to the enlisted slaves, but leaves the question of emancipation to the future.

The Richmond *Whig* of yesterday says: It is stated that Bragg has succeeded in bringing Schofield to a halt on the North East river ten or fifteen miles from Wilmington.

The *Sentinel* admits that Sherman crossed the South Carolina line, which shows that he has entered North Carolina.

The *Whig* of the 1st says: All north Georgia is filled with predatory bands of tories and deserters.

The panic in Richmond has extended to the surrounding country. The farmers refused to bring in supplies.

A Fayetteville dispatch of the 1st says: No Yankees have advanced in that direction. The rebel pirate Chickamauga was destroyed on Saturday to prevent her falling in Yankee hands. She is in Cape Fear river.

Gen. B. J. Hill, having been authorized to raise a brigade of mounted men in North Alabama, will make his headquarters alternately at Rome, Ga., and at Gadsen, Ala. Beauregard has authorized Hill to proclaim an amnesty to all men and their property, absent from their commands, who may join his brigade at Mill Point View.

Philadelphia, March 3.—A Washington special says: The Richmond papers received contain a telegram from Fayetteville, stating that no Federal force has advanced in that direction from Wilmington.

The Richmond *Dispatch* says: Singleton has arrived in Richmond. It says his mission is a commercial one. He proposed to exchange bacon for cotton. All the other papers intimate that his visit is of a private character.

Congressman C. W. Rives, of Virginia, has resigned his seat.

The *Dispatch* says: A Union cavalry force is moving down the valley towards Stanton.

Newbern, N. C., Feb. 25.—Rebel deserters say that Lee has ordered Goldsboro and Kingston to be fortified, which order is being carried into effect. Goldsboro he says must be held at all hazards. A large force is now at work night and day at Goldsboro throwing up fortifications.

Washington, March 3.—The following is from the Richmond *Whig* of the 1st:

The *Southside Express* of yesterday states that the advance which was threatened two or three days ago has been checked if not defeated by superabundant means and for the present may have possibly been abandoned. The public need not be surprised to hear of the commencement of a battle at any moment.—The enemy has not withdrawn *any portion* of the forces. He has moved to his left, but holds them in readiness for advancing at the best possible moment. It is believed the enemy intends a heavy flank movement some distance further down than the scene of his late operations.

New York, March, 4.—The Richmond *Enquirer* says: Col. Hatch, Commissioner of Exchange, has arranged to deliver at Wilmington all Yankee prisoners in North Carolina, just as soon as transportation can be furnished. The same paper mentions the arrival of fifteen deserters from Grant's army, and says one of them stated he had seen in the Richmond papers, a report that Grant was massing on his right. This was a mistake.

Robert Toombs, in a speech at Augusta, Feb. 16th, says: Bad management and bad legislation are the causes of the dangers that beset the South. He declared that they must begin at the root of the evil if they would apply the true remedy and demand the removal of the administration.

A New Orleans correspondent has information from Mobile to 26th of February, at which time the rebels were receiving reinforcements and strengthening the defences. Beauregard was there on the 24th inspecting the works.—He made a speech expressing great confidence that the place can be held. The force in Mobile is said to be much larger than has been generally supposed.

Gen. Granger was at Pensacola, Fla., on the 11th, inspecting the Union troops.

Gen. A. J. Smith's 16th army corps was encamped outside of New Orleans.

The *Herald's* special dispatch says: Apprehensions are expressed in some quarters that there is a deep design in the great influx of deserters who are transferred to the heart of the loyal portion of the country to organize a raid on an extensive scale.

The Richmond *Enquirer* of the 3d has a long article showing that Sherman and Grant can be beaten in detail and the independence of the Confederacy is thus to be secured.

Governor Vance of North Carolina is now actually at work rallying the people and organizing them to resist the invaders. It is said that Grant has stripped every section of the country, and that in Western Virginia he has not men enough to protect his generals while sleeping.

The Richmond papers are confident in the belief that Grant will move the moment the ground is sufficiently hard to permit him to.—They say that he has everything ready for an advance.

New York, March 4.—The Richmond papers assume to be ignorant of Sherman's whereabouts, but sometimes he is lurking in the mud in one of the Southern States. They estimated the forces under his direction, including Gilmore and Schofield, at 60,000.

The excitement at Charlotte has subsided, showing that Sherman has moved in another direction. Nothing is said of the contemplated junction of Schofield in the vicinity of Goldsboro

Wade Hampton and his cavalry are said to be in possession of Columbia, S. C The burnt section in that city, extends in one direction three-quarters of a mile. No public property was destroyed.

Rebel deserters who arrived at Newbern say that Kingston and Goldsboro are being fortified by order of General Lee, who says the latter place must be held at all hazards.

The *Tribune's* Wilmington correspondent announces the arrival of 900 exchanged prisoners, sick, starved, emaciated and naked.

