

NOTICE.

From and after this date, all bills due the SENTINEL OFFICE for subscription since the commencement of the Fourth Volume, and for advertisements unpaid up to date of the 30th No. of said Volume, must be paid to the present proprietors.

OMEARA & FRENAN, Jacksonville, Sept. 10, 1859.

The President's Message.

Notwithstanding all our precautionary pains and care to have a sufficient number of Extra's containing the President's message forwarded to us from San Francisco by Express, immediately after the arrival of this valuable State paper, for early distribution to our subscribers, we have been sorely disappointed. Where the fault lays we cannot yet learn, but there has been egregious blundering by some of the parties to whom the charge was entrusted. We know that Mr. Thos. Boyce, our Agent at San Francisco, is not at fault in the matter. In consequence of this disappointment we are compelled to present the Message in the form we do, to readers. The more important portions of it are given in full, the omitted paragraphs being rendered by synopsis, and the omitted sentences are not vital to the subject matter. In next issue we shall give the statistical portion of the instrument.

The publication of the Message upon the inside obliges us to exclude a large amount of original and interesting extracted matter, political and general, intended and prepared for this number. Our readers will bear with us in this, and we shall surely make ample amends for the unavoidable shortcomings in succeeding issues. The Message should be given, and to do it even in condensed form, we must put aside all else. Our written "leader" and "Review of the Messenger" share the common fate, of course. Better luck next time.

Gold Quartz.

On Saturday last the excitement upon this subject had reached its pitch. On the day previous a gentleman from Yreka had negotiated for one-half interest in the Ish claim, for which he was to pay \$5000 cash. On Saturday morning this gentleman left for Yreka to return on Monday evening with the money. Saturday afternoon, however, Jimmy Hayes, the discoverer of the quartz, and one-fifth owner of the claim, was induced to dispose of his interest for \$1000. Messrs. Williams, Taylor, McLaughlin and Klipped were the purchasers. Possession was given immediately, and the claim has since been only partially worked, and we are informed, with quite indifferent success.

Indeed, grave doubts are entertained by some whether the ledge has been yet discovered. At all events no uniform continuous vein has been found. During the whole week the hill has been frequented by parties all in eager search for gold-bearing quartz rock, large quantities of which, fragmentary and scattered, have been carried away. We are personally cognizant of the yield obtained from several lots of this rock, which have been crushed here in town, and will mention the following: Messrs. Lowden (Higgin) & Brown crushed 12 1/2 pounds of rock which yielded \$196; Grinnell's, from 12 pounds of quartz got \$155. Besides this, he had sold for fifty cents about two pounds of the rock, in which no gold was visible, to a lad in town, who got from it \$75. Several other lots of rock averaged anywhere from eight to fifteen dollars to the pound of rock. The lowest yield we know of is forty cents from two pounds two ounces, but undoubtedly a good deal of the rock pays nothing, or not enough to justify crushing it. We hear that \$1000 was taken from a single rock about the size of a man's head, but in our opinion the report wants confirmation.

Since Tuesday the excitement has greatly subsided, however, and were it not for the scarcity of water, which prevents the placer miners from working their claims, there would probably be but few persons prospecting, or collecting fragment rocks at Gold Hill. Quite a number continue to visit the locality in mere curiosity, and this tends to keep up a rather lively appearance about there. Some, we hear, have been fortunate enough to find very promising diggings near there—among them Col. John F. Ross, who has nabbed several pieces of coarse gold very near the surface earth. A trading post has been erected at the foot of the hill by Messrs. Davis, and Ryan, of the Eureka Hotel, has fixed up very comfortable quarters for those who care to eat or lodge in that vicinity.

Hicks' vein continues to yield richly as ever, or in fact more abundantly, to its proprietors. On Saturday morning last, in about two hours, the brothers got out nearly \$1000. Two pieces, each of the size of a hen's egg, were exhibited to us, surpassing anything we have yet seen. The gold was positively protruding in bits as large as a pea, and again woven through it in thick veins like tangled coarse silk. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, and we want no better proof of the richness of Hicks' claim than the weekly products they derive from it.

Manry & Taylor completed their arduous Thursday, and we hope to hear good news from their claim next week. It is next above Hicks' in the same vein, and although in no place has their rock shown so astonishingly un-fertile, each one of repeated trials of the quartz has betokened it to be considerably beyond the average yield of the best veins in California.

