

## CURRENT COMMENT.

There seems to be much ill feeling engendered among the rival biographers of the late Henry Ward Beecher by the early publication of the work of Assistant Pastor Halliday and Dr. Lyman Abbott. Mark Twain thought he had the inside track, having effected an understanding with Mrs. Beecher, but he has been anticipated by Halliday, and now Joseph Howard is to bring out a biography, and several other persons are in the field. After all, the public will be the judge and will buy the best book. There will be a regular battle of books of this description during the summer.

"Bonnie Annie Laurie" was some years ago a very popular tune so much so that it is said that whole regiments of soldiers used to join in singing it before the bastions of Sebastopol. But it remained for a citizen of Hannibal, Missouri to cap the climax. An exchange of recent date says: John Russell ate his dinner in his room over his store, went down stairs, wound up a music box, placed his coat on the floor, seated himself on a low box, placed the muzzle of a revolver in his left temple and let daylight through his head. His spirit took its departure to the strains of "Bonnie Annie Laurie," which the music box was playing at the time.

A dispatch dated Vallejo, May 19th, says: A telegram was received at the Navy Department two weeks ago which stated that Lieutenant M. K. Schwenk had accidentally shot himself while on duty as officer of the watch on the *Alert*. Mail advices just received put a more serious light on the matter. While on duty on the vessel Lieutenant Schwenk stooped to pick up a revolver which proved to have been tied in such a manner that when lifted a bowline slipped over the trigger, causing its discharge. Commander Graham reports that there can be no doubt there was a plan to assassinate some officer of the vessel, and that he has ordered a searching investigation. Lieutenant Schwenk was seriously wounded in his left wrist, and blood poisoning is feared.

A correspondent of the *Butte Miner* writing from Horse Plains, May 19th, says: Some time ago the Indian who killed James Rusk at Spokane Falls a year ago, was hiding between Missoula and Horse Plains. Deputy Baldwin, from Spokane Falls, found his man here to-day in James McCruas' store. Baldwin proceeded at once to make the arrest, when the Indian jumped through the store window followed by Baldwin. The latter fired five shots when the Indian turned on him with a knife. Then Baldwin took action in earnest and killed the Indian, with the sixth shot, in his tracks. At this writing the town is full of Indians and as the whites are well armed they will get a good reception if they try any funny work. Mr. Baldwin deserved great credit for his prompt and effective action.

Quite a number of notices have recently appeared in our exchanges of a recent invention for pulverizing various substances. It is claimed that it works on the principle of a cyclone and that this artificial cyclone will, with the impponderable power of the air, shroud into all possible substances into infinitesimal particles; that barrels of nails and slag are, in the twinkling of an eye, reduced by it without the aid of tooth, stamp or roller to impalpable powder. We have not a very circumstantial description of the alleged cyclonic pulverizer before us, but presume it differs from the ordinary cyclone in being confined to a certain extent, that is that it is not turned loose, so to speak, and allowed to go around over the country promiscuously like John L. Sullivan, and if it is confined, the natural query arises what becomes of the substance by which it is boxed in?

The people of Kansas are in earnest in their attempts at prohibition, if we may judge from the new law enacted. Under its provisions a druggist can sell liquor only for medicinal purposes, and to do this he must obtain the signatures of twenty-five men and twenty-five women. He must be a graduate in pharmacy, of good moral character, have a stock of goods exclusive of liquors valued at not less than \$1,000, and he must not himself use intoxicants as a beverage. He must also give a bond in the sum of \$1,000 for faithful compliance with the law. The man who purchases the liquor must obtain a permit from the county judge, which is furnished free of charge, providing the applicant makes affidavit that the liquor is to be used as medicine, stating under oath the nature of the disease.

A subscriber to the *World* residing in Moscow, Russia, sends us his copy of the weekly edition of March 17th after its passage through the hands of the Government censor. A column and a half cable account of the student plot against the Czar's life is completely blotted out. This letter was printed conspicuously on the first page of the *World*. The Russian post office official who looks after these things, first smeared the printed matter with a delicate network of muckage and then covered it with a fine black sand. The obliteration was complete. In this condition the paper was transmitted to the subscriber. It is a beautiful testimonial to the survival of tyranny in this age of enlightenment. The Russian officials should keep an eye on the *World*. If ever this liberty-loving, tyrant-hating, Czar-despising newspaper gets a good, firm hold on Muscovite territory, the house of Romanoff will have to emigrate.—*New York World*.

