TO BE ALONE."—One of the ladies divorced by the Legislature, has already been again married. She was divorced on the 18th, and remarried on the 19th. Quick work.

HIGH PRICE OF WOOL.—The Boston *Post* says six negro barbers of Indianapolis were fined $7 and costs, each, lately, for shaving the head of another "culled gemman" against his will.

HE WRITES WELL.—The letters of "J. C. S." will be read with interest.

Atlantic News.

Oregon not Yet Admitted.—Danger of Being Yoked to "Bleeding Kansas."

We are indebted to Levison & Co., and J. W. Sullivan, for abundant files of California and Atlantic papers, with N. Y. dates to Dec. 20, and N. O. dates to Dec. 26.

CALIFORNIA.—The California legislature was in session, and Gov. Weller had delivered his annual message. The supreme court of the State has decided that the California China law is unconstitutional.

ADMISSION OF OREGON.—The committee on Territories in the House, on the 17th decided by a vote of five to four, to report the Oregon bill; by the same vote it was decided not to couple it with Kansas. But it is said the Republicans will renew the attempt to couple them in the House. We append all we find upon the subject in all the papers.

Washington, Dec, 7.—Mr. Stephens, of Georgia, has prepared to report, on the first opportunity, a bill for the admission of Oregon into the Union. There is apparently no opposition to the measure. As soon as the Watrous case is disposed of, Mr. Stephens will move to take up the bill for admission.

Dec. 8.—The Democrats have decided to force the Oregon bill through the House without discussion, and without any Kansas addition to it. There will be be a hot contest if they attempt it.

Dec. 14.—The Republicans in the House have determined to make an effort to repeal the English limitation in the Kansas act, so as to put Kansas on an equality with Oregon.

The majority of the House Committee on Territories is against repealing the Oregon bill. The vote to-day in the committee stood four to four. Mr. Zollicoffer, who is opposed to the bill, was absent.

The House Committee on Territories met Dec. 14th, and Mr. Stephens, of Georgia, asked for authority to report a bill for the admission of Oregon, with a recommendation that it pass. It is opposed by the Republicans, who say that they are unwilling to admit Oregon with a population of only forty thousand, while Kansas is refused admission with ninety thousand. The vote stood four in favor of and four against reporting, so the motion was lost, and the committee adjourned till Wednesday, when another report is expected. It is now understood that Mr. Zollicoffer, who is absent, will vote against Mr. Stephen's proposition.

December 17, 1858.

The House Committee on Territories had a meeting this morning, and rejected, by a vote of five against four, Mr. Grow's proposed amendment to the Senate's Oregon bill, to repeal that clause of the English Kansas bill which prohibits the people of Kansas from calling a Convention to form a Constitution until they have a sufficient population for a Representative to Congress according to the Federal ratio. The bill, as it came from the Senate, was then ordered to be reported. It will probably be reported after the Watrous case is disposed of, which will take some days.

Dec. 17.—The House Committee on Territories met this morning and authorized their chairman to report the Oregon admission bill, which he will do as soon as committees are called. The republicans intend to embarrass the bill by loading it down with amendments.

Dec. 18.—The Republicans in the House have determined to make an effort to repeal the English limitation in the Kansas act, so a as to put Kansas on an equality with Oregon. They maintain that the same rule should be applied to a Republican as to a Democratic State.

There appears to be a majority in the House Committee on Territories against reporting the Oregon bill of admission; and doubtless some fears of the ghosts of "Bleeding Kansas," and "Popular Sovereignty," and "Dred Scott," are at the bottom of this mystery. Thus the probabilities are that Oregon and Kansas, and the whole Territorial imbroglio will be kept in the background till the end of the session.—*N. Y. Herald.*

The bill, in the hurry and excitement of a closing session, did not get through, and so Oregon was not admitted. There was not, apparently, any sectional or political obstacle; but the uncertainty as to the extent of population was considered a grave objection, and will undoubtedly be the basis of any opposition, during the present session. It is said that the republicans intend, if Oregon is pressed, to saddle the bill with a strike for the admission of Kansas. Should this be done, the question may possibly prove too knotty and agitating to survive the buncombe which must ensue and come to a settlement during this session.—*Herald.*

CONGRESSIONAL.

