# The Oregon Statesman.

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The Statesman has a Larger Circulation than any other Paper in the State, and is the Best Medium for Advertisers.

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## THE NEWS.

The dispatches announce no startling results in the east, but their general tenor is hopeful. The plans of the Government seem to be successful at every point, while those of the rebels fail. The reduction of Wilmington, if not already accomplished, soon will be; and we judge, from all appearances, that the fall of Charleston is only a little farther in the future.

The divisions and disagreements among the rebel leaders become every day more apparent. It is now stated that nearly all their Cabinet officers have resigned. Jo Johnston refuses to take command in the South-west, and Lee refuses to assume control of any other army besides his own. The rebel papers, though some of them are as bitter in tone against the Yankees as ever, manifest very evident signs of weakening confidence in the ultimate success of their scheme; and some of them even evince a tendency to shuffle round, as the New Orleans papers did, to a correct position; and we predict that when Richmond falls, more than one of the journals now so fierce in denunciation of Yankees, will be equally as earnest in denouncing the deceivers whose treasonable schemes have brought these great calamities on the Southern people.

An attack on City Point by five rebel ironclads was unsuccessful, and resulted in the destruction or disabling of the whole squadron.

It is stated that Blair has gone to Richmond again, and rumors concerning the nature of his mission are as numerous as before, though nothing definite is known.

We have seen nothing to dispel the hopes we have heretofore expressed, and we think a careful reading of the dispatches will convince any one that the prospect brightens.

PORTLAND ITEMS.—An affray occurred among some Spokane Indians camped near Portland on Saturday night, in which one of the Indians was killed.

A large number of ladies and gentlemen spent considerable time and enjoyed themselves hugely on the skating pond during the freeze.

Miss Lisle Lesser has gone, and publishes a letter in the *Oregonian* complimentary to Oregonians in general and the Portland folks in particular.

Mrs. Pollard, a trance speaking medium from San Francisco, has been lecturing at the Willamette Theater.

The citizens of the Emporium were deprived of their rations of water for several days by the freezing of the pipes.

A new steamer, the Cascade, has been launched in Portland, and is now running between there and Astoria.

BELL RINGERS.—The Blaisdell Brothers performed to crowded houses in this place on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. The performances on the bells must be seen to be appreciated. This music, unlike any other, consists not only in harmony of sounds but also of motions. To see a number of performers all playing different parts, keeping the most perfect time, picking up the bells one after another another in such quick succession as to almost make one's head swim, and always striking the right sound, is a performance worth seeing if merely as a novelty. The bugle and clarionet performances of Mr. Hall, and those on the flute by Mr. Moore richly deserve all the praise that has been bestowed upon them. The ballads by Mr. Hayward are as well selected, as well sung and highly appreciated as those sung during his former visit to our State, and this is all that need be said in their praise. Little Clara's imitations of character are perfect, and those who do not laugh at her "Way down in Maine," and "My Johnny was a Shoema ker" must have lost all their risible tendencies. Taken altogether this troupe undoubtedly gives the best musical entertainment that has ever visited our State. They have generously consented to perform here to morrow evening for the benefit of the Christian Commission, and we hope they will be greeted with an overflowing house.

H. H. BANCROFT & CO.—We are under obligations to this enterprising company for copies of their *Pacific Almanac and Pocket Diary* for 1865. The Almanac contains tables of distances between all important places in Oregon, California, Nevada and the neighboring Territories, and a large amount of historical and statistical information relating to this coast.—The Diary contains a calendar, the laws relative to the collection of debts, stamp duties, and items of information on many subjects.

No business man should be without either of them.

SHIP WRECK.—The British *Colonist* gives particulars of the wreck of the American bark Iwanona off Cape Flattery. She was loaded with lumber from Nesqually, W. T., and bound for San Francisco. She encountered a gale off Cape Flattery and after drifting about for several days went ashore on Nootka Island.—There were ten men on board, only four of whom were saved.

BLOCKADED.—Navigation between Portland and the Cascades was closed last week by ice in the Columbia. On Wednesday the steamers were unable to reach Vancouver.—The passengers for San Francisco were taken to Astoria by the Cascade, the steamer Oregon being unable to reach Portland.

PARDONED.—The President has granted a free pardon to Mr. Tichenor. It will be remembered that he was fined $18,750 by the District Court of Oregon for cuting timber from government lands. This pardon relieves him from this judgment.

SANTIAM GOLD.—Mr. Haas, jeweler of this city, has shown us a heavy gold ring, which we believe is the first specimen of jewelry ever manufactured from Santiam gold.

NEW YORK CROWDED.—New York City is so overflowing with people that the houses are almost unobtainable, and rents are enormous, while the hotels are crowded with boarders at four dollars per day. Furnished houses in select localities rent at prices varying from two hundred to one thousand dollars per month.—Even at these rates, says the *Express*, but few houses can be obtained, and many landlords will not give leases. The tenement-houses are of course crammed full. Mechanics and traders vainly seek for suitable houses for their families. There never was such a time in New York.

