

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's Authority.

A CLEAR FIELD AND A SQUARE FIGHT.

Instead of passing an efficient registry law, in addition to the laws already in force regulating the voting franchise, the late special session repealed the only law in existence which offered any objection to the "rebel vote." The repeal of the law passed at the last regular session was inserted in an act entitled "an act to prevent illegal voting," of which the following is a copy:

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, as follows:

Section 1. That at all general and special elections held in this State, it shall be the duty of the judges of such election to administer the following oath to any person offering to vote unless the person so offering to vote is known to one or more of said judges to possess the qualifications set forth, to-wit:

Yea, B—, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that you are a white male citizen of the United States, twenty-one years of age, and have resided in the State of Oregon six months immediately preceding this election, and ninety days in the district and county immediately preceding the election. And you will support the Constitution and laws of the United States against all enemies, whether foreign or domestic, and will bear true faith, allegiance, and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution or law of any State convention or legislature to the contrary notwithstanding; and you have not voted in any other county or precinct at this election. So help you God. If an affirmation, the words "under pain and penalties of perjury," shall be added.

In case the applicant is of foreign birth, the following oath in lieu of the foregoing one shall be administered:

Yea, I am a white male of foreign birth, and twenty-one years of age, and have resided in the United States one year, and in the State of Oregon during the six months immediately preceding the election, and have declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States one year preceding this election, conformably to the laws of the United States on the subject of naturalization, and have bona fide resided in the district and county ninety days preceding this election. And you will support the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the Government of the United States against all enemies whether foreign or domestic, and will bear true faith, allegiance and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution or law of any State convention or legislature to the contrary notwithstanding; and you have not voted in any other county, district or precinct, at this election. So help you God. (Or, if affirmation, to conclude as in the first oath.)

Sec. 2. That in case the applicant only wishes to vote for Presidential electors or members of Congress, so much of the oath as refers to money drawn from the State Treasury and county may be omitted. And if he wishes to vote for district officers, so much thereof as refers to county officers may be omitted, and if for county officers only, so much thereof as refers to district may be omitted.

Sec. 3. If any person applying to vote is challenged by a lawful voter, the judges of such election shall administer one of the foregoing oaths or affirmations to the said applicant, before he shall be allowed to vote.

Sec. 4. The aforesaid oath shall be administered orally.

Sec. 5. If any person or persons shall, by menace, threat or violence, whether armed or unarmed, intimidate or prevent, or attempt to intimidate or prevent, any person from challenging another voter, or to prevent any person from voting, such person or persons shall be deemed to be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be imprisoned in the Penitentiary not less than one year or more than three years.

Sec. 6. Of the new act provides for the publication of the naturalization laws, and all other laws relating to elections, in pamphlet form, for distribution to the judges of election.

The following section of the new act does the mischief, and emphatically sends all the rebels in Oregon to the polls:

Sec. 7. An act entitled an act to prevent those who have engaged in rebellion, or have aided therein, from voting, approved October 21, 1864, and section 4 of an act entitled an act to amend the act to prevent those who have engaged in rebellion, or have aided therein, from voting, approved —, are hereby repealed.

The foregoing is the whole of the law passed at the late special session, and to show what it does, we give the act of Oct. 21, 1864, repealed by section 7, above:

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly, etc.: Sec. 1. That no person shall be entitled to vote at any State or county election in this State who has been directly engaged in the rebellion of the so-called Southern Confederacy, by bearing arms, furnishing supplies, or in any other way.

Sec. 2. That whenever, at any general or special election in this State, any person offering to vote is challenged by another voter, for the reason that he has been engaged in furthering the interests of the rebellion, "as set forth in section 1," the judges of election shall administer the following oath: "I, A. B., do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have never been engaged directly in the rebellion of the Confederate States, or aided the same, either by bearing arms myself in the service of said rebellion, or encouraging others to do so, or by furnishing the officers of said Confederate States money or other material means; so help me God." And if the party refuse to take the oath, his vote shall be rejected.

Sec. 3. The oath prescribed by this act shall not be required of persons not citizens of the United States; provided, however, that nothing in this act shall be so construed as to deprive any person of his rights under the Amnesty Proclamation of President Lincoln, approved October 21, 1864.

Our readers can now see that the law of Oct. 21, 1864, prohibiting the rebels from voting, has been wiped out by the special session, and in lieu thereof put such a harmless affair as any guerrilla from Price's army would scorn to show the public opinion of this act, we copy from a couple of our leading exchanges.

