

# WILLAMETTE FARMER

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## NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The *Tribune* tomorrow will publish a second letter from Randolph A. Wittthans, Jr., who was a passenger on the ill-fated steamer *Ville de Havre*, to his father in this city. He writes as follows:

"In my last I gave you a sketch of my experience in connection with the sinking of the *Ville de Havre*. I will now give you my opinions concerning the cause of the disaster: From all I can gather from officers and men, I conclude that the blame lies entirely with the officers on watch on the steamer, whose duty it was to get out of the Lochearn's way; and it appears that instead of doing this he did the very opposite—altering the course of the steamer so as to run right across the bow of the Lochearn; at least, so says the officer who was on watch on board the Lochearn at the time of the collision. Those in charge of the steamer after the accident (if it can be called such) had occurred, while the ship was sinking, say that the officers and crew behaved in a most cowardly manner. The latter I know, and therefore believe—looking out for themselves and leaving women and children to do likewise—the only exception I saw being that of Dr. Chadmont, whom I noticed, three or four minutes before the ship went down, going below. I told him he would not have time to get up again, to which he answered that he must look after those who were crushed in the state-rooms. He never came up again. Of Captain Sumner's conduct I know nothing. Those who saw him speak well of him, and I don't think he is directly to blame for the collision, although he is to blame for not having his crew under better discipline, and for not having his boats in a condition to be promptly lowered. In great contrast with the demoralized condition of the crew was the wonderful coolness evinced by the passengers—even women and children; no screaming or running about without an object. The women were in knots, praying quietly, while the men were looking around for pieces of wood, or were making efforts to get one of the boats, which the crew had abandoned, clear of the ship, so that it might float before the vessel sank.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—The jury in the trial of ex-Mayor Hall returned a verdict of not guilty, which was received with thunders of applause by the spectators in Court.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—A State Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry has been organized in New Hampshire.

BOSTON, Dec. 24.—Solicitor Healy gives it as his opinion that women cannot legally serve on the Boston School Committee. Four women were chosen to that position at the recent election.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—A story is told to-day that Harry Geier, the King fugitive, is on his way to Rio Janeiro, on board a yacht, provisioned and fitted out for a long voyage last week. Ex-Treasurer Taylor, of Jersey City, is also said to be on board.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The Pacific Mail Company will probably be unable to obtain the increased subsidy for the China mail service by the 1st of January. The Government interposed a technical objection that part of the extra service was performed in wooden ships instead of iron, as the law provides. This trouble was the cause of the recent orders reducing the China service to monthly trips.

A colored delegation, composed of Geo. F. Downing, Fred. Douglass and others, had an interview with Representative A. H. Stephens, of Georgia, to-day. Mr. Stephens freely admitted that colored men, as citizens, were entitled to full practice in their civil rights without invidious proscription, but that it was the duty of the respective States, and not of the Federal Government, to act in order to secure them.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—As there is no absolute necessity for heavy appropriations for the improvement of harbors, rivers and fortifications under the Engineer's Bureau of the War Department, the estimates for such improvements, amounting to twenty million dollars, will probably be reduced to three millions.

Estimates in the Post Office Department have already been so much reduced that no further extension of the Railroad or Postal Service can be made during the fiscal year.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The President has appointed Caleb Cushing as Minister to Madrid. The nomination will be sent to the Senate immediately on the reassembling of Congress. Cushing has just had a short interview with the President in reference to the Spanish Mission, which he has accepted.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The growing conviction that the President will nominate Pierpont if Williams is rejected is strengthening the latter and will secure his confirmation if, as his friends claim, he is exonerated from the charges affecting his personal integrity. The failure to nominate Everts, or Curtis, or Hoar, for Chief Justice, is turning the entire bar against Grant.

CHICAGO, Dec. 27.—A Washington special says the Oregon opponents of the confirmation of Williams are renewing their efforts during recess. They have not as yet filed any additional charges, but de-

