The Oregon Weekly Statesman.

VOL. 20—NO. 21. SALEM, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1870 $2 50 per Annum in Advance.

City and County Items.

THE ICE CROP.—Our farmers are not doing much this weather towards putting in their usual crops, but our ice dealers are securing their harvest, for we notice that Uzafovage & Wright are cutting and hauling ice to their ice house in the most enterprising manner.

Hon A. B. Meacham found, on his arrival at Portland, Monday, on his intended journey up the Columbia and overland through Eastern Oregon and Idaho to the Central Pacific railroad, that navigation on the Columbia river was suspended on account of the ice. This renders it impossible to make the journey as intended and he will probably go on the next steamer to California and thence by rail.

ACCIDENT.—On the ice yesterday an accident occurred to Mr. Thomas Taylor, more painful than dangerous, as while he was gallantly engaged in endeavoring to save a lady friend from a fall, while taking her first lesson on the ice as a skatist, he had the end of his thumb taken clear off by the steel of a brother skater. Tommy picked up the pieces and plastered them together again, and makes the best of the painful occurrence.

A CORNER.—Items were scarce yesterday, the ones that were not frozen up were making the most of the ice. There was a little excitement in kerosene, caused by the sudden rise of that article in California, and one Cann went about purchasing cans of kerosene until he owned, and had in his possession most of what was held in town. The merchants found out the game after it had been played on them, and came to the conclusion that some things can be done as well as others.

WINTER SPORTS.—It is not in the recollection of the oldest inhabitant that so steady a cold spell ever occurred in the middle of December. The weather is wintry but not by any means severe. The ice has been nearly a week acquiring thickness enough to be safe for skaters, and as it is we hear occasionally of a case of sudden immersion occuring among the pleasure seekers. Yesterday the road to the skating ground was thronged by our young folks, large companies going together and entering into the sports on the ice with the greatest zest. The slough extending from Mill Creek for a mile above, was in splendid condition, and the skaters were not satisfied with thronging thither by hundreds during the day, but they returned again at evening and kindled huge fires on the ice or on the adjoining shores where dead timber abounds: There were very few mishaps and much enjoyment. In the afternoon several of the schools gave their pupils a half holiday, which was reasonable enough, for our chances to enjoy ordinary winter sports are few and far between and generally brief at that. At the present time there is no indication of a speedy return of "webfoot" weather.

Navigation of the Santiam.

ED. STATESMAN: The citizens of Lebanon and vicinity are alive to their interests. A few days since a party of three, consisting of Gov. Ballard, Hon. Jason Wheeler and S. H. Claughton, Esq., made a trip by boat from Lebanon to Jefferson on the Santiam river, the object of which, was to ascertain whether or not said river was navigable for steamers. And upon a thorough examination of the stream it was pronounced quite practicable for steamers by removing a few logs that have lodged in the channel and others that lie upon the bank and project over the stream or channel when in hears the bank. Much care was undertaken by the party to note all points of obstruction in the river and a diagram of the stream was made and, is at the office of Esquire Claughton, in Lebanon, and will be kept for future reference. Very much has been said about a large drift that had formed in the stream for the distance of three or four miles, and it has been remarked by steamboat men and others that if that obstacle was removed their would be no trouble in running steamers to Lebanon. This surveying party report the drift no longer an impediment to navigation, the river having cut a new channel through on across the bend in which the drift was located, thereby shortening the river and, making a better channel. It is needless to say that this stream if demonstrated to be navigable will form an outlet to a large scope of country, beyond question the most fertile and best grain and pork growing portion of Linn county. Steamboat men, men of capital, men of enterprise, look to your interests. A field is now thrown open to you, and though small, it is nevertheless quite fertile. The people of Lebanon, of the forks of the Santiam, of Sweet Home and of the Upper Calapooia, must have an outlet either by steamboat navigation on the Santiam river or by a branch railroad. In order to get their surplus into market. What enterprising steamboat man will undertake the navigation of the Santiam river. Any desired information concerning the above can be obtained by addressing B. W. C., Box, No. 3, Lebanon, Oregon.

ENTERPRISE.

SENATOR WILLIAMS ON OREGON AFFAIRS.—From the Washington correspondence of the New York *Herald* of November 27th, we copy this:

Senator Williams of Oregon arrived here this morning. Notwithstanding his defeat for re-election to the Senate, he is in a very hopeful mood, and thinks Oregon will go Republican in 1872 if Grant is renominated for the Presidency. A change of a hundred votes, he says, would have given the Republicans the Legislature and would have secured his re-election. Senator Williams speaks of his successor, Mr. Kelly, as a very fair man, and one who will make a useful member of the Senate. Upon being asked if he expected to be offered a place in the Cabinet, Senator Williams replied that all he knew about it he had gathered from the newspapers. He has had no communication with the President on the subject, and no proffer of a place has been made to him. He disclaims having any particular ambition for office, and says he would prefer to retire to private life and engage in the practice of his profession. The Senator reports the material prospects of Oregon to be in a very prosperous condition.