## THE OPPOSITION PRESS AND LEGAL TENDER NOTES.

It is amusing to witness the avidity with which the opposition press now and then catch up an out-of-the-way decision against the constitutionality of the Legal Tender Act of Congress, or the shifting, twisting and evasion they resort to for the purpose of warping or perverting some respectable adjudication, not affecting the question, to the support of their cranky crotchets and partisan prejudices. Overlooking, or ignoring the great current of authority and judicial decision in support of the constitutionality of the Act, they industriously parade these sporadic instances of judicial blindness or eccentricity as something important—final—the end of controversy.

A late number of the *Arena* is an illustration of this kind of misleading and false coloring. In it there is a notice of two decisions said to concern greenbacks. They are announced with a sort of funeral, post-mortem air, as much as to say: Ah me! a serious case—all is up with poor legal tenders.

One of these decisions professes to have been made by the Supreme Court of some State out West—Indiana, we believe. If this be true, we think that hereafter the final *a* should be dropped from the name of the reports, or a commercial dictionary placed in the State Library, (handy to the court-room,) with a leaf turned down at the article, *Money*. This case, according to the report in the *Arena*, actually decides that the Act of Congress is unconstitutional, for reasons given as plenty as blackberries, and about as cheap and cogent. But of this more anon.

The second decision quoted by the *Arena* is introduced to the *curia populi*, as "an important decision in reference to legal tender *notes*." It was made by Mr. Justice Grier, of the Supreme Court of the United States, while sitting in the Circuit Court at Philadelphia. The paragraph, by whomever manufactured, was evidently intended to convey a false impression to the public, rather than a report of the case. The statement that the decision was important "in reference to legal tender notes," is wholly untrue, and was manufactured for effect, to breed a doubt, which might in time become an anti-greenback maggot. The statement itself shows that the decision was not about or in reference to greenbacks at all.—The result must have been the same if the plaintiff in the suit had proffered to pay *gold*, simply because he was not seeking to pay a *debt*, but to compel the defendant to sell and relinquish to him an interest in real estate against his will. A word of explanation will make this apparent to any one. In the Atlantic towns settled in the colonial times, as for example Philadelphia, the proprietors, in imitation of the laws and customs of England, granted ground to individuals without price, or at a nominal one, reserving to themselves and their heirs an interest in the property to be paid as an annual rent forever. This is called a rent charge or service, and is popularly known as ground rent. The law deems it an interest springing out of the land and partaking of the nature of the realty, and it is governed by the laws which regulate the sale and descent of real property. When a year's rent becomes due, it is a debt—can be collected by action, and paid in any money which is a legal tender for debts generally. But, in the case before the court, the plaintiff sought to compel the defendant to relinquish, to sell to him this interest in the land for a present sum of money. This being the case, the court very properly held that this rent source or charge was not a debt, but only became so year by year as the annual payment became demandable, and therefore "the defendant could not be compelled to relinquish his estate by a tender of legal tender notes," and neither could he by a tender of *gold* or any other thing. A parallel case may be stated thus: Jones and Hodge are neighbor farmers; Jones wants Hodge's farm, and tenders him a fair price for it in legal tender notes, but Hodge says, No, I don't want to sell. Then Jones commences a suit in Equity to compel the obdurate Hodge to part with his paternal acres to him. Jones. The court having heard the old proverb, that "it takes two to make a bargain," and well knowing that Hodge cannot be compelled to sell his farm against his will, dismisses the suit—and so it would if Jones had tendered *gold*. But straightway some unscrupulous paper-blotter reports the case as gone against greenbacks—legal tender notes refused. And the lying report is picked up by the opposition press, and heralded to the world as something important "in reference to legal tender notes." The case has about as much to do with the constitutionality of the Legal Tender Note Act as it has with the precession of the equinoxes or the extraction of the cube root.

The *Indian* or Indiana case, if genuine, is a green oasis in the anti greenback waste. It decides the act unconstitutional, but, not content with its death, it falls to cursing the congressional corpse like a very drab. Had the court ever had the pleasure of reading the ecclesiastical curse of Ernulphus, the Bishop of Rochester, it might have added variety to its vituperation, but not renown. This judicial anathema of the Legal Tender Act, says, it makes legal tender money of an article without intrinsic value—not coin; it impairs the obligation of contracts; it operates as a fraud upon the public creditors and honest public servants; it enables the Government to make forced loans as oppressive as those of Charles the First; it takes from the citizen his property against his consent and without compensation—to all of which the *Arena* responds heartily, saying, this "reasoning is certainly very forcible and just." These so-called reasons are simply round assertions and are completely answered when as roundly denied. They are all irrelevant to the enquiry, and either untrue in point of fact or gross exaggerations.

