

An Urgent Duty.

Citizens of Nebraska, an important duty is imposed upon you. The Homestead Law has now gone into operation. You claim and believe that our Territory offers rare inducements to our friends in the East, to come and people our uncultivated lands, and reap the benefits derived from a fertile soil, in a healthy, salubrious climate. Show them the facts. Your attention, as well as those in the States, is now engrossed with the War, yet there are many who intend coming West immediately, and a large portion would settle in Nebraska if they were informed by their friends, or otherwise, of the advantages to be derived by coming here.

In Kansas, blanks for township reports, have been sent by the Secretary of the State Agricultural Society to every township in the State, for the purpose of collecting such items as the following:

- Average yield per acre of corn. Average cost per bushel of corn cribbed. No. acres in Winter Wheat. Average yield per acre. No. acres in Sorghum. No. gallons molasses and cost. No. lbs. Sugar and cost. No. of Sheep average clip of wool, etc. No. of Cows, etc. In all some sixty subjects are embraced in the report to be made.

Hon. S. G. Daily has introduced the following resolutions into the House. They passed without opposition:

Resolved, That the Committee on Territories be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation of money or lands to aid in building bridges across the Loup Fork and Platte Rivers on the military road; and report by bill or otherwise.

Resolved, That the Committee on Territories be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation of \$10,000 for a geological survey of Nebraska Territory; and report by bill or otherwise.

Resolved, That the Committee on Ways and Means be requested to inquire into the expediency of appropriating \$4,000 to build a Penitentiary in Nebraska Territory, and \$60,000 to pay the city of Omaha for moneys expended by her in building the capitol of said Territory; and report by bill or otherwise.

We hope Congress will pass these appropriations. The money spent in a Geological survey would be returned a hundred-fold. But the most important of these resolutions is the one suggesting the building a Penitentiary. It should not longer be delayed.

THE NEWS.

The news from Vicksburg, of latest dates indicates that the Federals have not yet got possession of that place. Sherman, who commands the land forces, has been partially repulsed. He will doubtless make another attack as soon as the gunboats are ready to co-operate.

There is no news of importance from the Potomac.

A NOTABLE PROCLAMATION.—In our columns to-day, that sparkling pleasure to all eyes, the elegant and entertaining New York Mercury, proclaims its intentions for the New-Year of 1863. It is a charming "guide, philosopher and friend" for every body, and enables the mind, "formed by its converse, happily to steer From grave to gay, from lively to severe."

To do without the Mercury for a week would be like missing the face you love best for a year, and its army of subscribers for '63 is likely to outnumber that of the Union.

Godfrey's Lady's Book.—As a number have spoken to us to procure for each of them a copy of this magazine, we will make up a club, so as to get it at the cheapest rate. For a club of five, it will cost two dollars. If more than five send, it will be still less. Send in your names immediately.

NEBRASKA CAVALRY.—Company E, Capt. Furness, and the Richardson county company passed through town this morning. The former is stationed at Nemaha City, and the latter at Falls City. The soldiers in their uniforms, are splendid looking men.

Owing to the crowded condition of our columns several letters and communications are crowded out, this week.

From Missouri. CAMP "VAN BUREN," MO., Dec. 25, 1862.

MR. EDITOR:—The Army of Southwest Missouri moves occasionally, and Southwardly it tends. Little Rock, Arkansas may be its destination, but there is no knowledge of the circumstances of war in advance of the hour when each comes to pass. The road to that rebel rendezvous, judging from that portion over which we have already tramped, will afford no easy stages for a desirable journey. The amount of hills and dells are almost innumerable, and especially the hills. The streams to be forded or temporarily bridged are uncounted. Truly, this region is well watered, and exceedingly fertile in timber and rocks. When "the windows of Heaven" open and the rain falls, these streams raise very suddenly and as soon as the windows are shut they fall as speedily. While we were encamped on the bottom land of Black River at Reeve's Station, the rains fell in torrents and the river rose in its wrath and drove us back, a feet which the rebels have never done for us! The waters surrounded the quarters of the Colonel commanding, and were nothing loth to bid them pack the available, or "skeddadle" in a tremendous hurry, even when Madam Night had spread her sable mantle over this sphere of ours. And they rushed down the valley with such might, and swiftness, that the Quartermaster's man Fritz, could not get all his teams out of the bottom leaving one mule behind to stem the torrent of the water. But Fritz drank his health in a farewell glass, wrapped a blanket around him for a winding sheet perhaps, placed a sack of oats before him, saying "that's all I can do for you, good-by old mule," and wending his lonely way shoreward, drowned his sorrow in the "flowing bowl." Such is the way with soldiers. We have been marching about a week, but are now camped for a week or two in a region where Bushwhackers abound to an alarming extent. They attacked a forage train yesterday belonging to General Benton's Division, killed some men, took some prisoners, and burned five wagons belonging to the same. But they will make themselves scarce if we remain long here, if they do not attack us in force and defeat us.