Washington, Thursday, Dec. 9, 1858.—In the Democratic Senatorial Caucus to-day, it was decided that Mr. Hunter should be the position he has long held, of head of the Territorial Committee. Jefferson Davis and Slidell led the attack on him in the caucus. There were only seven votes for Douglas. They were thrown by Messrs. Shields, Smart, Clingman, Brown, Toombs, Green, and Bigler. Hammond was not present. Broderick was not invited. These seven Senators protested against the exclusion of Douglas as suicidal to the party. The debate lasted from 10½ in the morning to a late hour this afternoon, with an hour's recess from 12 to 1 o'clock for a session of the Senate. Great bitterness was manifested, and Mr. Toombs left the caucus in disgust, while the dissension was at its hight. The *States* declares that the act will have the most disastrous effect upon the Democratic party; will revive an extinct issue; will encourage Black Republicanism, and give it a renewed assurance of a triumph over the disorganized Democracy. The friends of Douglas are indifferent, thinking the proscription will help him.

In executive session, the Senate confirmed J. Glancy Jones to Austria, and Mr. Preston to Spain, all the anti-Douglas Illinois appointments, and about fifty Postmasters. The treaties with China and Japan were ratified.

Washington, Dec. 18, 1858.—A difficulty occurred between Congressmen English and Montgomery, on Pennsylvania avenue, this morning. They happened to meet for the first time this session, when Mr. English, extending his hand, said, "How are you, Mr. Montgomery?" Mr. Montgomery withheld his own hand, and uttered an insulting expression, something like "I don't speak to puppies;" whereupon Mr. English struck him a severe blow over the head, breaking his cane to pieces and knocking Mr. Montgomery into the gutter, but not entirely down. Mr. Montgomery rising, hurled a brick at Mr. English, striking him on the boot.

In the Senate, December 16th, Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, moved to amend the Arizona bill so as to provide for the election of a Governor, Secretary, Judges and other officers by the people, for the term of two years. Referred to Committee on Territories.

Mr. Faulkner, Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, has brought forward the proposition to increase the regular army, with a view to carry out the President's policy in regard to a protectorate over portions of Mexico.

Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, gave notice that he would introduce a bill providing for the establishment of an emigrant and mail route from the most eligible point in Minnesota to Puget Sound.

In the Senate, Dec. 22, a resolution was adopted calling for information respecting the rights of British subjects in Oregon.

PACIFIC RAILROAD.—Senator Wilson has introduced a Pacific Railroad bill, the provisions of which are substantially as follows:

The President and Senate shall appoint five civil engineers, practically experienced in the laying out and construction of railroads, who, within two years, shall locate the route of a railroad from the Missouri River to San Francisco, through the region between the 34th and 43d parallels.

If the President approves of their decision the railroad, as located by them, shall be built by the Government, under the direction of a Board, to consist of the Secretaries of War and the Interior, the Postmaster-General, and the Attorney-General, who shall contract with the bidders for its construction, in sections of not more than twenty-five miles in length.

Money to build the road shall be raised by loan, as needed, in sums of not more than $10,000,000 annually.

From the passage of the act till the location of the road, all public lands between the aforesaid parallels shall be withheld from sale, but shall be open to pre-emption by actual settlers. After the road is located, the proceeds of the sale of lands, for one hundred and fifty miles on each side, shall constitute a fund for the construction of the road, and the payment of the debt incurred for it.

Mr. Wilson proposes this on the ground that the Pacific Railroad is a public necessity, and that there is no hope that private capital will invest in it. If done at all it must be done by the Government.

The fight for a Pacific Railroad, which must be the characteristic of this session, may be said to have partly commenced, by the endeavors of Mr. Gwin to get his bill considered. The Administration is said to favor the Butterfield overland route.

The Senate, December 23, opened with a payer read by a Catholic priest, in white surplice.

