

ably inefficient operations on the route from the beginning, trusting that the large amount of government funds, paid to him for getting in the way of those who would have done, and then performing almost a solemn nothing, may prove as little of a gratification and benefit to him as his mail-course has been to us. With this candid and strictly just wish, we hope to be able to close our brief biographical notice of one W. M. F. Magraw, contractor on route No. 8911.

If the Post Office Department of Progressive America wish to again let the contract on route No. 8911 after the fashion last practised, we cordially commend to their perusal that chapter in Little Dorrit which treats upon the "Circumlocution Office." And if they are particularly anxious to continue "HOW NOT TO DO IT?" upon this route, we recommend their letting the contract to some high-minded, honorable gentleman of the right stripe, who is perfectly skilled in knowing 'how not to do it,' or at least to some one who would much prefer that no mails ever reach Utah, even when perfectly reasonable and responsible bids are before them from those alone whom they know will use every possible exertion to render faithful service. Such a course will effectually carry out the "how not to do it" policy, and afford Congress a welcome pretext, at each session, for making large appropriations for services never rendered, and for losses never sustained.

Studied neglect and wilful abuse of the most intelligent, patriotic, exemplary and law-abiding portion of her citizens may be a wise course in a nation, but we most respectfully dissent from that policy, and close for the present with the following quotation from the New York Herald:—

"POST OFFICE NEGLECT.—We have received a letter from Mr. William H. Prior, complaining that a letter addressed to him, and mailed in this city on the 2d inst., did not reach him till Saturday, 19th. Mr. Prior must be a stranger here. Had he been long a resident of New York, he would have got over the old delusion that the postal service was organized for the purpose of carrying and delivering letters. He would have known that the Post Office exists for the purpose of providing berths for meritorious politicians of the barnacle species; and that if, besides fulfilling its aim in this respect, it occasionally carries and delivers a letter or two, it deserves the thanks of a grateful community. Mr. Prior will know better another time."

NEWS FROM ELDERS.—By The Mormon of April 12, we learn that Elder Homer Duncan is appointed to preside over the Texas Conference, and that Elders J. Ostler and M. J. Snedeker are appointed to labor in East Texas under his direction. Elders B. L. Clapp, Wm. M. Allen and Andrew Bigler were released from their labors and permitted to return to Utah, having faithfully discharged the duties of their mission. A goodly number of the Texian Saints were preparing for the spring emigration.

"APPOINTMENTS.—George D. Grant and William H. Kimball are appointed to purchase cattle for the coming emigration.

Alexander Robbins is appointed to purchase provisions and general supplies for emigration, and carry them to Florence, the outfitting place for the plains.

Daniel Spencer is appointed general superintendent of emigration in the West, with liberty to call for such aid as he may need, in Iowa city and other places.

James H. Hart, of St. Louis, Mo., is appointed agent to receive orders and moneys for the purchase of cattle, wagons, provisions, &c., for the emigration. Address James H. Hart, Box 333, St. Louis, Mo.

James McGaw, John Van Cott, William Walker, Joseph France, and all the elders going West, on the way to Utah, are requested to report themselves to Daniel Spencer, at Iowa city, and assist him, if needed.

Andrew Cunningham is appointed to select a company for a settlement in Nebraska.

JOHN TAYLOR."

ELDER ORSON HYDE writes from Genoa, Carson county, May 11, that he had almost entirely recovered from the effects of being frost-bitten, and that peace and prosperity were enjoyed by the inhabitants of that region.

ELDER LEWIS ROBISON arrived from Fort Bridger on the 8th inst., and reports continued peaceful relations with the natives in that quarter.

CONFERENCE IN PHILADELPHIA.—We learn, from The Mormon of April 12, that the conference held on the 6th of April, in Philadelphia, was well attended and the church authorities unanimously sustained. The congregations were addressed by Elders John Taylor, Jeter Clinton, Samuel A. Woolley, Wm. H. Miles, Angus M. Cannon, S. P. Rose, Solomon Mack and T. B. H. Stenhouse.

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS.—We received, by last mail, Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8, vol. 2

of The Mormon, and March 22, 29 and April 5 of the Millennial Star, in addition to quite a number of older dates; also several numbers of The Plough, the Loom and the Anvil, of The Working Farmer, of The Michigan Farmer, and other valuable and interesting exchanges; and, for a wonder, 2 Godeys and 1 Graham came to hand. We tender our thanks to the editors of our exchanges for their perseverance in forwarding their publications, notwithstanding the gross irregularities of the mail, and could gladly notice all candid, useful and redeeming qualities, so far as room in the 'News' permitted, if such a course would not induce subscribers to forward money for papers they would never receive.

