



THE HUNTSMAN'S ECHO.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1861.

Agents

- For Huntsman's Echo, authorized to receive subscriptions and advertising, and also to receive and receipt for any monies. N. T. Spoor, P. M., Council Bluffs, Ia. A. D. Jones, Omaha, N. T. W. D. Johnson, Florence, N. T. John Beck, Columbus, N. T. H. J. Hudson, Genoa, N. T. Post Master, Fort Kearney, N. T. D. Haines, Denver City, N. T.

All errors, omissions, &c., &c. must, in the absence of the Editor, be placed to the account of the printer and Ed. pro tem, ADAMS.

Weather.

February, in this region, hitherto, has worn the garb of winter, carrying out the fashions to the extreme—snow covering our prairies, ice immensely thick on the rivers, and lately, for two or three days, a storm from the north has added much to the already cold times. Drifts of snow are formed into fine conic heaps and banks of the same with curved feather edge of finest texture, defying imitation by the art of man; and, it seems that winter, in order to give us a token as a remembrance, before taking its final departure has kindly exerted itself to produce so much seasonable magnificence. Notwithstanding that for a few days, heavy clouds, and mists from drifted snow, has hid the sun occasionally from our view, casting a mantle of gloom over our usually bright, open atmosphere, yet, that glorious luminary ever ready for duty, and as if jealous in being deprived of diffusing gladness where its benign rays are appreciated, breaks forth at the present time with the vigor of spring, and causes the frost and snow of winter to shed a lustre around, developing on our trees and shrubberies the crystallization of incomparable splendor. The weather is now calm and beautiful, and we may expect an early spring, and, it is hoped, a fruitful summer—appearances justify such expectations. It will be pleasant to get a sight once more of the growing grass, herds of cattle feeding, trees budding, plowed ground beautified with growing fruits and flowers, antelope and buffalo becoming familiar, enlivening the prairies with their presence. And above all will it afford great pleasure to have the union permanently restored between our Editor and his sanctum. It is thought that this region is first-rate for growing wheat, and as to its adaptation for raising sheep there can be no question.

Political Remarks.

Southern news is given nearly verbatim, comment is unnecessary. It might be remarked that it is certainly very strange that any Government should allow itself to be trifled with as does this Government at the present time. The Branch Mint at New Orleans is taken possession of by the "Government" of Louisiana, and also the Custom House. South Carolina, it seems, demands the surrender of forts; and to crown the whole an United States Cutter has been surrendered to the authorities of Alabama. What will take place next! It would not be surprising if a petition should be forwarded by the American Congress to the Governments of those mighty States, Uncle Sam is decidedly very sick, there are faint symptoms of lazarous consumption. Statesmen are very busy, and compromises come tumbling in one over the other; it will soon be seen what they will all amount to. May sound Government and solid peace be the inheritance of our country.

Passover.—On last Thursday night, arrived thus far by stage from Denver, and called at our office, our esteemed friend, Thos. Gibson Esq., of the Denver R. M. Herald, who, like editors generally, was on his way down to get supplies for his office. He was in good health and spirits—reports things going as satisfactorily, will return in four or five weeks. May he long continue to spread forth to the inquiring public the true state of things in that interesting region.

Showing rapidly—snow evaporating at a rapid rate would do credit to the Pacific. Horses, through the Platte Valley.

Editorial Correspondence.

PAWNEE RESERVE February 18, 61.