Crittenden introduced a bill to regulate the manner of electing United States Senators, which was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

The *Tribune's* Washington correspondent says Mr. Douglas has prepared, and will soon publish a declaration of his intention not to be a candidate for the Presidency in 1860.

It is reported that Mr. Douglas' letter declining the nomination for the Presidency, of which I telegraphed you a few days since, reiterates his adherence to the Democratic organization, and avows his intention to support the Charleston nominee. He will take an early occasion in the Senate to define his position.

Senator Douglas left New Orleans December 12th, on the steamship Black Warrior, for New York, *en route* to Washington. He was escorted to the steamer by the Mayor and a large concourse of citizens. A salute of one hundred guns was fired; and there was great enthusiasm among the people.

Fifteen prisoners escaped from the jail in Rochester, New York, Dec. 12th, among whom is Manly Locke, who killed Benjamin Starr at Mendon, in October, 1857. They cut off five iron bars with a saw made of a watch spring, and let themselves down in the Genessee river with the rope with which Ira Stout was hung. They waded some fifteen rods to reach the land. None are recaptured.

The defeat of the bill in the Georgia Senate for the repeal of that clause of the Constitution of the State, prohibiting the African slave trade, is announced.

The *Washington Star*, of Dec. 23d, says a dispatch has been received by the Government, announcing that the schooner Susan had landed her filibusters safely on the coast of Nicaragua.

It is said that the President has heard that another expedition of filibusters are about to leave this country for Nicaragua, and that he has taken measures to stop them.

It is reported that the Government has received dispatches from New Orleans, giving information concerning another filibustering expedition being about to leave that city.

The federal officers of New Orleans and the naval officers will be immediately instructed to suppress it.

The Superintendent of the Trinity Bay station of the Atlantic Telegraph has telegraphed to the directors at New York, Dec. 21, that he finds an electric current passing through the cable to-day, and has been able to get intelligible signals from Valentia station, as also one or two distinctly recognized words.

Ex-Governor Foote of Mississippi has settled himself in the law business at Vicksburg.

Mr. English will shortly introduce in the House a bill providing for the future admission of States into the Union.

Col. Forney, in a letter to *The Press*, says that he has the best reasons for saying that the President counseled the attack on the Senator from Illinois, recently developed in the construction of the Senate's Committee on Territories.

Gerrit Smith has been ciphering up his expenses in the late election, and estimates that his votes cost him about $4 each.

The Legislature of South Carolina, on the 10th of December, elected, on joint ballot, Colonel William H. Gist, of Union District, Governor of South Carolina, for the succeeding term of two years.

It is said that Hon. James B. Clay, of Kentucky, has written a letter delining to be a candidate for re-election to Congress.

It seems pretty certain that Mr. Hunter, of Virginia, will be the Administration candidate for the nomination of the Charleston Convention. The President has recently expressed himself strongly in favor of Hunter's nomination.

John H. Brownson, Esq., a leading lawyer of St. Paul, Minnesota, and a son of O. A Brownson, editor of *Brownson's Review* of Boston, met with a terrible death at St. Paul, on the 4th of December. His dead and mangled body was found on the morning of the 5th, he having jumped from his office window some eighty feet. Having been subject to somnambulism, it is supposed that he arose from his sleep in the night, and while in that condition, made the the fearful and fatal leap.

Heenan has written to the *New York Tribune*, challenging Morissey "for any sum up to $10,000, at any reasonable time he may name—a challenge which, if he has the spunk of a man, he cannot decline after his recent vaunting. The challenge which I thus throw down to Mr. Morissey, in case his prudence should get the better of his valor, I extend to the whole world. I am ready to fight any man in Europe or America for any reasonable sum up to $10,000."

MORMONDOM.—A minority of each branch of the Legislature of Utah met at the city of Fillmore on the 13th of December, and adjourned to the 18th, to meet at Salt Lake City.

A quorum being present, Governor Cumming's Message was sent in. The Message is a lengthy and able document, and discusses the former distracted condition of the country. The Governor earnestly prays the people to rely upon the Constitution [illegible] for protection.