The *Herald's* Winchester correspondent of the 3d says: A few days ago three citizens by the names of Cherrad, Lee and Burnell, were sent out of our lines on a charge of disloyalty. It is said they conspired together to get up a social ball to which Gen. Sheridan was to be an invited guest, that during its progress, a detachment of Mosby's men was to seize the General, take him captive and convey him to Richmond.

Philadelphia, March 6.—The transport Massachsetts has arrived, and reports that our naval forces have captured Fort White, a splendid work mounting 17 guns, just below Georgetown, South Carolina. The sailors and marines landed and took possession. The rebel cavalry charged on them in the streets, but were gallantly repulsed, with a loss of several killed wounded and prisoners. Our loss was one man. Admiral Dahlgran's flag-ship, the Harvest Moon, on her way down was sunk by a torpedo. All hands were saved with the exception of the wardroom steward.

New York, March 6.—Information from Wilmington says: Everything is progressing well in that department. Gen. Couch has been assigned to the command of the Twenty-third Army Corps and the city of Wilmington. On the 2d he issued an order allowing all citizens to resume their occupations with proper restrictions relating to contraband trade. One thousand deserters and prisoners were about to be sent North. On Wednesday last, March 1st, about fifteen thousand dollars worth of medical supplies were discovered secreted in Wilmington, several thousand dollar's worth being quinine. The paymaster had nearly finished paying the troops in the Department. The weather has been very bad.

New York, March 6.—The *Times'* Washington special dispatch says evidence accumulates that Sherman has moved by the flank of Johnston's forces and placed himself between that body of rebels and Wilmington. Officers from Schofield's army, who arrived here to-day from Wilmington bring information that refugees and deserters, who are daily coming within our lines, report Sherman as having moved from Waynsboro, S. C., in the direction of Fayetteville, N. C., entering Florence and compelling them to evacuate it, upon which it was occupied by his cavalry, who were engaged in destroying the railroad.

The practicability of a junction between Sherman and Schofield is thus secured beyond doubt, though up to March 1st, it had not been actually effected.

Imboden is in command of all the rebel military forces in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi.

A great scarcity of breadstuffs is said to exist in Mississippi.

A portion of Roddy's division is breaking up the distilleries in Alabama, so that grain may be procured by the suffering families of soldiers. Whisky is regarded to be a worse enemy than the Yankees.

Gen. Wirt Adams has ordered all the guns and cotton on the Big Black river to be removed immediately.

BURNING OF COLUMBIA, S. C.

Sherman's army entered Columbia in the afternoon. They soon commenced destroying public property. The arsenals were blown up, and buildings in the suburbs, containing public stores, were fired. Late in the afternoon a pile of cotton in the street took fire from the sparks, and the flame soon spread to some wooden buildings which were near, and a strong wind drove the flames down both sides of the street. The scene became terrific. Loud explosions continually filled the air, and the ground was shaken as by an earthquake. Nothing of any account was saved.

The distance burned over on Main street was about a mile and a half. The fire also extended from five to ten blocks east of Main street, destroying everything before it. The entire business portion of the city is in ruins. Both the hotels, Guardian and Carolina, news paper offices, a number of churches, the Catholic Seminary, and several other public buildings at Charlotte Junction were burned, and all the cars, engines and railroad stock, which were left by the rebels, are destroyed. Only three churches are left standing—the Catholic, Episcopal and Presbyterian. The Female College was uninjured, and is now occupied by houseless women and children. The old State House was burned, but the new State House remained untouched, as it contained a statue of Gen. Washington. Gen. Preston's house was saved and given to the occupants of the Catholic Seminary, whose property was accidentally destroyed. The railway about Columbia was all torn up, and all the bridges leading to the place were destroyed. All the founderies and machine shops were burned. The country about the place is stripped of all eatables, and all the horses and carriages were taken. The rear guard passed through on Tuesday afternoon. The troops were in the best condition; well clothed and well shod, and marched as if they had just started on the expedition, instead of being out for weeks. Fort Motts St. Mathew, and the Union Court House has been destroyed. Some of Sherman's officers stated his destination was Raleigh and Salisbury. The General himself appeared in good spirits and confident of success. One corps took the road to Camden and Florence, and another to Winsboro. Sherman with his corps moved on the direct road to Charlotte.

FROM MEXICO.

NEW YORK, March 2.—A Havana correspondent says the siege of Oaxca terminated on the 9th by the surrender of the place with its republican garrison of seven thousand men to Marshal Bazaine in command of the Imperial forces. Perfirio Diaz, the Republican commander, attempted to make his escape in disguise, but was discovered, arrested and shot. The guerrillas in Mischecan, under Rojas and Romero, had been attacked and almost annihilated by the Imperialists. Rogas and Romero were among the slain. Other guerilla parties in the south-western part of the country, received severe punishment.

