

BELLEVUE GAZETTE.

HENRY M. BURT,
News and Local Editor.

BELLEVUE, N. T.

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1858.

Rain, Thunder and Lightning.

These western regions have been visited so abundantly of late, with these three elements, that we are naturally led to an examination of the laws by which they are governed. We often hear the expressions,—"It rains, it thunders, it lightens." But if we inquire, what rains, what thunders, and what lightens? we shall find that we have been making the little pronoun "it," the scape-goat of our own ignorance. In this enlightened age, we talk just as ignorantly about the action of these elements, as the ancients did about the thunder-bolts of Jove. That water falls we all know, that the electric fluid darts hither and thither and a report is heard, every one of us understand; but the causes of such existing phenomena, and the laws by which they are governed, but very few of us understand.

Those who have paid any attention to the matter, have noticed that a copious descent of rain from the clouds, follows almost every report of heaven's artillery. Also that the rain is usually in the direction of the lightning. If the report be overhead, we are pretty sure to get a drenching; but if the rumbling be in the distance the drops descend elsewhere,—we fear them not.

The experiments of Dr. Franklin, clearly demonstrated that electricity and lightning were the same thing; and the connection of rain with electricity, shows that the latter has something to do with the production of the former. The earth and every thing around it, possesses more or less of this electric agent. The clouds, composed of water, niter, sulphure and salt, which the heat of the sun causes to rise above the surface of the globe, are charged with this subtle agent. The amount of electricity depends somewhat upon the density of the cloud. For instance, the lightest and most rarified cloud, two miles in height, possesses but very little electricity; the more dense, ranging within one mile, proportionally more; and the most dense, within half a mile of the ground, is surcharged with this powerful element.

Not only are the clouds thus charged with electricity, but they are charged either positively or negatively, and as such they have the power of transmitting this current from one to another, or to other terrestrial objects that are likewise conductors. When two clouds approach each other, either by their own cohesive attraction, or by atmospheric action; one being charged positively and the other negatively, the subtle fluid with which they are charged, rushes to embrace each other with such velocity as to cleave asunder the atmosphere through which it passes. The filling up of this momentary vacuum by the air, produces a concussion, the report of which is called thunder. The positive cloud possesses more electricity than naturally belongs to it, the negative one less; the passage of the superabundance of the one to the other, produces an equilibrium, which is attested by the report—the report is the result of such equilibrium. Thunder and lightning bear the same relation to each other as the flash and the report of a cannon.

The falling of water, called rain, in connection with thunder and lightning, is doubtless attributable to more than one cause. Some have supposed that the air is rendered adhesive and tenacious of moisture in proportion as it is charged with electricity, and that when this electric fluid leaves the murky cloud, its capacity for holding moisture is lessened, in proportion as it becomes rarified. Hence an increased fall of rain after each discharge of electricity. Or, to use a common expression,—It rains easy.

But to our mind the falling of water, from the clouds, is much more attributable to condensation than to rarefaction. The union and condensation of the floating clouds, by their cohesive attraction, as well as by the action of the wind, brings together too much moisture to be sustained by the atmosphere, especially when it is compressed by the lightning. A warm atmospheric current surcharged with vapor, comes in contact with another current of a lower temperature; and these counterfluent currents uniting, condense and form one body. The specific gravity of this condensed moisture is nine hundred times heavier than that of the air, consequently it descends to the earth—it rains. If in a given volume of atmos-

pheric air, there is as much moisture as it will contain, it is clear, that by the addition of other clouds, there must be a discharge. The compressure of the atmosphere by such addition, as well as by the violent agitation of the lightning must result in an increased fall of rain. Just as a sponge, filled with water, being compressed, must discharge a part of its contents.

When clouds, then, are small and scattered and move nearly in the same direction, there is no show of rain, but if the reverse, beware. To learn when rain may be expected, we have only to fix our eyes upon a certain cloud, and if it rarifies and scatters, there will be no rain; but if it attracts its neighbors, becomes more dense, and emits the electric fluid it is certain that it will discharge itself in the region where it is located.

CHAUCER.

THE CROPS IN NEW YORK.—A week's travel and observation throughout those portions of our State, traversed by the Erie and Central Railroads (embracing about half the fifty-eight counties,) have not confirmed the glowing reports which reach us through others of the general condition of the crops in this State. Our notes sum up as follows:

Rye (just ripening,) thin and light—will not average ten bushels to the acre. Wheat looks better, but badly cut up by the midge. In Livingston and kindred wheat-growing districts, large fields are utterly destroyed. The yield throughout the State will not average ten bushels to the acre. Barley, largely sowed, and looks miserably. Oats, backward and very uneven, but may yield a light average.

