

Albany Register.

U. S. Official Paper for Oregon.

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1873.

HEROIC DEATHS.

The correspondent of the San Francisco Chronicle, writing from the Lava Bed full details of the late bloody reverse met by a reconnoitering party of our troops, commanded by Major Thomas, gives the following relative to the Major's heroic death. When he found himself and men surrounded, true to his brave heart and soldier instincts, he sought to cheer the soldiers on to the bitter end, urging them to sell their lives dearly, saying to them, "Men, we are surrounded; we must fight and die, like men and soldiers." Lieutenants Howe and Wright ably seconded him in his efforts. After receiving a mortal wound, he buried his gold watch and chain among the rocks and then emptied his revolver amongst the enemy before dying. The death of Col. Wright was no less heroic and tragic. Through the fight he showed himself the bravest of the brave, exposing himself to keep his men in good heart. He was first wounded in the hip, then in the groin, then, as he was trying to fire his revolver, in the right wrist, then through the breast or bowels. He, too, buried his watch, remarking as he did so, "They shan't get this."

Our Indian Population.

The Indian Bureau estimates the number of Indians in this country, exclusive of the 70,000 in Alaska, to be in all about 300,000. Of these, 139,000 are self-supporting; 84,000 are taken care of in part by the Government; 31,000 are provided for entirely by the Government; 55,000 support themselves by hunting, marauding, etc. As to civilization, 97,000 are civilized; 125,000 are semi-civilized and 78,000 are entirely savage. As to their location, 82,500 are in Minnesota and States east of the Mississippi river; 70,650 are in Nebraska, Kansas and Indian Territory; 65,000 are in Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho; 84,000 are in Nevada, and Territories of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Arizona; 47,850 are in California, Oregon and Washington Territory.

In the official report of Col. Wheaton, of the battle at the Modoc caves, fought April 21st, he says that in all of his experience of twenty-three years in the service, the greater portion of which has been employed on the frontier, he never before encountered an enemy, civilized or savage, who occupied a position of such great natural strength as the Modocs, and he never saw troops engage a better armed or more skilled foe. After mentioning in terms of praise, the gallant conduct of officers and men of the regular troops, he speaks in warm terms of the valuable services rendered by Gen. Ross and his Oregon volunteers, also those rendered by Capt. Fairchild's company of volunteer sharpshooters. He likewise acknowledges the good services rendered by Colonels Miller, Thompson and Bellingier, and Capt. Ioan Applegate, of Oregon.

A detachment of 150 soldiers left New York on the 4th inst. for the Modoc country.

FALSE RUMORS.

The reporter of the *Oregonian* had a lengthy conversation with Father Wilbur, Indian Agent at the Simcoe Reservation, last Tuesday, in relation to prospective Indian troubles in Eastern Oregon and Washington Territory. Under direction of the Department, Father Wilbur visited White Bluffs, Priest Rapid, or Big Bend of the Columbia, mouth of Palouse river, a point on the Snake river—all the points where Indian difficulties were reported as threatened—and found in every instance the reports without substantial foundation, and consequently totally unworthy of belief. Father Wilbur was absent from Simcoe eleven days, making these visits, was accompanied by six Indians, including the head chief of the Yakimas and several sub-chiefs, and rode 500 miles. It looks as if mercenary men were at the bottom of these rumors. They want contracts.

A GOOD IDEA.

A telegram from Washington says that the recent defeats suffered by the soldiers in the lava beds, has suggested to the War Office the propriety of organizing, from the crack shots of the frontier, a detachment of riflemen, with which to cope with the wily savage. The regular troops will be used to invest the strongholds, such as the lava beds, for instance, but the actual fighting will be done by these volunteer or special detachments of riflemen. The War Office is, for once, on the right track, and we hope will speedily carry out the idea.

TERRIBLE ACCIDENT.

Last Sunday, at Dixon, Illinois, while two hundred persons were standing on an iron bridge that spanned the waters of Rock river, witnessing the ceremony of baptism there being performed, the bridge gave way, precipitating men, women and children into the river. About one half the number perished, either killed by the fall, or were drowned in the waters of Rock river.

The Jacksonville *Sentinel* of the 3d, says that Hon. A. B. Meacham passed through that place on the Wednesday before, en route for home, accompanied by his wife. He was so disfigured by the wounds received from the Modocs as to be scarcely recognized by his acquaintances.

Col. Foster, of Indiana, is the newly appointed Minister to Mexico. He has secured his instructions and will probably leave for the city of Mexico next month. He has had several informal interviews with the Mexican Minister, and informed himself relative to the pending issues between the two governments. It is to be hoped he may be able to influence them to a successful adjustment.

James L. Orr, Ambassador from the United States, died at St. Petersburg, Russia, from inflammation of the lungs. He had been ill from a cold for some time, but his death was wholly unexpected.

It is expected that four telegraph cables will be working across the Atlantic and five across the Gulf of St. Lawrence, before the first of September.

Rev. Joel Parker died in New York city, May 2d, aged 74 years.

