

## EDITORIALS.

## DENMARK DISTURBED.

JUDGING by the dispatches in to-day's News, if there is not something rotten in Denmark, there is assuredly a condition of things foreboding trouble for the crown, perhaps its removal from the head that wears it and being placed in the closet indefinitely. It seems that King Christian saw fit to impose a special tax upon his subjects, which Parliament refused to ratify; the King, being the custodian and sponsor of the constitution, and the exercise of political authority by the people being a matter of suzerainty, is indignant at the refusal of the people's direct representatives to execute his will, and they on their part are indignant at him for asking it. One will not recede, the other will not advance; and this condition of things as between the executive and legislative authority means a crisis which may end in the revolution previously mentioned. Excitement runs high, and all can understand what political excitement among the populace and their governmental representatives amounts to when the head of the nation is the cause of it; suspension of personal rights and legal privileges sometimes precedes the physical suspension of the one who orders it.

Denmark has always been more or less agitated from various sources. When she has no quarrels abroad, she can obtain diversion at home by an internal wrangle. Still, the government is one of the mildest on earth, notwithstanding the fact that the sovereign is theoretically an autocrat; perhaps it is the long-continued exercise of political freedom which causes the people to occasionally transcend the boundaries of what is despotic by the terms of its existence, but popular as relates to the practical sway of authority. The absolute character of the monarchy has been so long diluted by custom that the latter has become the unwritten and more powerful law, one against which the monarch who wields a brittle sceptre dare not contend. At all events, news from Denmark will doubtless be more interesting in the immediate future than it has been for some time past.

## SPELLING REFORM.

EVERY now and then a slight spasm of agitation appears in relation to our orthographic system, each having in view the simplifying of spelling by means of natural rules, sound alone to be the constituent element of the suggested departure. Some practical steps have been taken in this direction by a few newspapers, but the success attained has been uniformly nil; and the matter is likely to remain where it is during the present generation at least. The truth is, that however much the student might be benefited by simplifying the existing method, there can be no starting point found; to reverse existing arrangements would be of no advantage to those who agitate it, for the reason that they, or most of them, are already masters of the plan universally in vogue and do not need the change, while those who are younger and in the incipency of their studies should not be placed in conflict with existing and time-honored things—they probably could not endure the attrition naturally resulting and would accomplish nothing for themselves or anybody else if they could.

Before us is an article by Frederik A. Fernel, an enthusiast in the cause of orthographic reform, and an able writer as well. It will be observed that he leaves the "c" out of his first name as a tribute to the cause he seeks to advance, and is doubtless earnest and energetic, perhaps humane, in his purpose; he pronounces spelling as at present performed "A lying, roundabout, puzzle-headed delusion," and so it is, but it is a delusion which has passed the misty realms creating it and become a solid entity in the scholastic acquirements of the age we live in.

Phonetic spelling may be taught and even practiced as a branch of education, but it can only be a branch until a spontaneous and irresistible revolution simultaneously occurs involving not merely a few journals, a few households and a number of people, but the whole of English-speaking civilization. The system of orthography at present recognized as correct is too deeply grounded to be uprooted by a few whose agitations are short-lived and far between, and the only plan is to make the most of it and learn as well as we may to acquire the "tyrant's will," that we may not invoke his displeasure.

## CALIFORNIA PESTS.

If the Utah farmers generally could peruse the complaints that are published elsewhere about the pests with which agriculturalists have to contend, they could not fail to be impressed with the fact that the residents of this Territory are greatly favored, notwithstanding the occasional ravages of grasshoppers, caterpillars, etc. In

California, for instance, the phylloxera threatens the entire destruction of the grape vines, and no remedy has yet been discovered for their ravages. Of other pests with which the people of that country are also troubled, a Sacramento paper has the following to say:

"The small rainfall of last winter was favorable to the increase of many pests that affect the farmers and fruit-growers. Rabbits have been unusually numerous this year, and, in some sections, very destructive. In Tulare they are said to have seriously injured many orchards and to have destroyed large quantities of grain. Near Visalia a plague of mice prevails. They have stripped some orchards of fruit, and have destroyed crops of corn. In the San Joaquin and Sonoma Valleys ground-squirrels have greatly multiplied, and do great damage to grain and fruit trees. They breed four times a year, and multiply so fast that it is hard to get rid of them. Poisoning is regarded as the best remedy, and October is probably the best month to employ it.

"Scale insects of various sorts are spreading rapidly through the State, and are a grave menace to the fruit-growing industry. Vigilance, unremitting warfare, and intelligent co-operation are necessary for their suppression. A new remedy is announced, so simple, safe and cheap that we hope its efficacy has not been overrated. This new wash is simply brine, made by boiling common rock salt, and applied with a brush or sprayed upon the trees. So great are the ravages of the cottony-cushion scale that it is a question whether orange-growing at Los Angeles can be further prosecuted with profit, while the fruit brings only a dollar a box."

