Daily Alta California

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FRED'K MacCRELLISH....W.A. WOODWARD

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SAN FRANCISCO, MONDAY, OCT. 31

Daily Alta California.

VOL. XVI. SAN FRANCISCO, MONDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 31, 1864. NO. 5355

CITY ITEMS.

A MAN DROWNED WHILE BATHING NEAR THE SEAL ROCKS.—The following letter, received from the proprietor of the Cliff House, tells its own sad story:

CLIFF HOUSE, October 30th, 1864.

EDITORS ALTA: — Thinking you would like the facts in the case of drowning near the Seal Rocks, to-day, I will narrate them: About 12 o'clock M., a man who walked from the city, called at the bar and enquired if he could bathe in the surf, and was told that he could if he chose. He then went down to the Fishing Rock, where some persons were fishing, and asked them to go in bathing with him, who declined. He then asked if a man could swim to the Seal Rocks; they replied quite likely, but deemed it a very foolish act, etc. He then took off all his clothes and swam to, and got out on, the most southern of the Rocks, and walked nearly all around it, remaining there perhaps twenty minutes, when he again took to the water and swam toward the place where he went in, but soon turned and swam with the tide toward the beach south of the Cliff House, and when near the surf turned again toward the Rocks, and swam perhaps two rods, then turned on his back, made a few feeble motions with his hands, and sunk. All this was within sight and hearing of a crowd of visitors on the porch of the Cliff House, and a large number who went down the road towards the beach to see him come in through the surf. No one heard him speak a word, nor supposed he felt any fear, as he seemed an excellent swimmer. He was apparently about 28 years of age, dressed in light striped woollen pants, dark velvet vest, blue flannel coat and boots. A memorandum book was found in his pocket, containing items of work commenced, with date, but the employers name crossed out; account of money received from N. Y. B.—perhaps New York Business; a business card of Hooker & Co.'s hardware, and R. H. McDonald & Co., with "Die when you will, you need not," written in an exceedingly elegant female hand—and on the other, "Wm. H. Kean, Castle Darcy, Connemarra."

The body has not yet come on shore (four o'clock P. M.,) but no doubt will when it rises. He appeared to be a muscular, healthy person, and apparently an American, or one who has lived long in our country.

In haste, yours, etc.,
J. G. FOSTER, Cliff House.

SUNDAY IN SAN FRANCISCO.—California can claim a climate of contradictions equal to any other land under the sun. As a case in point witness yesterday, which here, in this city, boasted of as bright and beautiful a day as the sun ever shone upon; no fogs, no dust, and the condition of the roads rendered admirable by the showers of rain which fell a few days ago. From morn till night everybody was astir. The churches, as usual, were well attended, and those who sought their accustomed rest and recreation in other channels, could have no fault to find with the weather, if their anticipations of a day of pleasure were not realized. All the suburban resorts, excepting those across the bay, were patronized to the full-extent of the cars to the Mission. Hayes' Park, the Willows and to Lone Mountain, were crowded all the day; and the nearer places for whiling away an hour—North and South Beach—had their full complement of Sunday visitors. The waters of the bay within the sheltered locality of South Beach were as quiet as those of an inland lake, while at North Beach, up to a late hour of the afternoon, a heavy surf broke upon the shore. The migration to the sylvan shades of Oakland and San Antonio was sadly interfered with, by the rough weather prevailing all the forenoon, and fogs and dust were their visitants instead. During an extended walk within the city, for a Local is condemned to be a local observer even on Sunday, we met many happy people, both young and old, all seemingly enjoying according to their bent the one day's rest in seven. We noticed but one individual laboring under the influence of intoxicating drinks, and for the matter of that, he appeared to be happy too, and enjoyed himself hugely, as he went along yawing from side to side in length and breadth of a very wide street, by his own peculiar system of triangulation.

AN ACCOMMODATING CONDUCTOR.—One of the Central Railroad cars came down to the landing of the *San Rafael* steamboat last Monday morning, just as it was on the point of leaving, and, having on board some passengers for the up-country, of course there was some anxiety on their part to "make the boat." Among the rest was a lady with two or three handboxes, a trunk, and a baby. How to get on board with all her baggage she did not know, and no one seemed disposed to lend her a helping hand; so turning to the conductor with despair depicted in her countenance, she implored him to assist her, exclaiming, "Oh please, Mr. Conductor, take the baby on board and I will carry the boxes." Being a gallant young man, of course he took the baby and carried it on the boat; but before he could deliver up his charge, the boat left the wharf, carrying him off, to the utter mystification of his friends, who deplored his loss, supposing that he had fallen a victim to the many man-traps that are known to abound in the vicinity of the terminus. As the boat did not return that day, he did not make his appearance until Tuesday evening; and he now declares that that is the last lady he will ever take charge of, and hereafter will let everybody take care of their own, as he will have none of them.

