

GEORGE Q. CANNY,
BRIGHAM YOUNG,
EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS.

Friday March 18, 1850.

NOTICE.

The Forty-eighth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene at the Large Tabernacle in this City, at 10 o'clock A.M., April 6th, 1850.

JOHN TAYLOR,
President of the Council of
the Twelve Apostles.

THE BLESSING OF CHILDREN.

It has been intimated to us that some of the Elders have been holding ideas concerning the blessing of children that we deem to be incorrect. If we are not misinformed it has been taught that there was no need of parents bringing their infants before the Church to be blessed by the Elders, but that it were better for the father to attend to this rite at home, for if he did not he lost a very great privilege as well as a right, to power over his children that he might otherwise retain. This is not so. We have nothing to say against either blessing his children, or the genius of the Priesthood being primarily patriarchal, with God himself the great Father of us all, at the head. Indeed we claim that every man holding the Melchizedek priesthood is a patriarch in his own home, with the right to bless all his children and grand children, even all the fruits of his loins, or do we object to the father taking his babe on the eighth day and blessing it a father's blessing. But we do not think that this privilege whether exercised or unexercised, should interfere with our obedience to that law of the Lord which is in it (see New Testament and Covenants Sec. 20, page 70, page 117) "Every member of the Church of Christ having a man, is to bring them unto the elders before the Church, who are to lay their hands upon them in the name of Jesus Christ and seal them in his name."

Opiate of the all-important fact that this is a direct command of Jehovah, and as such should be studiously complied with without hesitancy or objection, we think quite a number of excellent reasons can be adduced to prove that this command is attended with beneficial results, to the parents by bringing their child before the Church manifest their faith in the sight of their brethren and sisters in God's word and in His promises, as well as their thankful offering to Him for increasing their poverty and the safe delivery of hand maiden. The child is benefitted by the united faith and responsive prayers of the assembled Saints, which faith seals the "sure word of prophecy" pronounced upon the head of the child, and also gives more abundant power to the officiating High Priest or Elder to manifest the pleasure of the Lord with regard to it. And again the blessing thus given in the presence of the Church recorder, and thereof in less likelihood of the record being omitted or errors entering therein than there would be should it be attended to at home, as in all other things the path of salvation is the path of safety. The nature of the work of the spirit and genius of His Church founded upon the rock of His revealed word, compels us to smother the brethren to have a care, lest in giving expression to their private opinions they advance theories opposed to the revealed word and will of the Lord; this is no man justified. No man is authorized to teach to the Church new or advanced doctrines except the presidency thereof. Let it come from the head, and to point must the members of the Church look for knowledge, wisdom and doctrine and principles. Did every man holding a portion of the Priesthood have the right to advance doctrines for the advancement of the Church, it would be chaos, our name would be Babylon, and it could no longer be said that God's house is a house of order, we should be like the rest of the world, one man's opinion would be as good as that of another; there would be no rallying point, no organized authority, no head; on the contrary we should be weak indeed.

Then let us not stray from well defined landmarks. If, in the judgment of God and the growth, cause and development of His kingdom, we need further light and intelligence on doctrine, it will be given to us, and it will come through the proper and duly pointed authority.

JOHN TAYLOR,
In behalf of the Council of the Apostles.

POLAR EXPLORATION.

To reach the North Pole has been the summit of the ambition of many adventurous spirits and celebrated navigators. In spite of repeated failures, and the suffering and death of hardy explorers who have sacrificed a life to the cause of geographical science, ambition for the honor of solving the problem still fires many hearts, new projects are formed to overcome the barriers which nature has set up around the object of their desire.

James Gordon Bennett, to whom enterprise the success of Stanley Africa is principally due, wishes make a dash for the Pole with his own providing. His success would be hailed with even greater delight, and crowned with brighter laurels than have glorified achievements in Central Africa.

The plan known as the Howe method of approaching the Pole

receiving very favorable consideration. Captain Howgate proposed the establishment of a colony at Lady Franklin's Bay, as a base of operations and supplies; attempts to be made to reach the Pole from this point as circumstances justify, and communication to be kept up periodically with home from the colony.

But Dr. Hayes, who in 1850 penetrated to the farthest point northward that had then ever been reached—within 480 miles of the Pole, and who claims to be the first to suggest the colony scheme, states that Howgate's selection of the spot a bad one. He prefers the entrance to Smith's Sound. The former is in latitude 82 degrees and beset with obstacles likely to cause long detention. The latter is situated about nine degrees nearer south, and communication with home could be kept up without difficulty. During the summer, ample provisions can be obtained in the shape of birds and reindeer, while seals and walruses and Polar bears can easily be captured, and game and moss make the valleys pleasant. Dr. Hayes says the dangers of Arctic navigation have been vastly exaggerated, that they are no greater in a voyage to Smith's Sound than in a trip to Liverpool, and that the chances between being wrecked among icebergs and along the shore are in favor of the ice. He thinks notably, that is, home sickness, far more injurious to the cause of Arctic discovery than that dreaded disease among mariners, the scurvy. He would therefore establish the colony where new recruits could be easily obtained, if necessary every year.

Dr. Hayes maintains the existence of an open Polar sea, and has no confidence in the paleoceanic theory of Captain Nares, which he thinks merely an excess of ice encountered by the British commander under exceptional circumstances. He thinks that the Pole can be reached in a stout steamer, well coaled and manned, commanded by a captain who will push out into the open Polar sea, risking the closing of the ice-pack, and crying "The Pole or perdition!" So the Dr. explained to a reporter of the New York Herald.

