

Work at the mines is very poor—about half time.

The health of the people generally is good, for which we are all thankful.

W. B.

THE GREAT CONDOR.

Despite its immense size and weight, the condor possesses the power of rising in its flight to a greater distance above the earth than any other bird, and Darwin speaks rapturously of its grace of motion on the wing. "When the condors are wheeling in a flock, round and round any spot, their flight is beautiful. Except when rising from the ground, I do not recollect ever to have seen one of these birds flap its wings. Near Lima I watched several for nearly half an hour without once taking off my eyes. They moved in large curves, sweeping in circles, descending and ascending, without giving a single flap. It is truly wonderful and beautiful to see so great a bird, hour after hour, without any apparent exertion, wheeling and gliding over mountain and river." Humboldt claims that it soars to an altitude of at least twenty thousand feet above the sea. From the cave of Antisana, which is at an elevation of twelve thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight feet above the Pacific ocean, he observed a condor rise perpendicularly to a still greater height of six thousand eight hundred and seventy-six feet. Other authorities state that it reaches a height of six miles above the sea level, which is about six times the height of the ordinary clouds.

The bird from flying [at this extreme elevation, where the air must be so highly rarefied, will drop suddenly to the valley, thus in the briefest time passing through an almost incredible change of temperature. At such a height the air-cells of the condor, when they have been filled in the lower region, must be inflated in the most extraordinary manner. But the great bird loves the heights. They are his chosen home. Hunger alone drives him to the plain. As soon as his appetite is satiated he leaves them, appearing to be oppressed by the higher temperature and increased weight of the atmosphere, and returns to regions far above the clouds, where the air is so rarefied that a man can hardly breathe. High up as the eye can reach he may be seen describing his graceful circles against the blue. From this or even a more lofty point of vantage he brings his telescope eyes to bear upon the earth, eagerly scanning the movements of the herds for the fall of some weakening member of the flock.

In spite of the keenness of a hunger sharpened by one who knows not how many days of watching upon the wing at that frigid altitude, our condor begins his repast daintily, tasting first the tongue and eyes, his chosen tid-bits. But soon, fired by the sight of the bountiful banquet which death has spread for him, he tears the tough side, and, wildly pulling with his beak, pushing with his feet, and flapping his wide wings, gorges himself, gulping down great bits of flesh, and riots without stint until he can hold no more. Fairly drunken with his revolting feast, he no longer has power to raise

himself upon the wing. Knowing this, the Indians will often place a dead animal as a lure upon the plain. When the birds have become gorged and unable to fly, the Indians appear and noose them with the lasso—a sport which they find scarce less exciting than the Spaniard does his bull fight.—Exchange.

NEWS NOTES.

Leslie Drew, 15 years old, was drowned in Donner lake, Cal., on Sunday, while skating.

Arthur A. Zimmerman, the world's champion bicyclist, returned from Australia Sunday, and says it is no place for an American, because of the climate. He was well treated, but says the "jamp, muggy heat drives every particle of ambition out of a man."

Two Wyoming cattle "rustlers," Timms and Truax, were killed by three officers on Friday on South Beaver creek. The "rustlers" had twenty-eight head of stolen cattle and fifteen stolen horses when the officers came upon them and a fight ensued. A third member of the thieves' party was captured.

Clem Thompson, a boy 15 years of age, was accidentally shot by a companion named Jerry Staub, aged 13, about three miles from Redding, Cal., Friday morning. Thompson's jugular vein was severed, and he bled to death in a few minutes. The lads were out hunting at the time of the accident.

May Quill was killed at Dwight-way station, Berkeley, Cal., on Sunday evening by the local train. The girl, 13 years of age, had been boarding at Berkeley. Her cousins, Martin Ready and Mrs. O'Connor, were in Berkeley visiting her, and the party went to the Dwight-way station to take the train. She entered the cars to say good-by, and as she attempted to alight the train suddenly started. Clinging to the rail she was dragged a block, then let go. Her head fell under the wheels and was almost severed from the body.

The Boise, Idaho, Statesman says that one of the most barefaced wild cat mining enterprises ever heard of has been inaugurated in the city of Boston. The swindling corporation has been styled the Old Glory Gold Mining and Smelting company, and it claims to own mines of wondrous wealth in Boise county, Idaho. The thieving operators are attempting to sell stock in the bogus institution, and no doubt many people have been swindled. Worst of all, the scoundrels advertise their scheme in an official organ of a secret society, the Boston American Citizen, and are using the order as a shield for their rascality.

Among the passengers for Alaska from Port Townsend, Wash., on Saturday, on the steamer Willapa, was a woman named Mrs. J. T. White, who proposes making a journey of 2,000 miles across the interior of Alaska, over mountains of perpetual snow and across a long chain of lakes and down the Yukon river to Circle City, where she will open a bakery. She made the same journey alone last year, canvassed the situation and returned for the necessary fixtures. She takes with her this trip two heavily laden slews

and eight dogs. It will take two months to arrive at her destination, and she expects to remain in the mines two years. Her husband is an invalid in Tacoma. Several miners left on the Willapa, also, with their wives.

The Southern Pacific shops in Sacramento, Cal., are again running in full blast. Gradually the force has been increased until it now numbers 1,700 men, and the chances are that 300 more will be added to the working force before thirty days go by. A United States law compelling all railroads to equip freight cars with automatic couplers, the same to go into effect on the 1st of January, 1898, has furnished considerable work, and will furnish a great deal more during the next two years. It is an immense job to carry out this, as the Southern Pacific has two couplings. The couplings cost \$10 each, and all cars which leave the state will have to be equipped, so the cost to the railroad will be \$294,000. In compliance with a law which went into effect on the 1st of January of this year, the company has equipped its freight cars with hand-holds for the use of car-couplers.

Liquor dealers have discovered a new way to avoid the prohibitory laws of Alaska. On the last steamer for Dyea inlet, Alaska, there was shipped 1,250 gallons of whisky, rum, gin and alcohol, consigned in bond to Fort Cudahy, Northwest Territory, where the laws are much stronger against the importation of liquor than in Alaska. The shippers secured from the treasury department a permit allowing the liquor to go through Alaska territory in bond, providing the consignors liquidate expenses and salary of a special inspector of customs who will be detailed to see the shipment taken through and landed in British territory. Where the liquor is to be landed is a perfect wilderness, and it is an open secret here that it will then be smuggled down the Yukon river to Forty-Mile Camp and Circle City, where upward of 2,000 miners are at work. Liquor at those places sells at \$25 per gallon and after it is properly diluted it is estimated that the promoters will realize over \$30,000.

At Dayton, Wash., on Saturday, a church row occurred among the Baptists, the outcome of a love affair. Robert Hester became engaged to two girls, Mary Zables and Mary May. Miss Zables is a dressmaker, and Hester made her a gift of a silk dress pattern, which she made up for her wedding gown. He also gave Miss May a silk dress pattern, which she took to Miss Zables to make for her wedding, at the same time stating her purpose. Now both girls learned they were engaged to the same man. A church trial followed, and the wedding gowns went into the church stove. Subsequently Hester made up with Miss May and married her. Then the church quarrel was renewed, and on Saturday a row occurred between the rival factions, a fight taking place in the church building, the floor and walls being bespattered with the blood of the injured contestants. It is said that Hester was engaged to six young ladies at one time, but Miss Zables is the only one who caused him trouble because of his duplicity.