"GREAT CRY AND LITTLE WOOL."—How slight a cause will produce a great excitement in these feverish times may be inferred from a little incident which occurred on Montgomery street about ten o'clock last night. Two police officers were quietly escorting an individual who had been struck by a "Norther," or a bumper of another sort, when he suddenly slid from their grasp, and throwing himself at full length upon the sidewalk, shouted at the top of his voice, "Watch! Watch!" In an instant, so to speak, the previously silent and apparently deserted street, was alive with excited men, all on the *qui vive* to ascertain "what was up?" We are satisfied that we speak within bounds when we assert that there not less than a crowd of at least 500 persons about the original group of three, in less than three minutes time from the first call for the "watch." The policemen, very properly, paid no attention to the so suddenly improvised assemblage, but promptly "moved on" with their prisoner, who, as if perfectly satisfied with the effect produced by his last effort, was quietly led like a lamb to the station house.

SANITARY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM VOTERS.—The sick and wounded soldiers and sailors in the Federal Army and Navy must not be forgotten on election day. The good work so auspiciously inaugurated at the commencement of the war, and continued so faithfully ever since, should not be permitted to flag, now that the rebellion is in its death throes. There will be boxes conveniently placed at each poll for the reception of contributions; and we doubt not that, as the number of voters will be unprecedentedly large, the amount of money contributed will be larger in the aggregate than at any previous election. Many of the brave fellows who have lately done such hard and successful fighting under the gallant Sheridan, and with the army of Rosecrans in Missouri, have augmented the number of patients in the Federal hospitals. These, and others, have a right to ask from their loyal brethren in this peaceful and prosperous commonwealth such aid as their necessities imperatively demand. In this city alone, at least ten thousand dollars should be contributed to the Sanitary Fund at the ensuing Presidential election.

AT HALF-MAST.—The flags of the Fire Department were at half-mast yesterday, in respect to the memory of Capt. R. W. Smith, of the Second Massachusetts Cavalry, who was killed at the battle of Cedar Creek on the 19th instant. Captain Smith was, while a resident of this city, an active member of California Engine Company, No. 4.

DROWNED IN THE STRAITS OF FUCA.—On the 14th of August, while the brig *Tanner* was making the passage from Seabeck to San Pedro, in the Straits of Fuca, H. W. Sullivan, a seaman, was knocked overboard by the main boom, and drowned.

THE STARS AND STRIPES.—The national standard was thrown to the breeze from the topmast of the tall flag-staff in front of the armory of the First California Guard on Pine street, yesterday. Long may it wave.

FINISHED.—The handsome front of the Academy of Music has received its finishing-touch—the stucco-work having been painted in imitation of Italian marble, as originally planned.

INSANE.—Victor Vermot, a Frenchman, was arrested on Howard street yesterday and lodged in the Station House, to undergo an examination as to his mental condition.

WAR TO THE KNIFE.—A Mexican youth, whose name is registered on the Station House black-book as Enrique Leandaba, is charged first with exhibiting a deadly weapon, and secondly, with an assault with the aforesaid weapon, upon one Carlos Obregon, a Panameño of that ilk. Don Enrique's story is pure and simple as might be expected from one in his peculiar position, wherein the narrator is compelled to enchain the attention of his auditor through the bars of a cell in the City Prison, so like and yet so unlike the *rejas de las ventanas* of the palatial residences in his own native land. He, the scion of an honorable family, or to quote his own words, *de una familia honrado*, has by the force of circumstances been doomed to domiciliary quarters in the classical precincts of the County Jail, on Broadway. The locality is poor, but not necessarily respectable, and in these respects a near neighbor of his, a *senorita*, appears to have been well adapted to be a habitant thereof. Her ways and her words were a continual source of annoyance to the youth of high descent (he lived up stairs, in the same house,) and he took advantage of time and fitting opportunities, to remonstrate with her upon her conduct, but without producing the desired effect. Yesterday afternoon, unfortunately, the star of the Mexican Empire not being in the ascendent, he repeated the sermon, and had but reached the finally and conclusion portion of it, when not relishing the chiridates that he was pouring into her unwilling ear, turned upon him like a tigress and gave him—well, for want of a proper substantive in which to render the pure Castilian, we'll substitute the familiar name of "Jesse." The noble youth now became enraged in turn, and lowered himself to the baseness of picking up a brick-bat, and shying the same at her devoted head. Devoted head dodged the missile. Now, in the nick of time, appears the Panameño, Don Carlos Obregon, who rushed to the rescue, and pummelled the noble brick-bat man with *trompadas* (Anglice, fisticuffs,) to that extent that the latter was seized with the idea that he would be murdered on the spot. Besides, he was taken at a disadvantage by the pugilistic Panameño. He knew nothing of the manly art; so, true to his national instincts and training, he drew a knife, and would have hewn his way through his enemy but that the enemy changed his base, and beat, instead of the body of his antagonist, a speedy retreat. So far, so good, but the combat *à l'outrance* was witnessed by others. Don Enrique was arrested and incarcerated in the station house, while Don Carlos, with his clothes severely cut, but without a scratch upon his swarthy body, was left to the care and attentions and needle and thread of the lady who had been the original of all this bloodless war to the knife. For the sequel, *see verawos* Police Court proceedings of to-day.