NEW YORK, March 4.—Advices received here through private sources, state that the war in the United States is attracting the special attention of the Imperial Government. The police have been directed to arrest all who express sympathy with the Federal cause. Allmanhe Valiz has been sentenced to a year's imprisonment for speaking favorably about the United States and predicting the speedy end of the war.

The Imperial Treasury is constantly getting lower. The hostility of the Church party to the Emperor Maximilian is on the increase. The friends of Juarez have refused to give credence to the reported defeat at Oaxaca.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S SECOND INAUGURAL.

Fellow Countrymen:—At this second appearing to take the oath of the Presidential office, there is less occasion for extended address than there was at the first. Then a statement somewhat in detail of the course to be pursued seemed fitting and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public denunciations have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of the great events which still absorb the attention and engross the energies of the nation, little that is new could be presented. The progress of our arms, on which all else depends, is as well known to the public as to myself, and is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory. With high hopes for the future, no prediction in regard to it has been ventured. On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago, all thoughts were then anxiously directed to the impending civil war, and all sought to avert it; and while the inaugural address, when being delivered from this place, was devoted altogether to saving the Union, the insurgent agents were in this city seeking to destroy the Union and divide it by negotiations. Both parties deprecated war, but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive, and the other would accept war rather than let it perish—and war came. One-eighth of the population were colored slaves—not distributed equally over the land, but localized in the Southern part of it.

These slaves constituted a peculiarly powerful interest. All knew that this interest was somehow the cause of war. To strengthen this institution and extend its interests was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union by war, while the Government claimed no right to do more than restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or duration which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the cause of conflict might cease, or in any event before the conflict itself should cease—each looking for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental.

Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any man should dare to claim the just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces, but let us judge not that we may not be judged. The prayers of both could not be answered, and neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purpose. Woe to the world because of offense, for it must needs be that offenses come; but woe to that man by whom offense cometh. I shall suppose that American slavery is one of the offenses. The providence of God must needs come, but this having continued through His appointed time, He now wills more than He gives to both North and South. He levies war as a woe due to those by whom the offense came. Shall we discern that there is any departure from these Divine attributes, which believe in the living God always ascribed to Him? Fondly as we hope for the event, do we pray that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away—yet, if God wills that it continue until the bondmen's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be attoned for by another drawn by the sword, as was said three thousand years ago. Still, it must be said that the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether, with malice towards none, with charity to all, with firmness of right. As God gives us to see the right, let us strive and finish the work we are in, bind up the material, and care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan, and do all that we may be able to achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

☞ Hon. George H. Williams, our Senator elect, had arrived in Washington some time ago and undoubtedly took his seat in the Senate in executive session March 4th for the first time. A stranger in Washington and to political honors, the moment will be a novel and a proud one for him, but he is now in the field where his talent will find congenial employment and be of valuable practical service to the country at large. Since Col. Baker's decease and Gwin's retirement, the Pacific coast has not had a representative at Washington that approaches him in ability.

☞ The patriotic ladies of Yamhill county have presented a beautiful flag to Company H, First Regiment Oregon Infantry, now stationed at Fort Hoskins in Benton county. Hon. Henry Warren made the presentation speech, a letter from Mrs. N. J. Whitcomb, Secretary of the Lafayette branch of the Ladies' Christian Commission was read by Capt. Palmer, and the gift suitably acknowledged by him.—Resolutions offered by Lieutenant Cullen were adopted unanimously, and cheers given for the flag and the ladies who gave it.

☞ One hundred guns were fired at Eugene City upon the receipt of the news of the occupation of Charleston by the Union forces.

The Oregon Statesman.

MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 13, 1865.

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

The U. S. Laws and Resolutions are published in the Statesman by Authority.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS—ROADS OVER THE CASCADES.

It must be evident to every one in Oregon, and especially every one in the Willamette Valley, that before next winter shall have closed the usual transit to the east side of the Cascade Mountains, there will be an immense population in the Owyhee and Southern Idaho mining districts. This population will be of such an extent and character, and the business of that country will have been so increased and changed from mere camps of prospecters to towns and cities, combining all kinds of business, that they will require easy, uninterrupted and continual communication with the outside world.