FALSE ALARM.—About midnight of Tuesday our citizens were aroused from their slumbers by the cry of "fire!" and with most laudable alacrity quite a number were soon on hand, fully prepared for effective service. But the fire proved to be a sham—a rather questionable sort of practical joke gotten up by a reckless wag, who had filled an old barrel with combustibles and set fire to it, with the special design of rousing out the gentleman, whom they readily guessed the "wall" would startle to death. A little too much of a joke, gentlemen, to repeat. If you will play pranks, something that won't alarm and frighten the town; but no more false alarms of fire, we beg of you.

struggles. When in the progress of events the inhabitants of any Territory shall have reached the number required to form a State, they will then proceed in a regular manner, in the exercise of the rights of Popular Sovereignty to form a Constitution preparatory to admission into the Union. After this has been done, to employ the language of the Kansas and Nebraska Act, they shall be received into the Union with or without slavery, as their Constitution may prescribe at the time of the admission. This principle has happily been recognized in some form or other by almost unanimous vote of both Houses of the last Congress.

All lawful means at my command have been employed and shall continue to be employed to execute the laws against the African slave trade. After a most careful and vigorous examination of our coasts, and thorough investigation of the subject, we have not been able to discover that any slaves have been imported into the United States, except by the "Wanderer," numbering between three and four hundred. Those engaged in this unlawful enterprise have been vigorously prosecuted, but not with as much success as their crimes have deserved. A number of them are still under prosecution. Our history proves that the fathers of the Republic, in advance of all other nations, contemplated the African slave trade. It was notwithstanding deemed expedient by the framers of the Constitution to deprive Congress of the power to prohibit the migration or importation of such persons as any of the States then existing should think proper to admit prior to the year 1808. It will be seen that this restriction on the power of Congress was confined to the importation of slaves. It did not extend to other States, or to trade carried on abroad. Accordingly, we find that so early as the 22d of March, 1793, Congress passed an Act imposing severe penalties and punishments upon citizens and residents of the United States who should engage in this trade between foreign nations. The provisions of this Act were extended and enforced by the Act of 1807, May, 1809, and the States themselves had a clear right to waive the constitutional privilege intended for their benefit to prohibit by their own laws this trade at any time they thought proper previous to 1808. Several of them exercised this right before that period, and among them containing the greatest number of slaves. This gave to Congress the immediate power to act in regard to all such States because they themselves had removed the constitutional barrier. Congress accordingly passed an Act on the 22d of February, 1809, to prevent the importation of certain persons into certain States where by the laws of their admission this was prohibited. In this manner the importation of slaves into the United States was to a great extent prohibited some years in advance of 1808. As the year 1808 approached, Congress determined not to suffer this trade to exist even for a single day after they had the power to abolish it. On the 2d of March, 1807, they passed an Act to take effect on the 1st of January, 1808, which prohibited the importation of African slaves into the United States. This was followed by subsequent Acts of a similar character, to which I need not specially refer.

Such were the principles and such the practice of our ancestors more than fifty years ago in regard to the African slave trade. It did not occur to the revered patriots who had been delegated to the Convention, and afterwards became members of Congress, that they should have violated the Constitution which they had framed with such care and deliberation. They supposed that to prohibit Congress in express terms from exercising a specific power before an appointed day necessarily implied that they intended to exercise that power after that day. It is not the case, the framers of the Constitution had expended much labor in vain; had they imagined that Congress would possess a power to prohibit the trade either before or after 1808, they would not have taken so much care to protect the States against the exercise of this power before that day. It is necessary that we should not have anticipated such a result prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the provision in the Constitution securing to the States the right to admit the importation of African slaves, previous to that period. According to the adverse doctrine, the Constitution in this respect is inoperative, and the members of the Convention, was an absolute nullity from the beginning, and all that has since been done under it a mere usurpation. It was well and wise to confer this power on Congress, because had it been left to the States, its efficient exercise would have been impossible, in that any one State could have effectively continued the trade, not only for itself but for all the other States, though never so much against their will, and why?—because African slaves, when once brought within the limits of any one State in accordance with its law, cannot practically be excluded from any other State where slavery exists, and even if all the States had agreed to prohibit the importation of slaves, their prohibition would have had no effect for want of a navy, force to capture the slaves and to guard the coasts. Such a force no State can employ in time of peace without the consent of Congress. These acts of Congress it is believed have, with very rare and insignificant exceptions, accomplished their purpose for a period of more than half a century. There has been no perceptible addition to the number of our foreign-born slaves during this period. Their advancement in civilization has far surpassed that of any other portion of the African race. The light and blessings of Christianity have been extended to them, and both their moral and physical condition has been greatly improved. Hence the trade and the importation of slaves into a single instance with the right of the master. Had any such attempt been made the Judiciary would doubtless have afforded an adequate remedy. Should they fail to do this because it will then be time enough to strengthen their hands by further legislation. It is not the duty of Congress to amend the Territorial Legislature, unless there is need to amend or impair the right to property in slaves, the evil would be intolerable. In the latter event there would be a struggle for a majority of the members of the Legislature at each successive election, and the sacred rights of property would be under the Federal Constitution, and the result would be a perpetual state of anarchy. The agitation would thus be rendered incessant whilst the Territorial condition remained, and its influence would keep alive a dangerous excitement among the people of the several States. Thus has the status of a free Territory during the intermediate period from its first settlement to the time when it has been irrevocably fixed by the final decision of the Supreme Court. Fortunate has this been for the prosperity of the Territories as well as the tranquility of the States. Now emigrants from the North and South—the East and the West will meet in the Territories on a common platform, having brought with them that species of property best adapted to their own opinions, to promote their own welfare. From natural causes the slavery question will in each case soon virtually settle itself and before the Territory is proposed for admission as a State into the Union. This decision, one way or the other, will have been a long time in the making, and the result will be a Territory with no serious interruption, and its progress and prosperity will be unimpeded or retarded by violent political

