

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1862.

NEWS OF THE MORNING.

The Eastern wire was not in a communicative mood last evening, and consequently we have nothing fresh from the seat of war to offer this morning. Some fears are expressed that the Indians are going to interfere with the operations of the telegraph across the Plains. We trust they will postpone their hostility until we hear that McClellan and Halleck have beaten the enemy.

A letter received in San Francisco from Honey Lake Valley, says that the Indians are committing murders and robberies in that region, and makes an appeal for aid. A list of new Post Offices and Postmasters for California and Oregon will be found under our telegraphic head.

In the State Senate, yesterday, conflicting reports were received from the Judiciary Committee in reference to the right of the Senate to sit after the final adjournment of the Assembly. A resolution affirming the right was lost—aye 15, noes 17. A bill passed requiring the State Controller to apportion all moneys as soon as received into the State Treasury; also, a bill for reducing the pay of the officers acting under the Sacramento Levee bill. In the Assembly, the proposed amendment to the Constitution respecting the oath of allegiance was adopted. The bill fixing the pay of State officers and legislators was passed.

About ten o'clock yesterday morning, a man named T. L. Smith was murdered and robbed on the Oglesby road, near Goodwin's Mountain View House. The murderer was discovered and pursued, and, it is thought, will be taken.

The annual meeting of the State Agricultural Society for the election of officers and the transaction of other business, began yesterday afternoon in the Senate chamber of the State Capitol. A. Haraszthy of Sonoma was elected President for the ensuing year. Seventeen Vice Presidents—one for each judicial district—were also chosen. O. C. Wheeler was elected Corresponding Secretary; E. Black Ryan, Recording Secretary; J. W. L. Hunt, Treasurer; and P. Donahue of San Francisco, C. S. Lowell, and William F. Knox of Sacramento, Directors. The Society adjourned to meet at the same place at twelve m. to-day.

The Board of Supervisors at their meeting yesterday, did nothing beyond changing the location of portions of roads in the county.

Professor J. D. Whitney, State Geologist, delivered an instructive lecture last evening before the Sacramento Library Association, subject—"Humboldt, the representative man of science."

In the District Court yesterday, James Cruise was convicted of arson in the second degree, in having set fire to the Forrest Theater in September last.

The Broderick Will case was before the Supreme Court yesterday, and was argued by Wilson for the claimants and Pixley for the State. The argument will be continued to-morrow by Yale for the State and Hoge for the claimants.

STRAINING COURTESY.—There are prudential limits to the courtesies which nations at peace may exchange, which cautious statesmen will not overlook. When Secretary Seward basted to extend to war-breathing Britain the privilege of sending troops into Canada through the State of Maine—troops dispatched to America for the purpose of overawing our Government—we thought that he was straining both courtesy and the patience of the people, who knew not at what moment British bayonets might be turned against our country. There is another act of excessive good nature on the part of the Administration which cannot be suffered to pass without animadversion. It is stated that M. Mercier, the French Minister at Washington, was so profoundly impressed with the merits of the Stevens Battery, that he asked permission of the Navy Department to send the plans and models of this terrible vessel to the Government of France, which permission was granted! The Administration had better extend a general invitation to European governments to examine the designs of all our engines of warfare, and obligingly communicate Captain Rodman's discovery in the casting of cannon, lest foreign monarchs that love the Republic so fervently may not be sufficiently armed. We sincerely wish that the men at Washington who are clothed with temporary authority would bear in mind that they are only trustees for the people. The Stevens battery has cost a great deal of money and many laborious experiments. It was designed and constructed for the defense of American harbors, and not for the general benefits of European powers. Even if we were assured that there would be a perpetual peace between France and the United States, it would not follow that we should communicate to France the results of our ingenuity and expensive experiments. But if we turn our eyes to Mexico, we shall discover there grave reason for believing that if French policy upon this continent does not undergo a speedy change, we shall be unable to maintain friendly relations with the Imperial Government after the suppression of the Southern rebellion. England has discovered the danger ahead, and though she has the heaviest interest in Mexico, has prudently withdrawn from the intervention expedition. France has taken the lead in this invasion. Now, it is inevitable that our Government will quarrel with any European power that shall attempt to erect a throne in Mexico, and it is not unlikely that France may persist in her design until a rupture cannot be avoided. Is it sound policy, under these circumstances, to arm a power that may become hostile, with weapons of our own invention? Such a course equals the fatuity that believed the Merrimac was a failure, and thus exposed a squadron to destruction and crippled the operations of McClellan.