Should Government condescend to actually furnish us a reliable mail from Independence, the honorable portion of eastern publishers may expect the customary notices of their good works, and a fair share of subscribers in Utah.

So far as we have had time to examine the late arrival of the 'Mormons' and 'Stars,' old and new, we perceive that Elders Taylor and Richards are continually dealing out most important truths in a clear and interesting style, and it will not be their fault if any within the reach of those publications continue to grope blindly in the paths of error.

BOOKS.—We are indebted to the courtesy of Hon. W. L. Marcy, secretary of State, for Messages of the President, executive document No. 35, 1st session of the 34th Congress; and to Hon. J. M. Bernhisel for vol. 1 of the United States Naval Astronomical Expedition, and the Patent Office Agricultural Report for 1854.

Our delegate is ever diligently watchful for the just rights of Utah, and is careful to forward a proportionate share of congressional publications to his constituents, but our mail facilities are so outrageously inefficient that but few books get within our borders by that mode of conveyance.

Summary.

[From the N. Y. Herald, from March 23 to April 22 inclusive; April 1, 10, 14 and 21 missing.]

—The Empress of the French gave birth to a son on the 16th of March. Much parade and ceremony attended the introduction of the new comer, who is named Napoleon Eugene Louis Jean Joseph.

—At Odessa, Feb. 29, several thousand persons had died of typhus fever, and 20,000 troops were in hospitals. It was estimated that the fever had already carried off 100,000 men in the regions contiguous to the late seat of war.

—Great Britain has deposed the king of Oude, and annexed his dominions to the British territories in the East Indies.

—In the United States Senate, April 10, the memorial of the free State Legislature of Kansas was returned, on the ground that it was a spurious production; being presented again on the 14th, it was laid on the table.

—It is said that Gen. Harney had met representatives from all the Sioux tribes, except two, and that definite terms of peace had been agreed upon.

—The peace treaty was signed at Paris on Sunday the 30th of March. The details of adjustment are referred to a commission.

NEWS ITEMS.

SIGNING THE TREATY OF PEACE.—The following are some particulars relative to the important act of signing the treaty of peace:—

The draft of the general treaty of peace drawn up by the Comite de Redaction having, in the sitting of Saturday, the 29th of March, obtained the sanction of the Congress, the Plenipotentiaries of the contracting Powers met the next day, as already stated, to proceed to the formal act of affixing their signatures to the document.

M. Feuille de Conches, chief of the protocol department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, had caused seven copies of the treaty, written on parchment, to be prepared and placed on the table of the conferences, in such a manner that each copy was put before the Plenipotentiaries of the government by which it is to be ratified. After the text of the seven copies had been carefully compared, the Plenipotentiaries proceeded to affix their signatures to the end of the treaty. Count Walewski, as President of the Congress, signed first, and the other Plenipotentiaries in the alphabetical order of their respective countries.

It was at this moment that the Emperor was informed by electric telegraph that the treaty of peace was signed, and His Majesty sent back word to the members of the Congress that he would be ready to receive them after they had concluded their task. But, although the mere act of affixing their signatures occupied the Plenipotentiaries but a very brief portion of time, yet the whole of the formality of signing lasted nearly two hours, as the Plenipotentiaries, in addition to their signature at

the bottom of each protocol, had to affix their initials to the different paragraphs, the whole number of such minor signatures being, it is said, 38.

The Plenipotentiaries of each contracting Power signed first the copy reserved for their government, and then the other Plenipotentiaries signed in alphabetical order. In this manner, each contracting Power figuring at the head of the signatures of the copy which it is to ratify, all difficulties as to etiquette or precedence were set aside. To each signature was immediately attached the private seal of each Plenipotentiary. Immediately after the close of the sitting, all the Plenipotentiaries went together to the Tuileries, where they had the honor of being received by the Emperor. Cabinet couriers were sent off in the evening to London, Vienna, Berlin, St. Petersburg, Turin and Constantinople, in order to submit the treaty to the ratification of their respective Courts.—[Correspondence of N. Y. Herald.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, April 14, 1856.

