

SANTA BARBARA GAZETTE.

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THE GAZETTE.

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The Long Ago.

Oh! a wonderful stream is the river Time,
As it runs through the realms of tears,
With a faultless rhythm and a musical rhyme,
And a broader sweep, and a surge sublime,
And blends with the ocean of years.

How the winters are drifting like flakes of snow,
And the summers like buds between,
And the year in the sheaf—so they come and they go,
On the river's breast, with its ebb and flow,
As it glides on the shadow and sheen.

There is a musical isle up the river Time,
Where the softest of airs are playing,
There's a cloudless sky and a tropical clime,
And a song as sweet as a vesper chime,
And the Junos with the roses are staying.

And the name of this isle is the Long Ago,
And we bury our treasures there;
There are bowers of beauty and bosoms of snow—
There are heaps of dust, but we loved them so!
There are trinkets and tresses of hair.

There are fragments of song that nobody sings,
And a part of an infant's prayers;
There's a lute unwept, and a harp without strings—
There are broken vows, and pieces of rings,
And the garments that she used to wear.

There are hands that are waved when the fairy shore
By the mirage is lifted in air;
And we sometimes hear, through the turbulent roar,
Sweet voices we heard in the days gone before,
When the wind down the river is fair.

Oh! remembered for aye be the blessed isle,
All the day of life till night—
When the evening comes with its beautiful smile,
And our eyes are closing to slumber awhile,
May that "greenwood" of soul be in sight!

Big Battery.

The New York Tribune, in an editorial notice of the death of Robert L. Stephens, says:

Many years ago he expended much time in perfecting the art of gunnery, and he experimented for nearly a year at Fox Hill, near Hoboken, for the purpose of testing the power of a cannon-shot upon plates of iron. He erected a target eight feet square, to which were affixed the iron plates at which his shots were directed. He experimented first upon various thicknesses of iron placed compactly together. He then arranged them with a space between the plates, and ascertained the force of the heaviest shot could be broken in that manner, so that, without perforating more than four or five of the plates, the force of the ball or bomb would be entirely expended. Having succeeded to his satisfaction in these tests, he called the attention of the General Government to a project which he had conceived for the construction of a mammoth battery for the defence of the harbor of New York. He was authorized to proceed with its construction, and has been engaged upon it for several years past. The amount expended upon it is stated to be \$1,000,000, and an application for \$250,000 more is now pending. The outer shell of this battery consists of nine plates of iron, with spaces between them, making a wall twenty-seven inches thick. This battery is to be so constructed that her ends may be driven into an ordinary ship, and cut it in two. It will be of 700 feet in length and 70 in width, with a rudder at each end. The work upon this battery is conducted with secrecy in an enclosed yard, admittance to which is not permitted. Mr. Stephens has been in the employment of the Government, devoting much of his personal attention to the construction of this battery. When completed it is to be moored in the bay, probably midway between the city and the Narrows. It is designed to carry thirty guns of heavy calibre on each side, and on deck four Paixhan guns. There will be furnaces in her for heating shot. She will be propelled by engines, and have no masts. She will be of 6000 tons burthen.

ABUSE OF THE LUNGS. Mrs. C. E. Beecher, in a recent book, says:

It is the universally acknowledged fact, that the present generation of men and women are inferior in health and powers of endurance to their immediate ancestors. And in all quarters the cause is sought, while many varying answers are given.

It is probable that no one cause can be assigned as the sole reason. But it can be made to appear probable that the abuse of the lungs, by supplies of impure air, has had more influence than any one thing in the general decay of health. Our ancestors always slept in cold and well-ventilated chambers. And in the family by day, the broad-mouthed chimney and uncorked doors and windows secured a constant flow of cool and pure air, while daily exercise in family work, by women and children, and out-door work by men and boys, secured the cheerful spirits and healthful exercise most favorable to body and mind.

Can a man who sells sea urns be said to urn his living?

Interior Africa.

The vast tract of country which forms the southern portion of the eastern hemisphere is still, to a great extent, the "unknown land." In the geographical studies of our school days, it has heretofore been assigned but a small space; both teacher and pupil being disposed to leave it to those whose tastes would incline them to linger amid its burning sands, its dark jungle, and its barbarous people. We read of its classic and once sacred river, its immense deserts, its fierce tigers, its naked savages, and imagine that we have learned of Africa all that is worth knowing. Thanks to the achievements of the Colonization cause, it has been discovered that the interior of Africa contains other objects of interest than wild beasts and unclad negroes. Until recently it was supposed that only those who dwelt upon the coasts knew any thing of civilization, intelligence and the arts of life, and that the inhabitants of the interior were ignorant, rude and superstitious. This impression is found to be wholly unfounded. The population of Central Africa proves, as research proceeds, to be not only more numerous, but in every respect much superior to that on the coast. And this superiority characterizes also the physical features of the region. The climate is more agreeable and better adapted to agriculture and trade. As to population, it is stated by a recent visitor of that country that the city of Ilorin is second in size only to the great metropolis of London. The kingdoms of Yoruba, Nuti, Gamburd House and Borgu, through which flows the mighty and majestic Nile, swarm with people, and can boast of their towns and cities containing tens and hundreds of thousands. Another populous tract to the east, called Ejesha, has also large cities, and is beginning to attract attention. We have the appearance and face of the country described in the following language, by one who speaks as an eyewitness:

