

ANOTHER OVERLAND TELEGRAPH LINE.

For a long time we have been aware of powerful opposition to the Pacific Overland Telegraph Company, both in the Atlantic and Pacific States, on account of rates and style of management, in some places. Dissatisfaction being largely supported by the prospect of a magnificent business, on the laying of a new Atlantic Cable, in 1864, a wealthy company has been organized and is already busy in the construction of an Independent Continental Telegraph Line. Of its operations west, the *Virginia Daily Union* of the 20th Oct says:—

Work upon the new Independent Continental Telegraph Company, of which we have already spoken, is being pushed with vigor. The route of the line is from San Francisco, across the Golden Gate by submarine cable, on to Sacramento, to Placerville, to Virginia and the Reese River country, taking in all the principal mining towns and thence on to the East, connecting with the Independent line on the Atlantic side, which is already established from Portland, Maine, to Cleveland, Ohio, and is being rapidly extended to the westward. The poles of the line are already contracted for, and are being rapidly delivered. Those across the mountains will be of tamarac—a very durable wood, found in great quantities in the marshes of the Sierra Nevada range; those from San Francisco to Placerville are of sawed redwood. There will be from thirty to forty poles to the mile—twenty-five being the usual number. It is proposed to make this line throughout one of the most substantial lines ever built, or which can be built. The wire is now due, and in a few days the cable to be laid from Fort Point to the opposite shore will arrive. This is to be two miles in length. In size the cable is nearly as large as one's wrist—about four times the size of the old Atlantic cable, and is said to be the largest ever used. The interior consists of four copper conducting wires, each one insulated by a thick coating of gutta percha, which furnishes four distinct electric conductors, all in the one cable. These conducting wires are protected by a heavy envelopment of tarred jute. Jute is an Indian grass. The jute in its turn is guarded by twenty-seven large wires of galvanized iron, laid laterally and bound together and kept in place by still another wire around them. The cable weighs thirteen tons to the mile and costs \$4,000—giving the rate of about 15½ cents per pound. It is the same as the one used by the Independent Line at the East in crossing the North River, and is made by S. C. Bishop, of New York. Louis McLane is the leading financial man of the new company and represents it. James Street is the contractor, and has charge of the management of the line. It is not proposed to extend it further than Reese River this fall, but early in the spring preparations will be made to carry it East. Fifty men are already at work on the mountain portion of the route. When completed, it remains to be seen whether or not the steamboat precedent, established on California river, of higher rates the more companies and boats there are, will be followed in the matter of telegraphic enterprise.

The recent return of Cyrus Field from Europe to New York, with sanguine expectations of laying a new cable between the old and new worlds, has again put telegraphy among the subjects of the day; and now there is hardly a doubt entertained of the success of the second effort to lay an Atlantic Cable. It is understood that this new Continental Telegraph Company has already completed its arrangements in the east with a fine line already built, and when the new line is constructed across the plains, the news is to flash between the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans without intermediate manipulation.

THE SOUTHERN BLOCKADE INEFFECTIVE.

"A Charleston merchant of long standing" addresses a very lengthy "appeal to the British public" on the ineffectiveness of the Federal Blockade, which excites considerable attention. The object of the writer is evidently to again stir up the English nation, in its commercial interest, to take sides against a partial blockade that favors only speculators, to the ruin of legitimate commerce. After giving a list of the vessels that had run the blockade at Charleston and Wilmington, he continues:

"Suffice it briefly to say that the commerce of Charleston is four times greater than the aggregate of commerce enjoyed by all the ports of South Carolina before the war, and that it amounts to \$1,500,000 per month, or \$18,000,000 per annum. But there is one circumstance which admits of concise statement, which has occurred since President Davis delivered his message on January 12th, and which it will not be easy for European governments to overlook. Early in January last the ordinance bureau at Richmond resolved to import, in vessels of their own, sundry government stores which were requisite for the Confederate army and navy, and directed

vessels to be purchased in Europe with this view. These government vessels commenced their trips in the middle of January, and during the seven months intervening between that date and the middle of August ingress into and egress from Confederate ports was in forty-four instances safely effected, or, in other words, twenty-two round voyages were made by them. No vessel belonging to the Confederate government has hitherto been captured by the Federals; it is hardly too much to say that, with rare exceptions, the government vessels come in and go out without molestation."