The Albany Journal, a staunch Union organ, says:

We regard the title of the bill a misnomer. It should have read thus: "An bill to permit persons to vote who have been from the State Treasury." By the provisions of the act, if Jeff Davis were to break away from the secessionists at Fortress Monroe, and come to Oregon six months before our next State election, he would be entitled to vote by merely taking the exaggerated oath prescribed in the bill. After carefully reading the bill and other papers, we are convinced that it is one of two conclusions, viz: That the Union members voting for the bill did so without a moment's consideration; or else it is a mischievous baiting, begotten by that spirit of South Carolina chivalry, J. D. Fay, the Master of the Democratic side of the House. The act virtually ignores the provisions of the President's Amnesty Proclamation, and admits the whole class of double-dealing traitors, rebels and scoundrels, excluded from the ballot-box by that instrument. We shall respond further to the spirit of the bill, and shall not wait until the next session; but, however, without first expressing the hope that Governor Gibbs will not let his official seal upon it and never suffer it to become a law.

The Journal's censor is not more severe upon the bill than is the price of O'Meara's Democrat, as follows:

"To vote the appearance of total defeat, however, who is known as Price's bill was passed by the Senate. We give it in another column, and will simply say here that we greatly feared it on Monday morning last, while at Salem that

the bill would not pass. It has passed, and as a Democrat we rejoice thereat. If the Abolitionists meant it as a club to beat Democrats at the polls, we can assure them they have very foolishly put the handle of the club into Democratic hands.

We cannot explain the action of the Legislature in this matter upon any other hypothesis than that they were not aware of the nature of the act they were repealing. Owing to the State Printer's "want of energy and foresight," the whole law of Oct. 21, 1864, was not in print, and members could not see it, unless they went to the Secretary's office and examined the manuscript copy. It was slipped through the Legislature without sufficient investigation. But it should not have slipped through the Executive office in that manner. If the Governor did not readily know what the act repealed, it was his imperative duty to examine the records and see. Unfortunately, he failed to "set his official heel upon it." There are five or six hundred rebels in Oregon to-day who have been engaged in the rebellion against the Government, and who have never taken either the amnesty oath of President Lincoln or President Johnson. They are traitors and public enemies, and cannot be justly restored to political rights without taking the amnesty oath of President Johnson. So far as the numbers of their votes are concerned, we care nothing, as there are not enough of them in Oregon to endanger the success of the Union ticket at the June election. There are not more than eight hundred emigrant voters by the last immigration, and not more than five or six hundred of them will vote the Copperhead ticket, so that Union men are not troubled on this score, but we do object to letting rebels vote without taking the amnesty oath. The Confederate rebellion should be treated as something more odious than a Democratic holiday. In the language of Andrew Johnson, "treason should be made odious."

As matters stand now, Democrats cannot complain that they do not get a fair show. They get more than that. They will get the votes of men who could not vote according to the laws and constitutions of the States from which they came; while not a single man will vote the Union ticket but could freely vote anywhere in the United States. This is something for Union men to be proud of. Union immigrants can point with pride to their record, and to the laws of the States from which they came. A Union vote from an immigrant in Oregon should be considered a passport for truth, integrity and patriotism. A man who was a friend to the Union in his old home will be such here, and is worthy to be trusted.

Union men of Oregon, before you there is a fair, square fight between the friends of Union and Liberty and the friends of Jeff Davis and Slavery. Buckle on your armor of truth and correct principles, and commence the warfare as once by sowing the good seed of correct information. Keep it up until next June election, and show these Copperheads that if they will wander to and seek the aid of men who joined hands with Jeff Davis in open warfare to destroy the Union and overthrow the Government, they shall certainly meet the same fate that their darling Confederacy suffered in the mortal defeat of Lee and Davis before Richmond.

Since writing the above, we have received the Oregonian, making the following strictures upon the remarks of the Journal:

Unpardoned rebels cannot, of course, take the oath without making themselves guilty of the crime of perjury. We scarcely know what the Journal means by saying that the act ought to be entitled "An bill to permit traitors to vote and draw money from the State Treasury." This law does not repeal that of the former act which requires all persons who have claims on the Treasury to take the oath of loyalty before they can draw their money. Nor does it, as we have shown above, admit to the ballot-box any who have excluded therefrom by the Amnesty Proclamation.

