

LETTER FROM THE MIDDLE FORK OF JOHN DAY.

SUSANVILLE, Grant Co., O'g'n, Jan. 6, 1866. EDITOR MOUNTAINEER—It does not necessarily follow that, because you have no correspondent at this place, there is no such town in the Blue (now white) Mountains of Oregon. But, as most of your readers are presumed not to be as familiar with its location, importance, resources, &c., as the writer, I venture to note a few items, connected with its history, past, present and future. Its future history, if of any importance, of course depends upon what is beneath the surface of the ground, and as that is covered with about three feet of snow, perhaps it will be as well to attend to such speculations in a future letter. It is then with its past and present that we have to do.

SUSANVILLE AND SURROUNDINGS—THE MINES, AND PROSPECTS.

The town is located on Elk Creek, at its junction with the Middle Fork John Day River, and contains about twenty-five houses—all occupied, and out an equal number in the vicinity, on Elk Creek, up and down the river, and on Deep Creek. There are some twelve or fifteen families here, in all. Some little prospecting was done on Elk Creek, and gold discovered in the fall of 1864, but too late in the season to work the placers then found, or to know much in regard to their richness or extent; and it was not until June last that prospects were struck in the river. These prospects, however, were so flattering, as to produce quite an excitement, which extended as far as Boise Basin, and many from that remote field flocked hither to try their luck in these new mines. In extent, these placers have not met the expectations of the public, though doubtless, other discoveries will be made as rich as those already made. To great depth to the bed-rock in all the creeks, gulches and ravines here, and prospecting tedious and laborious; so much so that one season will suffice to determine whether there is gold in paying quantities, in all the places where favorable indications are met with, or not; in fact, claims located over a year ago, could not be put in a condition to work until the water from the melting snows last spring had dried up. The great desideratum, water, will hereafter be supplied by the Pioneer Ditch, which was completed late the last autumn—too late to be of much service before winter set in.

The Pioneer Mining Company, composed of about a dozen men, and holding a large area of ground in Elk Creek, finding so large a company to be inefficient in practical working, dissolved their organization, and divided their ground late in the fall. Large returns are looked for the coming season from this ground, as it is known to be rich. The tunnel of Husband, Pace & Co., which penetrated a flat or slide at the mouth of Elk Creek, is now yielding very rich quartz. This company can get out dirt all winter. Gold in paying quantities was not discovered in Deep Creek until near the middle of August, 1865, and, water being then so scarce, but little work was done before the close of the season; enough, however, to know that there is rich ground there as well as in Elk Creek, one nugget of pure gold being found weighing a little over three pounds. Coarse gold is one of the characteristics of this camp. Many pieces have been found weighing from one to eight ounces.

A HEALTHY STATE OF SOCIETY—CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

As much can be said for the society here, perhaps, as for that of any mining town of its size and age. As in all new mining camps the male population largely predominates, (in this place, perhaps, fifteen to one,) but it is as orderly a community as I have ever seen, where such disparity in the sexes was found to exist.

Considering the depth of the snow, quite a successful effort was made for the first time, to get the gay element of society together on the evening of Christmas. The upper story of Mr. Eli Hardy's large building was fitted up for a ball and a supper, given by Mr. Thomas Hardy. Those who participated at the ball and the banquet, expressed themselves highly pleased with the evening's entertainment.

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

A lady in our town celebrated Christmas by presenting her husband with a fine healthy boy on that day.

THE QUARTZ INTERESTS.

Should I venture to write another letter, I will give some attention to what I regard as ultimately to become the leading interest of this section of country—I refer to quartz mining. Enough is already known to place it beyond a doubt that rich quartz ledges are in these mountains. But I have not room for more upon that subject at this time.

ROUGH WINTER SPORTS.

Ever restless humanity must either have employment or amusement, and as no work can be done, except to procure a supply of firewood, amusements must be resorted to. In the absence of theatres, circuses, minstrels or melodeons, certain pedestrian feats may be witnessed at almost any hour of the day, on the sides of these lofty hills. Men can be seen wending their way by a circuitous route up the side of a mountain, carrying a pair of snowshoes from ten to twelve feet long. If there is no beaten trail to walk in, the shoes are used to aid locomotion in going up; this, however, is not much sport, that commencing when the descent begins,—and an experienced snow-shoe traveler will descend a mountain as fast as a locomotive can run, and it matters not much how steep the hill may be. When these feats are undertaken by a novice, of course, some grand and lofty tumbling takes place, to the great amusement of the spectators. HERMIT.

NEWS FROM JOHN DAY MINES—By the arrival of the express, we have information from Canyon City to the 20th inst.

