

THE DESERET NEWS.

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TO OUR AGENTS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

For several years past, in order to accommodate those living in the country and in other cities of the Territory, who wished to subscribe for the *News*, but did not know how they could pay for it, in consequence of the scarcity of money and the expense attending the transportation of produce, especially to those living at any considerable distance from the city, Agents have been appointed throughout the Territory who have from time to time been instructed how to manage things, so as to benefit themselves and those for whom they acted, and at the same time be a material aid in keeping the financial affairs of the office in a healthy condition. Where those instructions have, to any extent, been carried out, the result has fully proven the utility of the plan thus adopted.

It is a hard matter to make some men understand things that are continually transpiring around them, and to convey ideas to them in a way so that they can comprehend what is intended to be communicated. A few of the Agents for the *News* have been of this sort, and, instead of financiering for those who took the papers through their agency, and devising some way for them to pay their subscriptions, by a system of exchanges, they have done little or nothing towards accomplishing the object intended to be effected by this arrangement.

To illustrate our ideas in relation to this matter, we will suppose that, in a place some forty or fifty miles from this city, there are forty subscribers who, for various reasons, cannot pay cash, but have plenty of wheat and other things wherewith to pay all they owe, and for all they need which they do not produce themselves. They wish to take the papers, but for each one to make a journey to the city on purpose to bring wheat enough to pay the price of subscription would be attended with an expense double the amount required to be paid, for this is not a country of steamboats, canals and railroads, neither is it likely to be very soon, and there are no means of transportation except by hauling. This expense they do not feel able to meet, and perhaps their circumstances are such that they cannot conveniently do it; but if they could pay in wheat at home to an agent, not at two and a half dollars a bushel when the market price may be only one dollar, but at a fair market value, they would do it readily and be glad of the chance. The Agent then could, by a little exertion, exchange the wheat or other produce thus received for cattle or stock of some kind that could be drove and not have to be hauled to market, and always received here in payment at fair prices, or, if the Agent preferred, he could sell to stock dealers for cash and pay that over to the office; either would do, and mutually benefit all concerned.

Again, if the Agent was a business man, as he ought to be, and making improvements of some kind, or following some business for the benefit of himself and community, he could, without half trying, manage to make turns with his subscribers or employ them to his benefit, as well as theirs, in the course of the year, and pay the office in available means, making thereby a handsome profit to himself. Thousands of men make fortunes by pursuing a course of the kind and are glad when opportunities offer for aiding them in their operations, and why cannot others do the same, when receiving twenty per cent. over and above all they may otherwise make by the operation?

Where money is plenty and men can find a ready market for the products of their industry, a course like the one pointed out would be uncalled for, but, situated as the people of this Territory are, where money is and will be scarce, so long as importations are carried on to the extent they have been heretofore, with a limited demand at home, and nothing produced that can be taken to a foreign market excepting stock, without a system of domestic exchange, there would be but little thrift. Towns and cities could not be built nor improvements of any kind made, if there was no other way of paying the laborer excepting in ready cash.

These remarks are made, not in the spirit of fault finding, but simply to state things as

they are, or, as we understand them, and also to answer the inquiries that have been made by some as to what course should be pursued in relation to these matters.

Some of those who have heretofore taken the *News*, and still wish to continue their subscriptions, have objections to subscribing to our Agents and prefer having their papers mailed to them direct. That is all right. There is no compulsion about it. By subscribing at the office and paying in advance their papers can be sent to them, direct, wherever they wish, that is, to the nearest post office to the place where they are located, and we shall take pleasure, at all times, in complying with their wishes, but papers will not be sent in that way unless there is a strict compliance with the rule of pre-payment. No other course could safely be pursued.

Circumstances have compelled the adoption of the rule that, on an average, at least one-third of the amount of the yearly subscription must be paid in cash, to enable us to pay for the stock, which has to be imported at a heavy expense, as exchanges cannot be made in time to raise the means to send for the paper, ink, &c., so that it can be brought on this season. A circular was issued to the Agents a few weeks since, informing them of this fact, and also to call their attention to the settlement of their accounts with the office; and we are happy to say, that the response which has been made has fully met our expectation thus far. Should all do as well as some have done, the amount of money required will be forthcoming in time to send for the stock required this spring, in order to continue the publication. When that is done, we shall be willing to receive in payment from subscribers and Agents, either on old accounts that may be due, or for the current volume, produce or anything that can be made available, at fair market prices, should they prefer paying in that way.