'Tis the evening of Christmas, but a strange one it seems, nothing like the Christmas nights of yore ere we all went soldiering. Well we are consoled with the thought that those far away are enjoying the holiday in the fashion which the soldiers cannot enjoy, but we hope they will remember the wars.

The Ladies' Repository.

A Family Paper Devoted to Literature and Religion—Volume XXIII—1863.

It is the design of this Magazine to produce an elegant and pure literature, such as will cultivate the taste, refine the manners, and ennoble all the aims of life. Literary without being pedantic, religious in its tone and character without bigotry, it will make itself welcome wherever it is known. No Magazine in the country is better adapted to the family circle.

In its mechanical execution the Repository is not equaled by any Magazine in the land. It is printed from stereotype plates on the finest calendered paper; and each number contains two original steel engravings, executed in the highest style of the art by artists who stand at the head of their profession.

MILWAUKEE AND PRAIRIE DU CHIEN ELEVATOR.—This building on the opposite bank of the river is now completed, except the exterior wall of brick. It is the largest and most complete elevator west of Lake Michigan, and attests alike the enterprise of the R. R. Co. and the immense business of the upper Mississippi that is tributary to this road.

The building is 55 by 185 feet, resting on a wall of solid masonry five feet thick, is 50 feet high above low water mark, and has a capacity of 200,000 bushels. It is built in the most perfect and substantial manner, furnished with the best and most approved machinery for elevating, and eight of Fairbanks' 125 bushel Hopper Scales, which for style and finish excel anything we have before seen. In this the Company have shown their usual discretion and judgment, by securing to shippers the certainty that they will get correct weight—a very important consideration with those who have to produce to sell, or to send to market.

—McGregor Times.

Senator from Missouri.

John B. Henderson, was elected U. S. S. for the short term, on Tuesday last. The emancipationists have a majority and can elect whoever they please for the long term. Graiz Brown is one of the most prominent candidates.

New Use of Coal Oil.

It is said to be an excellent Liniment for sore cuts and bruises; also to be good for rheumatism. It is excellent for cleaning grease off of machinery or any place where it is gummed hard.

Rags.—We will take Cotton and Linen rags at this office in payment for subscription. The high price in paper renders rags valuable, and it is the duty of all to save their rags.

From the Nebraska First.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST NEBRASKA INFANTRY, CAMP DAVIDSON, MO., Dec. 15th, 1862.

MR. EDITOR: As I was sitting by my table, on which I had just placed pen, ink, and paper, with very strong intentions to write a letter to some one, well, the question arises in my mind, who shall I write to first? I have to run over my catalogue of numerous correspondents, and find that it has been some time since I last wrote to you. I will therefore endeavor to give you a few details, that may interest some, and show where we are and what we are doing.

The last time I wrote was from Patterson, Mo. Well, one frosty morning, I think about the 1st of December, we struck camp, and was in line of march for Black River, at which place we arrived the second night out, and pitched camp close to the river. This camp assumed the name of Camp Davidson, which was composed of the 1st Division Army Southeast Mo., Commanded by Col. Boyd, 24th Mo. Infantry. About the second day in this camp it commenced to rain, and the river arose to such a height that Camp Davidson was in danger, (not of hell-fire.) but of being drowned; therefore, the soldiers had to take up their beds and flee unto the mountains for safety from such large quantities of water, but finally the cloud rolled away, and once more the blue sky appears, and we did not, (as I was afraid) have the second deluge. We are now on a hill, and doing duty the same as if nothing had happened.

We had about twenty-seven recruits from Nebraska, which were assigned to duty in companies H, I, and K, and you can hardly tell them from the old soldiers, only they don't show the war quite as plain. We have considerable duty to do now, such as picket guard, and forage escort, &c., and I assure that every fellow does his share of grumbling, as does your humble servant; but I don't think this will always last.

Since I last wrote to you, we have had some changes in the Commissioned portion of our Regiment. Col. Thayer's promotion to Brigadier General caused a vacancy in the Regiment which was promptly filled, by placing our Lieut. Colonel in as Colonel, and we have for a commander now a man that is fully capable to fill his position, and in Colonel Livingston you will find a man, although strict, is bound to have discipline, and is well thought of by his men.

