

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - MAR. 13, 1878.

THE ACT AMENDING THE IRRIGATION LAW.

We publish this evening the new amendments to the law relative to irrigation districts. The changes effected by the bill are as follows:

The first section permits an irrigation district to be formed for the utilization of "streams or parts of streams unclaimed or unused," the old law only covered the case of "streams unclaimed;" it also gives the title to the use of (the water according to the "acknowledged rights" instead of the "several needs" of the landholders.

The second section provides for the manner of calling a meeting for the organization of a company, and, with section three, leaves out the provision in the old law for the levying of a property tax for the building of an irrigation canal, confining it to a tax on the lands to be benefited.

The fourth section provides for the manner of holding an election by ballot for the first officers of an irrigation company, and for determining the amount of tax to be levied.

Section five changes the time for holding the annual election in an irrigation district. Under the old law it took place on the same day as the general election. This made it impossible for a landowner who did not reside in the district, to vote for county and territorial officers if he went to the irrigation district to vote for its officers. The new provision does away with this objection. It also debars from voting, holding office in the company or the use of the water, any landholder who does not pay his proportion of the tax. This is an important provision, is just and equitable and gives a sufficient leverage to the trustees to enforce collection of the taxes.

The sixth section settles the manner in which the right of way for canals may be obtained and settled. Formerly a stubborn land owner who refused to appoint a referee to determine the value of his land through which a designed canal must pass, could hinder the trustees in their work and the people from obtaining the benefit of the water. Now, the right of way can be determined and established.

The seventh section provides for the settlement of disputes arising in consequence of land being benefited or injured through soakage from canals, and for injuries arising from the breakage of such canals. It also protects the rights of irrigating companies or persons having a prior claim to the water of any stream, and provides for the settlement of disputes in relation to it.

The bill was not designed for a general regulation of irrigation matters, but only to meet the wishes of certain irrigation companies and others, who petitioned the Legislature for some changes in the law. A general irrigation law is much needed, and we hope that at the next session some system, well prepared and digested, will be presented to the Assembly which will meet the requirements of the Territory and aid in settling and avoiding frequent disputes. The bill under consideration is not exactly what might be desired, but some provisions originally inserted were objected to by the Council, and others by the House, and the Governor made other changes which, together, materially altered the measure. So far it goes, it will help to correct several evils, and the irrigating companies will have to make the best they can of it till another session of the Legislature.

The new Territory proposed for the Black Hills country will, if the bill presented becomes a law, contain about 97,800 square miles, and take off a slice of 14,400 square miles from Montana and 7,200 from Wyoming. The estimated population, exaggerated of course, is 25,000.

CONFESSION CONCOCTERS.

A TELEGRAM received this morning says that the Washington Star of last evening contains the following:

"Sumner Howard, formerly District Attorney of Utah, said in a conversation while here recently, that John D. Lee, the Mountain Meadows murderer, never made a confession. He and Marshal Nelson tried in vain to obtain from him a bona fide confession, but Lee persistently refused to make one. The confession published at the time of Lee's execution was composed by himself (Howard) and a newspaper correspondent assisted by Lee, whose approval it received. It was not, however, by any means a confession. Howard said that the reason Lee refused to confess was principally because his favorite wife (Rachael) who was with him at the time, was also red-handed in murder."

Of course we cannot vouch for the correctness of the Star's statement, but we have no doubt of the truth of the main fact related, namely that the "confession" was manufactured for outside effect and the personal emolument of its concocters by sale of the precious document to eastern journals. It will be remembered that there were two or three materially different "confessions," the chief rival to the Howard story being the Bishop version.

When the full details of the Lee "confession" and execution are laid bare to the public, they will disclose such official treachery and mercenary infamy as will make Lee look comparatively white by the side of his betrayers and confession mongers.

RUSSIAN HYPOCRISY AND BRUTALITY.