Mr. Hall asked leave to offer a resolution directing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the propriety of an enactment by Congress of a law prohibiting, under appropriate penalties, any person married, and having a husband or wife living, from intermarrying and cohabiting with another within any Territory of the United States, anything in any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

[How about the Constitution, Mr. Hall?]

The reading of the resolution created a great deal of laughter.

Mr. ORR.—Object for the benefit of my neighbor (referring to Mr. Bernhisel.)

Renewed laughter followed this sally.

A VOICE.—Is there a law in that Territory permitting a woman to have more than one husband? (Hal hal hal from all parts of the House.)

The House refused to suspend the rules, by a vote of 86 against 56—not two thirds.—[N. Y. Herald.]

BOSTON, April 7, 1856.

TERRIBLE FAMINE AT THE CAPE DE VERDES.—Capt. Rider, of the brig Planet, arrived at Salem from Port au Praya, Cape De Verdes, January 3, reports that a crisis was fast approaching there, want and misery prevailing to a alarming extent. By the arrival of a small quantity of food from Brazil and the exertions of the Governor General, actual starvation, except in a few instances at St. Antonia, had thus far been prevented. Their present supply will soon be exhausted, and they will require outside assistance for nine to twelve months to come.

LAUNCH.—The steamship Adriatic, which is intended for the Collins line, was launched, April 7, from the yard of the Messrs. Steers. An immense concourse of spectators were assembled, and the spectacle was one of the finest of the kind that has ever been presented to New Yorkers. Everything went off as successfully as could be desired, and after the launch there was a dinner, at which several speeches were made and toasts proposed, a report of which will be found elsewhere.

The Adriatic is 354 feet long from stem to stern; 50 feet beam; depth of the hold under the spar deck 33 feet 2 inches, and tonnage 5,888, carpenter's measurement.—[N. Y. Herald.]

GALES.

PHILADELPHIA, April 13,

The tornado last night unroofed 150 houses in different sections of the city, but there was no loss of life as far as heard from. Two large brick churches and three factories in Kensington were unroofed. The large boiler of the Franklin iron works was totally demolished. The Trenton railroad depot at Kensington was partially unroofed.

The Western telegraph lines are all down, and it will require two or three days to get them again in working order.

PHILADELPHIA, April 14.

Accounts from towns in the vicinity of this city give additional information of the ravages of the tornado. A lady was killed at Westchester by a shutter striking her head while she was endeavoring to close the blinds. An innumerable number of dwellings and barns have been unroofed in every direction.

A train of loaded freight cars, standing near the depot of the Pennsylvania railroad in West Philadelphia, was blown from the track.

Ten loaded cars on Reading Road were driven a hundred yards from the place where they were left, and five of the number were blown off the track.

CLEVELAND, April 14.

The storm on Saturday did a great deal of damage along the line of the Cleveland and Pittsburg Railroad. A church and fifteen houses were blown down at Alliance and one man killed. A large number of trees were blown across the track between Salem and Damascus.

NEW YORK, April 21.

A violent northeaster prevailed throughout yesterday, causing considerable damage to property. Burton's theatre was unroofed, as were also several churches and other buildings in the city and suburbs. The number of awnings, fences and trees demolished by the gale is incalculable. According to our telegraphic reports the storm extended over a vast region of country.—[Herald.]

NEW YORK, April 22.

The gale of yesterday and last night did considerable damage in this vicinity. Many trees were uprooted and buildings unroofed, and two or three church spires demolished. One of the

spires of the new Congregational church, in Brooklyn, fell upon and stove in the roof of the church, doing much damage.

The immense cross on St. James' Cathedral, in James street, Brooklyn, was also blown down. Considerable injury was done to the shipping in the docks.

LARGE FIRES.

GALENA, April 1.

Thirty houses, in the heart of the city, were destroyed by fire this morning. It commenced in the rear of the De Soto House, extended up North Main street to Alderson's store, and then crossed to Bench street, to the Catholic church, which was destroyed. The De Soto House was saved. Loss \$300,000.

BALTIMORE April 7.