Major Baumer is expected to be our next Lieut. Colonel, and a jolly good fellow he is, and it will be a general satisfaction. Capt. Majors, of company C, is expected to be our next Major, and he will be a good officer, and this promotion will be perfectly satisfactory, as he is known throughout the Regiment as a brave and thorough soldier.

Well, I think I have forgotten to tell you that Col. Livingston is in command of the 2d Brigade, 2d Division Army of Southeast Mo., and Capt. Cramer, that brave little soldier, is his A. A. General, and I am Besr.

Diversity of Human Races.

5. The American aborigines, from the utmost part of Greenland to the remotest part of Patagonia, are all naturally of a bronzed color. It is also remarkable that a great many have no eye-brows and none have beard. "The Tartars and Chinese," says the author of Philosophical Researches upon the Americans, "have about the same characteristic, with this difference, however, that, towards their thirtieth year, a moustache grows on their upper lip in the shape of a pencil, and few hairs beneath their chin; but the Americans are absolutely beardless, and have no hairs on any part of their body, except on their head."

America, considered in its indigenous inhabitants, that is, in the inhabitants who descend without mixture, from those it contained at the time it was discovered, in 1492, presents fundamentally but one and the same race of men, who are all more or less tawny and bronzed in hue, and who are all or almost all originally from Tartar races. "It seems to us," says Buffon, "that the reason of this uniformity, in the men of America, proceeds from their living all in the same manner. All the Americans (Aborigines) were, or are as yet savages or almost savages: the Mexicans and Peruvians were so lately civilized, that they scarcely may be made an exception. Whatever may be the origin of those savage nations, it seems to be common to them all. All the Americans are of the same stem, and they have preserved until now the characters of their race without much variation, because they have all remained savages and have preserved the same mode of living; because their climate is not by far so unequal as to coldness and heat as that of the old continent, and because being lately established in their country, the causes which produce varieties, have not been in action long enough to create very sensible effects."

6. The Laplanders and Esquimaux are the dwarfs of the human species: their ordinary size is only about four or four and a half feet in height.

The Laplanders inhabit the north part of Europe, between the polar circle and the Glacial sea; they have nothing that distinguishes them from the rest of the Europeans, if not the smallness of their

size. Mild and virtuous manners, a great inclination to oblige and to assist, a soul peaceable and without ambition, an extreme love for their country, from which we cannot take them without taking their life away; such is the essence of their national character.

The Esquimaux inhabit the eastern coast of America, from the land of Labrador, between Hudson's Bay and the island called Newfoundland, towards the 52d degree of the boreal latitude to the extremity of Greenland, towards the 76th degree of the same latitude. All the inhabitants you find living on the immense extent of the country under the name of Esquimaux and Greenlanders, are beardless dwarfs, lead a savage life, live by hunting and fishing, are of about the same size, have the same features, the same manners and speak the same language. In 1764, a Dane, who was well acquainted with the language of the Greenlanders, met with a horde of 200 Esquimaux, spoke to them in the language of the Greenlanders, and they answered him in the same language, which is the national idiom of their country, but which has no affinity, no similarity, no analogy with that of the Finns and the Japanese, with the jargon of Iceland, of Norway, of Samoyeds. All these pigmies of North America have very small feet, an enormously big head, a flat face, a rounded mouth, a nose small but not depressed, projecting cheek-bones, the lower jaw projecting farther out than the upper one, eyes often oblique and yellow, the complexion xanthous, or olive, or bronzed.

7. The Patagonians live in the extreme south portion of the continent of south America, extending from about the 37th degree of latitude to the Strait of Magellan and to Terra del Fuego.—Those savages are without hair or beard; their stature is about the same as that of the Europeans, but among them are found some hordes or families of a gigantic stature, to which travellers who almost always exaggerate, give from eight to twelve or thirteen feet in height.

It is surprising to hear talk of gigantic Patagonians for over 300 years and that their existence seems as yet doubtful. The hordes or families which we have just named were seen in the country of Patagonians, by the Italian Pignafella in 1593, by Commodore Biron in 1764, etc. A much greater number of travellers have visited the land of the Patagonians and have never seen any giants. Whence seem to result two things, namely: 1. That the country of the Patagonians is not generally peopled by giants, as it often has been stated and published; 2. That really there are some families of gigantic stature in the country inhabited by the Patagonians, but are very rare, for, if some travellers have seen giants there, others, after seeking for the like, have not found any.

The ordinary stature of those Patagonian giants, judging of it after the best relations, or by taking a medium between the extremes of the different relations, seems to be about eight or nine feet.