"Those who have witnessed the prairie lands of Texas have seen something similar. Frequently the eye has a sweep for miles over a country whose rolling grandeur, heightened by imposing scenery of glen, hill-top and mountain, and covered with a carpet of green, can scarcely be surpassed. There are no heavy forests, except the skirts of branches of rivers. And then the timber is different from anything you have ever seen. It is quite tall, differing in this respect from the stunted, shrubby growth of the prairie. These hammock lands, high and dry, are of the very first order. Swampy and marshy places are very seldom seen."

And the people are by no means barbarians. Miles of acres are everywhere in a state of wonderful cultivation, growing corn, cotton, yams, potatoes, peas, &c. Their markets abound with an almost endless variety of articles. "Every morning," says a writer, speaking of the city of Ijaye with its 50,000 inhabitants, "from the six gates of Ijaye go out streams of living beings, perhaps 10,000 people or more, to work their farms, and return in the evening with the profits of their day's labor on their heads. For four or six miles, from 3 o'clock until night, the roads are almost thronged with people on their return home. Nearly every man, woman and child has a load of some kind, either to be carried home or to the market. I would suppose that at least one thousand bushels of corn or more are brought into town on the head every day." And here are to be found weavers, tailors, barbers, blacksmiths, shoe and saddle makers, and even ingenious specimens of art. I cannot tell you," says the same writer, "a tenth of their ingenuity. The most superior saddle stirrup I ever met with is to be found here. The nature of the government, absolute tyranny, is incompatible with any marked advance of the people towards civilization. Their dexterity is more clearly evinced perhaps in trading than anything else. They are a wonderful people. Africa is a second Asia." The Central African, we learn, is gracefully clothed from head to foot in turban, trowsers, and often sandals. "He knows much more of the world as it is, and of its past history, than you could well believe; his hands and feet are often as small and elegantly formed as those of any white man; his nose is 'not confounded with his projecting cheeks,' but prominent and straight; his lips are thin, his chin is full, his facial angle good, and if you enter into conversation with him you will soon find that God has endowed him with intellect of no mean order. All this could hardly be believed by some if I should aver it; but the people are here, and may be seen by any one who will come where they are." Truly here is a great field for the missionary and the Christian philanthropist.

Naturalists have remarked that the squirrel is continually chattering to his fellow squirrels in the woods. This we have every reason to suppose, arises from that animal's love of gossip, as he is notoriously one of the greatest tail-bearers among his tribe.

New Importation.

The New York Commercial Advertiser, under the above caption, says:

The Schooner *Searsville*, Capt. Sears, which arrived at this port to-day from Trinidad, was loaded principally with old iron, guns and an anchor from the remains of Spanish men-of-war that were burned in the gulf of Paris, near the port of Spain, in 1797, at the time they were blockaded by the British fleet. We learn the following particulars from a passenger on board the *Searsville*, who was present during the submarine operations, and who has several interesting relics from the wreck.

The American schooner *Silver Key*, Capt. Clark, which belongs to the Sub-marine Diving Company, of Boston, visited the gulf of Paris and obtained permission from Gov. Elliott, of Trinidad, to operate in that vicinity. In Chazuarumus bay, about ten miles to the West of the port of Spain, he found in about six fathoms of water the remains of the Spanish fleet commanded by Apolaca, at the time the English expedition, under Harvey and Abercrombie, sailed from Martinique for the subjugation of the island of Trinidad in 1796.

The Spanish vessels were five in number—four line-of-battle ships and one frigate—all fine specimens of naval architecture—which for better protection had been placed under cover of the guns and mortars of the fort of Gasparillo. When the English fleet anchored within range, Apolaca, perceiving the impossibility of escape without engaging, set his vessels on fire to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy, the money having been landed on the opposite coast. One of the line-of-battle ships by being to windward of the rest, was eventually captured by the English, but the four other vessels were burnt to the water's edge and sunk with the guns, from the wreck of which the principal part of the present cargo of the *Searsville*, consisting of about 90 guns, is taken. During the operations, two brass six-pounders, in a remarkable state of preservation were also rescued from the deep. Their surface was covered with pitch, and their bores were filled with the same material. On being cleaned, they presented a bright, smooth surface, having been protected from corrosion by the artificial covering in which they were enveloped. They are of Spanish manufacture, having been founded in Seville, and are marked respectively 5th August, 1776, and 14th April, 1777; their weight is 770 lbs. each.

