

DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - JUNE 20, 1877.

BLOSSOMING "AS THE ROSE."

THAT once barren stretch of country north of Kaysville, usually denominated the Sand-ridge, bids fair to become one of the finest and most productive sections of this Territory. Last season large crops of small grain and lucerne were produced there without irrigation; and this season the broad strips of deep green which form a pleasant contrast to the pale hue of the sagebrush, indicate the triumph of the thrifty farmers who have undertaken to convert that sterile ridge into fruitful fields.

It can be seen there, now, six feet high, and headed out finely, and wheat over four feet high, which, in about three weeks with weather like the present, will be ripe for the harvest. Not a drop of water, except that which has dropped from the clouds, has touched these crops. It is true that the Spring of '77 has been much more prolific of rain than most previous years. But the fact has been demonstrated that many supposed worthless wastes can be successfully cultivated, and that food for man and beast can be produced from them in paying quantities.

A canal will, no doubt, at some future time be constructed for the benefit of that locality, and then we shall see Ogden and Kaysville connected by a succession of farms, orchards and gardens, and dotted with handsome dwellings, many of which will be the country residences of the business men of Ogden and Salt Lake. Utah is capable of sustaining a large population, and in a few years its desert places, as has been remarked once or twice before, will "blossom as the rose."

WHO IS HUSHING THE MATTER UP?

THE New York Herald, of June 8, says, in regard to that windy assassination story, "We should now like to see a formal investigation, and by persons who are not predisposed to hush the matter up, as the Mormon Mayor evidently was."

The Herald must have been in a jocular mood when it spoke of Mayor Little being predisposed to hush that assassination story up. Not a bit of it. The investigation, of course, was informal, because the parties investigating had not power to make it otherwise. A formal investigation depends upon prosecuting Attorney Howard, a Gentile, and the Grand Jury of this district, four-fifths of whom are Gentiles. They are the persons either to push or hush formal investigation. The Herald is a great newspaper, and it ought to know what it is talking about.

A FAIR REPORT.

THE Nebraska editors who recently visited Salt Lake, so far as heard from, make favorable reports of what they observed. J. A. Mac-murphy, editor of the Plattsmouth Herald, thus describes—

"Salt Lake City is one of the wonders of the world. Thirty years ago a desert waste, fifteen years ago, even, but a collection of insignificant adobe houses, to-day is a magnificent creation of human energy and skill. From out this desert, this alkali plain, has arisen a city as wonderful, a people as curious, and a wealth as boundless as the wildest stories of eastern romance or western novelism ever evolved from o'erwrought brain or semi-trance. It is to us a new world, another creation; all other cities in America are but collections of houses, more or less costly or imposing; herds of human beings striving to trample each other under foot in the good old fashioned way, mostly after the same pattern and the same methods; here we have a new Revelation, a new climate, new styles of architecture,

and different motives, aims and objects in life. The sameness and tameness of other cities disappear in Salt Lake, and for a season at least, the envious traveler finds he has an original study before him, one, too, that he cannot comprehend in all its bearings in a few days."

After describing the antagonism between the "Mormon" and "Gentile" elements here, and announcing his conviction that the report of a desire on the part of the "Mormons" to rebel against the government or to shed blood is, in plain English, all bosh, he says—

"The Mormons are entitled to great credit for their perseverance, their pluck, their work. They have made a city and a country almost literally, as of yore, from nothing—from nothing that other people ever tried to make cities of. We should always remember that. They have rights there. They have already a patent, so to speak, on the country; they invented it, they made it what it is; nothing urged against them can wipe this fact out."

Mr. Macmurphy remarks editorially—

"The questions we have been asked about Brigham and the Mormons and Salt Lake, since our return, would fill a fair sized volume. We had no idea people were so curious and interested in these matters."

There is a widespread desire among the people to learn something reliable about the dwellers on the banks of the modern Jordan and the industrious toilers near the shores of the saline lake, and this desire is stimulated by the false reports so industriously circulated by their enemies. While the "Mormons" are the most abused people in the world, they attract more general and sustained attention than any other community. They are advertised without expense to themselves or efforts of any kind on their part, and their doctrines are brought into prominent notice, through the very efforts made to misrepresent and destroy them. Verily "all things shall work together for good to them that love the Lord."

"ABOVE THE LAW."

ONE of the falsest as well as most frequent charges against the "Mormons" is, that they are generally hostile to the law. If the statements made by their enemies are to be believed, the people who made Utah and brought it under the dominion of the United States, are in a chronic state of rebellion against the Government. It is supposed that they came to the mountains to set up an independent commonwealth, antagonistic in its spirit and intent to the nation which had failed to protect its people from mob violence and religious intolerance.

The cry of "rebellion" has been raised against the "Mormons" whenever any renegade official wished to cover up his ill-doings in this Territory, or any company of sharp speculators smelled an opportunity to make money by fat contracts. It is amusing, when reading the comments of eastern papers on Utah affairs, to note the manner in which they allude to the lawlessness of the "Mormons" as a well known and settled fact.