Dear Echo—As I occasionally catch a faint reverberation of your notes up and down this valley, I hastily add a scrap to the music by way of variations. I left Omaha for my favorite home on Wood River, near three weeks since, and before reaching the Elkhorn encountered the worst storm I have experienced this winter. Drove in, or rather, got drove in, at Reed's Rancho No. 1, where we took a thaw out, and partook of the landlord's generous hospitality, only to be worse frozen next day—but finally reached "the bridge," and put up at McNeil's, who took kindly care of our creature wants, and brought us again to life. Weather appearing better, next day we plunged through the untrodden snow, but could not reach that scaly town of Fremont, where there are but three persons of enough intelligence to read newspapers, and the reigning merchant can't get enough business to advertise. Still, there was a "lot" in the place who keeps a hotel and a good house; "Nye," on the corner—but we could not make it, and had to take our chances in a log cabin where the wind whistled through the chinks as if angered at the attempted obstructions. The kindness of the occupants made some amend, however, for the suffering. Next day, met many teams, and found a slight track, made a point above North Bend, and peeked ourselves with a lot of dead-heads (pork), in a house occupied and owned by a pair of "lone men"—slept "four in a bed and two in the middle," or rather, tried to. Next day, made a point within eighteen miles of Columbus, and put up at Thomas', a whole-souled and obliging Scotcher, whose excellent family made us as comfortable as possible for several days whilst the storm spent the weight of its fury. Luckily, we escaped without maiming by frost, yet this was more than "our boys" did, for their feet showed the great danger of risking the prairie storms.

After vainly waiting some days for favorable indications, without success, I took the stage for Columbus, leaving the teams to get back to the river. The hotel at Columbus is well conducted, and is a comfortable and pleasant home for the traveler. Here I learned of a train of freight having started from Plattsmouth for Denver, on the south side; finding the distance too great between stations, that four horses were frozen to death, and two men very nearly so. What remained of the train came over to this side. We also learned that two men named Peter Marie and William Thomas came near perishing on the worst night of the storm. They came to a place on the Pappillon, called "Taylor's," and kept by a pair of selfish, heartless creatures, who would neither sell these men hay for their stock, nor let them tie to the fence, and sleep in the shelter of the house; the consequence was, in the endeavor to reach Reed's, on Spring Creek, both were badly frozen. I have heard much of these "Taylors" and they seem to be very exacting, selfish, and even barbarous and unfeeling. One thing is certain they are very odious to travelers, and get no customers when people can avoid it.

to GAWA, After spending a week very comfortably with Mrs. Baker, at Columbus, I was favored with a sleigh-ride, in a regular old fashioned cutter, with Mr. McGeath, of Omaha, and enjoyed the twenty miles on the ice very much, not having got in even once, arriving at Genoa in good time to look for supper, etc.—was comfortably cared for by friend Hudson.

Next morning, paid a visit to the Reservation—dined with Hollins, who has a choice stock of Indian merchandise, and is a true type of an enterprising, dashing kind of Western business man. The Pawnees were nearly all gathered in their village—hundreds of the lodges of which were in sight. Took tea with Major Gillis, agent for the Pawnees, a man deeply trodden into the mist of years, still the personification of urbanity and sociability, and few men have more fully honored the charge entrusted, not only in his fraternal watch-care over the Pawnees and their monetary and social interests, but in his fidelity to the government. In the attacks made last summer upon these Indians by the Sioux, Mr. Gillis was among the very first to shoulder his gun and rush to the rescue, and at one time he made a score of Sioux warriors trot away lively. Under his management the Pawnees have now one of the best steam mills in the Territory, in successful operation—their grainery is one of the largest and most judiciously constructed we have seldom seen, and the thrasher, reaper, and all farm implements have been selected with judgment. The farming is very successfully conducted by the elder son of Mr. Gillis, and the thrift, neatness, and abundant crops piled around, give ample evidence

of his entire competence in that department.

PAWNEE VILLAGE. The Pawnees number at present about 4,000 souls and a fraction over, and when "at home," live in a cluster of huts built with crotches and poles, covered, top and sides, with willows, and then with grass and dirt, giving the appearance at a little distance of an immense collection of "potato holes," all of a circular and oval shape. The entrance is through a passage walled with earth, the hole in the centre at top seems both for window and chimney, the fire being built in the centre and along the sides—little apartments are divided off from the main room by partitions of willow, rush, or flag; some of them being neatly and tidily constructed—and altogether these lodges are quite roomy and comfortable, and such is frequently the abode of two or three families. In these villages there is no regularity of streets, walks, or alleys, but each builds in rather a promiscuous manner, having no other care than a view to taste and convenience.

DIVISIONS OF THE TRIBE. The tribe is divided into five bands, each being under a special chief or leader; and the whole confederate being under one principal chief. Each "band" have their habitation separate and distinct from the other, three bands living in villages adjoining, and all composing one village, the other two in villages some little distance. There is frequently some considerable rivalry between the several bands, in fighting, hunting and other sports, and not unfrequently one band commit thefts upon the effects of another.

