DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Wednesday, - - December 21, 1898

The Deseret Evening News is published every evening except Sundays, at the corner of South and East Temple streets, Salt Lake City, Utah. Regular edition at 5 o'clock.

The Deseret Semi-Weekly News is published on Tuesdays and Fridays. Each week.

The Deseret Weekly is magazine form is issued every Saturday.

Subscribers changing their place of residence should always give the address to which a paper is to be delivered.

The carriers will kindly notify T. G. Webber, superintendent, of any irregularity in the delivery of their papers.

All business communications should be addressed to DESERET NEWS COMPANY.

Telephone 29.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The "Deseret News" with all its properties and appurtenances, has revested in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, by which it is now owned and controlled. On and after January 1, 1899, a complete change in its management, will be inaugurated. The editorial department, comprising all the reading matter in the columns of the paper, will be placed in charge of Elder Charles W. Penrose. The business management will devolve upon Elder Horace G. Whitney. It is the intention to make the "Deseret News" a first-class family newspaper, containing information of current events from the most reliable sources in all parts of the world. Also to make its utterances such as will be acceptable to the members of the Church and to fair-minded people generally. It will be the official organ of the Church and be sustained by its authorities. The aid and support of leading men in all the Stakes and Wards of Zion and in all the missions abroad are earnestly solicited, that the "Deseret News" may be fully to accomplish the aim and design of its publication. The Daily will be published every evening, except on Sundays and holidays, the Semi-Weekly every Tuesday and Friday. The Weekly will be discontinued, and subscribers whose terms have not expired will receive the Semi-weekly in its stead. The "Deseret Evening News" is commended to all the Saints and the general public who can be reached by daily mail, and the "Semi-weekly Deseret News" to those less favorably situated. It should be had in every home. It is hoped that with the assistance of our friends, the organ of the Church will, in a short time, obtain universal circulation and become a public journal in which all Latter-day Saints will have confidence and pride.

LORENZO SNOW,
Trustee-in-Trust.

NOTICE.

Advertisers in the Daily or Semi-Weekly "News" whose contracts do not expire until after Dec. 31, 1898, and subscribers who have paid in advance that date are notified that arrangements have been made with the new management of the "News" to carry out such contracts till their expiration. Any other arrangements for advertisements and subscriptions after Dec. 31, 1898, must be made with the new management, the present company's connection with the paper ending on that date.

JOHN A. EVANS,
Business Manager.

THE DAY AND THE WEATHER.

This is the shortest day of the year. The sun has now reached the most southerly point in his grand march across the equinoctial doors, and on once will begin his return this way, reaching the line of vernal equinox on the 21st of next March and moving on till his extreme northern limit is attained on June 21, when we shall have the longest day of next year. The days will now begin to get longer and according to the old adage the weather will become correspondingly warmer. We do not, however, need to be astonished that we are in for some pretty severe meteorological conditions, for some time we have been in for it, every winter, for the season of coldness started out so severely that we have reason to hope for something approaching moderation as we go along.

This has but little to commend it to the comfort of mankind. We are now and this almost with a hundred of brief caution to senior, during which the thermometer may reflect a few degrees below the freezing point, and this is to say that the roads or streets become fairly good, but people will not stick a spell, the morning or some days having descended to 32 for low, with a mean position of about 10. It has never occurred since and we believe it had not taken place previously, at least not since the occupancy of the country by white people. The indications are excellent for a good crop of corn, and therefore is a salve for all the grumbling which the season is likely to impose upon us.

THE DECLINE OF THE FAMILY.

Mr. J. H. Mahffey, in the Journal of Ethics, quoted by Public Opinion of Dec. 15, points out a condition of modern society well calculated to cause anxiety. He thinks that one of the characteristics of our age is the visible decline of the family. There are, he says, fewer marriages in proportion to population than formerly; families are smaller; they are less coherent; they are less lasting. In England the marriage rate fell from 17.2 per cent in 1861 to 15.2 per cent in 1891, and from 1879 to 1890 the ages of men and women who married rose respectively from 25.6 and 24.1 to 26.3 and 24.7. The rise in the number of divorces, 1866-1885, was 100 per cent. In 1891 England and Wales show one divorce to 1,694 marriages, in 1898, one in 499.85. From 1867 to 1891 divorces in the United States increased 331 per cent, while the population increased 60 per cent.

