DESERET EVENING NEWS.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LESSEES.

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For the benefit of Utah patrons and friends and to meet the demands of [illegible] visitors to Chicago, the NEWS will be on sale at [illegible] of the principal Hotels and Book Stores of that city during the Fair season.

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All communications should be addressed to

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING Co.

Telephone [illegible].

A DAY OF SADNESS.

This is the forty-ninth anniversary of a day when, above all others in their history, the Latter-day Saints were stricken with terrible grief. Forty-nine years ago yesterday occurred that memorable and sorrowful event, the martyrdom of the Prophet and Patriarch, Joseph and Hyrum Smith; but it was the following day that the news was spread among the Saints at Nauvoo and in the vicinity, and a whole people were plunged into the deepest grief. On the morning of June 28, 1844, Elder Willard Richards, leaving President John Taylor, who was wounded nigh unto death, in the care of friends, started for Nauvoo in a wagon, conveying the bodies of the murdered Prophet and Patriarch of the Church of Christ. Elder Richards and his sacred charge were met by thousands of sorrow-stricken Saints, and conveyed to the homes made desolate by hands imbrued in the blood of innocence.

Many and great have been the changing scenes of life through which the Saints have passed since that time of unspeakable grief. The majority of those personally acquainted with the martyrs have followed them to the spirit world. A new generation has grown up and been numbered with the people of Zion, and thousands of honest-hearted among the nations have listened to the Gospel message, for the testimony to which the blood of Joseph and Hyrum was shed. Yet today, wherever Saints of God are found, the hearts of young and old are tinged with inexpressible sadness when their minds revert to the tragic scene that was enacted at Carthage, Illinois, on June 27, 1844. Those who in this age have obeyed the Gospel of Christ have had to bear the scorn, and reviling, and hatred of the world, as did their brethren and sisters in the same cause in the early Christian Church; and no men in ancient or modern times have been more relentlessly persecuted for the testimony of Jesus than were the Prophet Joseph and Patriarch Hyrum during the few years allotted to them on earth, and in which they sought to proclaim the Gospel of peace and salvation to mankind.

The details of the awful crime of their assassination, and the failure to punish the perpetrators, are matters of history, oft related, which will keep fresh in the minds of the Latter-day Saints the memory of Martyrs' Day. The Prophet Joseph and Patriarch Hyrum have passed from the sphere of mortality. But their work still lives, and will continue, for their labors were in the service of Jehovah. Their testimony stands an unimpeachable witness with that of the innocent blood of all the martyrs under the altar which John the Revelator saw, for the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and their example of humility before God, of fidelity to the cause of truth, and of sublime faith in the risen Redeemer, is a call to righteous lives that finds sympathetic response in the heart of every follower of the Lord.

THE SOLONS ON TAXATION.

The City Council last evening was wrestling with the matter of taxation and the proceedings were strictly characteristic. With but few exceptions the question of expenditure seemed the prevailing feature. The matter was not disposed of but will be the bone of contention for at least one and it may be several more meetings at the rate of one hundred dollars per meeting.

One member thought it better to give men employment than to fill up the city with thieves and tramps, and if we must accept of the alternative undoubtedly he is right. But [illegible] a commonly [illegible] yet pay an undesirable class of people a fixed price to be let alone, and make a commercial success of it? It is only necessary to let it be known that in Salt Lake a "[illegible]" gets a job to prevent him from plying his regular calling, and there will be an influx of that class such as will make it necessary to provide some more offices to be filled at the people's expense. Indeed, it is partly shown that many of those who are holding places now belong to that very element, to the detriment of our financial system and the deprivation of upright, bona fide citizens who are unable to obtain employment. Will such a wrong be cured or even palliated by providing for its continuance? Apart from this, is it right or just that such a system find favor at all? The reply of another member, that it was just such characters that were being employed, while perhaps a little too general in its application, could not have been wide of the mark.

The following words of Mr. Kerrick have the right ring:

I don't believe we can stand any increase of taxation. The financial condition of the people and the country won't warrant it. I am in favor of cutting down expenses. We have to do it or we will bankrupt the people. We can easily do away with one-fourth of the fellows who hold tax offices. Why it is outrageous, criminal, to get up here and spend about the necessity of improvements under the present financial [illegible]. It [illegible] money does not go back to the people. It goes to the men who come in here and stay for a month or two for certain purposes and then get out again. They are not the taxpayers, they are not the people, and they are not desirable citizens.

There are precious few people who will have the temerity to criticise those remarks, and none at all but those that are personally interested in maintaining any kind of system, however vicious or corrupt, that keeps them and theirs in place.

GOING AHEAD RAPIDLY.

