

Miscellaneous News Items.

The Secretary of War issued an order on the 27th of February appointing Gen. Dix and Hon. E. Pierpont, commissioners to examine the cases of the State prisoners in the military custody of the United States, to determine whether, in view of the public safety, and the existing rebellion, they should be discharged, or remain in military custody, or be handed over to the civil tribunals for trial.

It is stated that the 10th Tennessee regiment, captured at Donelson, was entirely composed of Irish-Americans, most of whom expressed a desire for the restoration of the Union and wished, on arriving at Chicago, to enlist into the Federal army, and serve in Col. Mulligan's Irish Brigade.

The soldiers of the army of the Potomac complain bitterly of the sutlers for charging them thirty cents for a pound of butter, twenty-five cents for cheese, twenty cents for dried apples, one dollar per pound for tobacco, and five cents apiece for apples.

The steamer R. B. Forbes went ashore at Nag's Head, February 26th. The next morning her crew were taken off, with the officer's baggage and part of the stores, by the steam-tug Young America, and conveyed to Fortress Monroe. The captain then set her on fire to prevent her being taken by the enemy.

Fifty thousand people are said to have participated in the demonstration at St. Louis, on the 22d of February, in commemoration of Washington's birthday. The procession was seven miles long.

On the morning of March the 5th, a fire occurred in Cleveland, Ohio, consuming Hewitt's block, corner of Vineyard and Canal streets. Loss estimated at one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars.

An explosion took place in Harman & Co's Oil refinery, Detroit, on March 3d, destroying the building, which was immediately enveloped in flames, together with a large planing factory adjoining. Four lives were lost.—Amount of property not stated.

Gen. Halleck issued an order on March 4th, making regulations for restoring intercourse between loyal citizens of the Department of Missouri and the country of the Tennessee and the Cumberland rivers, under which commercial transactions may be conducted in the seceded States.

On the 5th inst., Gen. Halleck issued a general order on the recommendation of the provisional Governor of Missouri, to the several judges of that State, requiring all licensed attorneys, counsellors and practitioners, to take the oath of allegiance prescribed by the ordinance of the State convention, and directing the Judges of the State Courts not to permit any one to practice in their courts who refuses or neglects to take the oath.

The Senate of Kentucky passed a bill on the 5th of March, which provides, if any citizen join the rebel cause or continue in it after the passage of the act shall be deemed expatriated and himself no longer to be a citizen of Kentucky, except by special act of the Legislature.

On the 5th of March the Constitutional Convention of Illinois at Springfield adopted an article prohibiting the emigration of negroes and mulattoes into the State, and denying them the right of suffrage.

Forty-nine officers, comprising all the colonels, lieutenant-colonels, and majors, captured at Donelson, arrived at Boston, and were sent to Fort Warren, on the morning of March the 6th.

Dispatches from Washington, on the 8th, announced that the transportation of army supplies for the next two years from Leavenworth west, including Utah, Colorado and New Mexico, had been awarded to Irwin, Jackman, & Co.

News from the West.

No very recent dates from west of the Sierras have been received, the latest being only to the 10th or 12th inst. The news is not very important, but we extract a few items.

The schooner Lolo, from San Francisco to Victoria, capsized near San Juan Island, Feb. 24th, and nine persons were drowned, including the captain and mate.

The cold in British Columbia is reported to have been intense during the latter part of winter, particularly in the Cariboo district, and provisions were also very scarce.

There was a snow storm in California, on the last of February, which, at Shasta, was so wet and heavy that it caved in the Catholic Chapel, the Stage Company's shed, and many other buildings.

The water in the Sacramento river, on the 5th inst., is reported to have fallen three inches and about the same on the 6th, standing at twenty-six feet six inches above low water mark.

The Los Angeles News of February 26th says the high water in the Mohave river had receded so far as to enable teams to pass and repass with safety.

During February the vicinity of Los Angeles was visited by heavy frosts, which did great injury to fruit trees.

The small pox has been prevailing to a great extent in San Francisco of late, and also at Sacramento, as per report.

The Stock on Independent says a gentleman who had recently arrived in California from the east, by way of Cape Horn, had reported that the sea, two hundred miles southwest of the Golden Gate, was full of logs, trunks of trees, and patches of tile, that had been washed from the mountains and valleys of California. The ship on which he arrived was six days in beating up against the strong current that set out of the Golden Gate, and was felt for miles outside of the Farallones.

The California Wool Growers' Association had made a statement to the effect that 100,000 sheep and 500,000 lambs have perished the past winter in that State.

