

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - July 15, 1874.

GENERAL ELECTION!

FOR 1874.

Monday, August 3rd.

People's Ticket.

FOR DELEGATE TO CONGRESS:
GEORGE Q. CANNON.

Commissioners to Locate University Lands:

JOHN VAN COTT.
LEWIS S. HILLS.
JOHN ROWBERRY.

R SALT LAKE COUNTY:

Representatives to the Legislative Assembly:

ORSON PRATT.
JOHN TAYLOR.
ALBERT CARRINGTON
A. P. ROCKWOOD.
THOS. TAYLOR.
JOHN SHARP.

Probate Judge:

ELIAS SMITH.

Selectman:

REUBEN MILLER.

Sheriff:

STEPHEN W. TAYLOR.

Surveyor:

ABRAHAM F. DOREMUS.

Superintendent of Common Schools:

MARY E. COOK.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE & CONSTABLES.

First Precinct, Salt Lake City:

J. P.—ADAM SPEIRS.
CONSTABLE—GEORGE HILTON.

Second Precinct, Salt Lake City:

J. P.—E. W. EAST.
CONSTABLE—W. S. BURTON.

Third Precinct, Salt Lake City:

J. P.—JETER CLINTON.
CONSTABLE—MILANDO PRATT.

Fourth Precinct, Salt Lake City:

J. P.—A. G. PYPER.
CONSTABLE—B. Y. HAMPTON.

Fifth Precinct, Salt Lake City:

J. P.—JACOB GIBSON.
CONSTABLE—WM. CLARK.

THE COMET.

THE thunderstorms of the last two or three days have almost put the comet out of mind, but there is sufficient interest attached to it to render it an object of much inquiry and speculation for some time yet.

In a letter to the New York *Tribune* Professor Henry M. Parkhurst congratulates Professor Swift upon the discovery of what promises to be the most wonderful and instructive comet in the history of the world. Prof. Parkhurst computed the actual length of the tail to be certainly over 3,000,000 of miles on June 25. Assuming an increase in length of one-tenth daily, he computed that the tail would strike the earth on July 20. Later observations of greater accuracy confirm him in the opinion that the earth will be "either so near the tail of the comet, as it sweeps across the ecliptic, that it will fill a large portion of the heavens, or, if its curvature is not too great, shall be completely enveloped within it; and the phenomenon may be visible in the northern hemisphere, although it is too early yet to determine whether it may not be during the hours of daylight in this country."

The Professor gives the following further observations—

"On Tuesday evening, June 30, and on the following evening the moon will rise before the twilight fairly ends; but on Thursday, July 2, at 9:30 o'clock, the comet will be easily seen by the naked eye in the northwestern sky (no other description will be needed) with a tail about five degrees in length. On succeeding evenings the nucleus will move towards the south, while the tail will increase in length, so as to bring its extremity gradually northward. On the 14th of July the head of the comet will have reached the horizon in the north-west at the end of twilight, so that it will not easily be visible after that date; but the tail will extend nearly to the pole star.

"Donati's comet had a retrograde motion, and when the earth met it, and the tail was most brilliant, it was placed nearly at right angles with the line of vision. On the other hand, this comet, whose perihelion distance is very little greater, coming just within the orbit of Venus, moves in the same direction with the earth, and nearly with the same velocity (reduced to the plane of the equator) in consequence of which, the tail, which is now nearly at right angles with the line of vision, will gradually turn towards us, still apparently pointing nearly in the same direction. It will be remembered that Donati's comet was curved like a soldier's plume, but Coggia's is now and will remain nearly straight, because the curvature will be directly from us and therefore imperceptible. Another striking difference from the tails of comets generally is that it will be so foreshortened as to be remarkably wide at the end.

"On July 16th the tail will extend far beyond the pole and develop a new characteristic, tapering off rapidly toward the end. Within three or four days after the 16th, the tail will have become so expanded in the neighborhood of the pole as to fill a large part of the northern heavens. Yet it will not be a conspicuous object, because it will be so faint as to look rather like an immense cloud or a new milky way, than what it really is. By this time we shall have solved the question whether the tail is hollow, or has a radiated structure, or what is its constitution.

"Of the way in which this will end it is not safe yet to speak with definiteness; for, although, if the tail were straight, we should be almost certainly near the middle of it on July 20, yet its curvature will probably delay it two or three days, and even until the earth has passed beyond its path. Taking the best value I can from the records of previous comets, I should expect the earth on July 22nd to be wholly within the eastern edge of the comet's tail; and I will assume this to be the case. The comet will then disappear to us; but then the inhabitants of the southern hemisphere, who may be ignorant of the cause of the luminosity of the evening sky, will see it gradually rise and pass away, and will be amazed by the sudden apparition of a comet of extraordinary size and usual brilliancy, which will burst upon their vision as unforeseen as the great comet of 1861. The gradual diminution and final disappearance of the comet will be so nearly the converse of what we shall have witnessed here that it needs no description."

