

ricochet batteries are intended to command the enemy's line, so that the balls roll along the whole length of the rampart, rendering it insecure. The first experiment in this mode of firing is said to have been made at the siege of Phillipsburgh in 1734. The mortar batteries are adapted to the work of throwing shells into the besieged place. They differ but little from the breaching batteries, except that they have no embrasures, the elevation of the mortar being sufficient to carry the shells clear of the parapet. It is said that bombs were first invented at Venlo in 1495, but according to some authorities near a century after. They came into general use about the year 1634.—The mortar and the ricochet batteries require great skill and precision on the part of the gunners in order to make them effective. It is stated that in the siege of Sebastopol the allies were much annoyed by the well-directed fire from the guns of the city, until the *franc tireurs*—the sharpshooters of the French army—picked off the best of the Russian gunners. The fire of the Russian batteries became afterwards more uncertain.

From the last parallel—that nearest to the fortress—mines are sometimes extended to aid in the work of laying the defenses of the besieged place in ruins. These mines are subterranean passages, which are sometimes directed with such precision by the engineers that they terminate directly under the walls or outer defenses of the fortress; under these a heavy charge of gunpowder is placed, which is exploded, and sometimes with tremendous effect. The work upon these passages is usually conducted with great secrecy; for if the approach of a mine is suspected by the besieged, a countermine may be exploded which will involve the sappers of the besieging army in almost certain destruction.

The countermines are generally constructed under the covered way of the fortress—and here we will state that fortifications usually consist of a wall or rampart, outside of which is ditch or fosse, beyond and parallel with which is a low breastwork which sinks to the level of the field with a gentle declivity, and is called a glacis. The space within this breastwork, and between it and the ditch is called the covered way. Sometimes the glacis and covered way are called the counterscarp. It is under this covered way that a countermine is usually excavated. Branches of this countermine are sometimes extended under the glacis to afford means for listening and finding out the enemy's subterranean movements. When a mine is discovered approaching the glacis, a charge of gunpowder sufficiently powerful to shake the earth is exploded under the glacis, and as near to the enemy's mine as possible. The weight of the superincumbent earth of the glacis generally prevents the explosion from being perceptible upon the surface, while it shakes the ground all around and destroys the hostile mines. Not unfrequently in excavating a mine the sappers come suddenly upon the enemy's countermine, and then there is no alternative but to fight. In view of this contingency the sappers are usually well armed. The Russians made great use of mines and other engineering operations in besieging the strongholds of the Turks in the war of 1828-9, as well as more recently in the siege of Silistria. We do not learn that mining operations have been attempted at Sebastopol, the nature of the ground probably not permitting of this mode of approach.

Having enacted a practical breach in the walls, attempt is made to carry the place by storm. A breach is considered practicable when it will admit the entrance of fourteen men marching abreast. The assault upon a fortress, if strongly garrisoned, is usually attended with a great sacrifice of human life, and ought only to be attempted when the force of the besiegers is numerically largely in excess of that of the garrison. In the bombardment of a place the besiegers have greatly the advantage of the garrison, as they can concentrate their whole fire upon any particular point. In storming, however, the position of the contending parties is reversed, the besieged being in a measure sheltered, and having it in their power, unless their guns are silenced, to direct their whole fire upon the advancing column of the enemy. Sometimes a place consists of a series of detached forts, in which case they must be taken successively, often involving a great sacrifice of life. Sebastopol is thus fortified, and, looking at the plan of its defenses, the difficulties which the allies will have to encounter before becoming masters of the place, seem almost insurmountable.

