

CALIFORNIA ITEMS.

There were eighteen of the escaped convicts from San Quentin at large, at latest dates. Several of those wounded had died, and six or eight others could not, as reported, recover from their wounds. There are five hundred and seventy-two convicts now confined in prison, and every conceivable precaution is taken to prevent another demonstration on the part of the prisoners, which seems to be much feared.

Personal conflicts are, as per report, unusually common of late. The "figting season" having evidently set in, and shootings, stabbings, canings and other fashionable collisions are recorded by scores daily. Dr. Chorpeneing was shot, but not dangerously, at Aurora, on the 28th ult.

The coming election, it is expected, will be closely contested. Politicians there seem to be wonderfully interested in the matter, as much so as if a Chief Magistrate was to be elected. Each party express confidence in the triumph of their respective candidates and measures. There are evidently other objects in view than either the prosecution or termination of the civil war.

That division of the Democratic party called the Secession wing, held a convention on the 6th of August, in Sacramento, to nominate a candidate for Superintendent of Public Institutions, and repair and refit their platform, over which H. Griffith, of Yolo county, presided. The R. v. O. P. Fitzgerald, of San Francisco, was unanimously selected as their candidate for Superintendent of Public Institutions. The platform of last year, without the addition of any new planks, was, on examination, considered sufficiently broad for all practicable purposes, and on it they resolved to have a other contest for supremacy. A central committee was appointed, and a few other arrangements made for the campaign, and on the 7th at noon the convention adjourned without day. A few flaming speeches were made. Mostly stereotyped.

Post Office agent Watrous has recently removed the Post Master at Valecito, Calaveras county, for abstracting newspapers from the mail. It is asserted that Mr. Watrous intends to give special attention to that class of public servants hereafter. The Union says that iniquity in the Post Office department in that State "has become as fat as a stalled ox," and that it is quite time "that it was struck down and dragged out." If the agent succeeds in convincing even half-a-dozen of the nuisances complained of, that the Postal institution is not kept up for their special benefit, to the exclusion of all others, he will become a public benefactor. Every department of the public service is filled with corruption, but theiving Post Masters are a standing curse to a community and inefficient, careless, blundering, unaccommodating incumbents, however peculiarly honest, are evils for which antidotes should be applied by the people wherever they exist.

On the 2d inst., in Honita, Mariposa county, the mercury rose to 113 deg. Fahrenheit, in the shade, as reported.

On the 1st of August, a gentleman, who crossed the Sierra mountain by the Big Tree route, reported in Carson that there was a belt of snow on the summit, twelve miles wide and from two to ten feet deep.

Various Indian murders and massacres in Humboldt and other counties in the upper part of the State, are announced, and the war between the whites and natives, although not so destructive of life as the conflicts of the Christians in the east continues, with but little prospect of its coming to a close very soon. Some of the acts of the whites as well as those of the Indians savor strongly of barbarism.

During the late floods the amount of sand deposited in the channels of the Sacramento and its navigable tributaries was so great in many places, as stated, that steamers find much difficulty, since the waters have somewhat subsided, in getting over the large bars which have thus been formed. At, and in the vicinity of Sacramento city, the navigation of the river is said to be seriously obstructed, and the removal of the deposits will be attended with much expense.

The town of Morristown, Sierra county, was destroyed by fire on the 29th of July. There were but a few huts on the outskirts of the village which were not consumed. Loss, upwards of forty thousand dollars.

The schooner Hannah B. Moore, snagged and sank near Sacramento, on the 3d of August. She had a cargo of merchandize. Stages between Placerville and Carson, since the road was put in repair, make their regular trips in from sixteen to eighteen hours.

GENERAL McLELLAN ASSUMING THE OFFENSIVE.

According to report, the army of the Potomac having remained inactive at Harrison's Landing over a month, after the new base of operations had been selected and assumed, a movement was made on the 4th of August indicating, as was supposed, that offensive measures were again to be adopted and the "forward march to Richmond" resumed. On that day Gen. Hooker, in obedience to orders, started on a reconnoissance to Malvern Hill. The troops left camp about dark in the evening, and arrived at Malvern Hill at four o'clock next morning, where they encountered a Confederate force of two regiments of infantry and a battery posted behind an embankment. Fire was opened on the enemy by Benson's battery, the infantry keeping back out of range, and, after cannonading their works for three hours, Gen. Hooker's command had the satisfaction of seeing the Confederates start for Richmond in great haste. Pursuit was immediately instituted, which resulted in the capture of a hundred prisoners. The Federals had about twenty killed and wounded during the day. Lieut.-Col. Gamble, of the 8th Illinois, being one of the latter.

