



ELIAS SMITH, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Wednesday, January 2, 1861.

To our Patrons and Friends.

We wish you a happy New Year, with prosperity, severally according to your deserts.

PASSING EVENTS.

According to Catholic and Protestant reckoning, the memorable year eighteen hundred sixty ended at twelve o'clock on the night of Monday last, and was immediately succeeded by the year eighteen hundred sixty-one, without producing any perceptible effect upon those who were waiting for the event. The scenes that have transpired since the first day of January last have been very important, and will unavoidably exert a material influence upon the affairs of the human race in time to come; but whether or not they have been of the nature anticipated by those who have been looking for and anxiously waiting for the termination of the "thousand two hundred and ninety days," we have not been advised. Be that as it may, some of the things that have come to pass during the year will not, in all probability, soon be forgotten by those who were cognizant of their occurrence.

In prophetic numbers we never professed to be skilled, though somewhat mathematically inclined, consequently never spent much time in endeavoring to ascertain at what particular time any foretold or anticipated event might be expected to transpire; and although many were predicting that the year which has just passed away would be unusually eventful, we had no particular assurance that the Union would be dissolved in the course of the year, nor that the revolution in Italy would so far advance, before twelve months should pass away, as to overthrow the kingdom of Naples; annihilate the temporal power of the Holy See, and cause Europe to shake from centre to circumference, fearing that some of the cherished institutions in that quarter of the globe would soon cease to exist. Notwithstanding, however, that no assurance was had that either of those events would come to pass in eighteen hundred sixty, they have actually transpired, and have become matters of history to which nations yet unborn will unquestionably refer as having had a material influence thereafter in directing the affairs of the children of men.

It is true that the government of the United States has not absolutely and completely been overthrown and dissolved, but the "indissoluble" cord that bound the States together has been broken, and such are the antagonistic feelings existing between the parties that brought about the severance, there are no good reasons for believing that the bonds that once united them together can ever again be cemented by any compromise that may be proposed; but the indications are that the breach which has been effected between the North and the South will continue to widen, and that two or more nations will be formed out of the fragmentary portions of the once glorious republic. That is what has long been looked for, and which those familiar with the history of man and with the rise and fall of nations, could have predicted with much certainty, without the aid of any prophetic gift with which they may have been endowed. No people as divided in sentiment and interest as have been the people of the United States for these many years, with the light and knowledge which they have possessed, have ever continued for any great length of time to constitute one nation; and no government professedly free or representative, as corrupt as has been that of the United States for the last quarter of a century at least, ever continued long after it had reached and passed the culminating point of its power and greatness; but as soon as its star of glory began to wane, it went rapidly to decay.

With this view of the subject, if any person had predicted within the last few years the dissolution of the Union during Buchanan's administration, we should not have considered

that the individual had fully established his character as a genuine prophet by the literal fulfillment of his predictions, under the circumstances that have existed.

In making these remarks, we do not wish to be understood as speaking aught against the spirit of prophecy. We firmly believe, and verily know, that when inspired by the spirit of truth and light, men have seen and foretold future events with great minuteness and certainty, and so far as time has elapsed, they have been literally fulfilled, and no doubts are entertained as to the like fulfillment of things in the future, which have thus been foretold, when the time shall arrive for their consummation. The things that are now transpiring were foretold by the Prophet Joseph long ago, and that, too, at a time when to a common observer, and to a disbeliever in revelation, their fulfillment might have been considered improbable if not impossible. No day nor hour was set or specified when they would be present or come to pass, neither how many years or days would pass away before their fulfillment would be completed; but the prophecy was none the less true, as all will doubtless admit who may live to see the end of the things spoken of, and that may to any extent experience the effects their transpiration will produce upon those who have been directly instrumental in bringing about the existing state of things, and upon those who have not heeded the warning voice and hid themselves before it was too late to escape the evils that were approaching.

The dismemberment of the Union, with the distress that it has already brought upon the people, is only the beginning of the scenes of sorrow which may be expected to come upon the nation before the termination of the existing conflict, but of that it is not our desire to now speak so very particularly.

To the things that have been done, and to the events that are now transpiring, we can refer, without exercising our prophetic gift in speaking of things that are yet in the future, to any great extent; but we firmly believe that events in which this generation will have more than a passing interest will soon be presented for their consideration, which when they come to pass, may be considered as momentous as those that have been seen and realized during the year that has just passed away.