SWAMP LANDS.—We learn that applications for the purchase of swamp lands, cannot be filed with Deputies as we stated yesterday morning. Board of Commissions for the [illegible] of school and university lands, ones who receive all applica[illegible] claimants for swamp lands. [illegible] of deputies is confined to lo[illegible] reporting the swamp lands to [illegible] of Commissions, who de[illegible] priority of claims and al[illegible] conflict.

Canada is to have a [illegible] sively for "ladies."

THURSDAY.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

French War News.

New York, Dec. 20.—The *Herald's* Brussels correspondent telegraphs this morning that the bombardment of Paris is declared to be impossible. It is not humanity which restrains the Prussians, but simply the impossibility for them to succeed, as they have neither the number nor the calibre of the guns necessary. They have only 500 guns, mainly 24-pounders. The French works which command batteries can destroy them the moment they open fire. Paris has two month's supply of food.

London, Dec. 19.—The Prussians are short of men, and twenty thousand fresh troops are coming in, but Versailles is likely soon to be untenable, as the heavy guns of the French, which are being moved forward, will soon bring the palace within their range, and the French are resolved to destroy it. Eventually Paris will fall, by starvation, but not within three months. There will be no bombardment.

There has been no fighting before Paris since the 10th. The people had outside news to the 11th. They are undismayed. Orders is perfect and stores ample.

A Vendome correspondent writes that maneuvering is the order of the day, with the French army commanded by General Chanzy, and the Germans under the Duke of Mecklenburg and Prince Frederick Charles. As a consequence, there are more exhausting marches than hard fighting at present.

A special from Brussels says the large calls for Landwehr denote the weakness of the investment of Paris. One or two more sorties, like that of last night, will raise the siege.

A Frankfort special says a month will be required before the bombardment of Paris is possible. The present guns are useless, whilst French guns are almost within range of Versailles.

The French troops fronting the Duke of Mecklenburg hold their ground with splendid gallantry.

A correspondent at Vendome says neither of the French armies, commanded by Chanzey and Bourbaki, number less than 100,000 men, and they can draw reinforcements from other parts of France for nearly double that number. The appearance of the French armies is favorable.

General News of Europe.

London, Dec. 19.—The Czar has severely reprimanded the Moscow corporation for petitioning, on behalf of a free press, religious toleration, and other reforms, and the University for asking for joint intervention to save the literary treasures in Paris. He refers, unpleasantly, to the siege of Delhi and other tokens of British civilization.

Berlin, Dec. 18.—Two prominent members of the North German Parliament, for their anti-war acts, were arrested on the charge of high treason, by order of Bismarck.

London, Dec. 19.—Parliament will meet on the 2d of February. Hon. John Evelyn Dennison will be re-elected Speaker.

Grant's Messages were reproduced here at length. The *Times* says President Grant expects England to take the initiative in re-opening negotiations. He will be disappointed. It was Americans who rejected the last settlement.

The King of Prussia has received the address at Versailles, and accepts the dignity of Emperor, tendered with unanimous voice by the Princes of the free towns and the German nation.

The abolition of the Scheldt dues is voted.

Madrid, Dec. 18.—The caucus of Deputies, of the majority in the Cortes, last night, adopted a resolution in favor of a dissolution of the Cortes, as soon as the new King has taken the oath or office.

Good Peace Prospects.

London, Dec. 20.—Prospects of peace are looking much improved this morning. It is thought in Berlin and Frankfort that the peace basis proposed by the neutrals, with some amendments, will probably soon be adopted. Military movements in the field continue actively, and the French are evidently endeavoring to concentrate; one of the German Armies is falling back before Bourbaki.

Vienna, Dec. 18.—A conference respecting meditation was held by the representatives of neutral powers, at the Foreign Office, on Tuesday last. All ambassadors were present. The basis proposed is as follows: Neutrals to acquiesce in the annexation of Luxemburg; to acknowledge William the Emperor of Germany; France to pay $1,200,000,000 francs; raise the two frontier fortresses; cede the District of Alsace to Germany, and acknowledge the German Emperor. Count Mosbourg said that France would pay more money rather than cede a mile of territory.

The Conference will not meet until January.

Wyoming.