There has been very pronounced opposition to the proposition granting woman suffrage ever since it was first broached. One of the most powerful arguments usually brought to bear against it, is the demoralizing effect it would have upon the ladies. On this point it has been aptly observed that the woman who lives with a man 364 days in the year is not very likely to be degraded to any alarming extent by voting with him on the 365th.

A Virginia (Nev.) dispatch dated May 19, says a shocking and probably fatal accident occurred to an Italian named Jacobini, a wood teamster, yesterday afternoon, on the road between Como and Dayton. Driving down a steep grade he "lost his brake," in consequence he pitched forward over the end of his wagon among the animals. One of them, a mule, began kicking, and before the man could be rescued his head and face were cut in a shocking manner. One of his eyes was hanging down on his cheek, he had a frightful cut across his forehead, and the lower part of his face about the chin seemed all kicked to pieces.

## QUARTERLY CONFERENCE.

RICHFIELD, Sevier County,  
May 24th, 1887.

Editor *Deseret News*:

The Sevier Stake quarterly conference was held in Richfield on Saturday and Sunday, the 21st and 22d inst., under the presidency of Counselor A. K. Thurber, Counselor Wm. H. Segmiller being also present. There was a numerous attendance of officers and members from far and near within the limits of Sevier Stake. The wards were well represented and the conference was addressed by quite a pleasing and instructive variety of youthful Elders, Seventies and High Priests, some of whom had had experience in missionary labor in the eastern states and in distant lands. Among the rest was Elder Edward Newby, recently arrived from a three years' mission to New Zealand. He gave a glowing description of the natives and the very gratifying success which had attended his labors among them.

We received excellent counsel and appropriate instruction from our brethren of the Stake Presidency, and Bishops Bean and Blackburn, and Elders Albert D. Thurber, Leo A. and Victor Bean, Judge Heppler and others.

The statistical report was read on Saturday, and the authorities, general and local, were sustained unanimously. Excellent music, vocal and instrumental, was discoursed by the choir, and altogether, it was a very edifying and pleasing reunion of the Saints, cordially appreciated by old and young, and although observed, yet not molested by any untoward influence.

The following brethren were appointed and set apart as Home Missionaries in Sevier Stake: Theodore Bradley, Edward Newby and Jas. B. Morrison.

Your brother in the Gospel,  
WILLIAM MORRISON,  
Stake Clerk.

## THE ORIGIN OF GEOMETRY.

THE DISCOVERY OF ITS PRINCIPLES  
ASCRIBED TO THE ANCIENT  
EGYPTIANS.

The origin of this science is ascribed to the Egyptians, who, having their landmarks annually washed away by inundations, in efforts to devise a plan for readily restoring them, discovered the principles of geometry. From them Thales, of Miletus, one of the "seven wise men" of Greece, is said to have learned the elements of the science. He introduced it into Greece about 600 B. C. Pythagoras, half a century later, having also learned the science of the Egyptians, enriched it by the proposition which still bears his name, to wit, that the square described on the hypotenuse of a right-angled triangle is equal to the sum of the squares on the other two sides.

Plato, about 390 B. C., invented the study of conic sections, and through these and the use of the analytic method of demonstration, he made great advances in the science. The elements of geometry were compiled by Euclid, 286 B. C. This author introduced a device of reasoning that has been found very useful where neither direct proof (the synthetic method) or the analytic method could be readily used; it consists in proving the truth of a proposition by assuming it contrary as truth and showing that this implies a logical absurdity. Apollonius was a geometer who lived about 230 B. C., and whose work in the science has not been surpassed by the most brilliant achievements of others since. Archimedes, a contemporary of Apollonius, first inscribed polygons in circles. Hipparchus, in the second century before Christ, and Ptolemy in the second century after Christ, applied mathematics to astronomy.

