

# DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - - Feb. 3, 1875.

## DANCING.

THE Methodist preachers of Montana are opposed to dancing. They won't have it in their churches, and they won't have the lucre made by dancing. A district conference of the Methodist Episcopal church was held at Bozeman, commencing Jan. 4th. On the 6th the following preamble and resolutions were discussed and unanimously adopted by the conference, according to the report in the Bozeman *Avant-Courier*—

"Among the greatest hindrances to our church work that we find in this new country is dancing and attendance on dancing parties. It interferes materially with the spiritual success of Christianity. Our discipline, however, is very explicit on this subject, and can be our only rule and guide in reference to it.

"Resolved, therefore, That we are opposed to and determined to discountenance all dancing parties in any form, more especially any participation in them by our membership or the linking of them to any of our church enterprises.

"Resolved, That we cannot consistently receive funds gotten by such means for church purposes."

The preachers present are thus presented—"Rev. T. C. Iliff, of Bozeman; Rev. Mr. Riffin, of Virginia City; Rev. Mr. Van Orsdell, Virginia City; Rev. Mr. Anderson, Fort Peck Agency; Rev. Mr. Bridger, Bozeman; Rev. Mr. Blay, Virginia City; Mr. T. Lockridge, Bannack."

Elsewhere in the NEWS may be found some pertinent dissenting comments, by a Montana newspaper, upon the above detailed action of the conference, which will be worth reading by those who take an interest in the subject pro or con.

Some of our readers, perhaps many of them, who were brought up with religious strictness, may recollect the injunctions placed upon them by their religious parents or guardians, against engaging in dancing, or entering a room in which dancing was going on, for the purpose of engaging in or witnessing such exercises, ballrooms and theatres being considered by such strict religious people as the very gates of hell, the portals of perdition, and to be carefully shunned accordingly.

Such extreme views are no more absolutely correct than extreme views generally are. Moderation is the golden rule, as the apostle says, "Let your moderation be known unto all men." The danger from most acts is as regards time, place, manner and conditions of their performance, rather than in the acts themselves.

There is no sin in dancing, that is, it is not of itself a sinful exercise, not in the least. It is held to be the oldest and most universal of the fine arts, the "poetry of motion," no more inherently vicious than painting, music, or any other fine art. Dancing has been and is practised as religious, warlike, gymnastic, pantomimic, social, solemn, or festive exercise. It is either of these, according to the intention of the actor. In either instance it is very inspiring, but in neither is it necessarily degrading. Things are much what they are made by the uses to which they are put.

The Hebrew word for dance means literally to "leap for joy," and for the expression of sacred joy and holy triumph dancing seems to have been engaged in on frequent occasions in Biblical history. "Many orthodox Hebrews still give *bals masques* on the evening of the feast of Purim, an occasion of great rejoicing to commemorate the triumph of Esther and Mordecai over Haman, the enemy and persecutor of their race."

Dancing was customary as a religious exercise in Christendom

until the 12th century, and in Spain until the 17th, the clergy dancing with the children in the churches. Later still, in the 18th century, "at Limoges the people and clergy have danced together around the choir of the church of St. Leonard on St. Martial's day." In early times the bishops led the dances in Christian festivities. Dancing was an important part of education in Greece and was held in high honor. It was the opinion of Plato that all dancing should be of a religious character, and should be carefully legislated upon, as an essential to the cultivation of grace of motion. On the contrary, the Mohammedan religion forbids both dancing and music, terpsichorean exercises not being among the paradisiacal pleasures promised in the Koran.

## USES OF DANCING.

FROM the commencement of the settlement of this Territory dancing has been very popular. It has been very common in every city, town, and settlement. Old and young, rich and poor, male and female, engage in it freely. There is no general injunction against it, religious or social. If any of our citizens have serious objections to social saltatory exercises, the number of those citizens is very few, and their influence is scarcely if at all appreciable upon the community at large.

In Utah concerts are not very frequent, and theatres are confined to very few localities, while in none of our cities are the latter regularly open throughout the year. Dancing parties, therefore, have been the only universal means of public social assembly, and for this end and that of recreation have they been commonly encouraged, and this without sense of condemnation on the part of their upholders.

Among the advantages of dancing are social intercourse, amusement, recreation, healthful exercise, and the attainment of ease, elasticity, gracefulness, and elegance of movement, carriage, and manners. All these advantages, however, are not attainable, except by the exercise of prudence in the management of and attendance at parties of this kind.