## "FINE OFFICIALS."

Most people like to know that they are well spoken of, whether they admit it or not; to such an extent does approbation grow in some natures that they will listen with rapt satisfaction to an overstatement of their possessions or income, will even encourage the inaccuracy by significant silence or a few words of feigned carelessness implying admission. None of us are entirely free from vanity, nor is it necessary or even desirable that we should be; but there is a difference between a sober and unostentatious appreciation of one's own qualities and station, and being eaten up with self-conceit. The people of Utah personally are like people elsewhere in respect to the conditions spoken of; but collectively they ask for nothing that is not honestly theirs by right or possession, and are quite satisfied if they receive credit for whatever they do that is creditable, asking not that advantages which they do not and cannot possess be ascribed to them. Many of the statements coming from abroad in relation to the majority of Utah's population are enough to make them blush "red-like and severe" down to their shirt collars—sometimes with pleasure, sometimes with anger, in accordance with the nature of the said statements. But we may take it for granted that the naked truth, absolutely unvarnished, is all that nine out of ten care for, and a great many of these would as lief nothing at all were said.

It is when such flattery as the subjoined lines, from the Laramie Boomerang, appear that our native modesty is assailed and we protest:

"Among the passengers east this morning were Hon. Arthur L. Thomas and wife, of Salt Lake City. Mr. Thomas is secretary of Utah and ex-officio secretary of the Utah commission. He is now on his way to Washington to attend a meeting of the commission and will be absent about a month. Utah has as fine a set of officials as any territory in the Union, and Mr. Thomas stands very high in the esteem of his people."

The News is responsible for the italics, having imparted this emphasis to certain words in order to bring into bold relief the point to which we most strenuously object. Supposing that whatever our neighbor says of us is true, there was no need of parading our good fortune before the world so indelicately. These things shock a sensitive nature so violently that we enter a mild protest here and now. Don't do it again, please; or, if you must, dilute it a little and let us know of its coming in advance.

On second thought, now that the first blush has vanished, the compliment does not loom up so grandly after all. The Boomerang only credits us with having "as fine a set" of officials as any other Territory—a statement which almost anyone at all conversant with the political status of Utah and its neighbors may concede without hesitation. If our cotemporary had said "a finer set," there would have been a chance for a quarrel. All these subdued provinces of the government are noted for the "fineness" of their respective officials. This gentry are generally too "fine" to luxuriate in the places where they are known, and having been mortar-mixers and hod-carriers for the successful party in a presidential campaign, or private secretaries to some ward bosses in the larger cities, being too lazy to work and too mean to starve, the administration packs them off to the good-natured Territories where the people are not supposed to be intelli-

gent enough to supply officials for some use, to get rid of their eternal and unceasing begging. No matter whether the places to which such shipments are made like the consignment or not, it is out of the President's way and the communities to which it is sent have not the power to return it. Never, in most instances, having held an official position before, the newly-fledged accident conceives the idea at an early stage of his career that he is a ruler instead of a servant; that he is to be obeyed, not to obey—a policy which of course brings him in conflict with the people, and he becomes so incensed because he cannot walk through streets carpeted with the prostrate bodies of his subjects, that the lash of his authority is wielded with un stinted vigor. Being unable to control by reason of commanding manners and superior attainments, he falls back upon his commission and waves that document incessantly. If the benighted denizens of a disloyal commonwealth still refuse to recognize the revival of Caligula and Robespierre, the power which sent him here is asked to intervene, in order that through his representations Congress may be induced to do something to bring the people to him, since he at last recognizes that if he goes to them he must climb. This is not the case in every instance, but it is in so many instances that the reader will readily recognize, even if he likes not the picture.

Yes, Utah doubtless has a superlatively "fine" set of officials, and always had. Perhaps it always will, but we have hopes. The thought that they are as "fine" as those of the other Territories appeals to our humanitarian instincts and we involuntarily sympathize—would even endeavor to do something more tangible by way of palliation for our neighbors' woes, but for the fact that we need all we have for our own use. Charity begins at home; when there is contagion in the land, each household should first set itself in order and see what it do for others afterwards.

## THE SITUATION.

REVIEWED BY A YOUNG MISSIONARY.

CRANE CREEK, W. V.,

October 8th, 1885.

Editor Deseret News:

It must give true Latter-day Saints exquisite pleasure to observe the dauntless manner in which the News holds high to the gaze of the world the ensign of religious liberty. It heralds the progress of a conflict which has ever been rife but never decided since the creation. Whatever shape it may array itself in, could we look behind the scenes, we should see

## BUT TWO POWERS

contending for supremacy, light and darkness, good and evil, Jesus Christ and Lucifer the arch-fiend. The one desires to reclaim and exalt, the other to enslave and debase God's fallen offspring.