But strip them of their mere denunciation and rhetorical coloring, and then admit them to be true for the sake of the argument, does it follow that the Legal Tender Act is unconstitutional? Not by any means. It is not necessary that *money* have any intrinsic value—As known to the law, it is not property, but a medium of exchange, and its value is purely arbitrary and conventional. Congress has the *power* to make a gold coin of the intrinsic value of our eagles or ten dollar pieces, a legal tender for $10,000, or even ten times that sum.—Money can as well be made of copper, leather, paper or iron, as gold, and its value as money depends purely upon the standard fixed by law, and not the intrinsic value of the material of which it is fashioned. What material will best subserve the interests of trade and commerce, and support the public credit, is a question of *policy* and not of *power*—a question for Congress and not the Court. Barbarous people may be said to have no money—the semi-barbarous use barter and precious metals, while civilized people mainly use paper money. In the latter category, we incl de the United States, and the real controversy seems to be whether that paper money shall be a national currency or *Indian*—we beg pardon—Indiana shinplasters. We suppose the Court is for the latter.

The States only are prohibited from passing laws impairing the obligations of contracts, not the United States. Providing the end sought to be accomplished, to make money, be within the power of Congress, its effect upon contracts is immaterial except as a matter of public policy. The court seems to have got badly astray upon this ground of its decision.

All the other reasons of the court are only variations of one proposition, namely, that the introduction of legal tender notes, has affected the standard of values in favor of the debtor and against the creditor. But how does that affect the constitutionality of the act? A buys $1,000 worth of cotton cloth of B, and gives him his note for the amount payable in six months. In the meantime Congress imposes a duty upon cotton cloth which enhances the value 25 per cent. B receives his money, but he cannot replace the cloth with the amount. Is the act imposing the duty thereon unconstitutional? The war has created a necessity for large government expenditures, which necessarily increases the volume of the currency, and this together with the great diversion of labor to the arm to some extent enhances prices. A dollar will buy less than it once did. The debtor may meet his engagements easier than he expected to, and relatively the creditor receives less. How does that affect the constitutionality of the legal tender act? With no more legal tender notes than there were bank notes, then there would be no change in this particular, except for the better, in the greater security and uniform value throughout the country of the latter over the former.—Fluctuations in prices occur incidentally from all kinds of legislation, and this without reference to any particular kind of money being authorized, but the amount of it. The *power* to authorize legal tender notes is involved in the issue of the first, while the amount proper to be put in circulation must always remain a question of public policy or expediency, or even necessity. The relative value of money and articles would be just as liable to change by the addition to the currency of $100,000 in gold coin, as the same amount of paper money. Between the discovery of gold in California in 1848 and the panic of 1857, owing to the continued inflation of the currency by the coinage of gold, every thing marketable rose steadily in value, to the advantage of the debtor and the disadvantage of the creditor. Did this make the law authorizing the gold coinage unconstitutional? When the United States declared war against Mexico, an average pale red ox could be bought in the Platte Purchase for ten dollars. The great expenditure of money occasioned by the war, and particularly in that region, sent the pale red ox up to forty dollars. Now, suppose A had bought such a "cow brute" from B before the war commenced, and given his note payable in ten years for the purchase money. When this note became due, A could sell the ox and pay the note with one-fourth of the price. In other words he would pay the note with one-fourth of what he expected to, and B would relatively receive that much less than he contemplated. With the proceeds of this note he could then only buy one-quarter of a pale red ox. Would this make the act declaring war unconstitutional, and the consequent acquisition of California void? Hardly. Such a conclusion, in so many words, would be too much for even the Indiana Supreme Court, though in principle it differs not a jot or a tittle from the last position, upon which the decision it did make is placed. This disposes of the Hoosier case. It sounds more like a stump speech, a political manifesto, or something of that kind, than a judicial decision. The broad blunder about the "obligation of contracts" betrays an ignorance of the fudamental law in the premises, worthy only of Justice Shallow. We sometimes doubt whether the Supreme Court of Indiana ever passed any such resolutions as those attributed to it in the *Arena*. It may be that the same knavish pen which attempted the perversion of Justice Grier's decision, has made this paragraph entire. If it should turn out so, we will withdraw our criticism cheerfully.

And now a word in conclusion. Some well-informed people may think it labor wasted to write about such stuff as we have been criticising and exposing. We think differently. The power and endurance of this Government, is linked to the fate of its currency. To this point is directed the attack of its enemies, open and secret. They know that as they can bring greenbacks into disrepute, in that proportion they paralyze the government, and hasten its overthrow. What is a government without a currency, without money? After all, credit, public confidence, is the only reliable basis to support a paper currency. To destroy that confidence and credit, to cast doubt upon the authority of the government in the premises, is the prime object of every man who desires its downfall.

