

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - FEB. 25, 1880.

A ROYAL ZULU HISTORIAN.

KING CETEWAYO, the wily and stubborn leader of the African Zulus, the subjection and capture of whom cost Great Britain an immense sum of money, has occupied himself since his captivity in dictating a minute history of his people to the English officer who has the imprisoned potentate in charge. This history is given in the February number of *Macmillan's Magazine* and is interesting reading. The author, Captain Poole, has contented himself with publishing the facts as stated by Cetewayo, who, of course, would make the history of his people as favorable as possible. When it is remembered that the only means of preserving facts in that barbaric land is by the songs and stories of the aged and mysterious, it will not be surprising that frequent repetition and continual embellishment (*a la* three black crows) have had an effect in producing the wonderful history now given to the world. The monarch who has been so much sought after by the British and who is now carefully guarded, uncertain as to what his fate will be, is only anxious upon one point, namely that the great fame and warlike achievements of his tribe shall not be suffered to sink into insignificance before the world. Hence, the suggestion of Captain Poole, that the latter should write the story from the lips of the living historian, was received with pleasure and acted upon immediately. The writer remarks that at times, the sing song recitation of His Majesty was somewhat monotonous, but that when narrating the events of a desperate war or the exploits of some worthy progenitor, the whole figure and expression of the swarthy savage would change completely. He would go through all the movements which he was describing with a zeal and fury positively alarming, and at one time became so excited that he snatched the sword of his amanuensis and guardian, and brandished it about his head in a most menacing style.

The account begins with the early history of the tribe; then follows a narrative of the doings of Chaka, one of the first warlike and successful kings; all the noted chiefs are mentioned, with their commendable deeds; the arrival of the English in Southern Africa and the events which have occurred since that time, form the greater portion, and by far the most interesting, of the entire sketch. The history will be read with interest by all classes into whose hands it may fall, and is valuable, if for nothing more, because of the peculiar circumstances attending its royal author at the time of its production.

BALLOON TRIP TO THE POLE.

A SCHEME to reach the North Pole by balloon is actually on foot in England. Commander John P. Cheyne, R. N., is its projector. He is backed by six members of Parliament, and Lord Derby is said to favor the plan. He wants thirty thousand pounds sterling and the use of H. M. S. *Discovery* for the trip. These forthcoming, he will start next June, winter in as high a latitude as possible, push out with sledges in May, 1881, and in the following June, with seven persons, three balloons, and provisions for fifty-one days, start for the Pole. He expects to reach it in about forty hours after leaving the sledges, stay there a week for scientific observations, send a balloon to Russia, to telegraph the news to England, and after planting the British flag on the point of the earth's axis, return and pass round the north of Greenland to demonstrate that it is an island.

All this, which sounds like the wildest romance, is really contemplated. A Central Committee has been formed in London to further the plan, and fifty-two branch committees have been formed in different parts of the country. Lord Bury, an authority on Arctic affairs, severely criticizes the whole scheme and predicts to it complete disaster.

Commander Cheyne is evidently in earnest, and, if the money is raised, men will not be wanting for the expedition, which is to include a shooting party tempted by the immense flocks of wild ducks in the icy regions of the frozen north. Ambition, the love of adventure and the spirit of discovery are incentives to the wildest schemes that ever sprang up in the human brain.

THE CZAR'S ESCAPE.

ANOTHER attempt has been made to take the life of Alexander II, Czar of Russia, and again has his preservation been wonderful. Our readers have seen that an explosion was planned, which should destroy the palace and its royal inmates, and that so far as the explosion was concerned, the plot was a success. The persons whose death was desired escaped unhurt, but several members of the royal guard, who were in the palace at the time, were killed.