The loss of stock in Northern California is represented as having been great by the recent cold weather, and also in Oregon thousands of cattle have perished from the effects of the cold and storms.

The Boston clipper Polynesia, on the eve of sailing for China, was burned in San Francisco harbor on the 3d. It was supposed the crew set fire to her, as part of them had deserted, and were carried on board by force.

The mails from San Francisco for Honolulu and the Hawaiian Islands, including all letters mailed at that office from the 18th of February to the 1st of March, and the English and Eastern mails for the Islands had been placed on board and were burned.

During the month of February the gross weight of gold deposited in the San Francisco mint is stated at 26,161.27 ounces, standard weight 25,303.243 ounces, value of gold deposited \$470,738.06. Gold parted from silver, standard weight, 2,133.855 ounces, value of gold parted from silver, \$39,626.6. Coinage, 13,750 double eagles, 96,000 half dollars.

Some of the property holders in Sacramento it is said intend to raise their buildings to a grade six feet higher than at present and grade the streets accordingly. If more floods are anticipated the whole city should be elevated some twenty feet.

There were recently thirty-two cases of drunkenness in the San Francisco police court in one day.

The wine crop in Los Angeles county last season is stated at two hundred and forty-seven thousand gallons.

FROM NEVADA.

The latest dates from Carson are to the 16th. Things were getting along swimmingly in that country. Improvements were being made, and the mines were yielding well. Money was rather scarce, and loans were being made at from fifteen to twenty per cent. per month, with good securities, to which the attention of capitalists is called. There were only three persons confined in Ormsby county Jail which was kept clean, and good beds were kept in reserve for those who might be required to patronize the institution.

Provisions were high and board not low, that of bipeds not stated, but that of a horse, at Carson city, was \$2.50 per night, or \$14 per week, and at Virginia city, \$5 per night, or \$21 per week. Hay at Carson city was selling at from two and a half to six cents per pound, and at Virginia city at from four to ten cents, or from \$80 to \$200 per ton, according to quality.

Fights were common and shooting affairs of frequent occurrence. Near Fort Churchill on the 12th inst., one of those affrays took place between two men named Gennie and Rector on one side, and three on the other—Nixon, Himer and Fill. Himer shot Gennie, and Rector shot Nixon and Fill. Gennie received fifteen balls in his body and died the same day. Nixon and Fill were not expected

to live till the next morning. Two of the survivors of the fight resumed the quarrel next day, when one of them was severely wounded.

Mr. Gennie was one of the contractors, and he had to put up the telegraph line between Smith Creek and Ruby Valley last summer.

A day or two previous at Aurora there was a street fight, in which a man by the name of Melvin was shot by one Chick. Alleged cause "too great an intimacy with the female Chick."

The Silver Age announces the arrest by Sheriff Gasherie, at Churchill, on the 13th, of Archibald Williams, who was in the "lock up" at Carson, awaiting a requisition from this Territory.

The Age facetiously says "Williams was pursued from Salt Lake and overtaken by the officers at or near Ruby Valley, but succeeded in buying his pursuers off by a presentation of Colt's revolvers, muzzle foremost. The compliment was played back on the gentleman in Nevada, and he too weakened when he found himself at the wrong end of the weapon. The rogue plead eloquently to be excused from the bracelets on the ground that he was a gentleman; but Gasherie, having a whole family of just such gentlemen, didn't like to make invidious distinctions, and so he had to wear the ornaments."

A contract had been entered into by responsible parties for the delivery at Carson city, on and after the first day of May, of five hundred head of good beef cattle, at five cents per pound.

Great Salt Lake County Probate Court.

On Wednesday last in the Probate Court for Great Salt Lake County, John M. Luce was put upon trial on the charge of larceny, on which he was arraigned on Monday and pleaded "not guilty." There was but one count in the indictment, and that was for the unlawful appropriation of an overcoat belonging to Mr. Ely, the messenger who was along with the coach on the day of the departure of Dawson, which was found by him and Neibaur on the road, after it had been thrown out by Huntington, as alleged. The jury found him guilty, and affixed the punishment at six months imprisonment in the Penitentiary and a fine of fifty dollars.

Neibaur, who pleaded "guilty," was sentenced by the court to fifteen months imprisonment in the aforesaid institution.

Wilford Luce was arraigned on the indictment for larceny found by the grand jury, containing two counts, one for stealing from the mail coach some blankets belonging to Dawson and one Martin; the other for feloniously taking and carrying away a beaver-skin robe, the property of Martin, to which he entered a plea of not guilty. The jury decided otherwise, on hearing the evidence, and, by way of atonement, required him to serve one year in prison.