We cannot see why unpardoned rebels can not take this oath. We are very sure they will take it unhesitatingly. The trouble with the law is, that it does not recognize participation in the rebellion as a "disqualification." The Oregonian is mistaken in saying that all those are excluded who have not availed themselves of the Amnesty Proclamations. In the last law no reference is made to the Amnesty Proclamation, while, in the law repealed, taking the oath in President Lincoln's Amnesty Proclamation was made a condition precedent to voting in Oregon, and of the fact of taking the oath the voter had to furnish satisfactory proof to the judges of the election. The oath prescribed for those who want to draw money from the Treasury has not been repealed.

VOTERS THE PROPER BASIS OF REPRESENTATION.

In disposing of the suffrage question in the Southern States, President Johnson and those who support his views and policy have taken the position that representation in Congress should be based upon voters, and not upon population. This is pure, unadulterated, genuine democracy. Let those deny it who dare. There is no derogation in a law that allows Mississippi five Representatives in Congress on a basis of sixty-nine thousand votes, while New Hampshire is allowed but three Representatives on a basis of fifty-five thousand votes. The comparison between Maine and South Carolina is still more forcible, as a South Carolina white vote is equal to two white votes in Maine, according to the present law regulating representation in Congress. This unequal and unjust discrimination against the Northern States arises out of the fact that the Negroes of the South are taken into the basis of representation, but do not vote. We presume the present session of Congress will submit an amendment to alter the Constitution upon this subject, so that each State shall be represented in Congress according to its voters, and not according to its population. This rule would compel the States of the South to enfranchise the negroes, or be content to lose considerable of their power and influence in Congress. This appears to us the natural and easy solution of the suffrage question, as far as the General Government is concerned. It was the unequal distribution of Congressional power which first prompted the organization of the great Republican party of the Northern States, founded upon the principle of opposition to the further extension of slavery. In a debate with Judge Douglas, at Peoria, Illinois, in 1858, the lamented Lincoln presented the subject in very strong and unanswerable terms, when replying to the arguments of Douglas in favor of popular sovereignty. He argued that we had a right to oppose the formation and admission to the Union States whose white voters, counting the negroes they owned, could virtually cast two votes in Congress to his one; that admission of such States into the Union, upon such a basis of Congressional representation, made white voters of the North less than men; that if the South could increase its slave population faster than the growth of

the free States, and own, control and vote its negroes, it could control the Government and destroy the rights of the free States, and the dignity of non-slaveholding freemen of the North. These arguments against the further extension of slavery were so clear and forcible, so entirely unanswerable, that the great champion Douglas sought an interview with Lincoln and secured a pledge from his adversary that he should not challenge him again for public discussion during that campaign. Lincoln did not again challenge Douglas that year, and Douglas retired from the field, and soon after broke ground against the Buchanan administration and the "Lecompton swindle."

If this was such safe and tenable ground against the formation of any more slave States, is it not even a better position, now that all are free States, to insist that the Constitution shall be so amended as to give each State Congressional power in proportion to its legal voters, and not in proportion to its population. If States desire to keep persons in their midst who do not vote, or in any manner add to the political power and strength of the State, let such States be responsible therefor, and not the National Government, which is a republican or democratic form of government.

TRIAL OF JEFF DAVIS. — From the Cincinnati Gazette we learn the following particulars of the coming trial of Jefferson Davis. The trial is to be before the Supreme Court at Washington, and since Davis' State has nullified the ordinance of secession, instead of repealing it, he will be tried as if still a Senator of the United States. It is supposed that Mr. Chase will preside. The charge will be that of treason, and will be confined to a few specifications. The purpose of the Government is not merely to punish Davis, but to define the nature of treason, fix its punishment, reveal the cruelties of which it has been the fruitful source, and establish a legal precedent for the future which will be a terror to traitors hereafter, and forever disgrace the treason which for a time was respectable by reason of its power and formidable proportions.

