

From the Washington Union.

Interesting from Panama.

We have been furnished with the following extracts from a letter written by General P. F. Smith at Panama, dated the 7th inst., and lay them before our readers, as containing matters of importance, especially to that portion of our fellow citizens who are preparing to visit California:

PANAMA, January 7, 1848.

The situation of affairs in California is really most extraordinary. No accounts we had are exaggerated. Captain Henri de Lange, of the French brig of war "Genie," who here, says that he earned at Valparaiso and Lima that there had been brought to those places from California, to be run into bars, gold to the amount of the millions of francs, (near \$1,800,000). The British Consul tells me he has forwarded 15,000 ounces from this place across the Isthmus; and Lieutenant Wood, of the British navy, commanding the Pandora, now here, says that the truth is beyond the accounts we have heard. These gentlemen also say that hundreds of people from the western coast of South America are embarking for the old region; and most of the clerks in the commercial places have quit their employment for the same object.

It will evidently be impossible to prevent the troops, when they arrive, from deserting, and there will be no force to control the crowd of adventurers that will arrive.

No preparation was made here by the steamboat company for transporting passengers across the isthmus, or affording them any information or aid in relation to it. The roads are almost impassable, even for mules, and the number of boats on the river and animals on the roads is entirely insufficient. The public property in charge of the quartermasters has been lying a week at Cruces, waiting for thirty or forty mules to carry it; and the trouble, vexation and exposure, in getting it up the River Chagres to this place, bro't on Captain Elliott, the senior quartermaster, an attack of cholera, of which he died on the night of the 5th, and was buried the next day at Cruces, in the church-yard. Major Fitzgerald has taken charge of the property; but he is now sick here of a similar attack. I have directed all the public property and officers' baggage now there to be brought at once to this place, which is more healthy. The greater part of it will be carried on men's backs. They are now asking \$20 apiece for mule-loads of one-third of the ordinary weight, the usual price being \$4 to \$5 for full loads. I will not attempt to describe the roads or paths.

Under these circumstances, I think it will not be wise to send anything by this route except a messenger with a very small trunk, until other arrangements are made. The resources of the isthmus are entirely unequal to the business now thronging to it. Flour is to-day at \$40 a barrel; and the inhabitants of the town are alarmed at the prospect of pestilence and famine.

Mr. Birch, a very fine young man, a mechanic from Washington, is one of the victims of the cholera at Cruces. We are also indebted to a gentleman in this city for the following interesting extracts of a letter which he has received from an intelligent officer of the United States, dated—

PANAMA, January 7, 1848.

We reached this point on the 2d inst., and have since been lodged comfortably enough at the United States Hotel, (thus denominated for the occasion and in view of the future prospects of American emigration to California across the isthmus,) which is infinitely better than any thing we had been led to expect in this unchristian latitude. This afternoon, however, we shall take up other quarters, having secured private rooms, which possess the advantage at least of plank floors. It is doubtful how long we shall be detained here.

The "California" has not arrived, nor has any intelligence been received from her. A French man-of-war, now lying off Panama, left Valparaiso some thirty-four days since, but had heard nothing of the steamer. It is apprehended some accident may have occurred, or she could not have fallen so far short of the reckoning. I still hope, nevertheless, she will arrive by the 15th or 20th, so as to enable us to get under way, at least by the 1st of February.

The passage across the isthmus is inconceivably difficult. Such roads are to be found nowhere else, and such weather must also be peculiar to this particular latitude. When we reached Chagres, it was found that no provision had been made for the conveyance of the mails, & it became necessary to engage a canoe for this purpose, which was accordingly done, through Major A. Harris, at an expense of \$40. We travelled in the boat to Gorgona, about 50 miles up the river, where we secured mules for the baggage and mails, at an aggregate cost of \$38. We have taken receipts for these sums, which will probably be reimbursed to us by Mr. Nelson (our consul) who acts as the agent for Messrs. Howland & Aspinwall; otherwise, we will retain the receipts, and present them for allowance upon our settlement with the department.

The necessary arrangements for transporting the mails over the isthmus have not been made. They will probably be attended to by the next arrival of the mail steamer. The mails in my charge were delivered to Mr. Zacharison, the partner of Mr. Nelson, the latter being absent

at the time of our arrival. Zacharison informs me that Nelson has received no instructions (special) from the department in respect to his agency for the mail. Would it not be well to furnish such?

