



ELIAS SMITH...EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Wednesday, ...December 25, 1861.

TO OUR PATRONS.

We wish all "who are true to themselves, to their God and to their country" a merry Christmas, invoking a continuance of the blessings of peace and plenty to the citizens of favored Utah.

The Festive Season.

The history of the human race from the earliest ages down to the present time shows conclusively that among all nations whatever their degree of intelligence or enlightenment may have been the observance of certain days or portions of time, in commemoration of important events, or as seasons of amusement and festive recreation, has been in vogue. In ancient days, according to that which is written in the "scriptures of truth," there was a time when, more than at any other, it was deemed suitable by kings to go forth to war, either from custom, the favorableness of the season or from some religious or traditional notion entertained in those days, inducing a belief that belligerent operations would be more successful if undertaken and prosecuted during the season observed as "the time of war."

In the observance of anniversaries and holidays or the appropriation of any part or portion of time for a specific purpose, every nation, kindred, tongue and people have notions peculiar to themselves, suited to their political, religious and social existence, and particularly in the choice of amusements and the time to indulge in festive or social recreation, every nation and community do, as they please when not interdicted by constitutional or statute laws to which they may be subject. Exercising that right the people of Utah have, by almost universal consent, adopted dancing as their principal amusement and selected the winter season as the most suitable for indulging in that favorite recreation, believing that inasmuch as there is a time for every purpose and for every work no more appropriate season than the winter months could be designated as the "time to dance."

The festive season having come, several social parties have been held, and no doubt is entertained, from the spirit manifested, that every opportunity offered for stepping to the "sound of the Vio," or other music during the winter evenings, will be improved by those thus inclined; and no matter how much amusement the people may indulge in, if, in so doing, they do not neglect the other duties of life.

The Theatre.

For the want of lumber—which has not been very abundant in market the past season—the work on the new theatre, as well as many other buildings and improvements in this city, has not progressed as rapidly as was anticipated, when the walls were completed, but it is now being pushed vigorously.

The roof has been put on and, from the number of workmen engaged, in its completion, it cannot take many more weeks to make it ready for use, so far as is intended, this winter. Those fond of theatrical amusements will, no doubt, by the time the other recreations resorted to for the gratification of that almost universal love for diversion entertained by old and young, have a chance to spend a few dollars for "fun" at the spacious theatre that is being provided for their special benefit.

To the Public.

G. S. L. CITY, Dec. 25, 1861.

On and after this date, the postage from Salt Lake City to the Eastern States, and vice versa, will be three cents.

By order of the post office department.

WM. BELL, P. M.

Summary of War News.

We had intended, on resuming the publication of the News, to have given a short summary of the progress of the war, from the last of September to latest dates received by mail, but space inhibited last week, and we have not time now to sum up the history of the events that have taken place since then, including the marchings and counter-marchings of the troops that have not been guarding the Potomac and doing camp duty in Washington and other places, that, is remaining in a state of "glorious inactivity" at the expense of the Government of over a million of dollars per day; and were the occurrences narrated in as few words as would be possible to give any correct idea of the exploits performed and the casualties that have occurred, it would be too lengthy for insertion, consequently, we shall not attempt to make the history continuous, but will give a summary of the events of more recent occurrence, trusting that it will be satisfactory to our readers, under the circumstances that exist.

The latest dates from New York, by mail, are to the 7th inst.; and up to that date, things were moving onward as fast as at any time since the commencement of the civil war, which seems destined to be of longer continuance than was generally anticipated when the bombardment of Fort Sumter was announced, arousing the war-spirit of the Yankees, who, by tens of thousands, volunteered for three months—a time deemed sufficient to conquer the seceding States and compel them to return to the Federal fold.

The removing of Fremont from the command of the Federal forces in Missouri, the capture of Hatteras and the exploits of the great naval expedition at Port Royal have become old occurrences, to which, however, allusion is often made in giving accounts of events that have since taken place, and may and may not hereafter be considered important even in the history of the war.

A dispatch from Kansas city of November 20th, says that, on that day, Capt. Barnard of Col. Jennison's regiment, attacked a company of one hundred and fifty secessionists under Capt. Hayes, at his residence near that place, and drove them away, burnt Hayes' house and that of Capt. Gregg, another officer in the Southern army. Capt. Burchard and Lieut. Bostwick were slightly wounded, and two horses were killed. The enemy had fifty men killed and eight wounded, as reported.