Corinne, Dec. 20.—A telegram from Medicine Bow, Wyoming, says that a coal mine on the south side of the main railroad track, at Carbon Station, owned by the Wyoming Coal Company, which has been burning for about two weeks, became untenable on the morning of the 16th inst. Six men, including the pit boss, were just leaving the interior of the mine when a small explosion occurred, blowing out its force through the shaft, and injuring all of them more or less, but no one seriously. Shortly after they were hauled out another and more severe explosion occurred, injuring the shaft and throwing an iron bucket weighing a ton hundreds of feet in the air, and scattering timbers and coal in every direction. Six hours later two other explosions occurred, blowing out through the ground. A man named Thos. White, who was asleep in a dugout, was burned to death by the latter. Several light explosions occurred on the afternoon of the 18th, and another heavy one at midnight of the same day, opening additional vents for the gas, since when no explosions have occurred. Up to the present time the fire is still raging with unabated fury and there is no possibility of extinguishing it, since the whole town was supplied with water which came from the shaft. The inhabitants are much alarmed, and many are moving away. The Wyoming Coal Company estimates its loss at $80,000. The main and all side tracks will have to be moved. The main track crosses several drifts, which are now on fire and liable to be blown out at any time.

EASTERN NEWS.

Washington, Dec. 19.—In the Senate Nye introduced a bill to enable the people of Colorado to form a Constitution and State Government, for the admission of said State into the Union, on the usual footing with original States. Referred to the Committee on Territories.

In the House, among other bills introduced was one by Axtell, to charter the California and Arizona Railroad.

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs to-day completed their Ocean telegraph bill, and authorized Ferando Wood to report it. The bill in general, in its terms, and authorizes the [illegible] of cables from any part of the [illegible] the United States, by any person or [illegible] certain conditions and re[illegible]

[illegible], Dec. 20.—Gen. Schenck [illegible] to some of his associates [illegible] he would not take his [illegible] after Thursday next, [illegible] departure for England [illegible] delayed. He is now [illegible] State Department, making [illegible] with the past history [illegible] claims, and other matters of interest between the two countries.

CALIFORNIA.

San Francisco, Dec. 20.—The thirty Russians on board the United States steamer Newburn, from Sitka, to-day, are in poverty, and the Russian Government pays their expenses home.

Arch Priest Cedrobanski, with staff of Deacons and a full choir for the new Russo-Greek Church, to be erected here immediately, at a cost of $80,000, also: arrived by the Newburn. The money for the erection of the church is already raised.

Dealers say the holiday trade was never better than this week, but useful articles are almost exclusively in demand. The trade in mere toys is smaller than ever before.

The steamship Japan, from China, three days overdue, arrived this evening, and attempted to pass up the harbor in the darkness. About a quarter past seven she ran into a vessel off North Point, with a crash, which was plainly heard on shore, then drifted, disabled, with the tide up to Jackson street wharf. The damage by the collision was less than at first supposed. The Japan ran into the North German ship Caroline; which was not badly damaged. They drifted upon the American ship Marmion, carried away her bowsprit, stem and headgear. The steamer's port guard was smashed and two boats stove. Some other damage was done. No lives lost.

Los Angeles, Dec. 20.—The Vigilance Committee hold nightly sessions. As yet nothing is known of their deliberations except in the case of a notorious sneak thief, who received a note yesterday from the committee suggesting his immediate departure.

The last two nights were the coldest ever known here.

OREGON.

Jacksonville, Dec. 20.—The store of A. Fisher & Bro., of this place, was broken into by burglars last night, but they secured but little plunder. The safe was untouched. The thieves effected an entrance by breaking through the rear wall of the building.

A Chinaman was shockingly beaten by a white man, on the street to-day, and it is not known whether he will recover.

The weather here is very cold, and nearly all mining operations are suspended in consequence.

Paris and France.

King William of Prussia has been tendered and has graciously accepted the offer of Imperial Purple made to him by the German States and the German Empire is a settled thing, but Paris has not surrendered, and France is not yet brought to submission. The war has continued with varying fortunes, enlisting our sympathies with Germany most decidedly in the outset, and changing only when the Empire was dethroned and the Republic demanded the respect and claimed the good wishes of Republican America. At the present time France astonishes the world by massing armies and raising means under the greatest difficulties and maintaining an almost equal warfare against the victorious Germans. Under the Empire the people were easily discouraged and overpowered; while under the Republic which is only half formed, and with a government divided between besieged Paris and threatened Tours, the people of France show the greatest possible heroism, fortitude and fidelity to the Nation.

It commences to look as if Paris could not be taken, and as if the armies of France were able to make the soil of that nation untenable ground for the armies of Germany. Paris has yet two month's provisions, and the besieged army is constantly making formidable sorties against the Prussians with a prospect of ultimately raising the siege. In France all else is abandoned to prosecute the war. It is brought home to them in so terrible a manner that there is no recourse left but battle; no employment left but war; no hope left but death or victory. In Germany it is otherwise, and while we hear that volatile, revolutionary and reactionary France accepts battle with one voice, and wages it without complaint against terrible discouragements, we hear from Berlin that a riot has occurred in the Capitol of the victorious nation, and that the military force has quelled it by shedding the blood of the citizens. The attempt to conquer France—for it is no less—necessitates that every able bodied German shall take the field. This is a strain no nation can bear, and occurring so early in the war, after only six months of conflict, it carries the belief to all dispassionate observers that if France can prolong the struggle she can in two months from now secure peace upon much better terms than Prussia has yet offered.