The four story warehouse in Baltimore street, opposite Hanover, was destroyed by fire last night. The building was occupied by Carey, Howe & Co., boot and shoe dealers; loss \$60,000; and George A. Narder & Co., hatters, loss \$40,000. Both firms fully insured. Joseph Wing, owner of the building, was also insured. A carpet warehouse adjoining was broken in by the falling walls, and the stock, owned by Gable, McDowd & Co., much damaged. The rear building, occupied as a clothing warehouse, was also crushed, and the stock, owned by Messrs. Weisenfeldt & Co., injured. The entire loss is estimated at \$200,000.

PHILADELPHIA, April 11.

The Artisan Building, back of Chestnut and Fourth streets, was destroyed by fire last night. It was five stories in height, built in the form of a hollow square, and every portion occupied by workshops, the machinery being driven by an engine in the basement. Loss \$343,000.

BOSTON, April 12.

The Gerrish Market building, at the junction of Portland and Sudbury streets, was entirely destroyed by fire this afternoon. It was a large brick structure, six stories high, occupied on the lower floor as a domestic market, second only to Faneuil Hall market in extent. Loss \$200,000.

BARDSTOWN (Ky.) April 12.

The people of this place were visited to-day with a most terrible fire. The town is in ruins. Loss over \$100,000.

GALLATIN, APRIL 13.

On this (Sunday) morning the most destructive fire that ever happened in Nashville occurred. The Court House, Nashville Inn, H. & B. Douglass', Scovill's and Strickland & Ellis' houses were totally destroyed, besides several other buildings being greatly injured.

The loss is estimated at \$200,000, upon which there is an insurance of \$100,000.

HOW TO DESTROY BED-BUGS.—Procure a few pieces of thin wood smoothly bored, like brush-boards, and place them on the rails of the bedstead. It is said that the bugs will gather into these traps, they can then be removed, the bugs destroyed, and the traps replaced. Br. Gilbert Clements will furnish said bug-traps at a reasonable cost.

INSANITY.—The following table, extracted from the annual report of Dr. Robert K. Reid, Resident Physician of the Stockton Insane Asylum, indicates the causes which have produced or developed insanity in 1,012 cases under treatment in the Asylum, during the last five years. It affords a fruitful theme for reflection:—

Moral Causes.—Ment excitement, 67; domestic affliction, 56; disappointment, pecuniary, 86; disappointment political, 3; desertion of wife, 15; desertion of husband, 9; desertion of mistress, 6; love and jealousy, 13; grief and fright, 21; religious excitement, 22; disappointed affections, 12; loss of property, 32; intense application, 11; seduction and desertion, 6; spiritualism, 16.

Physical Causes.—Intemperance in spirits, 159; intemperance in opium, 6; intemperance in tobacco, 3; dissipation and exposure, 44; consequences of parturition, 26; suppressed, 10; congestive fever, 7; typhoid fever, 20; injury of head, 14; coup de soleil, 14; masturbation, 85; amative-ness, 9; ill health, 73; epilepsy, 46; syphilis, 7; effects of poison, 3; meningitis, 2; hereditary, 31; unknown, 99.—[Daily Alta California March 19.

HOW COAL GAS IS MADE.—The process of making coal gas is much simpler than many people imagine. Bituminous coal is thrown into a hot cylinder of iron, the mouth of which is closed carefully by an iron door, with the edges cemented by soft clay. The vapor arising from the coal is received into a tube, by means of which it is permitted to escape into a series of vessels, where it is cooled and deposits much of its impure matter. It is then passed into another series of vessels containing quicklime, which robs it of its sulphurous and other intermixtures. From this receiver it flows purified, as we find it in use, into the gasometer, and is from thence distributed, as it may be needed, through mains and service pipes, into various parts of the city. The highly-charged bituminous coals are found best adapted to the purpose of gas-making. In the manufacture of gas from Newcastle coal, a chaldron weighing 27 cwt. is found to yield 8,650 cubic feet of gas, 14 cwt. of coke, 12 1-2 gallons ammoniacal liquor, 12 gallons of thick tar. Cannel coal will yield upon an average 12,000 cubic feet of gas to the chaldron.

GOING BY AIR POWER.—It is not generally known that the whole of the gold and silver coins of England are struck by atmospheric pressure, or, in other words, that the air we breathe coins their money. By a beautiful yet complicated arrangement of pneumatic valves, levers, springs, and other mechanical appliances, the air is made to exert its vast weight in rapid alternations upon a series of pistons, which, again connected with the presses, carry down the dies upon the discs of metal to be coined with unerring precision and force, and thus create money.—[Ex.