clare that his rejection is certain. There is but little doubt that he will retire from the Cabinet in the event of his rejection.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Orange Hotel, at Turner's station, on the Erie Railroad, was burned last night. The building was 400 feet long and three stories high, and belonged to the Erie Railroad. The loss is not ascertained. The road is temporarily blocked.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 26.—The wool market is steady and firm: Colorado washed, 25@30c; unwashed, 18@20c; extra and merino pulled, 42@45c; No. 1 and super pulled, 42@45c; Texas fine and medium, 27@30c; Texas coarse, 18@22c; Cail forula fine and medium, 25@33c.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—The *Herald* special says that the resignation of General Sickles as United States Minister has been officially accepted.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Congressman Luntrell says with reference to the comments on his vote on the Salary bill that he consulted and voted all the way through with Hale, Cox, Casson and other leading members in favor of the total repeal and of reduction to old pay—\$5,000. He also voted against all amendments calculated to prevent the total repeal, and therefore voted against the substitute bill, which was finally passed by one majority, fixing the pay at \$8,000, an increase of at least \$500 per annum.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—The *Times*, *Tribune* and *World* publish a very able letter from President Orton, of the Western Union Telegraph Company, reviewing the Postmaster General's recommendation regarding the postal telegraph. These journals say editorially that Orton entirely disposes of the argument. He shows by statistics that so far from increasing telegraph facilities that Government control of the telegraph must inevitably be more expensive than by existing arrangements, and will thus either deteriorate the service or do it at a great loss, in which case the masses must be taxed to pay the expenses of the telegraphic service for the small percentage of the people who employ it. Though dignified and respectful, Orton's letter is a severe castigation of Creswell, for his interference with private rights, in a case where he does not know enough of the essential elements of the question to see what he proposes must inevitably retard or defeat the public good, which he professes to desire.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—Jay Cooke says the fears of holders of Northern Pacific Railroad bonds are groundless, and that the road has little debt, except to Cooke & Co. Besides its bonds there is a first lien upon 11,000,000 acres of land, for which the company has already received patents. There is also a lien upon 555 miles of railroad in actual operation, which earned a surplus over expenses last year, and must constantly improve, as it is developing trade by its connection with the Upper Missouri river; besides, its Pacific division, connecting Puget Sound with the Columbia river, must become profitable. Cooke thinks the present company will be able to carry the road and eventually complete it.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—The will of Mrs. Ben Holladay, made last August and successfully contested in favor of the will of 1871, was very intricate and eccentric in many of its conditions and provisions for contingencies. It gave her property chiefly to her son, Ben Holladay, Jr., and not any to her surviving daughter, Cassandra, but generally known among her friends as Polly, wife of Baron Bussiere, of France. The will of 1871 gave everything to testatrix' husband, from whom, in fact, she had received it. The recent will failed to recognize the husband at all, and bore abundant evidence of sustaining the testimony of her physicians, that Mrs. Holladay's mind was unclouded from excessive grief, caused by the sudden death of her oldest daughter, the Countess Pourtales, a few weeks previous. While Ben Holladay, Jr., was proponent nominally of the will in his own favor, it was understood that he preferred that the will in favor of his father should stand. The estate is in Westchester county, and is very elegant and valuable.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The President stated emphatically to-day that the nomination of Attorney General Williams for Chief Justice would not be withdrawn, and that he had never contemplated such a thing.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—A prominent Republican says that after the holidays Williams will request the President to withdraw his name, foreseeing its rejection otherwise. While most of the charges against him vanish with investigation, he is seriously compromised by the scandal in consequence of the statements made by United States Attorney Gibbs, of Oregon.

It has been said that a \$500 carriage used by his family was paid out of the contingent fund of the Department of Justice. Usage has long sanctioned the ownership of modest carriages for business purposes of Cabinet officers, but the Secretary of State alone has been allotted a coach, which was necessary in the exchange of diplomatic civilities; but Mr. Seward never employed it for his family who had a private equipage. Mr. Chase when Secretary of the Treasury, scrupulously excluded the members of his family from the use of the Treasury carriage. Senators who on general grounds are well disposed toward Wil-

liams feel that this carriage business shows a lack of that delicate sensibility which should belong to the character of a Chief Justice.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—The Cubans here are making preparations to provide for the wants of the survivors of the *Virginius* after they have landed in this city.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 25.—Mayor Brown inaugurated a soup house in a part of the warehouse situated on city property adjoining the City Hall, Twelfth and Chestnut streets, having been fitted up for that purpose. About 200 men and women out of employment were served.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—Commander Haswell, of the *Ossipee*, makes the following statement concerning the loss of the *Virginius*, which was found to be leaking on the voyage to New York: On Friday, Dec. 20th, Commander Woodrow signaled that the *Virginius* was leaking rapidly, with fires out and pumps stopped, and that the crew wished to be taken off. Boats were lowered from the *Ossipee* at daylight, and at 7 o'clock all on board the *Virginius* were transferred to the former vessel. As a heavy sea was running, the work of removing the crew was one of much danger and difficulty, and therefore their lives were risked in endeavoring to save the personal effects and other property from the *Virginius*. The hawser of the *Virginius* was cut and a buoy attached to mark the position in case she sank out of sight. The *Ossipee* remained at anchor during the day. At 4:15 p. m. the *Virginius*, which had been gradually settling, went to the bottom. The top masts remain above the surface. The *Ossipee* then resumed her voyage.