State News.

PORTLAND.

From the *Herald*: The steamer Cascade, which is to ply on the Astoria route, is nearly completed. Her engines and boilers are erected, and her staterooms repaired and renovated. The boat is one of the staunchest on these waters, and has been provided with all that is necessary to insure speed, strength and safety.

Seventy arrests have been made by the police authorities, since the first of December. Three-fourths of the cases were for drunkenness, and the rest for assault and battery and petit larceny.

Burch and Hackney were yesterday sentenced by Judge Upton to a term of two years and a half in the penitentiary, for the robbery of the store of Mr. English, in East Portland.

The present number of prisoners in the county jail is twenty-three.

From the *Bulletin*: The city of Portland is now in a state of siege. Communication from the north was completely cut off yesterday. The Oneonta has been laid up at the Company's ship yard, and the Vancouver packets have taken refuge in our harbor.

A man giving his name as John Milken yesterday lodged complaint at the Police headquarters against a person at the Howard Saloon for robbery. He alleges that he was robbed of a check on the Bank of British Columbia for $230 coin, four $10 pieces and one $20.

From the *Oregonian*: There is trouble in many places in the city with the water pipes and hydrants. They freeze up in unprotected places.

The ice company is making apparently ample provision for the proper treatment of parched throats next summer. For two days they have had a large force of cutters and teams at work filling their ice houses.

The steamer Oneonta ran down into the Columbia river, yesterday morning to prospect the route as regards running ice. She found the ice not so plenty as on the day before, but it was very strong and sharp. Finding that the steamer was getting cut considerably, Capt. Wolf concluded to return.

The dials of the city clock were put in place without accident yesterday. They are five feet and three inches in diameter, and the figures can be plainly distinguished for about five or six blocks.

The steamers from below are bringing large supplies of game. Venison steaks are becoming quite a specialty at some of our markets.

The Orifflamme was advertised to sail from San Francisco to-day, Thursday Dec. 22d.

WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

From the Olympia *Transcript* of Dec. 17th, we take the following:

The officers of the railroad company entered 20,000 acres of land on Whidby Island, this week. Some 5,000 acres more were also entered by outside parties.

The following amount of busines of the Olympia land office was transacted during the month of November: Number of acres of land sold for cash, 7,737; homestead entries, 3,146; declatory statements, 2,750; donation claims, 1,232; final proof on homesteads, 820. Total, 15,887.

Work was commenced on the Northern Pacific railroad on Friday last, five miles above Monticello. The object of the force now engaged in grading is to enable the company to make estimates of cost. The advertisement of the company, calling for five hundred men has put renewed confidence in the matter, and satisfies everybody that the building of the railroad from Puget Sound to the Columbia River is to be immediately built. Twenty-five or thirty laborers for the road came up from below on the steamers on Wednesday, and others are continually passing through for Monticello.

City and County Items.

MARRIED.—At the residence of Leban Case, in Polk county, December 21st, by Rev. P. S. Knight, Mr. John C. Booth and Mrs. Belle Headrick.

HOGS BY RAIL.—Mr. Cross received a car load of cold pork by railroad yesterday, brought down from somewhere above.

TO GO OVERLAND.—As the Columbia river route is closed and the ocean steamer travel is uncertain, as the Willamette may be closed by ice below Portland, Mr. Meacham will go by overland stage to California and thence by rail to the East. He may leave today or to-morrow.

We neglected to mention before that the redoubtable Shults alias Bardman is a neighbour of ours but is rendered docile and harmless for the present from the State by a pair of Gardener shackles and a room in the Penitentiary to occupy for ten years to come.

Ice, but not any great quantity of it, has been on hand in our city all the time for years past, but no one knew it. Uzafovage & Wright found a chunk of the lot they put down four years since, preserved unmelted in the saw dust at the bottom of their ice house.

ICE.—Uzafovage & Wright are determined to put up ice enough to last this town through one season at least, and if the cold weather lasts long enough we shall have a thousand tons (or less) of it to impair our summer palates.

ABOUT ITEMS—During this freezing spell items are abundantly lacking both in number and interest, that is not only the case in Salem, but we are compelled to judge by the lean look of the local columns of our exchanges that they have as little to say as much as we have.