For the benefit of the Agents, we are making out and forwarding to them a statement of their accounts, in order to facilitate the settlement of the same. Others who have unliquidated accounts will be called upon shortly by a Special Agent, and we trust they will be prepared to square up in some way. Hereafter, by pursuing the course proposed, much difficulty will be avoided, in relation to the financial department, though we have not much fault to find with what has heretofore transpired in this respect.

The circumstances that have continually attended the people of this Territory, since their settlement in these remote and secluded valleys, we thoroughly understand. Their energies, in many cases, have been taxed to the utmost and, as a general principle, we do not feel to complain of their apparent remissness in some things. It is true that some have not been as energetic in the performance of their duties to themselves and the community as others, but we do not attribute their inactivity to any wrongful neglect. We trust there are better times coming and that every good man will improve them to advantage.

When we commenced penning this article, we had no intention of making it so lengthy, but, seeing no place to stop, we kept writing, and if it does not suit your ideas and taste, you need not read it. We wished to say something in relation to those matters, and to do it in a way that would be understood by those of our readers who are interested and for whom they are intended, and, at the same time, answer many inquiries that are made as to the course we intend pursuing with our subscribers hereafter. Now, if the terms suit you, come and subscribe. If they do not, all right. Do as you please, and we will not be offended.

THE CALIFORNIA MAIL arrived on Sunday the 13th inst. about noon. Major Dodge, Indian Agent for the Carson Valley District, in the western part of this Territory, came in a passenger.

The carriers report that the men who were with the mail which left this city on the 28th ult. were met by a party of hostile Indians between Steptoe and Ruby Valleys, and were compelled to fall back to the mail station this way, where they obtained a sufficient reinforcement to enable them to proceed onward with the mail. Three and a half days were lost in consequence of this unexpected attack. The Indians in that part of the Territory have for a long time been inclined to be unfriendly to the whites.

The only paper we received was the *Sacramento Union* of Feb. 19, from which we glean a few items.

IMPORTATION OF SHEEP.—We have been informed that several enterprising farmers in this and the adjoining counties are making arrangements to import from the States several thousand sheep this season; and, from the known character of the men engaged in the enterprise, we have no doubt they will succeed in their undertaking.

It will be an impossibility for the people of this Territory to successfully carry out their designs in respect to home manufactures without material. Flax and hemp can doubtless be grown here in sufficient quantities, with proper care and exertion, to supply the demand for those articles, but, before the demand for wool is supplied, the number of sheep in the Territory, in proportion to the number of inhabitants, will have to be increased at least five thousand per cent. This assertion may, to some, appear extravagant, but let them make an estimate of the amount of wool necessary to clothe themselves and to make their families comfortable, then an estimate of the amount necessary to supply the wants of the people in their respective wards and settlements upon the same basis; after which, ascertain the number of sheep they now own, and, if they do not come to the same conclusions we have, there will have been some mistake made in the reckoning, which, if on our part, we will most cheerfully correct.

In conversing on these matters, with some of our citizens, the remark has been made more than once, by men whose mathematical knowledge we believe is not more extensive than our own, that, if what sheep there are in these valleys were properly taken care of, they would soon increase sufficiently to supply the demand for wool that now exists. We readily admit that sheep are very prolific when they are well kept, and so are the "Mormons," who compose nearly the entire permanent population of Utah; so say their opposers, and there is some truth in that assertion. According to our computations, the probable influx to the present population, added to the natural increase, will make the ratio in respect to numbers so nearly equal to that of the sheep that it will take many years to supply the people with wool enough for the manufacture of the fabrics needed by them in this cold, mountainous country.

We intend to say more on this subject hereafter, but, for the present, we will only add that, in their laudable undertakings, we wish eminent success to those who may invest money in sheep, and trust that they may be able to import enough of those useful animals to supply the demand for them in all these valleys of the mountains.

STEALING is becoming quite too common in and about our city. On Sunday evening last, a wagon that had been left in a yard by a Mr. Scriggins, of Davis county, who was passing through the city on his way home from the south, was divested of its contents, consisting of a quantity of butter, hams and other provisions, and some furs. Part of the stolen articles were found the next day by some of the police, in a house occupied by Charles Bernard, who has been residing there during the winter, but the "bird" had flown.

People cannot be too careful about leaving their property where it will be liable to be taken by those who have no scruples about appropriating to their own use whatever they can put their hands on, regardless of the right of ownership.

There has been an unusual number of that class of individuals in this city, during the winter. When spring comes they will clear out, to some extent. We hope so, at least. Look out for them!

