THE DAILY ALTA CALIFORNIA.

FRED'K MacCRELLISH & CO.

FRED'K MACCRELLISH.....WM. A. WOODWARD.

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SAN FRANCISCO, SATURDAY, MAY 12.

Congressional Discord and Social Concord.

The bearing of northern and southern Members of Congress toward each other, depends materially upon the time when, and the place where they may happen to meet together. When the House is in session, and they are in their respective places, the ferocity with which they assail one another is perfectly frightful to behold, and leads the by-stander to believe they are about to fall to, in actual struggle for physical mastery, the one over the over. The columns of the public journals have teemed with accounts of this personal wrangling between sectional men, and everybody is familiar with them. Upon one occasion, not long ago, a pistol dropped accidentally from the pocket of one member, to the floor, during an exciting debate, and the general supposition prevails throughout the country, that each member is a walking arsenal, prepared to deal death and destruction around him upon the slightest provocation. We have always entertained the belief that these Congressional brawls and bickerings that threaten at any moment to break out in bloody encounters between northern and southern men, are mere "sound and fury, signifying nothing," except the existence of an understanding on the part of either, by which the slavery agitation is to be kept up throughout the north and south solely for political purposes.

An occasional expose of the lights and shadows of social life at Washington goes to strengthen this belief, and at the same time must serve to calm the fears of timid minds in regard to the threats that are frequently held out about Congress breaking in a row, as a preceding event to the dissolution of the Union. An instance in point is furnished in the following account of a dinner at the residence of Senator Seward, not long since, which we find in an exchange paper:

"Mr. Lovejoy dined at Gov. Seward's on Friday, with Gov. McRae, of Mississippi, and other Democrats, who were sociable enough. Before leaving the table, the host enquired why the Southerners had sat so still while Lovejoy was pitching into slavery and them, but kicked up a dust when he took a religious view of the question? 'Why,' said Gov. McRae, 'we were dumb with astonishment when our institutions were attacked, and didn't recover until Lovejoy changed his topic.' 'No, no!' exclaimed Lovejoy, 'you sat still enough until I began to talk about the Devil, but considered that a *personal* question!' All laughed and the glasses were emptied."

We submit, that though discord may continue to reign inside the Capitol walls, when the House is in session, the Union will continue to survive so long as such a degree of concord prevails in the social circle.

A HINT TO SUBSCRIBERS, ADVERTISERS, AND CORRESPONDENTS.—Everybody who writes anything to go into a newspaper ought to know that proper names should be written very distinctly. Other words can be guessed at by the printer, because the context serves as a guide to their meaning; but there is no aid in deciphering proper names. Not a day passes without some bother in such a large newspaper office as that of the *Alta*, about the names of persons indistinctly written in letters or advertisements sent to us; and nine-tenths of the errors in names are caused by bad chirography. Writers for the press must remember that the familiarity of the editor or proprietor of a paper with his manuscript does not relieve him from the obligation of writing plainly, for the editor or proprietor may not see the writing, which is set up by a compositor, who knows nothing of him or his hand. We have often known people who could not read their own writing after it had got cold, come to our office, where our compositors could decipher it readily; but their cunning ceased to avail them when they came to a proper name, for their experience and knowledge of modes of thought ceased, and they were helpless. So, good people, advertisers, subscribers, and correspondents—please take care to write plainly, and especially when you come to proper names.

CALIFORNIAN WHEAT FOR CHINA.—Late advices from the Chinese coast show a large preparation on the part of the English government, for offensive warfare. In addition to the fleet and gun-boats, land force, to the amount of 15,000 men, are being gathered to the northern ports as fast as transports arrive. Preparations are making for a two years' campaign. The Japanese nobles, averse to intercourse with foreigners, inspired, perhaps, with the success of the Chinese at Peiho, are creating difficulty with foreigners, in the hope of destroying the commercial treaties; a smart handling of the forts and Chinese army will have the double effect of not only putting Chinadom on their good behavior, but in giving a quiet hint of European power to Japan. If war opens with the concentration of this force at Peiho, there will be a market for some of our surplus wheat, or rather flour. The California packages of this necessary are of such convenient size for inland transport, doubtless, a ready sale would be afforded of flour, as well as a small quantity of oats and barley.

GERMAN MAY FESTIVALS.—The Germans take the lead in public festivities of a purely social nature. This year they have celebrated the coming of May in most of the large towns of the State. The musical and gymnastic clubs are the managers of most of the festivals. Nine-tenths of the clubs to practice music and gymnastics in California are composed of Germans—to their credit be it said. The Turn-Verein of Sacramento holds its May Festival to-morrow. The Gesang-Verein of Los Angeles celebrated its May Festival on the 6th inst. in Sainsevain's vineyard.

SACRAMENTO ITEMS.—The Marsh troupe continue to draw crowded houses in Sacramento.