The whirlwinds, the hurricanes, the tornadoes, the storms, fires and tempests, together with other destructions and calamities that have come upon the people of the Dis-united States in the course of the last twelve months, aside from the evils growing out of the dissolution of the government, may and may not be repeated during the current year; but whether those judgments of the Almighty shall be continued to be poured out upon the people or not, there will unquestionably be plenty of business on hand for the consideration and action of the people of the several States that recently composed what was called the glorious Union, without making war upon the saints, or interfering with their social institutions, at an expense of fifty millions of dollars, which Mr. Buchanan seems to regret more than he does his gross administration of justice and the unblushing falsehoods he has published to the world from time to time about the Mormons, and particularly those he has told about their being in open rebellion against the government of the United States at the time he entered upon the discharge of his duties as chief magistrate of the nation, which under his administration has been brought to ruin and desolation.

We do not wish to cast reflections upon the unfortunate, but if the man who promised so much to those who elevated him to the executive chair, including, as understood, the destruction of the people of Utah, or their removal to some island in the Pacific, does not, after he retires from office on the fourth of March next, if he shall live till that time, have some bitter reflections about the course he has pursued, the lies he has told, and his complete failure to accomplish anything but the bankruptcy and disruption of the Union, we shall be mistaken in our conclusions. He has most certainly been an unfortunate ruler, and must inevitably retire from office in disgrace, unpitied and uncomplimented even by those who profess to be his political friends.

What may be expected to transpire in the course of the current year, those who have given the subject due consideration and have been fully advised in the premises may be able to tell, but we do not pretend to know;

tho' from what has recently taken place, it is but reasonable to suppose that its events will not be devoid of interest. The work of dissolution may be expected to progress in this American land, and the revolutionary movements that have recently been going on in Europe may not be expected to cease till the nations which have been making such extensive preparations for war, shall have use for all the munitions which they have prepared for the conflict which they seem to fear is fast approaching. The hearts of the children of men, and especially of their rulers, have evidently been of late filled with fear, and they have anticipated scenes of war and destruction, and been getting ready as fast as their circumstances would admit to take a hand in the work whenever the time shall come, be it sooner or later; and if the anticipated events shall not transpire, some of the people will be sadly disappointed.

In conclusion we hazard nothing in saying, that while the people and nations of the earth are warring among themselves, and seeking to destroy each other, peace according to the promise, may be expected to prevail in Utah; and the time may soon be present when those who will not take the sword to destroy their fellow men, shall flee hither for safety.

INTERESTING FROM THE EAST.

BY PONY EXPRESS.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE "NEWS."

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 18th, 1860.

Since my letter of last week, political matters have rushed along in the same direction. Senators and members of both sides giving vent to their feelings in unmeasured terms, and in unpoetical language. The tide of secession is rising, each wave rolling higher and higher. The committee of 33, of the House are hard at work, to get at some plan as a basis of compromise between North and South; but up to this date, have yet presented nothing. From them, propositions to amend the Constitution, may be expected.

Kellog, of Illinois, and others have introduced resolutions to the effect that constitutional amendments shall be made recognizing full sovereignty in the Territories—viz: permitting the citizens of the Territories to elect their own rulers, and their legislative acts, when within the limits of the Constitution, to be absolute, so far as Congressional interference is concerned, with a clause, that Congress shall admit new States, when applying for admission with Republican constitutions, and with a population equal to that now necessary to elect a representative.

For this progressive measure, Utah is deserving of credit. The able stand taken by Governor Young, and your legislature in that unanswerable memorial, remitted to Congress in '57, places Utah in the van of progress.

James Buchanan, poor old man, in the last hours of his reign, is truly to be pitied: one by one, his confidential advisers are leaving him. Cobb and Cass have resigned, and rumor has it that others will shortly follow.—Cobb's treasury was empty and he felt like leaving the sinking ship. General Cass urged the strengthening of the fortresses of South Carolina, but Mr. Buchanan could not imitate Old Hickory. Judge Black takes the place of Cass; Hon. P. T. Thomas, the place of Cobb. It is current that General Scott and President Buchanan had quite an exciting interview, to which is added the probable resignation of the veteran soldier, as he doubtless sustained the views of General Cass.

It is expected that South Carolina will formally leave the Union to-day. [She has now done so. Ed.] The telegraph this morning states that the convention will be driven from Columbia to Charleston by the ravages of the small pox, with which the former place is now scourged.