RUSSIA has figured in the war with Turkey as the champion of the Christian subjects of the Ottoman Empire, and the object of the resort to arms was emphatically declared by the Czar to be not for conquest, but simply to defend them from Turkish cruelty and ameliorate their condition. How much better off the Christian inhabitants of European Turkey will be in consequence of Russia's seizure of a large slice of Turkish territory in Asia, will be rather difficult for them or any one else to perceive. And in what respect they will be benefited, when peace is established and their taxes will have to be increased in order to pay the war indemnity to Russia, will be hard for them to realize.

With all the outcry about the barbarism of the Turk, we think Mussulman will bear favorable comparison with Muscovite rule. The cruel oppression of the Jews under the dominion of the Czar will overbalance all that can be charged against the treatment of Christians under the government of the Sultan. Rabbi Gustav Gottheil, in a fine article on The Position of the Jews in America, published in the March-April number of the North American Review, says:

"By far the largest numbers of families and individuals who are daily struggling for the necessities of life, come from the dominions of the Czar; happy those who escape from that grinding tyranny!"

"The tale of the woes of these millions of sufferers deserves to be told to the American people more fully than this article allows, and pondered by them, before they hail the victories of the Russian arms, and rejoice in the threatened extinction of Turkey, a land which in the matter of liberty and toleration is now, and always has been, far in advance of her northern foe."

Nothing can justify the atrocities said to have been perpetrated in Bulgaria. There is no doubt that they have been greatly exaggerated, and that the horrible reports were worked up by Russian emissaries, to help form a pretext for Russian aggression and that southern conquest which is a part of the Muscovite policy. But granting that inexcusable cruelties have been suffered by the Christians in Turkish provinces, whether with

or without the countenance of the Porte, the stories of Russian barbarity are at least equally authenticated with those of Turkish cruelty, and stamp the self-constituted crusaders for the Christians as inhuman in the extreme, and fully as intolerant and murderous as the Mohammedans whom it is to their interest to accuse.

The following, which is pertinent to the subject is from a letter to the Springfield Republican, and signed John Baker—

"The Russian papers are advocating the court-martialing of Osman Pasha for his cruelty to prisoners. Now, there can be no doubt that he deserves to be tried for his crimes upon poor helpless prisoners, who fell into his hands while in command of the Turkish forces. But for the last four years I have been reading Russian papers carefully, yet I fail to find a single one of them advocating the trial of any of the Russian officials who have been guilty of crimes far greater than those for which Osman Pasha is to be tried, and their crimes were perpetrated upon Christians in times of peace. No paper in Russia urged the punishment of the Colonel of the Jakuck's infantry regiment, who is now a Major General, for giving the order to his soldiers, *Tieper Pohulayutie rebrata*—now, children, amuse yourselves—at the time of a festival, when the soldiers ravished and butchered in cold blood over 300 innocent women and girls; not one wife, mother or daughter escaped their lustful desire. This was in 1876. When the people sought redress from the Czar they were refused a hearing, and the colonel of the regiment was promoted. We do not hear that Leonitus, Bishop of Cherson, was ever punished, nor the officers who acted under him, for causing the inhabitants of whole villages and towns to be murdered, the dead to be trodden under the hoofs of the horses, and the wounded to be disemboweled by bayonets, because they did not wish to leave their Church and recognize the Czar as God on earth. We do not hear of the punishment of the priest who, in 1877, forced men, women and children, entirely nude, to be plunged in the river through the ice in mid-winter to be baptized into the "true faith;" nor were the Cossacks punished who knouted the merciful crowd who stood along the banks of the river. Gloomy dramas are being played in Christian Poland to-day, but no one cries out shame. Thousands are being sent to Siberia annually, there to be chained day and night to hard work in the mines. The only liberty given them is death or the acceptance of the Greek faith. The majority prefer death, swallow lead and die. At the present moment Russia defends Christianity against Turkish intolerance. 'Consistency, thou art a jewel!'"

