DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING CO.

Telephone 526.

NO SUGAR TRUST INTEREST HERE.

The New York World in the course of an editorial of great length (for the World) on "The New State of Utah," has much to say quite in line with the remarks of many publicists on the "Mormon hierarchy," the "twin relic of barbarism," the "rebellion" during President Buchanan's administration, and so on and so forth. There is neither interest, information nor profit in explaining and exposing the silly ideas so above indicated which still now and then effect a lodgment in journalistic minds throughout the country concerning these dreadful Mormons and their ways, but the World has the following paragraph, which may not be passed by without a word of comment:

The new State, which now requires only the proclamation of the President to invest it with the full dignities and powers of the forty-fifth member of the Union, has a population now estimated at 252,954, about equal to that of the city of Buffalo in this state. Its assessed property, real and personal, amounted last year to $60,500,000. It produced last year 41,000 ounces of gold, 7,100,000 of silver, and among other things 4,000,000 pounds of sugar in which the Sugar Trust of the Atlantic coast is said to be interested to the extent of looking after senatorial votes. Perhaps these statistics make it unnecessary to attempt any further forecast of the probable action of the Utah senators on leading national issues.

The clause in the foregoing which will naturally excite first attention is the laughable information as to the interest which the great sugar trust has in the Utah sugar factory. Public memory need hardly be turned back a year for evidence as to the keen interest, and the character thereof, which must be here referred to. At that time the giant combine declared unrelenting war upon the local industry, and did its level best to close it up and force it to loss and failure. Its interest, therefore, is of that peculiar kind which a hungry darky feels in an unsuspecting chicken, or a voracious wolf in a helpless lamb—to capture and devour it. If its interest has ever taken any other form, local people do not happen to know of it; and just how much the influence or backing of the sugar trust would help any aspirant for senatorial honors may therefore be surmised with miserable certainty. Our own opinion is that a candidate within a half-a-breath of election would be turned down instanter if he allowed it to be understood, or if it could be proved, that the sugar trust was particularly interested and would be specially gratified in his election.

AN ASHANTEE CUSTOM.

Since the news was brought to the civilized world that the king of Ashantee had thrown aside the British ultimatum to contempt and that the English, as a consequence contemplate an expedition to the capital of the savage king, some of the peculiar customs of the dusky majesty have been the subject of conversation as well as newspaper articles both in Europe and in this country.

Coomassie, the capital, was visited by Mr. Stanley in 1874 and by many British soldiers under Sir Garnet, who burned the city twenty-one years ago. Others have paid occasional visits to the place, and all agree that the cruelties of the monarch of that country are appalling beyond description.

Among the sights of Ashantee seem to be a place known as the Grove of Skulls, where thousands of the king's subjects are put to death. The rulers of the country have an idea that when one of them dies, he is to have a respectable body guard on the other side, and the consequence is that numbers are slain at each royal funeral. As many as two thousand were killed at the demise of King Kofee. These were of course among the most loyal of the subjects. But even enemies are sacrificed in this grove, and it has become a veritable Golgotha. The present ruler, Prempeh, is believed to have slaughtered thousands during the past year, merely to satisfy his taste for the spectacular, or to strengthen his on the throne by thinning out the ranks of his enemies.

The ground in the grove is strewn with human bones and corpses in every stage of decomposition,—and in the trees above "scores" vultures roost. All agree that it is the most hideous place on earth. Henry Stanley describes it as follows:

As we drew near, the foul smells became so suffocating that we were glad to produce our handkerchiefs to prevent the intolerable and almost palpable odor from ascending into the brain and overpowering us. Afterwards thirty paces we arrived before the dreaded scene, but it was almost impossible to stop longer than to take a general view of the grove Golgotha. We saw some thirty or forty decaying bodies in the last stage of corruption, and numerous skulls which lay piled in heaps and scattered over a wide extent. The coolest heart and most stoical mind might have been upset.

The sacrifices in this place seem to partake of the nature of public entertainments. When the victims are selected, as many as 20,000 of the ignorant savages gather to see them die. They are taken to the grove securely bound. Knives are thrust crosswise through their cheeks. Then they are tortured in various ways and finally decapitated. The executioners retire from the scene drenched in blood and the corpses are left on the ground where they fell.

It seems almost incredible that superstitions of this kind can be practiced in a country not farther away from civilization than Ashantee is, but there is no reason to believe that the accounts are much exaggerated. It is undoubtedly within the power of the countries that are now penetrating Africa to put an end to such barbarous customs. How can they be held guiltless if they fail to do so? Civilization may not always have proved an unexceptional blessing to savage tribes. Its vices have sometimes slain tens of thousands where thousands were formerly sacrificed to barbarous superstitions. But the cases are nevertheless different, inasmuch as the temptations of civilization may be resisted, while against the brutal tyranny of savagery the victims are helpless. It is therefore to be hoped that the contemplated expedition to Ashantee may result in the extermination for ever of such cruel customs, whatever may be the results of it in other respects.