The truth is, there is no community in the United States who have a greater respect for constitutional law, good order, and national and local authority, than these same maligned "Mormons." To begin with, obedience to the law is one of the tenets of their faith. This is inculcated in revelations which they hold sacred. Here is a quotation from one of them.

"Let no man break the laws of the land, for he that keepeth the laws of God hath no need to break the laws of the land."

And again:

"Therefore I, the Lord, justify you, and your brethren of my Church, in befriending that law which is the constitutional law of the land; and as pertaining to law of man, whatsoever is more or less than these cometh of evil."

Then, the people who compose the community which has redeemed this once desert waste, are naturally law-abiding. They have been mostly gathered from coun-

tries where the law is paramount not only in theory but in fact. Their frugality, industry, combination in labor, and quiet tenacity to principles they hold to be true, are incompatible with turbulence and lawlessness.

No instance of rebellion can be cited against them, and no infraction of law on their part can be substantiated. The "Mormon rebellion," as it is called, was simply resistance to an armed body of men who attempted to march into the Territory, singing ribald songs burdened with boasts of intended outrages upon women and threats of violence to leading men. No notice of any kind was served upon the then Governor of the Territory that they were ordered here by the Government, no official intimation was given that he was superseded. To the people of Utah those troops were simply a formidable and threatening mob, until word came from Washington, and then they were permitted peaceably to enter our borders.

"But there is the violation of the anti-polygamy act." Yes. A law plainly unconstitutional and therefore void. A law framed purposely against a religious tenet and practice which had been established for years. The "Mormon" marriage system was not instituted in opposition to that statute, but the statute was enacted in illegal hostility to that "establishment of religion."

"But do not your public speakers declare that they are above the law?" In the sense in which all citizens should understand and act upon the sentiment, Yes. In the nonsense of its application by our traducers, No. The only way in which we strive to live above the law is by acting so that the law has no valid claim upon us. No man or woman is under the law who keeps it in letter and spirit. They who violate no law occupy a higher place than any enactment. It cannot reach them. They, only, who place themselves under the law by infraction of its provisions are within its grasp or in danger of its penalties.

There may, possibly, be individuals among us who are liable to the law and in fear of its terrors. But this cannot be said truthfully of the community. On the contrary, the masses of the people who built up this Territory, with their leaders, entertain the highest respect for all actual laws, human and divine, and in every country in which they may sojourn, their faith, instincts and inclinations lead them to observe the regulations peculiar to the locality, whether they deem them wise and just or foolish and oppressive. They have endured abuse, without resentment, violence without retaliation, and horrible persecution without resistance. Though unshielded by a Government which should have secured to them the rights of citizens, as soon as they reached this asylum by the borders of the Lake they unfurled the Stars and Stripes to the mountain breezes, and sought at once to secure national recognition as a new State in the Union. They have never rebelled; they have never repudiated the Constitution; they have never inculcated or yielded to the spirit of revenge; but in their past trials and their present prosperity, using the phrase in its proper meaning and intent, it can be far more truthfully said of them than of most people in this nation, that they live above all constitutional law.

A BIG EGG.

THE latest scientific theory concerning the earth is that it is an egg dropped from the sun. There is a core in the centre forming the yolk, the molten matter is the white, and the crust, the shell. Old Sol, then, is a female after all. Perhaps that is why it "gets up a shine" so easily. The term "King of day" and the pronoun "he," will henceforth be inapplicable to the great egg-layer of the universe, and Sol should be substituted for Sol. The idea seems funny, but who knows but what there may be some truth in it? Should this prove to be correct, what will become of us all at hatching time, and what kind of a bird will earth be when full fledged?

The crisis in France: Mes-senger—"M. le President, they are making one grand row in the Left." MacMahon—"Faix, I'll attend to them fellows immediately. Let 'em go! I'm sitting on the tail of my coat, now." Courier-Journal

Local and Other Matters

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY, JUNE 14.

ecreating.—The members of the 10th Ward Sunday School, large and small, accompanied by the superintendent and teachers, and Bishop Spiers, spent yesterday at Fuller's Hill.

Willing Dupes.—We have several times alluded to a gang of peddlers, who are traveling in the settlements disposing of parcels of dry goods, generally at \$150 each. Whatever the amount the note of the purchaser is taken for it, payable in three months from date, providing he have not the ready cash to plank down. We have assurances from various quarters that this traffic is nothing better than a swindle.

Notwithstanding the warnings that have been given regarding this matter it is really remarkable the large number of willing dupes found by those itinerant traders. The people who are found willing to trade with them are by no means generally among those supposed to be ignorant, but not unfrequently they are found among men whose positions and standing should lead them to show a salutary example in prudence, economy and a self-sustaining policy and principle. In fact if the names of many of the parties were published it would cause no small amount of surprise.

By this willingness on the part of some men of influence in the community, their example having some effect in the matter, those peddlers are enabled to carry away thousands upon thousands of dollars from every county they visit, leaving no commensurate return therefor.

We are informed that one man south of this city, after concluding a bargain, became so disgusted at his own foolishness, that he suddenly tore up the note he was about to sign.