HORSES. At present the Pawnees have several thousand horses, but the hard winter, the sore-tongue and other diseases have reduced the number very materially—hundreds have died this winter, and the islands and shores of the Loupe from the mouth to this place are strewn with the carcasses of the dead. Very frequently they have more horses than the population of the tribe will number. The horses are small, and generally live out upon the dry grass all winter; when snows are so deep as to disable them from getting the grass, Cottonwood trees are cut down and the horses subsist upon the bark. Very few of them appreciate the value or use of corn, and will refuse to eat it when it is put before them. They value their horses at from \$30 to \$60.

SUBSTANCE. The tribes usually take two general hunts per year, when they all—old and young, great and small—abandon their villages, and go to a buffalo range with their skin lodges, and often remain many weeks. In the summer hunt they make "jerked meat" and "Lodge skins." In the fall or winter hunt, commencing in October or November, they make robes, furs, tanned skins, and dried meat. The tribes have also a field of considerable extent near their village where the land is allotted off to each family, and considerable quantities of corn and beans are grown. With these and a little flour and sugar &c. they manage to do out a miserable existence—sometimes full fed, and again starved. I believe they are annually receiving from the U. S. Government, an annuity of \$40,000, in cash and necessaries.

DIVISION OF LABOR. The females are the working-bees of the hive—they dig up the soil, raise and gather on the crops, cut timber, and build the lodges; pack wood and water, cook, nurse the babies, carry all the burdens, tan the skins, and make the robes and moccasins. The lords, of the other sex, recline by the fire or in the shade, kill the game, and their families, and do the stealing and most of the eating, wear the most ornament, and play the dandy, "in their way," to a scratch. They are of a tall, graceful and athletic figure, as straight as an arrow, and as proud as a lord, whilst the squaws are short, thick, stooping, poorly clad, filthy and squalid. Parentless children, and the very aged are sometimes left behind, or by the wayside to perish as useless. On February the 6th, a team belonging to a Mr. Young, was drowned by breaking through the ice on the Loupe. The seal has since been broken and traveled up the old route. The Indians have received their annuity, and their vanity in their wealth is quite ludicrous, and many part with their "pawpuches" very reluctantly. Judge Gillis and family are expected to depart for the east shortly, I am at present doing a little "swapping" with the Indians—rather an uphill business however. I eat, dress, as I have customers in shape of one big Indian and his three chubby squaws, who want a sack of flour, with sugar, coffee, salt, soda and candy, gratis. Then they will leave—after dining upon the provisions you had provided for your ensuing fortnight's "grab!" Adieu for the present, EDITOR.

The snow that covers our section of country extends only to twenty-five miles above Kearney city. The Kearney City merchants are laying in their stock for Emigrants.

Telegraphic News.

Washington, Feb. 20.—Mr. Chandler presented a petition of citizens of Michigan, asking the Senate, 1st—To ascertain whether we have a Government de facto; 2d—that if so, measures be taken for the apprehension of all persons presenting themselves at the seat of Government under the pretense of being commissioners from independent Governments, on the charge of treason. 3d—that measures be taken to protect the archives of Government. 4th—that forts still in the possession of the Government at the South, be properly supplied with men. 5th—that a sufficient number of vessels be placed in Southern ports to protect commerce and collect the revenue.

The post route bill from the House, with the overland mail amendment was taken up.

Mr. Hale was in favor of the overland mail, but thought if this route was adopted the Butterfield route ought to be suspended.

The bill was ordered printed, and postponed.

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Mr. Phelps offered a substitute that the third section of the act of June, 1850, providing for the redemption of the Treasury notes, be modified so as to empower the Secretary of the Treasury to negotiate the balance of the loan not taken under that act on the most favorable terms, instead of restricting negotiations of the loan at not less than par, and after notice of ten inst. ad thirty days.