The war has demonstrated that the world was in error in supposing that the Turks were an emasculate, enfeebled nation, and that polygamy, even under the lax customs of an Oriental, people must naturally tend to deprive them of the vim and vigor of a monogamic race. Their gallantry and unyielding valor have challenged the admiration of the world and forced a change of opinion concerning them. It may be that when the full facts become known, the stories of Turkish cruelty will be found to have as slender a foundation as the reports of their effeminacy and weakness. At any rate there is little dependence to be placed on many of the sensational rumors which the telegraph sends on lightning wings to the nations, and the pretended humanity of hypocritical Russia vanishes in the light of the demands made upon conquered Turkey.

COUNTERFEITS.

It is pretty well known that there is in circulation a large amount of counterfeit money. But its full extent is not generally understood. It is estimated that it will reach at least \$40,000,000. Not only are counterfeit issues of a great many National Bank bills, but the Treasury notes have been imitated so closely that experienced cashiers and other persons accustomed to the handling of a great deal of money are frequently deceived.

Recent confessions by a captured counterfeiter disclose the fact that

by far the larger portion of this bogus money is circulated in the west, and it is stated that two "shovers of the queer" traveling with a circus company managed to pass nearly three thousand dollars not very long ago in this Territory.

Lists of counterfeit notes are published from time to time in the newspapers, but they are seldom noticed except in a passing way, and the main features of the warning are soon forgotten. Bankers generally notice closely the money that passes through their hands, but tradesmen and storekeepers frequently receive and pay out greenbacks and other notes without scrutiny. Many of them would be astonished if they were made aware how much bogus money they have carelessly assisted in circulating.

A great deal of bad coin is also passed for the genuine. Not only gold pieces are imitated but silver. There are many base half dollars passed without suspicion. And just as soon as the new silver legal tender dollar is issued the "smashers" will be at work with their nefarious skill to deceive the public and take advantage of the unsuspecting by a spurious issue.

But closely as the skillful engraver may imitate genuine money there are rules by which his evil work can be detected, and these ought to be made familiar to every person whose business requires the handling of much cash. Heath's Infallible Counterfeit Detector, a new edition of which has been published by authority of the Treasury Department, is a most excellent guide in this respect. But far better is personal instruction explaining the principles that enter into the system of the production of genuine money, which when fully understood form an infallible guide for the detection of the false. There is no absolute protection against counterfeiters without this knowledge, and those who acquire it have a great advantage over the uninformed.

Most of the principle bankers, cashiers, book-keepers and merchants of this city have taken lessons in the art, and those who wish to do so are referred to a notice to be found in our special business column.

We consider this a matter of public importance and a proper subject for newspaper comment. For if the knowledge necessary to the detection of counterfeiters should become general, the villains who make their living by this kind of deception would soon find their occupation unprofitable, and so fraught with danger that it would have to be abandoned, or they would be taken particular care of, and put to harder and more legitimate labor.

BAL MASQUE.

WE have been asked repeatedly our opinion in regard to the propriety of masquerades and their general tendency and effect. In reply we have no hesitation in saying that we consider them inexpedient, which is the mildest term which suggests itself in this connection.

Dancing has been permitted to the Latter-day Saints as a recreation which, properly conducted and indulged in with moderation, is a social amusement calculated to promote cheerfulness, friendly intercourse and mutual good feeling without any evil results to body or mind. The sparkling eye, the happy face, the pleasant smile which greet each partner in the dance form one of the chief features of the enjoyment, and grace is cultivated in the "poetry of motion" prompted by sweet strains of merry music. To hide the countenance with a mask and change the graceful figures of the decorous ball room into lax burlesque, is to divert a permitted pleasure into an undirected channel and turn it from the objects designed in its institution.

