

Miscellaneous News Items.

On the 19th of February General McClellan, for the first time in two months, is reported to have visited the troops in Virginia and was enthusiastically received.

The steamer North Star was burned at Cleveland, Ohio, on the night of March 20th; loss \$75,000.

A letter received at Boston from Calcutta, dated about the 1st of January, stated that two vessels with cargoes of saltpeter, one for Boston the other for New York, were ordered to discharge it, and that two other vessels with saltpeter on board, which had started down the river, would be ordered back for the same purpose.

Governor Morton, of Indiana, has appointed Ex-Governor Joseph A. Wright, United States Senator, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the expulsion of Jesse D. Bright.

There was a severe gale at Washington during the 24th ult., which unroofed houses, blew down trees and scattered signs and awnings profusely. The roof of the library of Congress, of thick glass, was blown in. The gale was also very severe at Baltimore and other places along the coast.

At New York the gale was most terrific, raging from three o'clock in the afternoon till midnight. The vessels in North river dragged their anchors. In East river the vessels rode well at their anchors with the exception of those lying on the Brooklyn shore, some of which were badly chafed. The gale was very extensive and the damage done to telegraph lines, and to things not of sufficient strength to resist the action of the wind, is reported to have been great.

At Brooklyn a row of five two-story frame houses on Spencer street, between Willoughby and D Kalb avenues, were prostrated to the ground by the force of the wind. Several churches were injured. The streets were strewn with sign-boards, shutters, boxes and other moveables, and the gas-lights were blown out.

Several of the Fort Warren prisoners have been released on their taking the oath of allegiance, agreeable to a late order from Washington. The following, however, declined their liberty, except on unconditional terms: William G. Harrison, William H. Winder, Henry M. Warfield and W. H. Getchell.

The State of Vermont has opened a bank account with each of its soldiers in the Union army and regularly passes to his credit \$7 per month. This may be checked for by the volunteer, if a single man; or if married, it is paid to his family. If no money is drawn for six months the State allows 6 per cent interest on it.

Prentice says that since Floyd stole himself away from Fort Donelson, he will have nothing more to steal, unless he undertakes the desperate task of outwitting the devil, who has a claim upon him to be hereafter settled.

A special committee of the Kansas legislature recently presented Charles Robinson, Governor, John W. Robinson, Secretary of State, and George S. Hillyer, Auditor, as guilty of conspiring to swindle the State in the sale of State bonds to the amount of \$189,000. Some 10 per cent. bonds have been sold as low as forty cents on the dollar—that is, nominally sold to confederates, to be resold by them at 95. By such financiering, the State has been swindled out of over \$40,000. The report closes with the following:

Resolved, That Charles Robinson, Governor, John W. Robinson, Secretary of State, and George S. Hillyer, Auditor of the State of Kansas, be and they are hereby impeached of high misdemeanors in office.

The Legislature impeaches and removes these scoundrels, it will be the religious duty of the people to HANG THEM. And it will be done."

On the 25th of February, Secretary Stanton issued, by order of the President, an order in relation to the transmission of military news, in which he sets forth that on and after the 26th ult., the President, by virtue of the act of Congress would take possession of all the telegraph lines in the United States; that all telegraphic communications in regard to military operations not expressly authorized by the War Department, the General commanding, or the Generals commanding the armies in the field in the several departments, were absolutely forbidden, and that newspapers publishing the military news, however

obtained, and by whom received, not authorized by the official received, mentioned, would be excluded thereafter from receiving information by telegraph, or from transmitting their papers by railroad. Edward S. Sanford was made military supervisor of telegraphic messages, and Anson Stager, military superintendent of all telegraphic lines and offices of the United States.

There was a fire in Boston on the night of the 24th ult. more destructive, as reported, than any that ever before occurred there. It raged from 10 o'clock at night till 3 o'clock in the morning, the wind blowing a furious gale from the northwest, with a blinding snow and hail storm at the time.

The entire range of buildings on Sargent's wharf, the buildings on the north side of Eastern avenue, from Commercial street to the water, including the East Boston Old Ferry Slip, and the large six-story building known as the Eastern Exchange Hotel, were destroyed.

Two firemen were killed and one wounded. During the night, the large tower of the Roman Catholic church, in East Boston, was blown down, demolishing the smaller tower in its fall. Two thousand bales of cotton and large quantities of corn were destroyed. The loss was variously estimated at from half a million to a million of dollars.

The Savannah Republican, announces upon the authority of a letter from St. Mary, that the bow and stern of a vessel had recently been cast ashore at that place—the stern marked "Courier, from New Bedford," said to be one of the Stone fleet sunk in Charleston harbor.