We have thus given our readers what we trust will be found an intelligible explanation of siege operations. The offensive works afford an opportunity for the display of the highest engineering skill, and the defense requires the exercise of much patience and endurance, as well as bravery. A siege is often protracted for weeks and months, and sometimes for years. The memorable siege of Troy occupied ten years, and Herodotus says that Azoth was besieged by Psammetichus the powerful, for twenty-nine years. Modern science has so multiplied the means of offence and defence that the duration of sieges is now materially shortened. Acre was besieged by Bonaparte for 60 days, when the siege was raised. Burgos was besieged for five weeks in 1812. Silistria was invested by the Russians for nine months in 1828-9, before it was captured. This was an unusually long siege, however, and was broken by an intermission while the besiegers were in winter quarters. With the terrible engines of destruction—the guns of large calibre and extended range recently brought into use—a siege ought to be terminated within a few weeks either by the destruction of the fortified place or by the exhaustion of the material of the besiegers; for it should be remembered that with large guns the weight of the charges is increased, and to the same extent the difficulties of transportation and of supplying munitions. Siege operations concentrate as it were all the horrors of war. The besiegers are constantly exposed to the heat or inclemency of the weather, and their labors are continuous and exhausting. Within the beleaguered citadel, hunger and thirst add to the horrors of a place—

"Where the sighs and groans and shrieks that rend the air, Are made, not marked; where violent sorrow seems A modern ecstasy; the dead man's knell Is there scarce asked, for who; and good men's lives Expire before the flowers in their cups, Dying, or ere they sicken."

A terrible commentary on human progress and modern civilization, indeed, are the siege operations of the present day!

"If the devil should lose his tail, where would he get another?"

"In a gin shop, to be sure, because there they 'retail bad spirits!'"

AGENTS.

The following persons are requested to act as Agents for the Deseret News, Vol. 5:

GREAT SALT LAKE COUNTY.

Kanyon Creek Ward	A. O. Smoot.
Gardner's Mill, Mill Creek	Robt. Gardner.
Mill Creek	Alex. Hill.
Big Cottonwood	Lyman Stevens.
South Cottonwood Ward	And'w. Cahoon.
Union	S. Richards.
Draperville	Wm. Draper.
West Jordan Ward	Joseph Barker.

TOOELE COUNTY.

Richville	J. Rowberry.
Tooele City	Ell B. Kelsey.
Grantsville	Thos. H. Clark.

DAVIS COUNTY.

Stoker	John Stoker.
Centerville	A. B. Cherry.
Farmington	Jas. Leathard.
Kaysville	Sam'l. Henderson.

WEBER COUNTY.

Ogden City	J. G. Browning.
Bingham's Ward	B. Bingham.
South Weber	Thomas Kingston.
East Weber	A. Wordsworth.
North Ogden Ward	Thomas Dunn.
North Willow Creek	C. W. Hubbard.
Youngsville	Ell H. Pierce.

UTAH COUNTY.

Provo City	D. Carter.
Springville	Aaron Johnson.
Lehi City	David Evans.
Mountainville	Isaac Houston.
Cedar Valley	Allen Weeks.
American Fork	L. E. Harrington.
Pleasant Grove	Wm. G. Sterrett.
Palmyra	John W. Berry.
Payson	Chas. B. Hancock.
JUAB COUNTY	T. B. Foot.
SAN PETE COUNTY	George Peacock.
MILLARD COUNTY	S. P. Hoyt.

IRON COUNTY.

Parowan	J. C. L. Smith.
Cedar City	Isaac C. Haight.
WASHINGTON COUNTY	John D. Lee.
San Bernardino, Cal.	D. M. Thomas.

SALE BY AUCTION.

ON the 6th of April, a white mare, 7 years old, moderate size, good in harness or saddle, by GEO. GODDARD, Auctioneer.

SALE BY AUCTION.

ON the 6th of April, a quantity of women's apparel, and other useful articles in the domestic line, by GEO. GODDARD, Auctioneer.

TAKEN UP.

A SMALL white heifer, three years old, with small pale red spots on her sides and neck; bug horns, turning down; no mark or brand visible. GEORGE R. GRANT, Kay's ward, Davis Co.

TO EMIGRANTS.

CHRISTOPHER ARTHUR, Sen., bread and cracker baker, will have on hand, or make to order, Bread and Crackers, which emigrants, traveling south to California, will find advantageous and economical in their store of provisions. Cedar City, Iron County. 3-3m

Shoe-pegs and Lasts.