There was a battle fought at McCoy's mills, Western Virginia, about the middle of November, between a force consisting of several regiments of Ohio troops, under General Benham, and a detachment of the Confederate troops, composing the rear guard of Floyd's army, under Col. Crogan, in which, as reported, fifteen of the enemy were killed and wounded. At the first fire, Col. Crogan fell mortally wounded.

On November 28th, reconnaissances from Gens. Porter's and Smith's divisions were made in the neighborhood of Vienna. They saw what was supposed to be a regiment of rebel infantry, which discovery was considered of great importance; and, consequently, it was telegraphed to the New York press.

There was a reconnaissance made on the 26th, by a squadron of the 3d Pennsylvania regiment, Capt. Bell, in the neighborhood of Vienna, which resulted disastrously to the Federal forces, as they were attacked by a superior secession force of infantry and cavalry. The first fire of the enemy so frightened the horses of Capt. Bell's command that they became unmanageable, and a retreat was soon ordered. There were about thirty missing of the squadron up to 9 o'clock on the evening of the 27th.

Col. D. C. Bayard, with seven hundred men of the 1st Penn. cavalry, marched from Camp Pierpont, on the night of the 26th, having been ordered by Gen. McCall to proceed to Darnsville to capture some of the enemy's pickets. He returned next day with eleven prisoners, having killed two and wounded one of the enemy. Col. Bayard was wounded and his horse was killed; two others were also wounded.

It was reported at Cairo, on Nov. 27th, that the Confederates were strongly fortified at New Madrid, and had five hundred negroes at work. Gen. Sherman had taken command of the Union forces at Sedalia; and there were about twenty thousand men on the line of the Pacific railroad west of Jefferson city. A dispatch from Independence, on the same

day, says that six scouts of Capt. Gregory's command, on the old Lexington road, were fired upon by about fifty rebels at the crossing of the Little Blue, from the rocks and bushes; one of them was killed and two were missing. The three, while returning, met about one hundred secessionists on Little Blue bridge; they took another road and reached camp. Lieut. Hedgeman sent out twenty men, found them and drove them into the brush and captured twenty horses and mules. According to reports; there were thousands of secessionists in that part of the State, and a big fight was shortly expected.

Southern papers, to the 28th ult., received at Louisville, contain accounts of the bombardment of Fort Pickens, which commenced on the 21st and continued, with some intermissions, night and day, till the 24th, when Col. Brown ceased firing. The Confederates did not respond until after Fort Pickens opened fire. The fire of the fort and the outside batteries on Santa Rosa was directed, according to the scattered accounts, against Fort Buchanan and the other batteries of the enemy, the steamers Time and Nelms, and the Navy Yard, while the Federal steamers engaged Fort McRea. There were sixteen of the Confederates killed and wounded, as admitted. They are said to have acted strictly on the defensive. A train, hauling provisions for their army was destroyed. The Time and Nelms were considerably damaged, but succeeded in getting out of the reach of Col. Brown's guns. The stories that had been circulated concerning the disabling of the Niagara and Colorado, are reported untrue.

It was said by a refugee who arrived at Fort Monroe, on the 30th ult., that the following dispatch was published in the Richmond Examiner of the 28th of November:

MONTGOMERY, Nov. 27.

From a message, arrived here last night, from Tallahassee, we learn the important intelligence that Gen. Braxton Bragg has at last battered Fort Pickens in a frightful manner, and probably captured Col. Brown and his command. The fort was breached in front and attacked in the rear by our troops. The loss is great on both sides, and the fighting was of the most desperate character.

A dispatch from Rolla of December 3d says that Major Bowman left that place on the 31st ult., with one hundred cavalry in search of the notorious Freeman, and that he was attacked at Salem, on the morning of the 2d inst., by the enemy under Cols. Freeman and Turner, and, after a sharp fight, the secessionists were routed, with a loss of some ten killed and thirty wounded; but it was feared that they would rally again and compel Bowman to retreat.

On the night of December 4th, there was a skirmish between the Federal forces and some of the enemies cavalry, near Annandale, six of the Confederates were killed and one Federal soldier wounded.

A dispatch in the Memphis papers of the 2d, gives an account of a great battle at Morristown, East Tennessee, between the Federal forces under Parson Brownlow and the Confederates, fought on the 1st of December, in which the Parson's forces were victorious. The enemy's dispatch calls it the "first Union victory of the war." Brownlow had three thousand men. The enemy's force is not ascertained; their route was total.