THE BRIDGE QUESTION.—At the time all communication with the city was cut off by water, we advocated the granting of a license for a toll bridge to such parties as would build one and put the street to it in a traveling condition, as the Board of Supervisors had neither money nor credit to accomplish the work. It seems a contract was made with G. W. Colby to build the bridge, and in consideration to have the right to collect tolls until August. He erected his bridge, and it would seem that he should be protected at least until the money advanced is returned to him and enough received to compensate him handsomely for his trouble. The bridge has been a decided benefit to the city, notwithstanding the collection of tolls, and in common fairness Colby should be so far protected as not only to secure him from loss, but also compensate him for the use of his money and labor. Of course it was not intended that he should make a fortune by the tolls. If the contract is a legal one he can prevent the erection of another bridge, though he cannot prevent people from crossing the slough where the water can be forded. At all hazards a violent collision between parties interested should be prevented either by compromise, purchase or legal authority.

SAN FRANCISCO PIONEERS.—At a recent meeting of the Society of California Pioneers, in San Francisco, plans were adopted for a building to be erected on their lot, corner of Montgomery and Gold streets.

CHARTER MATTERS.

With a simple, efficient and economical form of city government, the affairs of Sacramento, financially, might be materially improved during the coming three years. The government of the city ought to be placed in the hands of Trustees, with power to administer it for the good of the city, and in such manner as to insure the payment of her heavy indebtedness. These were our views, but as the Committee of citizens decided for a charter, we acquiesced—though we fear, if the one recommended were to become a law, it would be found expensive, and not so efficient as necessity demands. But, owing to unlucky differences among citizens and in the delegation, it may so turn out that no charter will be granted. It is claimed by those who profess to be able to judge correctly, that the Governor will withhold his approval of the bill for a charter which has passed both Houses. Unless passed over his veto, we shall, in such an event, be left to stagger on as at present situated for another year. Numbers of our wealthiest citizens favor this "let alone" policy, but after all we doubt the wisdom of such a step. It might, it is true, result in bringing everything connected with the city to a stand still, and place her in a position so desperate as to enable her citizens to obtain such a charter as their necessities require from the next Legislature. A divorce of the city from the county, though, has been demanded by the people, and it would seem that so much, at least, should be accomplished at this session. If a veto is sent in, as petitioned for by the people of this city, why cannot a charter be subsequently agreed upon which can be passed through both Houses in one day? As the majority of the Legislature objects to the financial plan of the Citizens' Committee, and the people of the city protest against the financial feature of the bill in the possession of the Governor, why not amend by striking out the financial plan in the bill of the Committee and insert that of the Consolidation Bill? We have, from the first expressed the opinion that the Courts would compel the Board of Aldermen under the provisions of the Citizens' Charter to levy the same tax as is levied in the Consolidation Bill, and apportion it in the same manner. Beyond that point of taxation the people of the city are unwilling to go, and hence their protest against the increase of taxation authorized in the bill before the Governor. They do not, however, object to the rate levied in the Consolidation Act and the Citizens' Charter, as amended and voted upon, with the revenue clause of said Act substituted for the financial plan, in our opinion, would be acquiesced in and generally supported. Unless such a bill can be matured and enacted, the next best thing for the city would be the repeal of all that portion of the Consolidation Bill which applies to the city, and thus leave Sacramento in a position to go forward, in accordance with the general law, and organize under Trustees.