The strict regulations in Russia concerning the transmission of letters and dispatches make it extremely difficult to obtain reliable news at any time, and, of course, at such a time as this, the difficulty is still greater. The newspaper reports, therefore are vague and unsatisfactory, and it will likely be some time before an authentic account is received. Dispatches on this subject from Paris, to the New York papers, however, give a tolerably clear explanation of the escape of the Czar, and we append the more plausible and probable. One dispatch states he happened to be in the apartments of the Princess Dolgoronky, a favorite mistress of His Majesty, at the moment the explosion took place. The Empress, whose recovery is despaired of, has recently given her complete sanction to the presence of this lady, who is the only person at the Court that can approach the Emperor in the morose moods which are now his normal condition, and which are believed to be premonitions of softening of the brain. To the Czar's long stay in the Princess' apartments it is believed he owes his life, as well as that of the imperial family.

Another dispatch asserts that the Emperor was busily discussing with Prince Alexander, of Bulgaria, the politics of the Balkan provinces when dinner was announced, but being deeply engrossed they were first aroused by the terrible explosion. The Czar was perfectly calm and an hour later sat down quietly to dinner beside the great gap in the floor. The dinner hour of His Majesty is six o'clock but since the sickness of his wife he has been very irregular at his meals, his appetite being almost entirely gone. It may therefore be stated with truth that had the imperial magnate been as eager for food as are millions of his subjects, he would have met a horrible death.

The recent escape of several of the European potentates from the assassin's hand may well cause reflections in the minds of thinking persons. In the great empire of Russia the passions of the masses are becoming aroused. Their oppressions have made them almost frantic and it seems that the overthrow of the Czar is determined. The nihilists number as members many of the nobility and it is suspected that some of the highest officials in the land are in secret friendship with the society. The Czar, though apparently sinking under a weight of dread and anxiety, is still stern and uncompromising. He is about to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his accession to power, during the whole of which time he has vigorously pursued the policy of conquest and acquisition of territory inaugurated by his predecessors. During his reign some of the oppressions upon the people have been removed. The abolition of serfdom was a great reform; the term of military service has been shortened; trial by jury and an impartial judicial system has been organized, and other beneficial measures have been adopted. But the crushing taxes and the despotism of the rulers, who are exceedingly unpopular, have made Russia at the present time a vast mass of insurrectionary fire, which only lacks suitable guidance and a favorable opportunity to sweep over the country with overwhelming destruction.

Whether the conspirators expect great liberties from the next Emperor, or whether they intend the overthrow of the present system of gov-

ernment, is not clear. The reigning monarch is far advanced in years, and it is a pity not to allow the old man to pass the short remaining part of his life in quietness. It is not likely, however, that the plotters will be satisfied with this attempt, and we may expect soon to hear of other schemes for his destruction. In these days it may well be said, "uneasy lies the head that wears a crown."

THE WORK OF THE LEGISLATURE.

SINCE the adjournment of the Legislative Assembly we have had no opportunity of referring to the labors of the people's representatives during their forty days session. At the commencement it was supposed by some persons who professed to know, that little would be done and that our lawmakers were going to have an easy time of it. But it turned out to be one of the busiest and most animated Legislatures that ever convened in the Territory. Work commenced at the beginning of the session. Bills were introduced and referred as soon as the committees were appointed, and though no morning nor evening sittings of the Assembly were had during the greater part of the time, yet many of the committees labored in the morning and until after ten o'clock at night, thoroughly examining and discussing every measure committed to their supervision.

Ninety-three bills were introduced in the House and forty-five in the Council, besides petitions, memorials, resolutions, &c. Great freedom of debate was indulged in, and "divisions" were frequently called for, distinctly defining the positions of members on all important measures. A very large number of the bills that were passed received the signature of the Executive. These will be published as fast as we have space for them.

The measures that occupied the greatest time and attention of the Assembly were those in relation to irrigation, roads and highways, district schools, Utah Eastern railroad, Salt Lake City Charter, re-districting the Territory, re-arranging the First and Third Judicial Districts, appropriating territorial funds, the regulation of the sale of intoxicants, and the removal of the political disabilities of women. The irrigation bill which first passed both houses was, in the main, an excellent measure, but it did not receive Executive approval; the greater part of it, however, was preserved in the bill which was signed by the Governor, and although the law will not be as thorough as it would have been if the Governor could have fully understood the first bill and had signed it, a great improvement has been effected, and, by compliance with the law, water rights can now be established, and the regulation and distribution of water be made more equitable, while disputes can be referred to competent boards of elective commissioners.

