

OREGON FREE PRESS.

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"Here shall the Press the people's rights maintain, Unawed by influence, and unbribed by gain."

TERMS OF THE "FREE PRESS."

One copy, per annum, (in advance,) three dollars and fifty cents, cash—for six months, two dollars.

ADVERTISING.—Each square, (12 lines or less,) first insertion, two dollars—each subsequent insertion, one dollar. A reasonable deduction made on yearly advertisements.

Currency and produce taken at their cash value.

IMPORTANT NEWS.

By a private letter from Honolulu, per brig Stirling, dated the 8th of last month, we learn that the Bremen brig Montezuma arrived at Honolulu on the 6th ult., 33 days from Mazatlan, with the news of the ratification of the Treaty between the United States and Mexico. 'This is glorious news—war is at an end and peace prevails. The Montezuma brought not a letter from the United States, and only a few Mexican papers; therefore our budget is meagre.

'It is reported that Com. Jones has sailed for San Francisco, in the Ohio, to take possession of the gold mines on behalf of the United States. It is said that Com. Jones has ten regiments of the army, the forces at Mazatlan and other places, to sustain and carry out his plans. He may make those who dig pay a certain per centage of all they dig to the U. S. Government, or he may cut them off altogether, by blockading the coast and depriving them of their provisions.

'Capt. Stout, the agent of the mail steamers to run between Oregon and Panama spent a fortnight with us, and left for Oregon, via San Francisco, in the ship Rhone on the 31st ult. He goes to Oregon to prepare coal etc. for the steamers, and expects to be at Panama, to meet the first steamer, in January, 1849. We shall have a packet running from Honolulu to the coast, to intersect the line. Capt. S. says that letters will reach Oregon City in thirty days from New York. The contractors are bound to carry the mail monthly etc. I would tell you much more, but you will soon have Capt. Stout in Oregon to speak for himself.

CALIFORNIA.—The Polynesian of the 5th ult. says the 'Sabine' arrived here on Sunday, the 30th ult., 14 days from San Francisco. She brings later news from the gold region. Nearly all the inhabitants of California are engaged in digging for gold. Immense quantities are found. Single pieces weighing five ounces have been taken from the earth. The placera is believed to extend over a surface of 100 square miles. Many engaged in digging have already amassed fortunes. A private letter states that one man with a company of Indians has procured upwards of 100,000 dollars worth

of gold already. Another man who had been on the ground but three weeks 'calculates' he is worth 3,000 dollars. Valuable diamonds are reported to have been found. All these reports are not authentic, and are doubtless somewhat exaggerated, but that the placera yields immense profits, there can be no doubt. Both newspapers have discontinued publication, and all branches of business except what is necessary to supply the wants of the people, are at a stand. Provisions and clothes are exorbitantly high on the ground, owing to the few facilities for transportation up the river. No foreign vessels are allowed to go up the river, although vessels of ordinary draught might go up to Sutter's fort. Prices of provisions have advanced at San Francisco, although not in proportion to those demanded in the interior. The merchants and those engaged in transportation on the river are reaping a rich harvest. The fever and ague prevailed to a great extent. People were flocking from all parts of the country. No disturbance had occurred among the diggers although trouble was anticipated.

OREGON MAIL STEAMERS.—The 'Polynesian' of the 29d, of July, says Captain Stout has arrived by the Rhone, on business connected with the line of steamers to run from Panama to Oregon. The contractors are the highly respectable firm of Howland and Aspinwall of New York. Three steamers of 1000 tons each and 600 horse power are to commence plying every month from Panama to Oregon in January, 1849. They are to touch at the chief intermediate ports, but not at these Islands for the present. There will be a corresponding line of steamers to keep up the communication between N. York and Chagres. The mail from New York is expected to be conveyed to Oregon in one month. A good practical cart road is to be made across the Isthmus of Panama, which for that purpose has been surveyed by Mr. Stevens of traveling celerity.

The Polynesian says the discoveries in California have created quite a stir in the commercial world. Our trade with California is rapidly increasing. During the month of June 2 brigs and 2 schooners sailed for California—during July, 1 ship, 2 brigs and 2 schooners sailed—since August 1st, 1 bark and 1 brig have sailed, and 2 brigs and 3 schooners are shortly to follow; making in all 15 departures in 2 months.

Since the gold discoveries in California, 69 passports have been granted. Nearly as many more have gone from this port in capacities not requiring passports. Probably not less than 125 have left the islands up to this date, and a large number more will go soon. That's nothing to Oregon—1300 have gone.