A negro woman, named Arabella Sims, tried to kill herself, as is supposed, by drinking laudanum on Wednesday last.

The Birch Minstrels are playing in Sacramento. Ellen De Aly has applied for a divorce from her husband, Andrew De Aly; causes: cruelty and desertion.

The Supreme Court has reversed decision in case of Clark *vs.* Boyreau, et al.; and affirmed judgment in case of Earl et al. *vs.* Bull, et al.

FROM CARSON VALLEY.—We have received the *Territorial Enterprise* of May 5th.

A number of quartz mills are on their way thither. The Nevada District is proving to be a valuable mining district.

Several showers have fallen during the week.

A German had arrived with a wheelbarrow laden with camp utensils and grub, weighing 150 lbs. He made the trip from Diamond Springs to Carson City, in nine days.

A RECORD OF '46.—Mr. G. F. Wyman, who has resided twenty-four years in this State, yesterday brought to our office a bound file of the *Polynesian* newspaper, published in Honolulu, in 1846 and 1847. It contains very interesting reports of the American conquest of California. The Editor, under date of April 3d, 1847, nearly a year before the discovery of gold by Marshall, in a leading article on the resources of this coast, says:

"Possessing these in addition to what nature has done for them, Oregon and California will naturally become the El Dorados of the Pacific."

PICNIC PARTY FOR SONOMA.—A large number of persons are going on a picnic party, to-day, on the steamer *Peytona*, which leaves the wharf at twelve o'clock. The country appears to its best advantage at this season of the year, and the rain, night before last, has freed the roads from dust. Sonoma is one of the prettiest and richest valleys of the State, and well deserves a visit. Capt. Arrington, of the *Peytona*, is an old San Franciscan, and knows how to make his passengers comfortable.

MURDER NEAR CLOVERDALE.—Mrs. Charles Aldrich was murdered at her residence, near Cloverdale, Sonoma county, on the 7th inst. Her husband has been arrested on a charge of having committed the murder.

FATAL AFFRAY.—A man named Shields, was stabbed, at Tallent and O'Brian's ranch, twelve miles from Marysville, on the 9th inst. The man who inflicted the wound is named Slate. The injured party will probably die.

ARRIVAL OF THE OVERLAND MAIL.—The Butterfield Overland Mail, with dates from St. Louis to the 17th April, arrived in this city last evening.

CITY ITEMS.

FIRE IN THE HELVETIC BAZAAR.—A fire broke out yesterday afternoon, at half-past five o'clock, in the large wooden two-story building at the junction of Market and Sansome streets, opposite the Metropolitan Hotel, known as the Helvetic Bazaar. It broke out in a room in the second story, where some children had been playing with matches, and that part of the house was quickly in a light blaze. In half an hour the flames were subdued by the energetic exertions of the firemen, who were on the ground with their usual promptness; but by that time the whole interior was nearly destroyed, either by fire or water. It was owned by Mr. J. F. Schultheis, whose loss is about $3,000. He was not insured. The stock in the grocery store of Dedrich Wiede, at the corner, was injured by water to the amount of $500. C. Kuns, a manufacturer of small instruments, next door, had his stock somewhat damaged by water—loss, about $100. J. Schade, boot and shoemaker, next north—stock slightly damaged by water; insured. The residents of the second story were all losers by the rough usage to their furniture and flooding of the rooms. A Mrs. Flynn, who refused to leave her room, having a box of money there which she could not find, was nearly smothered in the smoke. Her life was saved by Mr. Francise O'Conner, who clambered up from the outside by the awning irons, penetrated to her room through the smoke, and found the old woman holding on to her bed, and she absolutely refused to let go. O'Conner had but a moment in which to decide. He shouldered the obstinate dame like a sack of potatoes, and reached the window only in time to save the lives of both. After the fire, Officer Coe entered the building and recovered the box of money, which was only charred. The fire was only prevented from spreading by the most extraordinary exertions on the part of the firemen.

THE GREAT CHINESE EXHIBITION.—The last Celestial theatre erected in California was in 1852, where about twenty performers were engaged for some time. Many Americans visited the place. Not long after the theatre was shut up, and, save the poor stuff subsequently presented at the Union Theatre in this city by a few ragged Chinamen, nothing of the kind has ever been seen here since. Previous to the one above mentioned, a company of Chinese jugglers appeared at the American Theatre, drawing immense houses for about a fortnight, when they went East. We are requested by the management of the Opera House, particularly to state, that none of the objectionable features said to have been occasionally introduced into the performances of the old company of 1852, will characterize the approaching entertainments at Maguire's Opera House. The plays, of which three of the most interesting have been selected, are from the pens of eminent Chinese philosophers, inculcating high moral precepts, and are free of the most fastidious lady may witness with perfect safety. Ah Ching, the well known and respectable Chinese merchant, has been engaged by Mr. Maguire to superintend the preparations of the three plays; but independent of that, Mr. Maguire would scarcely jeopardize the reputation of his Opera House by permitting any thing improper to appear in this respect. These entertainments are prepared with special reference to the ladies and children. They will be innocent, amusing and instructive. All should have it to say, that they have seen the famous Chinese theatre.