Old and New for December comes to hand with the usual amount of sterling literature in it. It is one of the best magazines Boston ever has furnished, and now, at the begining of the year is a good time to send on your four dollars currency and subscribe for the next volume. Its corps of contributors includes much of the best, and best paid talent in America.

Skating continues to be the exciting and interesting occupation of both sexes, who realize that the icy rule may be brief and so make the most of it. Hundreds were on the Slough yesterday, and the city hacks were coming and going there with lady passengers from a distance, who were determined to see the sport. The ice has attained a thickness that makes it safe, as the slabs cut for the ice house are nearly four inches thick.

STATE LIBRARY REMOVED.—The State Library and Adjutant General's office and all the goods, chattels, books, safes and effects of those institutions are now being removed to Grover and Miller's building, formerly known as Smith's block. Of course there is no use of having buildings to rent without improving opportunities to rent them, and though the rooms now to be occupied are not so good or convenient as those left, still it is only what we must expect that every hoss set penny should be turned by the present administration.

CAESAR ASSAULTED.—A colored individual complains of having been made a target for a bad shot, night before last, when pursuing his legitimate business, somewhere near the Catholic church. He did not mind being shot at much, though considerably annoyed at being so shady in appearance that the envious bullet couldn't find him. He was a little put out, that he didn't know what the fellow had "again him" who shot at him, but he was awful mad when his assassin assailant laid aside the firearm and with more successful aim threw a rock at him and smote him therewith. Caesar still lives, but his indignation continues.

Council Proceedings.

The common Council met in special session on the evening of Dec. 20th, Mayor Scott in the chair, and Aldermen Williams, Wade, Drake, Bridges, Wright, Starkey, Skiff and Brown present.

SMALLPOX.

Mr. Williams, from the special committee to whom was referred the ordinance relative to smallpox, reported without recommendation and on motion of Alderman Starkey the subject was laid upon the table.

WATER WORKS.

A communication was received from Martin & Allen, asking the passage of an enclosed bill for an ordinance to grant them an exclusive franchise for 17 years to supply the city with water. The bill was referred to Messrs. Williams, Starkey and Skiff.

BILLS.

A bill in favor of Anderson & Brown for $28 50, and a bill in favor of R. W. Sayre for $4 75 were ordered paid. A bill in favor of A. B. F. Rhinhart for $100 for repairing foot bridge across Mill creek was referred to the Street Committee.

FRIDAY.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

EASTERN NEWS.

Washington, Dec. 21.—In the House a number of Southern members spoke in favor of a general amnesty.

Mr. Sargent introduced a bill to forfeit to the United States lands granted to the Placerville and Sacramento Valley Railway Company, to aid in the construction of a Railroad from Folsom to Placerville. Passed.

Mr. Schenck took leave of his colleagues of the Ways and Means Committee yesterday, and his name will be sent to the Senate to day, and he will be confirmed to-day.

Mr. Hooper, of Massachusetts, will act as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee for the balance of the session, *vice* Schenck.

The following nominations were sent to-day: Schenck, of Ohio, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Great Britian; J. C. Clements, of Ohio, Secretary of Washington Territory.

European News.

Versailles, Dec. 20.—The anxiety of the Germans for peace is intense. German troops are on the point of mutiny. The bombardment of Versailles is expected every moment. The French have 11 position guns capable of throwing shells through the King's palace, and driving the Germans from the works on the east and north of Versailles.

London, Dec. 20.—A correspondent from Paris writes on the 19th, saying: We have arrived at the starvation point. The supply will last but a few days longer. In the event of the failure of the next sortie, Ducrot, Favre and others of the Government will leave Paris, by balloon, to prosecute the war in the provinces. Trochu will remain till the surrender of the city.

Le Mans, Dec. 18.—There has been a second change of base. This diffusion of the army of the Loire is a successful strategy, as there has been brilliant fighting near Paris.

The Army of the Loire has simply moved some 50 miles north of their former position, and there joined hands with a new army. The end of the Army of the Loire is not just yet.

Versailles, Dec 16.—Ducrot has not re-entered Paris, but remains at Vincennes. It is certain he contemplates a renewal of the attempt to break through and effect a junction with the army of Chancey, who is gallantly endeavoring to fight his way northward.

Versailles, Dec. 16.—We have entered another period of ominous silence, which is probably the precursor of a new storm of fire that will swallow up more than a thousand of human lives. Meanwhile reinforcements are arriving rapidly, about 5,000 daily. The new year will see upwards of 100,000 old soldiers recalled to the ranks, after spending years in occupations of peace, and will be gathered around Paris to strengthen the deep lines of investment, which deaths, wounds, and sickness have recently weakened.

The Guard in Germany, of 350,000 French prisoners, has been entrusted to the Landwehr, who have been called out, with the exception of boys and old men. The whole Germany population carries arms.