LITHOTOMY.—On Sunday, March 13, Dr. Wm. France, assisted by Dr. Anderson, together with Drs. Richardson, Danyon, Sprague and Levi Richards, extracted a stone from the bladder of Mr. Wm. Wostenholme, residing in the 16th Ward of this city. Several other gentlemen were present, among whom were Elders C. C. Rich and W. Woodruff. Dr. Anderson, after administering chloroform to the patient, officiated as the staff. The operation occupied twenty-four minutes. The patient, who had endured the most acute suffering for the last four years, is progressing favorably, and good hopes are entertained of his ultimate recovery. The stone, which is of a mulberry color, measures $4\frac{1}{4}$ by $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches in circumference, and consists of oxalate of lime.

WINTER still continues to exercise jurisdiction in this part of the world, and does not seem disposed to give place to Spring, though the time has fully arrived for the genial influ-

ences of the latter to be more or less seen and felt.

The continuance of the season of frost and snow has been somewhat long, but less rigorous than some others we have witnessed in this mountainous country. During December and January the weather was unusually pleasant; since the first of February it has been very stormy, and the roads could not well be worse than they have been for the last six weeks.

TASTEFUL ORNAMENT.—From our instinctive love of the beautiful, in art as well as in nature, while lately passing the residence of ex-Governor Young, we were, very naturally, constrained to halt and gaze at the figure of a large eagle, with outspread wings, as if in the attitude of alighting on a splendidly-proportioned bee-hive. At first sight, indeed, we were disposed to distrust the illusion and to place ourselves on "guard," but a second glance removed all apprehension of danger—like the sculptor's statue on the gate of Altorf, it

"Neither breathed nor stirred."

The representation is a quite accurate one of what is called the "golden eagle." Its wings measure 16 feet, from tip to tip. It weighs 500 lbs.

The bee-hive, with the eagle resting on it, are placed as the crown of a tasteful arch, spanning the large southern gateway, leading to the barns and outhouses of His Excellency, as also being the entrance to City Creek canyon.

The carving was wrought by Mr. Ralph Ramsay, 20th Ward, who has done himself much credit in its execution.

TABERNACLE.

On Sunday, March 13, Elder Samuel W. Richards read from the Book of Mormon a part of the XIXth chap. of the Book of Alma:

"And now, my son, I have somewhat to say concerning the restoration of which has been spoken; for behold, some have wrested the Scripture, and have gone far astray because of this thing."

"And it is requisite with the justice of God, that men should be judged according to their works; and if their works were good in this life, and the desires of their hearts were good, that they should also, at the last day, be restored unto that which is good; and if their works are evil, they shall be restored unto him for evil; therefore, all things shall be restored to their proper order; every thing to its natural frame; mortality raised to immortality; corruption to incorruption; raised to endless happiness, to inherit the kingdom of God, or to endless misery, to inherit the kingdom of the devil, the one on one hand, the other on the other; the one raised to happiness, according to his desires of happiness; or good, according to his desires of good; and the other to evil, according to his desires of evil; for as he has desired to do evil all the day long, even so shall he have his reward of evil, when the night cometh. And so it is on the other hand. If he hath repented of his sins, and desired righteousness until the end of his days, even so he shall be rewarded unto righteousness."

He also read Ephesians, chap. I, v. 9, 10:—

9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure, which he hath purposed in himself:

10 That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.

His remarks were of varied application. Alluded to the restoration of the keys of the holy priesthood and the authority to preach the gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof, through the Prophet Joseph, to the divine origin of whose mission, he said, thousands and tens of thousands had testified and were now living who could testify. By the power and authority conferred on him by holy messengers, he had brought forth the Book of Mormon, organized the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and ordained and sent forth the Elders thereof to proclaim the principles of life and salvation to all the world, that those who reject the truth might be without excuse in the day when men should be judged, that they might receive according to their works—good for their good deeds and condemnation for their iniquity. This was restitution.

He spoke also of the great gathering of the last days; the fullness of times, or rather, the time when the great events should be fulfilled, of which the Prophets spake, and the accomplishment of which, through the long vista of succeeding years, they beheld, as though present actors in those momentous events; when Israel should be brought back from his long dispersion and sifted out from among the nations; when the ten tribes should come from the north country, the mountains of ice melting before them; when Zion should come down from above and be brought up from beneath; when a reign of righteousness and peace should commence, and the kingdom of God be established and become universal on the earth.

The Eastern mail has not arrived for the last two weeks. It has been intimated that the carriers have abandoned the service and gone to Pike's Peak.