The bill to reorganize the county government, and which, in our opinion, is the point against which the officeholders have really directed their batteries, has been postponed to a day so late as to render its passage pretty much out of the question. Those interested against the county bill have accomplished their object; they have so embarrassed the two bills as to render it impracticable to pass more than one at so late a day in the session.

But what the people need more than anything else is man of firmness and integrity in office, who can say No, when the public good demands it. Had our Board of Supervisors resolutely determined, from the day the Consolidation Act went into effect to the present, to contract no debts against city or county, both governments would now have been in a very different condition. The members may plead in justification that unless they had contracted debts the governments of city and county must have stopped. This is exactly what should have followed when the treasury was found empty. The Supervisors ought to have proclaimed that they had no money, and that the functions of government must be suspended until money was provided to pay the expense of administering them. Such was the course pursued in San Francisco. The Supervisors absolutely refused to do anything unless they had money for the purpose. They practiced economy also in every department. The eleven hundred gas lights they found in the city they reduced to ninety; the gas for the City Hall was entirely cut off, and those occupying it were compelled to furnish their own lights. In this matter the members of the Board practiced what they preached. They held their meetings after night, and, as we learn from an ex-member, each man for eighteen months carried his candle in his pocket to the meeting of the Board, and each member furnished his own desk, chair, paper and pens. This system was rigidly adhered to in every department until the revenue increased so as to justify more liberal expenditures. The result was to place San Francisco on a cash basis. A similar policy in Sacramento would have produced similar consequences, even under our Consolidation Bill. But our officials have never—excepting the first four months—practiced such rigid economy; they have never exhibited the moral courage to announce their determination, not to take the first step, in the administration of the city and county governments, unless there was money in the treasury to meet the necessary expenditure; and the consequence is a city floating debt of over a hundred thousand dollars, and one against the county of over seventy thousand.

OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.—To show the real feeling of the French Government toward this country, and to contradict the falsehoods of the London Times, Post and Herald, it is only necessary to refer to a piece of present history. In the course of a speech pronounced in the French Senate, on the 25th ult., the official representative of the Government, M. Billault, Minister without portfolio, made the following explicit declaration respecting the imperial policy toward our country:

"As to America," said the Minister, "France will never forget the bonds of amity which unite her to the United States. History points out to her that with them it is impossible; but this does not prevent her from being the ally of the children of the same nation destroying each other, and deluging with fraternal blood the fields they ought to cultivate in harmony. Such a state of things has dictated to the Emperor's Government a policy of strict neutrality. It has not permitted circumstances to compromise the principles it defended and caused to prevail in the Congress of 1857, that it bears toward the United States a profound friendship, and cannot comprehend how any one could wish to urge upon it a course tending to force a passage into the hands of the United States of a policy which would be madness; and England herself, whose interests are far more concerned in the present state of affairs, can only question, can only join the other Powers in desiring that the war which desolates America may be brought to a speedy close, but England is, at this very moment, and will not venture upon a policy which is that of France, and to which the Emperor will never lend his aid."

This emphatic declaration was received by the entire Senate with the liveliest marks of approbation. In the face of facts like these, coupled with the formal assurances recently given by the Queen's Ministers, in both Houses of Parliament, there appears to be no doubt that the present friendly feeling of both the French and English Governments,

A COMPARISON OF CAMPAIGNS.

