

THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

NO. 36.

SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14, 1868.

VOL. XVII.

Bishop WILLIAM BUDGE is authorized to act as GENERAL AGENT for the DESERET NEWS throughout Cache County.

AGENTS of the DESERET NEWS will please endeavor to collect what Cotton and Linen Rags they can, and forward at their earliest convenience.

For the Deseret Evening News.

By Telegraph.

FOREIGN.

News from the South American coast gives further accounts of the fearful ravages by the inundation and earthquakes. Several vessels were damaged at Coquimba, including the American ship *Black Eagle*. At Calderaza the inhabitants had to flee to the hills, and sixteen or eighteen lighters, and several larger craft were wrecked or damaged. Twenty lighters were wrecked at Carrisal Bay, besides the American brig *Delafina*, laden with 50,000 kilogrammes of copper. Many other vessels were damaged severely. The residents of Valparaiso had raised \$40,000 for the sufferers by the earthquake. The Chilean Congress had appropriated 50,000 for the same purpose. The government had also sent large supplies of provisions, clothing and medicines to Peru. Political affairs at Chili were unsettled.

The Peruvian government was doing everything possible to relieve the sufferers by the earthquake and inundation, both in Peru and Ecuador. The victims in Peru will probably reach two thousands.

A change has taken place in the sea coast in Peru in consequence of the earthquake, the depth of water off the headland of Samana, near Arica, having been decreased six to seven fathoms. The loss of life in Ecuador is not less than 40,000.

Madrid.—The Provisional Junta has made a declaration in favor of civil and religious liberty; it is received with enthusiasm. An extensive popular demonstration was made in Madrid, specially in favor of religious toleration. Large numbers of workmen are idle in consequence of the agitation, which has caused a temporary suspension in industry and labor in the city. The Provisional Junta assures them that work will be provided for all who want it. Rumor says the Duke and Duchess de Montpensier have been allowed to re-enter Spain. Much excitement was created in Catalonia by the reform in the customs and tariff.

Madrid.—The Cubans in this city demand that their island be represented at the deliberations of the Provisional Junta.

Paris.—The Papal Corvette *Concission* has been ordered to Marseilles to take on board the Queen of Spain.

CHANGES IN NIAGARA FALLS.

From an old resident of the village I learn several facts of interest regarding the falls. Within the recollection of my informant the cataract has receded 35 to 40 feet in places, and fully 10 feet in the average. These changes are more noticeable on the Canada side; the centre of the Horse-Shoe fall having receded perceptibly within the past five years. This fact in connection with the general appearance of the walls of rock on each side of the lower level of the river, shows that the falls must have originally been much lower down. It is an Indian tradition that in former times there was but one fall, extending across the river below the point now spanned by the lower bridge, and the story is credited by the older residents of the town. The pressure of ice from Lake Erie carried down the upper rapids with terrible velocity, detaches many large rocks each winter, while others are loosened and occasionally drop through the spring and summer. I witnessed the fall of a huge boulder on the evening of Aug. 28th, while looking at the Horse-Shoe, by moonlight, from the balcony of Terrapin Tower. It started apparently about fifty feet from the edge of the fall, and an equal distance from the foot of the

tower. My attention was attracted by seeing it rise about four feet above the foam, as if lifted by the current of water running under it. It then turned partly over and disappeared. Five or six minutes later it was again visible on the edge of the fall, turning slowly as before. Here it was stopped for several seconds, as if lodged against another rock more firmly imbedded; but it leaned gradually to the left, and finally dropped.

The fall of the greater part of Table Rock, some years ago, is also an evidence of the gradual change that is going on in the topography of the Falls. The Cave of the Winds, and all paths leading to the Falls, are pronounced unsafe by those who are well acquainted with the locality; and each season they become more hazardous, as the rocks that have hung suspended so long must eventually give way to the pressure of water from above.

COMMON IMPROPRIETIES OF SPEECH.

"At all" is a needless expletive, which is employed by many writers of what may be called the forcible-feeble school. For example: "The coach was upset, but, strange to say, no one received the slightest injury at all." "It is not at all strange."