Mr. Phelps said that Mr. Morris's tariff bill proposed a loan of \$21,000,000, and the bill reported from the Committee of Ways and Means, 25 millions; thus making 46 millions, when there is an unexpended balance of 14 millions under the act of June, of which he desired the Government to avail itself without unnecessary delay.

Mr. Sherman approved the amendment the loan proposed was \$25,000,000. He supposed it would settle up the accounts of this Administration; as there was no money and little revenue, they would be obliged to resort to the credit of the Government.

Mr. Hindman offered the proviso that no part of the loan should be used to maintain forces, to make war on States which may have seceded.

Mr. Sherman refused any such amendment.

Mr. Garnett, considering that the Morrill tariff bill provides for a loan of twenty-one millions, he considered the bill designed for war purposes.

Mr. Millison moved to strike from Mr. Phelps's substitute, the words "the proceeds of said loan may be applied to discharge current expenses of the Government"—agreed to; 126 to 42.

Mr. Phelps's substitute was rejected—52 against 119. The bill as originally reported passed—144 against 46.

The opposition coming from the Democratic side.

Mr. Washburne, of Ill., moved to proceed with the consideration of the Senate's resolution, providing for a joint committee to count the votes for President and Vice President, and certify persons of their election.

Messrs. Washburne, Adrian, Ely, Anderson and Craig, were appointed as such committee on the part of the House.

Mr. Corwin gave notice that he would move to close debate on the report of the Committee of thirty-three, on Thursday.

Mr. Sickles suggested that a vote should not be taken till after the assembling of the Union Convention.

Mr. Corwin would be governed by circumstances in that particular.

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Mr. Slidell sent to be read by the clerk the ordinance of secession passed by Louisiana.

The message was postponed till tomorrow.

The bill to provide for the Government of Idaho was taken up, and Green's amendment—changing the boundary—was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Wilson, the name was changed to Colorado. The bill passed.

Mr. Pearce, from the committee on finance, reported a loan bill, which was made the special order for to-morrow.

Mr. Rigler offered a resolution to admit commissioners of the States to the floor of the Senate—laid over.

Adjourned.

St. Louis, Feb. 4. The following dispatches from Washington, are of date Feb 2d:

The Assistant treasurer at New Orleans refuses to give up the coin and bullion in the Branch Mint, to the order of Secretary Dix, on the ground that the Branch Mint has been taken possession of by the State of Louisiana. On the receipt of this news this morning, the President called an extraordinary session of the Cabinet, and the whole subject was considered. It is understood that Senators Benjamin and Slidell were sent for, to know if they were aware of this transaction. The Government telegraphed to the collector and treasurer to know the facts connected with the seizure. Lieut. Hall's departure for South Carolina with official dispatches, has been postponed for the present. A salute was fired, to-day, at the National Armory, for the admission of Kansas into the Union. The Commissioners from New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia and Indiana, have arrived here, and are to-night interchang-

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He says further, that he is instructed to assure the President that any attempt to reinforce, will be considered as declaratory of war.

The cabinet was in session to-day on the communication.

The President has again countermanded orders of Gen. Scott, for additional troops here.

An officer of the navy just from Pensacola, state that great insubordination exists among the volunteer troops, and some of them were dispersing and returning home disgusted.

New York, Feb. 4th. We have late and important news from the Home Squadron.—On the 19th of January, the Commander-in-Chief of the fleet received orders through Col. Pickens at Washington, to immediately send to Florida, the U. S. Steam Frigate Powhatan, the Sabine, and the corvette St. Louis. A sham boat battle was soon after improvised, off Sacrifices, when the usual routine of action was gone through with. A critical examination of the position of the squadron, demonstrating the fact that every ship was short of provisions, and that it would be madness to send them on a probably hostile mission in such a state. The impression prevails extensively that the vessels would go to Havana for provisions, and obey the instructions of Mr. Toucy.

Serious dissatisfaction existed among some of the officers of the Powhatan, when her destination became known to them. The first and third Lieutenants, and Parser, immediately tendered their resignations; but the Captain, while conditionally accepting them, refused to allow them to return to the steamer. The most intense excitement existed in the squadron; and it was necessary to issue an order prohibiting all officers, sailors and mariners from conveying political or naval movements in their letters, as they would be opened and read.

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