Indian Corn, very spotted, and generally small, presenting in places a yellow, drowned look, but in the main of good color and growing fast. Unless damaged by premature frost, the crop will probably be a large average. There is at least an average area planted.

Grass pretty fair, and beyond any contingency but that of bad weather in haying, which is already begun. Considerable was caught out and badly damaged by the showers of Saturday.

Potatoes, largely planted, and though late, looking well. No symptoms of rot yet.

Gardens are very thrifty, except where the intervention of the hoe. Generally, the Corn and Potatoes have been well cared for since they were planted—we think better than usual.

N. Y. Tribune, 10th.

Mrs. Thurlow Weed died in Albany at noon, July 3. Her illness had been long, and for a long time its consummation not unexpected. The sympathies of men of all parties will be with Mr. Weed in this heavy affliction, which is all the more painful from the recent loss of his only son.

LUCIEN MURAT.—Most of our citizens who have visited Bordentown, N. J., will recollect having had pointed out to them an old-fashioned house, which was a few years ago used as a residence by Lucien Murat, and, at the same time, as a school for young ladies, the principal of which was Madame Murat. This lady, formerly Miss Frazer, an American by birth, long labored hard to procure a subsistence for herself and her worthless and dependent husband.

We recollect once having made a visit to the school, and there being introduced to the son of the illustrious Murat, and the beautiful Pauline Bonaparte. The many years have passed since then, and Lucien Murat is the cousin of Louis Napoleon, who is now Prince of the Empire of France, and his hard working wife occupies the Elysee Bourbon at Paris, our remembrance of him, seated on the front porch of that small house in Bordentown, attired in a very ragged dressing-gown, and dirty cap, smoking a common clay pipe, and looking altogether like a very vulgar Dutchman, cannot be obliterated by any of the grand reports which now reach us, of "those many virtues and most affable and courteous bearing, which render him so popular in France."

Though his lot now is cast in pleasant places, that of his wife is not so smooth as—considering her past troubles—it should be. We see by a late paper, that her brother, formerly a resident of New York, and a gentleman of wealth, fashion, and leisure, was arrested last week, near Baltimore, and re-committed to the jail at Morestown, N. J., from whence he had escaped, when under confinement for counterfeiting.—*Woman's Advocate.*

It is estimated that the total damage to property at Cairo, caused by the small "wet spell" they had down there, is \$60,000. Of this damage \$7000 worth has been sustained by the Illinois Central Railroad. The height of the flood was forty-seven feet above low water mark, being two feet higher than any flood since 1779.

THE GROWTH OF WESTERN JOURNALISM.—On the 12th inst. the St. Louis Republican completed its fiftieth year, it being established in July, 1808. When started it required but two hands to conduct the paper, now it has one hundred and seventy-five. Its expenses are \$4,000 a week, or more than \$200,000 per annum. When started it was but little larger in size than a letter sheet, but now it is a mammoth folio, being, with one or two exceptions, the largest daily in the United States.

NEWS FROM THE TELEGRAPH FLEET.—We are gratified to be enabled to lay before our readers some definite intelligence with regard to the Telegraph Fleet. It will be seen by our dispatches that the vessel Alice Munroe, which arrived at Boston yesterday, was in company with the Fleet, on the 27th of June. Two unsuccessful attempts had been made to submerge the cable. No disaster had occurred, and confident hopes are expressed of ultimate success. The weather has been extremely unfavorable, and on this account operations had been retarded.

St. Louis News, 17th.

The Cincinnati Gazette, of the 15th, thus states the condition of financial affairs in that city:—

Of first class business paper there is very little offering, for the reason that mercantile operations are not extended beyond the limits of individual means, and in the majority of cases the latter even, are not absorbed by current transactions. Rates of interest range from eight to twelve per cent. for strictly No. 1 to good paper, but names upon which money would be loaned at the inside figure are used to a limited extent only. Capitalists are anxious to find use for their surplus funds, but it is found impossible to prevent an accumulation of currency without lowering very materially the standard by which paper is classified. This there is no disposition to do, for notwithstanding the abundance of unproductive money, there is a manifest unwillingness to invest in securities that cannot bear the test of a strict scrutiny.