## SPIES AND INFORMERS.

A late number of the *Review* refers to the arrest of the would-be pirate Hayes, in San Francisco, and takes occasion to denounce the detectives who discovered the plot as spies.—Much capital has been made by the *Review's* kind of politicians out of the fact that our government has in some places secret agents at work discovering and bringing to light the plots of domestic traitors. These self-righteous hypocrites, who never find any time to condemn Southern treason, who apologized for or openly defended the Chapman pirates, and who are now so ready to take up the cudgel in defence of another set of scoundrels who have been concocting a plot to destroy the peace of the Pacific coast, are unsparing in the epithets of denunciation they heap upon the heads of those who are the means of bringing these plots to light. They do not seem to realize that they themselves have been for four years acting as spies and informers. They have forgotten that they have been living all this time under the protection of a government that they have denounced and sought to overthrow; that they have done all in their power to aid our enemies, by giving circulation to the most glaring falsehoods, discouraging enlistments, and aiding in the organization of secret revolutionary plots. These are small crimes in their eyes compared to aiding the government in its efforts to preserve our liberties by detecting the bloody schemes of oath bound plotters against their country's peace. They are like the hypocrites of old who strained at gnats and swallowed camels. They swallow all the bloody performances of Quantrell without a wince—do not stop to notice the inhuman outrager of Andersonville—but make awful wry faces at the idea of government employing secret police, and raise a perfect scream when Seymour and his venal gang are detected in the crime of defrauding the soldiers out of their votes and a "prominent democrat" of San Francisco is arrested for attempting to set on foot a scheme to destroy the commerce of the United States on the Pacific. The whole sum and substance of their position is that if a man is known as a "democrat" he owes no obedience to the laws, should be allowed to do as he pleases, to commit all manner of crimes with perfect impunity, with none to molest or make him afraid.

We think the authorities never conceived a more wholesome idea than that of establishing a secret police. If there are secret traitors in our midst—and who can doubt it?—what can better counteract their influence? Without the workings of that force of detectives in San Francisco, the people of this coast would not be safe a single hour. It was by their aid the Magruder murderers and Chapman pirates were discovered and brought to justice, and any one will see what would have been the result of allowing the consummation of the pirate scheme. The full extent of the Hayes plot is not yet developed, but there are abundant facts to justify all that has been done, and to make the people of this coast thankful that by means of the secret police a piratical scheme has been timely thwarted.

## HOW WE APPLES SWIM!

To any one who remembers with what bitterness the rebel papers have heretofore denounced anything that looked like a tendency or desire on the part of the Southern people to return to their former relations with the "Yankees," some of their recent utterances are to a great degree amusing. One of their leading journals in Richmond, the *Examiner*, as we are informed by a late dispatch, says that rather than unite with France, England or Maximilian, it would favor a Union with the North, and then goes on to say, in rather a boastful way, what a mighty nation we would be, and how we could knock all the schemes of those foreign nations into "pi." We think the *Examiner* has certainly hit the truth, though these remarks differ widely from the "last ditch" it and its cotemporaries have been preaching for the last four years. They have frequently declared that they would become the associates or even the slaves of any power on earth, rather than live again in Union with the detested Yankees.

But we suppose these quill driving champions of Southern rights are not strictly to blame for this change in the spirit of their dreams.—It very frequently happens that fanatics on whom the logic of sound argument has no effect, are brought to their senses by the logic of events. When we told them on the initiation of their mad scheme that Union was necessary to strength, and that the loyal North would not allow the division of a nation whose existence and prosperity depended upon its unity, they "couldn't see it in that light." They utterly failed to see it in that light so long as an imbecile remained in command of our army, and their guerrilla hordes were able to make annual expeditions across the Potomac and escape with the spoils of our plundered farms and cities. But when "Pap Price" and his thieves have failed to subjugate Missouri;—when their army is utterly demolished in Tennessee, and that important State passes from their control; when Sherman passed through their territory without opposition, and Savannah submits and declares herself a loyal city; when Mobile and all the region bordering on the Gulf are cut off from communication with Richmond; when Charleston is beleaguered and Wilmington within our grasp, and Grant refuses to let go his hold on their chief city, then the scales fall from their eyes and these men are able to see what a mighty nation we would be if we were united. They are now able to "see men as trees walking," and we think it reasonable that a few more well directed blows will so far open their eyes that they will see themselves as others see them, and act accordingly.

They once told their "pease" friends of the North that if they associated with them they would have to "hold their noses;" but they now think they would be willing to swim along side the apples, and that they and the apples together would be a match for John Bull, Napoleon, Maximilian "or any other man." We are sure the apples will have no objection, provided they give good evidence of penitence, and we think these feeble utterances are signs of returning reason which should inspire us with hope for their final conversion. A few more gleams of light, and the Southern people will be redeemed from thraldom. With their own hands they will hurl from their places of power those who have deceived and enslaved them; and the only mourners around the bier of the bogus Confederacy will be Davis and the few aristocrats around him, whose only hope is in the ruin of their country.

THESPIANS.—This company played the "King's Rival" on Monday evening. This is the best and most difficult play they have yet attempted, and it was performed in a manner creditable to all. In the character of "Frances Stewart" Mrs. Northcutt won the praise of all, and we doubt whether a superior to Mrs. Thayer in the character of "Nell Gwynne" can be found on the coast. It is one of her favorite characters, well suited to her taste, and in its performance she added much to the popularity she has already gained in our community.