One W. Chrisman [illegible] Salt Lake, and is now on trial for the murder of a deaf and dumb boy named Andrew Barnard, alias Dummy. The trial is going on before Judge Sinclair, of the United States District Court. Kirk Anderson's *Valley Tan*, the Gentile paper, says it is an atrocious murder, and implicates the Mormons, while the *Deseret News* justifies the killing.

The Indians are peaceable along the route, and the roads are in good order.

MOUNT VERNON.—On the 2d Miss Ann Pamelia Cunningham, the regent of the "Mount Vernon Ladies Association," caused to be paid to John A. Washington the sum of *fifty-seven thousand dollars*, with interest thereon, the said sum being the amount due on the first instalment.

KANSAS SEAT GOVERNMENT.—The Legislature of Kansas were required to fix upon a permanent seat of government before any congressional appropriation for the erection of public buildings could be made available. The seat was fixed in 1855 at Lecompton, and the money appropriated was for that purpose expended. In April last, the free state legislature passed a law over the governor's veto changing the seat of government to Minneola. At the request of Governor Denver, a decision on the subject has recently been given by Attorney General Black, which is that this law is void The seat, therefore, must be at Lecompton, at least during the existence of the territorial government, for the reason stated. The money having been thus conditionally appropriated and expended, the change would be a violation of the act of Congress and a fraud on the United States.

Mistakes Corrected.

PORTLAND, Oregon, Jan. 15, 1859.

MR. EDITOR:—The *Advocate* devotes to my letter in the *Statesman* of January 3d, a notice nearly twice as long as it gives to the President's Message, extracts, comments and all! That notice characterizes my letter as "unfair," "disingenuous," "wanton injustice," "detraction," &c. A prominent minister of the Oregon Conference, not 50 miles from Salem, was lately heard to assign, as a reason for wishing for another great Eastern Revival, that it would *annihilate the Democratic party!* Perhaps the Advocate-man thinks his hard words ought to have the same effect on me. The conclusion is, in both cases alike, a *non sequiter*. As Christians, however, are directed not to revile when reviled, I shall not bandy railing for railing with the *Advocate*, but merely ask intelligent men to read my letter and his strictures on it, and then judge for themselves who is most guilty of the charges so sweepingly preferred against me.

The *Advocate* is much wounded, because the suffix *North* is employed to distinguish the Northern from the Southern Methodist Church. It charges me as though I had used the term as a part of the *legal* name of the M. E. Church. I said no such thing. I used the word *North*, not as the name *in law*, but the name *in fact*, employed by the common sense of mankind to distinguish one branch of the Methodist Church from the other. The unreasonableness of the *Advocate's* sensitiveness may thus be illustrated:—Thomas P. begets a son, and maternal partiality names the youngster Thomas, after his father. In process of time the child's mother dies, and Thomas P., now a lusty widower, becomes anxious to marry a rich young *Southern* heiress. Of course, any allusion to *age*, he regards as an invidious personality. Years roll on, and young Thomas sets up in life for himself. Those having business with both, soon find it convenient to distinguish father and son, as Thomas P. *senior* and Thomas P. *junior*. Thus the neighbors speak of them, among themselves; until one day a luckless wight happens to address the father as Thomas P. *senior*. The old gentleman, now sensible that the very existence of his son calls attention to his own age, and fearing for the heiress, is greatly enraged, and wrathfully exclaims, "Senior, Sir, Senior! my 'legitimate, official name,' that my mother gave me in baptism, is Thomas P., and not *senior*. I'd have you know, sir, I'm not to be 'falsely designated' by a name that makes me old before my time!" Now, Mr. Editor, is not that neighbor justified in regarding Thomas P. Sr. not only as old, but old to hurt, yea, even approaching dotage?

The *Advocate* says that Mr. Berry stated nothing from which it could be inferred that he even *thought* the establishment of the Southern Methodist Church retarded the advancement of christianity on this coast. Yet it immediately adds, premising the very proviso which evidently led Mr. Berry to make his statement. "Not only Mr. B., but others also, would justly *think* so!"