HALLOW E'EN.—The old time-honored religious festival of "Hallow Eve," or the night before "All Saints' Day," falls due to-night. How it is observed, or if at all in this goodly city, is beyond our ken, but in our youthful days it was regarded in the light (the cheerful light of the old fireside,) of a semi-serious merry-making. Apples were pared, and the parings thrown (after several gyrations about the head of the thrower,) to the floor, and the hieroglyhic thus formed was ingeniously interpreted into a resemblance of the initial letter of the loved one's christian appelation. Apples and pears were cut crosswise, and after noting the arrangement of the seeds, the latter were counted and mysterious predictions made as to fortunate or unfortunate terminations of sundry "sparkings" then in progress. Delicate bright colored wax tapers were marked by odd and even numbers of tiny pins, and the burning of the wick and melting of the wax carefully watched and timed by the old clock (the only accepted authority,) in the corner, and woe betide the untimely falling off of the unhappy lad or lassie whose name and destiny was thus inscrutely pinned to the flickering taper. Pouring melted lead suddenly into a basin of water, and drawing resemblances from the brittle fragments, (or rather from the imagination of the self-constituted soothsayer,) to the implements of labor or profession of the "intended," was another favorite *project*, as these innocent little superstitions were termed. There were many others in vogue, of which we can no longer even remember the names, much less the manner of doing them; but we cannot forget the fun that reigned within doors, with the bright fire dispelling the chill of the year, nor the loud raps at the knocker, which, upon being answered, disclosed the mischievous pranks of some of the "bad boys" of the neighborhood, who had fastened a huge head of cabbage, or a pumpkin, to the knob of the door. This last was a Knickerbocker custom, and we fear will not be imitated here.

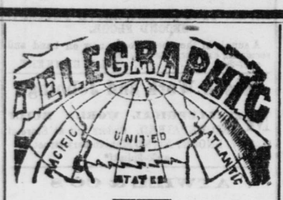
THE FIRST NORTHER OF THE SEASON—MARINE DISASTERS.—The wind was very high yesterday from about 2 o'clock A. M. until noon, at times increasing to a gale. The Bay was very rough and to the eastward of Goat Island obscured by a dense fog. It ceased about 2 o'clock P. M., but the waters were unusually rough until quite late in the afternoon. Singularly enough, the wind and fog were prevalent only on the Bay, the city being entirely free from both. The only serious damage done to vessels in the harbor required by the Company are being erected in the most substantial manner, and divide with the monitor *Camanche* the attention of the curious visitors to the railway terminus at the foot of Third street.

STREET PREACHING.—The regular Sabbath meeting on Sacramento street, in front of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's office, was held at five o'clock last evening. An enthusiastic delegation from the What Cheer House, opposite, were in attendance, and testified their appreciation of, and concurrence in, the opinions of the speaker by loud cheering.

MISS KEMPTON'S BENEFIT at the Academy of Music on Saturday evening was well attended, we are pleased to state, and the entertainment offered proved quite suitable to the public taste. Signor Bianchi and Miss Kempton gave the prison scene from "Il Trovatore" with great success.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES KEAN will give "Macbeth" for the first time, this evening, supported by Messrs. Cathcart, Everett, Mayo, Anderson, Stephenson, Mrs. Perry, Miss Lulu Sweet and the whole company. The house will doubtless be crowded.

MR. SEGUIN'S BENEFIT.—Mr. Edward Seguin will take his benefit at the Academy of Music, this evening, when the opera of "Fra Diavolo" will be performed. Mr. Seguin is well and favorably known as a gentleman and a vocalist, and we trust his farewell benefit may prove a substantial success.



The Army of the Potomac in Motion.

SUCCESSFUL RECONNOISSANCE IN FORCE.

The Whole Forces of Generals Butler and Grant at Work.

The Left Gains Fifteen Miles of Ground and is in a Position to Attack the Rebel Works.

Stirring News from the Attack on Richmond to be Expected.

The Crushing Blow at Last.

THE REBELS THREATEN TENNESSEE.

Late Intelligence from Rebeldom.

From Grant.