THE SOUTHERN CROPS.

In another portion of the same Document the writer says:

There is another element in the Confederate future so full of hope and promise that it is my duty to notice it. Many of your readers must now be aware that in a large portion of the Confederate States the harvest last year was unusually deficient, and consequently during the spring months of the present year there was, as I mentioned at the time, considerable anxiety about the supply of food. All such anxiety has now disappeared in presence of the bountiful and redundant harvest with which during this current year, the Confederate States have been blessed. I am assured that the abundance of cereals is such that it would supply the whole population for three years to come. Nor is the abundance confined to cereals. The crop of vegetables is such as would amaze any Englishman of the poorer classes. Above all, the supply of potatoes (Irish potatoes as they are called here to distinguish them from the sweet), will be sufficient to admit of rations of that esculent being served out next winter to the army in conjunction with meat and flour. With gunpowder in excess of the utmost demands of the next two or three years, with an abundance of food such as defies the avarice of speculators, with armies in the field which are by some believed to be numerically not inferior to those of the Federals, and which at the lowest estimate are, as compared with the Federal numbers, in the ratio of three to four, with the old spirit and invincible resolution of Anglo-Saxon freemen struggling for independence more than ever in the ascendant, who is there that dares to talk of subjugation as a possibility? Faint-hearted men and women of course there are here and there; how is it possible that among 6,000,000 of Confederates such units should fail to be found? But if the Federals persuade themselves, because a few deserters recommend themselves to their new masters by spreading tales of Confederate disaffection, that the heart of the South is changed or unstable, they will find before the year is out that they are reckoning without their host, and that sooner or later President Davis's words will find realization, in which he asserted with not unbecoming pride that "these Confederate States have demonstrated that no superiority of numbers or available resources can overcome the resistance offered by such valor in combat, such constancy under suffering, and such cheerful endurance of privation, as have been conspicuously displayed by this people in the defense of their rights and liberties."

THE SAN FRANCISCO PRIVATEER CASE.

The appearance of Greathouse, Harpending and Rubery on receiving sentence is thus described by the *San Francisco Call*:—

"A few minutes after eleven o'clock, the prisoners, Harpending, Greathouse and Rubery, came into court, under an escort of Deputy Marshals. They smiled at and nodded familiarly to many whom they recognized. Harpending appeared nervous, and kept pulling at his moustache, while a tremor of the flesh could be observed around his lips and eyes. Greathouse had evidently nerved himself to hear the worst; although his face was wreathed in smiles, he wore a troubled look, which denoted the struggle that was going on within. Rubery was pale, very pale. He appeared anxious, and looked as though he thought he had been caught in a bad snap. After Judge Field and Hoffman entered the court and took their seats upon the bench, the former said that there was a difference of opinion between himself and his associate, [it was understood that Judge Field was in favor of sending the prisoners to San Quentin,] as to the place where the prisoners should be sent. The clerk then read to each prisoner the finding of the jury, and asked them if they had aught to say why the sentence of the court should not be passed upon them. Each replied in a monosyllable, but in so low a tone as to be indistinct. Judge Field then pronounced the sentence as follows:

Ashbury Harpending, Alfred Rubery and Ridgely Greathouse, you have been indicted for the crime of engaging in and giving aid and comfort to the existing rebellion against the United States, their authority and laws, and upon the issue joined by you upon that indictment the jury have pronounced you guilty, and in the justice of that verdict the Court fully concurs. The offense of which you have been convicted is treason—the highest offense known to the law. By the law of all other civilized nations that offense is punishable with death. But the government of the United States in its magnanimity has distinguished between the crime of those who originally incited the present rebellion, and in the earliest stages carried it on, and those who, since July 17, 1862, have engaged in it

and assisted its prosecution, and for the offense committed by you has provided only the punishment of imprisonment and fine. The magnitude of your crime demands that your punishment should be severe.