No one will deny that it is improper for respectable persons, particularly the young, to mingle indiscriminately in such amusements with persons of doubtful character and standing. Yet in a ball masque an innocent and prudent girl may hob-nob with a rogue and a villain, and a youth who has avoided the path of vice may move in the embrace of the waltz with a female to whom virtue has become a stranger or an object of ridicule. Masquer-

ades, wherever they have become popular, the world over, have been made the cover for intrigue, licentiousness and evil in its worst forms. At their introduction in a small community like ours no positive harm may occur. They may be prompted by a simple desire for some innocent fun in a new form, and be conducted in such a way that no harm may arise, particularly in a private gathering, where none are admitted but friends. But when once the ice is broken how easy it becomes to float with the stream, and by and by glide into the whirlpool of destruction!

We are writing for the Latter-day Saints. If others choose to adopt this style of amusement we have no right to interfere. But we consider it our duty to enter our protest against any thing which we consider conducive to evil and therefore reply, generally, to the questions which have been asked in a manner which we hope will be offensive to none.

The tendency and effect of masquerades is to laxity of manner and character and to impropriety of feeling and conduct. The restraints of ordinary social enjoyment are removed; a freedom of action is encouraged that is far from desirable; the secrecy which is facilitated is a powerful aid to evil, and forms an ample opportunity to the vile and corrupt for the covert practice of their arts upon the innocent; extravagance and recklessness are promoted and encouraged, and persons financially unable to honestly procure what is necessary for dress and other requirements, are tempted to wrong-doing that they may appear on a level with wealthier acquaintances. Such amusements lead in the wrong direction, and are calculated to promote levity, immodesty, vulgarity and undue display, and to foster a desire for unhealthy and unnatural excitement. Therefore, we think they are inexpedient for Latter-day Saints, and believe that it is unwise to introduce them even in family gatherings. [For, if begun in the simplest form, and with the purest of motives, they are liable eventually to run into all the evils that attend the orgies of the bal masque in the old cities of either hemisphere.]

Let the dance go on, but let it be conducted with the decorum that belongs to the people of God, and let us not hide the divine beauty of the human countenance under the hideous deformity of a mask.

The Iowa State Legislature has passed the bill restoring the death penalty for murder. They tried to do without it for ten years and the experiment was a failure. Atrocious tragedies have increased to an alarming extent, and even imprisonment for life failed to afford a check sufficient to keep the ruffian class in terror. Let other States take warning by the experience of Iowa.

DIED.

At Draper, on the 8th inst., a few minutes after 8 o'clock p.m., of cramp cholera, after nine days' severe illness, ELIZABETH HEWARD, wife of John Heward, daughter of Marshall and Hannah Terry, aged 63 years.

Deceased was born November 17, 1814, near the town of Palmyra, Wayne County, New York; was baptized by John A. Hicks, July 3rd, 1838; came to Nauvoo in 1845; travelled with the Saints in their tribulations; arrived in Salt Lake City in 1848; and lived until her death in Salt Lake County. She died as she had lived, a faithful Latter-day Saint.—[Com.]

At Ogden, March 5, of Diphtheria, ANNIE ELIZABETH, daughter of Mary Ann and George Chugg, aged 4 years and 9 months. *Millennial Star*, please copy.

OBITUARY.

Died at Orderville, Jan. 22nd, 1878, of inflammatory rheumatism, JEHIEL MC CONNELL, who was born, in Cynthiana, Posey County Indiana, on the 1st day of July, 1814; joined the Church at Benton's Port, Iowa, in the year 1846; performed a mission to the State of Iowa in the year 1862, also several missions amongst the Indians in Arizona, and was with the company in which Bro. George A. Smith, Jr. was travelling when he was killed. Moved from Cedar City in the year 1872 to be a home missionary among the Indians in the south-east portion of the Territory; joined the "United Order" that was first established at Kanab, and has been a faithful and earnest worker in said order until his death. He was the father of thirteen children, had nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. His loss is deeply felt by a very large circle of friends and acquaintances.—[Com.]