The Attorney General has selected the counsel to aid him in the prosecution, and Mr. Davis has been allowed to select his attorneys. Mr. Speed will be assisted in the prosecution by Major General Lovell H. Rousseau of Kentucky, Hon. Wm. M. Evans of New York, and Hon. John H. Clifford of Massachusetts. Mr. Evans disputes with Charles O'Connor, the principal lawyer of Mr. Davis, for the front rank among the lawyers of New York. He is probably the ablest criminal lawyer retained in the case. As a strong Republican, he was the Standard-Week candidate for the Senate, when it was understood that Senator Morgan was to be appointed Secretary of the Treasury. He has never held any political office, though he has been prominent in politics. Mr. Clifford was Attorney General of Massachusetts, and won his first legal laurels as the prosecutor of Webster for the murder of Dr. Parkman, in 1859. Gen. Rousseau and Mr. Speed are well known to the public. Chase, O'Connor will be assisted by Ransom H. Gillet, formerly Solicitor of the Treasury in Buchanan's day. It is stated that Mr. Davis declares his intention to conduct his case in person.

The Statesman is mistaken in saying that we were ever in favor of taxing the mines, i. e., mining claims and lands. The Statesman is mistaken in saying that we were ever in favor of taxing the mines, i. e., mining claims and lands. The Statesman is mistaken in saying that we were ever in favor of taxing the mines, i. e., mining claims and lands.

As to whether we are mistaken or not, the following extract from a September number of the Oregonian will explain:

IMPUENCE OF AN OREGON REBEL. — From an old army friend we learn the following facts, illustrative of the impudence of Oregon rebels:

Lieut. Welcher, who married a daughter of Gen. Adair, at Astoria, was stationed at Fort Vancouver when the war broke out. Being a rebel Tennesseean, he refused to fight for his country and the government which had educated him and honored him with its office and badge of honor; and he therefore resigned, and managed to escape to a miserable existence in Oregon, Washington Territory and British Columbia. Last winter, with more consistency than most of Oregon rebels, he concluded to join the enemies of his country and make open warfare upon it, and set out for secession, but was captured in running the blockade. After Lee's surrender, when the rebel prisoners were getting transportation to their Southern homes, Welcher applied to Gen. Park for transportation to Oregon—Park refused him that he was a Tennesseean, and reminded him that he was a rebel, and refused to send him to Oregon, or pay his passage to any other place.

Just think of the impudence of a man going all the way from Oregon to the Potomac, to enlist for those who want to draw money from the Treasury has not been repealed.

THE GREAT CATTLE PLAGUE.

The cattle plague in Europe has reached a formidable and wide spread extent, and is proving terribly fatal.

A London correspondent of an Eastern paper states that Beef in England has reached an exorbitant price, owing to the cattle plague, and that only well-to-do families are able to purchase it. Heretofore the plague has only affected cattle, but lately it has begun to show itself among sheep, and is now threatening Hogs. A flock of 2,000 Sheep in Norfolk, England, had been attacked, and most of the animals had died. The people were afraid to buy English meats, and were looking to the United States for the principal supply of all provisions, which had fair to supplant all others in British markets.

Late advices state that the plague has been increasing in England during the past month to an alarming extent. During that period the attacks have risen, from previous monthly estimates, from 14,000 deaths to 21,000. Between the 4th and 11th of November, the number increased fifty per cent. The Times assumes that the deaths instead of 700 a week are at least four times that number, and if the winter does not bring a change, the losses may be 5,000 or 6,000 weekly by Christmas.

If the plague should continue, it will very considerably affect the price of meats in the United States. In fact, meat park and bacon is now held at high rates in New York, for this very reason.

RECOMMENDED.—Judge Williams, of the U. S. Senate from Oregon, has recently recommended Lieut. Cately, Wayne, and Hopkins, of the Oregon Cavalry, for appointment to the regular army.

Tax Payers, Read.—Gen. Shulton in command in South Carolina has made a requisition for 35,000 pairs of blankets and immense quantities of clothing and other articles, simply for the freedmen in that State. Of course similar requisitions come from other reconstructed States. Oh, it is all for the negroes and the tax-payers must foot the bill. It is getting interesting.—O'Meara's Democrat.