A terrible snow slide occurred about ten days since on Canyon Creek, one and a half miles above Canyon City. Two men were on the snow at the time it commenced moving. One of them, named Rockwell, was precipitated against a tree with such violence that his neck was broken; and the other, whose name was Wallace, succeeded in catching in the top of a tree some sixty feet from the ground. The avalanche cut all the limbs off of this tree to within a few feet of where Wallace had effected a lodgement; and after its force was spent, the vibration of the tree was such that it is wonderful that he was not thrown from it and killed. Descending the tree, Wallace proceeded to town and procured assistance to bring in the body of his less fortunate comrade.

Some small bands of Snakes have come out of the mountains on the South Fork of John Day, and are now over in the direction of the main John

Day Canyon. In one case they found a white hunter who had just killed a deer, and three Indians came upon him, when he immediately fled. The savages took one half of the animal and left the other. At another time they drove off four head of beef-cattle, but, in general, they appear to be anxious to avoid observation.

At Camp Watson, Lieut. Hand is drilling the Oregon Cavalry, stationed at that post, on snow-shoes. He is meeting with great success in this kind of instruction, as the men take to the exercise with great gusto. This is particularly the case where the orders are to charge down hill on an Indian camp, supposed, for the sake of example, to be at the foot of the descent.

There is no snow on the road from beyond a point five miles the other side of the Des Chutes, until Timber Mountain is reached; and from a few miles beyond Camp Watson the ground is bare nearly to Canyon City.

An early resumption of mining operations is hoped for in the spring, and unusually bright anticipations are indulged in by miners, both at Canyon City and on the Middle Fork.

FROM THE CASCADES.—The steamer from Portland succeeded in reaching the Cascades day before yesterday evening, after a two days' trip. She will remain at that point until some time to day, for the purpose of taking such passengers as may go below on the steamer from this place. The snow is lying very deep in places on the railroad, and it will be several days before the track is cleared for use.

The repairs on the railroad bridge across Five Mile Creek will require but a day or two after the water has subsided.

Mr. William Birnbaum respectfully informs his patrons, and more particularly the ladies of this city and vicinity, that he will sell at private sale, at auction prices, at his store on Main street, the balance of his splendid stock of Watches, Diamonds, Jewelry and Fancy Goods. As this will be the last opportunity to purchase, the ladies and the public are invited to call.

Wasco Lodge, No. 15, F. A. & A. M.—Holds its stated Communication on the First and Third Saturdays of each month, at their hall, in Dallas City. Brethren in good standing are invited to attend. SEYM. L. POPE, Sec'y. By order of the W. M.

Columbia Lodge, No. 5, I. O. O. F.—Meets every Friday evening at 7 1/2 o'clock, in Gates' Hall, corner of Second and Court Streets. Brethren in good standing are invited to attend. By order. N. G.

AUCTION SALE.

I WILL SELL AT AUCTION AT MY STORE, No. 100 MAIN STREET, and at the California Hotel (adjoining the above number) on

Saturday, Jan. 27th, at 10 a. m.,

a large assortment of Household and Hotel Furniture, consisting in part of: Pulu Mattresses and Pillows, Straw Mattresses, Sheets, Chairs, Tables, Bedsteads, Looking Glasses, Parlor Stove, Cooking Stoves and Cooking Utensils, Spring Mattress, Feather Beds, Clocks, Maps, Lamps, Carpets, Matting, Blankets, Crochery, Chinarware, Cutlery, Roasted Parlor Set, A large lot of Books, And GROCERIES, consisting of Coffee, Sugar, Syrup, Beans, Shoulders, Hams, Apples and Peaches, dried, Canned Fruit, Tobacco, Peas, Beans and Salt Salmon and Herring. JOHN WILLIAMS, Auctioneer.

REMOVAL.

J. GOETZ, of Dallas, and F. KOENIGSBERGER, of San Francisco.

J. GOETZ & CO., TOBACCONISTS,

Have removed to Rudie's New Stone Building, Washington Street, near French & Gilman's, and have opened a well-assorted stock of HAVANA and DOMESTIC SEGARS, VIRGINIA and WESTERN TOBACCO, FRENCH and SCOTCH SNUFF, MERKESCHAUM and other PIPES, PLAYING CARDS, SPORTING GOODS, INDIAN and FA-VOY GOODS, &c., &c. The trade supplied at LOWEST MARKET PRICES.

J. JUKER, Main Street, Dallas. WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALER IN CIGARS, TOBACCO, SNUFF, PIPES, &c.

ALWAYS IN STOCK THE BEST BRANDS OF Cigars, Tobacco, Matches, &c.