REST IN PEACE!

Yesterday the mortal part of Patriarch Lorenzo D. Young was laid away to await the resurrection. He was the last survivor of the notable band of brothers which supplied this Church, both in themselves and in their posterity, with such valiant material at a time when its numbers were few and strong men were kept more busily employed, because they were more rare, than at present. The deceased veteran will be remembered as a lovable and sturdy figure, a man of simple tastes, unblemished integrity, and great strength of character. After an exceeding long life of energy and usefulness, and with a record of good works which makes his reward sure, he has gone to rejoin his brethren—the mighty Brigham, the gentle Joseph, and the others whose names and deeds still live in the hearts of the Saints.

A great family were these Youngs. They came upon the world's stage of action when such men were needed; and in fulfilling the high part allotted to them, they have made a glowing mark upon the page of history which time or traducement will not efface. They have left, moreover, an honored name and have built up in Zion a numerous posterity whose prudent endeavor should be to deserve the place and standing among the Saints won and bequeathed by the loved ones gone before. Peace be to Uncle Lorenzo's dust; after life's fitful fever, may his rest be sweet!

IRRIGATION AND AGRICULTURE.

The News offers two reasons for the publication today of a somewhat rambling communication from Prof. A. A. Mills of Logan as to the State Irrigation Association of Utah, which he antagonizes, and as to the State Agricultural Society, which he champions as its president. One of these reasons is that we have no other feeling than one of sincere friendship for the agricultural society and are ever ready to extend aid to it in the work of benefiting the farmers of our agricultural country. The other is that the wider the circulation of such criticisms as he offers concerning the alleged aims and measures of the irrigation association, the more quickly will the latter be cleared of any suspicion he may cast; for it occurs to us that it will take a great deal more than the distortions of the fears of Prof. Mills to convince this community that robbery and extortion and self-aggrandisement form a part of the program of the men at the head of the irrigation association. Many of them have lived in this Territory almost as long as, and perhaps even longer than, Prof. Mills has lived upon the earth. They have no other interests than are to be found right here, and they have a life record of public spirit and of service to and identity with the best interests of the people that their critics ought not justly to overlook.

We cannot permit Prof. Mills's aspersions, therefore, to go unchallenged, and yet we are quite willing to help him have his say, since by such advertising the public is more quickly brought to a true understanding of the controversy. Apart from the foregoing considerations, however, we find ourselves forced to differ from Prof. Mills on the general question of his method of operations. We contend that agriculture is more dependent upon irrigation than vice versa; and that agricultural societies are or ought to be primarily irrigation societies, if they are and shall be, the very fears which Prof. Mills expresses. So far as irrigation is concerned all the water rights will be disposed. Yet he appears to us to be determined to place the cart before the horse, and to insist that the tail shall wag the dog.

ARE WE OF ISRAEL?

The second edition of this valuable pamphlet by Elder George Reynolds has just been published by Geo. Q. Cannon & Sons company. The admirable treatise on this interesting subject is already well known to the Saints, but the present edition has been carefully revised and augmented with additional information on the subject. It will be read with interest, therefore, even by those who have read the previous edition.

The author states his intention to be to prove that the Latter-day Saints have good reason, drawn from history and analogy, for believing the words of their Patriarchs which blessing them, pronounce them of the house of Abraham and of the promised seed of Jacob, and after having weighed the arguments presented, the impartial reader cannot fail to be impressed with the force of the logic employed in the process of reasoning on the subject. He proves that Israel was from ancient times a maritime people, and accounts for their diffusion among the nations of Europe. He traces the ten tribes to Media and dwells at length upon their present existence in "The land of the north." Then the origin of the Anglo-Saxons is considered and the characteristics of the ancient Scandinavian mythology, literature and people.

From this cursory glance at the pages of Elder Reynolds' pamphlet, Are we of Israel? it is evident that he treats of the subject exhaustively and, we may add, in a manner that makes the perusal of it exceedingly profitable as well as a pleasure.

SUGAR BEETS ON HIGH LANDS.

Sp. C. A. Madsen of Gunnison gives an interesting account in another column of his experiences with sugar beets in the high valley of Sanpete some sixteen years ago. His report is valuable as tending to correct the popular fallacy that altitude such as that of many of Utah's valleys is fatal to the profitable culture of this crop. It is further valuable as giving information concerning the necessary conditions for the ideal sugar-beet farm, these being, according to the California expert, "few cloudy and many balmy sunny days during the vegetation of the plant." Surely these climatic conditions can be found nowhere on the globe more perfect and reliable than in the valleys of the mountains; and it involves no risk of reputation to predict that this very region of country will at no distant date be found among the localities where beet-raising for sugar is conducted with the utmost of profit and success in all concerned.

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