The Confederate Congress met at Richmond on the 18th. R. M. T. Hunter was elected President of the Senate and Mr. Bocoek, of Virginia, Speaker of the House.

A Clerical Blunder.

A few weeks since, having an unusual number of poetic effusions on hand, which we wished filed away for preservation, as many contributors, in haste, forget or have not time to make and retain a copy, and frequently wish their contributions returned to them, if not deemed sufficiently meritorious for publication, we asked a clerk to arrange them methodically and place them in a receptacle kept for that purpose. Soon after, to our surprise, we discovered that, after doing up the bundle in a workmanlike manner, he labelled it, "Sundry contributions erroneously called poetry," which mistake was made in consequence of his not being fully advised as to how many kinds of metrical compositions were produced by authors supposing themselves gifted in that science. We gave him a lecture on the subject, and believe that he will never do the like again.

Poetry is poetry, even if it be of an inferior order, of which there is, as a general thing, too much produced, and we sincerely wish that those possessing rhythmical gifts would cultivate them, which they can do by making themselves acquainted with the rules of versification, and then by singing not of trifling matters. By taking that course it would not be long before they would be able to produce a good marketable article.

A Flood in Prospective.

The amount of snow that has accumulated on the tops of the "high hills" during the winter, in this part of the Basin, is reported, by those who have long been familiar with those locations, to be greater than has been known within the last fifteen years, and should the weather be as warm in the months of May and June as it has been in more than one instance at that season of the year, in bygone days, the rapid melting of the mountain snows, especially if attended with rain, may be expected to produce a super-abundance of water, beyond the capacity of the channels of the rivers and creeks to discharge without overflowing. In short, the spring flood may be expected to surpass those of former years and to do much damage along the streams, on the bottoms and wherever the waters may flow on their way from the mountains to the ocean, bays or lakes into which they may flow. Those most in danger of being thus visited should lose no time in making every necessary preparation that they be not overtaken as a "thief in the night."

Doings of the Probate Court.

Court for adjournment, the Probate session on Monday. The County was in attendance, presented bills of indictment against sundry individuals for various crimes, among which was one accusing Wood Reynolds, Jason Luce, John M. Luce, Wilford Luce and Isaac Neibaur, for assault on John W. Dawson. They also found a bill against Wilford Luce for larceny and one against John M. Luce and Isaac Neibaur for larceny, all connected with the occurrence at Mountain Del on the 31st of December. The jury reported that there was no further business for their consideration and were discharged.

The five individuals accused of assaulting Dawson were arraigned; Jason Luce and Reynolds pleaded "guilty," the others "not guilty," and were put upon trial. The jury found Wilford Luce "guilty," and fined him fifty dollars. Isaac Neibaur and John M. Luce were acquitted on that charge, but were subsequently arraigned on the charge for larceny, to which Neibaur pleaded "guilty" and Luce "not guilty." The trial of Luce will come off to-day.

Jason Luce was fined fifty dollars and Reynolds twenty-five dollars and costs by the court on hearing the evidence in relation to the extent of their guilt. The other cases will be tried as soon as the accused are ready, and in all probability the dockets, civil and criminal, will be cleared in the course of the week, with the exception of one or two cases in which the parties will not be prepared for trial.

Stormy Weather.

Wednesday last was one of the most stormy days of the season. It rained and snowed early in the morning, rain predominating, and, by eight or nine o'clock, obtained exclusive jurisdiction, which was maintained till evening, during which time there was a great pouring down from the clouds. How many inches of water fell, no one has reported. In the evening the rain gave place to snow, which fell in, on, over and upon everything not protected from its cooling presence, producing a most gloomy aspect, and rendering out-door movements superlatively unpleasant and undesirable. The quantity which fell was greater than the weatherwise had predicted, and they have said but little about stormy weather since. Thursday and Friday were pleasant days, but late on Friday evening another rain storm set in, and was followed by snow, which was several inches deep on Saturday morning where there was none the previous evening. It was stormy most of the time during Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, and traveling on the public highways and streets could not well be worse—snow, mud and water abounding in profuse abundance.

For the last two or three weeks, intercourse between city and country has been measurably suspended. There has been so many and heavy storms that the star gazers have been confounded, and but few of that class of prophets have predicted what the future might be expected to bring forth in relation to the weather.

OUR MAILS.

We take pleasure in giving to our readers the following letter addressed to us by the Acting Post-master in this city:

Post Office, Salt Lake City,
March 18th, 1862.

EDITOR DESERET NEWS:

Sir,—I am sending you, for announcement in the News, the orders of the Post Office Department for the transmission of mails daily, (Sundays excepted,) to the Eastern and Western States and Territories of the Federal Union, the present seems opportune to refer to the departure of Territorial mails and other matters, which to some of your readers may not be unserviceable.