I regret to say that several of the passengers who left Chagres with us have suddenly died with violent attacks of diarrhoea, among whom are Captain Elliot, of the army, and young Birch of Washington city. These deaths occurred at Cruces, six miles above Gorgona. Five or six of the natives, also, have died in like manner. The attacks were very violent, terminating fatally in the course of six or eight hours. I am inclined to think they were induced by imprudent indulgence in fruits, and excessive exposure; for, notwithstanding the climate is at any time unhealthy, this is certainly its most healthy season; and with proper care, a northerner may pass the present and ensuing month here as safely and securely as under 38 deg. north latitude.

This is said to be the dry season, by which I presume is meant there are occasional brief intervals of sunshine; for I am sure there has been rain—and none of your gentle showers either—every day since we landed at Chagres. If this be the dry, Heaven preserve us from the wet season of this weeping climate.

Please send us papers and letters by every opportunity. A paper from the United States is worth its weight in California gold, and the value of a letter is incalculable.

There are about 500 emigrants, I understand, on their route over the isthmus, and advices from Valparaiso, up to the 19th ult., state, that up to that period 1700 persons had sailed from that port for California; that clerks to the number of 400 had abandoned situations worth from \$1000 to \$1500, and that the merchants were compelled to call a meeting and raise salaries, &c. Besides this, I learn there are about 400 passengers waiting at Callao and Valparaiso, for the steamer California. The gold fever is awfully prevalent here.

Letter from the Great Salt Lake—The Mormons—California Gold, &c.

The Pittsburg Gazette announces the arrival in that city of Mr. E. Whipple, one of the leading Mormons, from the settlement in the neighborhood of the Great Salt Lake.

Mr. Whipple left the Great Salt Lake settlement on the 13th of October, and arrived at Fort Kearney, on the Missouri, in 51 days. The settlement of Mormons with which he is connected, is located in a beautiful valley on the borders of the Great Salt Lake, in the north-eastern part of Upper California. The Great Salt Lake is about 150 miles long, by 50 broad, and contains nothing living. It is said that three barrels of water will make one of salt. The shores of the Lake, in the dry season, are encrusted with salt fit for use. It has no outlet.

Nearly south of the Salt Lake is a fresh water lake called the Utah, which empties its waters into the former. In this lake, fish, the mountain trout, are found. The river which connects the two Lakes the Mormons call the Jordan. The valley in which they are situated slopes from the mountains to the river, on both sides. These lakes, we may state for the information of those who have not access to late maps, are situated on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains, near the head waters of the River Platte, which runs into the Missouri, the Colorado, which empties into the Gulf of California, and the Columbia, which empties into the Pacific. The waters of the Platte and the Colorado almost unite by means of the Sweet Water River, which heads west of the Rocky Mountain chain, and runs into the Platte through the famous South Pass. Between these Lakes and the California mountains, in which the Sacramento rises, is a vast valley or basin, supposed to consist principally of sandy plains, about 400 miles wide from east to west, and some 600 to 700 miles long from north to south. From this immense basin no egress for water has been discovered, the rivers losing themselves in the sand.

The valley, in which the Mormon settlements are, is about fifty miles long, & forty broad, and is surrounded on three sides by high mountains, and on the north side by the lake. It gradually slopes from the mountains to the River Jordan, and is formed into steppes. From various gorges in the mountains, numerous fresh water streams pour their waters into the Jordan, affording fine water power. No timber grows in the valley, but an abundance is supplied by the valleys of the streams in the mountains. It consists of pine, hemlock, and sugar maple.

In this delightful valley, about 1000 miles from Missouri on the east, and 1000 from the gold diggings of the Sacramento on the west—the Rocky Mountains being a barrier on one side, and the Great Basin, and the Californian or Sierra Nevada range on the other—the Mormons have at last found a resting place. About 7,000 persons, of all ages, and both sexes, are now collected in this valley. They commenced arriving in the valley in July, 1847, and last season they raised a fine crop of wheat, corn and other productions, sufficient for their own consumption and of those of their faith who are yearly coming in. After next harvest they will have provisions to dispose of.—They have two grist-mills and four saw-mills in operation, and have laid out several villages, and a town on an elevated plat, which overlooks the whole valley & lake. They are building substantial hou-

ses and surrounding themselves with many comforts. They expect a large emigration this season from their brethren in the neighborhood of Council Bluffs, where there are some thousands congregated.