The released *Virginius* captives remain at the Cuban restaurant, Pine street, and the scene there to-day was one of great enthusiasm.

Engineer Knight, of the *Virginius*, says that the sentence of the court-martial at Santiago was that the entire crew should be hanged at the yardarm, but the captain of the *Isabella* Catella did not want such a spectacle on his vessel, and obtained a change of sentence to death by shooting and commutation of sentence of seven of the crew to the chain-gang. Knight, two quartermasters and one of the officers were accordingly sentenced to the chain-gang for life. The others, thirteen in all, of whom a number were boys, were sentenced for eight and four years to hard labor. A life sentence of this kind is regarded as worse than death.

The P. M. S. S. Co. refuse to continue the combination, on the same terms with the U. P. R. R. Co. relative to freights from New York to San Francisco, and advertise to send weekly steamers, via Panama at 14 cents per lb. for freight. The Steam Ship Co. is evidently fighting for better terms.

The receipts from the internal revenue in December were \$8,012,983, an increase of more than \$500,000 over November. Total since the beginning of the fiscal year, \$47,826,476.

The engineer's strike on the Eastern railroads, has ended, and they have agreed to accept reduced wages for the present.

The first Methodist Church has been opened at the City of Mexico.

## CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 24.—The value of wheat and flour cargoes shipped from this port the present year is estimated at \$25,000,000.

Since Chief Cockrell came into office the gamblers have generally renewed operations, and faro games are reported to be running in nearly all the old quarters.

There are no new cases of small pox in the Chinese quarter. Chinamen are taking extra pains to cleanse the streets and alleys in their district of the city, fearing the scourge.

A carrier of the *Chronicle*, Frank Ettlin, was fined \$120 to-day for stealing copies of the *Call* from subscribers.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.

Under President Grant's proclamation to deserters from the army and navy forty-three deserters from Arizona have reported for duty here.

Greenbacks, 903, @91½.

Up to this evening 12 10-100 inches rain has fallen here. The storm has a very depressing effect on the holiday trade, as the streets are in a bad condition for pedestrians.

SACRAMENTO, Dec. 30.—A warm, gentle rain has been falling almost incessantly since noon yesterday. The river has risen two feet since last night, and at noon to-day it was 13 feet above the level of water mark and was rising rapidly. As this mild rain extends to the Sierras, the snow will melt rapidly, and a heavy rise at the head waters is anticipated, and the river is expected to reach a very high point tomorrow. As the levees are, however, in a secure condition, no damage to the city is feared from floods.

## FOREIGN.

MADRID, Dec. 24.—The *Epoque* publishes a letter from General Sickles, declaring that early in the *Virginius* dispute the inhabitants of Madrid proposed to make a demonstration hostile to the United States. The *Epoque* denies that there was any such intention, and regrets that Gen. Sickles took no pains to contradict the dis-

patches reporting that such a demonstration had actually taken place.

FRANKFORT, Dec. 24.—United States 5-20 bonds closed at 97½ for the issue for issue of 1862.

BERLIN, Dec. 24.—Emperor William is much better. He has been up all day.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—Chevalier Nigra was well received by President MacMahon yesterday, and the interview was of a most friendly character.

ROME, Dec. 24.—The Rector of the American College has remitted to the Pope \$25,000 contributed by the faithful in the United States.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—A special dispatch from Cartagena announces that Fort San Julian, one of the strongest defenses of the city, has been breached. An accidental explosion in the Ferris Battery, yesterday, killed twenty officers and men of the besieging force.

MADRID, Dec. 25.—Fourteen thousand troops, under General Martinez, have left San Sebastian by sea. Their determination is not known.

General Lomar, with 3,000 Government troops, remains in the city.

A desperate conflict between a band of Carlists and a Republican force, occurred yesterday before Rocayente, in the province of Valencia. The insurgents were defeated with heavy loss in killed and wounded. Municipal authorities of Madrid have been suspended.

HAVANA, Dec. 27.—The Prize Court has condemned the steamer *Virginius* as a lawful prize.

## NEWS ITEMS.

The McMinnville Reporter says: Last Saturday evening the Good Templars of this place met at the college and revived and reorganized the Lodge in this place, electing new officers, etc. The young man Eddie, charged with the murder of Robbins, was examined before Justice Burns of Oregon City, and discharged, there being no evidence whatever to connect him with the murder.