Ashbury Harpending—the judgment of the Court against you is that you be imprisoned for the period of ten years, and that you pay a fine to the United States of \$10,000; that your imprisonment be in the county jail of the county of San Francisco until Congress provides some other place for your imprisonment.

Alfred Rubery and Ridgely Greathouse were sentenced in the same words as used in sentencing Harpending, receiving a similar sentence. This sentence is final, and the only hope of the prisoners now rests in the pardoning power of the President."

Greathouse is reported to have been a banker, Harpending, a "smart young fellow," and Rubery noways averse to chancing fortune in his favor. A subsequent confession of Harpending that he had engaged those men found in the hold of the Chapman, under false representations, to defend a mine in Mexico, is an excellent evidence of the character of the adventurers. State bread and water and plenty hard labor will do such fellows good.

[From the St. Joseph Herald, October 1.]

GENERAL BLAIR AND MISSOURI.

In ordinary times, a speech from General Blair would attract no more attention than one from any other politician of fair ability. But the citizens of Missouri are dwelling amid scenes which never transpire but once in the lifetime of a nation.

Frank P. Blair, Jr., has been stored, egged, hooted at and mobbed by Missourians, because he dared to speak in favor of the gradual emancipation of Missouri from the chains of the task-master. For years he endeavored to present to this people such an array of facts and figures as would induce them to put their shoulders to the wheel and lift the State from the slough of inactivity and listlessness into which the peculiar institution had drifted it. He showed them that Missouri was a giant, lying helpless, bound by cords of their own manufacture. He earnestly besought them to sever the tie which bound them to the plodding past, and join in the great progressive army of free nationalities whose march is the admiration of the civilized world. Though met with sneers and scoffs, he ever remained true to the principle he so early contended for. He started a Free State newspaper in St. Louis, the *Missouri Democrat*, and expended large sums of money, and secured extravagant contributions from his friends, to keep it afloat against the tide and current of public opinion.

When the South revolted, General Blair was foremost in the field, on the side of freedom. His promptness and forecast did much to save Missouri from the whirlpool which engulfed so many of the States. From the first he has been in active service, and has fought for the preservation of this Government, with the courage of a hero, and the determination of one who knows no such word as fail.

He is just from the siege of Vicksburg. He comes among his old friends, announced by the herald which he nursed into manhood, "a rebel," "a Copperhead," and a villainous "traitor." And all these epithets are heaped upon him, by this ingrate, because General Blair continues to favor a system of gradual emancipation which shall work the least possible injury to loyal citizens, and, as he believes, the greatest amount of good to the State. He still refuses to strike hands with revolutionists, whether they hold high carnival in Mississippi or Missouri. He still believes the old Constitution worth preserving, the laws of our country worthy of enforcement, and our legal rulers entitled to respect and obedience.

But he has returned to Missouri to find that men wearing the uniform of United States soldiers are imitating the hellish deeds of Quantrell by murdering inoffensive citizens, burning unprotected dwellings, robbing and stealing indiscriminately without any other license or warrant than that possessed by the highwayman—the power and the opportunity. He finds that Union men are murdered in some parts of the State by guerrillas, and that non-combatants are shot down and their houses burned in open day in sections not infested by bushwhackers, by men claiming an excess of loyalty. He finds that the State has agreed to emancipate every slave in seven years with no other compensation than a remission of taxes on slave property, and a term of apprenticeship. He learns that the men, who once denounced him as a fanatic and an Abolitionist, are fiercely opposing this ordinance, and in mass convention resolving to accomplish by revolutionary violence what they may fail to secure by legal means.

General Blair refuses to join with these men, and is derided from one end of the State to the other as a traitor? It seems incredible, but it is nevertheless true. For these reasons, what General Blair says, at this time, of public affairs in Missouri, possesses unusual interests. We make no apology for presenting that speech to our readers. We ask them to peruse it carefully. The *Missouri Democrat* announced in flaming headlines that it was a Copperhead speech, a rowdy, blackguard, undignified speech, a speech unbecoming a gentleman and states-

man. Read it for yourselves and be ye the judges.

