

THE OREGON SENTINEL.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1862.

Mining Intelligence.

From every mining locality in this county we hear of cheering prospects. More money will be taken out this season than has been for many a year. It is needless to say, that in most mining localities water has been over abundant this winter. Many gullies, long known to be rich in golden deposits, but which could not be worked for the want of water, have been successfully mined this season. A very large area of bed-rock has been sliced off, but owing to the cold and freezing nights and the sudden and extraordinary nature of the floods, a very little cleaning up has yet been done. Times are moderately hard now, but let the miners clean up generally, and money will be flush again.

It is a mistake to suppose that the mines in Southern Oregon are about worked out. They are but fairly prospected as yet. Every year adds to the territorial extent of the gold fields. What is known as the Davenport and the Oatman diggings have been worked but a short time. There is a large extent of mining country in the immediate vicinity of the Davenport claim, known to be rich in auriferous deposits, but not available for want of water. Some time last summer, we think, a company was organized to dig a ditch from Ashland creek to these mines. The ditch when completed will be from ten to twelve miles long, and we are informed that it is about completed. At present, Messrs. Davenport and Wagner own the only ditch leading to these mines, and that only carries but one small stream. The water from this ditch cannot be carried sufficiently high to be used on the principal mining ground. But when the above named company get their ditch in from Ashland creek, these mines will be abundantly supplied with water the year round. Messrs. Davenport and Wagner work their claim with a hydraulic, and have piled off a large quantity of ground, but have not cleaned up as yet. This claim pays from eight to ten dollars per day to the hand, and can be worked about nine months in the year.

The next mining region in the vicinity of Gasburg is what is called the Team's Gulch, and the Baskey's Diggings. In the first of these is situated the celebrated Forty-Nine claims, owned by Oatman and Co. These claims heretofore have paid from fifteen to twenty-five dollars per day to the hand. The company constantly employ from eight to fourteen hands, and they are not averse to labor themselves. They put up a very fine hydraulic last Fall—have over one hundred feet of perpendicular fall—and it works like a charm. They have sliced off and piled off a large area of bed-rock but have not cleaned up yet. The Baskey and Coleman's claims are of established reputation. They have been ground-slicing with a large number of hands for the last three months but have not cleaned up yet. There are quite a number of other good paying claims in that immediate vicinity, in the same condition as those mentioned above. Not less than \$40,000 will be taken out of the few claims mentioned above; one hundred thousand dollars might as well be taken out if there were a little more enterprise exhibited in ditching operations.

We learn from a gentleman engaged in mining at Starling, that the utmost activity prevails in mining operations there. A large amount of ground has been sliced off but no clean up made.

It informs us that there are over a hundred men engaged in mining there, and he is of the opinion that more gold will be taken out of these mines this Spring, than has been taken out before since the mines were discovered. The extraordinary nature of the winter has enabled the hardy and enterprising miner to work rich places, that he has never been able to reach with water before.

The mines in the immediate vicinity of this place have never failed to yield a large amount of gold, whenever there was plenty of water to work them. An unusually large number of men have been sluicing for the last three months, and the amounts of the Spring cleanups must be very large.

Rich Gulch pays an average of ten or twelve dollars per day. Last week the Buzzell's claim, two hands, yielded 27 ounces. Mr. Buzzell this week purchased the ditch from Poor Man's Creek, which supplies the gulch with water, paying therefor \$300. He now realizes \$100 per week from the sale of water, after supplying his own claim.

From Willow Springs and Blackwell we have the same good news. We have no tidings from Sam's Creek, Jackass, Poor Man's Creek, Humbug or Applegate, but we know that handsome cleanups will be made at all of these places. Within three months from this time, \$200,000, at least, will be added to the circulating medium of this country. This ought to enable debtors to meet the demands of their creditors, and to create jingling good times generally.

JOSEPHINE.

KETCHUM, March 4th, 1862.

ED. SENTINEL:—Gradually we see our Secessions friends retreating their steps. One by one they are returning to their first love. Some who have shamed most, and have hearts to feel the ponderous weight of their crime, have so repented as to climb the fence, and with looks astound from the dreadful horrors of war, they cry "Peace!" to those on either side. Others have turned a political somersault, and now come up irreconcileable Unionists. Still another and more acute class, maintain a "wise and masterly" silence. But the most invulnerable, cleverest man of all, is he who is opposed to the Government, the war, the Union, and who, when called a rebel sympathizer, demands your *proof*—who has vehemently applauded rebel victories, and defies you to prove him a Disunionist!—such men, I admit, are impregnable. "Lupus pium satut, non evanit."