PROGRESS IN RUSSIA.

In spite of the manumission of the Russian serfs in 1861, American journals are astonished to read in a Russian paper a statement to the effect that no amendment has taken place in the condition of the people for the last thirty or forty years. This writer says that these people still live like savages, in smoking huts, covered with dirty sheepskins, and sleep indiscriminately together with their domestic animals. They scarcely ever bathe, and their food is black bread, mixed with all sorts of ingredients, cabbage, soup, and milk. Suffering from deprivation and disease has so long preyed upon them, that they have deteriorated in physical condition, and they are no longer the vigorous giants of the "olden time," and the mortality among them is represented as fearful. In the northwestern provinces, the average limit of life is between 22 and 27 years. In the Volga basin it is put at 20 years, and in other portions of Russia, only 15 years. The pay of the laborer is so distressingly low—from seventeen to thirty cents per day, except during harvest, when it is double that—that the children are put to work just as soon as they can earn anything, and women, confined, are expected to be in the field after three days. These causes are sufficient to weaken the muscular power of the average peasant, and render his mortality extremely brief. Russia is making an earnest effort, however, to improve the condition of her subjects. The building of railroads has done much, other improvements are being made, but a great deal remains to be done. It will take a long time to improve a people, says an exchange, who have nothing but black bread and water to live upon, and who are forced to toil sixteen hours for an average wage of fifty cents. It will, indeed, but every humane heart will wish the improvement made as fast as possible.

GOOD PAY.

The pay fixed upon for the Peace Commissioners selected to manage the Modoc difficulty, was twenty dollars per day to each Commissioner. The killing of Dr. Thomas and the wounding of Mr. Meacham, will doubtless result in Congress voting them pensions—to the living and to the heirs of the dead.

REPUBLICAN VICTORY.

The municipal election at Oregon City on Monday resulted in a complete victory for the Republican party, the entire Republican ticket being elected. The total number of votes cast, 187. The day passed off very quietly.

CHIEF JUSTICESHIP.

It is broadly hinted that the Chief Justiceship, made vacant by the death of Salmon P. Chase, will be tendered to Attorney General Geo. H. Williams. Not only Oregon, but the whole nation would approve the appointment.

SUPREME JUDGE.

Hon. L. F. Mosher, of Roseburg, has been appointed Judge of the Supreme Court, by Governor Grover, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Thayer.

It is ascertained that the recall of Minister De Long from Japan was owing to his having repeatedly made presents to the Mikado.

From Rome, May 5th, we are informed that the Pope is still confined to his bed.

EASTERN NEWS.

Fred. Hessig, shoemaker, suspected one Ritter, in his employ, of improper intimacy with his wife, and in an angry altercation struck him in the face. For this Ritter plunged a knife into Hessig, who defuncted shortly after.

John Sellinger objected to Jas. Lang, his room-mate, marrying his sister; and on the night of the 4th inst. while Lang was in bed, Sellinger shot and killed him.

Piescobaldo, New York, on the 4th, was visited by a land-strike which destroyed 44 houses and killed 33 persons.

Oakes Ames was attacked by paralysis at 5 o'clock on the evening of the 5th inst., at his residence in North Easton, and remained unconscious at latest dates. His symptoms are dangerous in the extreme. Ames has not attended to business since Tuesday last, but was at his office on Wednesday, when he was advised to go home for rest. His physicians have but little hope of his recovery. His system has been weakened by a kidney trouble of five years' existence. Ames is 69 years of age.

At the burning of a house on the 4th, at Newport, N. H., E. E. Richardson and George Williams were killed by a falling chimney.

Joseph German was killed and eight others injured, at Syracuse on the 5th, by the explosion of a boiler in the cement works of Euseubertzshill & Co.

From Washington City we have this, under date of May 5th: A Corpus Christi letter of the 21st ult. says two bands of Mexican robbers, numbering thirty each, are operating in Nueces county, Texas, sacking stores and robbing travelers. The farmers are compelled to leave work to protect their homes. A party of fifteen citizens pursued one gang and discovered evidences that over two hundred cattle had been stripped of their hides. They caught up with the band, and, after a fight, captured seven horses whose saddles were empty.

New York dates to the 6th say the application for the stay of proceedings in the case of Michael Nixon, the murderer of Phyfer, has been denied. Nixon will be executed on the 10th unless the Governor interposes.

A vessel which arrived at Queens-town on the 6th, reported passing, in latitude 23° 7' north, longitude 41° west, a large American ship on fire and apparently abandoned. Name not ascertained.

The war in Louisiana still continues.

A Washington telegram of May 1st says, "Hon. James Brooks died last night," his remains will be taken to New York on Saturday.

Mr. Meacham has reached his home in Salem, and is rapidly recovering from his wounds.

The steamship Atlantic has been blown up, and 14 more bodies recovered.

A telegram from Pesth to Vienna on the 7th, announces a terrible railroad accident near that city, by which 21 persons were killed and 40 injured, some fatally.

FOREIGN NEWS.