Col. Averill, with five hundred cavalry, went to White Oak Swamp Bridge, where he encountered the 10th Virginia cavalry drawn up to receive the Federals. The Virginians, however, are reported to have fled on the first charge. Col. Averill gave them chase and captured over two dozen of the hindmost, without the loss of a man killed or wounded. Gen. Pleasanton, with another small force of cavalry, followed some of the retreating Confederates on the road toward Newmarket, but meeting a superior force, he thought best to fall back, which he did somewhat hurriedly, retaining however, some thirty prisoners, which he had previously taken. At night they all encamped at Malvern Hill, the occupation of which was formally announced, and an assurance given that there was a sufficiency of troops there to keep the position, which was considered an important point, and to carry on other operations in view.

On the 6th it was reported by contrabands and deserters that a large number of troops were leaving Richmond for Malvern Hill to retake it from the Federals. The next announcement from the headquarters of the army of the Potomac was that General Hooker remained there until twelve o'clock that night when he evacuated and fell back to his encampment, leaving a strong guard in his rear. The enemy came down from Richmond on three roads prepared for a big fight thinking that the invaders, as they call the Federals, had really assumed the offensive and were moving towards the Confederate capital. What they did on ascertaining that Gen. Hooker had only made a "reconnoissance in force" is not stated, but unquestionably they were sadly disappointed, having had a wearisome, toilsome march for nothing. It is said to have been a "strategic movement."

Gen. Burnside, with the forces under his command, after leaving Hampton roads, proceeded up the Potomac to Aquia creek, and disembarked and then moved towards Fredericksburg, where he was encamped on the 9th. He had made one or two small offensive movements in that vicinity.

NEWS FROM CACHE COUNTY.

Within the last few days, we have been in the receipt of communications from friends, residing in various settlements in Cache county, all representing things in that isolated valley, so far as relates to the industry, energy and perseverance of the people and their prospects for an abundant harvest, as being unusually flattering. In some places, for instance, a few weeks since was a little intrusive, not to the injury however of anything in particular, excepting vines, which were at Richmond and some other localities frozen to that extent that they will not produce much fruit, consequently there will be in those places, a scarcity of melons, pumpkins, squashes and other things of the kind, for which Deseret is so famed.

The crops there will be late in maturing, the

wheat harvest not having commenced and it is feared there will not be a sufficiency of laborers to secure the entire crop without waste. Those sturdy farmers who are reported to be in perfect health and have not seen a sick hour since they have resided there, can however, gather "heaps" of grain between this and the first of October and secure it from waste and decay, thereafter, with no other help than that which they have at command.

It is hoped that all the wheat produced this year will be carefully harvested and safely secured, that no destruction nor waste may ensue afterwards. There was too much grain destroyed by storms last fall and winter, not only in Cache, but in other parts of the State.

STRINGENT ORDERS.

On the 18th of August, the War department issued an order directing the United States marshals and the chiefs of Police to arrest and imprison all persons who in any way shall attempt to discourage enlistments into the army, and providing that such offenders shall be tried by a military commission.

The following was also promulgated on the same day, by the Secretary of War:

First, by direction of the President, that no citizen liable to be drafted into the military, shall be allowed to go to a foreign country. All marshals and military officers are directed, and all police authorities, especially at points on the United States seaboard and frontiers, are authorized and directed to arrest and detain any person or persons about to depart from the United States in violation of this order.

Second, Any person liable to draft, who shall absent himself from his county or State before such draft be made, will be arrested wherever found within the jurisdiction of the United States and conveyed to the nearest military post or depot and placed on military duty for the term of the draft.

Third, The writ of habeas corpus is hereby suspended in respect to all persons so arrested and detained, and in respect to all persons arrested for disloyal practices.

UTAH COUNTY FAIR.

We have been requested to announce that the Utah County Agricultural and Manufacturing Society, will hold their annual exhibition some few days prior to the Territorial, of which due notice will be given.

Premiums will be awarded according to previous list, and will also be given on all seedling fruits and newly introduced plants, etc., worthy of notice.

The directors are requested in each settlement to exhibit the last premium list, and all who have not received their last year's county premiums can have them on application to the secretary.

SHOWERY.—On Friday last, there was a series of showers, continuing for nearly one half the day watering the earth plentifully. On Saturday there was a repetition of the pouring down process, and more water descended from the clouds during those two days than the "oldest" white "inhabitant" ever before witnessed within the same length of time at this season of the year in this desert country. How wide the "rain belt" was, we know not, but its width was certainly co-extensive with this valley. Yesterday, it was cloudy and raining much of the time, with no indications that the rainy season, which came so unexpectedly, had ended.

ARRIVAL.—Among the arrivals last week from the west we are pleased to notice that of Mr. Lawrence, one of the editors and proprietors of the Golden Era, San Francisco, who has favored us with a visit. We understand that Mr. Lawrence started with the intention of visiting the Eastern States; but after spending a few days in our quiet city, we shall not be surprised if he abandons the idea of proceeding further east at the present time.