NEW YORK, October 28.—The *Tribune's* Army of the Potomac special despatch, dated the 27th, says: This morning the entire army was in motion, with six days' rations, and ready for any emergency. The move is on the left flank, and on the extreme left Gregg's cavalry is swinging round towards the South-side Railroad.

The *Herald's* Fifth Corps special despatch of the 25th says that the enemy is largely massed opposite our left, making preparations to resist any attempt against the South-side Railroad.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28.—Despatches from General Grant inform the Department that the advance in force was for the purpose of a reconnoissance. It was made yesterday by Generals Warren and Hancock. In the evening the enemy attacked Hancock, but were repulsed. The purpose of the reconnoissance being accomplished, the troops were withdrawn from the advanced position to which they had been pushed to their line of former occupation. The telegrams from General Grant are all the details thus far received.

CITY POINT, Oct. 27—7 P. M.—I have just returned from the crossing of the Boynton plank road with Thatcher's Creek. Our line now extends from its left to Armstrong's mill, and thence by the south bank of Thatcher's Creek to the point above named. At every point the enemy was found intrenched. No attack was made during the day further than to drive the pickets and cavalry inside of their main works. Our casualties were light, probably less than 200 killed, wounded and missing. The same is probable with the enemy. We captured seven loaded teams on their way from Stone's creek, and from 75 to 100 prisoners. On our right, General Butler has extended his lines round well towards the Yorktown road, without finding a point unguarded. I shall keep our troops out where they are until towards noon tomorrow, in hopes of inviting an attack.

(Signed) GRANT.

CITY POINT, Oct. 28.—The attack on Gen. Hancock proves to be a decided success for us. He repulsed the enemy, retained his position, holding possession of the field till midnight with his command. Orders had been given for the withdrawal of the Second Corps before the attack was made. We lost no prisoners. Our captures for the day on the Southside foot up 910. The rebel General Dearing is reported killed.

(Signed,) GRANT.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, on the field, Oct. 29th, 9 P. M.—The long-looked for advance of the armies operating against Richmond has at last taken place. Yesterday the final preparations were completed by the withdrawal of the greater part of the Army of the Potomac from the trenches, and massing it in the rear ready for a move. The First Division of the Second Corps, with part of the Fifth and Ninth Corps, held the entire line from the Appomattox on the right to some three miles west of the Weldon Railroad on the left. All the baggage wagons, etc., were sent to the rear.

At City Point, at two o'clock this morning, Gen. Hancock, with the Second and Third Divisions of his Corps, moved along the Vaughn Road, running southwest. After crossing at Thatcher's Run, he found the rebels entrenched in newly made works. Hancock at once charged them in flank and drove them out. He took some twenty prisoners, mostly cavalry.

The Fifth Corps took the Squirrel Level Road, and found the rebels posted at its junction with the Duncan Road, which runs north from the Vaughn, to the Boynton Road. From this they were driven by our skirmishers with some loss—the First Division having about forty wounded. The Second Division of this Corps took the advance, and crossing at Thatcher's Run, connected with the Second Corps.

In the meantime, Hancock advanced along a by-road, driving the rebels before him, until he reached the Boynton Plank Road, where his column halted and formed in line of battle, the left reaching some distance west of the road, the right extending to a thick woods on the right.

The Sixth Corps had also formed, and advanced through the woods two miles, but the left of the line failed to connect with the right of the Second Corps. The rebels fell back as we advanced, until the line reached Thatcher's again, where the rebels were found behind strong entrenchments. Brisk firing ensued, without much loss on either side. At about 4 o'clock P. M. the rebels taking advantage of the break in the line between the Second and Fifth Corps, massed Anderson's division of Hill's corps, and charged on the right wing of the Second Corps, which gave way and fell back a short distance, but being reinforced, a charge checked the advance of the rebels. We captured a number of prisoners. Our loss in the affair is not known, but it is not believed to be heavy.

A few minutes after, the rebel cavalry which had been cut off on the Boynton road, made an attack on General Gregg's division, directly in the rear of the Second Corps, and for a time quite a sharp skirmish was kept up, and Gregg finally drove them off. In the charge made on the Second Corps, two guns were said to have been taken by the rebels, but it is stated they were subsequently recaptured. The fighting continued on this part of the line until after dark, when a heavy rain ended the fighting for the day. The Ninth Corps occupied the right of the advance, but did not gain much ground. The object was to allow the left to get the facility of passing around on the Boynton Plank Road before the right advanced. The colored division of the Ninth Corps had considerable skirmishing with the rebels, but nothing approaching a fight. They lost a few wounded. Gregg's cavalry had a sharp fight with the rebels in the forenoon when they attacked the rear of his column. He charged and drove them back, capturing a number of prisoners and eight or ten wagons loaded with supplies; also, some horses, mules, etc. The troops which occupied the country over which we passed to-day were Boteler's and Young's divisions of the South Carolina and Georgia troops, with a part of Wilcox's brigade. Our left wing gained about fifteen miles of country to-day, and is now in a position to attack the enemy's works.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, IN THE FIELD, October 28.—The number of prisoners taken yesterday, was about three hundred.