Mistaken is erroneously used for mistake. "You are mistaken" is used to signify "you mistake." A popular hymn begins, "Mistaken souls that dream of heaven," for mistaking. "I am mistaken" means, I am taken amiss—that is, you misapprehend me.

What, for that. This error is quite common among those who think themselves above learning anything more out of a dictionary or grammar. "He would not believe but what I was joking."

Convene is used by many persons in a strange sense. "This road will convene the public."

Evidence is a word much abused by learned judges and attorneys—being continually used for testimony. Evidence relates to the conviction of any one's mind; testimony to the knowledge of another concerning some fact. The evidence in the case is often the reverse of the testimony.

Had have. This is a very low vulgarism, notwithstanding it has the authority of Addison. It is quite common to say, "Had you have known it." We can say, "I have been, I had been," but what sort of a tense is, have had been?

Had ought, had better, had rather. Vulgar absurdities, not less gross than hisn, taint, tother, theirn.

At, for by; e.g., "Sales at auction." The word auction signifies manner of sale; and this signification seems to require the preposition by.

The above, is an adjective. "The above extract is sufficient to verify my assertion." I fully concur in the above statement." (the statement or the foregoing statement.) Charles Lamb speaks of the above boys, and the below boys.

Then, as an adjective. "The then king of Holland." This error, to which even educated men are addicted, springs from a desire of brevity; but verbal economy is not commendable when it violates the plainest rules of language.

Either is only applicable to two objects; and the same remark is true of neither or both, "Either of the three," is wrong. "Whether is a contraction of "which of either," and therefore cannot be correctly applied to more than two objects.

Propositions for proposals. This is not a solecism, but as a universal word is preferable to one that is equivocal. "Proposal" for a thing offered or proposed, is better than "proposition." "He demonstrated the fifth proposition in Euclid;" "he rejected the proposal of his friend."

Sit, sat, are much abused words. It is said that the brilliant Irish lawyer, Curran, once carelessly observed in court, "and action lays," and the Judge corrected him by remarking, "Lies, Mr. Curran—hens lay;" but subsequently the Judge ordering counsel to "set down," Curran retaliated: "Sit down, your honor—hens set." The retort was

characteristic of more wit than truth. Hens do not set; they sit. It is not unusual to hear people say, "The coat sets well." The wind sets fair." Sit is the proper word. The preterite of "sit" is often incorrectly used for that of "set," e.g., "He sat off for Boston."

From thence, from whence. As the adverbs "thence" and "whence" literally supply the place of a noun and preposition, there is a solecism in employing a preposition in conjunction with them.

Conduct. In conversation this verb is frequently used without the personal pronouns: as "he conducts well," for "he conducts himself well."

Least, for less. "Of two evils choose the least."

Previous, for previously. "Previous to my leaving America."

"Proven" and "plead," for proved and pleaded, are clearly vulgarisms.

Appreciates, for "rises in value." "Gold appreciated yesterday."

Bound, for ready or determined. "I am bound to do it." We may say properly that a ship is "bound for Liverpool;" but in that case we do not employ, as many suppose, the past participle of the verb to bind, but the old northern participle adjective, buinn, from the verb at bua, signifying "to make ready or prepare." The term is strictly a nautical one, and to employ it in a sense that unites the significations of both buinn and the English participle bound, from bind, is a plain abuse of language.—*Guardian*.

ALLIGATORS ON THE GANGES.