The timber raised from the wrecks was wonderfully preserved. Pieces of pitch pine were found in almost perfect condition, having resisted the action of the salt water for fifty-nine years. Whilst oak and other timber, and the iron thereto attached, was much destroyed, copper and pitch pine have resisted the effect of the water almost entirely. The duty on this iron, we understand, will be paid under protest—the company claiming that it should be admitted duty free, having been regained from abandoned wrecks, by American enterprise. It seems to us that this presents a new point of revenue law, which admits of a strong argument in its favor.

I HAVE NO TIME TO READ. The idea about the want of time is mere phantom. Franklin found time, in the midst of all his labors, to dive into the hidden recesses of philosophy, and to explore the untrodden path of science. The great Frederick, with an empire under his direction, in the midst of war, on the eve of battles which were to decide the fate of his kingdom, found time to revel in the paths of philosophy and intellectual pleasures. Bonaparte, with all Europe at his disposal, with kings in his ante-chamber begging for vacant thrones, with thousands of men whose destinies were suspended by the brittle thread of his arbitrary pleasure, had the time to converse with books. Caesar, when he had curbed the spirit of the Roman people, and was thronged with visitors from the remotest kingdoms, found time for intellectual conversation. Every man has time; if he is careful to improve it as well as he might, he can reap a threefold reward. Let all make use of the hours at their disposal, if they want to obtain a proper influence in society. They can, if they please, hold in their hands the destinies of our Republic.

A STRANGE HEAD. The Napoleon, Ark., Sentinel, of March 21, says: We were shown by Dr. Lebrader, a day or two since, a most singular and remarkable head—that of Fouché, a celebrated chief of the Creeks. The singularity of the head consists of two perfect mouths—a front and rear mouth, with a double set of masticators to each. It is a remarkable fact that it made no difference in his eating or feeding operations which mouth he used, as either answered the same purpose, but whenever he imbibed from the rear mouth, drunkenness ensued much sooner than if he had taken it by the front. Such a head is worthy of the study of anatomy of the medical faculty.

GRANULATED CORK MATRESSES AND CUSHIONS. Mr. W. Johnston, of this city, has recently invented a method of finely dividing cork and cleansing it from dust. The buoyant qualities of cork are well known; but it is not equally well known that these qualities in cork are immensely increased, at least for a time, by its being reduced to fine grains. One pound of cork in grains will support a weight of fourteen pounds in water; and, so prepared, it is admirably adapted for beds, cushions, or the like, particularly for steam and ferry-boats, packets, etc. Cork in grains is softer than horse-hair, and is more durable and less expensive. It is a non-conductor of heat, and therefore warmer in Winter and colder in Summer than the common bed; and when applied to clothing, as it can be, by quilting, it is said to be favorable for the prevention and cure of rheumatism. In all applications, both for ladies and gentlemen, it is a life-preserver, because it will always be in order if in use. Beds thus prepared, and lashed to a boat render it a life-boat; and several planks and spars so prepared become a safe raft. Insects will not live in cork beds; and they are not favorable to infection, as they can be cleaned without injury. For these reasons they have been recommended by physicians, and are now used in some of our public institutions.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

WOMEN'S SPHERE. Charles Dickens never wrote anything more true than the following:

The true woman, for whose ambition a husband's love and her children's adoration are sufficient, who applies her military instincts to the discipline of her household, and whose intellect has field enough for her in communion with the husband, and whose heart asks no other honor than his love and admiration; a woman that does not think it a weakness to attend to her toilet, and does not disdain to be beautiful, who believes in the virtue of glossy hair and well fitting gowns, and who eschews rents and ravelled edges, slip slop shoes, and audacious make-ups; a woman who speaks slow and does not speak much—who is patient and gentle, and intellectual and industrious, who loves more than she reasons, and rarely argues but adjusts with a smile—such a woman is the wife we have all dreamed of in our lives, and that is the mother we still worship in the backward distance of the past! Such a woman as this does more for woman's cause than all the sea captains, barristers, judges, and members of parliament put together—God-given and God-blessed as she is.

Hewitt, in his work on "Ancient Armor," speaks of a sword named Memung, that was forged by Weland, and used by him in a trial of skill with another celebrated weapon-maker, named Amilias. "Weland," says Hewitt, "first made a sword with which he cut a thread of wool lying on the water. But not content with this, he re-forged the blade, which then cut through the whole ball of floating wool. Still dissatisfied, he again passed it through the fire, and at length produced so keen a weapon that it divided a whole bundle of wool floating in water. Amilias, on his part, forged a suit of armor so much to his own satisfaction, that, sitting down on a stool, he bade Weland try his weapon upon him. Weland obeyed, and there being no apparent effect, asked Amilias if he felt any particular sensation.—Amilias said he felt as though cold water had passed through his bowels. Weland then bade him shake himself. On doing so, the effect of the blow was apparent—he fell dead in two pieces."