Sentence was passed upon the convicts in accordance with the verdict of the jury in each case; in addition to which it was adjudged by the court that they should pay the costs that had accrued in bringing them to justice. The court then took an adjournment till Saturday the 22d, at 10 a. m.

On the 22d, James Fisher was tried on a charge of feloniously taking some shingle timber belonging to other parties, but the jury deemed the evidence insufficient to convict him and he was thereupon discharged from arrest. He will do well to make satisfactory arrangements with the injured parties, before being waited on officially for the purpose of having wrongs made right, and so will some others similarly accused.

After the trial of Fisher was terminated the court heard and determined two divorce cases and then adjourned till Saturday the 29th inst. at 2 p. m.

WONDERFUL.—A certain Federal official who made himself recently an interesting reputation out here in a very few days seems to have got back to the tripod in Indiana, and has undertaken to read his patrons editorial homilies on Christian virtues! He has a very lengthy article upon "detraction," and for illustration commences with:—

"A woman in the dispensation of Providence is widowed, she is poor and has children; she is compelled to wrestle with a cold unfeeling world for subsistence for herself and little ones."

Here we got busy, and had to stop! We wonder if he has yet made "a clear breast of it?"

Selling Liquor to Indians.

For months past it has been apparent from time to time, that some person or persons not fearing the law in such case made and provided nor regarding the evils resulting from their unlawful acts, have been in the habit of selling whisky to Indians, a more pernicious practice than which, could not readily be devised for the demoralization of the red men, and the disturbance of the peace, and endangerment of the lives and property of the whites, through whose settlements they constantly roam.

Although Indians have, as a general thing, a great aversion to the industrial and virtuous principles inculcated by those who desire their elevation in the scale of being, they are not slow to adopt the practices of evil men who sojourn among them, such as getting drunk every opportunity that presents, and when in that condition, to ape their preceptors as far as possible in the use of rifles, pistols, knives or other instruments of death with which they may be armed, thereby endangering the lives of their fellows and of white men, women and children with whom they may come in contact, when maddened by the effects of that agent which has laid so many low.

Within the last six months, Indians have frequently been seen in this city to a greater or less extent under the influence of "fire-water," but from whom obtained, the police have been unable to discover, and often of late have "native Americans" been lounging about the settlements in this county, in a state of intoxication with bottles of whisky in possession insulting every one they met and acting as near as they could, with the knowledge and experience they have acquired in their intercourse with the army, Indian traders and dissolute characters, who have been among them, like drunken white men.

Only a few days since in Mill Creek Ward, three or four Indians had a carousal, alarming the citizens with their threats and demonstrations wherever they went till taken in custody by Esquire Scott and others, who took from them what whisky they had left after getting fuddled, and then let them go. They did not proceed far after having been set at liberty, before they met and assaulted Mr. Farr, an elderly gentleman who was returning from the city to his farm on Big Cottonwood, with a mule team, by seizing his animals by the bit, frightening them, cutting the lines, taking some cloth, sacks, etc. from his wagon, and then put out. Fortunately Mr. Farr escaped without getting hurt.

All efforts to discover when and from whom the redskins have obtained the liquor they have had from time to time during the fall and winter, have been thus far unavailing. It is hoped, however, that better success will attend the exertions now being made to detect the guilty, that they may be punished for their offences.

The Return of Spring.

At, on, or about the time the sun crosses the equinoctial line, on its annual visit to the tropic of cancer, or in other words a, on, or about the time of the vernal equinox, which occurred on Thursday last, the storms of winter ceased, and since then the weather has been spring like, but not so very warm. The mud has been drying up rapidly, and moving about from place to place through the city, and passing to and from the country, has been, for two or three days past, attended with less difficulty and with more comfort and pleasure than for weeks previous. A few of those who profess to have the gift of foreknowledge in relation to the weather were predicting yesterday that another storm was approaching, and the barometer thus indicated, but, not having as much confidence as some in atmospheric or meteorologic prognostics, we are not quite so sure that there will be a storm of rain, hail or snow within the next seven days.

THE WATER RISING.—City creek and the other mountain streams discharging their waters into the Jordan, are reported to be quite large, and not unlikely to cause an overflow of that river, as the banks are now full, but we see no particular reason to apprehend any great danger from the present melting of the snows. Genial weather such as we have had for a few days is more likely to carry off the waters gradually, and be less destructive than the sudden dissolving of the mountain snows and ice.