Among the causes of this decline he points out, first, a general intellectual decay of mind and character, arising from descent from averages, across from measure, wave from backwards and children from parents. Another is the disappearance of the ecclesiastical view of marriage. A more special cause has been the growth of large cities, which develop a type of character are less adapted to the conditions of the organism. Men become less dependent on women for their home ports, and women have resources and interests which the middle life of the country denies them. Then, late marriages, formed on selfish considerations, are less likely to prove lasting. The number of marriages among women of higher education is less than among the uneducated, of one thousand four hundred and eighty-six graduates of the chief universities of England only one hundred and nine married. The new economic opportunities for women of the middle class treat the domestic and social life which marriage offers, and also bring into the industrial market a mass of competitors with whom the question of wages simply what is sufficient to support the individual. Among the working class marriages are not less frequent, but the home is not to be the comfortable as formerly of the tendency of women to go out to work.

Of these causes the most potent one, perhaps, is the wholly view of the marriage covenant. When the fact is lost sight of that that relation is a Divine institution intended for the moral improvement of mankind, and that this side of the veil and for an eternity, when furthermore the Divine authority is not recognized in the solemn obligations there is nothing to render the family relation different from any other merely temporal arrangement. The result, as visible in the decline in marriage, the infidelity of which both sexes are becoming more and more guilty and the frequent divorces with all the corruption, and passions and dark crimes that accompany such a condition.

It is considered one of the strongest evidences for the divinity of Christianity that its teachings are on examination found to be perfectly adapted to the needs of the human nature. It points out the sources of the evils found in the world and supplies the remedy. This is true no less of the Gospel as presented to this age. It carries the evidence of its divinity with it in the fact that it provides the proper remedy for every evil. With special regard to the subject under consideration it proclaims that marriage is "ordained of God unto man." It is a divine institution, ordained for most high and holy purposes. It is a covenant "for time and for all eternity," to be sealed "by the Holy Spirit of promise through him whom I have anointed and appointed unto this power." In this Gospel view of the family relation is the remedy against its profanation, the salvation of the world from moral decay. Much of the sin that blinds the world is due to the erroneous teachings of its exponents of religion. Let the truth, as declared by the servants of the Most High, come forth in all its splendor.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Since Mr. Milispaugh's contemplated resignation as superintendent of the Salt Lake City public schools, much has been said and written with reference to securing a man eminently qualified to fill so responsible a position.

While much has been written in regard to the necessary intellectual attainments of a successor, no allusion has been made to other qualifications which are of paramount importance in the selection of one who is to direct the work of our public schools. A man may possess scholastic training and yet be incapable of filling the office of superintendent. A man may be a scholar and be a stilted pill. It is true that a superintendent of schools must be well educated and possess sound attainments (scientific acuity), but he must also be broadminded, ambitious, in his judgment, sympathetic in his nature, possessed of a high moral character, and a full and sympathetic appreciation of the "public pulse."

Human nature is the same the world over, and no doubt some at least of Utah's educators are as truly noble and high-minded as those who live in the East.

Utah things are not all in abeyance, of matters of the school system is progressing and we believe it will continue, but we do not wish to see the system hurried forward, or the work of the schools put on a footing which will not be permanent, and be productive of results which we can not approve. It may be expedient, and we believe it is, to make some changes in our school system, which we may deem the best method for providing for our schools. Possibly some made changes before session, while others may take place later. Some changes may be made now adopted. Yet the time may come when we may find ourselves, and Utah experiment, overtaken by a system which they have always taken in the schools.

It would be sad indeed were there no talent in Utah capable of assuming the responsibilities of the office of city superintendent of schools. We hope that the choice of a successor to Mr. Milispaugh, by the majority of the board of education, the committee will be given to some applicants. If not—if some talent is secured, it will be difficult to persuade the public that the matter is not some other than a desire to fill the place with the most skilled obtainable.

THE NATIONAL RENAISSANCE.