All the characters in the play were well sustained. The lazy King Charles II seemed to care but little for his kingdom, and spent his time feeding his ducks and courting his mistress while the Dutch fleet was sailing up the Thames and bombarding Chatham.

The Duke of Richmond got furiously in love, went to the war, came home and imagined his sweetheart false, got jealous, tried to drown his sorrow in the bowl, longed for some Dutch bullet to end his life, but finally listened to the argument of honest Nell, was reconciled to Frances, the knot was tied and all seemed well pleased with the termination.

"Major Wildman" is a noble character and was acted to perfection by Mr. Willis.

Sam Peyps (Mr. Riely) performed the various duties assigned him with alacrity, especialy turning pale at the sound of the Dutch guns and running away from the crazy man.

POSTAL.—We learn by letter from Hon. J. R. M'Bride that the following appointments of postmasters have been made: F. W. Geer at Butteville, in place of G. A. Cone, resigned; C. E. Chrisman at Cottage Grove, in place of O. F. Adams, declined; Sir Ronald Crawford at Umpqua City, in place of J. L. Garrett, resigned; James S. Hembree at Lafayette, in place of A. G. Cook, not bonded; D. J. Yeargain at McMinnville, in place of T. Pettigrew, resigned; Hiram A. Johnson, at Jefferson, in place of Jacob Conser, resigned.

## BY TELEGRAPH.

FORTRESS MONROE, Jan. 23.—The bark Clifton from Pernambuco reports that the pirate Shenandoah destroyed several American merchantmen along the coast of Brazil in consequence of which vessels bound to the United States were obtaining British registers so as to enable them to sail under British colors.

The new Consul General of the Mexican Government for the Island of Cuba has demanded the archives of the Consulate of the old Consul, who refused to deliver them up, insisting that his government was still is existence.

The steamer Harriet Lane, lately called the Lavaca, was destroyed by fire at Havana January 18th.

*Herald's* Washington special says the city is filled with peace rumors. The correspondent states a member of Jeff Davis' Cabinet makes a direct proposition or inquiry of Blair while in Richmond, to the effect that if the rebel government give up the contest, would the United States government forgo emancipation, confiscation and permit them to dispose of their cotton and leave the country for Mexico with the understanding that no obstacle should be placed in the way of private soldiers of the Southern Army, at least all who may desire to follow their leaders into the country; if that would be consented to if they would bind themselves to drive the French out of Mexico, assume full control of the government and if necessary pledge its ultimate annexation to the United States?

Blair stated in reply, that the North would not in any contingency abandon the idea of emancipation, but our government was willing to be merciful as far as confiscation was concerned.

Persons who left Wilmington on the 18th say the rebel forces had fallen back to within eight miles of the city. Gen. Terry had demanded the surrender of the city, giving Bragg until the 19th to answer. The removal of public property is going on as possible; we doubt not that every preparation is making to fall back. Persons from there say all is confusion at Wilmington. The general impression was that the place would go, and that most of the people would remain.

The *Times'* special says the Richmond papers substantially confess the evacuation of Wilmington, and Gen. Terry is beyond doubt now in possion of the city.

The Augusta *Constitutionalist* says the city is filled with fugitives from South Carolina, from which it appears a panic had seized on the people of that State on the approach of the Union army, and they were ready to leave everything to save their lives.

NEW YORK Jan. 24.—The *Herald's* Fort Fisher correspondence, of the 20th, says Paine went out again yesterday in force to reconnoitre the position of the enemy. He found them as before in force about two miles from our extreme line, and after a severe skirmish, in which he succeeded in capturing 50 prisoners, Gen. Paine retired.

Yesterday as the dispatch boat was proceeding up the river to a point farther than had ever been reached before, she was opened on by guns from Fort St. Philip, on the south side of the river. Several shots were fired, some of which took effect.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—Letters of Jan. 17, from Charleston harbor, say three rebel ironclads are distinctly visible at the mouth of Cooper river, while a large number of men are busy about the forts. Deserters also report that the rebels have torpedo boats ready for service and will make a fight in case of an attempt on our part to get up to the city. They are putting new obstruction in the harbor. Our boats have lately been quite successful in finding and removing them.

It is reported that seventy vessels hitherto engaged in the Wilmington blockade, will be sent to increase the blockade off Charleston, Galveston and other points.

The *Herald* editorially says the probabilities are that Seward will have the mission to England.

*Tribune's* special dispatch says the indications point strongly in that direction.

City Point, Jan. 23. One of my staff has just returned from Fort Fisher, with dispatches from Gen. Terry, from which I extract the following:

On the 16th the 16th, the enemy blew up Forts Caswell and Campbell, and abandoned them, and the works on Smith's Island, as well as those at Smith's and Reeves' Point. Each place was occupied by the navy. The whole number of guns captured amount to 162. A large number of small arms also fell into our hands, besides a quantity of ordnance and commissary stores. Our casualties prove smaller than at first reported. They foot up 12 officers and 107 men killed and 45 officers and 490 men wounded. (Signed) GRANT.

