

THE LONE STAR STATE.

The Early French and Spanish Colonies and the Missions of the Monks.

Heroic Struggle of the American Settlers for Independence.

The Martyrdom of the Alamo in Which Davy Crockett and 175 Followers Fell.

The Democracy Losing Its Grip.

Correspondence of THE BEE.

Fort Clark, Texas, January 31, 1882.—Down here, twelve hundred miles away, south and west of Omaha, in the historic state of Texas, it may not be uninteresting to say something of its history and resources, etc. "Texas," in the Indian language, means "friend," but its mysterious application to that vast territory, lying between Sabine and El Paso and the gulf, Rio Grande and Red rivers, has not yet been fully defined. They say Robert de LaSalle, with a French colony, built a fortress near Matagorda bay, on the gulf, in 1685, and named it St. Louis, in honor of the king of France. The Indians soon exterminated the colony. In 1689, a Spanish colony attempted the occupation of Texas, which was dispersed and broken up by disease and the Indians. During thirty years, from 1690 to 1720, the Spanish Roman Catholics established several missions and fortresses in Texas, which were occupied by monks and friars, and soldiers sent to defend them. Within a century from their establishment, these Spanish missions were one after another abandoned, and to-day the crumbling ruins and frowning fragments of those mission buildings attest the devotion and labors of the Christian ambassadors of the old world. I frequently visited three of these ruins near San Antonio.

In 1752 a silver mine was discovered near the Mission of San Saba. The savages, heretofore friendly, made an onslaught on the mission, and slew all that were there, not one escaping. The efforts of France and Spain to effect a permanent occupation of Texas, failed. In 1821, Mexico threw off the Spanish yoke, and thus Texas became a tributary of Mexico, and from that year toward the colonization of Texas by citizens of the United States began and continued. Stephen F. Austin is justly credited with the American colonization of Texas, having furnished the colonists homes, etc. In 1830, its American population is said to have numbered twenty thousand, when the then dictator of Mexico, Bustamante issued a decree, forbidding any citizen of the United States from settling therein. In 1835, the colonists held meetings and took steps to secure a separate government.

Santa Anna, having succeeded Bustamante as dictator, sent large bodies of soldiers to quell the revolutionary spirit of the colonists. The opening battle was fought at Gonzales. In 1835 (October) a large body of Mexicans attacked a detachment of Texans on the banks of the San Antonio river; the Mexicans were completely routed, and fled, leaving their dead upon the battle field. On the 31st of November, 1835, the Texans elected a governor, provisionally, and adopted a declaration, setting forth that Texas no longer owed allegiance to the Mexican republic. In January, 1836, Santa Anna equipped an army of 7,000 picked men, and placing himself at their head, marched into Texas. The defiant attitude of that brave little band of one hundred and seventy-five men, under Col. Travis, who were peated here, and compared favorably with the patriotic valor of the three hundred Spartans at Thermopylae, under Leonidas. The small garrison was surrounded by the whole Mexican army, and summoned to surrender. This was refused. A bombardment ensued, and was continued from the 27th of February to the 6th day of March, 1836. On that morning the besiegers made an assault upon the garrison. The particulars of that struggle can never be known. The heroic little band—among whom was Davy Crockett—exhausted by incessant toil, were at length destroyed. Of the number within the walls, only two escaped, a woman and a child. I have visited the ruins of the old fortress located in an obscure corner of the Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, where it remains unobserved, and distinguished only by the same old, iron-barred windows, about three feet square, and fifteen feet above the level of the street, that admitted the sun's rays and enemy's fire in 1836. The conflict here is characterized by some as the massacre, by others the martyrdom of the Alamo. On the 21st of April, 1836, the decisive battle was fought on the banks of the San Jacinto river, which resulted in the total rout of the Mexican army, and the capture of Santa Anna, and secured the independence of Texas. In March, 1837, the Congress of the United States acknowledged the independence of Texas. In 1847, by England, Holland, and Belgium. In 1845, Texas was annexed to the United States. Its population to-day is estimated at about 2,000,000. It has a territory of 274,375 square miles or 175,587,840 acres, and is the largest state in the Union. It is larger than France or Great Britain, and lacks only about 4,000 square miles of being as large as the combined area of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Carolina, Indiana and Illinois.