This population of Owyhee and adjacent mining districts will consists of not less than twenty thousand inhabitants, with numerous quartz mills and assaying establishments, requiring constant shipments of bullion. Such a community will require also very large and regular mails, and a continual stream of passengers to and from them will also result. The comfort and convenience, not to say the necessaries of the people, will also require a very large amount of freight to be brought in at all times, winter as well as summer. These considerations should lead the people of the Willamette Valley to consider well the importance of good roads across the Cascade Mountains, connecting our valley with that rich and prosperous mining country. Ordinarily, long and expensive wagon roads in new countries are not necessary, and never profitable, but the circumstances and settlement of California and Oregon are entirely different from any other of the Western States; and experience has already shown that long and expensive wagon roads of the best class across the Sierra Nevada range, will pay a handsome investment in tolls received, on the cost of construction. And we argue that what will pay Californians will also pay Oregonians under similar circumstances. In the year 1862, the Territory of Nevada did not contain more than 18,000 inhabitants, and had not then attracted any greater attention than the mines of Owyhee have already secured; and yet in that year Nevada paid out over *five million dollars for freight alone*; and that too at the price of four cents per pound. (The price from the Dalles to Owyhee, has been during the past summer, much higher than that figure.) The Owyhee mines and their people are in much the same condition of the Washoe mines. Every thing used there to eat or wear, all the necessaries of life, as well as all manufactured goods, machinery, etc., have to be transported by wagons or mules, and this must unavoidably create an immense freight and passenger business to these mines, and limited only by the population there congraged.

To give an idea of the immense travel and freight business that must neccessarily spring up with the Owyhee country, we copy the following statistical account of the same business which had been created as early as October 1862 on the Placerville wagon road between California and Nevada. The following is an *actual account* of the travel on that road for the eight weeks ending October 10th, 1862, as ascertained by the Central Pacific Railroad Company:

Number of Stages bound up	169
Number of Stages bound down	171
Number of Baggies bound up	61
Number of Buggies bound down	46
Number of Stage passengers up	1,287
Number of Stage passengers down	685
Number of Travellers, other than Stage passengers, up—riders, footmen and in baggies, (including emigrants)	1,288
Number of Travelers, etc., down	2,508
Loose stock of all kinds, up	573
Loose stock of all kinds, down	474
Number of Teams bound up	4,412
Number of Teams bound down	4,464
Number of Animals in teams, up	22,778
Number of Animals in teams, down	22,803
Number of pounds of Freight, up	19,385,200
Number of pounds of Freight, down	

Now it must be borne in mind that the above is the count of only eight weeks of travel, on *only one of four* roads then doing business across the Sierras. Now after the roads had been increased to five roads to Nevada, the following actual count on one road alone, will give an idea of the increase and extent of the travel in the years 1863 and 1864, as compiled by the same Company:

"In the months of February, March and April, 1863, the number of persons who crossed the road on one route, is estimated as follows:

Footmen	6,607
Horsemen	833
Stage passengers	3,154
Total	10,594

Or an average of 119 per diem.

"For the six months ending January 1, 1864, the stages on one route alone carried 10,509 through passengers, or an average of 58 per day."

From these figures, the correctness of which cannot be disputed, it will be seen of what immense importance this trade and travel to Owyhee is likely to become. These figures should certainly encourage those who have projected roads from this valley across the mountains. It is indubitable evidence of their prospective value and importance. As we have no "axe to grind" we do not intend to favor any one of the projected roads to the disadvantage of the others. There are three roads we believe, projected from the Willamette Valley towards the Owyhee—the Eugene road, the Albany road, and the Salem road. Now we are informed that each of these roads when finished to Owyhee would be as well located, running through as good country, and saving as much distance as the roads from the Dalles, Walla Walla, or Umatilla. And if such be the case, the people of the Willamette Valley have it in their power, and it should be their effort, to direct the trade from the Columbia river and Dalles routes by this valley. It is a prize, as any one can see from the above figures, worth contending for. In the winter season when the river is closed from Portland to the Dalles, it is open from Portland to any point in the valley necessary to take stage to go over the routes terminating here. That is a very great consideration. And with the construction of the canal at the falls, boats could run the year round from Portland direct to Salem or even Albany, and to Eugene in the winter—thus saving the expense of portages on the Columbia river. If this Owyhee travel can be secured to this valley we will have such prosperity as we never had before.

There must be better and surer communication with Owyhee than is afforded by the Columbia river and the Blue Mountain roads. The Columbia being closed above the Willamette, in the winter season, it compels the passengers, mails and expresses to stand still, or make the trip the entire distance from Portland by land, if it goes by the Dalles; if it should be traveled through the Willamette Vavlley, the land travel from Portland to the Dalles may be saved, by coming to either Salem, Albany or Eugene in the Willamette boats.

We have thus far said nothing of the importance of the Columbia River Road, on the construction of which we learn some $15,000 has been expended, and the tolls received last year amounting to $3,000. This road is an absolute necessity to the people of the Dalles, Canyon City, Umatilla, Walla Walla, Lewiston and all Northern Idaho. These places must always depend on this road in the winter season for their communication with the outside world; and its speedy construction is demanded by every inducement of convenience and handsome profits. It supplies a different country from any of the first three named roads, and cannot be considered a rival route.