From Sherman.

WASHINGTON, October 28.—Reports from Sherman's Department to 6 o'clock this evening, indicate that the rebel army are again threatening Tennessee. There is no reason to doubt that Sherman and Thomas will be found prepared for whatever movement may take place.

From the West.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28.—Reports from Missouri and Arkansas concur in confirming the defeat of Price with heavy loss.

(Signed,) STANTON.

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 29.—The latest accounts put Price near Carthage, Gasper county, Mo., still skedaddling, with our cavalry in hot pursuit.

Gen. Pleasanton was slightly injured by a fall from his horse.

The steamer *Belle of St. Louis* was attacked by guerrillas while lying at Randolph, on Thursday night. Paymasters Butler and Smith were killed, and several of the crew of the boat were wounded.

General Meredith, at Paducah, Kentucky, received despatches from General Sherman on Wednesday, stating that Forrest intended to attack that place yesterday. Scouts have reported a large number of rebels passing Dresden, Trenton, Lexington, Shady Grove, and McLenorsville, all within fifty miles of Mayfield. A large amount of supplies was being accumulated at McLenorsville. The rebel General Beauford has eight regiments, three battalions and a battery of Dahlgren guns at Shady Grove. Orders have been issued for the concentrating of their forces on the Tennessee line, preparatory to a march on Paducah. Forrest, Chalmers and Beauford are in command. All business is suspended at Paducah, and goods were being removed to a place of safety. Every preparation was made to resist an attack.

KNOXVILLE, Oct. 29.—General Gillan had a fight yesterday with Vaughn's command at Norristown, completely routing him, and capturing 167 prisoners, including one Colonel and fifteen other officers, and six guns. The prisoners and artillery arrived here this morning.

From Rebeldom.

NEW YORK, Oct. 28.—The Richmond *Examiner* of the 23d says: Grant is now walled in by four lines of redoubts, redans and rifle-pits, each interior line being stronger than the one in front of it. Most of his artillery is posted on the inner line.

The same paper, referring to Hood's movements, says they are shrouded in mystery, and displays anxiety.

The Atlanta *Intelligencer* calls for reinforcements, to be gathered from all quarters, for the deliverance of Georgia.

NEW YORK, October 29th.—Richmond papers of Wednesday have been received. Early has issued an address to his soldiers on their late defeat by Sheridan, in which he tells them it was caused by their disgraceful propensity for plunder.

The Richmond *Sentinel* confirms the report that an arrangement has been completed by which the National Government will be allowed to feed its soldiers in rebel prisons, and the rebel Government their men in our hands.

The message which was sent to the members of the Alabama Legislature by the Governor, because they refused to make appropriations for the defence of the State, was returned to him in a black envelope. The militia of Alabama is virtually disbanded.

Senator Hill, of Georgia, has written a letter, in which he reiterates Jeff Davis' assertion, that the rebel army has deserted the rebel cause. The rebel General Archer is dead.

Political.

WHEELING, October 28.—The election throughout the State yesterday, passed off quietly. The entire Union ticket, it is believed, has been elected. Gov. A. J. Boreman had no opposition, and was reelected. He received a heavy vote. The returns from six counties give Hubbard, the Union candidate for Congress, over 1,200 majority. The Legislature and local officers are largely Union.

BALTIMORE, October 29.—Governor Bradford has just proclaimed the new free State Constitution of Maryland. The vote was 30,174 in favor, to 29,799 against it.

ARRAIGNED FOR SENTENCE.—On Friday, at Oroville, U. S. Gassaway, U. T. Gassaway, and Charles Gassaway, convicted of highway robbery at the late term of the Butte County Court, Judge Safford, were sentenced to State Prison as follows: The first named for six years; second, ten years; third, three years. A correspondent of the Marysville *Appeal*, at Oroville, writes: "This has been one of the most successful prosecutions that ever has occurred in this State. Defended, as these men have been, by able counsel, with means to pay well for services, our District Attorney, Mr. Rosenbaum, has succeeded in convicting four of this band—all that have been brought before the Court. Mr. Rosenbaum has labored hard in behalf of the State, and the citizens of this county appreciate his valuable services."