THOSE who wish to patronize Home Manufacture, in preference to foreign importations, can be accommodated at the shop, near Judge Phelps', with shoe-pegs of good quality, and lasts superior to any offered in this market. A specimen of pegs can be seen at the Post Office. One notch lower than importation. B. SEARS.

SALE BY AUCTION.

ON the 6th of April, a consignment of Merchandise to be sold without reserve, such as calicoes, de laines, ginghams, satinetts, blue drilling, tobacco, boots and shoes, rice, pepper, &c., &c., and 3 Colt's revolvers. G. G. is authorized to take as payment for these goods, cattle, cows, horses, harness, wagons, wheat, hides and cash. GEO. GODDARD, Auctioneer.

TAKEN UP.

I HAVE in my possession one bay mare Poney, with a white blaze down the face; no other mark nor brand discernible. I believe it was taken from L. Young's herd by 2 Indians named Withworth and Perevine, and taken to the Desert about 2 weeks ago. I sent for it, and now have it in my possession. The owner is requested to come and prove property, pay charges, and take it away. THOS. H. CLARK, Grantsville.

HAT MANUFACT. BY.

THE subscriber has established the above business on his premises in the 17th ward, one block north of Temple block, G. S. L. City, where he is prepared to execute orders for such qualities and styles as may be desired. J. L. HEYWOOD.

WANTED

in exchange for hats, Otter, beaver, Fox, Mink and Rabbit pelts. ALSO—Firewood, Butter, Eggs, Pork, Lard, Wheat, etc. J. L. H.

WATER NOTICE

TO the owners of five acre lots.—The owners of lots on the following blocks are hereby notified to come forward and perform 2 days work on the water ditch for each 5 acre lot, and to commence at Kanyon creek on Monday morning the 2nd of April 1855. Block 1 and block 1 A, on the 2nd and 3rd of April. Block 16 and block 16 A, on the 4th and 5th of April. East half of block 15, east half block 20 and block 19 on the 9th and 10th of April. Block 17 and block 17 A, and block 18 on the 11th and 12th of April. The parties are expected to bring spades, shovels and picks, and to be on the ground each morning by 7 o'clock precisely.

TAKE NOTICE.—If any of the owners do not attend at the time specified, other men will be hired to do their work, at the rate of \$2.00 per day. CHARLES KENNEDY, Water master.

NOTICE

TO THE PROPRIETORS OF THE 5 acre lots. The trustees of the Sugar House ward School District, will offer the following lots for sale, at Kanyon creek bridge, Monday, April 9th, at 12 o'clock m. to pay the school tax due therefrom.

Charles H. Hascall,	lot	4,	block	4
William Greenwood,	"	14,	"	5
James Parkes,	"	8,	"	6
David Frederick,	"	1,	"	7
Joseph W. Johnson,	"	16,	"	7
Ozro Eastman,	"	17,	"	9
Jacob Houtz,	"	17 & 19,	"	10
"	"	16 & 17,	"	21

The proprietor of each and every lot in the 5 acre plot, not having paid the school tax of 2 1-2 per cent, will do well to pay the same forthwith, at the office of Bishop A. O. Smoot, superintendent of Sugar Works, or the land will be sold without delay. CHAS. KENNEDY, HENRY WILDE, THOS. B. CLARKE, Trustees.

3-2t

LOST.

LAST August, over Jordan, a red cow, eight years old, branded K on the left hip; her head stands high up. The person that has her in possession will please leave her at Zera Pulsipher's, 16th ward, or any information that can be given concerning the said cow, will be rewarded by ALMYRA PETTIT, 16th ward.

DR. WILLIAMS,

HAS now resumed the practice of medicine and surgery, and may be found at his new residence, north-east corner of Temple block. He will attend promptly to all calls in the line of his profession. N. B. In case of ready pay, 25 per cent will be discounted. Those indebted will please call and settle.