He would be a bold man who would affirm and maintain that learning or practising the art of dancing was necessarily injurious, physically or morally, to young men or young women, or that it was not positively beneficial to them. Some people may have no taste for that kind of recreation, as some people may have no taste for cricket, or base-ball, or foot-ball, or racing, or rowing, or music, or poetry. But such individual distaste does not prove the sinfulness, or the impropriety, or the evil in any way, or the inexpediency, of the particular recreation, or pursuit, which is the object thereof. If a man dislikes dancing, that is no proof that dancing is of evil tendency.

As a social entertainment, dancing affords opportunity for the formation and cultivation of acquaintanceship and friendship among one's neighbors and fellow-citizens, and for the wearing off of individual crankiness and stiffness of behavior. Public concerted dancing is an excellent antidote to that dreadful *mauvaise honte* and that ugly awkwardness of deportment which some excellent young and also elderly people display when in company. Perhaps there are no better schools than a well conducted dancing school, and the almost consequent public dancing assembly, for the acquirement of graceful elasticity of carriage, and ease and even elegance of manners. Recreatively, the ballroom is an excellent institution. There the music, the holiday attire and surroundings, the general cheerfulness, the blitheful movements of the dancers, all conspire to relax the strong hold which business and common cares have upon the mind, and lift the senses out of the narrow ruts and humdrum routine of every day life, elevating the guests to a new sphere of enjoyment for a time actually, and afterward by way of generally agreeable and frequently delightful reminiscence. As a healthful exercise,

dancing stands high in the estimation of many. It is even held to be, when judiciously engaged in, one of the best possible remedies and preventives of that hydra of disease, dyspepsia, of which American people, from some cause or another, appear to have a more than ordinary share.

For these reasons, among others, it is evident that dancing is not an institution to be indiscriminately condemned, but, on the contrary, in many things to be heartily approved.

## Local and Other Matters.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, JAN. 23.

The London Times.—Here it is, two recent numbers, imported by Samuel B. Read, news dealer, First South street, near the Theatre.

Crowded.—Last night the 20th Ward schoolhouse was literally jammed with people who attended to hear Mr. Stayner's lecture, numbers being unable to find sitting room. At the close a hearty vote of thanks was tendered the lecturer.

Harper's Bazar for February 6th contains "Master and Mistress," "Elaborate Entertainment," "New York Fashions," "The Cloughs and Heathercloughs," "English Gossip," "Sayings and Doings," "Nelly's Ruse," "Paris Fashions," etc., with abundance of illustrations and a sheet of patterns.

Singer Sewing Machine Company.—This company have fitted up their premises in excellent style, including that part recently vacated by Zion's Savings Bank and Trust Company, the reason for the removal of the latter to the new office being that the Singer company required all of the space for their increasing business.

More Home Manufacture.—Chas. W. Nunn, of this city makes shoe-blacking. From those who have tried it we have the assurance that it is fully equal and in some respects superior to the imported article, being free from gumminess and destructive acid. Mr. Nunn's blacking, we are told, is made from the same recipe as that of the celebrated firm of Day & Martin, London, and is sold in handy tin boxes.

Bad Accident.—A man of seventy-four, named Argent, living on West Jordan, fell from a loaded wagon last night, the wheels passing over his right arm, and crushing the bones to such an extent that amputation became necessary, near the shoulder. The operation was performed this morning by Drs. W. F. Anderson and H. J. Richards. The old man bore the operation well, and hopes are entertained of his recovery.

Harper's Monthly for February contains "New Washington," "Caricature Among the Ancients," "The French Institute and Academies," "Wonders of the Lowlands," "Professor Fawcett," "Rape of the Gamp," "True Fitness," "First Century of the Republic," "Christian Missions," "De Wit Clinton," "Little Icebergs," "Evanescence," "Republican Movement in Europe," "Miss Angel," "Easy Chair," Literary, Scientific and Historical "Record," "Drawer," etc., with numerous excellent illustrations.

Jury List.—In accordance with "An Act of Congress in Relation to Courts and Judicial Officers of the Territory of Utah," approved June 23rd, 1874, known as the Pol and bill, Hon. Elias Smith, Probate Judge of Salt Lake County, and Edward B. McKean, clerk of the Third Judicial District Court, met yesterday, January 28th, 1875, at the office of the first named functionary, and alternately selected the names of male citizens to be drawn from to serve as grand and petit jurors in the above mentioned District Court, to the number of two hundred, the names opposite the odd numbers being chosen by Mr. McKean and the others by Judge Smith. The following is the list—

- 1 Leopold Arnstine, Salt Lake City
- 2 Henry W Despaine, "
- 3 Charles Adler, "
- 4 Thomas Jack, "
- 5 George S Steell, "
- 6 James Van Tassell, "
- 7 Samuel Auerbach, "
- 8 James Johnson, "
- 9 Saul Levy, "
- 10 Frederick Peterson, "