It has 168 organized counties, and is divided into 32 judicial districts. At the time of admission into the Union, Texas owned and retained control of the public domain, so that titles emanate from the state, and not from the United States. It is a vast inclined prairie, with a gradual descent from the Gulf of Mexico. The coast counties are nearly level for sixty or eighty miles inland. The surface then becomes undulating, with alternate gradual elevations and depressions, and this feature increases until it becomes hilly, and finally mountainous in some of the far western counties. The highest ranges, however, do not attain a higher altitude than 5,000 feet. Stock graze all the winter. Field work can be done at all seasons of the year. The summer heat is so tempered by cool and refreshing breezes from the sea-coast as to render it less oppressive than in the northern states. The nights are delightfully cool and pleasant. Immigration has recently poured into Texas in a continuous stream. Politically, the state is largely democratic, but an independent movement is on foot and gaining strength daily. The party in power have become arrogant and dictatorial. A nomination, no matter how worthy the nominee, is equivalent to an election, so that the convention, as in Nebraska, in some instances, and not the ballot box, is the arbiter of the people's destiny, and thinking men look upon the democratic majority as a hideous monster that it would be a blessing to destroy. Texas is growing so rapidly that it is outgrowing its old prejudices. Party name has a strong influence upon the election, but when they discover that it is only a name to cover the operations of a private political corporation they will revolt. There are thousands of men in Texas who have affiliated with the majority, but who have no sympathy with its trusts, and now chafe under the political slavery they are subjected to, and who, convinced that the party has outlived its usefulness, are anxious to renounce its control. It is composed of incongruous elements, and the work of disintegration goes on, not silently either, and will continue until the fabric falls. Party names are becoming insignificant. Great benefits may be accomplished by new organization, and so, upon the good sense and patriotism of the new party, depends the success of this independent movement. Col. Washington Jones, or as he is familiarly known, Wash. Jones, is the reputed leader of this new movement. As an individual, and public man, he stands high. His character is irrefragable. The people of his district have twice elected him to congress over the democratic nominee, and multitudes of the dissatisfied democracy are daily adopting his views. A healthful innovation is being effected in consequence of his influence, and he is awakening from long democratic slumbering. The railroads on her northern and southern boundaries, and those penetrating her interior, are importing from the northern and eastern states the elements of a new life; and the large subsidies of land and money granted by the republic of Mexico to American railroad enterprises within her territory naturally invite capital to Texas, and with it talent calculated to diffuse new and vigorous thought. It is by way of the Texas railroads that American enterprise must and will penetrate Mexico, developing the latent wealth also of the Lone Star state, of which some politicians propose to make four states. But ex-governor Hubbard has said this will occur only "when San Jacinto shall be forgotten, and the martyrdom of the Alamo shall fade from the memory of man." LABORER.

A BREAK FOR LIBERTY.

Desperate Conflict Between Prisoners and Jailor in Plattsmouth.

Bill Bitters, the Horse Thief, Escapes.

Plattsmouth Journal, Saturday.—A terrible wave of excitement swept over the town last evening about half-past 6, caused by the announcement that two of the prisoners in the county jail had attacked the jailor and beaten him in a savage manner, and one of them had made his escape. On a visit to the jail Mr. Polin, the jailor, was found to be in the hands of Dr. Livingston, who was binding up several ugly wounds about his head. Mr. Polin's clothing was covered with blood and it was evident that he had suffered a severe charge from the desperadoes. The inmates of the jail at the time of the attempted delivery were Bill Bitters, in for horse stealing; H. H. Hartington, whose real name is Henry Volkman, confined for theft and forgery while in the employ of Mr. Frank Carruth, and John Buckingham, the man who was in from Cedar Creek on a peace warrant for threatening the life of C. C. Ballard, and was lodged in jail in default of \$300 bail.

Mr. Polin tells the particulars as follows: At supper time Mr. Polin went as usual to take the prisoners their supper, but, being in a hurry, he neglected to take the usual precaution by locking them in their cells before he opened the jail door. Just as he swung the heavy iron door part way open and was setting the tray with their suppers upon it down upon the stand or bench near the door, Hartington and Bitters made a rush for him, Hartington striking him with a slung shot, which he had secured by some mysterious means, and Bitters striking out rapidly and w recklessly with his fists. Buckingham, it is probable, was not in league with the two desperadoes, but he was frightened so that he was unable to render the jailor any assistance. Notwithstanding the fact that there were two of them, the plucky jailor wrestled manfully from the door of the iron cage, across the room and out of the jail building, holding tightly to both of them and calling at the top of his voice for assistance, while Hartington was belaboring him over the head with the slung shot and Bitters was doing effective damage with his fists. Once outside the door Bitters freed himself from the grasp of the officer and started off at his best speed. The officer then choked Hartington into submission, took him back into his cell, locked him in and came out reeking with gore, only to meet tardy assistance just coming to his rescue.