A CHANCE FOR EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY.—One of the city police informs us that a number of the officers, as well as other citizens, are interesting themselves to procure the pardon by the Governor, of William D. Carr, who was sentenced in October last, in the Count of Sessions, in this city, to three year's imprisonment at San Quentin, for robbery. The crime is alleged to have taken place on Jackson street. The two men he robbed, to him as the guilty person, and thus procured his conviction, have since left the State, and, moreover, simultaneously facts came to light showing conclusively that Carr is not guilty of the crime imputed to him. It is intended when Harvey Brown returns from the country, to have these facts collected, and when proven in the case have been made acquainted with them, to have the latter join in the petition to the Governor for a pardon. If the facts are as have been represented, it is a grievous injustice that Carr should be kept incarcerated another week.

THE ALAMEDA COUNTY EXHIBITION.—We are indebted to Mr. F. F. Fargo for a twenty-four page pamphlet, being an exposition of the prizes to be awarded, and for what kind of cattle, at the Second Annual Fair and Cattle Show of the Alameda County Agricultural Society, which will open at Oakland, June 5th, and will continue five days. The premium list includes cash, medals and diplomas, which will be awarded for horses, races, mules, jackass, ponies, cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, farm products, flowers, samples of home industry, arts, farms, orchards, etc. Those of our readers who recollect the delightful time that thousands of San Franciscans had over at Oakland last year, at the first Fair, and the courtesies extended to all, by the gentlemen of the Society there, will look forward with fond anticipations to the approaching one, which we understand will exceed the last in every respect.

ANCHORS AND CABLES IN THE BAY.—Not long ago, a vessel let go her anchor in the harbor, off Clay street wharf, and on heaving it up again, the day after, brought up the bight of a chain, which being overhauled, led to the discovery of a valuable anchor, which was sold for a handsome amount. A nautical man informs us that, in his opinion, there are many such buried far beneath the soft mud or ooze which forms the bottom of our bay, and so far sunken as to render it a mere matter of chance for the flukes of an anchor to catch upon them. This, however, not unfrequently takes place. A gentleman well qualified to give a valuable opinion, states it as his belief that not less than $10,000 worth of anchors are buried beneath the bottom of the bay, and could be mostly recovered by systematic dragging.

"THE YOUNG CALIFORNIAN."—This is the title of a small, neatly printed paper, published by Masters R. L. Tabor and C. A. Wetmore, at No. 114 Battery street, at the rate of one dollar per annum, payable in advance. The little fellows have composed and printed the whole paper themselves, and the contents are mostly from the pens of pupils in the Hyde street School. The printing is really excellent and would do credit to an old typo. We do not find a typographical error anywhere in its columns. The whole enterprise reflects the highest credit upon its originators, and may be the stepping-stone to high honors in their future walks of life. "Onward and upward," is their motto.

COPPER ORE.—The *Cortes*, which arrived yesterday from the north, brought, under consignment to ex-Governor Purdy, between two and three tons of rich copper ore, the first yield of a newly-discovered lead near Crescent City. We have been shown specimens of this ore, which, it is said, contain some eighty per cent. of pure metal. This, of course, is the best. The worst, however, according to careful assays, will return an average of twenty-five or thirty per cent. copper. Other and larger shipments of this ore are expected to be made in a short time.

THE VEILED LADY.—Much curiosity exists to know who may be the mysterious lady who will make her *debut* at the Opera House to-night. Mr. Maguire protests that he has not yet been permitted to see her face, as she arrives at and departs from the theatre, for rehearsal, veiled. All sorts of rumors are afloat concerning her; some making her out a lady of middle age, and others a young maiden, fired with histrionic ardor. Her Lady Teazle is looked for with much interest. It is not the intention of the lady to adopt the stage as a profession.

KATE WILLIAMS FOUND GUILTY.—The case of the common prostitute Kate Williams, was decided in the Police Court, yesterday. The jury found her guilty on the charge, and she was ordered to appear for sentence to-day, and is in the meantime out on one hundred dollars bail. This should be a warning to those of her stripe, who infest our respectable thoroughfares, and refuse to remove, though repeatedly warned by the police. This course will be vigorously pursued with all these infamous houses until they are removed to more secluded localities.

ANTI-BULKHEAD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—We desire to call the attention of the members of the above-named Committee to an important meeting to be held this day at the Chamber of Commerce, at 3 o'clock. As business of *great importance* is anticipated, a punctual attendance of every member is earnestly requested.

U. S. TROOPS FOR WASHOE.—General Clarke has decided to send several companies of military to Washoe, to protect our citizens in that quarter from the depredations of the Indians. We can state, on good authority, that the General, when he decides to act, moves promptly, and we may expect to see the troops in motion in a few days.

