

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOLD FIELDS.

On Monday last we had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. C. H. Howard, of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, late from the "Omega" gold mines, by whom we learn many interesting facts concerning affairs there, which we publish, that the readers of the "News" may be reliably advised in matters of general interest relating to the opening of the Rocky Mountain Ophir.

Being informed, when within two hundred miles of Fort Hall, en route from the States to Salmon River, that those mines were "played out," and hearing of recent gold discoveries along the Rocky Mountain Range, Mr. H. and company turned northward, continued in that direction some two hundred miles, with good road, "prospecting" at nearly every camping place, and usually finding what is by miners termed "the color," (very small quantities of fine gold) and, on August 30th, reached the "Omega" gold mines, in the Valley of Grasshopper Creek, whose waters there flow eastwardly through a narrow defile and finally through Beaver Head and Jefferson's Fork, into the Missouri river. Here already they found from fifty to seventy-five miners. Since their arrival some two or three hundred more have joined them from various directions, attracted by the prospects of obtaining the precious metal.

These mines are located in latitude 45° N., longitude 113° W., at the head waters of Jefferson's Fork, on the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains; and, from details furnished us by Mr. H., we infer that the season for "gulch" operations are somewhat limited, though it is generally presumed that "drifting," or digging horizontally into the hill and mountain bases, may be continued during the winter. Quite a number of the miners, however, believing that winter operations there will be necessarily suspended, will go elsewhere to winter—some to Deer Lodge or Bitter Root Valley, others to Walla Walla or Salt Lake. Deer Lodge is one hundred and twenty, and Bitter Root Valley two hundred miles to the northward of the Omega mines. To Salt Lake the distance is four hundred miles.

There is a species of wild timothy, also clover, growing in abundance throughout the valleys lying at the head waters of Jefferson's Fork, affording excellent summer pasturage; but whether they will suffice for winter grazing is yet an open question, which will undoubtedly be tested the coming season.—Should these grasses prove inadequate, stock may be driven to Deer Lodge or Bitter Root Valley, where cattle and horses thrive on the range the year round, without other attention than guarding and herding.

Though the mining region is infested with the Bannock, Snake, Flathead and other tribes of Indians, hostile to each other, and in some degree to the whites, no alarm is felt by the miners; yet, to be prepared for any sudden uprising, their cabins are built with a view to defense.

When these mines were opened the season was far advanced, in consequence of which but little "prospecting" was done. Enough, however, has been developed, as Mr. H. assures us, to establish the fact that gold exists there in quantities sufficient to pay for working the mines. Old California miners, he says, assert that they never knew a better opening of new mines, and anticipate rich returns from next season's labors there, as also in other "diggings" in prospect.

Miners were making from \$3 to \$50, and even \$100 per day—instances of the latter, however, being somewhat rare. His estimate of the average daily produce to the digger is about \$4 since the time operations were first commenced. The gold is generally rather fine, but of good quality, being current at \$18 per ounce.

Common labor is quite remunerative—\$3 per day with board and \$4 without. Supplies and incidental expenses, also, are of course held at proportionately high figures. We make the following quotations in retail prices:

Flour, per cwt.	25 00
Beans, per sack of 90 lbs.	25 00
Salt, per cwt.	25 00
Bacon, per lb.	50
Fresh Eggs, per lb.	15
Butter, do	1 00
Peanut, do	20
Turnips, do	20
Potatoes, do	75
Coffee, do	1 00
Tea, do	3 00
Saleratus, do	20

Cream Tartar, per lb.	2 50
Dried Apples, do	60
Vinegar, per gall.	4 00
Milk, per quart.	15
Bar Soap, per lb.	1 00
Powder, do	3 00
Lead, do	1 00
Gun Caps, per box	1 00
Ax and Helve	5 00
Heavy Boots, per pair	10 & 15 00
Woollen Socks, do	1 00
Chewing Tobacco, per lb.	3 00
Smoking do	1 00

Timber for cabins, lumber and firewood, is mainly drawn eight or ten miles—some also being procured from near the summits of neighboring mountains. Lumber is cut with whip-saws and sold there at first for \$400 per thousand feet, but has successively fallen till now the market price is but \$150 per M. The timber is pine and balsam, of fair growth and quality.