A KING'S JOKE.—Mr. Payne mentions, in "Wine and Walnuts," a conversation between King George II. and a German General, whose everlasting theme was the bravery of the English subjects. "But, mein General," said the King, "dere is von ting dat de Briton is afraid of."

"Your Majesty is under von mistake; der Englishman is not afraid of noting at all."

"But I tell you he is; and if you keep it ein great secret, I will tell you."

"Most honored, your Majesty."

"Den you will never tell it to one at all?"

"I will not, your Majesty."

"Come closer, den, for fear of any one hearing it—der Englishman is afraid of him's wife?"

THE SEVENTIES' LIBRARY.

We take pleasure in announcing to the Seventies, and all interested, that we have revived the Seventies' Library, and placed it upon a new basis. It is believed that circumstances now favor the encouragement of this institution, and that the increase of the love of learning which has grown with the growth of the saints, will have a tendency to aid in the development of the latent talents of the Elders of Israel, through the medium of our Library and the Reading Rooms which will shortly be attached to it, together with the scientific and historical lectures to be delivered during the ensuing winter.

In order that all may have an equal opportunity of contributing towards swelling the number of volumes already upon our shelves, we respectfully notify the brethren in all the settlements and cities of Zion, that donations of books will be received at the residence of the librarian, President Joseph Young, and by the Directors.

All persons having books belonging to the library are hereby requested to return them without delay, as the directors are desirous of making a complete catalogue preparatory to commencing the circulation of books.

The vestry connected with the Seventies' Council Hall has been neatly fitted up with suitable shelving for a library room, to be used as such until a more commodious house can be erected.

This library will not be confined to the Seventies; it is designed for the public good.

The following have been appointed Directors of the Library:—John V. Long, Albert P. Rockwood, Robert Campbell, Gilbert Clements, Richard H. Attwood, William Willes, Cladius V. Spencer, Richard R. Hopkins, Thomas Bullock, Robert L. Campbell, William Eddington, Henry W. Naisbitt.

JOSEPH YOUNG.

LEVI W. HANCOCK,

HENRY HERRMAN,

ALBERT P. ROCKWOOD,

HORACE S. ELDRIDGE,

JACOB GATES,

First Presidents of the Seventies.

MILITARY ORDER.

HEADQUARTERS, DISTRICT OF UTAH, }
Fort Churchill, Aug 6th, 1862. }

Order No. 1.—The undersigned, pursuant to orders from Department Headquarters, hereby assumes command of the Military District of Utah, comprising the Territories of Nevada and Utah.

In assuming command of the district I especially enjoin upon all disbursing officers the necessity of being particularly attentive, careful and economical in their disbursements of the public funds; and that they in no instance purchase from persons who have at any time, by word or act, manifested disloyalty to the Federal Government.

Being credibly informed that there are in this district persons who, while claiming and receiving protection to life and property, are endeavoring to destroy and defame the principles and institutions of our government under whose benign influence they have been so long protected, it is therefore most rigidly enjoined upon all commanders of posts, camps and detachments, to cause to be promptly arrested and closely confined until they have taken the oath of allegiance to the government of the United States, all persons who from this date shall be guilty of uttering treasonable sentiments against the government; and upon a repetition of the offence to be again arrested and confined until the fact shall be communicated to these headquarters. Traitors shall not utter treasonable sentiments in this district with impunity, but must seek some more genial soil, or receive the punishment they so richly merit. By order of

P. EDWARD CONNER,

Col. 3d Inf'y C. V. Com. Dist. of Utah.

JAMES W. STILLMAN, A. A. A. Gen'l.

DEATH OF A RICH ENGLISHMAN.—Duncan Dunbar, a London shipping merchant of some note, died lately in that city very suddenly. His servant was helping him on with his overcoat, when he was seized with a fit and expired in a few minutes. Mr. Dunbar was the owner of 52 vessels, chiefly of a large size, and his property of every description is roughly calculated at upwards of £2,000,000 sterling, (\$10,000,000.) He was a merchant as well as a ship-owner, a speculator on the Stock Exchange as well as in foreign and colonial produce, a director in several public joint stock companies; a man firm and severe, just and honorable, paying to the utmost farthing, and exacting the same. Where money was to be made he was foremost, but while he made much he lost much. In one article of rice alone, he, some few years ago, lost £100,000, and the market for that produce has never been the same as it used to be since he went into it. He was induced to embark in the speculation, in expectation of the Crimean war lasting for years. Under this impression, he purchased no less than twenty fine large teak-built ships at Rangoon, and chartered the whole on his own account, with the rice referred to; before their arrival, the war was over; rice, which previously was selling at very high prices, at once fell in value, and continued to do so, the stock on hand was greatly in excess of the demand, it became unsaleable, and the loss was extensive. Mr. Dunbar was unmarried, and his large fortune will be enjoyed by his nieces, who are his nearest kin.