Yes, read, Tax payers, read! Read everything you can get your hands on. Read the history of the democratic party. Read the Cincinnati platform. Read the speeches of Breckinridge, Davis, Toombs, and other South ern democrats, in the canvass that secured the election of James Buchanan. Read Buchanan's message, not excepting the one in which the doubly damned old traitor argued that the government had no power to preserve the integrity of the Union. Read the speeches of Southern democrats in 1860 and '61, and see how they twisted and shuffled and wriggled and apologized, and finally defended a war to overthrow the government. Read the speeches of Andrew Johnson and Stephen A. Douglas. Yes, democrats, read the speeches of these two brave men and see how they bearded the traitors in their very den, and told them to their faces that if war came, Southern democrats would be responsible for it. Read the history of the war. Read President Lincoln's messages, to win back the Southern democracy to the Union—see how he offered to put an amendment in the constitution itself that slavery in the States should never be touched. See how he offered to have the government pay for every slave in the South. Yes, read, the declarations of the Southern democrats that they would make no compromise or any settlement with the government—not even if they were allowed to write their own terms. See how they would have nothing but disunion or war. Then turn to Oregon, and read the democratic papers—read this same O'Meara's traitor, and see how he exulted the papers for making war on the Union. See how those democrats reviled and abused the President and the soldiers who were defending the "Stars and Stripes." See how these democrats declared the South couldn't be shipped, and that "a generation of (Southern) heroes would grow up under the roar of cannon" in their efforts to destroy the Union and overthrow the government.

Yes, gentlemen taxpayers, read, READ, and see your country, read, READ, and see who brought the war upon the nation, and all its consequences. Read, and we are perfectly satisfied that every honest man will lay all the horrors of the war, and all its expenses at the door of the democratic party. Ho, ye! every man in Oregon; no matter whether he pays taxes or not, set yourself down and read the history of this matter. We charge that the democratic party is responsible for all the bloodshed, for every wounded, maimed man, for every widow and orphan, and last but not least for every dollar's expense of the war—for all its consequences. Read, and see if it is not true.

The Statesman is mistaken in saying that we were ever in favor of taxing the mines, i. e., mining claims and lands. The Statesman is mistaken in saying that we were ever in favor of taxing the mines, i. e., mining claims and lands. The Statesman is mistaken in saying that we were ever in favor of taxing the mines, i. e., mining claims and lands.

As to whether we are mistaken or not, the following extract from a September number of the Oregonian will explain:

TAKING THE MINES.—No method of taxing the mines, as the government seems to meet the approval of the people who are engaged in working them. Many miners, very unwisely and illiberally, we believe, are now making the mistake of not paying any tax whatever upon the mines or their products. Now these lands belong to the government, and the same as do other parts of our national domain, it is impossible to assign any valid reason why they may not rightfully be taxed, just as other species of property are. If they are to be exempt from taxation the government has no right to levy a tax of this kind, but upon considerations which urge the impolicy of the measure.

That, we think, is sufficiently explicit; but we will add, in order to do the Oregonian the justice it invariably denies to us, that in the same article, it suggested that the levying of a greater tax on gold bars than that already levied would probably be the more feasible plan of taxing the mines. It is not necessary for us to misrepresent the Oregonian as that paper did the Statesman, in charging that we were the associate of copperheads, and that we intended to break up the Union party, &c. in order to overthrow a point, and much less have we any malice to subvert by such a course. The Oregonian is doubtless opposed to either taxing or selling the mining claims, when it reflects sufficiently to find out what it is in favor of, on this point; and we would suggest that it can do the State some service by vigorously opposing such side or taxes.

"WE CONGRATULATE."—Two weeks ago we stated, in justification of our suggestion that the general government ought assume the war debts of the loyal States, that a bill had been introduced into Congress, for this very purpose. The telegraph gave us the name of "Blair," as the author of the bill, and we so stated it, whereupon the Eugene Journal contradicted its shins with delight, and congratulated that "all the Blairs were copperheads," which is about the truth. The San Francisco papers now come with a correct report, giving us the name of "Blair," as the author of this bill; and upon examining the roll of Congressmen for this session we find that there is not a Blair in Congress; and that "Blaine," the author of the bill, is no other than "James G. Blaine," a dyed in the wool abolitionist, from away down in Maine, and an old member of Congress, and par excellency sound. "We congratulate."

MR. HENDERSON'S LETTER.—We publish a very interesting and important letter from our Congressman, in another column. He takes the true ground, and administers a sensible rebuke to all those who clamor for negro suffrage in the South and are unwilling to grant it to intelligent colored men at home. The Oregonian will do well to take this into prayerful consideration. We hope, however, that it will spare Mr. Henderson for using the words "dyed in the wool Abolitionist."

HARD UP.—The Oregonian gets off a little squab at the Salem papers, which the Bulletin squabs; whereupon the Oregonian republishes it as the statement of the Bulletin. This looks like the action of the countryman who, being elected a justice of the peace, stuck his head into a barrel, bellowing "Squire Jones, Squire Jones," at the top of his voice, to see how his new title would sound.