In the eternal heavens, the victory has already been decreed. The only question for us is: "Shall we be among the victors?" Courage and honor can never stand on neutral ground in this eternal struggle: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would thou wert cold or hot. So because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth."

This struggle began in heaven before the foundations of the earth were laid. "Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not," but were cast out of heaven to renew the struggle upon this earth. Shall we who were among the victors in the primeval world turn traitors to the cause of truth here, and assist the enemy of our souls to forge the clanking chains of bondage upon us? Ah, no; God forbid! But shall we "sit upon the fence," idly waiting the issue? We may learn too late that the fence is as sharp as a razor. Will not the eternal decrees of history repeat themselves? O, ye Saints who advocate

## A MIDDLE COURSE,

think of the curses entailed upon that neutral party on heaven's battlefield. Shall not a greater curse follow us in the hereafter, if we take a similar stand, seeing that we know the issue of the struggle, which they did not? Do you think that Christ repeated words only for rhetorical effect, when he said: "He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it," or "The day shall come when men will consider it God's service to kill you?" Think not that the worst is over; I verily believe the purging has just begun.

## THE WINDS OF JUDGMENT

will not cease in the house of the Lord until all the chaff and light wheat are blown away. Meanwhile it is in the power of every one to hasten the day of peace by separating in himself the chaff and the wheat—the virtues and the vices—by obeying "every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord," regardless of consequences.

"We need not fear, God will fight our battles," is a convenient phrase, under cover of which many sneak away from active warfare against Satan. Are we to understand this as it is taught in sectarianism: "We can do nothing for ourselves; the dear Savior must do it all?" No, a thousand times. The Lord will fight our battles, but it will be through us, his servants,

And should we even be driven to the shores of the Red Sea, we need not, even then, be passively submissive to our enemies until we "see the salvation of God;" for our warfare is not with swords, but faith in God, virtue, integrity, unflinching moral courage—these are the weapons of the soul. With these as his armor, the Saint of God can stand up in the majesty of his heaven-born spirit, even in the face of chains and dungeons, and say: "Take my property, my good name, my life if you will, and be mocked for your pains, for I am still in possession of the eternal principles of truth which I have embraced."

In the common struggle in which we are engaged,

## SELF MUST BE BURIED

deeper than the ocean. We have pledged our lives and possessions to God, in support of his kingdom, the cause of truth. Did you think that this was a mere lip-sacrifice? We shall now learn that God intends to test our sincerity. The question must not be "How shall we save ourselves and our property," but "How shall PRINCIPLE be maintained." It is the genius of the Gospel of Christ, that every one who embraces it may know for himself of its truth. "He that doeth the will of the Father shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or whether I speak of myself." Just as the Gospel is independent of any man's faith, so the knowledge of its truth is a matter between each member and his God, and does not depend upon the faith of any other member. Thus every Latter-day Saint stands upon his own foundation, or, as "Chronicles" aptly expresses it: "They shall find that

## EVERY SHEEP IS A SHEPHERD UNTO ITSELF."

Were it not for this divine testimony given to every one who obeys the Gospel, "Mormonism" might indeed be shaken, when one of its so-called pillars gives way to the blast, but in the "Mormon" forest there are very few trees leaning on others for support; and the only effect of the storm now raging over them will be to cause them to strike their roots more deeply into the ground to prepare for its increasing fury.

Let me again express my admiration of the News in upholding principle at any sacrifice. May that word be kept in burning letters before the eyes of all who are tempted to purchase peace of the devil.

In conclusion, let me also subscribe myself for "the kingdom of God or nothing." N. L. N.

## THAT "STEAL."

WITH their usual indecency, the anti-"Mormon" press of this city make haste to denounce the purchase of City Creek Cañon as a huge steal, a fraud on the taxpayers, etc. The articles on this subject are strictly in keeping with all they ever had to say when there was a chance to assail the city government, relying as they do entirely upon mere blank statements and denunciation, without a word of support of their propositions by means of proof or otherwise. It simmers down to about this: The principal culinary water supply for this city was only partly controlled and not at all owned by the municipality, by means of which regularity in the water supply, its direction and continuance, were more or less matters of uncertainty; it was desirable and in the interest of all our citizens that this indispensable property be theirs in fee simple, so that they might not only use the water, but have the exclusive right thereto, as well as a deed to the cañon through which it runs; the property was owned by an individual who was willing to sell if the terms suited him; what was considered a fair, just consideration was tendered and he accepted it—and this the vile exponents of a vile cause call a "steal." Just wherein the elements constituting a theft are to be found has not been shown, perhaps for the reason that they do not exist; but anything undertaken by the authorities looking to improvement, no matter how beneficial to all or how slight the outlay, is sufficient to set Tray, Blanche and Sweetheart to barking as if their hearts would break.