Professor Parkhurst does not anticipate, from the visit of the comet, any appreciable physical effect further than possible electrical phenomena like the aurora. The comet will leave us a portion of its atmosphere, yet probably not enough to affect the barometer or come within scientific cognizance. The moon, which has now little or no atmosphere, may also gain a portion of the atmosphere of the comet and henceforth, by the moon's having an atmosphere of greater or less density, the phenomena of occultations and solar eclipses may be materially modified.

FREE OR DESPOTIC?

APPLETON'S *New American Cyclopaedia*, under the heading of "Taxes," says—

"In a free government taxes are laid by the representatives of the people, and of course with the con-

sent of those who are to pay them; in despotic governments they are levied at the will of the ruling power."

This being the case, are the people of this Territory living under a free or a despotic government? They pay taxes to the federal government, but how is it done by their consent? What voice have they in the imposition of those taxes? Recent legislation taxes them specially for the support of certain federal officers. Did the people who are to pay this tax ever give their consent to its being imposed upon them? Would they give their consent if they were asked?

As they did not give their consent to the imposition of that tax, laid on no other people in the Union, as the consent to the people of this Territory was never asked in the matter, must they be held to be living under a free or a despotic government? If under a free government, the *Cyclopaedia* must be wrong. If not under a free government, then whither are we drifting?

ABOUT NATURALIZATION.

ALIENS who come from other countries and settle in this, and desire to adopt it for their country, have the privilege of alienating themselves from their native countries and becoming naturalized in this.

Among the complaints by the American colonists against King George III, of Great Britain, preferred in the Declaration of Independence, was the following—

"He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States—for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners."

Accordingly the Constitution of the United States empowered Congress "to establish an uniform rule of naturalization."

Congress has established rules of naturalization, and designed them to be uniform in their operation.

But those laws are not allowed to operate uniformly. For instance, some of the courts in this Territory, taking technical advantage of the discretion allowed to the courts, have established a rule for the examination of candidates, which is not a uniform one, being nowhere observed except in this region. Thus these courts lay themselves open to the same charge as King George did. They have endeavored to prevent the population of this Territory—for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners.

Among the provisions of the laws made by Congress for the naturalization of foreigners are these—that the candidate shall promise to support the constitution of the United States, and he shall show, to the satisfaction of the court, that for five years preceding his application for naturalization he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

Many applicants have been refused naturalization in this Territory simply because they practised, or believed in, or would not swear they never would practise, plural marriage.

This we sincerely believe to be an unconstitutional and unjustifiable stretch of judicial discretionary power under the law.

This rule of examination is not uniform. Applicants elsewhere are not made subjects to such a test.

It is unconstitutional further in that it interprets a law of Congress to apply to an establishment of religion and prohibit the free exercise thereof, which Congress is expressly forbidden to do.

It is partial. It is a moral test, and while this test is applied to persons having, or conscientiously believing in, a plurality of wives, it is not applied in cases of adultery, fornication, or prostitution, neither here nor elsewhere, which are everywhere considered highly criminal.

The belief in, or practice of, plurality of wives is not immoral. On the contrary, with the citizens of this Territory, as a rule, it is in the very highest degree a moral and religious belief or practice. It is, and has been, from time immemo-

rial, universally so esteemed by a greatly preponderating majority of the human race, including God's chosen people, the Hebrews, and has never been denounced by his chosen prophets and apostles in the Bible.

All intelligent and candid persons will admit that most of the people of this Territory, citizens or aliens, are notably attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, much more so than many members of Congress, are well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same, and are most notably of moral character far above the average of citizens of this country. This is altogether beyond dispute with fair-minded people. How often is the opinion expressed that the masses of the people in this Territory are manifestly simple-minded, sincere, honest, well-disposed, etc.?

The application of this plurality test is not only unconstitutional and partial, it is not only anything but a fair measurement of morality and good citizenship, but it is evidently the resort of narrow-minded bigotry and prejudice unbecoming of judicial dignity. Bigotry and prejudice should have no weight in the matter of naturalization, or most aliens might be judged ineligible on some account or other. Many religious people have the prejudice that all sceptics or infidels are immoral. Many infidels and sceptics doubt the morality of professing Christians. Many professing Christians consider other professing Christians the veritable children of the devil. It has passed into a proverb that there is cheating, that is, dishonesty, immorality, in all professions or trades, "except ours." Lawyers, especially, are considered, by many people, as not a bit more honest than they ought to be, and even judges are, by numbers of persons, held to be far less immaculate than Caesar thought his wife ought to be.