ACCIDENTALLY SHOT.—From the Albany Journal we learn that Capt. Shields, an old resident of Linn county, living in the Forks of the Santiam, was accidentally shot by a companion with whom he was hunting, in the mountains, about four weeks since. The ball entered the ankle, shattering the joint in such a terrible manner that amputation was found necessary. The patient is understood to be in a very critical condition.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.—Washington, 30.—Mr. Wade presented a memorial of the Society of Friends of Baltimore, asking that something be done in behalf of the freedmen of the South. Referred to special committee of freedmen.

Anthony reported from the committee on printing, a resolution for printing 30,000 copies of the obituary on the late Senator Cullender. Passed.

The bill for the payment of \$25,000 to Mrs. Lincoln was passed.

Mr. Averill, from the committee on the District of Columbia, reported a bill to regulate the elective franchise in the District, by removing the distinction of color as a qualification for its exercise.

Mr. Sumner called it would be acted on very soon.

Mr. Davis called Mr. Sumner to order, making a point of order that the bill was not before the Senate for discussion.

Mr. Wilson called up the Senate bill to maintain the freedom of the inhabitants of the States lately in rebellion.

Mr. Sumner addressed the Senate in favor of the bill. When he thought of what occurred in this chamber yesterday, in heated temper to white-wash the unhappy condition of the rebel States, he felt that they ought to speak of nothing else to-day. He proceeded to speak of the right of Congress to pass the bill and read letters from the Southern States private and public, to show that the spirit of the rebellion still exists there, and the rights of the freedmen were being disregarded in all the Southern States.

House.—Morrill, of the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to appoint Assistant Assessors of Internal Revenue. Passed.

Stevens, of Pennsylvania, introduced a bill to pay pension and damages due to Union property by rebels, out of confiscated property. Referred to Committee of the Whole.

Lawrence, of Ohio, submitted a resolution which was laid on the table, to be printed affirming that Jeff. Davis should be tried and punished for treason, and also, on account of the starving of prisoners.

Banks reported an amendment to the rules, recognizing as officers of the House the representatives of the Gold and Silver Mining Companies.

The House concurred in the conference from tomorrow, till the 5th of January.

Hall announced the death of Orlando Kellogg of Manchester, New Hampshire, on the 29th.

TELEGRAPHIC DISPATCHES.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The Post's Washington special says: Senator Sprague has started a movement in the Senate looking to an increase of the tariff on all goods that can be manufactured in the United States. The Western Republicans generally say they will not vote for a further increase.

New York, Dec. 20th.—This morning a fire broke out in the New Hampshire House of Representatives, near this city, and destroyed all but the back walls. The inmates, one hundred and twenty in number, were rescued, although most of them were asleep when the fire commenced, excepting eight or ten who made their escape. They were removed to the Stock House connected with the farm. The buildings were insured for 20,000. Loss, about \$40,000.

New York, Dec. 20.—The Commercial's Washington dispatch says: The President's action in restoring the Southern States which has adopted the Constitutional Amendment to the enjoyment of all civil rights, has paralyzed the action of the radical Republicans and produced an intense interest, and an exciting contest may be expected, however, between the radicals and conservatives, supporters of the President.

Fortress Monroe, Dec. 17.—A fleet of upwards of twenty sailing vessels is in this harbor wind-bound.

A riot took place in Norfolk, Va., yesterday, between the 20th New York regiment and the 30th United States colored. A volley of from ten to twelve muskets was fired by the 20th upon the colored soldiers, which was about to be returned when their officers arrived and put an end to the disturbance. It, however, for some time threatened to be very serious. One man, colored, was injured.

Toronto, Dec. 20.—Hon. George Brown has resigned his seat in the Cabinet, there being a great difference of opinion on an important subject. The particulars have not transpired.

LETTER FROM HON. J. H. D. HENDERSON.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 21, 1861. Ed. Statesman: Before this reaches you, Congress will have organized, and the circumstances under which the organization was effected will have been communicated to you by telegraph. Nevertheless, I am disposed to tell you what seems to be the state of affairs at present.

From all that I can learn, the members from the Southern States recently in rebellion will not be admitted to seats until after the House is organized, and then their claims investigated, and they admitted or rejected on their individual merits or demerits. I believe a large majority of the Union members will take the ground that the States which have been in rebellion must first indorse the amendments to the Constitution of the United States; 2d, that they must abolish slavery in their own States; 3d, that they must repudiate the rebel war debt in every possible phase; 4th, they must declare all their acts and ordinances of secession null and void from the beginning—not repeat them, but declare them null. This the States will not do this winter, and consequently there will be but few rebels in the incoming session, especially as they will be required to take the "Congressional oath."