What has transpired since the first outbreak of the present rebellion to change the mind of any person who ever believed in the right of secession? In my opinion, the coming election has had more to do in bringing this political change over the spirit of their dreams than any other cause combined. Whether this be so or not, it may be deemed unkind to judge; but certain it is, that those who were avowed Secessionists three months ago (though they all disclaim it now) are preparing for the campaign vigorously, and intend to launch forth a ticket headed by the most ultra men of their kind. They are well aware of the magical power uniformly wielded by the name "Democracy"; they are also convinced of the potency of the "Union" as a rallying cry. Accordingly, we may expect their Secession ticket to be sugar-coated with "Union" and "Democracy." All the sacred memories, all the patriotic reminiscences, all the glowing grandeur, decked with the tinsel of Southern sophisms, will be used as a talisman to sway the public mind. But let us not be deceived. Let no false pretensions of loyalty now allure us into the support of any

A Letter From Josephine.

Mr. EDITOR:—As by the union of all loyal citizens, our next June election will happily not assume the character of a political contest, it is to be hoped that our domestic affairs will receive a greater degree of attention from the people than they have given them heretofore. The most perfect code of civil and criminal laws are of little value, if not properly administered; and a Government desiring to advance the material interests of its people, must not only adapt its measures to accord with the natural features of the country, but such as it is able to execute.

Hence the wisdom or efficiency of a Government is not measured by fixed standard, but by its adaptation to the condition, wants and character of the people, and the physical features of the country over which it is established. For these reasons Governments, however good in themselves and well suited to the States in which they have been modeled, will not suit the condition of another people or country so far as the two countries accord in physical features, and the two people accord in numbers, wealth and moral development.

New States usually borrow institutions from older Governments, in preference to attempting something new and untried, and where the people and the countries are similar, the one soon becomes the reflection of the other.

It is the misfortune of Oregon that in its physical features it resembles none of the States from whence it has received its people. Without duly considering this fact, our legislators have adopted the laws and policy of States whose uniform surface and teeming population make them as unlike as possible to our land of mountains and deserts, whose population must ever be small and dispersed by these natural obstructions, and whose lines of intercommunication have become great natural obstructions and long reaches of solitude.

Our short experience has satisfied us, the machinery of Government that works smoothly over a uniform surface, and bears lightly and operates evenly on a dense and nearly equally distributed population, fits badly on our rough mountains, and weighs heavily and unequally on our weak and scattered people. The cost does not fit us—our dwarfed body is lost in its giant dimensions. Our population is about fifty thousand; the machinery of our State Government would meet the wants of five millions of people.

The politicians who prematurely hurried Oregon into a State Government, made some attempts at reducing the expense of the organization to suit our numbers and means; but the fault was in the framework—their economy only marred the finish of the edifice.

Though the salaries of the State officers are inadequate stipends—except the judges, who seem to be in excess of our wants, and whose salaries are ample—the State from its poverty can undertake none of those works of improvement by which only we can prosper as a people. And the counties being charged with the administration of justice, the most wealthy and populous of them had the burden oppressive, and the weak ones intolerable.

Nor have the Legislatures that have held sessions under the Constitution applied remedies to evils, or removed burdens within their reach but, intent upon some political intrigue, they have no thoughts to bestow upon the wants of the State, and are content to borrow their laws from the statutes of some other State. Thus we have no roads, because our road laws are borrowed from a State that has a uniform surface and uniform population, and thus the whole code of our domestic policy exhibits an incongruity of laws to facts, and measures to circumstances, which results from adopting the policy of other States, to which in wealth, population and surface, our State has no resemblance.

All reforms in Governments of the people must originate with the people. They are soon to choose those who are to represent them in the next Legislature. If they wish a Government that will take care of the interests and spare the pockets of the many, they will choose representatives whose interests will be promoted by such measures. But so long as they send office-seekers and politicians to legislate for them, they have little right to complain of that body. If it spends the time due the vital interests of the State in political debates and political intrigues, and is more likely to create new offices, or increase the emoluments of the old ones, than to remove a nuisance or lighten a burden, the people themselves are to blame, not the members for acting according to their interests.