The road to Oregon and California, by the North Fork of the Platte river, and the South Pass, passes some 60 miles to the north of the settlement, but a route by the way of the Salt Lake can be taken, which will not take the traveller out of his way more than 40 or 50 miles. The Mormons will be able to supply fresh mules and oxen; and after next harvest, provisions to those who are emigrating to California.

Mr. Whipple says the road is very good all the way from Independence to west of the mountains. In 1847, about 1,000 wagons passed over it, and last year some 350. The trail is so well defined that no danger from losing it need be feared. Mr. Whipple recommends oxen in preference to mules, and says they will make very good time. Emigrants usually make about 15 miles a day. On some portions of the route there is a scarcity of grass.—For about 500 miles, buffalo meat can be obtained in abundance.

Mr. Whipple represents the valley of the Salt Lake as perfectly healthy, & the journey to that region as attended with no dangers and but little fatigue. He returns again in the Spring.

The Mormons have established ferries over the only rivers which are not fordable on account of high waters—the Platte and Green rivers,—so that no hindrance to emigrants from that cause need now be feared. No gold has yet been found in the neighborhood of the Salt Lake, or anywhere east of the Sierra Nevada, as far as Mr. Whipple is informed. What has reached that region, was brought there by the discharged Mormon soldiers, who had returned from the Placer to visit their families.

With reference to the story that the Mormons had claimed a pre-emption right to the diggings, and were demanding a per centage on the gold found, Mr. Whipple gives the following account. The first discovery of gold was made by Mormons, (discharged soldiers,) in digging a mill race for Mr. Sutter. As the discovery was on his ground, he gave them the liberty of digging gold, on condition of paying him a certain per centage. This they agreed to do but soon started off to explore for themselves, and having found some rich spot they demanded a per centage from new comers for digging in their ground, to which they claimed a right of discovery. This practice is general in the mines, and the Mormons, Mr. Whipple says, no more claim the whole of the mines than they do the whole of California.

SMALL NOTES.

We regret to perceive that in order to secure the success of the bill for the completion of the North Branch Canal, a bill has been read in the Legislature, offering to the Banks of the Commonwealth, the privilege of issuing a new batch of small notes, in return for a loan of two millions for twenty years. We regret to see an improvement, which has merit enough of its own to secure its passage, coupled with such a scheme as this. The proposals to extinguish the Relief issues, and to carry through the scheme for avoiding the Inclined Plane, however much both may be desired by the people, are rather inducements in the bill in question to secure support than concessions to well known popular opinion. It was by an arrangement, to secure an appropriation to this same canal, that the Relief issues were first forced upon the people—issues which have done so much to plunder our laboring classes, and to degrade us in other States. There is not the slightest necessity or demand for currency of this kind now. Congress will doubtless pass the bill to coin gold dollars, which will give us an additional circulating medium of this denomination of money; and if the accounts from California are only partially true, there will be enough of the precious metals to make this coin abundant. Why, at such a time as this, are we called upon to approve another issue of those small notes (to last under the bill allowed to, for twenty years!) which have heretofore been such a bane to the industry and business of the country? We hope it will not be persisted in; if it is, we trust it may be defeated.—Pennsylvanian.

Nine Persons Poisoned to Death.—Within two weeks, says the Baton Rouge Advocate of the 24th inst., a family consisting of a Mr. Boettger, his wife and two children, have died, in this vicinity, from accidental poisoning, caused by drinking water of a well impregnated with copper, as has been proven, we understand, by an examination of the well, in which was found an old copper kettle and various substances of a filthy nature, and by an analysis of the water. Mr. Boettger and his family, who were amiable and excellent people, had but recently emigrated to this country from Prussia, and had just purchased the property whereon they resided and contracted their unhappy demise. A valuable negro man belonging to Mr. I. Largent, also came to his death from the same cause, while waiting for Mr. B. We learn, moreover, that in the same way, and that three negroes belonging to Mrs. Hatfield, died no doubt from the same cause, while living on the same premises a short time previous to the death of Mr. B. The purchase of these deaths was supposed at the time, to proceed from cholera, and created no little alarm in the neighborhood of their occurrence.

Democratic Banner.

CLEARFIELD, PA. Feby 14, 1849.

Appointment by the Governor. E. C. WINSLOW, to be Associate Judge of Elk county.

Gov. TAYLOR now on his route to Washington, where he is expected to arrive about the 22d inst.

MOST MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.