AGE AND SIZE OF TREES. A short time since, there was in California one of the world's wonders, viz.: the Arbor Vitæ, or the big tree of Calaveras, ninety-six feet in circumference, and, according to an estimate, three thousand years old. This, however, does not constitute either the largest or oldest of the woody tribe belonging to the coniferous family. In other countries, trees greatly excel in age and size. Thus, for instance, the Baobab of Senegal (Adam Sonia Digitala) is ascertained to be 5,150 years old, and is 134 feet in circumference; and M. de Candolle has determined, many years since, that the celebrated tree called by the designation of Taxodium, of Chelupetepec, Mexico, which is 117 feet in circumference, exceeds in age the Baobab of Senegal.—*Home Journal.*

RUINS OF SEBASTOPOL. A correspondent of the Paris Patrie, writing from Sebastopol, says it is generally thought that Sebastopol will not be rebuilt, as it would cost as much to clear away the rubbish of the old city as to build a new one. There is literally nothing left of the city but shapeless ruins. The bullets are as thick on the ground as hailstones. Of the magnificent barracks, containing hospitals, churches, &c., and consisting each of twenty-five to thirty different buildings, nothing is left but large piles of stones.

THIRST IN THE ARCTIC REGIONS. The use of snow when persons are thirsty does not, by any means, allay the insatiable desire for water; on the contrary, it appears to be increased in proportion to the quantity used, and the frequency with which it is put into the mouth. For example, a person walking along feels intensely thirsty, and looks to his feet with coveting eyes, but his good sense and firm resolution are not to be overcome so easily, and he withdraws the open hand that was to grasp the delicious morsel and convey it into his parched mouth. He has several miles of a journey to accomplish, and his thirst is every moment increasing; he is perspiring profusely, and feels quite hot and oppressed. At length his good resolutions stagger, and he partakes of the smallest particle, which produces the most exhilarating effect; in less than ten minutes he tastes again, and again, always increasing the quantity; and in half an hour he has a gum stick of condensed snow, which he masticates with avidity, and replaces with assiduity the moment it is melted away. But his thirst is not allayed in the slightest degree; he is as hot as ever, and still perspires; his mouth is in flames, and he is driven to the necessity of quenching it with snow, which adds fuel to the fire. The melting snow ceases to please the palate, and it feels like red hot coals, which, like a fire-eater, he shifts about with his tongue, and swallows without the addition of saliva. He is in despair, but habit has taken the place of his reasoning faculties, and he moves on with languid steps, lamenting the severe fate which forces him to persist in a practice which, in an unguarded moment, he allowed to begin.

A SINGULAR TRADITION. Among the Seminole Indians there is a singular tradition regarding the white man's origin and superiority. They say that when the Great Spirit made the earth, he also made three men, all of whom were fair complexioned, and that after making them, he led them to the margin of a small lake and bade them jump in and wash. One obeyed and came out of the water purer and fairer than before; the second hesitated a moment, during which time the water, agitated by the first, had become muddied, and when he bathed, he came up copper-colored; the third did not leap until the water became black with mud, and he came out with its own color. Then the Great Spirit laid before them three packages and out of pity for his misfortune in color, gave the black man the first choice. He took hold of each of the packages, and having felt the weight, chose the heaviest; the copper-colored man then chose the next heaviest, leaving the white the lightest; when the packages were opened, the first was found to contain spades, hoes, and all the implements of labor; the second unwrapped hunting, fishing and warlike apparatus; the third gave the white man pens, ink and paper, the engine of the mind—the means of mental mutual improvement, the social link of humanity, the foundation of the white man's superiority.

SIDNEY SMITH. He said that — was so fond of contradiction that he would throw up the window in the middle of the night and contradict the watchman who was calling the hour.

When his physician advised him to "take a walk upon an empty stomach," Smith asked, "upon whose?"

"Lady Cork," said Smith, "was once so moved by a charity sermon that she begged me to lend her a guinea for her contribution. I did so. She never repaid me, and spent it on herself."

He said that "his idea of heaven was eating *fois gras* to the sound of trumpets." "I had a very odd dream last night," said he; "I dreamed that there were thirty-nine Muses and nine Articles; and my head is still quite confused about them."

Martin Luther notices thus the new discoveries of his day: "I am now advertised that a new astrologer is risen who presumeth to prove that the earth moveth and goeth about—not the firmament; the sun and moon, not the stars—like as when one sitteth in a coach, or in a ship that is moved, thinketh he sitteth still and resteth; but the earth and trees do move and run themselves. Thus it goeth; we give up ourselves to our foolish fancies and conceits. This fool (Coppernicus) will turn the whole art of astronomy upside down, but the Scripture showeth and teacheth another lesson, when Joshua commanded the sun to stand still, and not the earth."

Judge Gould, of the Ulster county, N. Y., Court, has decided that a married woman committing theft or other crime, in the presence of her husband, is not to be considered a party to the offence. The husband, having authority over the wife's actions, is alone responsible, and a magistrate committing a woman under such circumstances is liable to an action for false imprisonment.

THE GAZETTE.