ARREST FOR ROBBERY.—Margaret McCormack was arrested by Officer Bovee, in her den on Jackson street, last evening, charged by one Tyler Martin with having robbed him of $20. She was admitted to bail in the sum of $50 to make her appearance in the Police Court to-day.

MISS PITTSINGER'S READINGS.—We did not attend the readings by Miss Pittsinger, at Tucker's Academy of Music, on Thursday evening, but have been informed, that those present were very much pleased.

LATE RAINS.—It may be well to place on record that light showers of rain fell during night before last and part of yesterday.

DASHAWAYS.—There are now, in this city, upwards of four thousand members of the Dashaway Association.

OVERLAND PASSENGERS.—Ten passengers started in the overland mail coach yesterday, of whom only three were bound for St. Louis.

FROM UMPQUA.—The steamer *Cortes* arrived from Umpqua, Oregon, yesterday, in three days and four hours.

LETTERS OVERLAND.—By the overland mail which left town yesterday, there went 9,677 letters.

PONY EXPRESS.—The Pony went out yesterday with about fifty letters.

PILGRIM SUNDAY SCHOOL FESTIVAL.—Between three and four hundred scholars of the Pilgrim Sunday School started yesterday morning, in omnibuses, from the First Unitarian Church, on Stockton street. They were attended by many parents and friends, and a fine band which discoursed excellent music on the way. On arriving at the Garden they filed merrily into the pavilion, and in an incredible short time many of them were footing it to the best kind of music, while others of the littler ones played about the ground. At noon, all the children were called to the front of the stand, whence the Rev. Thomas Starr King made a prayer to the Throne of Grace, and was followed by Mr. Floyd, the Superintendent of the school, with a few pertinent remarks. The children then sang in succession five of the hymns which had been printed on the handbills—and were accompanied by the band and a melodeon, in excellent style. Mr. King then made an address to the children, in which it appeared that his talents are not alone applicable to the forum and the pulpit. It requires a peculiar tact and knowledge of the human heart, to appeal directly to the feelings and understandings of children, and this the speaker did, to the delight of the little ones who understood and appreciated all he said. They then sung five other songs and separated to play. It three is one sight better calculated than another in this world to make the heart cheerful, it is that of a crowd of merry children, romping in careless freedom, and making the welkin ring with their joyous shouts. Such a spectacle was presented yesterday, at Russ' Garden. Soon the baskets of "goodies" *i. e.* edibles of all kinds, were spread open, upon which a simultaneous attack was made by the little ones, with appetites sharpened by the exercise of a fresh air. The rest of the afternoon until four o'clock, was passed in games and dancing, when the signal was given to return to the city, where all arrived the happier and healthier for their picnic. These little reunions are the means of cementing more firmly the ties of companionship between the children, and of friendship and intimacy between their parents and their teachers. May they be continued as often as the return of the bright summer time of California.

FASHIONABLE WEDDING INVITATIONS.—A fashionable French wedding lately took place in this city, and the invitations issued, being different from those commonly used in American society, will probably be not without interest to our lady readers. A week, or more, before the wedding, the invitations were sent out in an envelope, which contained a card with the name of the groom, and another with the name of the bride, and two notes from the parents of the bride, one an invitation to witness the wedding at the Church, the other an invitation to the wedding-party at their dwelling. The cards had the simple names of the parties, without title of Mr. or Miss. The following are copies of the invitations in French, and translations of them, with the proper names omitted:

"M. et Mme. ——— ont l'honneur de vous faire part du mariage de Mlle. ———, leur fille, avec M. ———, et vous prient d'assister à la benediction nuptiale qui aura lieu à l'église Notre Dame des Victoires, le ——— prochain, à ——— heures du soir."

"M. et Mme. ——— vous prient de vouloir bien honorer de votre presence la petite fete de famille, qui aura lieu le ——— prochain, à ——— heures du soir, au ———, entre ——— et ———, à l'occasion du mariage de Mlle. ———, leur fille."

"Mr. and Madame ——— have the honor to communicate you the marriage of Miss ———, their daughter, with Mr. ———, and they beg you to be present at the nuptial benediction, which will take place at the Church of Notre Dame des Victoires, the ——— day of ———, at ——— o'clock."

"Mr. and Madame ——— beg you to honor with your presence the little family party which will take place on the ——— day of ———, at ——— o'clock in the evening, at their residence on ——— street, on the occasion of the marriage of their daughter, Miss ———."