SALT LAKE NEWS.—By a private dispatch we learn that the Mormons had returned to their homes in the city. Gen. Johnston entered the city and passed on through, and is encamped some thirty miles on the other side of it. What can be the object of such a move on the part of the U. S. forces leaving the city again after having entered it, we are at a loss to conjecture. Probably by the next arrival we will be able to lay before our readers a more detailed account. The mail from Salt Lake will arrive here today.—*St. Joe Gazette, 23d.*

Early yesterday morning the Calliope Twilight came down from her long trip in the regions of the far North-West, discoursing sweet music as merry as a bell. The Twilight left this city, loaded with government freight, on a wild trip of adventure towards the head waters of the "far distant river," on the 25th of May, and has consequently, been out forty days and forty nights. She went one hundred and fifty miles beyond the Yellow Stone. Found some of the Indians rather inclined to be hostile but they took care not to manifest their hostility as she had about forty soldiers aboard for their especial benefit. The Twilight removed Fort Randall to some point above the Yellow Stone. Encountered very cold weather. The snow was just beginning to melt on the Mountains when she left; river rising all the way down. The Twilight received \$11,50 per hundred for all her freight up, she had to defray the expenses of having it shipped in keel boats five hundred and fifty miles farther than she went. She received \$2, per hundred for freight down. Had on board over three thousand bales of robes, besides other furs. Charles Premore an old Mountaineer, his squaw and two or three children came passengers on the Twilight. Premore has left his mountain home forever, and intends to settle down permanently in St. Louis county. The Twilight will clear this trip, the enormous sum of \$30,000. Captain Holland of the Steamer Alonzo Child, swears that this is more than all the lower boats will make this season all put together. Shoudn't wonder.

After tarrying a short time, the Twilight left, blowing Yankee Doodle sky high on her calliope.—*St. Joseph Journal.*

A prisoner escaped from the Wisconsin Penitentiary last week, in a very ingenious manner. He pretended to be sick, and was therefore allowed the privilege of walking in the yard. He then made a sort of an image, cut the hair from his own head, decorated the top of image with it, and deposited it carefully in his bunk, and took his customary walk in the yard. At night the watch looked into his cell and noticed him as he supposed, reposing quietly in his accustomed place. The next morning when his cell was visited he was still unmolested, and on account of his sickness was further indulged. At noon, however, it was thought about time he made some sign, and the watch proceeded to stir him up. But he wasn't there.

A DISASTROUS FIRE AT FT. LEAVENWORTH.—A destructive conflagration broke out last night, July 14, at 12 o'clock, and despite of all the exertions of the citizens, spread with furious rapidity, and was not checked until one of the most densely populated and best business portions of the city was laid in ashes.

The fire originated in the Market Hall, now called the Union Theater, on the corner of Delaware and Third Streets, and extended with fearful rapidity east, on each side of Delaware street; north, on the east of Third, and east on each side of Shawnee.

After almost superhuman exertions it was subdued. About thirty-five buildings, business houses and dwellings, were consumed.

At this early moment it impossible to estimate the true loss. Many of those burnt out lost their whole stock, while that of others was partially saved. The loss cannot be less than \$250,000.

Leavenworth Herald.

How Can You Fence Your Prairie Farms?

This question is frequently asked, and is supposed by many to be unanswerable. But it is easily answered.

We can easily fence our prairie farms with osage orange hedge. But, it is objected that the osage orange will not endure the cold winters of this latitude. In answer to this objection I can with pleasure inform you that the osage orange has endured the coldest winters ever known in this latitude, and also that it is successfully cultivated much farther north. In Mills County, Iowa, about ten miles east of Plattsburgh, there is a good osage orange hedge, which has withstood the severity of the last four winters, and is now a good fence. The osage orange is successfully cultivated in this county, and we have good reason to believe that it is admirably calculated for fencing prairie farms. An experienced cultivator of the osage orange, in a communication published in the Patent Reports, said, that if any one would enumerate all of the good qualities that were desirable in hedge plants, it would be found that the osage orange possessed the whole of them. It is easily cultivated, is of rapid growth, endures the winters admirably in this latitude, is the most thorny plant ever known, and no animal will eat or touch it the second time. It is highly ornamental; does not spread by sprouting from the roots, or in any other way. It is naturally a shrub, and is not injured by being pruned into suitable shape; can easily be made to thicken at the bottom, so as to fence against pigs, chickens and rabbits, and four feet high, is the best kind of a fence against horses, cattle, hogs, dogs, sheep, geese, ducks, shanghais and boys. It will neither rot down, blow down, wash down, or burn down, and what good qualities can be asked for in a hedge that the osage orange does not possess? Large quantities of osage orange are now growing in various parts of this county, which will be sold cheap, and anyone who wishes to inclose a field with a hedge should prepare the ground in season. If the ground where the hedge is to stand is not yet broke, it should be done as soon as possible, so that the turf may become rotten by spring. Then plow the ground again, and plant as early as April.