STRAYED

FROM the range on Dry Creek, Utah county, a 2 year old white heifer, mixed with black hairs, a piece broke off the right horn; a hole through the left ear, branded TT on the left shoulder, it may not be discernable except she has cast her coat of hair, supposed to have a calf by this time. Whoever will give any information where she may be found, or bring her to Thos. Taylor, at Dry Creek, Utah county, or to Miles Romney, at the Public Works, shall be rewarded for their trouble.

\$50 REWARD.

BROKE out of the Penitentiary on the night of the 25th inst., Thomas W. Sullivan, aged 19 years; was born at Sarpy's point on the Missouri river. Description: hair black, eye-brows heavy; eyes grey; nose straight; mouth common; teeth good; height 5 feet 8 inches.

ALSO—Wm. L. Bass, aged 24 years, born in Pike county, Indiana. Description: hair brown; eyes yellow; nose Roman; mouth common; chin round; beard sandy; height 5 feet 8 1-2 inches. Whoever will bring both, and place them safely in my custody, shall receive the above reward, or either singly, shall receive, upon the same condition, twenty-five dollars.

DANIEL CARN, Warden, Utah Penitentiary. G. S. L. City, U. T., March 27th, 1855.

Recall of Duebills.

THOSE holding our merchandise due bills are requested at their earliest convenience to present them at our counter for payment. J. M. HORNER & CO.

TAKEN UP.

CAME into my enclosure and has wintered with my cattle, a light, slim made brindle cow, no white at all about her; has a slit in each ear; no brands visible; supposed to be 4 or 5 years old. The owner is requested to come, prove property, pay charges, and take her away. HENRY F. ROBBINS, Kay's ward, Davis Co.

\$20 REWARD

WILL be paid for the following Strays (for \$5 for each of them.) A black horse, branded Y on the left hip; a white horse freckled with red, branded J on the left hip, and an S on the shoulder, both about 9 years old; a 5 year old Ox, mostly white, some red spots, red about one eye, branded SHELTON on the horn. J. W. CROSBY, 17th Ward.

IMPORTANT NEWS.

TO be sold at Public Auction, (during conference,) horses, mules, harness, wagons, carriages, buggies, and merchandise of every description, by GEO. GODDARD, Auctioneer, &c.

N. B. G. G. sells on commission for any person in the community. All that wish anything sold on the above occasion, please call soon, that timely notice may be given. 2-3t

Valuable property for sale in the 7th ward.

THE undersigned offers for sale a good house and half a lot in the 7th ward, near the old Fort. The house has just been built, and contains 2 good rooms. Stock or cash will be taken for pay. For particulars apply to Joseph Cain, Post Office, or to JAMES COWLEY, Farmington.

PUBLIC SALE.

WILL be sold at auction on Saturday the 31st of March inst., at 10 a. m., a house and lot in the 11th ward G. S. L. City, belonging to the estate of Winder L. Green, deceased. The lot lies near the school house in said ward. The house contains 3 rooms, and is a comfortable residence for a family. Those wishing to purchase will do well to call and examine for themselves before the time of sale. ELIZA KNIGHT, Administratrix.

STRAW MILLINERY.

MRS. SMITH begs to inform the public that she has taken the room next door south of Snow & Co.'s Store, where she will attend to all the branches of the above business, including cleaning, turning, and altering.

HOME MANUFACTURE.

Attention is respectfully invited to the fact that she is having made in this city, Fancy Hair Trimming, which with English plait will be made into bonnets and hats of the latest fashions, and to suit the taste of customers.

LOOK HERE

EVERY body in Utah who is expecting to plant thirty acres of broom corn, which we intend to manufacture into brooms next fall and winter. Our brooms we will sell low and warrant them to do good service. We wish to supply G. S. L. City, and the other settlements in the Territory; and we solicit the patronage of the public. We hereby notify the people that they may expect to be furnished with brooms without their raising broomcorn for their own use. WM. H. CARPENTER, S. R. Aikin.

House and 1-2 Lot for Sale.