Rome, Dec. 15.—There is a severe preliminary conflict at Florence regarding the future status of the Pontiff. This important question was submitted to Parliament, to take precedence over all others. The extreme left will endeavor to destroy the Pope, the Sacred College and the whole body Episcopal. The extreme right will try to save as much as possible of the court power and dynasty of St. Peter. The question of transfer of capital has caused a break between the opposite partisans on the ministerial project for guaranteeing the independence of the Supreme Pontiff and the exercise of spiritual authority.

London, Dec. 20.—Mr. Bright has resigned, with the pension due to a Minister for two years' service. His two years ended on the 16th inst.

Advices from Paris to the 21st say the people are calm, resolute and confident. Prussians are advancing, and have a greater force. The Prussians bombarded Marne, and marched thence on Verains. A German reconnoissance from Amiens attacked the Faidherbine corps, but were repulsed. The Prussians evacuated Sergnigny and Beaumont.

On the capitulation of Thionville, 50,000 French troops were paroled. The majority were much enraged, because of the surrender, and some of the troops threatened to explode the magazines, but were dissuaded upon the appearance of women and children, who, on their knees besought submission. During the action 50,000 shells were thrown into the city. Damage, five million dollars.

London, Dec. 21.—In the Spanish Cortes a motion was carried against dissolution. There was great excitement and the opposition retired. Bobledo declared that he did not wish a *coup 'd etat*, but to save the King or perish with him. Figueres supported him; he said the country would not settle down on Aosta and a throne. The Government supported the motion, saying that to save the country everything was agreeable.

Politicians and Statesmen.

From "Wanted, a Statesman," by J. F. Clarke, in December number of "*Old and New*:"

Our difficulty, is this country, is, that most persons begin public life as politicians, and so acquire a habit of looking only to party success, which is usual to all breadth of view. Yet we have had men who studied principles, and rose above party; such were Jefferson and Hamilton, however much opposed they were in their time; such men were Jay and John Adams, and others whom I need not name. Nor do I think that it can be denied that Mr. Webster was a statesman. Perhaps he became too much of a politician in his latter days; but during most of his career, he kept his eye fixed upon principles. Charles Sumner is also a statesman. He satisfies all the tests we have laid down; he has always wished to steer, and has never been willing to drift; he has always thought less of the next election than of the future of the nation; and he has always seen farther into the future than his cotemporaries. That politicians have disliked him, while the people have sustained him, is another evidence of the same fact, and a most encouraging sign that statesmanship is valued by the mass of the people. The people can understand ideas and principles better than measures. This, indeed, gives a temporary power to the demagogue; but it also helps the true statesman, who fixed his eye on the everlasting stars, while steering the ship of state upon the sea of human history and temporal circumstance. The great mass of the nation are willing to tolerate transient errors and mistakes in those who evidently believe in principles. As long as the Democratic party seemed true to its ideas of equal justice for all men, the nation sustained it, but when, to gain political advantage, it allied itself to slaveholders and slaveholding, it lost its hold on the national mind.

So the Republican party, which has saved the Union and abolished slavery, has secured a long lease of power by that splendid record; but it will lose its hold, at last, on the public heart, if it allows itself to be corrupted by venal politicians, and permits the greed of office to supplant faith in principles. As long as it is led by statesmen, it is safe. When it is governed by politicians, it must look out for its end, and, if its power will be gone.

The Antioch *Ledger* asserts that mosquitos in that locality are so thick that a gentleman drove into a closet of them the other day and broke the shaft of his buggy.

The Oregon School Fund.

It was anticipated before our Senator returned to Washington, that immediately on the opening of the session some steps would be taken to decide the question whether Congress would approve the clause of our State Constitution, setting apart the 500,000 acres originally intended as an internal improvement fund to be a part of the irreducible school fund. Such action was taken by Senator Williams on the first day of the session, and if this resolution we publish below passes, of which there is little doubt, it will check the Democratic raid upon the Oregon State Constitution.

In the Senate of the United States, December 5th, 1870, Mr. Williams asked, and by unanimous consent obtained leave to bring in the following joint resolution; which was read twice and ordered to be printed.

JOINT RESOLUTION.

Explanatory of the Act admitting the State of Oregon into the Union.

WHEREAS, Doubts have arisen as to the effect of the Act for the admission of Oregon, approved February 14th, 1859, so far as it relates to the five hundred thousand acres of land granted to said State by an Act entitled "An Act to appropriate the proceedings of the public lands, and to grant pre-emption rights," approved September 4th, 1841; therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress, by its said Act admitting said State into the Union, did, and hereby doth, assent to the application of said lands for the support of common schools as made in the second section of the eighth Article of the Constitution of said State.

This does not require any explanation. We shall comment upon it in due time. Senator Williams means business.