Brevet Major General Granger, commanding the Twenty-First Infantry, retired from active service on the 10th inst. The vacancy will be filled by Lieut. Col. Alfred Sully, of the Nineteenth Infantry.

The leaver dam farm of L. P. W. Quimby, situated a few miles south of Portland, has been sold to Mr. O. C. Perkins.

Henry Jamieson, a farmer living near East Portland, was run over by a loaded wagon yesterday and had his leg broken.

Dr. Ghiselin, attending surgeon at the military headquarters in Portland, has tendered his resignation, to take effect the 6th of June next.

Mrs. Thomas Rowley, of Canemah, fell last week, breaking her ankle, from which she has since suffered severely. She is now improving.

The receipts of the Firemen's ball at Eugene City on Christmas Eve were over \$200.

Dr. Hawthorne treated the inmates of the Insane asylum to a grand dinner on Christmas day.

The Eugene City Guard announces the death, on Saturday morning, of John S. Kincaid, editor of the *State Journal*.

Capt. Sam Holmes, who went to Oakland, Cal. for his health, is reported to be failing rapidly.

Wm. Darby, of Annesville, has had his left arm badly broken by a kick from a horse which was attached to a fence.

Vessels detained below by ice in the river above St. Helena, have commenced to arrive at Portland.

Brevet Major General Almer Doubleday, commanding the Twenty-Fourth Infantry, retired from active service on the 14th inst. Lieut. Col. Joseph H. Potter, of the Fourth Infantry, will assume command.

The Albany Register tells how postmaster Raymond is able to treat his friends to a Christmas watermelon, having preserved one in good order until that day.

The Literary Societies of the Albany Collegiate institute gave an entertainment last Tuesday evening which was a decided success.

Several well known physicians of Litch county call a meeting at Dr. Rice's office January 31 for the purpose of organizing a County Medical Society.

P. H. Bowman informs the Benton Democrat that he has found, on his place, at Spring Hill, in this county, a fine hole of coal. The croppings are found at the water's edge, and also a little bit of the hill. The vein seems to be about four feet thick.

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS.—At a regular communication of Salem Lodge No. 4, A. F. and A. M., held on the 26th inst., the following officers were elected for the ensuing Masonic Year, viz: Dr. Daniel Payton, W. M.; Wm. Miller, S. W.; J. H. Albert, J. W.; E. N. Gillingham, Sec.; Squire Farrar, Treas.; and C. W. Cartwright, Tyler.

The Yambill Reporter learns that a little girl of Mr. Young's was severely scalded a few evenings since by falling in a pan of boiling molasses. The children were making some molasses candy during the absence of their parents, and the little girl, under a misapprehension, fell with one knee into the pan. The child was painfully burned wherever the molasses touched.

A man calling himself James F. Exline, was arrested at Oregon City on Friday night last, for stealing a horse from Mr. S. S. Robbins, who lives about three miles from this place. It appears that he stole the horse at night, and not being familiar with various cross-roads in that region, he found himself in the morning confronting the very place where he had stolen the horse from the night before. He was arrested and brought to town. An examination was held before Justice Burns. Exline was put in jail to await the action of the next Grand Jury.

Country Deputy, Rev. A. Simpson, organized a Grange at the school house in King's valley on the 13th of December, with twenty-four charter members. Richard J. Grant was elected Master and C. G. Nelson, Secretary.

The Corvallis Gazette gives a stirring account of the doings of an insane man named William Crick, who procured a three-tined pitchfork and successfully defied all attempts to arrest him. This state of things lasted for several days, and finally he took to breaking show windows

with his weapon. Nearly a hundred citizens tried, unsuccessfully, to take him, but he defied them all. He finally "borrowed" a horse that was conveniently at hand and rode off, but was pursued by Sheriff Palmer, who explained to him that he wanted him to go back and give evidence against those who had illegally attempted to arrest him. The Sheriff persuaded him to give up his pitchfork and then made him an easy captive. He was adjudged insane and sent to the Asylum.

An old resident named John P. Walker, was run over by a street car Saturday. He was crossing the track before the car, stumbled, fell, and was run over by the car, painful wounds being inflicted about the head, face and left hip.

A. C. Brelford, lately an undertaker at the city of Portland, is the person referred to by telegraph as having leaped over-board from the steamer *Driftamine*, off Cape Mendocino, on her last down trip. He had resided many years in Portland and had \$500 in his possession. His domestic relations were unhappy; he became dissipated, his wife procured a divorce, and he was on his way east. He had at one time accumulated considerable property.