From about 500 to 1000 A. D., during the darkness of the Middle Ages, the science made no advance and was little studied. Vieta, who lived from 1540 to 1603, revived the ancient geometry. The demonstrations of Kepler, Koberval and Pascal in the seventeenth century greatly stimulated geometrical investigation. But to Descartes, who published a volume of

geometrical problems in 1637, the world owes chiefly the invention of an analytic of modern geometry. Newton discovered the differential calculus in 1665. In 1799 the first descriptive geometry was published in Paris by Prof. Monge.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*.

## OLE BULL AND ERICSSON.

HOW THE GREAT VIOLINIST TOUCHED  
THE INVENTOR'S HEART WITH  
HIS MUSIC.

In conversation a few evenings ago a distinguished chemist and physician, who is also an enthusiastic and critical lover of music, told an interesting story about Ole Bull and John Ericsson, the great inventor.

It seems that they were friends in early life, but drifted apart and did not meet again until each had become famous. Bull had charmed the ear of admiring thousands all over the civilized world, while the part the great mechanic played in naval warfare during the rebellion roused the North to enthusiasm and startled the world.

Bull, happening to be in New York on a concert tour, determined to look up his old friend and renew the acquaintance. He found him in his workshop, surrounded by tools, machinery, designs, models, and materials used in mechanical construction, directing the labors of a corps of assistants.

When taking his leave Bull invited Ericsson to attend his concert that night. Ericsson, however, declined, saying he had no time to waste.

Their acquaintance being thus renewed, Bull continued to call on his old friend when visiting New York, and usually when taking his leave would ask Ericsson to attend his concert, but Ericsson always declined the invitation.

Upon one occasion Bull pressed him urgently, and said:

"If you do not come, I shall bring my violin here and play in your shop."

Ericsson replied gruffly:

"If you bring the thing here I shall smash it to pieces."

Here were two men the very opposite of each other. Bull an impulsive, romantic dreamer; Ericsson stern, thoughtful, practical, proving every movement with mathematical precision.

Bull's curiosity was aroused to know what effect music would have upon the grim, matter-of-fact man of squares and circles. So, taking his violin with him, he went to Ericsson's shop. He had removed the strings, screws and apron, so that the violin would appear to be in bad condition.

As he entered the shop, noticing a displeased expression on Ericsson's face, Bull called his attention to certain defects in the instrument, and, speaking of its construction, asked Ericsson about the scientific and acoustic properties involved in the grain of certain woods. From this he passed on to a discussion of sound-waves, tones, semi-tones, etc.

To illustrate his meaning, he replaced the strings, and improvising a few chords, drifted into a rich melody.

The workmen charmed; dropped their tools, and stood in silent wonder.

He played on and on, and when finally he ceased, Ericsson raised his bowed head, and, with moist eyes, said:

"Do not stop. Go on! Go on! I never knew until now what there was lacking in my life."

## Bee Notes.

Foul brood among bees has been in some places a serious difficulty to beekeepers. But care and thoroughness can, in most cases, keep it out, or eradicate it when it appears. Some of our beekeepers who have had to contend with the disease tell us that salicylic acid or phenol, used according to their direction, is a sure cure.

In spring, the entrance of all hives should be contracted to suit the size of the colony, and make all tight and warm over the bees. Guard all the weak colonies very carefully, and contract the hive room to accommodate the size of the cluster of bees. Take away extra combs, but leave plenty of honey. During cold, windy days, discourage their flying by shading the entrance of the hives.

No business can succeed in the long run which does not give fair profit. Without going wild over the reports of the immense profits realized in a few instances from keeping bees, there seems no doubt that when taken up as a regular business, and intelligently pursued from year to year, it will pay a profit as large as most other callings. Possibly, for a few years those already in the business, and following it with energy, may make a larger profit than most rural industries give. But this will not continue long. Labor and capital will flow in this direction until profits are realized.

The modern improvements in beekeeping, including the movable comb hive, the honey extractor, comb foundation and the safe methods of wintering, make it a pursuit which may be indefinitely developed. Indeed it may be so followed that, from its wide diffusion over our country and from the value of its products, it may be truly called a great national industry. The products of some kinds of labor, for instance some branches of fruit-growing, are so perishable that they must be sold as soon as ready for market, and as they will bear transportation but a short distance the producer is put to a great disadvantage. The products of bee-

keeping, honey and wax, may be kept an indefinite time and may be transported to all parts of the world.