Again, my letter in substance stated that more than 1500 *conversions* had occurred during the past year in the M. E. Church South, in Cal., and that that church eschewed all political agitation. The *Advocate* thereupon assumes that I have charged the M. E. Church North with preaching politics:—admits that its own assumed charge may have "force and apparent truth" in it, and therefore concludes that my letter is "utterly unjust!" Why, Mr. Editor, if he had not been ashamed of it, *Ignatius Loyola*, would have lovingly greeted the author of such glaring sophistry, with an encouraging "bravo, the good of the cause requires it, and the end justifies the means!"

I said that the Church South is free from a certain sin: the *Advocate* will have it, that I therefore charge that sin upon the Church North. Your readers will be reminded of the story of the Englishman and African that were traveling together. Falling into other company, they had to speak of themselves. In describing himself, of necessity, the Englishman said, "I'm a white man." The African took this allusion to "color" as personal, and storming out, "you call me a nigger, do you?" he pitched into the poor Englishman and gave him fits! Now, what could every one think of that African, but that he was an unreasonable, quarrelsome fellow?

With seeming sincerity, Mr. Pearne deprecates as "inevitable" strife and misrepresentation upon the organization of the M. E. Church South, in Oregon. There may be strife, but it is not inevitable. The ministers of the Church South, may confine themselves with singleness of purpose to their legitimate work, the spread of truth and scriptural holiness through the land, and fanaticism, deeming herself aggrieved, and being incapable of understanding the meaning of "live and let live," may stir up a great uproar, and charge it on these ministers. But what then; who will be to blame? It so turned out when St. Paul preached at Ephesus. He preached nothing but the truth as it is in Jesus, yet certain *idol*-worshippers, fearing for their gains and for their goddess that *fell down* from heaven, stirred up a great fuss. They charged it all on Paul too, though they did not give him a chance to open his mouth. But here is comfort;—a flourishing Church was organized at Ephesus, notwithstanding the great uproar which others stirred up and falsely charged on Paul. *Verbum sat.*

J. C. S.

Oregon Legislature.

COUNCIL.—*Thursday, Jan.* 20, *A. M.*—Bills to divorce Jonas Lampheer and Hester Ann Lampheer, to divorce Geo. Kellogg, to divorce Pamelia Taylor, to divorce Mary Culbertson, to divorce Peter Bilyeu, to amend an act to incorporate Dalles City, to establish Butteville Institute, to require the county of Josephine to pay into the Territorial Treasury certain revenue, to incorporate Democrat Gulch Mining and Irrigating Company, bill for the relief of J. H Lewis, and to incorporate the Applegate Ditch Company, were passed. Bill for the divorce of Jno. P. Kennedy was laid upon the table. Mr. PARKER introduced a bill to locate a Territorial road from Boone's Ferry in Clackamas county, to a certain point on the Territorial road leading from Oregon City to Salem. Adj.

HOUSE.—*Thursday, Jan.* 20*th, A. M.*—Bill to incorporate the McKenzie Fork, and Cascade Mountain Wagon Road Company, was taken up and amended. Bill to relocate a Territorial road in Umpqua county, taken up and passed. Bill amending an act providing for the sale of common school lands was reported from the committee on Education—referred. Bills for the relief of Clackamas and other counties, to construct a bridge across Lake Labish, and to legalize a Territorial road from Clackamas River to some point on the Willamette opposite Portland, were passed. Bill to amend an act organizing the militia was taken up and amended. Mr. BONHAM, from committee on Ways and Means, reported bills to provide for the payment of the expenses of the Constitutional Convention, and of the first State Legislature, with amendments, which were adopted. Adjourned.

COUNCIL.—*Afternoon.*—Mr. STEWARD, from committee of conference, on seat of government bill, reported that the committee had failed to agree upon one of the amendments proposed by the Council. The report was laid on the table. Mr. STEWARD introduced a bill to define the civil relations of Charlotte Olney. The rules were suspended and the bill passed. Mr. STEWARD introduced a bill to legalize the town plat of Astoria; also a bill to authorize the construction of wharves at the town of Astoria. The bills were read second time and laid on the table. On motion of M