The papers contain the details of a terrible affray which occurred Friday at Lawson & Olsons fishery, near Westport on the Columbia river. A young man named Charles Peterson, aged 25, picked a quarrel with Byron Sheppard, whose wife had refused to dance with Peterson at a Christmas ball, because he was intoxicated. Sheppard was passing in a boat, being on a hunting excursion, and was compelled to defend himself against Peterson's assaults and those present found it impossible to restrain him. He was coming on board Sheppard's boat when the latter fired. Peterson fell into the water, swam ashore, and landed down. He died the next day. Sheppard gave himself up but was acquitted as having acted in self defense. Two other men received severe injuries striving to restrain Peterson. Robert Markel was knocked overboard and lost his gun; L. L. Morgan was shot through the left hand, and Lawson has a dislocated shoulder and other injuries.

David Chalmers, living in Pleasant Valley whose leg was amputated last week by Drs. Kinney and Cardwell, is improving, and there is hope of his final recovery. There is a probability of the necessity of amputating the right leg also.

The cylinders have been bored, at Willamette Iron Works, for the W. R. T. Co.'s new steamer.

The petit jurors of U. S. District Court, have been discharged for the term, and cases against G. W. Johnson and R. Hendrix, illegal voting, have been dismissed, and they have been bound over to answer at the next term of Court.

From the *Cross Bay News* we learn that a German Company bought the Brig Emma Augusta, and nothing having been heard of her since she sailed from San Francisco to Cross Bay, fears are entertained of her safety.

Marshfield is gradually improving, and is an enterprising town; a new wharf is being constructed to run from the Central Hotel to land steamers.

The little steam schooner *Cordelia* had gone to San Francisco from the Coquille river, loaded with produce and lumber.

Trains will regularly run over the N. P. R. R. from Kalama to Tacoma after the 1st of January.

Senator Kelly writes that the delay in building the Point Adams Light House is due to the difficulty in obtaining a title to the contemplated site.

At last accounts, the ice was running freely in the Columbia river, past Vancouver, and the river was open from Hood river to the Dalles.

There are now 186 patients in the Insane Asylum at East Portland.

C. W. Lamson of the American ship *Aklav*, is under arrest on charge of cruelly mistreating a sailor on the high seas, also his first mate, and have given bonds for appearance before the U. S. District Court.

Rev. Albert Kelly, of the M. E. Church, died at his residence on the Naches river, Yakima county, W. T., Dec. 3, 1873, of consumption.

Chief Justice Jacobs, of Washington Territory, is still confined to his bed by sickness.

The gas at Seattle, as yet, refuses to circulate through the pipes. A screw seems to be loose.

DROWNED FROM THE SIOUXONE.—We learn the following particulars concerning the drowning of a deck hand from the steamer *Siohone*, while enroute Sunday near Wheatland. The man went by the name of Harry on board the steamer, his other name being unknown. He was a sailor by profession, had deserted from his vessel and come to work as a deck hand on the river. While the *Siohone* was lying aground it was determined to send a line ashore to assist in getting her off, and for this purpose a boat was launched into which the Mate had taken the line to go ashore. In some manner the Mate's boat was capsized, and the Captain launched a gang plank to assist him in getting out. This he was unable to do, and he was carried four miles before being able to reach shore with the plank. In the meantime, the man Harry became entangled in the line, was drawn overboard, and drowned. A very few minutes. The Captain, after reaching the land, worked his way up to a point near where the steamer was lying, where he and the mate, who had succeeded in swimming ashore, lit a fire and remained all night. The boat in which the Mate attempted to get ashore was lost.—[Statesman.]

The young man who was lately drowned from the *Siohone* was named Henry Gardner.

THE HOOSAC TUNNEL.—After more than twenty years of labor and discouragement and the expenditure of vast sums of money, the Hoosac Tunnel has penetrated the mountain from one side to the other. The last barrier was blown away on Thanksgiving Day, and the officials marched through in solemn and dirty state.

LIVEMORE, Dec. 29.—A terrible accident occurred here this morning, at seventeen minutes past nine, by which the conductor of freight train No. 7 was instantly killed.

In attempting to descend from a car to the platform, while the train was in motion, he lost his footing, and fell on the track, four or five cars passed over him, dragging him along, and rolling him over. The unfortunate man was John W. Winch, and he leaves a wife, two children and an aged mother who is living at Oakland Point.