L'Echo du Pacifique quotes the fable of the frog and the ox to illustrate and ridicule the propensity of the Americans for seeking European parallels for Federal achievements during the present war. We cannot regard this as either an apposite illustration or a palpable hit. Although we have, as yet, fought no battles equal to Borodino, Austerlitz, Magenta or Solferino, we have conducted a campaign upon a scale which has no precedent in European wars; a campaign covering about two thousand five hundred miles of seacoast and a frontier of about a thousand miles. Even Napoleon's Russian campaign of 1812, combined with the operations carried on in Spain at the same time, did not extend over so vast a field, though it included more populous and formidable regions. Again, the obstacles to the perfect success of the grand design conceived by Scott and McClellan are greater than those encountered in the prosecution of a war in Europe. A campaign that ends in the capture of such capitals as Paris, Berlin or Vienna, will decide a contest. The General acting upon the offensive has usually a single object in view. Except as to New Orleans, it is difficult to determine the decisive points of our immense Southern territory. In Europe, the topography of the country has been perfected during a long series of wars. The strategic positions, the practicable routes for armies, the most defensible lines, and other matters of the first importance to a commander, are known to most men who possess a military education. On the other hand, a very large portion of our Southern territory remains unvisited by the topographical corps, and off the lines of railroad and the water courses, the General must feel his way by reconnaissance, with the risk of discovering unexpected obstacles to the most important and effective operations. When it is considered that the finest combinations may be defeated by the delay caused by the occurrence of a marsh or a deep stream where no such obstacle was known to exist when the design was formed, the difficulties of this immense campaign in a region but vaguely mapped may be faintly imagined.

In the general belief of Europe that the United States would be unable to suppress the great rebellion, we find an unconscious tribute to the energy and genius of the commanders who have thus far prosecuted the gigantic task with a clear prospect of success. We have undertaken to do, within a comparatively brief period, what the Generals and statesmen of the Old World asserted could not be done at all; and the progress of events demonstrates that we are able to accomplish the grand object of the war.

We also claim that the plan of the campaign develops remarkable strategic ability. To Europeans, and, to some of our own people, it was a marvel that General McClellan permitted the enemy to maintain a vast army in the vicinity of the national Capital for so many months without at least attempting to drive them from their position. Suppose this had been successfully tried before the Burnside, Dapont and Butler expedition had effected a lodgment in the Cotton States and the army of the West had reached the frontier of Alabama and Mississippi; what would have been the effect? The rebel army of the Potomac could have fallen back from one line of defense to another, thus drawing our forces deeper into the interior of a hostile country. If still pressed back they would have had the Cotton States for a safe retreat, and might have renewed there the tactics that had proved effective in Virginia. The war would have been prolonged to the utter exhaustion of the belligerents. A contrary policy was adopted, and with results of a glorious description. The great lines of communication between the Border States and the Cotton States are in our possession. There are powerful armies in the vicinity of the principal commercial cities of the South, ready to receive and take care of an enemy retreating thither as a last resort. These operations in the Cotton States will now be continued simultaneously with the movements in Virginia and South Tennessee; so that if the rebels shall be defeated in the two great battles they now seem to invite, their cause is virtually crushed, and what remains of the war will be merely the tramping out of the embers of rebellion. We say that the conception of such a campaign would confer honor upon any military genius to be found at this day in Europe or elsewhere.

Battles are not ends, but means. The prime object of a campaign is the possession of the decisive points. The General who can gain these by skillful maneuvering and the avoidance of bloody conflicts, proves that he is a greater commander than one who thinks that nothing can be accomplished without a Borodino or Austerlitz. Marshal Saxe observed, in his epigrammatic style that "only bad Generals fight battles." It may be more accurately asserted that the best Generals only fight when a battle is necessary to save or gain a position. Lyon saved St. Louis by attacking Price at Wilson's creek, and crippling the enemy's force; and this assault which, under other circumstances, would have been one of sheer desperation, was really a strategic necessity. Such are the only battles we care to see—more especially in a civil war. We do not revel in the horrors of slaughter. But in respect to magnitude of forces, we think we shall yet have at least two battles which even European critics will consider worthy to rank with the mighty conflicts of the Old World.

To sum the results of comparison, we think it must be admitted that no European General has undertaken a campaign upon a scale so vast as that we are now engaged in prosecuting; that no better strategic combination for the purpose could have been devised; that the difficulties in the way are more formidable than any of the European Generals since Napoleon have encountered and overcome; that, leaving out the period consumed in preparing the machinery of war, the work has been performed with extraordinary rapidity; and that, instead of imitating the silly ambition of the frog in the fable, we are perfectly justified in measuring our achievements by the most glorious standard the world can produce.