Population is pressing upon us, and we should be availing ourselves of every avenue to secure the greatest advantages in the race for wealth and prosperity. We should take a lesson from the example set in British Columbia, across the line, where roads of the best character are pushed out in every direction to develop the country; and not permit the ensuing spring and summer to pass without having secured good and safe lines of communication at all times to the other side of the Cascades.

☞ We have noticed for some time occasional communications in the *Oregonian* dated at Eugene City signed "Comus." From the general tone of Comus and the copious praise bestowed by him upon prominent copperheads of Lane county, we have suspected that he suspected that he was some sneaking copperhead. We are sorry to say that our conjectures have proved to be correct. In his last *Review* "Shorty" tells us that "Comus" is a very "learned legal gentleman of that town." This very learned "legal gentleman" and pettifogging letter writer might have been elected Judge of that district by the copperheads if he had not been badly defeated. Ever since his defeat he has been afflicted with something "on the brain." After much mental labor he succeeded in getting up an "alterative" which he supposed would cure him by giving him an office. Overjoyed at his success he wrote a flaming notice of his "alterative," "Old Cat Gut," and two or three other copperhead politicians, and to make it go "down" with a Union paper added a few Union men whose names should not be used in the same connection, and sent it forth as a "young delaration of independence."

We think it high time Union journals and men should mark that man who spends half his time fomenting feuds and dissension among Union men, and the other half devising schemes to have them denounced for his own action.

This meddling "little joker" has always been figuring to get into office, but up to this time has met with indifferent success. He has turned up at the tail of every political party to which he has belonged. Whether his present attempt to "furnish brains for the *Review*" and at the same time be a favored correspondent of the *Oregonian* will improve his chances, or whether it will result like some other attempt to ride two horses at the same time, in an acrobatic defeat, time will show.

But go it "Stukey," you and "Shorty" are a good pair, and with your copperhead mill may grind out something that will entitle you to an office, if not among your ungreatful copperheads, at least with Duke de Gwin, to whose dominions so many of your kind are now preparing to emigrate.

OPPOSITION.—Articles of incorporation of the "Willamette Portage Company" were filed with the Secretary of State last week. A. P. Ankeny, Ad. M. Starr and W. J. Van Schuyver are the incorporators, and the capital stock is fixed at $250,000, in shares of $500 each with the principal office located at Portland.

The object of the Company as stated in the articles of incorporation is "to engage in the "navigation, by steam or otherwise, of the "Columbia river from its mouth to the mouth "of the Willamette river, and the Willamette "river from its mouth to Eugene City; also to "construct a railroad and operate the same, "and construct and operate a canal for the "passage of steam and other boats around the "falls of the Willamette river on the left bank "thereof at Linn city.

By the articles "the upper terminus of said "railroad and canal shall be within one mile "of said falls, and the lower terminus within "one mile below said falls."

It is not contemplated, we presume, to build *both* railroad and canal, but either one as appears most profitable. We understand that the new company have already boats in process of construction designed to run both above and below the falls, which will be ready for use by the first of May next. A healthy competition which will reduce the price of freight on the Willamette river will be a boon to the producers of the valley. A still greater benefit would result from a well sustained opposition to the monopoly of the O. S. N. Company of the transportation upon the upper Columbia river. Such an opposition pursued until it produced a reduction of the prices of freight and passage to reasonable rates would be of incalculable advantage to the farming community.

RATHER POOR PAY.—Under the law of July 1, 1864, the compensation of Postmasters is required to be a fixed salary instead as heretofore a percentage of the gross receipts. The Postmaster General is to allot the offices into five different classes, the first class receiving salaries of $3,000 to $4,000, the second from $2,000 to $3,000, the third from $1,000 to $2,000, the fourth $100 to $1,000, and the fifth less than $100. The office at this place is placed in the fourth class, and the salary fixed at $820, (greenbacks of course). This sum is entirely inadequate compensation for the amount and kind of labor required. He is constantly employed on an average of ten or twelve hours a day, and it is absurd to expect a business man who is competent for the place, to work for so ridiculously low pay. We do not know whether Mr. Hamilton will resign or not, (it will be a loss to the community if he does), but he certainly ought in justice to himself to do so, unless the pay is increased.

HON. B. F. HARDING.—Our telegraphic dispatches last Monday morning announced that Senator Harding had arrived at Portland. He reached Salem on Monday evening, looking very well and apparently in good spirits. He left Washington on the first day of February—the same day on which his successor, Judge Williams arrived there. Mr. Harding reports that Mr. M'Bride will leave Washington for Idaho, via Oregon, on the 4th of March, and that Mr. Nesmith will also leave for a visit to Oregon immediately after the adjournment of the executive session of the Senate—say about the 20th of April next.

CRIME AND ITS PUNISHMENT.