The bank of the Ganges opposite Monghyr has not the slightest pretensions to beauty; its low, flat, swampy shores, intersected with reedy inlets, are the haunts of multitudes of alligators, which in the hot seasons may be seen sunning themselves by the side of the huge ant hills erected upon the sand banks, appearing above the surface of the water. Some of these animals attain a prodigious size; they are exceedingly difficult to kill, in consequence of the adamant armor in which the greater part of their bodies are cased. Even when the balls penetrate less guarded points, they are so tenacious of life as to cause a great deal of trouble before they can finally be dispatched. One which had received eight balls, and was supposed to be dead, after having been tied to the bamboo of a budgerow for a whole day, exhibited in the evening, so much strength and fierceness, as to be a dangerous neighbor. Many of these monsters are fifteen feet long, and swim fearlessly past the boats, lifting up their terrific heads, and raising their dark bodies from the water as they glide along. Though not so frequently as in former times, when the echoes of the river were less disturbed by the report of fire-arms, natives are still the victims of that species of alligator, which lies in wait for men and animals, venturing too near their haunts. In many that have been killed the silver ornaments that have been worn by women and children, have been found, a convincing proof of the fearful nature of their prey. An Alligator, it is said, will sometimes plunge amidst a group of bathers at a ghaut, and singling out one of the party, dart into the middle of the stream, defying pursuit by the rapidity of its movements against the current, through which it will fly with the velocity of an arrow, and having reached deep water, it sinks with its victim into the abyss of the river. Sportsmen, the younger portion especially, delight in waging war against these giants of the stream, as they lie wallowing in the mud in shallow places, and presenting the defenceless part of their bodies to marksmen. In the Sunderbune, where the creeks and natural canals of the Ganges wind through the forests, whose margin almost mingles with the stream, alligators are sometimes engaged in deadly encounter with the tiger. A battle of this kind, witnessed by a missionary, is described to have been a drawn one, for, although the tiger succeeded in drawing his unwieldy adversary into a jungle, after an hour or two

the alligator was seen to emerge and regain the water, not very materially injured by the conflict it had sustained.

A DANGEROUS SITUATION.

When passing near the Riet river gate, and while our oxen were grazing, Van Wyk, the colonist, related to us the following interesting circumstance: "It is now," he said, "more than two years since, in the very place where we stand, I ventured to take one of the most daring shots that ever was hazarded. My wife was sitting inside the house, near the door, the children were playing about her, and I was without, near the house, busied in doing something to a wagon, when suddenly, though it was mid-day, an enormous lion appeared, came up, and laid himself down in the shade, upon the threshold of the door. My wife, either frozen with fear, or aware of the danger attending any attempt to fly, remained motionless in her place, while the children took refuge in her lap. The cry they uttered attracted my attention, and I hastened towards the door; but my astonishment may be well conceived, when I found the entrance to it barred in such a way.

Although the animal had not seen me, unarmed as I was, escape seemed impossible, yet I glided gently, scarcely knowing what I meant to do, to the side of the house, up to the window of my chamber, where I knew my loaded gun was standing.

By a most fortunate chance I had set it in the corner close to the window, so that I could reach it with my hand; for as you may perceive, the opening is too small to admit of my having got in; and still more fortunately, the door of the room was open, so that I could see the whole danger of the scene.

The lion was beginning to move, perhaps with the intention of making a spring. There was no longer time to think; I called softly to the mother not to be alarmed, and invoking the name of the Lord, fired my piece. The ball passed over my boy's head, and lodged in the forehead of the lion, immediately above his eyes, which shot forth as sparks of fire, and stretched him on the ground, so that he never stirred more."

Indeed, we all shuddered as we listened to this relation. Never, as he himself observed, was a more dangerous attempt hazarded. Had he failed in his aim, mother and children were all inevitably lost; if the boy had moved, he had been struck; the least turn in the lion, and the shot had not been mortal to him. To have taken aim at him without, was impossible; while the shadow of any one advancing in the bright sun would have betrayed him. To consummate the whole, the head of the creature was in some sort protected by the door post.—*Naturalist*.

SOAP GROWING ON TREES.

Soap berries are to be found in immense quantities throughout Alaska. They grow on a bush about the same in appearance as whortleberries. When ripe they are red, of a juicy and quinine taste, and generally biennial. One quart taken and placed in a tub the size of a bushel when stirred, completely fill the tub with a froth, and the more it is stirred with the naked hand and arm the stiffer it becomes, until you can cut it with a knife. It is eaten with horn or wooden spoons, all the family sitting round the tub. It is undoubtedly an acquired taste, but the commodity is much sought for. The froth is of a beautiful pink color. Green berries will make nearly the same amount of froth, but it is of a white color, and not so highly flavored. Foreigners stir it with port or sherry wines, and add sugar, in which case it is a delicious luxury. Large quantities are dried, by being placed in a tub with their leaves forming a cake, which is placed in wicker tables, with light fires under and the sun overhead. When dried they will keep in a dry place for some years. The dried berries are black, and look dirty. A piece two inches square, beaten in a water pool, will fill it full of froth of a dark pink color.