Bitters, on gaining his freedom, struck for the cut on Third street, down toward the railroad shops. He went without hat or coat. He was met by several people who were coming up town from the vicinity of the shops, and when they stopped to see what he was running for, he would shout at them to hurry on down to the jail "for they are killing a man down there." The last son of him he was on the road leading out of town to the south, going in the darkness at the top of his speed. Hartington says that the plan agreed upon was to overpower the jailor, escape together and cross the river into Iowa before morning. Bitters, as soon as his liberty was opened before him, deserted Hartington and left him to his fate, which was an ignominious failure. Parties were soon posted at every point in the country through which the poorly-dad fugitive would have to pass. Telegrams and postal cards have informed every officer of the law for miles up and down both sides of the river of his escape, and they have been furnished with a description of his person. He is a tall, thin man, with a high forehead, and a long nose, and the law can ill afford to lose its grasp upon him. He was under confinement for stealing horses in this county some years ago, Sheriff Hyers having captured him at Sioux City something over a month since. It is to be hoped that his destitute condition may lead to his identification. After the wounds of the jailor were dressed he sailed out, and by numerous threats and demonstrations of violence forced the removal from Hartington that the slung shot had been given to Bitters by a man who was confined a few days since for drunkenness, one Al. Sexton, who lives just outside of this city. The murderous weapon was afterward found, and consisted of a ball of lead about the size of a hen's egg, fastened to the end of a wrist strap. Hartington had dropped it in the mud when Polin beaten him at the east end of the jail. Sheriff Hyers was soon out looking for a trace of the culprit, but up to time of going to press none have been gained. Hyers is determined to catch him if there is any possibility of doing so. Another lesson that it will undoubtedly teach the jailor is that it is best to thoroughly search a prisoner's sleeve before putting him in the pen.

Gently Does It. Eugene Cross, Swan Street, Buffalo, writes: "I have used Spring Blossom for dyspepsia and indigestion, and have found it to act admirably as a gentle aperient and blood purifier. I consider it unequalled; you are at liberty to use my name as a reference." Price 50 cents, trial bottles 10 cents.

Kennedy's East-India Bitters. A FAMILY TONIC. BILLOUBER'S PREPARATION FOR BILIOUS DYSPEPSIA AND INDIGESTION.

Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption is certainly the greatest medical remedy ever placed within the reach of suffering humanity. Thousands of once helpless sufferers, now loudly proclaim their praise for this wonderful discovery to which they owe their lives. Not only does it positively cure Consumption, but Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Bronchitis, Hay Fever, Hoarseness and all affections of the Throat, Chest and Lungs yields at once to its wonderful curative power as if by magic. We do not ask you to buy a large bottle unless you know what you are getting. We therefore earnestly request you to call on your druggist, Jew & McMahon, and get a trial bottle free of cost which will convince the most skeptical of its wonderful merits, and show you what a fearful one dollar size bottle will do. For sale by Jew & McMahon. (4)

Advertisement for Kennedy's East-India Bitters, featuring a portrait of a man and the text 'KENNEDY'S EAST-INDIA BITTERS'.

Advertisement for Hostetter's Bitters, featuring an illustration of a man on a horse and the text 'HOSTETTER'S BLOOD BITTERS'.

In Hosts of Families. Hostetter's Bitters is as much regarded as a household necessity as sugar or coffee. The reason of this is that the experience have proved it to be perfectly reliable in those cases of emergency where a prompt and constant remedy is demanded. Constipation, liver complaint, dyspepsia, indigestion and other troubles are cured by it.

Gentle Women. Who want glossy, luxuriant and wavy tresses of abundant, beautiful hair must use LYON'S KATHAIRON. This elegant, cheap article always makes the hair grow freely and fast, keeps it from falling out, arrests and cures grayness, removes dandruff and itching, makes the hair strong, giving it a curling tendency and keeping it in any desired position. Beautiful, healthy hair is the sure result of using Kathairon.

Sioux City & Pacific RAILROAD. THE SIOUX CITY ROUTE. Runs a Solid Train Through from Council Bluffs to St. Paul Without Change Time, Only 17 Hours.

COUNCIL BLUFFS TO ST. PAUL, MINNEAPOLIS, LAKE SUPERIOR OR BISMARCK. This line is equipped with the improved Westinghouse Automatic Air-brake and Miller Platform Coupler and Buffer, and for SPEED, SAFETY AND COMFORT is unsurpassed. Pullman Palace Sleeping Cars run through WITHOUT CHANGE between Council Bluffs and St. Paul, via Council Bluffs and Sioux City.

1880. SHORT LINE. 1880. KANSAS CITY, St. Joe & Council Bluffs RAILROAD. Direct Line to ST. LOUIS AND THE EAST. From Omaha and the West.