GRAND CAMP I. O. OF K.—The Grand Camp of the Independent Order of Knighthood, now holding its annual session in this city, have elected and installed into office the following officers, for the ensuing year: Grand Ruler—D. Norcross, San Francisco; Deputy Grand Ruler—P. B. Denny, Diamond Springs; Grand Secretary—S. W. Prothero, Michigan Bar; Grand Treasurer—H. Wood, Sutter Creek; Grand Prelate—T. M. Wood, Grass Valley; Grand Herald—J. L. Samble, Nevada; Grand Marshal—J. F. Brown, San Francisco; Grand Warder—W. H. Rattenberry, Sacramento City; Grand Representatives to the Supreme Council—D. Norcross, Geo. Johnson, H. H. Fellows, J. W. Owen, S. W. Prothero. The following appointments were made by the Grand Ruler: Committee on Finance—H. G. Fisk, W. H. Rattenberry, L. Van Geisterfield, B. L. West, George Johnson; Committee on Correspondence—S. W. Prothero, P. C. Johnson, S. B. Rooney; Committee on Appeals—J. L. Gamble, T. M. Wood, G. Ambrose, Alex. Liesbutle, Thomas Reed; Committee on Petitions—D. S. Cutter, H. Wood, P. B. Denny, J. F. Brown, W. H. Rattenberry; Committee on Good of the Order—George Johnson, D. Patterson, W. Randell, B. F. Foster, D. Van Slyck; Committee on Laws—William McMullen, T. W. Lockwood, C. B. Culver, S. C. Hodges, H. H. Fellows; Committee on Printing—J. F. Brown, E. Tanner, H. G. Fisk. The next session will be held at Sacramento City, on the second Wednesday of May, 1861. It is presumed that the business of this session will be brought to a close this evening.

THE FLORAL FESTIVAL.—The Academy of Music presented a brilliant spectacle last evening. The numerous interesting scholars of the Geary street Mission Sabbath School were congregated there in all their beauty and innocency. The spacious Hall was gaily decorated with flags and splendidly illuminated. At the hour of the commencement of the entertainments the room was crowded with the parents and other friends of the little ones. On the southern side of the Hall a hundred Misses, arrayed in white dresses, and each wearing a wreath of flowers, were seated, awaiting their participancy in the exercises of the evening. On the opposite side of the room sat the boys, neatly dressed, and a more manly-looking set of juveniles we have never seen assembled on any previous occasion. The entertainment, throughout, proved to be as anticipated, a delightful one, and the various performances elicited warm encomiums from the dense assemblage. The children acquitted themselves in a manner which reflected great credit on their instructors, as well as on themselves. Mr. Stadfeld, who presided over the instrumental part of the entertainment; Mr. Wells and Mr. Leach, who assisted in the vocal department, and the "Home Quartette" contributed, in a great degree, to the pleasure of the audience. The fête was most successful, and must have yielded a handsome sum towards furnishing the school with a library, that being the object for which it was given.

POLICE COURT PROCEEDINGS.—The following is a list of the proceedings in the Police Court yesterday: François Ranciti, misdemeanor, discharged; Mary A. Wilson, misdemeanor, fined $5; James Kearny, assault, discharged; Cornelius Roppleman, arrested on bench warrant, discharged; Martin Kelly, assault and battery, continued; Barney McDonald and Alexander McDonald, assault and battery, discharged; Wm. Williams, attempt to commit grand larceny, continued.....Continued cases: John Coffrell, misdemeanor, continued for sentence; Chas. Heruz, misdemeanor, continued to Monday; Ah Num, misdemeanor, discharged; H. Goodstine, peddling without license, discharged; Michael Conway and B. S. Blitz, assault and battery, continued for sentence; Caleb T. Kling, assault and battery, discharged; Marcia Macoy, petit larceny, discharged; Jos. Sparrow, petit larceny, continued; Martha Willmer and Emma Dall, grand larceny, continued; Ah Ho, assault with deadly weapon, continued; Kate Williams, common prostitute—this case was closed and the jury retired at 6 P. M. last evening, and at 7½ o'clock returned a verdict of "guilty."

SOCIETE FRANCAIS DE BIENFAISANCE.—The Board of Directors of this excellent society have organized as follows: *President*—Abel Guy; *Vice Presidents*—F. Moigneu, John Mel; *Treasurer*—E. Verdier; *Secretaries*—Paul Torquet, D. Frich; *Managers*—A. Pioche, Bernéde, H. Lucké, P. L. Bonis, E. Coulon, P. Donnot, P. Casson, P. Job, E. Dupré; *Physician*—Drs. Pigné Dupuytren and Hayne.