SAN FRANCISCO AGENCY. Mr. L. P. FISHER is our authorized Agent for San Francisco. Mr. F.'s office is in the Iron Building opposite the Pacific Express Co.'s office, corner of Montgomery and Washington streets.

AGENTS.

Carpintoria.....HENRY J. DALLY
San Buenaventura.....GEARY VAN RIPER
Los Angeles.....C. R. JOHNSON
Santa Ynez.....AUGUSTUS JANSSEN
San Luis Obispo.....ALEXANDER MURRAY

SANTA BARBARA:

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1856.

By the next coast steamer we may expect to receive intelligence that the appeals which were taken by the federal government in many of the land cases have been withdrawn. The tidings will be exceedingly welcome to numerous rancheros in this county whose substance has been well nigh exhausted by the protracted litigation to which they have been for five long years subjected. Some have already expended in the defence of their titles larger sums than their ranchos would bring to-day if sold at public vendue. Others have disposed of all their cattle to defray the enormous cost of this vexatious and unjust litigation, and have only the naked land; while others still have been forced to part with not only all their personal property, but to sacrifice portions of their land. To this is to be added the enormous taxes which year after year they have been required to pay to the State government. The work of depletion steadily going on for such a length of time, has in some instances proved utterly ruinous and destructive, and many of those who a few years ago were accounted as independent in their wealth, have been reduced to abject penury. Better would it have been for many, pecuniarily, had they never undertaken to defend their titles at all, but had quietly resigned all pretensions to the character of land owners. Those who in spite of accumulated burdens have been able to retain their entire interest in their lands, will hail with joy the termination of the unequal contest which they have been forced to wage with the government, in resisting the attempt to wrest from them their hearthstones and household gods, inherited from their fathers and ancestors.

The great uncertainty of title which has hitherto existed in this State, has been more seriously felt in the Southern or agricultural portion than in the Northern or mining portion of the State. Few have desired to make permanent improvements upon lands to which the title was doubtful and in dispute. Industry has been checked, enterprise restrained, and immigration retarded. The settlement of titles will at once infuse new vigor into the South, tend to increase its population, and set on foot a multitude of plans for developing the natural resources, with which this favored region has been bountifully endowed.

The Coroner held an inquest on the 19th instant upon the body of the man who was killed the day preceding at the vineyard of San Jose. The jury found that the deceased was named Eusebio, of Hermosillo, in the State of Sonora, and that he came to his death from a stab in the breast inflicted by Diego Felix, with premeditation.

On the 20th instant the Coroner held another inquest upon the body of a Mexican named Carlos Gimeno, who was found dead in a well in the rear of the house of Doña Candelaria Canizariz. The deceased was about fifty years of age, and had gone to draw water. There was no curb nor other protection around the mouth of this well, and it is supposed that by a mis-step he was precipitated into it headforemost. The verdict of the jury was in conformity with the facts.

The U. S. surveying schooner Ewing arrived on Saturday last. The Ewing left San Francisco for the season's cruise on the 26th of May, and in company with the steamer Active, has been engaged in surveying at San Clemente Island. After making observations of the currents and temperatures in that vicinity, she sailed for this port. The following are the officers of the Ewing:—Lieut. Commanding, Richard Cuyler; Watch Officers, John Adams, James Kingsbury; Acting Purser, James M. Alden.

The Ewing sailed again on Tuesday last.

The band of horses belonging to the Messrs. Puig, mentioned in last week's paper as having been stolen, were recovered during the latter part of last week.

We are indebted to Mr. Buchanan, of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express, for the Los Angeles Star.

THE ASSESSMENT. The assessment of the taxable property in the county will soon be completed and presented to the board of Supervisors for equalization. There is reason to believe that the amount of taxable property in the county has increased during the past year by quite a large figure. We are not sure if the value has increased in the same proportion, if at all. Neat cattle are worth ten per cent. more than they were last year, while real estate has not materially changed. The assessor, Mr. E. S. Hoar, has been very diligently engaged during the last month, having visited nearly all the ranchos and farms in the county, and judging from the manner in which he has heretofore performed the duties of assessor, his labors will give general satisfaction.

On Saturday last a motion for a new trial in the case of the People vs. Patrick H. Dunne, convicted of assault with intent to commit murder, was heard before the Court of Sessions. Two affidavits were read by the Attorney for the defendant, going to show that two members of the jury did not agree to the verdict which was rendered, and seven other affidavits were presented by the District Attorney for the purpose of showing that all the members of the jury did in fact concur both in the jury room and in the court house at the time the verdict was returned. The Court refused to grant a new trial and sentenced the defendant to two years in the State Prison.

THE FOURTH. If anything is going to be done towards an appropriate celebration of our ever-memorable "Independence Day" by our city or by the community generally, it is quite time to commence in earnest. Let some distinguished fellow-citizen be waited upon forthwith and be invited to speak of the past, of the present and of the future, or of anything else he may please—black-republicanism excepted. We are not in favor of "letting the Union slide."