COMO.—By letter we are informed that, notwithstanding the hard times, yet the irrepressible population of Como will insist on keeping their mines working, and from the Montgomery mine some better ore is being taken. The Whitman company also talk again of starting up the mill at Como with rock from that mine, but not before that body secures a claim. Hope it will not end in talk, like all the threatened operations of that delectable company. Como is a pretty place, and contains many enterprising and hard-working men, who deserve better success than has yet attended their efforts. "Keep a stiff upper lip," boys, you will come out all right by and by. Your ledges are good, all you need is capital to develop them.—*Virginia Union.*

GREAT EASTERN.—The incline of the Great Eastern Company has reached a depth of 230 feet, finding an unbroken and exceeding rich lode. The vein varies from a few inches to several feet in width. A lot of rock, 3,000 pounds, from this mine was lately worked in San Francisco, which yielded at the enormous rate of $5,000 per ton. Messrs. Cusminsky and Baker have taken a contract to sink fifty feet on the incline, and as they are energetic and hard working miners, the job will be done promptly and well. The working apparatus of the Great Eastern, in its whim, track, car, etc., is of the first-class order, as such a mine deserves to have.—*Virginia Paper.*

ON the 27th ult., Mr. Hopkins, a miner, lately from La Paz, died at the Fort Whipple hospital, of typhoid fever. He was buried on the following day in the Prescott cemetery, with Masonic honors. We were surprised to see so many Masons in this new country. Among those who attended the body to the grave, were Governor Goodwin, Captain Anderson, and Lieutenants Barr and Curtis, of Fort Whipple, Gen. W. Claude Jones, Speaker of the House, Judge Berry, Representative Appel, Col. Woolsey, Wm. R. Murray, Esq., and Judge Brooks. The ceremonies were in the usual impressive and beautiful manner. We learn that a Masonic Lodge will soon be organized in this place.—*Arizona Miner.*

MUST BE CRAZY.—The people of San Juan were disturbed from their usual quiet, on the 23d, by the freaks of a persen supposed to be a Polander, (for the last few days in the employ of the Priest,) who attempted to steal the "Father's" horse. He succeeded in taking a saddle and sack of flour from the storehouse of the Sisters of Charity; the flour was discovered hidden near by. He finished by obtaining some burning fluid, and after saturating a lot of rags, placed them under a blacksmith shop, for the purpose of destroying it. The fire was discovered in time to prevent any serious damage.

DEATH FROM CANCER.—Elder Aaron B. Cherry, a distinguished citizen of Centreville, died at his residence, on the 17th, of a cancer on the neck. Brother Cherry was the oldest resident of Davis county, and has long been an honorable member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He was one of the first who went to settle and helped to build the first fort in Iron county. His eldest son is on a mission in Europe.—*Deseret News.*

KILLED.—Henry Green Mitchell, a boy seven years of age, was killed on the 27th inst., by being thrown from a horse, on the San Joaquin, near Johnson's Ferry.

THE first number of the *Daily Constitution*—a new daily paper just started at Virginia City—has been received. It is decidedly coppery.

ONE Fitzsimmons shot a man named Reed, a few days ago, at West Point, Calaveras county. The difficulty originated about politics.

Two families, emigrants from Kansas, arrived in Stockton on Friday last. They brought through quite a quantity of stock.

C. DRYVES, who fell from a wagon some time ago, and broke his leg, in Virginia City, has since suffered amputation of the limb.

THE Sonora Festival, recently given for the benefit of the Catholic Church, realized $700.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

[From an Occasional Correspondent of the ALTA CALIFORNIA.]

FORT MADISON, Washington Territory, October 12th, 1864.

From Victoria to Olympia.

EDITORS ALTA:—Having satisfied my curiosity in the matter of the Sooke mines, I thought it well to examine the large lumber district of Puget Sound, and for that purpose took steamer to Olympia, the not very gigantic capital of Washington Territory. Crossing the Straits of Fuca from Victoria, accordingly, the first stopping place was Port Angelos, where the Custom House is placed The present appearance of that encampment—only the utmost courtesy can make one call it a town—is not imposing. As the entrance gate of Puget Sound district, it can only be likened to the very shabby door of a highly respectable house, which the architect appropriately has stuck around the corner to be out of sight as much as possible; still, one must suppose that ex-Collector Victor Smith discovered some attractions in the place invisible to common eyes, or he would hardly have transferred the Custom House from Port Townsend, the natural entrance to the Sound. But it seems now pretty generally admitted that the transfer was a mistake. Indeed, Port Angelos and its inhabitants appear to labor under the most depressing consciousness of the fact. There is a woe-begone air about everything, suggesting the lamentable consequence of a first false step in life. There is, truly, a very good harbor, but accompanied by a striking deficiency of ships; three or four whiskey shops, two hotels, sundry small stores, and a notable lack of customers for all of them; an aimless slouchiness of gait is also to be marked among the majority of the residents, as if life had very few charms in store for them—suggesting the conclusion that if ever suicide could be pardonable, it must be under such circumstances. The preponderance of the "noble savage" may furnish a certain amount of interest to the curious student of manners, but hardly sufficient to counterbalance the disagreeables attendant upon so many Indian neighbors. Still, one very charitably hopes that there is a compensation of some kind for the Port Angelos pioneers. Behind the town of the Northern press, that range of hills, and at some future day there may be a rich strike, carrying many dollars into the pockets of men to whom two bits would now be an acceptable offering.