THE CALIFORNIA MENAGERIE IN NEW YORK.—Old Adams, the great California hunter, with one hundred and fifty living animals of his own capturing, including seventeen dancing and performing bears, has arrived from San Francisco on board the ship *Golden Fleece*. There are nineteen cages in all, varying in size—mostly ten feet long, four feet wide, and four feet high. Sampson, Lady Washington, and Fremont, being the largest of the Bruin family, occupy separate cages; all the others, except the buffalo and elk, having two, and some three, of the large animals. Beside the seventeen performing bears, embracing ten different kinds, there are two California lions, two California tigers, two California cougars, two lynxes, seven coyotes, one white wolf, one ant-eater, one sea-lion, one sea-leopard, two silver-gray foxes, one full-grown buffalo, two elk, two wild mountain-goats, seventeen snakes, two large California condors, two do. vultures, five do. moon-face owls, three double-eared owls, two Australian ostriches (seven feet high), two white pelicans, two gray do., two large golden eagles (very rare and beautiful), two black Lower California eagles, two California American bald eagles, and a great variety of other birds and animals. It is understood that Mr. P. T. Barnum has purchased an undivided half of this novel exhibition at a large figure, and that, after a short stay in New York, they will visit other cities, and also be exhibited through the country.—*N. Y. Tribune, April 14th.*

DASHAWAYS.—The Dashaway Association, of this city, have resolved to place a fine bell upon the top of their new hall, which is now nearly completed. The bell will weigh about 1,000 lbs., and will be rung every night, and it is sure to be a night when the bell is not rung, that some member of the association will be found ready to pay the fine for its non-ringing. Thanks to the benevolent hearts which have conceived that most delicious of beverages, called by the Dashaways, "Dashaway whiskey," and to the generosity of our fellow citizens, we have no fear that the bell will be rung too often.

OUR SPECIAL WASHOE CORRESPONDENCE.

VIRGINIA CITY, May 3d, 1860.

Spring Opening.

"The back of the winter is broken," said "Black Dan," and so said we all yesterday, for the sun shone bright and warm, and the furious gales were asleep. Napoleon and McDonald did not burst upon the Austrians and Italy over the Alps, more suddenly than Spring had come upon us from the snows and hurricanes. It seems that the San Bernard and the Splugen had been passed, and we were upon the verdant plains of Spring. But *presto, change*, whirlwinds and columns of rain, cold, clouds and storms are upon us to-day. Mt. Davidson has its head in a cap of clouds, and all the mountains have been swept during this day by most furious gales and gusts, and the snow has baptized them all. Snow is now lying upon the ground outside of the drilling built tent in which I write, and follows pass to and fro, white like millers. Oh, it is a delectable climate! and should take the first premium in the grand Fair of Purgatory. When the Bulkhead and its advocates arrive there, they will call upon the air of Washoe as did Dives upon Abraham & Co., for a drop of cold water. But it will not be granted, for Tophet must be a long distance from this place, judging by the known climate of this, and the reported height of the mercurial column in the other place. So Levi & Co., had better come here and take in a supply of cool air to last them a respectable time in the other delightful locality. I have doubts as to the superiority of either over the other.

Transactions in Mining Stock.

Since my last, transactions in mining stocks have been as dead as the rocks themselves. An individual case of jumping here some two or three weeks ago has doubtless frightened many people abroad, conveying an idea of the insecurity of title. But we know that the past and present depression in mining stocks is to a great extent the result of a concerted plan in San Francisco to depress the market rates—especially of the Ophir stock for the purpose of purchasing at a greatly reduced price, what is known to be very valuable. The plot we know, and the plotters we know quite as well as that there is a Washoe, but so well is that behavior doubts and distrusts operators there may entertain or express, has little or no effect upon sensible men here who have enough to think there claims are good, and give a reasonable promise of rich leads. And there are such, and they not a few. A claim was located three days ago between Silver City and Carson Ravine, upon which assays have been made, which gives the finest indications of silver of any which I have seen since I came here. And this from the very croppings. So you see that there are chances yet—not all the silver lodes have yet been taken up.

Wild-Cat Claims.

But there are Wild-Cat claims in abundance. Many are earnestly working upon ledges which as yet show no signs of silver whatever. To the uninitiated there are many ores which resemble those containing silver, and yet which contain scarce a particle of that metal, that it is not strange that many throw away their time and money, and indulge hopes never to be realized. I have seen ores of iron so closely resembling some rich leads of silver ores, that the unpracticed eye could not detect the difference, and yet do not be it rich as the Ophir or Mexican ores, and the other not possess silver enough in a ton to coin a half dime. The country is full of minerals of various kinds, from lead and iron up to gold and silver. I was in company with two gentlemen—Messrs. Meredith and Scott—I spent some hours in breaking rock from a quartz lead a few rods from the opening of the "Gold & Curry ground," which had never before been prospected. The croppings stood above ground, from one to ten feet, and we broke through the quartz silver and gold vein for two feet in thickness, and, in every piece of stone taken, the gold was visible to the eye, and the silver sulphurets as distinct as those in the Ophir. This lead was traced for rods. The tunnel of the G. & C. Company has not yet reached it by a rod or two.

Rich Mines South of Virginia City.