The Alta gives the following as the destination of the prisoners sent off by the Vigilance Committee: "C. P. Duane and Wooley Kearney were put on board the steamer Golden Age outside the heads.—Mulligan and Gallagher were placed upon the bark Yankee, bound for the Sandwich Islands, and others were sent to Melbourne on the Carrier Dove."

ANOTHER ELECTION. By reference to our advertising columns, it will be seen that the Common Council have ordered an election for City Attorney, to take place on Tuesday next.

J. B. Meecham has been appointed keeper of the lighthouse at Point Conception, in place of George Parkinson, removed.

No clue has yet been obtained as to the whereabouts of the Sonorian who killed another at the vineyard of San Jose last week.

Probate Court.

Hon. CHARLES FERNALD, County Judge.
MONDAY, June 23d.

In the matter of the last will and testament of Crisanto Lorenzana, deceased.

On proof of the due execution of the will by one of the subscribing witnesses thereto, and of the publication of the requisite notice, the Court ordered it to be admitted to probate, and letters testamentary to be issued to Jose Lorenzana and Guadalupe Elwell, the executors therein named, and appointed as appraisers of the effects of the testator, Cayetano Arenas, Jose Ruiz and Ramon Gonzalez.

An account was presented by Joaquin Carrillo, executor of the last will of Manuela Carrillo, which was allowed.

The hearing of a petition respecting the will of Rafaela Ayala de Burrough was continued until the next term.

The Court then adjourned for the term.

Common Council Proceedings.

FRIDAY, June 20th.

Present—Messrs. Starkey, Puig, Jose Carrillo and Francisco Carrillo.

The Council proceeded to elect a President, which resulted in the election of Mr. Puig. The President appointed the following Committees: On Public Lands, Messrs. Jose Carrillo and Francisco Carrillo. On Expenditures, Mr. Eugene Starkey.

On motion, all petitions now on the table were referred to the Committee on Public Lands, to report as soon as possible.

Mr. Esteban Ortega was appointed City Collector.

On motion, an Election was ordered to be held on the 1st day of July for City Attorney.

On motion, the Clerk was ordered to notify the City Treasurer to send in a report on the condition of the city funds.

Adjourned until Tuesday at 10 A. M.

TUESDAY, June 24th.

No quorum being present, adjourned until Thursday at 10 A. M.

Los Angeles Items.

We take the following items from the Los Angeles Star:

FROM THE DESERT. Captain Greene and party arrived this week, having finished his contract, embracing a tract of country 1000 miles in extent, and including a district of fine agricultural land, covered with galleta grass, a coarse bunch grass, of which the animals are very fond. Water could easily be obtained by digging. In some places water was struck at a depth of eight or ten feet, but it was unfit for drinking, being brackish. This country is situated between the base line and the first standard north of San Bernardino and east of the meridian.

There were fifteen men in Capt. Greene's party. The Indians stole one of his best mules, which they killed and used for food. They also robbed his "cache" of 500 pounds of corn.

The great drought which prevailed over the country this year was severely felt on the Desert. Two men of the party set out from the camp; their supply of water becoming exhausted, they were unable to procure any, and were reduced to the horrid extremity of drinking their own urine, which was the means of saving their lives.

Col. Washington is at work south of the base line, extending from the meridian to the Colorado river.

The Surveyors on the Mohave and Colorado river are in expectation of having trouble with the Indians, and are preparing themselves for any emergency that may arise.

Large bands of cattle have been driven out on the Mohave, the grass being abundant.

INDIAN RESERVATION. We beg to direct the attention of the proper authorities to the great importance of establishing an Indian Reservation at San Geronimo Pass. It occupies a prominent position in the geography of the country, being central between Fort Yuma and Fort Tejon, and easy of access to the Colorado, Mohave, Pa-ute, Cavanon and Yuma Indians. The land in this district cannot be surpassed for agricultural purposes by any in the State.

There is a copious and never-failing spring of water, called Palm Spring, in range 9 east, township 1 north, section 33, San Bernardino meridian; another in range 18, township 5, section 3, known as the "Old Woman's Water-Hole." Here there is also plenty of fine bunch grass, differing from and superior to the galleta.

This matter should have prompt attention, as the Indians are very numerous, and although in great want of supplies, are very friendly.

THE CROPS. Throughout this district, the barley crop is represented as very luxuriant—much better than last year. The long drought which prevailed here did not affect this crop. Indeed, barley may always be looked on as a sure yield. This grain is now very generally harvested. The wheat crop is also ready for the sickle, and promises to be very abundant.

ESCAPED. On Sunday last a number of fellows, who are supposed to be of a gang of desperadoes who infest this locality, were firing their pistols in the streets, and conducting themselves generally in a riotous manner, when Deputy Marshals Peterson and Smith arrested them, but unfortunately they afterwards effected their escape through the occurrence of an accident to one of the officers.