How it was Done.

The *Bulletin* publishes an interesting epistle from Jacksonville which directly charges Burnett and Wells, who were members of the House from Jackson county, with corruption on the Senator question, and then shows what they are trying to do with the cash they received for voting for Kelly. The following extract from Fay's speech on that point is especially interesting:

He said, as all of us here know, that before they went to the Legislature, Burnett and Wells were both poor; Burnett was too hard up to pay a note of $75 which Fay held against him for a client for over two years, and Wells had to coax a friend to whom he had sold a horse to pay the price a month in advance of the agreed time to pay his expenses to Salem. Yet after the Senatorial election they each had plenty of money. He related, what we all know here, that since Jack Burnett had come back, he offered a certain merchant in this county $4,000 in gold for a part interest in his business, but that the offer was rejected, that the merchant said he did not want any man in business with him who made his money that way. Fay also told another thing well known here; that while Wells was very poor before he went to Salem, he has been able since his return here to forward $1,600 in gold coin to the Willamette tor stock. If they did not sell their votes for this money they both have now, although so poor before they went to Salem, Fay said, let them dare to tell how they came by it.

City and County Items.

Yesterday and to-day are two of the shortest days that have ever been known in this latitude.

MARRIED.—In Marion county, November, 30th, at the house of the bride's father, by Elder S. Williams, Mr. Thomas Jones and Miss Ellen Short.

EASTERN RESTAURANT.—Travellers who want a meal at any hour in Portland, especially if leaving that city by early train or boat, or arriving there at a late hour can find a good meal on short notice at the Eastern Restaurant which is advertised in our columns.

NOT CAESAR.—We received a call yesterday from Caesar, who says he is the only colored man in town who owns that historic name, and assures us that he was not shot at. He says Junius Brutus Scipes got shot at, and we take his word for it.

The Willamette river, in the effort to keep warm this cold weather, has crawled down into the very bottom of its bed. It doesn't happen to have a feather bed and must be suffering intensely. The steamboats still wiggle and worry up and down, and the only consolation they have is that the river is no lower now than it was last summer.

MASONIC FESTIVAL.—On Tuesday next, the evening of St. John's Day, the ancient and honorable order of Free and Accepted Masons will hold an installation banquet at the Chemeketa House. The installation exercises will take place in the spacious parlors of the hotel and the supper in the dining room. By request we announce that all members of the order are invited to be present and participate in the ceremonies. Tickets can be had of R. P. Earhart and T. McF. Patton.

ST. CHARLES HOTEL.—When at Portland a few days since we stopped at this hotel, which is now kept by Mr. Jacobs, well known to travellers on this coast as lately the popular landlord of the St. George Hotel at Victoria. Mr. Jacobs has been at Portland but a few weeks but is successful in maintaing the reputation already established for the St Charles and is adding considerably thereto. The St Charles is a first class house.

MARYSVILLE LOTTERY.—We call attention to the advertisement in to-day's issue, of the Marysville Gift Concert. The scheme is an exceedingly liberal one, and the rates of prizes to the number of tickets more advantageous than any that has yet been gotten up in California. The scheme is under the management of the leading citizens of Marysville, whose names are a guarantee that it will be honestly conducted, and the profits to be devoted to worthy local objects.

DECEMBER SNOW.—Concerning Irish, there be very terrible stories for Hibernians, for the things which are going on are generally going towards or from the ice, and while everybody is trying to be happy at the expense of numerous efforts nothing happens worth telling of. A snow storm would be a variety, as it would at least enable the cops of our city to cut capers. We could then patiently wait the ice business, if we had something else to talk about. As long as it is all we have, we can only wait for occasional rarities such as a horse and buggy, or a Democratic duckling, cleverly gone downstreet. We offer a prize of a free year's local notice to the first person who hears of a man who goes under water, and stays there.

[illegible] milk cleaner than [illegible] every morning.

State News.

PORTLAND.

The *Oregonian* of 23d says that on account of the freeze and stoppage of the Columbia river travel, Postal Agent Underwood has telegraphed to Ogden, Utah, to have all the overland mail for Oregon sent via San Francisco.

The steamer Fannie Troupe arrived last evening from the lower Columbia. She reports the running ice very heavy. No further trip below will be attempted for the present. Boats are still running to the east bank of the Columbia opposite the mouth of the Willamette.

Yesterday morning the river opposite Stark street was frozen almost across, and ice remained for out [illegible] river from the eastern bank till [illegible] the day. It will evidently require a few degrees increase of cold to [illegible] the Willamette against steamboat [illegible]tion.

The *Bulletin* of that date furnishes the following: The musical exercises at the Plaza on Wednesday and Saturday of each week will hereafter be [illegible] by a very large proportion of the citizens of Portland. The band of the Twenty-third Infantry has been ordered to Vancouver, and will go over this week.