Some hostile demonstrations were made by a large combined warrior band, principally of Bannocks and Snakes, on the morning of October 3d, which created no inconsiderable alarm among the miners; and not without cause, as the Indians were well armed, most of them with rifles, many having revolvers also, and a few with bows and arrows. The loud, violent harangues and frantic gestures of the chief, named Winnimuck, addressing his braves, halted before him in battle array, were well understood to be the precursors of evil. They succeeded, however, in temporarily pacifying Winnimuck and, in the evening, at a meeting of the miners, three beaves, 150 lbs beans, 20 lbs tobacco, 50 pipes and 100 boxes matches were raised as a present to the Red Men, which appeased their wrath and drew forth from the chief a speech expressive of his entire satisfaction.

Upon the delivery of the presents, Winnimuck, followed by the whole band, prostrating himself to the earth, uttered a prayer of thanks to the Great Spirit, then arose and, assisted by the subordinate chiefs, proceeded to justly distribute the articles. The pipe of peace was subsequently smoked and the council dissolved with amicable feelings and good humor.

Money is not much cared for by these tribes; but for anything to eat or wear they give great bargains—ponies having been purchased from them for a sheath knife, a few cups of flour or a wagon cover. Their chief hunting and winter camping grounds are on the Yellowstone.

The "Omega," or "Grasshopper Creek Gold Mines" are not as heretofore supposed in Oregon, or Nebraska, but in Dakota Territory.

An organized company have laid out a village plat and named it Valley City. They have also elected Wm. Clancy, President, C. H. Howard, Treasurer, and Iram B. More, Secretary; and anticipate, from future immigration to that region, to build up a flourishing settlement, which may occupy a commanding influence in the destiny of the Young Territory of Dakota.

Mr. H. is full of encomiums for Utah and her people, called forth by a personal observation of the energy, enterprise and order everywhere exhibited in that portion of our Territory, through which he passed on his way to this city; and his declaration that, with such fine valleys, cultivated by such a strong-armed and industrious population, Utah, not far in the future, should be a great producing and self-supporting country—rich in the wealth of her cultivated lands and comfortable homes, and in the virtue, intelligence and happiness of her people, are as just as they are generous.

"WHAT IS FREMONT DOING?"

Of the whereabouts and doings of this notable individual, the public have recently been but little advised. In the "pomp and circumstance of war," his career, since his last appointment, has not been as brilliant as was confidently expected by his enthusiastic admirers. The apparent oblivion that has shrouded his late movements is explained partially by the announcement in the New York papers that he left that city for St. Louis to bolster up Gen. McKinstry, now under trial by court martial, charged with extravagance and peculation when Quartermaster of the Department of the West, which charges, if substantiated, will also criminate Gen. Fremont himself.

The enmity well known for some time past

to exist between Col. Blair and Gen. Fremont—previously warmest friends—has become intensified, it would appear, much to the disparagement of the Pathfinder. In a recent speech by Col. Blair, referring to affairs transpiring while Fremont was at the head of the Department of the West, he makes the following withering statements:

"Fremont was then plotting against the government which had trusted him, and using the means placed in his hands for its support to work its destruction, and establish for himself a Dictatorship upon its ruins. If his ability had been equal to his ambition, he would perhaps have sought to enact the role now being played by Jeff. Davis. The patriotism of our people and his imbecility were our safety. When I represented to our government that in my opinion Gen. Fremont had not the capacity to conduct successfully the military command entrusted to him (his conspiracy against the government had not then developed itself,) I was not unprepared for the indignation which this expression of opinion brought upon me on the part of the Gen. and his California contractors and dependents."

Fremont's major-generalship was the creation of Blair, says the New York Sun; and while he deserves some credit for unmasking him, he can only completely atone for his original blunder by forcing the "California contractors and dependents," to disgorge a portion, at least, of their plunder.

SOUTHERN ITEMS.

It is reported that George N. Sanders returned from Europe a short time since with assurances that the recognition of the Southern Confederacy by the European powers was certain at no distant day, which caused great rejoicing among the seceders.

It is announced that Gen. Lee arrived at Richmond about the 25th of October, and resumed his position as Commander-in-Chief.

The Merrimac No. 2, which has been in building at Richmond for a long time, is said to have been completed, and that about the 1st of November, she ran down to Fort Darling, from which place, owing to the peculiar nature of the obstructions placed in the river to prevent the Federal gunboats from getting up, in the event of the reduction of that Fort she could not return.

It is stated that Fort Darling has been materially strengthened of late by a heavy wall of masonry, and the most exposed parts shielded by thick iron plating. Other recent fortifications along the banks of James river are reported.

Recent advices from Charleston represent that the British frigate Racer had been permitted, by the officer commanding the blockading squadron off the harbor, to go into that port and take away the British consul. The Confederates are said to have lately launched a powerful ram and have two more in building, so far completed that they are ready for plating, the iron for which is supposed to have arrived from England in a vessel which safely ran the blockade through a shower of shot from the rifled guns of the Flambeau, several of which are said to have struck the steamer but without making any impression whatever.