In some instances men have given notes who are out of employment, and have been asking for work at home manufacturing institutions, seeking for support from what they evidently would not lift their little fingers to sustain.

We repeat the advice heretofore given on the same subject—give those itinerant traders a wide berth.

Funeral of Alderman Thomson.—Yesterday morning an immense congregation assembled in and around the residence of the late Alderman Walter Thomson, Main Street, Ogden, for the purpose of paying the last tribute of respect to his earthly remains. All classes of the community were represented, and the deepest sympathy was unitedly felt for the bereaved family.

The services were conducted by President L. J. Herrick. After singing by the choir, prayer was offered by Elder C. W. Penrose. Elders Lorin Farr, Joseph Parry and Joseph Hall, Mr. Thomas J. Stayner, Presidents F. D. Richards and D. H. Peery delivered addresses eulogizing the departed, consoling the afflicted and exhibiting the truths and realities of the future State.

The procession to the cemetery was composed of fifty-four vehicles filled with friends of the deceased preceded by the Ogden Fire Brigade and the hearse bearing the remains, which were enclosed in a fine casket adorned with beautiful flowers. The closing benediction, at the cemetery, was given by Elder Joseph Staunford.

Walter Thomson was born at Glasgow, Scotland, August 10, 1825. He was the son of John and Margaret Thomson. He was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by Elder Alexander Wright, Jan. 4, 1841. On the 3rd of December, 1847, he was married to Miss Agnes Rose, who made him a faithful and affectionate wife, bore to him eleven children, clung to him in his travels and changes, and died in Ogden July 29, 1875.

Walter Thompson was ordained an Elder Feb. 4, 1849. He labored in the local ministry in his native town until 1851 when he emigrated to Salt Lake City. In 1856 he removed to Ogden where he resided until his death, last Monday night. He filled many important positions, among which were the offices of County Clerk, County Treasurer, Bishop's Counselor, Tithing Clerk and Book-keeper, City Councillor, Alderman and Committing Magistrate, City Assessor and Collector, President of the Ogden Publishing Company,

and for one year its Business Manager. In all these capacities he served with signal ability. He was also an excellent architect and practical builder.

But his chief recommendation is his honest integrity. This was known and acknowledged by all who were acquainted with him. He lived and acted "on the square." His official decisions were given according to the light and judgment at his command, and in rendering them he never swerved from his convictions of the right.

He leaves a wife, whom he married August 13, 1876, and seven children by his former companion. They may cherish his memory as a kind husband and an affectionate father, and a faithful servant of God and the people.

Senseless and Extraordinary Proceeding.—A Religious Test.—That many men claiming to be intelligent and cultivated, frequently display not even an infinitesimal degree of common sense, judgment, consistency and disposition for fair dealing is a matter of almost daily verification. We do not recollect of an instance in modern times where a spirit of partisan smallness has been more plainly manifested, than by parties whose names figure in the following proceedings.

A few days since Mr. Charles W. Stayner, of this City, made application through Attorney J. L. Rawlins, for admission to the bar of the Supreme Court of Utah. The matter of the qualifications of the applicant was referred to a committee of three, Messrs. J. L. Rawlins, C. W. Bennett and J. B. Rosborough.

Before it was convenient for the committee to meet the applicant, for the examination of the latter, Mr. Rawlins was called away from the City. At four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon Mr. Stayner met with the remaining members of the committee, who informed him that they positively declined to examine him upon his legal qualifications until he had answered the following before unheard of interrogations, which were handed to him in writing—

First—Do you, or not, as an article of religious faith, believe in the practice of polygamy or plural marriage?

Second—Do you, or not, hold such practice to be justifiable, notwithstanding the act of Congress, providing penalties therefor?

Third—Do you, or not, hold such practice to be consistent with morality and good citizenship.

"C. W. BENNETT.

"J. B. ROSBOROUGH."

Mr. Stayner stated that he would present a reply in writing, and one o'clock yesterday was appointed as the time for its reception. Here-with we give it—

"Messrs. C. W. Bennett and J. B. Rosborough, members of committee appointed by the Supreme Court to examine the undersigned touching his qualifications as an applicant for admission to the bar or said court.

"Gentlemen—I have considered the questions propounded to me in writing, to which you have demanded my answer, before proceeding to examine my legal attainments as such applicant, and respectfully decline to answer the same for the following reasons—

"First—That the said questions do not bear upon the matters upon which you are appointed to examine me.

"Second—Because, in my opinion, they are not appropriate and proper questions to be put to an applicant for admission to the bar. Matters of religious belief cannot, under the laws and Constitution of our country, debar any citizen from the privileges guaranteed him in matters of this kind, if his legal ability and attainments are such as to qualify him for admission. Furthermore the injustice of the requirement is apparent on its face, as it discriminates between applicants, who are not all subjected to the same line of questioning, being examined by different committees having different views and religious beliefs; for it will certainly be conceded that all the attorneys, practising in the Supreme Court, are not exactly of the same faith, even on the questions I am required to answer; still any of these attorneys are subject to be appointed on examining committees at any time. Consistency then shows that the line of questioning on such matters would differ so materially in its nature, and in its effects, that while