An accident of the most distressing character occurred in Lawrence township, a few miles from this place, on Monday the 29th of January, by which a little boy, some 7 years of age. The father was engaged in felling a tree, for fire-wood, accompanied with two of his children—a lion the tree started the children ran in its way, and the father succeeded in saving one of them, and narrowly escaped with his own life in his efforts to save the other.

PINE & MASHING COUNTIES.—The citizens residing within the limits of these two proposed new counties, and particularly the former, are very active in their efforts to get their bills passed.

PLANK ROAD.—Several companies are applying to the present Legislature for charters to build plank roads. This kind of road is superior to any other, and in our spruce & hemlock country, could be built at a very trifling cost. Why don't our citizens tap the Main Line with a Plank road?

Governor Johnston, some time ago, appointed a Mr. Hixon, of Philadelphia city, a Notary Public for the District of Spring Garden. A certain Act of Assembly requires that such officer must be a resident of the District at least one year preceding his appointment. This qualification Mr. Hixon does not possess, and the people of that District refuse to recognize his authority, believing that out of some nine thousand voters the Governor might have found at least one man competent to discharge the duties of Notary. And now, in order to get his Excellency out of difficulty, the Legislature is asked to repeal the so much of the law requiring a year's residence as relates to Spring Garden. It has passed the Senate, but its fate in the House is somewhat doubtful.

OUR NEW PAPER.

A few of the prospectuses for our proposed new paper, which we sent out at the December court, have been returned, accompanied with very respectable lists of subscribers. Others have retained them until after the Spring election—which takes place next Friday. This will afford an excellent opportunity to obtain subscribers, and we hope our friends will embrace it. After that, they will please return them, whether they have few or many names, so that we may know what to do.

It is strange that there should be any hesitation on the part of any citizen of the county—and particularly those who are abundantly able, are raising families, and situated where they can get a paper. In some neighborhoods there is no holding back, but almost every man has set up his name. This is the case in part of Covington township, and in Morris township; and in Lawrence township we expect to get nearly as many subscribers as there are voters. Let the other parts of the county do proportionally well, and we will have enough, and to spare.

End of Vol. 1.

With the present number ends the first volume of the "Banner," under its present proprietor.—Within this volume is recorded some of the most important events, both in this favored land and in the Old World, that ever startled human ears. The casting aside of crowns, and the old dogma of the "Divine right of Kings," and the recognition, in their stead, of the rational doctrine that man is qualified to govern himself, in the latter, will perhaps mark an epoch of no greater importance in the history of the affairs and business of the world, than the result of the war with Mexico, and the consequent discovery of apparently inexhaustible deposits of gold in California. The value, therefore, of the volume just closing, can only be properly estimated in the mighty future, when the affairs of to-day shall have become matters of history. But the experience of the past year has sufficiently satisfied us of one fact, and that is, that we have not been rewarded for our labor, and that, unless we can start under a different system, and with brighter prospects, we must surrender our post to others, and seek other means of living.—With this hope we have offered to publish a paper on the cash system, (payment in advance,) and at the very low price of ONE DOLLAR per year.

Many of our citizens, who properly estimate the value of a country newspaper, have entitled themselves to our hearty thanks, by the exertions they have made to procure subscribers; while others, however, have given us the "cold shoulder," and neither subscribe themselves nor urge others to do so. We intend to perform all we promise, and to publish a paper that cannot be surpassed for usefulness to the citizens of Clearfield county.

The Trial of ALLMAN.

We have taken full and correct notes of the testimony in the above trial, and had intended to publish it—together with an argument of one of the counsel on each side, and the charge of Judge Woodward to the jury—in a pamphlet. But as an effort will be made to procure a new trial, at the request of the counsel for the defence, we have declined giving it to the public until that question is decided.

In order, however, that the public may have possession of all the facts of this most singular case, we purpose publishing it in the first numbers of our proposed new paper. By subscribing for the "Country Dollar," therefore, persons can procure a valuable family newspaper for their families, as well as obtain the whole history of this highly important trial—at an expense, too, of little more than the latter would cost alone, if published separately.

The 20th District Redeemed. THE BAIL IN MOTION.

The Democracy of our Senatorial district have covered themselves all over with glory. They were called out to meet the enemy, at a time of their own choosing—in the midst of winter—and under many adverse circumstances, and notwithstanding all, they have more than triumphed.