The Avalanche of the 2d inst., says that a large body of Unionists attacked the Confederate forces at Morristown, East Tennessee, on the 1st, killing a large number, and completely routing them.

The same paper announced that Gen. Rains had cut Montgomery's forces to pieces, taking Montgomery prisoner, and that McCulloch had surrounded Seigel at Sedalia, and it was believed the latter would be forced to surrender.

Gen. Price had crossed Gasconade river, en route for St. Louis. People everywhere were flocking to his support, and it was believed that he would soon have an army of 60,000 men.

Information Wanted.

Relative to the whereabouts of ABRAM PEASE, who left Lyons, Wayne county, N.Y., on the 30th April, 1859, for Rikes Peak, but is supposed to have come to this city during the summer of that year. Mr. Pease is about forty-two years old, of medium height and size, and much attached to mechanical pursuits.

Any information concerning him may be communicated to his father, Mr. Benjamin Pease, Lyons, Wayne county, N.Y., or to President Brigham Young.

The Last Sensation.

The news of the fall of Sumter created here, as everywhere else, a mighty sensation. The Secessionists, what few there were here at the time, hurrahed, drank bad whiskey, shouted with stentorian lungs "Give J-f," and in their "Oh! be joyful" moments, occasionally got off

"We'll live and die in Dixie."

The friends of the Union were serious—they knew not "the end from the beginning," and preferred reserving their mirth for the winding up scene of the tragedy. From that day to this the news by pony and over the wires has been varied, oftentimes "sensational," but more often "mixed" and sometimes "up" and sometimes "down" has been clearly decipherable on the countenances of the "secesh" notwithstanding the advantages of concealment. Latterly, as a general thing, there has been little "show" in any direction. Some went east, or to parts unknown in that direction; others went west and returned apparently benefitted by reflections on the heights of the Sierras. For some time, therefore, everything has been going on quietly, languidly, oppressingly dull.

On Monday afternoon last, the spell was broken, and we were again all fuss and buzz—as if another Sumter had been taken. There was no news from the east. Judge Crosby was the lion of the hour. He is a "lucky dog"—(Shakespeare). But for Monday, the 23d of December, 1861, he would have gone down to the east, and to posterity an ordinary man, now he bears a charmed life, after the fashion of Macbeth. Great fellow, he has carved out for himself a niche in the temple of fame. Truly and grandiloquent affair, but for thee "he would have lived unknown and died unlamented"—something like that, said the poet.

The Judge was at first reported to have been dueling and got seriously riddled with lead, perforated like a watering pan; and from that fantastical imagery every kind of story was in circulation including his honor taking refuge from an infuriated individual behind a potatoe sack, after the manner of the Irish patriots in the cabbage garden. The Judge's own version differs widely from that of others. He was interrogated for his name just as he was hurrying to his boarding house, by a young man probably fresh from school who had at recent date been reading Norval and Glenalvon—"draw and defend thy life, villain," etc. Crosby says the young man "drew," and then "drew off," firing as he hastily retreated from the staggering glance of the Judge. Five or six shots, and the Judge marvelously, escaped! Then with the coolness of a hero, his honor pulled his Deringer, took deliberate aim at his retreating foe—of course missed him.

"Without a smile that story is told."

The current opinion is that the Judge gave some boy fifty cents to fire a blank pistol at him to break the dullness of the times and for other purposes. Every body has a right to believe what they may, and we must be excused for differing somewhat from that popular version of acts and motives; but we would at the same time advise the judge not to be so free in passing an opinion in which the sons of a certain man are named, to connect this and that together. It is not becoming in any man who dons the ermine.

It will be seen by the Governor's proclamation, that he takes the matter seriously, and we heartily join in the condemnation of any attempt upon the life of any man, be he Jew or Gentile. We protest against any inference that the Judge or any person else may draw from it inimical to the moral and law-abiding character of the people of Utah—that is, admitting that any such attempt was made.

We know of no legitimate proceeding possible, on the part of any man, be he pebian, noble, federal judge, or federal anything that would arouse indignation and arm with vengeance any sane citizen of Utah.

We hear of fearful things. We hardly dare believe our own ears. Before another moon has shed its luster and passed away, we'll have something to tell, or we are much mistaken in our conclusions.

THE WEATHER.—The Winter thus far, has been unusually mild, and much rain has fallen within the last six weeks. There has been but little snow or frost, and last evening the rain was pouring down copiously.