Astoria, Oregon, Saturday Morning, September 1, 1883.

No. 131.

TRE PONY EXPRESS How the Mails Were Carried a few Years Ago

A. B. Miller, the prime mover, the man who prepared the way and kept it in running order from the Missouri to the Pacific, is now a resident of this city, and his hair is only streaked with gray, so fast do things change in the west. In an early day the firm of Russell, Majors, Waddel & Co., were among the largest contractors in the United States, "their business sometimes amounting to \$6,-000,000 annually. Mr. Miller was the "Co.," the youngest member of the firm, and in a great measure the life of it. Mails were very irregular, the stage lines taking a weekly which was sometimes lost, in fact was extremely fortunate to get through. This was conducted at an enormous cost. There was great rivalry between the stage and ocean lines, the latter struggling for contracts for taking the mails from New York by steamer up the western coast. The mail which went overland went by the northern route through New Mexico and Arizona. The contracting firm above mentioned had control of the central Fort Laramie and Salt Lake. impracticable, and the idea of a port itself, so the proprietors ex- federate army, and died on a southpected to be out not more than the ern battle-field. original investment. It could These riders were of a class hardly be said that it did pay, but similar to the cowboys of the presin five days more.

On April 3d, the ponies were The steamer company were conway. So a bet was made. It was

The race began and was watched with breathless interest. Station after station was passed. The pony from the ocean and the pony from the valley panted towards each other, with the hundreds of miles between them, melting away. At each station there was another horse saddled and rider ready spurred. The mail bag was tossed from one to the other, and on sped like the wind the fresh horse and rider. One boy on this first trip was lost in a canyon of snow. For four precious hours he wandered. Then he started on with desperate vigor. Another was lost in the Platte; the horse he rode was drowned. But the rider swam out with his mail and footed it to the next station. Here his relief was in waiting, and the flight was taken up again. Would the rider and the horses with their daring and energy win? Would the accident and the strangeness of the trial make them lose? No twelve and a half inches. A copone could tell. The days passed. The ponies neared each other, they rah. On and on; whip and spur. Ten days are gone and the ponies have kept up to the mark Fifteen. on hand? As yet there is no mensions of musical instruments

his bet. Then a cloud of dust is in A. D. 274, a new measure ex-Victory! There is still twenty ed the gnomon of official sun-

minutes' grace. followed these innovations.

ship, was a wearing one. What and several of the oldest constellaits fore until they die. Many are the Chinese foot is based on a route, by Kearney, Julesburg, dead already. One, named Mur- Babylonian measure of a span, ray, recently died in Salt Lake. and should be nine inches in People insisted that this route was From the stripling of the 60's he length. came to weigh 220 pounds. He daily mail over it was pooh-poohed made quite a reputation as a desmost vigorously. Mr. Miller per- perate character. As one who suaded his more conservative knew him said: "He got too big partners that such a mail could be to ride a pony, but had a good carried. From this idea grew the build for holding up stages." One pony express, the fame of which of the most daring of the crowd was soon world wide. He was rode into Salt Lake from eighty given two months, February and miles this side, through the wildest March, 1861, to equip the line part of the route. It was a hard with stock and stations, which he task, but the lad was equal to it, did at a cost of \$80,000. It was doing the work of about four thought that the line would sup- men. He afterward joined the con-

it demonstrated what could be ent day, ready for a fight or a done, and encouraged the railroad frolic, and entering either with the and the wire to follow in its wake. determination to make the most of Previous to this time there had it. They were loyal to each other been limited express lines of the and their friends. There was onknd, but nothing on so gigantic a ly one mail lost by them and that scale. Mr. Miller had been over happened to be of little value. It the route enough to know what was lost in Egan's canyon, when had been done. He said that the rider in charge was attacked Salt Lake could be reached from by Indians, his horse killed, and St. Joe in ten days and the coast he himself wounded. The company tried to get the government to punish the Indians for this, but started from each end of the line. there was another matter for By this time the confidence of Uncle Sam to attend to just then. Miller had proved infectious and So Miller took seventy-five men, Russell was just as confident. went out and killed a few of the playful savages, and found that fident, too, but not in the same they kept out of the way very SILVERWARE, a pretty good-sized bet, being for carrying letter were \$5 per nicely forever after. The charges ounce or fraction thereof. This was afterward reduced to half the amount, and then a sort of paper known as "Pony Express" was invented, its best point being that it weighed almost nothing. The contents of an eight page paper Horseshoeing Establishment. could be written upon it and sent | HAVE LATELY SECURED THE SEE for \$2 50.