SAN FRANCISCO.—A dispatch to the Bee yesterday had the following:

Rev. D. B. Cheney, who is the spiritual adviser of E. W. Bonney, under sentence of death at San Leandro, and who has visited him frequently of late, states that he believes that Bonney has made no confession, and that he is still in the hands of the devil. It was shown in evidence that deceased and his wife had lived unhappily, and that the latter had written a letter in which he stated that he would be revenged on his wife, and would die on the gallows therefor, if necessary. The testimony was not contradicted.

DEATH OF THEODORE FRANKLIN.—We chrouched recently the death of this distinguished citizen of New Jersey. We learn from Eastern papers that his death was caused by the accidental administering to him of morphine instead of quinine.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE UNION.

Indian Depredations in Honey Lake Valley.—The Magazine at Mars Island—Post Offices and Postmasters.—The Political Meeting at Platt's Hall, etc.

A letter from E. D. Morrison, dated Susanville, Honey Lake Valley, April 14th, has been received here by Governor Roop. It relates to Indian disturbances. On the 29th of March, Captain Lathrop, with fifty-seven men, left Susanville on foot, and at last accounts they had come upon Indians fortified at Painter Canon. Since the company left other Indians have run off stock, burned houses, and murdered whites at Susanville. The letter says: "Your old friend, Captain Bacid, was shot the other morning in the corral. Townsend, Governor Roop's Agent, was killed while taking a load of lumber from your mill to Haveland's, and his team was driven away. One of Rust's boys was shot with three balls yesterday, while out looking for their stock. Up to this time there have been five more whites killed whom we know of. Your ox team is also gone. Another company, under Captain Weatherston, will start out to-morrow." The letter makes a strong appeal for aid, and urges Governor Roop to return to the Valley. An acknowledgment is made of the receipt of an order for guns from General Kirby.

A Beutician writing to the Bulletin, expresses some fears as to the safety of the magazine at Mars Island Navy Yard. He says a relative of a well known rebel and some discharged Seamen are in daily conference, and have excited suspicion.

The following Post Offices have been established and Postmasters to the same appointed: Albionville, Klamath county, California, J. P. Albion, Postmaster; Sandy, Multnomah county, Oregon, James M. Stant, Postmaster. Appointments as Postmasters have been made as follows: In California.—J. H. Taylor, Elma Mills, Siskiyou county; James W. Stewart, Hermitage, Mendocino county; E. Brookstern, Albany, late Knight's Valley, Napa county; Thomas E. Philbrick, Ukiah, Mendocino county; William D. Wilson, Cosumnes, Sacramento county; John W. Selsor, Patterson, Nevada county; George L. Gaud, Fresno city, Fresno county. In Oregon.—Reuben Doty, Eala, Park county; William D. Hare, Hillsborough, Washington county; B. Goldsmith, Phoenix, Jackson county; John J. Murphy, Champco, Marion county; James Worth, Brownsville, Linn county; Samuel Haines, Jacksonville, Jackson county; Asa A. McCully, Harrisburg, Linn county. In Washington Territory.—Hiram Cochran, Vancouver, Clark county; Lewis H. Davis, Clagato, Lewis county; J. D. Heinkel, Seattle, King county. Commissions have been received for the following Postmasters: Isaac E. Higgins, San Juan, Whatcom county, Washington Territory; David Simpson, Sublimity, Marion county, Oregon; Hosea M. Couch, Mokelumne Hill, Calaveras county, California; Eli Amsbaugh, Calaveras, San Joaquin county; Calvin J. Stevens, Centerville, Alameda county; William Carmichael, Alamo, Contra Costa county; Joseph J. Moore, Greenwood, El Dorado county; Powell Crosby, Slippery Ford, El Dorado county; William Wagner, Buck's Ranch, Plumas county; Stephen A. Pomeroy, Gilroy, Santa Clara county; Orrin W. Hallenbeck, Mountain Springs, Placer county; Jerome B. Post, Corralitas, Santa Cruz county; David W. Aldrich, Redwood City, San Mateo county; Jesse Applegate, Yoncalia, Unipuma county; Isaac S. Smith, Forman's Ranch, San Joaquin county.