- 11 Matthias B Callahan, "
- 12 James Eardley, "
- 13 W W Chisholm, "
- 14 Stephen Hunter, "
- 15 Wayne Carver, "
- 16 Thomas F H Morton, "
- 17 Patrick H Launan, "
- 18 Isaac Hardman, "
- 19 George B Moulton, "
- 20 Joseph Weiler, "
- 21 James Lowe, "
- 22 Frank Turnbow, "
- 23 Samuel E May, "
- 24 William Irvine, "
- 25 Augustus Podlech, "
- 26 Jesse West, "
- 27 Henry Simons, "
- 28 Thomas Winter, "
- 29 William B Whitehill, "
- 30 Homer Brown, "
- 31 Thomas R Jones, "
- 32 Jonah Croxall, "
- 33 Emanuel Khan, "
- 34 David Evans, "
- 35 Abel W White, "
- 36 John Quayle, "
- 37 Aaron Greenwald, "
- 38 George Whitaker, "
- 39 Martin J Johannas, "
- 40 Thos H Woodbury, Jr, "
- 41 Eli Ranschoff, "
- 42 George H Chambers, "
- 43 Joseph Siegel, "
- 44 Benj F Dewey, "
- 45 Richard A Keyes, "
- 46 Joseph McMurrin, "
- 47 George F Prescott, "
- 48 John W Snell, "
- 49 Charles Read, "
- 50 Michael Holden, "
- 51 Louis Hyams, "
- 52 Samuel Ritter, "
- 53 J W Lowell, "
- 54 William Strong, "
- 55 Charles E Wallin, "
- 56 George Laney, "
- 57 Allen T Riley, "
- 58 Francis Armstrong, "
- 59 Joseph M Allen, "
- 60 George Hoggan, "
- 61 Alexander Tarbet, "
- 62 David Leaker, "
- 63 Henry Wadsworth, "
- 64 Jabez Taylor, "
- 65 William Samson, "
- 66 George Brooks, "
- 67 Louis Reggel, "
- 68 Benjamin F Cummings, "
- 69 Edward L Butterfield, "
- 70 Zachariah W Derrick, "
- 71 Charles A Woods, "
- 72 William J Hooper, "
- 73 Samuel D Connor, "
- 74 Henry McEwan, "
- 75 Richard P Lounsbry, "
- 76 Joseph Smith, "
- 77 William S Godbe, "
- 78 Thomas V Williams, "
- 79 Frank Cislir, "
- 80 Luman A Eusign, "
- 81 Samuel Woodward, "
- 82 Frank Hyde, "
- 83 Benjamin Stevens, "
- 84 William Naylor, "
- 85 A J Stevens, "
- 86 John Reading, "
- 87 Sheldon B Davis, "
- 88 Claudius V Spencer, "
- 89 James M Darling, "
- 90 George E Bourne, "
- 91 Stephen F Nuckolls, "
- 92 George W Davis, "
- 93 Joseph Wear, "
- 94 Ezra Foss, "
- 95 Daniel Cram, "
- 96 William Hopwood, "
- 97 George E Reid, "
- 98 Thomas Latimer, "
- 99 George R Read, "
- 100 Edwin Pettit, "
- 101 Martin K Harkness, "
- 102 Wesley S Trescott, "
- 103 Thadeus W Ireland, "
- 104 Thomas J Brown, "
- 105 S J Lees, "
- 106 Jasper Conrad, "
- 107 Henry Greaves, "
- 108 David Duncanson, "
- 109 James McGuffey, "
- 110 William R Jones, "
- 111 Joseph Braithwaite, "
- 112 Nathan J Lang, "
- 113 Thomas E Clohecy, "
- 114 William C Morris, "
- 115 Jacob Engler, "
- 116 Henry Moore, "
- 117 William Cunningham, "
- 118 Brower Pettit, "
- 119 Alexander Daft, "
- 120 Samuel Russell, "
- 121 John S Barnes, "
- 122 James W Ure, "
- 123 A. H. Owens, "
- 124 Samuel Varney, "
- 125 W G Mills, "
- 126 Abraham Coon, "
- 127 J G Bryant, "
- 128 Peter Gillespie, "
- 129 Alexander Majors, "
- 130 Gideon H C Gibbs, "
- 131 Joseph Kimer, "
- 132 William Harman, "
- 133 Jacob Moritz, "
- 134 Jacob Hunter, "
- 135 T B Mulkey, Bingham, S L Co
- 136 Thomas E. Jeremy, jr., Salt Lake City,
- 137 R S Griffin, Bingham S L Co.
- 138 James Lawson, Salt Lake City
- 139 R D Clark, Bingham, S L Co.