My opinion is that the section of country to the south of this, extending from Gold Hill by Silver City, down the Carson River, some seven miles, will prove very rich, not only in gold, but silver. A number of claims, besides those immediately at Gold Hill, are known to be rich in gold, and, where there is water sufficient for working, and the yield is very remunerative. Surveys have been made, and it is announced by Mr. Marlotte, that water in abundance can be brought into that section. Should he shall have been done, depend upon it that large amounts of gold will be washed from the surface dirt, as well as from the deposits in the beds of the streams. It is generally believed, however, that all these gold-bearing mines will gradually change to silver. The gold is largely alloyed by the latter metal.

The Staff of Life.

Provisions are tolerably plenty in market at present. The staple article, whiskey—that which comes anyhow—that which finds its way through snow-storms and slush, through mud and rain, in despite of hurricanes and floods—weary and starving mules, high freights and accidents—whiskey—the staff of life in Washoe, the food, raiment and lodging of many here—whiskey, which feeds hope enlarges imagination, lets the tongue loose, and gives eloquence—whiskey—sure death at a thousand yards—is here in abundance. You see whole trains of mules come jolting, panting, staggering into town with a load of whiskey on each side of the pack-saddle, with never a sack of flour for companion. New saloons are opening daily, each more splendid than the last, with mirrors, chandeliers and decanters ever full, and no permanent depression in the casks, for water, full of arsenic, is plenty, and the public feed on it cook it and drink it during the day and night, and it is sure to be high water in the whiskey casks in the morning. Thanks to the benevolent hearts which have conceived that most delicious beverage called by the city, and happy the land where the whiskey barrel emulates the "widow's cruse."

Flour is worth twenty dollars per hundred, and there is enough in market to supply it for a month. The abundance of whiskey very materially decreases the demand for bread. There are a few old fogies here, nevertheless, who prefer the use in preference to the liquid potable. It is difficult to dissuade them from the absurd habit. There is plenty of beef at two bits, tough and tenacious, which holds a long and doubtful contest with ivory grinders and gastric juice. Mutton is plentiful and good, and piggie, being a benevolent animal, keeps himself in good condition all about the hills and ravines, and dies in a kind of ecstatic martyrdom to the wants of humanity. So pork is plentiful and excellent. Groceries and other provisions hold up in prices quite amazingly, for great amount in market. Coarse brown sugar sold, to day, for forty cents, at auction. At private sale, it is held at four to six bits; white sugar, seven to eight bits. There is no cheese as yet no very great reduction in the price of tea, coffee, etc. FRANK SOULE.

OUR SONOMA CORRESPONDENCE.

SONOMA, May 11, 1860.

Since my last, like the confiding Micawber, I have been waiting for something "to turn up:" but in vain.

"Life here is as dull as a twice-told tale,
Vexing the dull ear of a drowsy man."

The death of news is positively painful; not a birth marriage, or death to record. Stagnation would be inevitable were it not for the tri-weekly visits of the *Alta*, and copious libations of Sonoma wine, which last, to be sure, ought to satisfy the most exacting, according to the "Newburyport Sage," who said "that bread might be the staff of life, but wine was life itself."

On Monday last, our election for city officers came off, and resulted in the choice, as Mayor, of Gen. M. G. Vallejo, Comandante-General de la Frontera del Norte of the Province of California, when under Mexican rule, and at one time the lord of as much soil as a blood-horse could cover in a week's gallop. Having no opposition, he was elected by a unanimous vote.

On the evening of Tuesday last, a *soiree dansante*, or country break-down—just as you please—celebrated the event, at which the press of San Francisco was represented in the persons of Mr. Woodward, of the *Alta*, and Hillard, of the *Herald*. These gentlemen having visited Sonoma for the purpose of testing the merits of California wine, during the evening had ample opportunities for accomplishing their object, and, as a disinterested observer, I should judge that they found it good.

We have had our modicum of rain during the past week, and I suppose you Metropolitans shared in the visitation. The Old *Jupiter Pluvius* seemed to have nerved himself for a last expiring effort, and for three days we had a very successful Lucindé Stillman of Deacon Bulcher. The poet has chanted so eloquently of the pleasures of "The silver rain, the shining rain," probably had no corn in the ground to be spoiled by it, or he would never have given us a chance to so brilliant a sentiment on so moist a subject. Although not a professed farmer, nor a very enthusiastic agriculturist, I could not refrain from indulging in several expletives not exactly unbecoming, when on arising, the morning of the third day, I found one hundred acres of what had been very good land, transformed, as if by magic, into a broad waste of muddy waters, with an occasional blade of grass feebly struggling to preserve an erect and defiant attitude against the wind and waves. The present week of sunshine, however, has done much to obliterate the devastation caused by the flood, and that which now seems so evil will, eventually, prove a blessing to the vine and fruit-growers, at least.