PASSENGERS. We learn from very carefully prepared statistics, published in the Chronicle, a few days since, that the accessions to our population by arrivals seaward, in May, were about in the same ratio as has been maintained for six months past. The departures of male adults were in excess of the arrivals by 221; the arrival of female adults were in excess 417, and of children 257 of the departures, leaving a net gain during the month of 452 souls. The net gain during the preceding four months was 2,631, and that for the year is accordingly 3,144 souls, all told.

John Wise and John Fehley have been convicted of murder by the District Court of Trinity county, and sentenced to be hung on the 10th day of July next.

Mrs. Julia Dean Hayne, Misses Cella and Olive Logan, Mr. Charles Pope and other artists, will shortly sail from New York for this State.

EDITORS GAZETTE: I would most respectfully call the attention of the Common Council, through the medium of your columns, to the necessity of an ordinance to regulate the price and quality of bread (?) sold in this city. Why, sirs, it is a shame and a gross imposition that the inhabitants of this town should be at the mercy of one firm, who buy up all the flour for sale at the different stores in this city, and then sell to us a mixture of putty and plaster of Paris, which they, stretching their imaginative powers to their full extent, call bread! bread!! God save the mark. Estel, of State Prison contract notoriety, would blush with shame were he accused of giving such "stuff" to the convicts under his charge. In all well regulated cities there are laws regulating the sale of bread. Let us not be behind the age in this respect at least; let the Common Council pass an ordinance which will compel bakers to give us bread, not putty. Yours, PAN.

Santa Barbara, June 23, '56.

Land Titles in California—Important Circular.

The following important circular, issued by Attorney General Cushing, says the San Francisco Herald, was received by the mail of yesterday:

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE,
April 2, 1856.

SIR: By the provisions of an Act to ascertain and settle private land claims in the State of California, passed by Congress March 3, 1851, and of an Act in amendment thereof, which was passed August 31, 1852, it was enacted, in substance, among other things,

[Here a synopsis of the law is given.]

Such is an outline of the provisions of statute regarding the examination of private land claims in the State of California, in so far, more especially, as concerns the official duty of the Executive of the United States. The Commissioners provided for that purpose entered upon and have now completed the discharge of their appropriate functions, having heard and determined upwards of eight hundred cases, presented by parties claimants of land under Spanish or Mexican grants in California; and transcripts in the several cases have, from time to time, as they were determined, been transmitted to the Attorney General.

Of these transcripts, the first was received at this office on the 3d of March, 1853, a few days before the present incumbent of the office entered upon the discharge of its duties. In the whole course of the first affair, however, only twelve transcripts reached this office, and they did not afford adequate means of coming to a general determination of the subject matter. Thus, of necessity, there could be no definite action in any of these cases during the first year.

During the ensuing year, a large number of transcripts arrived; but, on examination of them, it was found impossible, with due regard to the interests of the United States, to decide in what cases to abstain from prosecuting appeals to final judgment, until satisfactory rules of decision should have been obtained by the trial of a number of leading cases in the Supreme Court.

For this cause, it became necessary to file notices of appeal in every case; not with any purpose of subjecting the parties to the expense of a trial in the District Court in every case, but only to suspend the cases there, and thus avoid the consequence of otherwise losing the right of appeal, where, by application of decisions of the Supreme Court, it should in the event be found that a rehearing was requisite, in justice to the United States.

Efforts were made to carry through the District Court, and bring to the Supreme Court, as speedily as possible, some leading cases for decision there. Four cases reached the Supreme Court in December term, 1853, but in season to take up only one of them, and that on a question of form not affecting its merits. In December term, 1854, two of these cases were heard and determined on their merits, so as to settle some general principles, but not enough to make it safe or convenient, then, to proceed to re-examine cases in order to dismiss appeals in the District Court. At the present term, however, which commenced in December, 1855, and will have been continued by adjournment to the end of May next, it is conceived that, in the numerous cases which have now reached the Supreme Court, a sufficient body of decisions will have been had to justify the final disposition, without further trial, of no inconsiderable portion of the cases still pending in the District Courts of California, on appeal by the United States.

I propose, therefore, on the 1st of June next, to commence the re-examination of the transcripts, with a view to the discontinuance of appeals in all cases where justice requires it, and it can be done without manifest prejudice to the United States.

The cases will be resumed in the order of the general calendar of the Commissioners, and, wherever no sufficient reason to the contrary appears, notice of the discontinuance of the appeal will be transmitted at once to the Clerk of the proper District Court.

Where objections appear on the face of the record, or may be suggested by written notice, duly filed in this office on or before the first day of August next, such objections will be deemed sufficient to prevent the discontinuance of appeal, when they appear to involve rights or interests of the United States, and not otherwise; leaving third parties to pursue the remedy, which the statute provides for them, of petition before the proper District Court, and injunction to restrain issue of patents by the Commissioner of Public Lands.