It is impossible to say what benefits would arise from complete Polar navigation. But it is evident that there are influences at work urging adventurous minds to open up the unknown parts of the globe. There is nothing hid but it shall be made manifest in this stage of development—the dispensation of the fullness of times. Ambition for fame and renown, and the desire to grasp knowledge hitherto unattained, prompt the great explorers and discoverers of the world to their labors and risks. But all their works are overruled by a Superior Power, and tend to accomplish the designs of the Eternal Father in the development and final glory of the planet on which we live, and which the just and the meek will ultimately inherit "from Pole to Pole and from shore to shore."

BY TELEGRAPH.

PER WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE.

TO-DAY'S DISPATCHES.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, 22.—Dorsey introduced a bill to abolish the board of police commissioners of the District of Columbia; referred.

Eaton submitted a preamble and resolution declaring that it was alleged at the time of the admission of the United States of Connecticut, on the 11th of March, 1833, in Washington, was arrested and imprisoned without due process of law, and in violation of the rights of a citizen; that his kidnappers took away his person papers, and refused him the privilege of consulting with friends or council; therefore,

Resolved, That the judiciary committee be directed to inquire into the subject and report thereon, and that the committee have power to send for persons and papers, etc.

Consideration was postponed until Monday.

Hornford called up the resolution submitted by him yesterday, instructing the committee on finance to report, within one week, the House bill to repeal the specie resumption act, together with their action thereon, if any shall have been had.

EASTERN.

Congressional Business.

NEW YORK, 22.—The World's Washington special says: There is a disposition manifested to dispose of the legitimate business of the session of Congress and adjourn by the middle of June.

The Gold in the Vaults—See Phoenix.

The Tribune says: Ewing and Chittenden, of the House of Representatives, visited the sub-Treasury and were shown the vaults containing the money in the vaults. The work has been in progress since the 12th, when a special commission sent from Washington by the Secretary of the Treasury, began a thorough investigation of everything connected with the office here. The amount in the vaults, the coin, is \$100,000,000 will probably be completed to-day. The largest part of the coin is now, never having been in circulation. The coin in the New York sub-Treasury is \$250,000 in gold, and all the time being computed of million English sovereigns. Congressmen say: "An express great surprise at so much actual coin on hand, and admitted that it fully disposed of the charge made against Sherman that his reports referred to 'phantom' gold."

A Good Impression.

The Herald's Washington special says: Sherman's conversation with the Senate finance committee was read, to-day, with great curiosity by senators and representatives. It produced a strong impression of confidence in the future, and its influence upon the moderate silver men is very good.

Constitution of National Bank.

A Columbia dispatch says: The foreign Assembly of South Carolina, yesterday, by an overwhelming vote, in the face of a most determined opposition on the part of those who may be properly called the radical Democracy, passed a preamble and resolution directed to the constitution of the national sentiment of the country. The preamble recited that while adher-

ing steadfastly to the determination that the leaders in the system of plunder whereby the country of the States was dismembered, should be brought to well-merited punishment, it is not desired that vengeance should be visited upon those who were but the instruments of the master spirit. The resolution is as follows:

Resolved, By the House of Representatives, that his excellency the governor, that he execute the judgment in case he deems it expedient, to issue an order of nodes against to be entered in any of the presentations brought, or which may be brought by the State, based upon the facts found by the joint investigating committee on public frauds:

The Case Examination:

Ewing and Chittenden, of the committee on banking and currency, of the House of Representatives, presented a resolution of censure in the sub-treasury, and a number of leading bankers, D. Babcock, John A. Stewart, James M. Brown, Jacob D. Vowles, Benjamin B. Sherman, and George H. Williams, were invited to meet the committee in the office of assistant treasurer. H. G. Miller, chairman of the conference, was held, lasting about an hour, during which Mr. Ewing asked a number of questions, chiefly in regard to the amount of gold which would probably be necessary for the suspension of specie payments. Secretary Sherman's plan of reconstruction was named in reply, but it was intimated that the passage of the silver bill had considerably changed the condition of affairs, and that \$75,000,000 in United States bonds had come back from Europe. The examination of all the statements, made in the sub-Treasury, by Secretary Sherman's commission, had been completed. The amount of gold coin sealed up in the vaults exclusive of loose gold and bullion, is \$97,000,000.

\$25,000 fine.

ELMIRA, N. Y., 22.—John L. Wicks' tobacco factory was burned; loss \$35,000.

The New Postal Bill.

CHICAGO, 22.—The Tribune's Washington letters and telegrams from all parts of the country show that publishers and news dealers are actively at work to have their views, regarding the proposed changes in the sub-Treasury, by Secretary Sherman's commission, made known to the public. James Medill, now here, will appear to-morrow at the Western Associated Press.

A Student Answer Wanted.

A telegram to Political Correspondence declares that England has asked Russia for a definite answer which would show that the difference between Austria and Russia is not so acute, but an impression is prevalent in Vienna that Russia will give the required assurance when the treaty is formally delivered in London, probably on Saturday.

The Iron Trade.

The iron trade in south Yorkshire is in a most stagnant condition.

Large numbers of men are out of work. Within the past few days two of the leading works in Rotherham have stopped owing to a scarcity of orders, and another 1,000 men are made idle in these establishments.

The Midland Iron Company had, during the last ten years, paid dividends averaging 50 per cent. per annum. It is feared that the company will stop the reduction of wages. In that event 30,000 men will be unemployed.

No Student Answer.

A telegram to Political Correspondence says: Although Russia is reported to have implicitly admitted to some of the powers, and especially to Austria, that the congress had power to discuss what points of the treaty were of European interest, in consequence of the irritation engendered during the discussion, Russia has not yet given a similar assurance to Austria.

The Congress will be convened.

A Vienna correspondent says:

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