Fifty thousand dollars is a good, round sum; there can be no doubt of that. It would make a dozen poor families independent for life; it would feed and clothe all the poor and helpless in the Territory for a long time; it would erect a magnificent chamber of commerce; it would come very near to paying off the liabilities of the two "Liberal" organs in this city; and much more that is not mentioned but all useful to some if not to all, it would accomplish. But the City Fathers have no authority to disburse public funds in any one of the methods suggested. They are simply the custodians of the Treasury and guardians of the municipal welfare generally. It occurred to them, after repeated reminders from all sorts of people and any number of circumstances, that the water supply of the city for drinking and cooking purposes was too precarious for a large and constantly growing community like this; that better distribution of what we have and the securing of as much more as possible, were subjects claiming their attention without unnecessary delay. The peo-

ple cannot go into the markets or out upon the thoroughfares and make bargains for themselves in their aggregated capacity, they leave that to their representatives, chosen for that purpose; and the said representatives acted in the interest of their constituents, and after being urged for a long time, when they bought City Creek Cañon from its owner. The city required it in order to obtain a heading for improved waterworks, so that a further-reaching and better system of distribution could be effected, and more water obtained to distribute; the price was \$50,000, and it was cheap at that; but whether cheap or not, it could be got for no less; the money was paid over and the deed executed to the public, not to any individual—and where is the steal?

A point has been sought in the statement that the Church was interested in the property. Whether it was or is, or no, has but little to do with the matter. It is a question of larceny of the grandest kind that we are now called upon to consider, and no case has been or can be made out. And it is especially bad grace for a young man who, with a number of his brother and sisters, sought to obtain possession of that very property without the shadow of right, to talk about "stealing" anything. The fact that the question of ownership was settled and the title fixed through the payment of \$40,000 to the estate which was divided up between said young man and his confere, ought to serve as a quietus upon him and his kind forever and decency itself would suggest that he speak of the matter, if at all, in "a tone so low, there's nothing lies 'twixt it and silence."

It should also be remembered that since the purchase last referred to when \$40,000 was paid for the cañon, a number of improvements in the way of building, constructing a mill race, etc., have been made, these alone amounting to thousands of dollars, and thus the property becomes naturally enhanced through the process of time. So that when the taxpayer desires to arrive at a correct conclusion as to whether his means have been wantonly or corruptly squandered, let him first consider the objects of the purchase and then the real value of the property as compared with the amount paid. Our word for it, he will ascertain conclusively that there is not only no "steal," but that he and his fellow citizens got all their money was worth through the transaction, and more too.

## A MODEL PARDON.

THOMAS SIMPSON, indicted, tried, convicted and imprisoned on a charge of polygamy or bigamy, is in possession of his liberty through a full pardon recently granted by President Cleveland. The full record of this case, with its adjuncts and bearings, is worthy of reader's earnest attention, as being illustrative of how justice in Utah means one thing for one class of people and another for another class, and how far the supreme executive authority is sometimes enlisted through deception and misrepresentation in the furtherance of immunity to blackguards and scoundrels who are not "Mormons," and in favor of those who oppose us, no matter how dark and deceitful their proceedings here and elsewhere. The most, or one of the most, conspicuous instances of how far this condition of things is being worked in our midst, is vividly illustrated in the case of the man whose name appears above and to whom clemency for crime has been tendered not because he ever was or now fit to occupy a place in society beyond the reach of the law, but because those most prominently engaged in the Utah crusade mislaid the pardoning power.

Taking his history all together, and judging of the former by the current portion of it, this Simpson is one of the most cowardly and depraved of men. His imprisonment was truly an act of injustice, for the reason that he deserved more severe punishment; he had not those who are classed among the violators of law been more law-abiding than their accusers, his desert would have been meted out to him before he entered the prisoner's dock in the Third District Court. Coming from England some years ago, he found his way to Utah and settled down here. Like many others he put on the livery of the Lord that he might the better be able to serve the devil. Being coming attracted toward a pure and unsuspecting young girl, who reciprocated his professions with the artlessness of many others, and his advances being always couched in the terms of a honorable man offering honorable marriage, what should she do but accept his proposals? Nothing was known against him, his conduct of his face was good, and there were no objections apparent. The consent of all the interested parties was obtained and the marriage took place. The cloven foot was not long concealed, however; abuse and neglect were the rule in that household; honeyed words gave place to cowardly abuse, caresses to insults, and protestations of affection to expressions of hatred. So famous was his conduct during the time that he was soon deprived of the privilege of making it a lifetime practice; the deceived wife became a mother, but through the villainous conduct of the man who had sworn