There are various modes of preparing the ground, and planting. Perhaps the most expeditious method is to draw a furrow, leaning them against the side, and protecting them by slightly covering them with dirt, when the whole row is set, turn back the furrow with the plow, covering the plants entirely. They will live better by being covered. One row is sufficient to form a good hedge, and the plants should not be more than eight inches apart in the row. Before the plants are dug from the nursery, they should be cut close to the ground, and while growing in the hedge, they should be cut two or three times each season, so as to cause them to branch freely at the bottom. The great obstacle which is anticipated is winter killing, but it is not so much to be feared as fall killing. A severe frost in the fall, when the hedge is in full growth, is more likely to injure it, than any winter freezing. In order to prevent fall killing, plant your hedge on high ground, and cut back at least three times a year, in March, June and September. This will soon form a good fence, and the September pruning will check the fall growth, so as to render it less liable to be injured by the frosts of October and November. The older the hedge becomes, the less liable it is to be killed, and when it becomes a fence, only one cutting a year is necessary, and that should be done in February or March, when farmers have plenty of time to do it.

W. S. WEST.

WONDERFUL PERFORMANCE OF THE WIND.—Soon after the great tornado had passed over this section of the country, in giving accounts of its devastations and other effects, we mention that a farm house near Chenona, in McLean county, was lifted by the wind and carried three hundred feet over the prairie without distributing the dishes on the table which had just been prepared for supper. Although the story was well authenticated it was of such a marvelous character that we found it, in common with others, difficult to believe. While stopping at Chenona waiting for the car's a few days since, we had an opportunity of seeing the house and making inquiries about the matter, we found the story which had been published, fully substantiated. The house, quite a large story and a half wooden structure, stood upon a swell of the prairie, covered with a growth of small shade trees, and was surrounded with out houses. The family, consisting of four persons, were about sitting down to their supper when the tornado came sweeping along. The house was lifted from its foundation in an instant, and went sailing through the air with the family, furniture, chimneys, supper, &c., all on board. Twice during the perilous passage it struck the ground, but so lightly as to jar only one plate from the supper table, which, was not broken in its fall. When the storm had passed it was found that the house had been carried a distance of about three hundred feet from its foundations. Nothing in it had been disturbed—not even the dishes upon the table—and when the family had recovered from the fright, they sat down and quietly ate their supper as usual.—*Peoria Transcript.*

The fare for passengers on board the steamer Leviathan, which is to commence running regularly between England and Portland, Maine, next spring, has been fixed as follows: First class, \$105; second class, \$60; third class, \$30.

Local & Territorial.

An address will be delivered before the Bellevue Library Association, by the Rev. Wm. Hamilton, on next Thursday evening, (Aug. 5th) at the School House. The public are invited to attend.

Fifteen inches of rain, has fallen since the first of this month.

Nebraska has 528,000 square miles, while the superficial area of all the northern states, is only 534,190, excluding Minnesota. That has 141,000.

The quarterly meeting of the M. E. Church, will be held in this city, on next Saturday and Sabbath. Preaching by the Presiding Elder, Rev. Mr. Good. Services to commence on Saturday, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

The Annual Territorial Election, will take place on next Monday. The officers to be voted for and elected, in this County, are,—Territorial Auditor, Councilman, Joint Councilman, Four Representatives, County Commissioner, Justice of the Peace, and two Constables.

The contest has been an exciting one. There are ten candidates for Representatives, two for Councilman, and two for Joint Councilman, in the field,—all running on personal merits. Who are to be the fortunate candidates, is hard to tell. At present it is somewhat "mixed." "We'll see what we shall see," about next Monday evening.

BOATS.—The Watossa arrived on July 24, and the T. I. McGill, on the 27th.

It will be seen in another place, that WILLIAM CLANCY has announced himself as a candidate for Councilman, from the Counties of Washington, Sarpy, and Burt. Mr. Clancy has been a member of the Legislature since the organization of the Territory, and as a manager and worker, it is acknowledged that he has had no superiors. While he has been true to his own County, he has always been a warm and faithful supporter of the interests of Sarpy County, as is well known by our citizens, and we presume they will not fail to reward him on Monday next, by giving him their support. Sarpy County having had the Joint Councilman the last term, it is generally conceded that we are not entitled to it this year. Washington standing next in population to Sarpy, is without doubt entitled to it.

BOWEN RALLY.—Gen. L. L. Bowen, candidate for re-election to the Council, and other public speakers, will address the citizens of Sarpy County, at Bellevue (in the Public Square) on Saturday, July 31st, at 4 o'clock P. M. ALL CANDIDATES will have an opportunity of being heard. Victory awaits the right on Monday. Per Order.