Thus speaks on the subject, Lippincott's Pronouncing Gazetteer or Geographical Dictionary of the World at the article Patagonia: "The aboriginal natives of East Patagonia, though by no means so large as they have been described, few of them exceeding six feet and some inches, are a tall and extremely stout race. Their bodies are bulky, their head and features large, but the hands and feet comparatively small. Their limbs are neither so muscular, nor so large-boned as their height and apparent bulk would lead one to suppose. Their color is a rich reddish brown. The mouth is large and coarsely formed, with thick lips; but the teeth are often excellent."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Union Meeting at Salem, N. T.

WHEREAS, One of the best Governments in the world has been assailed by wicked ruthless hands. A Government that has grown from a few dependent colonies into one of the greatest nations on earth. A government whose flag is respected in every port in the world. A government that not only offers, (but being able) protects its subjects wherever found if true to the flag of the Union, whether at home or abroad. A government that acknowledges no superior in all things that pertain to greatness, Arts, Science, Wealth, Law, Religion, and Rights of speech.

When this government is threatened so severely and earnestly by traitors at home, whose aim is a disunion of States. Equivalent almost to the destruction of the Government and those traitors having sympathisers in the loyal States who publicly proclaim their sentiments, it behooves us as patriotic citizens of Salem and vicinity, to take some action in regard to the matter. Therefore,

Resolved, That we have with pain and displeasure heard of language being used that does not become true and loyal citizens; and that rebel sympathisers will act with discretion by keeping their opinions, that disloyal sentiments cannot be longer tolerated and proclaimed here.

Resolved, That it may be fully understood by all persons that in adopting the foregoing resolutions it is not our aim or wish to interfere with the political opinions on any persons, when those political opinions are in consonance with the Government and for the Union of the States.

Resolved, That we are in favor of the Union and the Constitution as it is; a vigorous and determined prosecution of the war, and that each and every State may soon pay homage to the old flag.

Our beacon of light through the dark hours of the revolution. Victorious in all national conflicts since. Our guide to all the honors that we have acquired, and all the public rights, and privileges that we are now so jealous of and are determined not to lose, but that our Government shall survive and continue to grow in greatness, when this rebellion will be forgotten and traitors known no more.

Resolved, That the foregoing resolutions be published in Nebraska Advertiser and White Cloud Chief.

SALEM, N. T., Dec. 29, 1862.

OFFICIAL.

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES, Passed at the Second Session of the Thirty-seventh Congress.

REVENUE LAW.—CONTINUED.

Sec. 75. And be it further enacted, That from and after the said first day of August, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, the duties on all goods and merchandise, hereinafter mentioned, which shall thereafter be produced and sold, or be manufactured or made and sold, or removed for consumption, or for use in any other manner, shall be as follows: That the duties on all goods and merchandise, hereinafter mentioned, which shall thereafter be produced and sold, or be manufactured or made and sold, or removed for consumption, or for use in any other manner, shall be as follows:

On all mineral coals, except such as are known in the trade as soft coal, three and a half cents per ton. Provided, That for all contracts of lease of coal lands made before the first day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, the lessee shall pay the duty on such coal, at the rate of three and a half cents per ton.

On all oil, mustard-seed oil, and on all animal or vegetable oils not exempted nor provided for elsewhere, whether pure or adulterated, two cents per gallon. Provided, That oil or oleo acid, produced in the manufacture of soap, and used as a material in the manufacture of soap, paraffine, whale and fish oil, shall be exempted from this duty.

On all glass, illuminating, made of one wholly or in part, or any other material, when the product shall be not above five hundred thousand cubic feet per month, five cents per one thousand cubic feet: when the product shall be above five hundred thousand, and not exceeding one million cubic feet per month, ten cents per one thousand cubic feet: when the product shall be above five millions, fifteen cents per one thousand cubic feet: and the general average of the monthly production for the year preceding the return required by this act shall regulate the rate of duty herein imposed; and where any gas company shall not have been in operation for the year next preceding the return as aforesaid, then the rate shall be regulated upon the estimated average of the monthly production: Provided, That the product required by this act shall be sold, or removed for use, or be the product charged to the bills actually rendered by any gas company during the month preceding the return, and all gas companies shall be bound to file with the collector, for each month, a statement of the quantity of gas sold, or removed for use, or be the product charged to the bills actually rendered by any gas company during the month preceding the return, and all gas companies shall be bound to file with the collector, for each month, a statement of the quantity of gas sold, or removed for use, or be the product charged to the bills actually rendered by any gas company during the month preceding the return, and all gas companies shall be bound to file with the collector, for each month, a statement of the quantity of gas sold, or removed for use, or be the product charged to the bills actually rendered by any gas company during the month preceding the return, and all gas companies shall be bound to file with the collector, for each month, a statement of the quantity of gas sold, or removed for use, or be the product charged to the bills actually rendered by any gas company during the month 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