The highways bill is an improvement on the old statute, but was so cut down before it became a law that it was shorn of many good features. The bill giving the power to certain counties to take stock in the Utah Eastern, the object being to secure cheap coal to the people of those counties, was not signed by the Governor. This will be a matter of regret to many. We think that if two-thirds of the people desired their respective counties to invest for such a purpose they should certainly have the power to do so, and the bill required a two-thirds majority vote before any such investment could be made.

Salt Lake City has now a borrowing power reaching to \$250,000 if the voters so determine by a two-thirds majority. The Territory is divided so as to meet the requirements of the stingy provision of Congress cutting down the number of our Representatives to the Legislature to twenty-four, and of the Councilors to twelve. The Executive hand was used in this, to upset a fair and equitable arrangement based on the population of the various counties, and made with great care and deliberation; the Assembly yielded sooner than risk the possibility of having no Legislature at all next session.

The counties of Rich, Box Elder, Morgan and Weber are made part of the First Judicial District, and will have a court at Ogden. Recently they have had a shadow of a court

there; now they will have the substance. The bill which has become a law is a modification of the one first introduced, and is no improvement on it, although the former was prepared under judicial supervision.

The liquor bill was a most excellent measure, which would have been endorsed by nine-tenths of the community. It was not signed by the Governor. Utah's efforts to control and regulate the traffic in intoxicants have always been spoiled either by Courts or Governors. The woman's disabilities bill met the same fate as the liquor bill. It was misunderstood by many and misrepresented by a few, but aimed to effect political justice, and will be sure to claim the attention of the Territory and the whole country, again and again.

The feature of the appropriation bill which obtained the greatest share of attention was the item in relation to the payment of jurors and witnesses' fees. The Council was in favor of paying the deficiency account, the House was against it; finally \$35,000 was appropriated without stating whether it should be applied to the past, the present or the future, but payment was restricted to the fees of jurors in criminal cases, and of witnesses for the prosecution only. All sympathized with the jurors and witnesses, compelled to appear in court and yet unprovided with payment from the Treasury, but a strong stand was taken against the Courts running up expenses, often without excuse except to make needless trouble and strife, and their demanding payment therefor out of the taxes of the Territory. The time has come to shut off the supplies for such purposes. Ample provision has been made for everything legitimate, the rest must and will be stopped.

A good bill securing the right of way for irrigating canals was vetoed by Acting Governor Thomas; another providing for the incorporation of villages was left unsigned by Governor Emery. An act to provide for filling vacancies in county offices without the expense of special elections was signed; so also were the acts establishing a Territorial Insane Asylum; amending the Incorporation Act—a very important measure; to provide for the right of way for the Salt Lake City canal, which ought to have been made general; for the election of county clerks; to make the terms "county clerk" and "clerk of the county court," &c., equally valid in laws and documents; to increase the borrowing power of Ogden City, for water works, to \$25,000 on a two-thirds vote of the citizens; requiring county clerks to make out detailed statements of all receipts and disbursements of the county courts; amending the school laws in many important particulars; to protect bee culture and prevent foul brood; to punish persons for unlawfully entering railroad cars; amending the revenue law; creating Emery, Uintah and San Juan Counties; to protect persons and animals from mining shafts, &c.; to provide for the adjournment of Courts when the Judge is absent; to allow rewards to convicts for meritorious conduct; to suppress opium smoking and chewing; to equalize taxes on transitory herds; prescribing fees to the Secretary of the Territory; to enable railroad companies to mortgage their franchises and property; to amend the fish and game laws; to change the surnames of certain persons, and other acts of small public importance.