The Cuming City Star, says:—Farmers are now fairly in the midst of the harvest season. On every hand, from any prominent eminence, the eye can survey extended armies of golden shocks, representing the power of industry and thrift.

What a happy sight; and viewing which, how contemptible appears the field bristling with burnished swords and flashing bayonets. Who has more to feel proud of than the farmer among his golden gifts? He looks about him upon his honestly earned wealth, and can say—"Nature's rewards for industry, and no man's rights infringed upon in the granting of them." When he is called upon to relinquish his hold upon the things of earth, he is conscious of having gained a livelihood in the most noble manner known to man—of having produced more than he consumed—and he bids farewell to this existence with more true honors clustering around his brow than ever gilded the name of Napoleon or Alexander. Who wouldn't be a farmer?

John A. Nye, is erecting a building nearly opposite the School House.

Booth and Bassett are erecting a building near Dr. Longsdorf's.

The professional card of Hon. Fenner Ferguson, will be found in our columns to-day. He is too well known as a man of ability, and integrity, to need a recommendation from us.

Speeches will be made in this City, by the various candidates, on Saturday afternoon, at 4 o'clock.

The New England Bards gave a Concert in this City, last Saturday evening to a delighted audience. They are without doubt, one of the most talented Companies that have given Concerts in the West. We hope they will not fail to favor us again with their sweet music.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

We are authorized to announce that WM. H. COOK is a candidate for Representative to the Legislature, from Sarpy County.

We are authorized to announce that STEPHEN H. WATTLES, is a candidate for Representative to the Legislature, from Sarpy County.

SILAS A. STRICKLAND, is a candidate for Representative to the Legislature from Sarpy County.

We are authorized to announce that THOAMS J. BOYKIN, is a candidate for the Council, from Sarpy County.

We are authorized to announce that B. P. RANKIN, is a candidate for Representative to the Legislature, from Sarpy County.

We are authorized to announce that CHARLES C. NORWOOD, is a candidate for Representative to the Legislature from Sarpy County.

L. L. BOWEN, is a candidate for re-election to the Council, from Sarpy County.

We are authorized to announce that HENRY A. LONGSDORF, is a candidate for Representative to the Legislature from Sarpy County.

We are authorized to announce that ALFRED MATTHIAS, is a candidate for Representative to the Legislature, from Sarpy County.

We are authorized to announce that WM. R. WATSON, is a candidate for Justice of the Peace for the Bellevue Precinct.

We are authorized to announce that REUBEN LOVEJOY is a candidate for County Commissioner, in Sarpy Co.

GEORGE W. DOANE is a candidate for Councilman from the Counties of Washington, Sarpy, and Burt.

We are authorized to announce that O. A. VELIE is a candidate for Constable, for Bellevue Precinct.

We are authorized to announce that CHARLES JOHNSON is a candidate for County Commissioner, in Sarpy Co.

CARD.—Fellow Citizens of Sarpy County:—I take this method of introducing myself as candidate for joint Councilman from the Counties of Washington, Sarpy, and Burt, and would most respectfully state in brief, my reasons for taking such a position.

1st. 125 of my own townsmen, among them are Judge Wakeley, Geo. E. Scott, Esq., and other men of note, in point of position, among us, requested me by petition, to announce myself as the candidate on the float.

2d. We deem it but an act of common justice to Washington Co., on the part of Sarpy Co., to give us the man, because we heretofore supported the Sarpy Co. candidate, in 1856, with rather an implied understanding that Washington should come next in turn.

3d. We stand next in ratio of population to Sarpy County, and our people think it but right that the float should be assigned us this year, as Burt County next north of us, can of course have no claims to it, having hardly one half the population of Washington County.

4th. As I believe it to be generally conceded by your citizens that have Sarpy County and Bellevue, most at heart, that you cannot elect a man on the float this year, from your county, and in case you favor me with your votes, you may rely upon my being as ever, in your interest.

WILLIAM CLANCY.

The Cuming City Star states:—Many of our citizens are enjoying the luxury of green corn—the product of their gardens. In the fields it is silking out most beautifully, and stands upright and firm, uninjured by the recent wind storms which have swept over it. That we will have an abundant corn crop is almost certain.

The Galveston News, of the 15th inst. says: "We learn from all parts of the State that the crops of corn and cotton never have been known to be as good before. The corn crop is made, and the yield is said to be almost incredible. One hundred bushels per acre is a common estimate on bottom lands. One of the largest sugar planters says, for twenty years past the cane has never promised so well as it does now."