PLAYING CARDS, POCKET CUTLERY, PORT MONIES, COMBS and BRUSHES, of all kinds, PERFUMERY, of every description, CHINA ORNAMENTS, TOYS, DOLLS, etc., FISH HOOKS and FISHING TACKLE, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, FANCY GOODS, &c. Also Powder-Shot, Lead, Powder Flasks, Pockets, and many other articles too numerous to mention. Interior dealers supplied with Cigars, Tobacco, etc. at less than Portland prices, with freight added. 6-8

SELLING OFF AT COST. FOR THIRTY DAYS LONGER!! LAST CHANCE!

MESSES. COHN & HOHM would hereby inform their customers and the public at large, that they will continue to sell AT COST, for thirty days longer in order to give one a chance to make presents for the Holidays. We will sell the balance of our stock, consisting of: Rich Black Silks, Gents' Cloaks, Rich Poplins, Beaver Coats, Cloaks, Dress Coats, Shawls, HATS, Trunks, Dry Goods, Hats & Caps, &c., &c., &c., &c. Boots & Shoes.

AT SAN FRANCISCO COST.

Without Freight and Expenses. This will be the last chance to get bargains, prior to closing the concern. COHN & HOHM. N.B. All bills must be paid by the First of January 1866. If not settled within that time, the same will be placed in legal hands. 6-11

J. W. GURLEY, DENTIST, Main St., Dallas, Oregon.

WOULD RESPECTFULLY INFORM the citizens of this place and vicinity, that having returned from a professional tour through the mines he has again resumed the practice of DENTISTRY, in the room formerly occupied by him, in the building occupied by Wood & Butler, Photograph Artists, and adjoining Waldron & Co.'s Drug Store. He takes this method of extending thanks, for the liberal patronage heretofore extended to him, and solicits a continuance of the same.

LIST OF PRICES. Entire Denture on Gold Base..... \$250 to \$250 " Upper Denture, Gold Base..... 50 " 120 " Denture, Vulcanite Base..... 70 " 120 " Upper Denture, Vulcanite Base..... 15 " 60 Gold Fillings inserted from one dollar upward. Children's Teeth extracted free of charge. 6-13-66

M. BROWN & BRO., WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN FANCY AND STAPLE DRY GOODS!

GROCERIES, PROVISIONS, &c. Mr. M. BROWN, being a resident of San Francisco, is enabled to offer great inducements to purchasers. We respectfully invite the public to examine our stock before purchasing elsewhere. 115-M Stone Store, north side Main street, Dallas, 6-8

NEW SALOON.

NEW STONE STORE, WASHINGTON STREET. THE UNDERSIGNED would respectfully announce that he will open a first class Saloon in French & Gilman's New Stone Building, THIS EVENING, and be prepared to serve customers with the best of Wines, Liquors and Cigars.

ALSO, A FREE LUNCH Every day and Evening. ce284f. JOHN RINDLAUB.

F. DEHM, Watchmaker and Jeweler, MAIN STREET, DALLAS.

DEALER IN FINE WATCHES, JEWELRY, CLOCKS, Gold Pens, Silver and Plated Ware, Spectacles, Cutlery, &c. Particular attention paid to repairing fine Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, etc. All Watches repaired by me warranted for twelve months. N.B. All orders from the upper country, by Express or otherwise, promptly attended to.

MRS. L. WHITE'S NEW PHOTOGRAPH ROOMS, Washington Street.

HAVING NEWLY FITTED UP THE GALLERY over Duggan's Store, would respectfully announce to all those wishing Photographs, Cartes de Visite, &c., that they will do well to give her a call. Particular attention paid to taking Ladies and Children's Portraits. ce211f.

LINCOLN HOUSE, Corner Washington and Front Streets, PORTLAND, OREGON.

FIRST-CLASS HOTEL. LARGEST IN THE STATE. Charges Reasonable. AN OMNIBUS will attend all the Buses and convey Passengers and their luggage to the Hotel. Free of Charge, or to any other House in the City for 50 cents. S. COFFIN, Proprietor. P. S.—HOT AND COLD BATHS in the House. All the Steamers for Oregon City, Vancouver, Monticello and Astoria land at the Lincoln House Wharf. ce3-3m

Dissolution of Co-Partnership. THIS CO-PARTNERSHIP heretofore existing under the name and style of ROBBINS, McFARLAND & CO. is this day dissolved by mutual consent. All liabilities of said firm to be paid by Robbins & Weaver, and all debts due said firm to be paid to and collected by them. J. M. ROBBINS, J. A. McFARLAND, J. W. WEAVER. All persons indebted to us will please call and "Pun-ple" and save costs. J. M. R.