The time allowed once in two years for territorial legislation is too short to admit of the passage of laws carefully prepared to meet the wants of the people. And the unavoidable crowding of bills upon the Executive during the last few days of the session prevents that deliberation necessary on his part before attaching his signature thereto. He has a difficult task imposed upon him, and his failure to comprehend and approve some measures ought to be viewed with a great deal of charity. But the power with which he is vested is utterly subversive of true republicanism, and is more despotic than that which is wielded by crowned heads in limited monarchies. To render void the labors and deliberations of the whole Assembly elected by the citizens to enact laws for the common weal, this officer, forced upon the people without any regard whatever to their wishes by a President and Senate in whose election they have no voice, has simply to withhold his signature. He need issue no veto nor offer any explanation. He can pocket a bill, and it is dead without possibility of resurrection, even if the unanimous

voice of the two Houses of the Legislature were to attempt to awaken it into life. The system is a disgrace to the nation, and is far worse tyranny than anything in that colonial bondage against which the fathers of the republic rebelled.

The Legislature has done good service to the people, and its members are entitled to the thanks and confidence of their constituents. We believe their labors will be appreciated.

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, FEB. 20.

The Irrigation Bill.—The bill on irrigation matters, which has passed both houses of the Legislature and been submitted for the approval of the Governor, is one of the best measures passed upon by the Assembly. There is a general earnest hope that His Excellency will give it his signature.

Twins.—We congratulate our friend, David Candland, Esq., of Chester, Sanpete County, on the birth of twins in his family, presented to him by his wife, Mrs. Hannah A. Candland. The auspicious event happened on Monday, the 16th inst., "at 5 o'clock in the morning."

Orson Pratt's Works.—Of late there has been quite a demand by our traveling Elders, for the works of Elder Orson Pratt, but for some time we have been unable to supply them as needed. We now have 25 copies, just arrived. Those who desire to obtain them, should call at this office at once.

Cattle Thief Caught.—A Kanosh correspondent, under date of the 18th inst., informs us that Edward Rapply and William Manhart, (the latter known as "Derringer Bill") both of Kanosh, were arrested on the 8th inst., for cattle stealing, and are now in jail at Beaver, having been examined before a justice of the peace at Frisco. They had 14 head of cattle in their possession, when arrested.

Killed by a Blast.—The following special was received this afternoon:

STOCKTON, Utah, Feb. 20.

Editors Deseret News:

About five o'clock last evening, William Fuller, an old resident of this place, was fatally injured by the premature discharge of a powder blast which he had put in a large log of wood for the purpose of splitting it. He applied a red-hot poker to a short piece of fuse, connecting with the charge in the log, and unfortunately held it there too long after it had ignited, but of which fact he was apparently ignorant, and before he realized it, the fire reached the charge and an explosion immediately followed, the report of which was distinctly heard throughout the town. One side of his face was torn away, his arm broken and hand fearfully mangled. The injury in the face evidently reached the carotid artery, and he bled to death, expiring at 10 o'clock last evening. The deceased was the father of Wm. Fuller, one of the editors of the Salt Lake Herald.

Stealing a Ride.—Last evening, on the arrival of the 8.20 train from Ogden, Officer William Calder detected a man with a bundle of bedding, creeping out from under one of the cars. He intercepted him and the man immediately began acting viciously. "What do you want?" asked he. "Your fare," said the officer. The stranger gave vent to an oath and drew back to strike the policeman, which induced the latter to defend himself by parrying and returning the blow. Calling assistance, Mr. Calder then took his man, who began shouting "murder," and otherwise acting in a very ugly manner, to the street car, and having hand-cuffed him, brought him up town. His determined resistance and the suspicious appearance of the bundle, made the officer think the case would develop into something more serious than the stealing of a ride on the break-bar from Ogden, and he determined to hand the offender over to the custody of the police at the City Hall. The tramp endeavored to escape several times and continued swearing and cursing, at intervals, during the trip to town. Alighting from the car, a man came up whom someone called "Sullivan," whereupon the prisoner endeavored to strike an acquaintance with said "Sullivan," which, however, was in vain. He here gave his name as "French." "What am I arrested for?" he again demanded,