## The Rebel Rifle.

The Lebel rifle, as the new arm is called, was invented by Lieutenant-Colonel Lebel, principal of the artillery school at Chalons. Its remarkable qualities are lightness, long range and extraordinary penetrating power. According to the scientific researches of the mathematician, Prof Hebler, it was supposed that the absolutely perfect army rifle should be a weapon with a caliber of precisely seven millimeters. The Lebel rifle has not so small a caliber but offers the nearest approach to it yet made—viz: Eight millimeters. With this caliber the advantages are: a lighter cartridge; a greater penetrating power, and a much less liability of the missile to be deviated from its course by a strong wind.

The ball is so covered with steel and brass, as to enable it to preserve its form and to follow precisely the grooves of the barrel. Its initial velocity is exactly 100 meters per second greater than that of the Gras rifle, which had an initial velocity of 440 meters, while the Lebel boasts a velocity of 540 meters. It revolves upon itself 5,000 times per second—always traveling point first. At a distance of 1,800 meters its fire is as fatal as within a lesser distance; and as the line of the projectile is almost perfectly straight, extraordinary hits can be made at immense ranges. To obviate the shock of recoil consequent upon so prodigious an expelling force, a special powder has been invented by Colonel Brugere, which detonates progressively without smoke and with comparatively little noise. The shooter feels the weapon push—does not feel a sudden and painful jar. Three wooden shields placed at about twenty-five yards apart were easily pierced in a straight line by one rifle shot—the ball traveling on five hundred meters further without changing its course to strike the outlying target aimed at precisely in the center. The movable breech piece is shorter than in the Gras rifle, but offers a greater resistance and the recoil follows the axis of the weapon.

On finding themselves in possession of so extraordinary an arm, it was for some time a question with the military authorities whether or not to adopt it in its simplest form, as the best of single-shot breech loaders. But as Austria is adopting the Mannlicher repeater, Italy the Vitall repeater, Germany the Mauser magazine gun, it seemed necessary to make the Lebel a repeater also; as troops armed with a single shot rifle only, however good, would easily become demoralized by the mere conviction that they were face to face with enemies armed with magazine guns.—*English Paper*.

## He Understood the Racket.

"If you are going around alone you had better look out for confidence men," said the special officer at the Detroit Grand Haven and Milwaukee depot to a green-looking young man who was waiting to go to Pontiac.

"Oh, I know all about that racket," replied the stranger as he slanted his hat a little higher over his ear.

"All right; don't blame me."

The young man went up Brush Street and was gone three-quarters of an hour, and when he returned he said to the officer:

"I'll have to wait over until to-morrow to get a check cashed."

"Have you got a check?"

"Yes—look here. Lent a fellow \$32 to pay duties on some horses, and he gave me his check for \$60. Purty good exchange for a greenhorn, eh?"

"Youngman, you have been confided in!"

"No!"

"But you have! That check is worthless! I told you to beware of the confidence game."

"And I did. No one has had my confidence. This is simply a business transaction. I lent him \$32 in cash and he gives me his check for \$60. Where's the confidence about that?"

The matter was explained to him, and the way he started for police headquarters made the sidewalk smoke.—*Detroit Free Press*.

## The Queen's Pipe.

In the centre of the tobacco warehouses at the London docks there is an immense kiln, which is kept constantly burning day and night, and goes by the name of the queen's pipe. The English government has a different way of treating confiscated articles than that in use in this country, one of them being to utilize them as fuel for what is termed the queen's smoking. Whenever merchandise is seized for non-payment of duty, or because it is considered under the law as in a damaged or unsalable condition, it is taken to this great kiln and is burned there, the owners having no remedy. The only utilization that is made of these seizures is from the sale of the ashes from the furnace, which, to the amount of a great many tons a month, are sold by auction to chemical works, and to farmers and others to be used in enriching the soil.