Mails North, as far as Brigham City, close at this office every Monday and Thursday mornings, at half past five o'clock. To Cache Valley settlements only every Thursday morning at the same hour. Mails South, as far as Fillmore, close every Monday and Thursday morning at half past six o'clock. To settlements beyond Fillmore only every two weeks—on Thursdays at the same hour. Cedar Valley and Manti mails close every Thursday morning at half past five o'clock; and Alpine mail closes every Friday morning at half past five o'clock.

No letter can be sent through the Post Office to any settlement in the Territory without prepayment; and no mail conductor or driver can carry an unstamped letter anywhere east or west, or in the Territory, without violating

his obligations to the Post Office department, and incurring the fine of \$50 for each offense.

The non-arrival of foreign mail matter, particularly newspapers, is often the result of insufficient prepayment and imperfect addresses. To England, the postage of newspapers may "make and must be prepaid," pleases them; but a very large number of the papers sent to foreign countries can not possibly reach the persons to whom they are first addressed, because of the improper manner in which they are "made up." If the number of Post Offices across the plains, and in the cities of the east, through which they have to pass and be handled, before they are "shipped," then, the additional Post Offices through which they have to pass and be handled on the other side of the Atlantic, was ever considered, few would ever expect loose wraps to be sufficient to carry the newspapers to its destination at Salt Lake or John o' Groats House, or even nearer home.

Papers that are wrapped up tightly, so that the address cannot be rubbed off, by contact with other papers, books, &c., in their transportation together, or in their examination at Post Offices, are almost always certain to reach their destination. Not unlikely, nine-tenths of that which is chargeable to stealing, would be justly laid at the door of carelessness. It is a fact worth mentioning in support of the foregoing statements, that since the Post Office in this city has been in the hands of Mr. Bell, not a single copy of the *Millennial Star*, coming from that office in Liverpool, has ever arrived here with the cover rubbed off, and it is presumable that the same might be said over there of the papers going directly from the News office in this city, because they are properly made up. As much can be said of regular subscription papers coming from the Eastern States, they seldom fail, but of transient papers it should be said, "they go as far as they can."

While postage of letters all through the Territory, and through the States, is compulsory, to some foreign countries it is optional with the sender. Through misunderstanding, some persons think it necessary to put on American postage only; but it is simply a waste of money, to make partial payment on letters or papers to foreign countries. Foreign papers must always be prepaid and so letters to certain countries, where prepayment is optional can always be learned at the Post Office.

As a preventive against losses from the rubbing off, or the tearing of covers from newspapers, it might be recommended to write the address on the papers as well as on the covers. The citizens here, giving instructions to their correspondents abroad to write addresses plainly, to properly fix on the covers of their newspapers, and to discontinue altogether the use of covers attached with pins, wafers, or pieces of thread, would probably be rewarded with a larger amount of mail matter.

The Post Office in Salt Lake City will hereafter be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., on week days. For the better accommodation of the working classes, the office will be open from 12 to 1 and closed from 1 to 2 p.m., daily. On Sundays, open from 8 to 9 a.m., and open for delivery at the dismissal of meeting at the Tabernacle in the forenoon.

Very respectfully,

T. B. H. STENHOUSE,
Deputy Postmaster.

Our personal experience in Post Offices has extended over many years and we can freely endorse the facts stated in the foregoing letter. We are indebted to the attentions of the Hon. J. M. Bezaishel to the interests of the people of this city for the change in favor of a daily mail, and we think the changes made by the Postmaster here will cover all the requirements of the public. They are changes in the proper direction. The following is the notice referred to:

POSTAL NOTICE.

SALT LAKE CITY, March 18th, 1862.

On and after this date, by order of the Post Office department, mails for the Eastern and Western States and Territories, will be made up at this office at 6 p.m. daily, (Sundays excepted.)

WM. BELL, P. M.

The Telegraph.

After a rather unpleasant silence of about nine days, we have again had very important dispatches over the eastern wire. The electric messenger was promising very fair labor, when interruption was again announced yesterday—from, we believe, severe stormy weather immediately to the east of Laramie. The interruption last week was caused by the heavy snows on the Big Mountain, which "Peter" reports to have been about thirty-four feet deep. All reports are confirmatory of very deep snows from the mountains east of this to Rocky Ridge. Some of the mail stations are said to be entirely concealed in the snows, and have only been reached by digging.

GOLD MINES.—The recently discovered gold mines on Salmon river, Washington Territory, are attracting considerable attention. Many are going thither.