Now if the courts were to act upon all these various prejudices, how many aliens would receive their naturalization papers? Perhaps not ten in a century, and the native Americans might be driven into plurality of wives to maintain successive and progressive citizenship.

Now we think it an easily proved, an indubitable fact, that those who sincerely believe and practise plurality of wives as a part of their religion are among the very best class of citizens. For they hold to their religious faith and practice, as the constitution entitles them, and oppose any infringement of that important document, especially regarding religious liberties. Furthermore, any people who will maintain their conscientious religious faith and exercises, their conscientious convictions of truth and duty, notwithstanding all opposition, even though it come under the disguise of law, manifest to the world the very highest moral courage and greatness, and thereby prove themselves to be worthy not only to be citizens or subjects of any country on earth, but also of that kingdom which is from heaven.

MAY NOT BE TAIL-WRAPPED.—Prof. Parkhurst, in a second letter to the New York *Tribune*, rather takes back his prediction about the earth being enveloped by the tail of Coggia's comet, and thus states his new position—

"I have assumed that the repulsive force is the same in the case of Coggia's comet, and find that upon Peirce's theory, with this assumption, a particle of matter leaving the head of the comet on June 9th, when the tail was already two degrees in length, would on July 20th be nearly 40,000,000 miles outside the earth's orbit. It is evident, therefore, that the first requisite of a magnificent display, length of tail, will not be wanting. I also find that a particle leaving the head of the comet, June 28th, will also be, on July 22d, outside of the orbit of the earth; but that from the curvature of the tail, that portion of it will appear in or near the constellation Hercules. Since, therefore, the portion of the tail nearest to us will be more than two days behind-hand in crossing the ecliptic, it is as yet somewhat doubtful whether we shall be involved within its operations."

HOME-MADE MARRIAGE CEREMONY.—The Louisville *Courier*,

Journal of a recent date gives an account of a unique "marriage" at New Albany. The parties were Spiritualists, and when the guests were assembled the following written agreement was read, and subscribed to by the bridal party—

"*Friends and Fellow-citizens, Ladies and Gentlemen:*—We, Gardner Knapp and La Mira P. Hobbs, believing that our hearts and souls are already matrimonially united, appear before you now, thus publicly to celebrate the consummation of our union. We hold the opinion that neither church nor state has any moral or equitable right to interfere with, or any just claim to be consulted in reference to, the arrangements that our spontaneous sentiments and sympathies have prompted us to make. Therefore, in non-conformity to, and disregarding the rules and regulations in such cases made and provided by what is called society, we adopt such form and ceremony as in our judgments and consciences seem most just and proper. And now, in the presence of the witnesses and of our invisible spirit friends here assembled, we proclaim, publish and declare ourselves husband and wife; and may God and the angel-world add their blessings."

Now wont some active lobbyist post off to Washington next winter and endeavor to have a special law made to break up that "marriage" and punish the high contracting parties? If there is any money in it the lobbyist will doubtless be there.

THE GREAT EVIL.—Very likely many people will recognise a large amount of truth in the following brief paragraph—

"Primarily, the undue desire to acquire wealth regardless of the means employed, is the great evil that underlies all our present troubles."

CHANGE OF NAME.—From and after to-day the military post situated near Beaver City, Utah Territory, and now called Post of Beaver will, (by orders of the War Department approving an order of Gen. Sheridan's,) be known as Fort Cameron, in honor of Col. James Cameron, who was killed in battle, July 21, 1861, while leading his regiment—79th New York Volunteers.—*Washington Star*, July 1.

102 DEG. IN THE SHADE.—The New York *Tribune* says that on the 29th of June last the thermometer rose to 102 deg. in the shade in the streets at 4 p.m., an unprecedented height for years. A change in the atmosphere was hardly felt for three or four hours afterward. At 3 a.m. the mercury was at 74 deg., at 6 a.m. 76 deg., at 9 a.m. 80 deg., at mid-day 98 deg., at 3.30 p.m. 99 deg., at 6 p.m. 93 deg.

GERMAN POSTAL ARRANGEMENT.—For the facilitation of business the German government is about to cause letters to be delivered from the mail railroad car to such persons as desire to obtain their correspondence in that way. The object is to afford merchants, bankers, and business men generally the opportunity to receive their correspondence immediately on the arrival of the train without waiting for the tedious distribution at the post office. All letters desired to be sent in this way must be marked "depot-letters," and a charge of \$4 per month is to be made to all who desire to take advantage of this new arrangement.

TERRIBLE ACCIDENT.

Conductor Callay Accidentally Killed.

We received the following dispatch, to-day—

"LEHI, July 9th.

"Eugene Callay, conductor on the Utah Southern railroad, was killed, at 2-30 a.m. to-day, at American Fork. Callay was bringing the circus train from Provo to Lehi and, when passing American Fork, fell from the top of the car, alighting between the cars. The train continued to Lehi, the