From a late number of the New York *Times* we learn that there were one hundred homicides committed in the city of New York, during the year 1864, and that during the same period there had been probably four hundred attempts to take life. The same paper complains bitterly of the immunity of crime and the almost impossibility of procuring a conviction. New York possesses according to population probably more of the elements of crime than any city of the United States, or it may be of the world. On this account it is likely that the remarks of the *Times* are not equally applicable to other parts of the United States. But it has been apparent for years to every observing mind, that throughout the United States the moral tone of the community in relation to criminals and their punishment has been steadily on the decline. This is a bad symptom for any people to exhibit, particularly one upon whom is devolved the high and responsible task of self-government. A community that has not courage and virtue enough to eliminate from itself the murderer, the thief and the swindler, by the prompt use of the gallows and the penetentiary, politically and socially speaking, is not long for this world. Whenever such a member of the community is not quickly lopped off from the body politic by the sharp sword of justice, it remains as a festering, poisoning cancer and gangrene, contaminating and corrupting all the parts within its reach or touch. Unless a person guilty of crime is under the ban of the neighborhood on some other account, it is almost impossible to convict him of any serious offense. Let a hitherto respectable person commit murder, theft or robbery, and it is ten to one that he will neither hang nor be imprisoned. Particularly is this the case when, as is quite probable, the accused is a member of some popular and powerful social order, political party, or church. The party or sect to which he belongs are too prone to forget that their *first* duty is to society, and think only of their own organization and the scandal that may come upon it by the conviction of one of their fellows. Under these mistaken and partisan notions of duty, they too often muster around the criminal and choke up the avenues to the halls of justice, until no sound save their own special and sophistical clamor for acquital can be heard on the trial. Every where and in every way, public opinion and virtue is tampered with, browbeaten and cajoled, until truth and justice are overawed or silenced, and falsehood, prejudice or partisan sympathy perpeates the very air of the courtroom, and darkens the minds and perverts the natural instincts of respectable courts and juries. In this way, at the end of a tedious and costly proceeding, which it were a perversion of language to call by any other name than farce, the *respectable* criminal is found by his peers "not guilty," and told to go his way in peace, to sit in convention, to preach, to vote, to hold office, to lecture, to write for the press, or plead at the bar, and in a thousand ways polute and corrupt the current of public morals and opinion with his unexpiated guilt and impurities.

The verdict of "not guilty" is an untruthful and artificial result which nobody believes except in a legal sense, produced by the free use of such means as we have described. It is not the fault of *the law*, but of *the administrator* of it.

But primarily the fault is with the people in the lack of healthy, wholesome sentiment upon this subject, which would rejoice at the punishment of the wicked, and point the finger of scorn at any attempt to procure the acquittal of the guilty, however respectable or with whom connected or associated.

A forcible illustration of the sad state of public morals on this subject, is seen in the trial for larceny which lately occurred in Portland. The prisoner was a minister of a christian church, and hitherto considered respectable. The theft (and indeed many others) was admitted by the defense. The defense was *kleptomania*, which is a hard name for what in plain English we call an *inclination to steal*, or, in modern slang, "on it." The defense is no better than the admitted crime, and both ought to be punished alike. The jury found the prisoner not guilty by reason of insanity, which implied of course that he committed the theft—not from hunger or want, but from *natural inclination to steal*. To prove this irresistible inclination, the defense did not attempt to show that the prisoner was in the habit of stealing, but that he was *a common liar*. Just to think of a respectable jury listening to such stuff! Upon correct principles of law, by all the rules of justice and common sense, the *theft* being admitted the defendant should have been held responsible and punished, unless it were shown that he was incapable of *distinguishing between right and wrong*.—But of this there was no pretense, and if there had been it would have been repelled by the fact of the prisoner's endeavoring to deny the act, and account for the possession of the stolen property by making it appear that he had borrowed it from Judge Williams' office. This consciousness of guilt betrayed in the effort to coin a lie to conceal it, don't look as if the prisoner was oblivious to the distinction between right and wrong. Not it, but the reverse.

Again, an "inclination to commit crime" is neither a defense nor insanity. If it could stand between a criminal and conviction for theft, it would for any other crime. How would it sound in piracy, arson, counterfeiting, or rape? On the contrary, these are the kind of men above all others whom the protection of society demands should be cut off the face of the earth or shut up in prison.

We have not noticed this case on account of the criminal, or of any one connected with him, but because we consider it our duty as a public journalist to call attention to the matter, so this scandalous defense and verdict may remain—as we believe it is—a solitary instance in the annals of Oregon Courts. If "kleptomania," or an "inclination to steal," ever gets a foothold in the Oregon Courts as a defense to the crime of larceny, the time will come, and that not long, when vigilance committees and shot-guns will take the place of such tribunals, *and so they ought*.