Daily Passenger Trains. EASTERN AND WESTERN CITIES WITH LESS CHANGE AND IN ADVANCE OF ALL. This entire line is equipped with Pullman's Palace Sleeping Cars, Palace Day Coaches, Miller's Safety Platform and Coupler, and the celebrated Westinghouse Air-brake.

GRAY'S SPECIFIC MEDICINE. TRADE MARK. THE GREAT TRADE MARK. English remedy. An unparalleled cure for Seminal Weakness, spermatorrhea, rheumatism, rhes, impotency, and all Diseases of the Male.

THE NEBRASKA MANUFACTURING CO. Lincoln, Neb., MANUFACTURERS OF Corn Planters, Harrows, Farm Rollers, Bulky Hay Rakes, Bucking Elevating Windmills, &c.

Advertisement for The Nebraska Manufacturing Co., featuring an illustration of a windmill and the text 'THE NEBRASKA MANUFACTURING CO'.

Advertisement for Burdock Blood Bitters, featuring an illustration of a man and the text 'BURDOCK BLOOD BITTERS'.

Mrs. J. G. Robertson, Pittsburg, Pa., writes: "I was years from getting any relief from my appetite, constipation, etc., so that life was a burden; after using Burdock Blood Bitters I felt better than for years. I cannot praise your Bitters too much."

Mr. Noah Eaton, Elmira, N. Y., writes: "About four years ago I had a severe attack of biliousness never fully recovered. My digestive organs were weakened, and I would be completely prostrated for days. After using two bottles of your Burdock Blood Bitters the improvement was so great that I was astonished. I can now, though 63 years of age, do a fair and reasonable day's work."

FOSTER, MILBURN, & Co., Props. BUFFALO, N. Y. Sold at wholesale by Jew & McMahon and C. F. Goodman.

Advertisement for S.S.S. (Syphilis) medicine, featuring the text 'S.S.S.' and 'TRADE MARK'.

Whether in its Primary, Secondary or Tertiary Stage. Removes all traces of "curry" from the system. Cures Scrophulous, Gypsiac, and Rheumatic, Eczema, Ocular or other Blood Diseases. Cures When Hot Springs Fail!

IF YOU WISH WE WILL TAKE YOURS CA TO BE PAID FOR WHEN CURED. Write for particulars and copy of little book "Advice to the Sufferer." \$1,000 Reward will be paid to any chemist who will find, on analysis 100 bottles S. S. S., one particle of Mercury, Iodine, Potassium or any Mineral substance.

THE GREAT ENGLISH REMEDY. Never fails to cure Nervous Debility, Vitiated Blood, Exhaustion, Eruptions, Seminal Weakness, etc. It is a TONIC, a RESTORATIVE, a PURIFIER, and all the well effects of youth.

Dr. Mintie's Dandelion Pills are the best and cheapest dyspepsia and bilious cure in the market. Sold by all druggists. Price 10 cents.

Advertisement for Chicago & Northwest Rail Way, featuring the text 'Chicago & Northwest RAIL WAY'.

DIRECTORY OF LEADING WESTERN HOTELS.

Table listing various hotels and their proprietors in western cities like Arlington, Saratoga, and Omaha.

Advertisement for F. C. MORGAN'S WHOLESALE GROCER, 1213 Farnham St., Omaha, Neb.

Advertisement for H. M. & M. PEAVY, THE CLOTHIERS!, 1309 Farnham Street, OMAHA, - - - NEB.

Advertisement for J. S. CAULFIELD, BOOK SELLER AND STATIONER, Wall Paper and Window Shades, 1304 Farnham St., Omaha Neb.

Advertisement for W.M. ROGERS' Manufacturing Company, Finest Silver Plated Spoons and Forks.

Large advertisement for W.M. ROGERS' Manufacturing Company, featuring illustrations of silverware and the text 'OUR AGENCY, A. B. HUBERMANN, Wholesale Jeweler, OMAHA, NEB.' and 'SAUSAGES! GEORGE LINDE, Practical Sausage Manufacturer.'

Advertisement for A. B. HUBERMANN, Wholesale Jeweler, OMAHA, NEB.

Advertisement for SAUSAGES! GEORGE LINDE, Practical Sausage Manufacturer.

Advertisement for PUMPS! Steam Pumps, Engine Trimmings, MINEING MACHINERY, BELTING, HOSE, BRASS AND IRON FITTINGS, PIPE, STRAM PACKING, AT WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

Advertisement for HALLADAY WIND-MILLS, CHURCH AND SCHOOL BELLS, A. L. SRANG, 205 Farnham St., Omaha.