The ball has now been fairly started, & will not cease its revolutions until the Whigs have been hunted and driven from every place of political power. The following is the official result:

	DRUM.	JOHNSTON.
Armstrong,	1377	1210
Indiana,	1377	1756
Cambria,	1123	971
Clearfield,	730	374
Total.	4517	4311
Majority for Mr. DRUM,	1006.	

The Trial and Conviction of Lorantz Allman.

The trial of Lorantz (Lawrence) Allman, for the murder of his brother Godfried, in September last, in Brady township, in this county, occupied almost the entire January term of our court. The trial commenced on Monday evening, the 31st ult., when, after going through the arraignment, the case was postponed to the next morning.—On Tuesday morning, after exhausting the whole list of 48 Jurors, and some 20 to 25, a very intelligent jury was eventually sworn. The case was then opened by the Deputy Attorney General, after which some 30 to 40 witnesses were called by the Commonwealth, and many of them having to be interpreted, necessarily occupied much time, and was not closed until Thursday evening. The arguments of counsel commenced in Friday morning and continued until Saturday evening. His Honor Judge Woodward, then, in most clear, feeling, and eloquent charge, read in the whole volume of testimony, submitted the case to the jury. The jury retired, and after being out some 36 hours, came into court at 8 o'clock on Monday morning with a verdict of "Guilty of murder in the first degree."

The case was most ably conducted on both sides. On behalf of the Commonwealth by Deputy Atty Gen. G. W. HECKER assisted by B. RUSH PETRIKEN, (of Bellefonte,) and WM A. WALLACE, Esq. And on the part of the defence, by A. G. CURTIN, (of Bellefonte,) J. J. SMITH, G. R. BARRERT, and J. F. WEAVER, Esq. The evidence was of an entirely circumstantial character, but of such overwhelming force as to drive all doubts from the minds of the jury. If we are correctly informed, the jury were not detained by a division of opinion as to the guilt of the prisoner, but from a desire to do the part of some of the jurors to bring in a verdict of "guilty of murder in the second degree."

Perhaps few trials of a more truly interesting, not to say romantic character, ever came before a court in our State. The spacious hall of our court house was crowded the whole time, with eager and anxious, though perfectly calm and orderly spectators; and amidst that anxious throng, it seemed to us, that the prisoner at the bar was the most unmoved. He appeared indifferent as to the issue—perfectly callous to every natural feeling of the human breast—for neither the tears of a weeping, heart-broken sister, nor the solemn, deep-drawn, melancholy response of "guilt" from the jurors caused the least perceptible emotion.

From the evidence, the following facts were established.—Lorantz and Godfried Allman lived together. They had two sisters, and a brother, named Philip, in this country, and natives of Germany. The three brothers purchased a piece of land. Philip married, and moved to Cincinnati. Godfried also went to Cincinnati, for the purpose, as was alleged, of earning money to help pay for the land. Lorantz remained on the land, Godfried returned in May '46, and the two brothers lived together, visited occasionally, by the unmarried sister. On Tuesday the 5th of September, Godfried and Louisa Allman were married. The two brothers worked together from Wednesday morning the 6th, until Sunday evening the 9th, when Godfried left to go to Marshall's—some three miles by one road, and 16-and-a-half by another. After that, nothing was heard of Godfried until Sunday the 17th of September, when his dead body was found a few rods from the road, with a bullet hole through the head.

Suspicion had fastened upon Lorantz previous to the finding of the body, from his peculiar conduct, as well as from a declaration he had made, that if he did not get Louisa Marshal one would lose his life.

Take it all in all, and this evidence develops a most singular chain of circumstances; brought to light, too, at least some of them, by events of the same singular character. The bullet that passed through the head, and picked up weeks after the body was found—its appearance—the significant increase in its mysterious identification—the large club, found within three or four feet of the dead body—appearance—and its singular identification—about a few of the links in this remarkable chain (testimony, trifling and insignificant of itself,) but when connected with other parts of the evidence, forming a weight of testimony that can't fail to force conviction in the mind of any one.

The circumstances were so well and accurately arranged and linked together, as to bid defiance to all the ingenuity of the learned and eloquent counsel for the defence. They employed their utmost powers, and labored with a zeal unprecedented by without avail. There stood the impregnable array of evidence—and it seemed the more they labored to account for the fact and declaration of the prisoner, or to procure a new trial, done before clear and plain evidence. The counsel for the Commonwealth duty performed, and this duty in the most honorable and dignified manner.