Some mail matter for the NEWS office which left Liverpool at [illegible] p. m. on Saturday week—the 17th—reached this city at [illegible] o'clock this (Wednesday) morning, having thus made the trip from the west of England metropolis across the Atlantic, through the broad belt of states, past the plains and into the mountains to its destination in the wonderful time of a fraction over ten days—more than five hundred miles a day! Think of it, ye pioneers and men of earlier times, ye who plodded along from the Father of Waters to the dome of the nation and thought you had done remarkably well if your day's score showed as many miles accomplished as that mail averaged every hour of its great trip!

Is this the ultimatum of rapid transcontinental transit, or merely an insight into the possibilities—an index to what is to follow? Unquestionably the latter. The faculty which enables man to bring forth new aids to progress from the caves of science does not diminish by use, it increases; the more we find out, the more there is to be found out and the abler we are to do it. The discovery of one hidden fact does not diminish the store but only adds to our ability to delve deeper; so that, twenty years from now, those of us who are alive and may have preserved this article will probably see or have our attention called to it, and we will look back to the present time and sympathize with those who had to get along with such painfully slow-going facilities. "Ten days from Liverpool to Salt Lake!" someone will then say; "why, what a vast amount of this precious life was consumed by the people then in transporting themselves from place to place, and what a slow-going pace the people then were held back to—and yet they seemed to think it fast! It is almost incredible." So it is, and people of the coming generation, in saying so, will be building wiser than they know, for their successors are likely to look back as sympathizingly upon them as they shall do upon us.

BAD COMPANY DECLINED.

It is the misfortune of some people to have bad friends, and it is the ill fortune of other people at times to be associated with bad company against their will and contrary to their expectation. A remarkable instance of being brought into bad surroundings without personal contamination occurred in the experience of the late Emory A. Storrs, the eminent criminal lawyer of Chicago. A deputation of "tough" characters called to retain him in an unsavory case in which they or their friends figured as defendants; his price was $10,000 and he would not abate a jot of that figure. In vain did they expostulate and entreat, and finally, in reply to a statement that it was more than twice as much as he had ever charged before or than others had done the same work for, he said—"Very true; I charge [illegible] for professional services and [illegible] more for having to keep such company."

The NEWS yesterday took occasion to speak in terms of commendation of Governor Altgeld of Illinois for pardoning Fielden, Schwab and Neebe, the anarchists under life sentence in the penitentiary for complicity in the Haymarket riot some years ago. That they were tried at a time when men's passions in that neighborhood ran high and a thoroughly dispassionate proceeding was out of the question is well and seems to be a matter of common understanding. That a feeling of that kind would have some influence upon the judge who tried the case is also unquestionable; [illegible] he would be more or less than human were it otherwise. The officers, several of whose associates were killed or wounded, were naturally influenced and almost unavoidably active in securing evidence and aiding the prosecution in every practicable way. The newspapers took up the hue and cry, and Tray, Blanche and Sweetheart added their voices to the hoarse cry for revenge, some through sympathy with the bereaved, others because they believed the accused guilty, and others still because it was dangerous not to do so. We respectfully submit that this was not a proper condition of society in which to place men on trial for their lives, even though they were guilty. The theory of our criminal procedure is that no disadvantage shall be placed in the way of the accused and no unfair advantage in the hands of his accusers—a condition of things which was exactly reversed on the trial of the anarchists. At this distance we could comprehend the situation more clearly and calmly than those who were enveloped by it, and after the lapse of years, with all the [illegible] filled and the passions well-nigh dispelled, it is a reasonable conclusion that the people there look at things more calmly, more reasonably and without being influenced aggressively, whether in all cases they are willing to admit it or not. This being the case we regarded the governor's action as timely and proper and have no hesitation in reaffirming that belief.

Now comes the sequel. It did not keep us waiting long, so we are able to put this and that together while the distinctions are fresh. In New York is published a paper in the German language entitled *Freiheit* by a semi-outcast named Johann Most. It shrieked savagely for revenge and demanded rivers of blood because of the punishment of the anarchists. Judging from the press report as telegraphed the article justified the paper's suppression. It took its cue from the action of Governor Altgeld, and rejoicing first at the men's liberty, raved next because they were ever deprived of it and called for retribution for the hanging of the others. By some this may be spoken of as the kind of thing the NEWS proclaimed or endorsed; but such are painfully mistaken. This paper does not support or defend lawlessness in whatever form it may appear. It does not believe in the doctrine of anarchy nor some of the doings and sayings of anarchists—none of them that lead to illegality or disorder. It looks upon Most and his kind as so many living menaces to society, and if he is a citizen at all—which we doubt—is sorry that there is no law by which he could be expatriated. If anything could cause us to regret that the Illinois prisoners are free it would be the fear that they will not show their appreciation of the clemency extended by living lives exactly opposite to that of Herr Most.