From Phillipsburg, Pa., Mr. S. M. Cross, writes, briefly and pointedly, thus: "Your St. Jacobs Oil has cured me of neuralgia of the face and head." Price Fifty cents.

Interesting Items from the Far East.

The steamer *Gaelic* arrived at San Francisco May 21st, bringing news from Hongkong to April 23 and Yokohama to May 4th, as follows:

The hills around Peking are covered with snow and rain has injured the roads by which the Emperor traveled. It is reported that one official has committed suicide in consequence and another is said to have fled to escape punishment.

Three notable pirates, who had been captured by the soldiers in one of the villages near Bocca Tigris, after a vigorous resistance, have been brought to Canton and handed over to the authorities. They will be summarily dealt with at an early date.

General Liu Yung-fu, the Black Flag leader, has not yet returned here from Kwangse. Evidently he is in no hurry to comply with the directions of the Viceroy, which were to return to this city in order to go to Hainan to command his troops against the rebels there.

The American ship *Hagarston* was put up at auction at Shanghai on the 18th inst., by Wheelock & Co. There was a good attendance, but the bidding was not very spirited, the highest offer made reaching only 6,500 taels. As the lowest valuation placed on the ship is 12,000 taels she was withdrawn.

News has been received from Yunnan that there has been much popular opposition to the erection of the telegraph wire at Tating-fu in the south of that province. The workmen have been attacked and the foreigner in charge has also been threatened. Work has been suspended, and the magistrates are occupied in trying to pacify the people, who allege that the Feng Shui is interfered with by the telegraph poles.

Referring to the wreck of the *Abbie Carter* the *Amoy Gazette* says: There is a remote chance of the crew having found shelter on Botel Tobago, an island to the southward of the scene of the wreck, but it is hardly likely. All would, naturally, depend upon the direction of the wind, and as statements, so far, point to a southerly gale, it is much to be feared that the boats were swamped as soon as the storm approached typhoon force.

## FROM THE FOUR WINDS.

Furnival won a five-mile scratch bicycle race in England, doing the last quarter on a grass course, in 39s., at the rate of 2m. 36s. for the mile.

The eastern trunk lines have reduced the rate on dressed sheep to 65 cents from Chicago to New York, before the interstate law went into effect it was 99 cents.

T. J. Coffee, of Ponca, Neb., has just bought a mammoth New Jersey cow, which measures seven feet high and eleven feet long. He is feeding her with a view of putting her on exhibition.

Woodside and Howell have signed articles for a series of five bicycle races, 1, 5, 10, 20 and 25 miles each for £20 a side, the first and longest to take place May 21 on the Belgrave grounds, Leicester.

Queen Victoria has arranged for a series of state banquets at St. James palace. Now she has horrified English society by announcing that every guest must pay a certain sum for each plate. This has astonished even "the nation of shopkeepers."

George Francis Train says that thirteen years ago he ate meat and weighed 110 pounds. Since that time he has lived on fruit and weighs 180. He is six feet high and believes he has the true Apollo proportions. George is queer.

The convicts in the Massachusetts state prison have revolted against brown bread and baked beans as dietary articles. Something must be radically wrong with the old commonwealth when a select coterie of its citizens go back on their time-honored feed.

M. Taine, in his monogram on Napoleon I., says that the Napoleonic wars from 1804 to 1815 cost the lives of in the limits of old France and 200,000 more than 1,700,000 Frenchmen born outside those limits were slain either for him as allies or by him as enemies.

At a negro wedding in Georgia recently, when the words "love honor and obey" were reached, the groom interrupted the preacher and said: "Read that again sah; read it once mo' so's de lady kin catch de full solemnity of de meaning. I'se been married before."

Twenty States of the Union now observe a day in each year as Arbor day. Massachusetts fell into line a couple of weeks ago. Trees are needed in northern New England to cover the stony lands abandoned by the hardy sons of toil who have gone west in search of richer soils.

April reports of crop conditions in Europe were as follows: In France the weather has been cold and dry and vegetation progresses slowly. Fall wheat is very backward. In Germany the weather was more favorable, but vegetation was backward. In Austria-Hungary everything was backward. In Russia cold, wet weather retarded work and vegetation was backward. In Great Britain the weather was generally unfavorable.