A dispatch from Orenburg to St. Petersburg, Russia, says the column marching from the former place to Khura finds its progress difficult, and makes only twenty versts a day. On the 16th day of April, the vanguard arrived at Tekushule, and the main body was at Ivauazoran.

From Canada, under date of May 5th, a telegram says that the special committee appointed by the House of Commons to investigate the affairs of the Pacific Railroad have resolved to postpone inquiry until July next, and sit thereafter in secret. This action is taken at the request of the Government.

A letter from Montreal states that a bitter war, increasing in violence, is being waged between the Liberal Catholics and Ultramontanes of Canada. The former are under the lead of the Archbishop of Quebec, and the latter under the Jesuit Archbishop of Montreal. In the last election the Quebec party increased their delegation to Parliament from 15 to 28, and the representatives of the Montreal coalition shrunk from 50 to 32. The Jesuit party sought to subvert the authority of the Archbishop of Quebec and destroy his influence, hoping thereby to gain power. The Archbishop visited Rome and has returned, bearing a reprimand for the result, which is likely still further to intensify the conflict, and may lead to the expulsion of the Jesuits from Canada.

PACIFIC COAST NEWS.

The coinage at the Mint of San Francisco for April was \$1,382,000.

There are 912 convicts in the penitentiary of California.

A live British Lord visited the Dalles last week.

A Prohibition Convention is called to meet in Roseburg, June 19th.

Peddlers are picking up some coin in the cow counties.

The Canadian horse disease is reported as being at Roseburg.

Crops are reported as looking well in Washington county.

Agents claim that insurance companies expended in Oregon last year \$100,000 more than they received.

Rev. Mr. Chatten is to preach to the Siletz Indians hereafter. His professional services were formerly given to the Simcoe agency.

A buggy ride at Corvallis the other day cost the two guests who took it \$8 for having the pieces of the vehicle brought home.

The spire of the new M. E. Church South in Salem will be 99 feet high.

Gold was found in San Diego, Arizona, on the 1st, while digging a cellar.

Within the bounds of the Oregon Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, there are ten ordained ministers and three probationers for the ministry; nine congregations numbering 250 communicants.

Over five tons of freight, consisting of guns, ammunition, rations, blankets, etc., have been forwarded by Quartermaster Gen. J. N. Barker to Jacksonville, says the *Pantagraph*.

The *Platender* says that Gov. Grover has authorized Gen. Ross to raise a company of one hundred men to go to the Lake country to protect settlers.

Mr. Thomas Jenkins, of Lane county, proposes to sell 722 acres of land, under fence, at \$5 per acre, and donate the proceeds to a department in the State University for the education of cripples.

The quota of arms sent to the Judge of Benton county was turned over to the military company organized at the Agricultural College.

It was rumored in Salt Lake on the 4th that Brigham Young would resign the Presidency of the Church during the session of the Conference.

The southern Utah Indians were menacing on the 4th, and settlers were alarmed.

At Mayfield, Cal., Wm. Francis was found dead in the water closet. He died of apoplexy.

The *Stellacomb Express* says a rich ledge of coal has been found in Pysalup Valley.

Indians in the Colville region have stuck up stakes in different parts of the country with the name of Geary attached, and say the whites must either pay for the land or leave. The Indian Agent says there is no danger, but the settlers are alarmed.

At Oregon City a man named J. D. Robins was found dead in his bed on the 5th inst., about five miles west of the place. He is supposed to have been murdered for his money. He was a bachelor, and resided alone.

Gen. Davis was at the Lava Bed, May 6th, inspecting the country and informing himself of the situation generally.

Douglas county volunteers were expected to start for the Lava Bed last Sunday.

In Powder River Valley, Baker county, snow fell enough on the 28th of April to whiten the ground.

The Baker City *Democrat* says that the foundations for two or three stone buildings are being laid in the city, and ten or twelve stone masons can get employment there.

Mrs. Fair has sued the lessees of Platt's Hall, San Francisco, to recover \$200 damages, for closing the hall against her last November, when she wanted to speak on Wolves in the Fold.

Portland has sixty-eight notaries public.

Mr. Meacham arrived at his home in Salem last Saturday. The *Statesman* says he is rapidly recovering his wonted health.

The *Statesman* says a small boy, son of George Williams, colored, was drowned in the Willamette, opposite Salem, last Tuesday evening.

Portland has the only umbrella factory in the State.

Portland has some 64 music teachers; and more are needed.

The light-house to be built below Point Adams will be from one mile to one mile and a-half outside the point. It will be of the second or third order of Fresnel, and the entire edifice, with a steam fog whistle, will cost \$30,000.

On the Siletz reservation Mr. W. Bayley is Superintendent of Farming; Wm. Brazelton, Farmer, Lower Farm; L. Shogren, Farmer, Upper Farm; F. M. Rice, Blacksmith; John L. Kline, Carpenter; L. W. Felson, Commissary; Dr. Whitney, Physician; Mr. Peterson, Assistant Carpenter, and Assistants Howard and Batteese, farmers.