I am, respectfully,

C. CUSHING,
Attorney General.

Mrs. Emma Willard, of Troy, possesses a new remedy for sea-sickness, which consists in forcibly expelling the impure air from the lungs, and filling them with pure air. This is her advice: "Make your chest as small as possible by stooping, drawing down your ribs, and pressing your hands to your sides, throw out the air by a violent and long continued exhaling, blowing it from your mouth as if engaged in blowing up a fire. Then change, make a long and forcible inhalation, opening your chest to its fullest dimensions by standing erect and raising your arms from your shoulders. Three or four of these long forced breaths are sufficient to relieve a severe case of sea sickness.

The Homicide at Washington.

To-day, shortly after 11 A. M., P. T. Herbert, a California member of the House of Representatives of the United States, went over to breakfast at Willard's Hotel, where he takes his meals, and sent a boy from the breakfast room for his breakfast. In four or five minutes after a portion of his breakfast was set before him, and the boy then told him that at that hour it would be necessary for him (the boy,) to get an order from the office to have a breakfast sent up from the kitchen, as desired.

Herbert told the boy "Clear out, you Irish son of a b—h." He turned around to another waiter, Thomas Keating, who was standing by, and exclaimed, "And you, you damned son of a b—h, clear out, too." The answer of Thomas Keating was not comprehended by our informant, (an eye-witness.)

Herbert, on being answered by Thomas, rose and struck him on the neck behind, with his fist. Thomas Keating seized a plate and threw it at Herbert. Herbert seized a chair and threw it across the round table at Thos. Keating, striking him with it.

They then clinched and fought. Another Californian, whose name we have not heard, came in at the door and ran to Herbert's assistance, and also struck Thomas with a chair.

Patrick Keating, the brother of Thomas, (and the steward of the house,) at that time coming into the room, ran to his brother's assistance and seized Herbert, who immediately drew a revolver. The other Californian at that time was striking both the Keatings with a chair.

As Herbert drew his revolver Patrick seized it by the barrel, and they struggled over it for some moments, until the French cook of the house came in and separated Herbert and P. Keating, who let go his hold of the pistol barrel.

Thomas Keating and the other Californian were mingled in that particular part of the fray between Herbert and Patrick. After Patrick let go the barrel of the revolver, Herbert seized Thomas (who had clinched him and was struggling for the pistol) by the collar, and, putting the pistol to his breast, shot him through the lungs, killing him in five minutes.

After the shot, one of the other servants threw a piece of China-ware at Herbert, but none of the others interfered.

Herbert and his California companion left the room and house immediately, by the Fourteenth street door, where Herbert took a hack and drove away. Subsequently he delivered himself up at the office of Justice Daniel Smith, on Eighth street.

His examination for killing Thomas Keating, aged about 34 or 35 years, (who leaves a wife and two children) will take place at the guard-house, at 5 P. M., this afternoon. Messrs. Bradley and Carlisle are counsel for Herbert.

This account of the fatal affray we take from the lips of one of the servants, an aged man, who saw the whole of it.—*Washington Star, May 8.*

The Indian War in Oregon.

The Portland (O. T.) Times, of the 7th inst., contains the following information relative to the Indian war:

Expresses arrived at the Dalles on Saturday last—one from Col. Wright, and one from Col. Shaw, of the Volunteers at Steilacoom. It appears that Col. Shaw had sent an express through Na-chez Pass to Col. Wright, and when within ten miles of his camp they were met by about thirty Indians, and were forced to leave their horses and run to the brush. They afterwards joined the regular express from Colonel Wright's camp, in charge of A. J. Price, and arrived at the Dalles, as before stated, on Saturday last. They report the streams much swollen, and that the snow through Na-chez Pass is from eight to ten feet deep—and that there is a well beaten trail through.

The regulars under Col. Wright were encamped on Na-chez river. The main body of the Indians have moved their camp up the river, and but few of them remained near Col. Wright's camp.

Kamiakin has gone to see Looking Glass. He says that Looking Glass is the chief who first recommended war on the whites.

Garry, chief of the Spokans, has been into Col. Wright's camp in disguise. It is reported that the Spokans have entered into arrangements with Kamiakin to join in the war.

Col. Wm. Craig writes from the Nez Perce country that he is fearful the Nez Perce tribe are on the eve of breaking out into open hostilities against the whites.

Last Sunday some pack trains left the Dalles for Col. Wright's camp, taking sixty days supplies for the troops; and on the same day another train returned from Col. Wright's camp to the Dalles.

Rumors are rife that the Indians intend to get in the rear of Col. Wright, and cut off his communication with the Dalles, and then come in and take that point. The people at the Dalles are making due arrangements for defence in case of an attack.

There are hostile Indians in the vicinity of the mouth of Wind river, near Wind mountains on the Columbia river, between the Dalles and the Cascades. The Indians had shot stock, while the settlers were taking their stock from a boat. Moccasin tracks, as well as fresh horse tracks, were discovered near by. The steamer Mary was to take a force of volunteers and regulars up to that point.