FALLS CANAL.—We publish this week, in an other column, the prospectus of a company which has undertaken to construct this important work. We have heretofore noticed the matter at considerable length, and shall hereafter do so as the work progresses. The managers of the Company are well known to the people, and we believe that they will put forth the necessary effort to put the matter through. The officers and agents of the company will canvass the valley generally for subscriptions to the stock, and every man will be offered an opportunity to assist the enterprise. We hope to see the matter pushed vigorously.

LAND FOR THE STATE.—Messrs. John H. Mohrs, and A. C. R. Shaw, Commissioners appointed by the Legislative Assembly, purchased last week of Luke Savage, 147 acres of land about one and a half miles east of town, for the purpose of locating the Penetentiary and Insane Asylum. The price paid was $45 per acre, and $2,000 additional for the water power with the privilege of taking a race through other lands of Savage. The water power is one of the best in the State. There is about sixteen feet of fall, by constructing a race a mile long, and the whole volume of water taken from the Santiam by the Willamette Woolen Manufacturing Company can be used.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—A meeting of the officers of the State Agricultural Society is to be held on the 4th of next month at this place. The purpose is to make arrangements for the next annual Fair.

We trust that arrangements will be made for an exhibition which shall be *purely* agricultural and industrial in its character, or else it may be dispensed with altogether. If it is to be merely an occasion to gather a vast crowd of people in discomfort and ill humor, to gaze upon one or two sewing machines, a few specimens of fancy needle work, a scrub race or two and a review of half drilled militia troops, with a sprinkling of agricultural products which would be no credit *to any single first class farm*, we think we had better do without the show. The present officers of the Society are practical men, and we trust they will devise the proper plan to make the Society really answer its object, by advancing the leading interests of the State. We will have more to say about this matter next week.

"NOW WE GO UP AND NOW WE GO DOWN."—The *Oregonian* had a very laudatory puff of Senator Harding on Monday and a pretty sharp attack upon him on Saturday. It has not yet made up its mind, we infer, which side of that gentleman to take. When it does we hope to hear from it.

GOLD AND CURRENCY.—The continued success of the Union armies is telling upon the money world. Gold has been down to 188 in New York and greenbacks up to 55 in San Francisco, very scarce at that. They are very scarce here.

THE PENETENTIARY.—The *Oregonian* is vigorously opposed to the removal of the Penetentiary out of the streets of Portland, but it does not seem to have any plan arranged to acquire a title to the land upon which the present building stands.

☞ The act of Congress granting land to aid in the construction of a wagon road from Eugene City to the eastern boundary of the State and the law of the State assigning the land to the corporation formed at Eugene, will both be found in our columns to-day.

☞ The steamer Pacific arrived at Portland yesterday, reported to have 700 or 800 passengers. The dispatches from San Francisco a few days since said she had 1,000.

☞ Governor Gibbs has gone to Victoria.

LOOK OUT FOR COUNTERFEITS.—We learn from the *Oregonian* that counterfeit Legal Tender Notes have appeared in that city. Harker & Brothers took $80 of them on Friday last. The person who passed them was arrested. The counterfeits are easily distinguished from the genuine, according to the *Oregonian*, by the dingy yellow and greasy appearance of the paper when compared with the genuine. The engraving is also very coarse. The coloring of the back has the appearance of a smoky-green, while on the front it is a very good imitation of the genuine. It is thought that there may be a large amount of them in circulation.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.—The Governor of this State has received a letter from Secretary Seward, transmitting the proposed Constitutional Amendment upon the subject of Slavery. It has been ratified, we believe, by all the States whose Legislatures have been in session, except Delaware and Kentucky. The assent of three fourths of all the States is required.

☞ Gen. McDowell has ordered the Company of Oregon Infantry raised in Jackson county to remain at Camp Baker until the snow on the mountains melts enough to permit communication with Fort Klamath, when they will proceed to that place.

SANITARY.—Binger Herman, Esq., of Canyonville, has remitted $120, in legal tender notes, to Gov. F. F. Low, President of the California branch of the Sanitary Commission. The letters of Mr. Herman and Gov. Low will be published next week.

MARRIED.

On the 28th of February, at his ranch, Mr. Neal M. Rice, aged 41 years and 2 months, and Miss Mary A. McDonald, aged 26 years and 2 months, by Rev. John F. Denny, all of Marion county, Oregon.

Oregon State Agricultural Society.

A MEETING of the officers of the Oregon State Agricultural Society will be held at Salem, on Tuesday, April 4th, 1865. All members of the Society who feel an interest in its success, are earnestly requested to attend, as matters of great importance will come before the meeting.