There was, according to the Grenada Appeal, a great fire at Augusta, Georgia, on the 14th instant, destroying property valued at half a million of dollars, principally cotton, and on the 5th, the cartridge factory at Jackson, Mississippi, exploded, killing thirty persons, the entire number employed in the works.

Some of the Southern papers, and among them the Charleston Courier, have been discussing the evils of peace, representing that if the seceders should again let the North impose upon them with their "false propositions," and peace should follow, the Yankees can do the Southerners a greater injury after the war has terminated than they can while the conflict continues. The general tone of the press in the seceded States is Independence or "Death!"

THAT BUFFALO ROBE.—On the 15th ult., in the 16th number of the News, we published a notice of a buffalo robe lost on the Old Emigration Road, between the Little Mountain and this City. We understand that the robe was marked A. H. with some kind of paint. The finder will certainly oblige the owner, as well as justify himself by leaving it at this office, or with Bishop Davis, 17th Ward.

COLORADO ITEMS.

The returns of the late election in Colorado Territory shows that there were 8,296 votes given for Delegate to Congress, of which Bennett, the present Delegate, received 3,490, Francisco, 2,633, and Gilpin, ex-Gov., 2,173.

The First Regiment Colorado Volunteers, Col. Chivington, has been ordered from the East back to Denver, where it will, as represented, make its headquarters during the coming winter, which arrangement those whose patriotism seems to be measured or estimated by dollars and cents are much pleased with as it will enable them to do a thriving business. It is stated that the regiment is to be mounted, which will make it more effective for service on the Plains.

On the first instant there was a horse race at Idaho, and a dog fight at the "People's Theatre," Central city, both exciting much interest, particularly the latter, indicating the degree of enlightenment and fine taste prevailing in the capital of that thriving Territory.

A building in Denver known as the "River House," which from its having been used as a tipping shop and a dance house, with their concomitants, a portion of the citizens, considered a nuisance was recently abated by fire without orders from either the civil or military authorities, which some of the editorial fraternity consider a dangerous expedient.

AN ALLEGED TRUTH.

The Chicago Times recently gave utterance to the following, which several conservative journals have copied and endorsed as truth:

"Abolition is the primary cause of our difficulties—not Slavery. Slavery is constitutional, abolition is not. Slavery was entitled to be let alone within its proper sphere; abolition arose and assailed it, and undertook to teach the people that the Union could not survive half slave and half free. Then appeared secession, and between the two abominations the Union is in deadly peril. It is the mission of the Democracy, joined by other conservative people, to bring it out of this terrible chaos. We pray Democrats never for a single moment to lose sight of this grand truth."

If it be true that the Democracy have a mission to bring the country out of the "chaos" referred to, and free it from the "perils" which attend it, no time should be lost in entering on the duties assigned, for it is certainly a great undertaking, and a work which many are of the opinion, the conservatives will not have power readily to perform, and that the evils existing can be cured only by the sword.

MUSIC.—We are pleased to notice that the Deseret Musical Association contemplate giving two public concerts in the Tabernacle, in the course of a few weeks. Mr. Calder has been indefatigable in his labors with the young, and has succeeded in creating among them a taste for music here, which we hope to see extended through every settlement in the Territory. President Young has given every encouragement to the Association, and his liberal patronage will, we expect, be warmly seconded by the public at the forthcoming concerts. We understand the object of the concerts to be the procurement of aid in order to purchase books, instruments, etc., for the classes of the Association, an object deserving of the co-operation of the people.

HE JOINED THE CHURCH.—Uncle Sam had a neighbor who was in the habit of working Sunday, but after a while he joined the church. One day he met the minister to whose church he belonged.

"Well, Uncle Sam," said he, "do you see any difference in Mr. P. since he joined the church?"

"Oh, yes," said Uncle Sam, "a great difference. Before, when he went out to mend his fences on Sunday, he carried an ax on his shoulder; but now he carries it under his over-coat."

ONE STORMY DAY.—Friday last was a cold, stormy day, and snow fell on the mountains in considerable quantities, mantling them nearly to their base. The weather has since been cold but pleasant, excellent for wood-hauling and such like operations.

THAT BRIDGE.—Travelers complain that the Canyon Creek bridge, on the State road, is badly out of repair. Where is the Supervisor whose duty it is to keep the roads and bridges in repair without asking questions.