feelings of reciprocal dependency and attachment which now exist between master and slave would be converted into mutual distrust and hostility. But we are obliged, as a Christian and moral nation, to consider what would be the effect upon the unhappy African race, if we should recover the slave trade. This would give the trade an immense extension which it has never had even in its palmy days. The numerous victims required to supply it would cover the whole slave coast into a perfect pandemonium for which this country would be held responsible in the eyes both of God and man. Its petty tribulations to constantly engaged in its prohibition would be an act of simple justice in selling slaves to supply the American market. All hopes of African civilization would thus be ended. On the other hand, with a market for African slaves shall no longer be furnished in Cuba, and thus all the world be closed against this trade, we may then indulge a reasonable hope that the moral improvement of Africa. The chief motive for the trade would cease wherever there is no longer any demand for slaves. The resources of that fertile, but miserable country, might then be developed by the hand of industry and afford subject for legitimate foreign and domestic commerce. In this manner Christianity and civilization may gradually penetrate the existing gloom.

The President next refers to our relations with China, and congratulates the country upon the successful negotiation and ratification of the important commercial treaty with that empire during the year, which he believes will contribute greatly to the benefit of the Republic, and to the advancement of our commerce. He also refers to the treaty with Great Britain, which he believes will be equally beneficial to both nations, and to the advancement of our commerce.

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Next follows a brief sketch of the condition of affairs between the Government of the United States and Paraguay. Our difficulties with that power have been satisfactorily adjusted and amicable relations restored. The President speaks in terms of high praise of the happy effect produced by the appearance of so formidable a fleet among the Atlantic South American Governments.

Our relations with the great Empire of Russia, he speaks of in terms of high praise, and expresses his confidence in the friendly relations which will be maintained between the two countries during the existing negotiations.

I regret to inform you that there has been no improvement in the affairs of Mexico since my last Annual Message, and I am again obliged to ask the serious attention of Congress to the unhappy condition of that Republic.

In my last Annual Message I communicated to Congress the circumstances under which the late Government of the United States suspended the relations of amity and friendship with Mexico, and withdrew from the country. It is impossible to maintain friendly relations with a Government like that of Mexico, unless we have a constant and friendly intercourse with that country. It is impossible to maintain friendly relations with a Government like that of Mexico, unless we have a constant and friendly intercourse with that country. It is impossible to maintain friendly relations with a Government like that of Mexico, unless we have a constant and friendly intercourse with that country.

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be attached to the statement of the British colonial authorities contesting the necessity of the information on which the gallant General acted, it was due to him that I should thus present his own reasons for issuing the order to Captain Pickett. From this it is quite clear his object was to prevent the British authorities on Vancouver Island from exercising jurisdiction over American residents on the island of San Juan, as well as to protect them against the incursions of the Indians. Much excitement prevailed for some time throughout that region, and serious danger of collision between the parties was apprehended. The British had a large naval force in the vicinity, and it was not until the simple justice to the Admiral on that station to state that he wisely and discreetly forbore to commit any hostile act, but determined to refer the whole affair to his Government, and await their instructions. This aspect of the matter, in my opinion, demanded serious attention. It would have been a great calamity for both nations had they been precipitated into acts of hostility, not on the question of title to the island, but merely concerning the interfering period whilst the two Governments might be employed in settling the question to which of them it belonged. For this reason Lieutenant General Scott was dispatched, on the 10th of September last, to Vancouver Territory, to take the immediate command of the United States forces on the Pacific coast, and to determine this necessary. The main object of the expedition was to carry out the spirit of the precautionary arrangements between the late Secretary of State and the British Minister, and thus to preserve the peace and prevent collision between the British and the American authorities pending the negotiations of the two Governments.

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