THE TESTAMENT OF ABRAHAM.

A Testament of Abraham is referred to by Origen, Nicephorus and Athanasius among the apocryphal books of the Old Testament. An Apocalypse of Abraham is also mentioned by Epiphanius as being in the possession of the Sethites, an obscure Gnostic sect of the early ages of our era. But whether these two documents were identical is a matter of doubt.

It is now claimed that two Greek versions of the long-lost writing have been found, and the text is published by Mr. Montague Rhodes James, a well known English specialist.

The story treats entirely of the death of the venerable patriarch. Michael is first sent to him to announce that his end is approaching. The heavenly messenger in the form of a warrior appears to Abraham and is kindly treated, but he fails to deliver his message. When again in the presence of the Lord, he explains that he had not courage enough to tell the news to so pious a man. The Almighty then ordered him back again to perform his work and promised him to give to Isaac a dream which Michael is to interpret. This happens. Isaac dreams that he sees the sun and the moon above him and that a man comes and takes away the heavenly luminaries. Michael interprets this as meaning the death of Abraham and Sarah, but the patriarch refuses to follow the archangel. Michael reports the partial failure of his mission and is then told to show Abraham why he must submit to the common fate of mankind. Michael does as he is commanded, but now Abraham beseeches God to show him the entire world and the things that are therein, and the Lord grants his prayer. Among the things opened to his vision are the fates of men and the last judgment. Among others he sees a soul in which the good and the bad deeds exactly balance. At Abraham's request, Michael intercedes for this soul, and it is saved. Abraham is then taken home again. Michael then urgently reminds him that now he should consent to depart, but the patriarch [illegible] refuses to die, and Michael returns [illegible] to God. Then there comes another messenger, namely Death, who assumes the winning form of an archangel. Abraham still refuses to go. Then follows a long discussion between Abraham and Death, until the latter accomplishes his end by telling Abraham that he will receive life and strength if he will kiss his [illegible] hand. This the patriarch does, and at once dies. His soul is carried by Michael and a host of angels into Paradise, while his body is buried near the oak of Mamre.

This is a brief summary of the contents of the book as given in a paper in the *Independent* [illegible] of [illegible].

The document is of value chiefly as showing the character of religious thought among the people who accepted it as genuine and of the age in which it was written. It was no doubt an important writing at one time, however absurd some of its propositions now may seem.

Then, the existence of writings erroneously ascribed to Abraham makes it probable that the patriarch really must have left some records, of which the people who accepted the forged document had some traditional knowledge at least, or unless a genuine record had at some time existed, a forged one would have had but little chance of being accepted. Probably the genuine Book of Abraham was known by tradition among the earliest Christians, although all traces of it subsequently were lost, until the valuable book itself again was discovered by the Prophet of the nineteenth century.

THE NEWS has more than once alluded to the stoop-shouldered habit that bicycle-riding seems to have developed among devotees at the shrine of the silent steed. We are pained now to have to announce that this confirmed stoop has been traced to "dorsal curvature posteriorly, due to the more rapid development of the spinal column than the ligaments and muscles, by which equilibrium between these parts is more or less disturbed;" and has passed into medical classification as "kyphosis bicyclistarum." This is far worse than we ever dreamed of; but we gave fair warning, our conscience is clear.

SPEAKING of extra sessions of Congress, it is a little singular that President Cleveland is not alone in calling one to consider the financial condition of the country. Martin Van Buren, the only other New York Democratic President, did it shortly after his election.

MRS. LEASE, who divides with ex-Senator Ingalls the honor of being the favorite son of Kansas, told a Chicago audience last Sunday that there was not enough gold to fill the decayed teeth of the old women in America.

THE WONDERFULLY rapid increase in the number of lady dentists accounts in some degree for the decrease in the terrors of toothache.

A Pointer for Bicycle Riders.

Irvin W. Larimore, physical director of Y. M. C. A., Des Moines, Ia., says he can conscientiously recommend Chamberlain's Pain Balm to athletes, gymnasts, bicyclists, foot ball players and the profession in general for bruises, sprains and dislocations; also for soreness and stiffness of the muscles. Mr. Larimore has used two bottles of the Pain Balm and is enthusiastic in his praise of the remedy. When applied before the parts become swollen it will effect a cure in one-half the time usually required. It also cures rheumatism. For sale by Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept.

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[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

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T. G. WEBBER, Supt.

AT WONDERLAND 2d South, Post Office [illegible] THIS WEEK

WEEK OF THURSDAY, JUNE [illegible].
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