Some of the wool-dyed Abolitionists will take the ground that the rebel States must enfranchise the Negroes before their members are admitted to seats in Congress. I believe a large majority of the Union members will take the ground that the States which have been in rebellion must first indorse the amendments to the Constitution of the United States; 2d, that they must abolish slavery in their own States; 3d, that they must repudiate the rebel war debt in every possible phase; 4th, they must declare all their acts and ordinances of secession null and void from the beginning—not repeat them, but declare them null. This the States will not do this winter, and consequently there will be but few rebels in the incoming session, especially as they will be required to take the "Congressional oath."

The self-styled Democracy are being considerably exercised about the hanging of Wirz, and appear to apprehend that there are others likely to follow suit. They very properly regard his superior, even up to Jeff. Davis, as equally guilty with him, and consistency will compel the Government to put them all through the same law.

Our friends and fellow citizens, Drs. Bailey and Ballard are here.

Respectfully, etc. J. H. D. HENDERSON.

THE DAILY MAIL.—By request, we publish the following section of the Daily Overland Mail to California, which it seems did not appear in our advertisement for proposals. Contractors will take notice that bids are requested for this section:

"14785.—From Yreka, by Healy, Ashland Mills, Phoenix, Jacksonville, Rock Point, Grant's Pass, Leland, Galesville, North Canbyville, Myrtle Creek, Coosburg and Willows, to Oakland, 175 miles and back, daily.

Schedule from April 1st to November 1st: Leave Yreka daily at 1 p. m.

Arrive at Oakland third day by 1 p. m. (in 50 hours.)

Leave Oakland daily at 12 m.

Arrive at Yreka third day by 2 p. m. (in 50 hours.)

Schedule from April 1st to Nov. 1st: Leave Yreka daily at 8 a. m.

Arrive at Oakland 4th day by 6 p. m.

Leave Oakland daily at 8 a. m.

Arrive at Yreka 4th day by 6 p. m."

PROZEN IN.—At last accounts the Steamer Owyhee was frozen fast in the Columbia river nine miles below Umatilla. About one hundred passengers had to be landed and sent back to Umatilla.

SALEM STILL AHEAD.—In many respects, Salem is still ahead of any town on the Pacific coast, for morality, philanthropy, energy, intelligence, and quietude, it is unequalled. Where will you find a town of the size of Salem that has so little business for police officers, and that the jailer has no fewer than ten, and where charitable institutions are better patronized; and where there are so many churches well filled with quiet, orderly listeners to the word of God, and where all over town, and in the little folks are taught by intelligent teachers to be wise, industrious, and good; in fact, where everybody is quietly attending to his own business, and where all are so well over town, and especially in the schools, and it has become notorious that those who use Owyhee's cider are more peaceable, energetic and charitable than their neighbors who don't use it.

RECONSTRUCTION!

THE BENNETT HOUSE, at Salem, is long and favorably known as a quiet and comfortable house for "Boarders," travelers, &c., and has this day changed proprietors by the withdrawal of Mr. Henderson and the arrival of Mr. Henderson.

The House, after having received a thorough renovation, is now under the supervision and management of the undersigned, who will spare neither attention or expense to make it a good hotel should be so.

My old friends, former patrons, and the traveling community, are respectfully invited to give me a call over town, and especially in the schools, and it has become notorious that those who use Owyhee's cider are more peaceable, energetic and charitable than their neighbors who don't use it.

P. S. The table will at all times be furnished with the very best market affords, and charges reasonable. Salem, Dec. 20, 1865.—H. H. F.

ATTENTION, PUBLIC.

Steam Saw-Mill FOR SALE.

TERMS EASY.

ONE of Blaney's twenty horse-power portable, double, circular steam saw-mills, with fixtures complete, that will cut from 6,000 to 8,000 feet in every twelve hours, and which can be removed on three or four horses, and put in operation in from four to six days after getting on the ground. Said mill can be seen in operation in the city of Salem. Our reason for selling is that we have purchased an engine of eighty horse-power, in order to run other machinery connected with the mill. For further particulars apply to J. H. HOUSTON, FATT & CO., Salem, Dec. 20, 1865. 44m

Sale of Mining Stock.