General Blair says, we ought to be willing, if we are patriots, to unite with all other patriots in putting down this rebellion. He says the loyal army is discouraged and disheartened by the dissensions and distractions which exist here. He declares himself willing and eager to stand on the platform laid down by the unconditional Union men of the Empire State. But such a basis of political action would be spurned by these latter-day custodians of loyalty.

He says General Ewing has shown, by his order of depopulation, that with all the men under his command he either cannot capture or drive out Quantrell's force of three or four hundred guerrillas, or else he fears to undertake the task. He is especially severe on Lane, and declares that he cannot blame General Schofield for not wishing to have Lane come into the State and devastate one of the finest portions of Missouri, because General Ewing could not keep it clear of bushwhackers. He has no sympathy with the late Radical Emancipation Convention held at Jefferson City, and handles without mittens all who cling to the heresy that our State government can be peaceably revolutionized, or that the Constitution can be altered except in the mode pointed out by that instrument. He declares that there are men now making a great strife in Missouri, who, if they had the power would inflict swift punishment upon men who have as fair a record as any in the land—men who have not only done nothing against the Government, but who have devoted themselves to its support and maintenance since the outbreak of the war."

"But," he says, "thank God they have not got the power. Thank God they never will have the power." He denounces Secretary Chase, and declares that he is now obstructing the free navigation of the Mississippi almost as much as Jeff Davis did before the Northwestern troops dislodged him. He complains that the banks of the Mississippi swarm with officers who are trading on the sly, but think it very wicked for others to trade at all. He says it is perfectly notorious, down the Mississippi river, that nobody can trade without paying this host of officers certain sums of money. Our citizens are, he declares, unjustly discriminated against, and he calls loudly for a redress of grievances. He closes by saying:

"The platform, in a few brief words, upon which I think every patriot in this land ought to stand, is this: I think we should discard all the political distinctions that have heretofore existed, and accept a man simply as he proves himself to be a friend of the Government in this, its hour of trial, and if possible we should stop fomenting these old political sores among the friends of the Government. That, I think, is the best platform on which to stand until we have put down this rebellion, and then, if we differ on minor points, we can settle them by submitting them to the arbitrament of the great American people."

Such is a brief synopsis of the plain, outspoken off-hand effort of General Blair, which has been denounced as a secession speech by those who really have no desire to see this Government again peaceful and prosperous—this people again united and happy.

GODEY FOR NOVEMBER.—We take pleasure in noticing upon our table the November number of *Godey's Lady's Book*. It has one steel plate engraving, a double fashion plate engraving on steel and colored, 100 pages of reading matter, 89 engravings, 16 full page engravings, 14 fancy dresses, any quantity of patterns for fall dresses for women and children, and lots of articles upon which the ladies can exercise their ingenuity in manufacturing.

Godey's Lady's Book is alike instructive to the mind and fingers, and is as choice in the delicacy of its reading matter as it is choice in the selection of illustrated fashion. As a business man, we know no person more obliging than Mr. Louis A. Godey, which contributes largely to make his magazine what it is—the best of ladies' Magazines.

ALL SOLD.—We understand the tickets for the Theatre this evening were all caught up by yesterday afternoon. There is some solid, sensible talk about having no repetition of last Saturday evening's confusion from bad whisky, and we are more than pleased to know that the condemnation is as broad from the lips of gentlemen on "the bench" as from the most zealous defender of "our patrons" in the valley.

FOR SODA SPRINGS.—Major O'Neil, in command of 70 men, passed through the city yesterday northward with the intention of putting the road in order from Ogden Hole to Logan and from Franklin to Soda Springs.—Lieut. Washburn, Told and Griffin accompanied.

RETURNED FROM THE ROAD.—Capt. Smith returned with his company of cavalry from the western road on Saturday.