New York, Jan. 25.—The *Time's* special dispatch says: It is now generally understood that Blair did not go in any sense as the representative of the fiovernment to Richmond, and that he is not authorized to encourage the hope that any overtures for peace will be made or accepted, which look, however remotely, to a division of the Union; nor is it believed that the rebels are yet prepared to treat on any other terms. The popular sentiment has overrated the desire of the rebels for peace.

Quebec, Jan. 24.—In the opening debate in parliament last night, the government was sustained by a large majority. The conduct of Southern refugees in Canada was strongly denounced and a determination expressed to end the abuse of asylum. A committee was appointed to inquire into the cause of the failure of justice in reference to the release of the St. Alban's raiders.

The government has been assured that the Canadian authorities have determined to remove all causes of dissatisfaction on the part of this country, growing out of recent occurrences. Judge Coursoe will be removed. This will probably lead to a speedy abregation of the passport system.

The *World's* special says all business has been suspended in Charleston, and non combatants were preparing to leave. Comparatively few troops were in the city, all that could be spared having been sent to Branchville to contest Sherman's advance. There appears to be no doubt but Charleston will be evacuated. The only opposition Sherman will meet may be expected at Branchville.

The supersedure of Hood by Dick Taylor is confirmed.

The *Whig* and *Sentinel* are out in bitter articles against reunion.

NEW YORK, Jan. 24.—The Richmond *Enquirer* hopes the Virginia Legislature will pass resolutions tendering to the Confederate Government the full consent of the State to the proposition of abolition to England and France, upon the establishment of independence, and pledging the State to make good this concession as soon after a treaty of peace has been signed as a proper regard for our security will warrant.

The Richmond *Enquirer* of Jan. 21st, congratulates its readers and the country on the restoration of Gen. Johnston to the command of the armies of the West.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—It is reported that a formidable expedition had left Forts Morgan and Gaines and gone up the Escatawpa river, a branch of the Pascagoula, to take a position in the rear of Mobile. The river was found to be navigable, and its occupation cannot fail to render the city easy of capture.

Deserters report that there is much dissatisfaction with the rebel Government in Mobile.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—This afternoon a fire broke out in the Smithsonian Institute building in the loft above the picture gallery. There were some two hundred of the Stanley pictures in the gallery. Five or six were saved. The loss was very serious. The large library in the west wing was not damaged. The extent of loss is not yet ascertained.

QUEBEC, Jan. 26.—In Parliament last night the Attorney General brought in a bill for the prevention and the suppressing of outrages on the frontier, and of manufacture and shipment of goods for unlawful purposes, and providing for the seizure and examination of suspected vessels. It also gives notice to persons proving unworthy of the hospitality of this country to remove from it. The bill is copied in part from an Imperial act and a part from an act of Congress at Washington in 1838. The bill passed to a second reading.

BUFFALO, Jan. 26.—The fire only ceased last night by burning itself out. All the buildings on the corner of Main and Court streets were destroyed, and three firemen were killed by the fall of them.

DETROIT, Jan. 26.—A fire in East Saginaw this morning destroyed property valued at seventy gve thousand dollars.

HAMILTON, C. W., Jan. 26.—The Ontario pork packing establishment and contents were destroyed by fire this morning. Loss estimated at $100,000.

The station and grain depot of the Overland Mail contractor at Julesburg, on the Platte, has been abandoned by all except one of the men in charge, in consequence of Indian massacres in the neighborhood. At last accounts the savages had not attacked the station, and it is now hoped that it will be saved. Gen. Curtis, who commands the troops on the Overland route, telegraphs from Fort Leavenworth that the New York troops are seven days out from Cottonwood Springs hunting Indians, and that there is no need of leaving Julesburg, which must be held.

The above was sent in reply to one of several telegrams from Contractor Holliday, urgently appeling for protection for the mail station, stating that if Julesburg should be sacked, the Overland Mail must be suspended until the spring grass is sufficiently advanced to afford subsistence to the live stock of the company.

FORTRESS MONROE, Jan. 24.—The gunboat Advance arrived from Fort Fisher this morning with a portion of the crews of the blockade runners Stag and Charlotte, captured on the 31st, while endeavoring to run into Wilmington with a cargo of blankets and rifles, being ignorant of the occupation of Fort Fisher by our troops.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 26.—Late advices from Eastport, Miss., confirm the report that the 18th Tennessee, numbering 600, and stationed at Union, Tenn., had sent word to our lines that they wished to surrender, take the oath of allegiance and go home.

In the Louisiana Senate, on the 16th, resolutions passed to third reading requesting that their delegation in Congress vote for the amendment to the Constitution prohibiting slavery, and pledging that the General Assembly would ratify the amendment.