Advantageously placed at the opening of the Sound proper, is

Port Townsend,

Which has, however, declined from its former (comparative) greatness, since the removal of the Custom House. Its inhabitants seem hopeful, however, and are building new stores and a new wharf, in preparation for business which they expect must come; and as the increase seems to be only a matter of time, they are perhaps right in taking time by the forelock. The town is picturesquely situated on the extremity of a peninsula, possessing a glorious view of the surrounding mountains from a small elevation in its rear. Its charms, too, are enhanced to the simple traveler by the comparative absence of forest land; for, though commercially valuable, of course, the constant presence of hemlock, spruce, and pine becomes insufferably fatiguing to the eye from the intense monotony of color.

Port Ludlow.

The lumber mills of Messrs. Amos Phinney & Co. appear as flourishing as their best friends can desire, and Port Gamble is equally brisk. Here I counted seven ships waiting their turn to load, most of them owned by the company, (Pope & Talbot.) One was loading for Adelaide, one for Valparaiso, and the balance for San Francisco.

Seattlo

Struck me as the most steadily thriving places on the route, excluding the lumber mills. It has the advantage of extensive agricultural land behind it, and from what I can learn, almost inexhaustible coal beds, some twelve miles distant, only requiring capital to work them. Of the quality of the coal I am not competent to speak, as I had no opportunity to examine it, but it is generally reported to be superior to that of Nanaimo or Bellingham Bay.

Steilacoom

Is the ghost of a place, or rather the body from which the spirit has departed. Once upon a time the barracks were full, and the city prosperous; now the barracks are nearly empty, and the city fares ill. Like a young heir with "great expectations," it lived well in hopes of a future, and now the fortune has gone somewhere else. Perhaps I can give no more striking idea of its melancholy state than is contained in the remark of a fellow passenger, who told me if I did not get there before ten o'clock, I should find the men that lived there gone to bed.

Olympia

Is of course more lively, as the residence of the official guns, and the nearest to a good though sparsely settled agricultural district. I should, however, consider that it is not likely to increase much for some years to come, building enterprise having certainly reached its more than proper growing point.

I found, during my short stay here, some very pleasant people, from whom I ascertained, amongst other things, that though a large majority of the citizens were good Union men, there are, nevertheless, sundry specimens of Copperheadism, who, like all insignificant things, make up for a surprising noise, considering the smallness of their intellectual importance. It is, nevertheless, satisfactory to consider that this smallness enables their measure by any man of the most ordinary observation.

The Lumber Region and Trade.

Here, then, I was really at the head of Puget Sound, an inland sea whose wealth of forest is displayed in unceasing and almost tedious richness, on either side, during the whole route. It is impossible for me to define its limits, nor have I the statistics of the present year at hand, but the most gratifying sign of improvement is the steady increase of the foreign trade. This gives, of course, the most pleasingly tangible evidences of profit, the lumber thus sent out of the Territory being paid for in cash. China, Australia and New Zealand, are the principal foreign markets at present, and the demand is not likely to diminish.

Port Madison Mills.

To obtain a closer view of the working of this especial branch of industry, I came over to Port Madison, learning that the mill of Messrs. Meigs & Gawley was as good a sample as could be desired. I found on my arrival that the completeness of the machinery is not quite as perfect as it will be shortly; a fire last June having destroyed the mill entirely. The building is 350 feet long by 75 feet wide and two stories high, and erected in the most substantial manner. This establishment, like that at Port Gamble, owns several large ships in the trade, and when fully completed in all its appointments, it will be the model mill by all odds on the coast. Around the mill is quite a small town formed by houses occupied by the workmen, many of whom are married. It is gratifying to note how thoroughly their best interests are cared for by the firm. Owning a large part of the island upon which the mill stands, they prohibit the importation of spirituous liquors, very much to the benefit of all employed. A large and well selected library, in connection with a Masonic lodge, exists, and is evidently well used. Add to this the numerous instances evidencing the thorough cordiality and community of sentiment between employers and employed, and one can understand the harmony of the whole business machinery.

English Feeling Towards America.