- 140 Peter Reid, Salt Lake City
- 141 Andrew Klopenstine, Bingham, S L Co.
- 142 Samuel Bringham, North Jordan, S L Co.
- 143 Abe Cohen, Alta, S L Co.
- 144 John Bennion, North Jordan, S L Co.
- 145 John McDonald, Alta, S L Co.
- 146 John Acornb, Big Cottonwood, S L Co.
- 147 J M Thomas, Alta, S L Co.
- 148 Duncan S Casper, Big Cottonwood, S L Co.
- 149 James Tucker, Alta, S L Co.
- 150 William G Davis, Big Cottonwood, S L Co.
- 151 Levi Staples, Alta, S L Co.
- 152 Julian Moses, Big Cottonwood, S L Co.
- 153 John P Harlow, Alta, S L Co.
- 154 Samuel L Howard, Mill Creek, S L Co.
- 155 Erasmus D Ralph, Alta, S L Co.
- 156 Joseph Carlisle, Mill Creek, S L Co.
- 157 Hiram T Shurtliff, Davis Co
- 158 James Bell, Mill Creek, S L Co
- 159 J F Alexander, Tooele Co
- 160 Alfred Lemmon, Mill Creek, S L Co
- 161 Horace Bliss, Tooele Co
- 162 Reuben P Miller, Mill Creek, S L Co
- 163 Benjamin F Butler, Tooele Co
- 164 Edward Morgan, Mill Creek, S L Co
- 165 Lucien Livingston, Tooele Co
- 166 Louis H Mousley, Sugar House, S L Co
- 167 David B Stover, Tooele Co
- 168 William H Staker, Sugar House, S L Co
- 169 Charles Ellis, Tooele Co
- 170 James Godfrey, South Cottonwood, S L Co
- 171 Daniel W Ranch, Tooele Co
- 172 Warren F Reynolds, South Cottonwood, S L Co
- 173 Thomas P Potts, Tooele Co
- 174 Dewitt C Thompson, South Cottonwood, S L Co
- 175 William Stoker, Weber Co
- 176 William A Bills, South Jordan, S L Co
- 177 John Horrocks, Weber Co
- 178 Jeremiah Stocking, Fort Herri-man, S L Co
- 179 James Bond, Weber Co
- 180 Lorenzo Pettit, Salt Lake City
- 181 William Sharp, Weber Co
- 182 Albert W Davis, Salt Lake City
- 183 John A Jost, Weber Co
- 184 Rinaldo Mowry, Salt Lake City
- 185 William Gilbert, Weber Co
- 186 William A Hodges, Salt Lake City
- 187 E A Earl, Weber Co
- 188 John Tingey, Salt Lake City
- 189 Samuel Bergman, Cache Co
- 190 Joseph Peck, Salt Lake City
- 191 Robert Cannon, Cache Co
- 192 John Groesbeck, Salt Lake City
- 193 Charles J Goodwin, Cache Co
- 194 George M Ottinger, Salt Lake City
- 195 James Fanner, Box Elder Co
- 196 Charles Samsome, Salt Lake City
- 197 Samuel Howe, Box Elder Co
- 198 John Mackay, Salt Lake City
- 199 E W Morgan, Box Elder Co
- 200 Mark Lindsey, Salt Lake City.

FROM SATURDAY'S DAILY, JAN. 30.

Born.—To the wife of A. J. Cushing, of this City, Jan. 30th, a daughter.

Promissory Note Found.—Yesterday a promissory note for \$48 was found, which the owner can have on calling at this office.

Wants Information.—Adaline Tibbs, of Wytheville, Va., is desirous of discovering the whereabouts of her uncle, Jackson Shoop. The last she heard of him he was in Salt Lake City.

Appleton's Journal for Jan. 23 contains "Livingstone's Last Journey," illustrated, "Ralph Wilton's Weird," "Richelieu's Honey-moon," "Carrioling in Norway," "The Greville Journals," with editorial notes of various kinds.

Littell's Living Age for Jan. 23 contains "Charles and Mary Lamb," "Alice Lorraine," "International Vanities," "Valentine and his Brother," "Saxon Studies," "Longevity and Brainwork," "Ultimate Consequences of Mr. G adstone's Pamphlet," "A Philological Puzzle," etc.

Musical Periodicals.—"The Amateur" for January contains "Buried in the Snow," a tale of the Prairies, "Wit and Wisdom," "The Amateur Abroad—Six days in Munich," "Paris Correspondence," "Death of Sher. Campbell," "Ostrolenka," "Minor Notes," "New York Letter," "Arcadian Music," and the following music: "The