Through favor of Captain Turnbull, the Portland mail was delivered at Vancouver yesterday. The steamer crossed the Columbia river in the midst of very heavy and extensive fields of ice.

The boilers of the railroad ferry boat were inspected yesterday by officers Dierdorff and Lotan. The Company only asked that they be allowed a pressure of 60 pounds to the square inch, but the test was extended to 90 pounds.

The scene at the lake yesterday afternoon was greatly heightened by the appearance of the Twenty-third Infantry Band, about four o'clock, p. m., which went down and played a most excellent programme of music.

A farmer from Polk county, who started around town to see the elephant, on Tuesday evening, called at one of the hurdy-gurdy's and there made himself sociable. Next morning when he recovered his senses, he found himself minus $40 which he had the previous night.

Cassidy, the companion of Burch and Hackney, in the robbery of a safe in East Portland, was yesterday found guilty on the indictment preferred, by the jury, after a short deliberation. The two companions were sentenced on Tuesday, to two and a half years in the penitentiary, and it is supposed the trio will serve the same term together. He will be sentenced tomorrow, and the three will go to Salem on Sunday.

A RELIC OF PATRICK BROWN.—The other day while Mr. Joe Downer was plowing a field on Swegle's place, about a mile and a quarter from the Penitentiary, he plowed up the greater part of a ten pound Gardener shackle and found by it a piece of cloth and a piece of a boot and part of a white leather strap. These relics are supposed to have been left there by Patrick Brown, the convict for whose capture so many efforts were made. He must have had a well tempered saw on his person at the time of his escape, for the shackle shows a piece to have been neatly sawed out with great labor, so that the leg could be slipped through it.

YOUNG ADVENTURER.—The Sacramento *Union* has the following:

Among the passengers by the Central Pacific express train from the East yesterday was a boy ten or twelve years of age, as exceedingly dirty and picturesquely rugged young rooster, who gave his name as John Anderson, and stated that he ran away from his home in San Francisco about two months ago, and during that time had made trip overland to Chicago and back "on his shape." As he was hungry, Jack Biderman gave him a hearty lunch at the refreshment stand in the depot. He paid too much attention to the eatables for some minutes to be able to talk, but after he had housed two or three doughnuts and an equal number of sandwiches and pigs' feet, he began to be communicative, and stated that his mother was dead, but that his father and stepmother lived in San Francisco. He wanted to see Chicago, as he had learned that it was a great place, and he got on the cars and went there. He was never put off the trains during the trip, although moneyless, but he had to "wait a day or two at stations to get something to eat." His stay in Chicago was limited to one week, as he found the place lonesome. In his opinion San Francisco was as good as Chicago, but (and he cast an admiring and appreciative glance upon the refreshments near by from which he had been allowed to help himself) "neither of 'em's half 's good as this place." Some one, noticing the smoke and dirt, begrimed condition of his hands and face, inquired what was the matter with them. "Guess I'd ought to wash 'em," he replied. "When did you wash yourself last?" "Just 'fore I left Chicago!" A bystander inquired if he was going on to San Francisco by the train just about to start, to which he made answer: "I don't know; it depends." Presently, however, on catching sight of the good-natured countenance of the conductor, he appeared to arrive at the conclusion that the "depends" were favorable, and jumping into the emigrant car he was taken on toward his father's house, where it is to be hoped he will receive the welcome of the Prodigal Son.

RAILROAD.—We understand that there is considerable excitement at St Helens in regard to railroading, expecting the Northern Pacific road to cross about one and a half miles below the town. Several parties have lately sold out their ranches to the company. Among them, Mr. Bennett sold forty acres to a party in Vancouver, for $1,000. Real estate is rapidly advancing in that section.—*Herald.*

The cities which require six figures to express their inhabitants, by the present census, are: New York, [illegible] 000; Philadelphia, 850,000; Brooklyn, 400,000; Chicago, 248,308; Baltimore, 280,000; Boston, 250,701; Cincinnati, and St. Louis, each 225,000; New Orleans, 192,000; Newark and San Francisco, each, 150,000; Buffalo, 114,000; Washington, 110,000.

The description contained in the following would apply to a great many preachers: "Dr——, of Louisville, preached in David Walk's church on Sunday evening. The attendance was fair and the service was free. After the singing of a few hymns the Doctor delivered a nice essay in the regular way, followed by a prayer, and then took the text from which to preach," etc.

An Irishman dropped a letter in the post-office the other day, with the following memorandum on the outside: "Please the branch of all inferior government into whose hands it may fall: "Please hasten the delay of this."

A precocious boy in a public school out West, who stands high in geography, was asked by his teacher where Africa was located. He promptly answered, "All over the United States."

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