Fruit, this year, will be astonishingly low, judging from the immense quantities that already clothe the trees in rich and splendid clusters. Many of the fruit-growers with whom I conversed, intend to dry their fruit, instead of let their fruit ripen and rot upon the ground, rather than sell below a certain price. Should they persevere in this determination, I advise the lovers of luscious grapes, juicy peaches, apples, nectarines, apricots, and so on *ad infinitum*, to pack up their summer appa el, lay in a good supply of "corn cob" and the last new novels, and rusticate for a season on the Island of the Blest, prince of landlords, Toney Oakes. You know Toney; everybody knows Toney that is at all acquainted with the land-marks of our Golden State. California hotels are not, generally speaking, models of caravansaries, else their merits have been shamefully decried by sneering travelers; but Oakes' proves the exception to the rule; cheerful rooms, a luxurious table and moderate charges, combine to soothe the weary traveler and satisfy the most fastidious Sybaritic. Then the delicious beverage he concocts to while away the hour summer days, rivaling in their flavored fragrance the fabled nectar of the Olympian Gods. To dust and wind-ridden San Franciscans, we cordially exclaim, "Come ore, come all, and tarry among us," and if you do not return to your counting grabbing, office-seeking avocations in ruder health, and with more plethoric purse, then set me down as of Teutonic ancestry.

But I am spinning out the thread of my argument unwarrantably long. In the language of the old Persian proverb, "Let not your life be prolonged to a thousand years, and your shadow never grow less—O, most ponderous of dailies!"

With the usual protestations of veneration and affection, I remain, yours, truly, VOLTIGEUR.

OUR SAN DIEGO CORRESPONDENCE.

Executions in Lower California—Homicide at Fort Yuma.

SAN DIEGO, May 7th, 1860.

The only news that I have for you this time is in relation to affairs in Lower California. Governor Espassa, Ex-Secretary, and successor to General Castro, deceased, has arrested, examined and executed by shooting, twelve or six notorious thieves, murderers, and robbers, who have been residing in Lower California for some time past.

He alleges that they, by their bad conduct, have brought disgrace on the province that he now governs, and for this reason, without an other than hearsay evidence, he has summarily disposed of them *vi et armis*.

If you have any offenders against law and justice in your part of the State, send them to Lower California and they will be disposed of instanter, under the present rule there. Yours &c., DIEGO.

P. S.—I have just learned by the express from Fort Yuma, that a man by the name of Burnham killed a man of the name of Wm. Cummins, at Sacket's Wells, on the Desert, on the 24 ult. Cummins, it appears, stole Burnham's horses, guns, etc., and started for Arizonia. Burnham followed him, overtaking him at the above-named place, where a difficulty ensued and Burnham shot him three times in the body, killing him almost instantly. Burnham has given himself up to the officers of the law, and been bound over to appear before the next Court of Sessions. Yours &c., D.

ROUND SHOULDERS.—We see it stated that stoop-shouldered men are on the increase, attributed to wearing shawls—the wearer, in order to keep the article around him, being compelled to "hump himself" by folding his arms upon his breast. We give the information gratuitously to a number of friends who are in the habit of wrapping themselves up in in this feminine garment.—*Transcript.*

INTERPRETER FOR THE JAPANESE.—Mr. A. L. C. Portman, the Dutch interpreter who accompanied the expedition of Commodore Perry to Japan, and who is now residing in Brooklyn, will soon proceed to Washington, to await the arrival of the Japanese Ambassadors, with whom he will remain during their stay in this neighborhood. Mr. Portman will meet one old Japanese friend, the interpreter Moriyama, who has for many years been the chief medium of all Government communication with outside nations, and who now accompanies the first foreign embassy.

THE CROPS PROMISE LARGELY.—From every section of the country we hear glorious accounts of the prospects of heavy yields the present season—probably much larger than at any previous season. The late rain has thickened up the grass to a surprising extent. It has also been of material benefit to late sown grain. At present the grass is growing finely, yet we notice a commencement at harvesting this crop in some localities. Two weeks delay will add materially to the yield.—*Petaluma Journal.*

SNOW ON ST. HELENA.—Snow in considerable quantities was to be seen on the summit of Mount St. Helena last Sunday morning—an unusual event at this season.—*Petaluma Journal.*

BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

Per Alta, Placerville, and Salt Lake Line.

Hurricane at Virginia City.

VIRGINIA CITY, May 11, 1860.

After a calm day, the wind last evening arose, and, by 11 o'clock, blew a hurricane. About thirty frame-buildings, and twenty-five tents were blown down. No lives were lost, and no material injury done to persons. The amount of property destroyed is estimated at $10,000.

Per State Line.

Race at Marysville—Fire at Bangor.

MARYSVILLE, May 11, 1860.

A four-mile race, between Langford and Susie Hawkins, took place at 2 P. M. to-day. About two thousand persons were at the track, a large number being ladies. Langford distanced the mare on the first heat, in 7:58½.

A hotel, saloon, and four other buildings, were destroyed by fire, at Bangor, last evening. We have no particulars.

Later from Asia.

The ship *Lotus* arrived in port yesterday, in forty-eight days from Hongkong, with papers from that port to the 21st March.

China.

ARRIVAL OF THE EARLY BIR