NEW YORK, Jan. 26.—The *Times'* special says: Every member of the rebel Cabinet except Trenholm has resigned. Congressmen are withdrawing homeward. Johnson refuses to take Beauregard's department. Lee declines to take command of any army but his own.

HEADQUARTERS Army of Potomac, Jan. 24.—The deserters coming into our lines are very numerous. They number from 12 to 50 per day, all of whom tell the most doleful stories of hardships they had endured, scarcity of provisions, &c.

## THE YAQUINA BAY MATTER.

ED. STATESMAN: I notice in the Corvallis *Gazette* of 21st inst. a very fiery appeal to the people of Benton county, upon the subject of Yaquina Bay. The editor refers to a communication published in the *Statesman* of 2d inst., over the signature of "Emigrant," and calls the attention of the directors of the Yaquina Bay Road particularly to the matter therein contained.

I had read this communication and regarded it as altegether unimportant, and, as coming from one who knew nothing concerning the matter of which he was writing, and that he only desired to get a little notoriety by writing for a public journal. But, insomuch as the editor of the *Gazette* has taken it upon himself to notice, and call the attention of the public to it, I deem it but justice to myself and others to give it a brief notice.

"Emigrant" starts out by saying that the Oregon Transportation Company were alone instrumental in securing the location of the Reservation, including the Siletz and Yaquina Bays, for the express purpose of shutting out, for all time to come, commercial intercourse through this channel, that they might monopolize the whole carrying trade, and gobble up the substance of the people by exorbitant rates of fare and freight.

If this, he says, is not the case, why is so much exertion being made, and on so little pretext, to prevent the public from using the bay? And again, he says, why is it that the Indian Agent gives himself so much trouble about the presence of certain persons on the bay, while others are allowed to reman and carry on the oyster trade to San Francisco with impunity? Now, in the first place, "Emigrant" should be, if he is not, ashamed of his impudence as well as his ignorance, in stating such barefaced falsehoods. Does not everybody know that the Siletz Reservation was established long before such a company as the Oregon Transportation Company was organized, or even in contemplation? and that they had as little to do with its location as they had in fixing the circuit of the moon; and, so far as the Agent is concerned in connection with the company in keeping the bay of Yaquina concealed, the whole thing is a stupid and unjust fabrication. He has acted in accordance with law and instructions from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I would suggest to "Emigrant" that it might be as well for him to write to Commissioner Dole, and enquire if he has not been paid by the Oregon Transportation Company to keep the Yaquina Bay concealed. I have no doubt the Commissioner would like to hear from him.—According to instructions, the oyster beds in Yaquina Bay were leased or rented to Winant & Co., of San Francisco, giving them the exclusive right to take oysters for a given time, in consideration for which the Agent has already taken in, and accounted to the Government for, over $2,000 in coin.

I do not make these statements in answer to the ignorant and false accusations of "Emigrant," but simply that the public may know the truth in regard to a matter, about which there is so much said.

In reference to the insinuations coming from the editor of the *Gazette*, I must say I am not a little surprised. I had regarded him as a man of too much sincerity and honesty to make such unjust and unwarrantable insinuations. It would seem that he is trying to excite the people of Benton county against the Indian Department, by telling them that they were deprived of their rights simply to benefit a few lazy, filthy Indians, who may occasionally catch a fish in Yaquina Bay. He goes on to say that unless there is something done soon, more direct than in the whispering manner in which it has been done heretofore, the people of Benton county should take the matter into their own hands. Now if the editor is sincere in this matter, would it not be well for him to inform the President of it immediately, so that something could be done to avert another rebellion? The fact is, such a rebellion would be *awful*, with Long Tom on one side and Soap Creek on the other. Oh don't!

He knows that this Reservation was established in accordance with law, and in good faith on the part of the Government; and that those "lazy, filthy Indians" he speaks of, were brought there, and promised the exclusive right to the soil, fisheries, and all other privileges belonging to that Reservation. And it is as much the duty of the Superintendent of Indian Affairs and the Agent in charge, to protect them in those rights as if they were as illustrious and intelligent as the editor of the *Gazette*. It is true that the Superintendent and Agent have both, long since, asked to have those Indians treated with and removed from the Yaquina, so as to open it for white settlement, and it has not been done in that "whispering" manner that has been intimated by the editor of the *Gazette*; and I only have to refer the public to the published report of the Superintendent on that subject, to confirm what I say. And I will here say to the distinguished (?) editor, before mentioned, that it would be well for him to keep cool, and not advise the people of Benton county to *secede*, even if the Government should fail to comply with their wishes for a few weeks. B. S.

Jan. 21, 1865.

LOVELY APOSTLE.—In the trial of copperhead conspirators at Indianapolis, a daughter of Rev. R. C. Williams testified that he would as soon have her marry a negro as an abolitionist, and that he drove her out of the house and then choked her, because she persisted in marrying a Union man.

☞ The following letter from Senator Nesmith to a citizen of this place will be found interesting:

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29, 1864.