[Should Mr. Kellog, or any other Congressman, consider it necessary to amend the Constitution, in order to grant to the Territories the right to elect their own rulers, etc., as stated by our correspondent, we would modestly invite a careful re-reading of the Constitution, as that precious document is clear enough on that point. The Territories have already that right by the Constitution. It is only necessary for Congressmen to keep their heads clear and be honest. Ed.]

Dedication of the Thirteenth Ward Assembly Rooms.

Yesterday the citizens of the 13th Ward were assembled to participate in the services dedicating the fine building that has just been erected in that Ward.

Presidents Young and Kimball, Elders Woodruff and Snow, Bishop Woolley, and Elder Clinton, severally addressed the assembly.

We have a full report of the proceedings, but going early to press this week, forces us to defer its publication. It will appear in our next issue.

Legislative Proceedings.

There has not been much business done by the Legislative Assembly during the past week. In the Council, on Wednesday, Mr. Farr, chairman of the committee on incorporations, reported that the bill which had been passed by the House, repealing certain acts had been under consideration and no good reasons were seen why the Council should not concur in, and therefore recommended its passage. The bill was read the first and second time, and then laid on the table for further consideration.

In the House, Mr. Stout, chairman of the judiciary committee, to whom had been referred, a bill for an act regulating interest, reported the same with amendments. The bill was read, as amended, and passed its first reading. The bill in relation to Territorial and County revenue was called up, and after considerable discussion was had in relation to the subject, was indefinitely postponed.

In the Council, on Thursday, the 27th, the committee on revision and compilation, made report, and submitted a schedule containing the titles of acts and resolutions that had been repealed, were obsolete or had been superseded by others, which was read, accepted and referred to the committee on judiciary in connection with a bill for an act in relation to the compilation and revision of the laws and resolutions in force in the Territory.

In the House, on Thursday, Mr. Rockwood, from the penitentiary committee, to whom had been referred a bill for an act constituting the county jail of Carson a branch of the penitentiary, reported a bill as a substitute which was received, and tabled to come up in its order. Mr. Bullock presented a report from W. Marsden, clerk of the Utah county court in relation to Provo kanyon road, which report was referred to a special committee, composed of Messrs. Rockwood, Woolley and Stout. Mr. James presented a bill for an act concerning notaries public in Carson county, also a bill for an act awarding damages on judgments taken to the Supreme court for delay, both of which were read and passed their first reading. A bill for an act in relation to stray pounds, was presented by Mr. Bullock, read and referred to a special committee, consisting of Messrs. Benson, Bigler, Woolley and Moody. Mr. Wandell presented a bill for an act for the protection of school lands, which passed its first reading.

Sundry bills were taken from the table and discussed without much progress having been made with either. Among them was the bill for an act, constituting jails, prisons and for other purposes, which was ordered to be printed.

On Friday, in the Council, Mr. Smith presented a petition from the citizens of Cache county, asking for an appropriation of \$1,500 for the purpose of opening and keeping in repair a road from the mouth of Box Elder kanyon to Wellsville, in Cache county, which was referred to the appropriate committee. Mr. Smith also presented a petition from the citizens of Logan, asking for the passage of an act incorporating Logan City, which was referred to the committee on incorporations, with instructions to report a bill.

Several memorials were under consideration, and two or three communications from the Secretary were received and read, after which the bill repealing certain acts was taken from the table, and on its second reading did not pass. Adjourned till Thursday January 3d, 1861.

In the House on that day, Mr. Thurber presented a bill for an act in relation to actions on official bonds, which passed its first reading. A resolution was presented by Mr. Wandell, offering a reward for the discovery of a copper mine, which was referred to the committee on agriculture. A bill for an act concerning arrests was presented by Mr. Bullock, which passed its first reading.

Progress was made with several bills for acts; an account of T. McKean, Esq., for services as Territorial Marshal was presented and referred, and the bill regulating interest was taken up and lost on its second reading.

A memorial to Congress, asking for an appropriation to increase the Utah Library was received from the Council and concurred in unanimously. Communications were also received from the Council, informing the House that the memorial for Pony Express, and the bill repealing certain acts which had been passed by the House and sent to the Council had not been concurred in, and were returned.

In compliance with the request of the Council adjourned till Thursday next.