I met, by the way, with an intelligent Englishman, with whom I had some conversation on this subject, and as the whole tone of his feeling seemed exceedingly fair and friendly, and his views generally comprehensive, it may be interesting to tell you what he said. On my asking him how it was that his countrymen generally did not seem to share his appreciativeness of America, and his abhorrence of the rebellion, he answered: "To explain to you the various influences that have gone to make up the average popular estimate of America in England, would be rather a lengthy matter. First, though, in relation to the special subject of this rebellion, you must take into account the really profound ignorance of the ordinary British public in any matter of foreign politics. With any matter of special interest, they have of course some acquaintance, more or less correct; but directly outside the island the commonplace Briton is at sea. Then he is generally content to follow his leader, unless, indeed, there is some grand question, such as the freedom of Italy, with the triumphs of a hero like Garibaldi against despotism, when the matter comes home to him at once, and the sound instincts of the popular heart teaches what is right, and calls forth all the enthusiasm of which it is capable. Now here, of course, you may say this rebellion is a case in point. It is the battle of freedom and right against slavery and wrong, and if that could once have been clearly laid before the English people in the beginning of 1861, by some leading statesman in whom they had confidence, there would have been no lack of sympathy with your nation. But what are the facts? Political parties in England at that time and now may be stated as three in number. First, the Tories; who, whether they call themselves Conservatives or Protectionists, are always for standing still, if not for retrogression. This class, from real, genuine ignorance, has a thorough horror of American institutions—not solely or even principally from interest—because they believe a democracy of an approach to it is a political mistake, bringing in its train lawlessness, disorder, and finally destruction. Every excess of which any single American, or any American party, may be guilty, is at once seized by them to confirm their theory that government in America is little better than mob law. To them the existence of an American republic is a standing bugbear; it is a living instance of how low England may fall if her institutions continue to become gradually more liberal; and seeing that English feeling and results are infallibly toward the fullest liberation, they were undoubtedly glad to see the hollowness of the American system exposed, (as they fancied) when the rebellion broke out. For here was the strongest argument to their hand, and they set about using it at once; not from hatred to America—as it is often enough stated—it is very rarely that you can find any man fool enough even to attempt such an impossibility as to hate somebody he does not know—but purely because the collapse of the United States Government proved Tory theories to be right.

This may be considered to represent the genuine Tory statesman. Tacked on to these is a mixed mass—a charlatan like Mr. Disraeli, for example, and a small fry who, without the brains to think for themselves, copy, parrot-like, the principles of their leaders. This Tory party has an amount of political influence quite disproportioned to its real hold on the nation. Like your own Democratic party, it has always preserved a strict organization, and thus frequently gains a victory from its superiority of discipline. Its strength this way is enhanced also by the unsettled state of the two remaining parties—the moderate Liberals, such as one may say roughly are represented by the present Government, and the Radicals.

The Radicals again are split into two sections; united in matters of home policy, they differ in foreign policy. Bright and Cobden are the doctrine of selfishness and peace at any price. The younger Radicals revolt from this, and so does the nation generally. When, then, the news came of the rebellion, the Tories sympathized with the rebels on many grounds, both for the reason I have given and because they represented in their eyes gentlemen and chivalry against a mob—so dense is the ignorance. The Radicals sympathized with your Government, and the Moderates hesitated, doubted, and triumphed. The main body of the people who never see very far into anything, had its eyes filled with dust by discussion of State Rights, Morrill Tariff, and everything but the real question at issue, while the large progressive party among it who would have been roused by the cry of freedom against slavery, were disappointed by the general statement of the Northern press, that slavery had nothing to do with the matter. Accordingly they took you at your word, and remained perfectly quiescent till the *Trent* affair which, I think, may be considered the turning point in English feeling. For then it became evident to any man of common sense—however deficient in political sagacity—that a war with America meant a war on behalf of Southern rebellion, slavery and every other despotic abomination. Since that day the tide has turned, and it is the conviction that the real English people are with you, that has stopped the efforts of those who would willingly have seen the blockade raised, or any other step taken on behalf of the Southern States.

As for our present government it is weak and stupid, the old Whig leaders are timid, and the younger men like Gladstone who lean towards the Radicals, are not yet strong enough to do anything by themselves. At present we are compelled to support the Palmerstonian government, unfairly as it represents that which is best among us, simply because the only alternative is a Tory party—a change from bad to worse. Our hope is in the speedy formation of a young liberal party, which, discarding the narrow mindedness of Bright's foreign policy, shall represent that portion of our people which regard America as its nearest ally in their common heritage of freedom. M. M. B.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON, D. C.

(From the Resident Correspondent of the ALTA CALIFORNIA.)

WASHINGTON, October 24, 1864.

EDITORS ALTA: After an absence of some weeks from the Capital, I have returned here in the midst of the most exciting political contest that has taken place, probably, since the foundation of the Government. It is