THE Subscriber offers for sale his Property in the 15th Ward—A 2 story Adobla House, 18 inch wall, containing 8 rooms; also a Stable and other Out Houses; the lot is well set with Fruit trees. One half of the pay taken at the Tithing Office, and Perpetual Emigrating Fund, and the other half in stock. THOS. FORSYTH, 15th Ward.

BRASS FOUNDRY.

THOSE who want Sword Hilt, Belt Clasps, Rifle or Pistol Mountings, Lock Work, Scale Beams, or any other kind of Brass Castings, can be supplied at the shop next door South of Mulliner's Tannery. Babbitt's Metal, and Spelter Solder will be made for those who want.

N. B.—A good price will be paid for old Brass, Copper, Tin, Zinc, and Lead. 52-2t JOHN M. JONES.

FOR SALE.

AT the Salt Lake City Post Office, Stamped Envelopes at the following rates:—Three cent Letter Size, at \$3.20 per 100. Six do 6.20 do Six cent official size, at 6.32 do Post Masters, Merchants, and others in this Territory can be furnished with any of the above by remitting the cash. E. SMITH, P. M.

FOR SALE

AT Salt Lake City Post Office, a large amount of 3 and 12 cent Stamps, received by the last California Mail. 52-2t E. SMITH, P. M.

NOTICE.

THE highest price paid for Bark and Sumac. Information given to those who desire it, when to cut, and how to cure the Sumac for tanning purposes. 34-6m WM. FIELD.

LOST.

ABOUT 3 months ago, in Provo, a Brown Horse, branded with N. P. M. on all the four feet. The advertiser, N. C. Christian, Adoble lawyer, lives in the Second Ward, G. S. L. City. 1-3t

STRAYED OR STOLEN.

ON or about the 1st of February, a dark brindle Cow, line back, some white on belly and bush of tail; one horn larger than the other. Please to return the same, and be rewarded.

ALSO—In my possession, a dark red Cow, white belly hind legs, and rump; points of horns sawed off, no brands. The owner can have the above described animal by proving property, and paying charges. 52-2t ALEXANDER HILL, Pound Keeper.

THE DESERET MEAT AN

GENERAL Provision Store, East Temple Street, hitherto carried on by W. Jennings, will from this time be carried on by W. Jennings & J. R. Winder, who hope by an increased effort to accommodate the inhabitants generally, that they may continue to enjoy that share of patronage hitherto so liberally extended.

We intend to have always on hand the finest quality of Beef, Mutton, Pork, Hams, Bacon, Bologna Sausages, Dried Beef, Tongues, Tallow, Lard, Butter, Cheese, Candles, Eggs, &c., &c., to be sold at Low Prices, Small Profits and Quick Returns, being our motto.

In addition to the above we have commenced Tanning in all its Branches and shall require a quantity of Bark and other Tanning Material.—Also, Hides and Skins, for which we will pay Cash or its Equivalent to suit the customer.

N. B.—Cash paid for Fat Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, Butter, Cheese, Eggs, &c., &c. Five thousand pounds of dried Bacon & Hams for sale low for CASH! WILLIAM JENNINGS, JOHN R. WINDER.

NIXON'S--COUNCIL HOUSE ST.

WM. NIXON takes this opportunity of informing his friends and the public that he has still on hand a good and large assortment of Merchandise, such as Calicoes, Ginghams, and Delaines, Berge, Fine Irish Linens, and Book and Barred Muslins, Damask, Cotton and Woolen Table Covers, Jaconette, Linsey, Summer Cloth, and Alpaccas, Woolen and Cotton Hosiery, Curtain and Carriage Trimmings, Cotton and Woolen Yarn, Children's Wool Jackets, Mitts, Hoods, Boots, Victorines, &c.

Linen and Cotton Laces, Edgings and Insertions, Boots and Shoes, Hats and Caps, Silk and Chip Bonnets, Straw, Tuscan and Leghorn Hats, School Books and Stationery, Fine Gold Jewelry, Choice Perfumery, 5 doz. latest styles Satin and Silk Parasols, Violins and Strings, Accordions, Blankets, Fancy Pipes.