H. W. EDDY, President.
E. M. WAITE, Cor. Sec'y. 3w3

E. W. TRACY & CO.,
(Successors to Tracy & King,)
ASSAYERS,
Portland, Oregon.
HIGHEST PRICE PAID FOR
GOLD DUST, LEGAL TENDER, &c.
Mining Stocks Bought and Sold.
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CITY BOOT AND SHOE STORE.
John W. Gilbert,
MANUFACTURER AND DEALER IN
Boots, Shoes, Leather and Findings,
IS now receiving the largest and best selected stock of BOOTS and SHOES ever offered in this market consisting in part of Benkert's Dress, Square Edge and Quilted Boots; Seiberlich's Single and Double-Sole Sewed Boots; Seiberlich's Screwed Boots and Shoes; Godfries' Sewed and Pegged Boots.
A complete assortment of Ladies', Misses' and Children's Philadelphia work, from Miles and Sons', Long's, King's and Seiberlich's.
A good assortment of French Calf Skins, Santa Cruz Sole Leather, and Shoe Findings of every description.
☞ Boots made to order of the best materials.

Premium Holland Oats.
THIS much desired article can now be found at BELL & BROWN'S. These oats have received the Highest Premiums at the Oregon State Fairs.
E. HARTLESS.
Salem, March 13. 4w2

Dissolution of Co-Partnership.
THE Firm of T. H. Cox & Elijah Williams, commonly known under the name and style of T. H. COX & CO., is this day dissolved by mutual consent. T. H. COX will remain at the Old Stand, collect all debts due, and pay the liabilities of said Firm.
T. H. COX.
ELIJAH WILLIAMS.
Salem, Oregon, March 8, 1865. 3w2

Eureka Silver Mining Company.
PARTIES holding Stock in the above named Company, upon which assessments remain unpaid, are hereby notified that unless the same be paid before Monday April 3d, said stock will be advertized for sale.
By order of the Directors.
2w2 R. H. DEARBORN, Sec'y.

FINAL SETTLEMENT.

In Probate Court of Marion County, State of Oregon, March Term, 1865.—Estate of J. G. Larrison, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that C. M. Cartwright, administrator of said estate, has this day presented his accounts, praying a final settlement of said estate. It is therefore ordered that said application be heard on Monday the 3d day of April 1865, at which time all persons interested in said estate can appear and show cause why said application should not be granted.
J. C. PEEBLES, County Judge.
Salem, March 6, 1865. 4w2*

FINAL SETTLEMENT.

JOHN RAMAGE, executor of the estate of Sarah Ramage, deceased, having filed his account as such executor for final settlement, notice is hereby given to all concerned that Friday, the 14th day of April next, is set for the hearing of said cause, at the court-house in Lafayette, Yamhill county, Oregon. By order of court, March 6th, 1865.
J. W. COWLS, County Judge.
By S. C. ADAMS, Clerk. 2w4pd

NOTICE

IS hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed administrator of the estate of Reuben H. Couch, late of Polk county, Oregon, deceased. All persons owing said estate must make immediate payment to said administrator at his residence in Polk county, Oregon, and all persons having claims against said estate are requested to present them for settlement within one year from the date hereof, or they will be thereafter forever barred. WM. B. BARNETT,
March 13, 1865. 2w4pd Adm'r.

PROSPECTUS
OF THE
WILLAMETTE FALLS CANAL COMPANY
At Oregon City.

THIS COMPANY WAS INCORPORATED ON THE 15TH of October, 1863, by Joel Palmer, Joseph Watt, R. Wilcox, A. G. Harvey, John Smith, R. Simpson, and John T. Kerns, with a nominal capital stock of $150,000, for the purpose of constructing such a Canal and Locks as will pass steamboats around the Falls in the Willamette river. In order to preserve the rights of the Corporation, the stock was subscribed, and the organization was completed on the 12th day of October, 1863, by the election of Daniel Harvey, Joel Palmer, David McCully, John L. Barlow, and Joseph Watt, as a Board of Directors. At a meeting of the Stockholders on the 1st day of March, inst., the capital stock was increased to the sum of five hundred thousand dollars.

The right of way for the Canal has been generously offered the Company by Daniel Harvey, Esq.; several thousand dollars of the capital stock have been taken by responsible parties; and some work has already been done on the ground. The Company now offer the balance of the stock to the public at forty dollars per share (a share being $50), and by resolution of the Board not a single share can be disposed of for less than that sum. For the convenience both of the Company and the stockholders, the stock will be issued as fast as taken, and the subscriber's note taken therefor, conditioned, that the note shall not be collectable (except for a small assessment to cover expense of stamps, stationery, survey, and attendant expenses) until shares amounting to at least $100,000 have been sold, and that then not more than twenty-five per centum of the note shall be demanded therefrom within any single period of thirty days. Any stock remaining unsold after constructing the work, to be divided among the stockholders *pro rata*.

COST OF CONSTRUCTION.

It is the intention of the Company to construct the work in the most substantial manner, so as to make it a safe and reliable investment for many generations; but no useless or ornamental masonry will be indulged. The cost of the work, in the style named, has been estimated by General Preston (once Surveyor-General of Oregon, and an able Engineer), and by L. F.