FRIEND SIMPSON: This morning I returned from our army near Richmond, where I had been spending a week with Gens. Grant and Ingalls, and found your letter of Oct. 16th, to me, also the one to my care for Gen. Sheridan, which I have just forwarded to him.

Noble little Phil. has covered himself with glory, and become a great man, since we used to know him at Yamhill. The Lord never made a better soldier, and I feel as proud of his Major-General's stars as though they were my own.

Our other friend, poor Davy Russell, watered with his life's blood the field where Sheridan gathered his laurels. The loss of no soldier has made me feel so melancholy as that of Gen. Russell. But such is the fortune of war. Peace to his ashes!

Neither Harding nor M'Bride has reached here yet. When they come, we will see what can be done about the Aquina Bay matter.

Matters pertaining to the war look more cheerful than they did before the election, and much is expected from Sherman's expedition. I sincerely trust that we shall be able to crush out this accursed rebellion before another year rolls around. The Administration shall have, as heretofore, all the aid which I can give it to consummate that result.

I intend to visit Oregon in the spring, soon after the adjournment of Congress. In the mean time, I shall always be happy to hear from you, and to serve you in any way in my power. Truly your friend,

J. W. NESMITH.

B. SIMPSON, Esq., Salem, Oregon.

☞ We happened to hear Dr. Bellows last summer in Portland, recount the origin and operations of the Sanitary Commission, much more extensively than we can in this short article, and most eloquently, too, when we took from our pocket every dollar and every dime we happened to have by us, which was a little less than $30, and threw it into the plate with a good will.—*Astoria Gazette.*

"When thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do, in the synagogues, and in the streets, *that they may have glory of men*"—Matt. vi. 2.

## Ordinance No. 39.

An Ordinance to Prevent Offenses against the Police of the City.

The People of the City of Salem do ordain as follows:

Section 1. No person shall make any brawl, or tumult, or in any street, alley, or other public place be guilty of any rude, indecent, or disorderly conduct, or shall insult or wantonly impede any person passing thereon, or shall throw any stones, bricks, or dirt, or play at ball, or at any game at which ball is used.

Sec. 2. No person shall sing, or repeat, or cause to be sung or repeated, any lewd, obscene, or profane songs, or shall repeat any lewd, obscene, or profane words, or write or mark in any manner any obscene or profane word, or obscene or lascivious figure or representation on any building, fence, wall, post, or other thing whatever. Nor shall any person use abusive language to any city officer in discharge of his duty.

Sec. 3. No person shall wantonly injure or deface any building, fence, wall, post, signboard, sign, lamp-post, or lantern thereon, or shall wantonly cut or injure any tree standing in any street, highway, or public place, or shall rob any garden, or field, of fruit, vegetables, or flowers, or shall wantonly injure any tree, shrubs, or bushes, growing in any street, commons, or square, garden, field, or yard, or shall without lawful permission climb on or over any fence of any garden or yard.

Sec. 4. No person shall within that part of the city laid off in blocks and lots, fire or discharge any cannon, gun, pistol, or other fire-arms, or fire or discharge any rockets, squibs, crackers, or any preparation of gunpowder, (except by permission of the Mayor or Common Council,) or shall make any bonfire, or improperly use or expose any friction matches, or knowingly raise or repeat any false cry of fire.

Sec. 5. No person shall put or place, or cause to be put or placed in or on any street, alley, sidewalk, or other public place in the city, any house-dirt, ashes, garbage, seeds, shavings, filth, offal, oyster shells, or other rubbish, except in such place and in such manner as the Mayor or Marshal may prescribe.

Sec. 6. No person shall suffer any fire-wood, coal, or other fuel, in any quantity, to remain unnecessarily on any sidewalk, or in any street, or alley, and if the same must of necessity remain after twilight, or through the night, the owner thereof shall place and keep a sufficient light over or near the same, so long as the same shall so remain after twilight or during the night, in order to give notice thereof to travelers and passengers, and thereby prevent injury to them.

Sec. 7. No person shall be or remain upon any sidewalk, or upon any door-step, portico, or other projection from any house, or other building, to the annoyance or disturbance of any person, nor shall any person, by any noise, gesture, or other means, wantonly and designedly frighten or drive any horse in any street or other public place in the city.

Sec. 8. No person shall move or assist in moving any house, shop, or other building through any street, lane, or alley, or over any bridge in the city, without first obtaining a permission from the Mayor or Common Council.

Sec. 9. No person shall stop his team or carriage, or unnecessarily place any other obstruction, on any crossing laid in or across any street or alley in the city.

Sec. 10. Three or more persons shall not stand in a group, or near each other, on a street or sidewalk, so as to obstruct a free passage for foot passengers, and any person or persons obstructing the foot or sidewalk shall move on immediately after a request made by the Mayor, any police officer, or watchman, under a penalty of not less than one dollar, nor more than ten dollars, for each offense.

Sec. 11. Any person who shall offend against any of the provisions of this ordinance, shall pay for each offense a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, or be imprisoned not ex