Thirty-three years ago last April Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, was brutally assassinated by an actor named John Wilkes Booth. This awful deed was the culmination of a great conspiracy which had been formed by Booth and several accomplices looking to the dismemberment of the North by Southern dirks not only the head of the government but the Vice President and Secretary of State as well, thus producing a condition of governmental paralysis which it was hoped might encourage the overthrown Confederates to return their lines and retrieve their surrender status at least. The plot succeeded for a short time only and could not have been completely successful even if the assassins had carried out the programme had carried, for the South was not in the scheme to participation, previous knowledge or sympathy, and besides had had all the fighting, blood and sorrow it could endure.

The shock produced by the assassination was something never to be forgotten. At first the blow simply stunned the people and a terrible and ominous period of inaction followed, but it was very brief indeed. Little by little the awful realization was brought to them and they became a wild, resistless, ungovernable flood. A feeling of revenge more deadly, more dreadful than ever possessed a civilized people before had control of them and it was dangerous to be even silent at times and in places where demand was for expression for a united voice of endless wrath, and those of them by reason of force of law in the shape of a military commission, and so swayed in the bitterness of wrath that the prosecutors became that it has been for years conceded that an innocent woman was swept away; but after the subsidence became more and more intolerable. The theatre in which the crime was committed was bought by the government and its doors were never opened for amusement purposes again. An honorable family, which had too honored to the dust, began again to meet with the world. Its shake from its hands and left into sympathizing lives. Edwin Booth, respected as a man by all who knew him and admired for his art by all who saw him play, finally determined to return to the stage and his reception was unmarred by anything even suggestive of disfavor; on the contrary, it was in all respects magnificent. The assassin of President Lincoln was Booth's brother, and while this was never to be forgotten, it was also no longer to be kept in the account of the actor himself. It is in the years from the nation of the government never to disclose the burial place of the assassin was remembered, and not only this, but the living brother was permitted to disinter the remains of the dead who and place them in the family burial ground. It is good to show that the Americans as a race are furious only when there is a demand or at least an occasion for fury; when the storm has passed, tranquility returns. No people are or can be truly great who are otherwise, because there is so much of the original savage remaining in their composition that they are retarded and burdened at every stage of their career. But mark the sequel.

The war between the sections previously spoken of was fought, to the bitter end. There is nothing delightful, enjoyable or really honorable in war. It is the court of highest appeal of nations or sections and its purpose is vindication. Rest and restoration sent. No more valiant men ever lent aid to martial music or planted into the vortex of deadly strife than those on both sides of the awful four years' struggle. It was a question of principle with both—one side claiming the right of absolute sovereignty for each of the governments constituting the Federal Union, the other holding that such supremacy could only adhere in a revocable sovereignty common to all the sovereignties. So great and grand a question could have no other solution, for all the resources of Mohammedanism had been exhausted upon it. The sight of the situation made those who resisted against the central idea blind but it could not make them other than patriots, the same as those on the other side, because their object was not primarily individuals, but, according to their view, preservation of existing things. They fought, bled and died as really patriots as those engaged in the same and died to show our flag and dying they commended the admiration of the world, including the enemy in front of them. Heroism, in numbers, equipment, resources, whole commands dismounted and other charms, deprived of the prestige of transportation by any rule, whether we should call it by that name or not, a great public, worthy to stand in history alongside their forefathers of the Revolution, who were contrivers.

Another war broke upon the land. The Southern people unanimously gave their allegiance to the Union, and the Union was saved. The war was ended and peace restored and again prosperity. The President, of the United States is one of those who make the appointments for the white the Union men of the South in the home and remedy promised to the world the fact that we are not and never have been a people of hatred. The dead who died on the field have in the act of the survivors become imported brothers. And this we can assert at any time, as we do not from, and in a great Army from. He was a Mad A. A. Pratt. This great patriot was a Mormon. Thousands of them took an active part in making the President's inaugural at Atlanta. Politics so was not so much of the question of law and whether and many others of the same kind being cited in the uniform of officers of the United States Army and commanding troops therein, but enough of this. Perhaps Major Pratt is a very old man and he respects very green with his growth, recalling to memory instances which death alone can certainly obliterate. To all others we say, the past is past and the national heart beats as one a glorious and promising present.

Another war follows here around the channel from England to France, but the outline escape from destruction in the above the rule here dangerous social navigation yet to. As the balloon and its floating separates were pioneers to those with which Prof. Andree

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