Platt's Hall was crowded last evening. A fair Union speech by Governor Nye was sandwiched between rabid party appeals by Weeks and Fitch. The Union sentiments were warmly applauded while the party cries were coldly received. A Union Administration State Convention, will, it is said, shortly be called by Union members of the Legislature.

A communication in the Bulletin renews the attack upon Senator Shafter, charging him with having engineered through the Legislature the amendment to the Practice Act, under which a new trial may be had in the Donner case, in which Shafter's law firm is said to have a contingent fee of \$12,000.

Legislative Proceedings.—In the Senate to-day, Crane, Shafter and Kutz, of the Judiciary Committee, reported a resolution that the Senate can remain in session as a high Court of impeachment after the final adjournment of the Assembly. Merritt, Rhodes and Harvey, of the Committee, dissented.

A bill passed requiring the State Controller to apportion all moneys as soon as received into the State Treasury.

The Congressional Bill was made the special order for next Friday.

The resolution from the Judiciary Committee concerning adjournment was lost—aye 15, noes 17.

A bill passed reducing the pay of officers, under the Sacramento Levee Bill, one-half.

In the Assembly the proposed amendment to the Constitution prescribing the oath of allegiance was adopted.

The bill fixing the pay of State officers and legislators was passed.

Highway Robbery and Murder.—Pursuit of the Murderer.

MORSE'S STATION, April 23d.

About ten o'clock this morning a man was murdered and robbed on the Oglesby road, three miles west of Goodwin's Mountain View House. The murderer shot him through the heart, and dragged the body into the brush on the side of the road. On returning for his hat he was discovered by two men who were coming up. On being discovered the murderer cocked his rifle—a revolver—and the men fled to Goodwin's. When they returned with a posse they found the body and the man's horse. The murdered man's handkerchief and clothing were marked F. L. Smith. He was well dressed. A party are in pursuit of the murderer, and say they have him surrounded in a piece of woods some miles in extent. He has the revolting rifle and a bullet pouch over his shoulder. The murdered man lies as found, waiting the Coroner.

LATE FROM HUMBOLDT.—By the steamer Oregon, at San Francisco, we have dates from Humboldt to April 19th. The Times gives the following account of additional Indian outrages:

On the 14th of April, the Indians again robbed Cooper's Mills, even when guarded by United States troops. It appears that four soldiers and a man in Government employ, as pecker, arrested the Indians, and kept them in custody until they were taken to the mill on the 15th of April. Express messengers from Fort Humboldt and Baker were expected to meet there at night, and were waited for until eleven o'clock. The Indians were then taken to the mill, and as the men were somewhat fatigued, all went to sleep. About one o'clock they were aroused by a noise outside, and it was supposed that the Express messengers had arrived. The door was opened, and it was found that Indians were about. The alarm was instantly given, but before the men were ready for action no Indians were to be seen. A party of ten, composed of citizens, followed by Beckwith's Indian "B" Bill, followed the trail of the savages the day after the robbery, and came upon their camp about four o'clock p. m. The Indians were then taken to the mill, and as the men were somewhat fatigued, all went to sleep. About one o'clock they were aroused by a noise outside, and it was supposed that the Express messengers had arrived. The door was opened, and it was found that Indians were about. The alarm was instantly given, but before the men were ready for action no Indians were to be seen. A party of ten, composed of citizens, followed by Beckwith's Indian "B" Bill, followed the trail of the savages the day after the robbery, and came upon their camp about four o'clock p. m. The Indians were then taken to the mill, and as the men were somewhat fatigued, all went to sleep. About one o'clock they were aroused by a noise outside, and it was supposed that the Express messengers had arrived. The door was opened, and it was found that Indians were about. The alarm was instantly given, but before the men were ready for action no Indians were to be seen. 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