The members of the institution at Portland would not be likely to form a criminal code that would suit the rest of the State.

Josephine County.

KETCHUM, March 4th, 1862.

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CONCERT.—Charley Walsh, the pretty singer and delineator of Irish character, and Billy Sheppard, the Negro delineator, banjoist and jig dancer, gave several of their pleasing entertainments to delighted audiences, during the week. They play at Willow Springs this evening. Success to them.

The mail carrier reports the snow on Crescent City Mountain to be from six to seven feet deep.

one who ever was a Secessionist. However eloquently they may plead, however obviously they may argue and bow for the public favor, let us remember the fulsome taunts and sneers that followed the rout at hard-fought Manasses. Nothing has occurred since the inception of the rebellion to make any one falter in his judgment of its justness. The veriest madman, devoid of all reason and lost to every sense of patriotic duty, should not have failed to decide at the commencement of the rebellion whether or not it was for the maintenance of the Government. Instinct itself, mingled with the slightest human feeling of right and wrong, were enough to guide the mind to fixed and steadfast opinion.

It is now one year since the present administration came into power; and what an eventful one it has been in the annals of our country. The pen of the historian is already writing of us in our Republic's wonderful existence that must make the check of unborn generations crimson with shame, while it will also kindle other hearts with proud and lofty emotions of patriotism. But this is not a time for reflection. We should not stop to look back until the last vestige of treason is swept from the land; and then, when the Angel of Peace shall again spread her wings o'er the land, there will go up from the hearts of our people a gladness shout, a more heartfelt pean, than ever before rose from a happy nation.

SEARCH IDEA.

For the Sentinel.
The Twenty-second of February.

CAMP BAKER, Feb. 26th, 1862.

The anniversary of this day awakens proud and grateful emotions in the breast of every American. One hundred and thirty years ago the light of day first shone upon a being whose life immeasurably affected the destiny of America and the whole world.

Power River.—The belief has become quite prevalent here, that this stream will prove as rich in mineral wealth, as the newly discovered mines on Salmon. We are of the opinion that rich diggings will be found along its banks in the Spring. In the summer of 1851, the writer tramped up Powder river, in company with the late Colonel Eby, of Olympia, Washington Territory. The Colonel had spent some twelve months in the mines of California, and remained on several occasions as we passed up the stream, on the striking similarity of that locality, to the surroundings of the rich placer diggings of California. The appearance of the country on either side of Powder river, is, if we remember rightly, very similar to that about Horsetown, in Shasta county, with the exception that on Powder river there is very little timber of a large growth. The hills and banks are composed of a red and apparently burned earth, while the whole surface of the ground is covered with fragments of quartz rock.—*Telegraph*.

This anniversary is a fit stand-point from which to cast behind us a retrospective glance, and thence gather light to guide to a better future. The American family has increased in numbers and power by unprecedented rapidity; but have we duly observed the precepts and obeyed the instructions of our reverend father? We must admit that we have not, and now we are reaping the bitter fruits of disobedience. Proud of our strength and greatness, we have forgotten our accountability to God, and neglected to employ the means we possessed for the good of the world. We have added crime against man to ingratitude toward heaven, until our accumulated offenses have brought down upon us a just and terrible retribution. Instead of basing in the sunlight of happiness and prosperity, as we would now be, if the principles of justice and righteousness had been strictly observed, we are now writhing under the dire curse over visited upon erring mortals. Our beloved flag flaps mournfully in the breeze as though grieving that the land over which it has so long and so proudly floated is being drenched with fratricidal blood; and if there are tears in heaven, methinks the pure spirit of our nation's sire must weep to witness the dismemberment of that glorious Union which he was so evidently instrumental in establishing. But deplorable as is the condition of our country, the bow of hope brightly spans the future.

Rebellion is rapidly being crushed out, and peace promises soon to resume her blessed sway. It is to be hoped that the nation has learned a lesson by this sad experience, which shall guide her in safer, truer course for all time to come. But as nations are composed of individuals, there rests upon every American citizen an individual responsibility for the purity of America's future character which he cannot shake off. If we keep this responsibility in view, and labor for the greatest possible good to all, rather than for selfish and ambitious ends, we may certainly expect a future far more brilliant and glorious than our past has been. Our institutions can have no permanence unless they are founded broad and deep upon the eternal principles of truth and justice.

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