The income of the concern while running averaged \$500 per day. Some very valuable documents were carried, and in every case arrived in good order. England was at that time having a little argument with China. Reports from the English squadron in Chinese waters to the home government were carried by this route, it SAILS. TENTS, AWNINGS being the quickest and safest. One of these official papers weighed so much that the charges upon it And everything else pertaining to ou were \$135 .- Chicago Times.

The Chinese Foot The standard foot of the Imperial Board of Works at Pekin is At the Old Stand per foot measure, dated A. D. S1. is still preserved, and is nine and passed, the riders gave a wild hur. a half inches in length. The width is one inch. The small copper coins, commonly called cash, were made of such a size, At four o'clock the westward sometimes, as just to cover an inch bound must be in Sacramento. on the foot rule. In the course of The noon has passed and the two centuries it was found that minutes are being counted. Half. the foot had increased half an past 3. Will the brave rider be inch, and a difference in the disign. With only thirty minutes resulted. Want of harmony was

to spare Russel wants to double the consequence, and accordingly, seen, it grows to a speck. The actly nine inches in length, was rider waves his hat. The people made the standard. Among the shout. The pony express has means employed for comparing crossed the great American desert. the old and new foot are mentiondials and the length of certain jade This speed was always kept up tubes used according to old regujust as if there were \$50,000 at dations as standards. One of stake daily. It was the same for these latter was so adjusted that months. Then the complications an inch in breadth was equal to of the war turned everything up- the breadth of ten millet seeds. A side down. The riders went to do hundred millet seeds, or ten battle, the stations were abandon- inches, was the foot. The Chinese ed, contracts went to other hands, foot is really based on the human and grass grew over the trail, hand, as is the European foot up-But soon the stage used it and the on the foot. It strikes the Chitelegraph line was not far behind, nese as very incongruous when while those who have rushed across they hear that we measure cloth, the plains by steam know what woodwork, masonry, etc., which they regard as especially matters The riders of the pony express for the hand, by the foot. Of the were all young wiry fellows, whose jade tubes above mentioned there very love of excitement and dan- were twelve, and these formed ger had brought them to the fron- the basis for the measurement of tier. In this occupation they had liquids and solids 4,000 years ago. their fill. The individual adven- They are mentioned in the oldest tures would fill a volume. The Chinese documents with the aslife, with its exposure and hard- trolabe, the cycle of sixty years, has become of the riders now is a tions. It is likely that they will question. Many of them have fol- be found to be an importation lowed the frontier and will stay on from Babylon, and in that case



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SYMPTOMS OF WORMS.

experiment.

The comptenance is rule ned leader cribed spot on one or both cheeks; the eyes become dull; the pupils dilate; an azure semicircle runs along the lower eye-lid; the nose is irritated, swells, and sometimes bleeds; a swelling of the upper lip; occasional hendache, with humming or throbbing of the ears; an unusual secretion of saliva; slimy or furred tongue; breath very foul, particularly in the morning; appetite variable, sometimes voracious, with a gnawing sensation of the stomach; at others, entirely gone; flecting pains in the stomach; occasional nauses and vomiting; violent pains throughout the abdomen; bowels irregular, at times costive; stools slimy, not unfrequently tinged with blood; belly swollen and hard; urine turbid; respiration occasionally difficult and accompanied by hiccough; cough semetimes dry and convulsive; uneasy and disturbed sieep, with grinding of the teeth; temper variable, but generally irritable.

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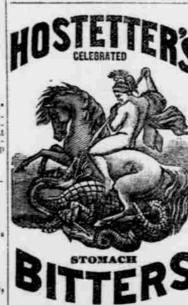
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