ALSO—A large, and well assorted stock of Ready Made Clothing, Over and Under Shirts, Drawers, Cravates, Collars, Handkerchiefs, Wool and Cotton Hat Hoses. Pocket and Table Cutlery.

Tea and Table Spoons, Scissors, Sheep Shears, Candlesticks, Snuffers, Carpenter Tools, Camp and other Hatchets, Coffee Mills, Shovels, Spades, Suckles, Nails, Brads, Tacks, Cotton and Wool Cards, Bridles and Martingales.

Halter and Ferry rope. Tin and Crockery Ware. Drugs, Medicines, and Dye Stuffs.

Paint and White Wash Brushes, Dry Colors, Bedcord, Tar, Garden, Mason, and Fish Lines, and Hooks, Tobacco, Cigars, Sardines, Pickles, Sappes, and Spices.

BESIDES a variety of Goods too numerous to mention! All to be sold as low as at any other house in the city.

WANTED in exchange, Calves, Heifers, and Cows, 200lbs. of Saleratus, 2000lbs. good Butter, 2000lbs. fresh and cured Pork, 1000 feet 1 1-4 inch Flooring. HORSES and Ponies always on hand for sale or exchange.

FLOUR, Wheat, Oats, and Corn for sale. BUCK SKINS, Pants, and Coats on hand or made to order.

All persons indebted to me will please call and settle immediately. 52-2t

To Traders, Emigrants, and Freighters.

MESSRS WARD & GUERRIER, at Sandy Point, 7 miles west of Fort Laramie, on the main emigration road, would inform travelers to and from the States, and the public generally, that they will constantly keep on hand at their station, a good supply of fresh animals, groceries, provisions, and general assorted merchandise, which they will furnish on reasonable terms. They will also trade for cattle, mules, and horses. 36-2t WARD & GUERRIER.

United States Mail to Manti.

THE subscriber begs leave to inform the citizens of Utah, that the United States Mail Coach, for passengers and parcels, will leave B. Hawkins' Hotel Great Salt Lake City, every Thursday, at 6 a. m., and arrive at Manti every Saturday at 6 p. m.; will leave Manti every Monday at 6 a. m., and arrive at G. S. L. City every Wednesday at 6 p. m.

Passengers or parcels to Union, Drapersville, Lehi, American Fork, Pleasant Grove, Provo, Springville, Palmyra, Payson, Nephi, Fort Ephraim, and Manti, will be carried on reasonable terms. 47-2t JOHN DAILY.

Mail and Passenger Coach

BETWEEN G. S. L. City and Independence, will leave Harwkins' Hotel in G. S. L. City, and the Noland House in Independence, Mo., on the 1st day of each month at 8 a. m., stopping a short time at the following way-stations, viz: Fort Bridger, Green River, Devil's Gate, Fort Laramie, Ash Hollow, Fort Kearney and Big Blue. Every facility and attention will be extended to passengers to render their trip speedy, and comfortable. For further particulars apply to the following agents: J. M. HOCKADAY, G. S. L. City, Utah. ISAAC HOCKADAY, Independence, Mo.

UNITED STATES MAIL.

BY the present arrangements made by the Department, the Mails are to leave and arrive at Salt Lake City as follows:—The Southern mail to Manti will leave every Thursday morning, and arrive every Wednesday evening. The California mail, via Fillmore, Parowan, and Cedar City, U. T., and San Bernardino, Cal., to San Pedro, will leave the 1st day and arrives by the 28th of every month. The mail to Tooele City leaves every Monday morning, and arrives every Tuesday evening.

The Ogden mail leaves every Monday and Thursday morning, and arrives every Tuesday and Friday evening. The Eastern mail leaves the first, and should arrive by the last day of each month.

The Eastern and California mails are closed as 4 p. m., the last day of each month—which correspondents will do well to remember.

41-2t

E. SMITH, P. M.