

phabet and recommend it to the people for their adoption. This alphabet contains forty-three letters. It has several more shade vowels in it than were deemed necessary in what is known as the Deseret alphabet. These shade vowels are deemed superfluous by some, and it was suggested that they should be rejected; but, finally, it was thought advisable to adopt the alphabet in its entirety.

Pitman's characters are available. This is the reason of their selection, and not because they were thought to be the best characters for an alphabet. The introduction of the system of phonetics is the great point to be now gained. The form of the characters is a somewhat secondary consideration. By the introduction of the system of spelling by sound our children and foreigners will be relieved from a heavy tax upon their time and brains. The portals of the temple of knowledge will be thrown open to all; and the ease with which an education can be received will be surprising. Among other great benefits of this system will be uniformity of pronunciation.

This great reform lies in the path way of our progress. We have effected an entire revolution in religion and morals since the organization of our Church; there is nothing to prevent our accomplishing this much-needed reform in our mother-tongue. This business should be taken in hand by our school-trustees and school-teachers throughout the Territory, and be carried through with energy.

#### SUNDAY READING.

From our country subscribers we receive many assurances of the value they place upon the discourses which appear every week in the News. By reading the counsels and instructions which are given to the people by President Young, his Counselors and the Twelve, the disadvantages of living at a distance from head-quarters are lessened, and those who read are brought into close relationship with the presiding quorum, and can understand their policy and partake of the Spirit of the work as it is enjoyed by them. This of itself is a very great benefit; but we trust also to have the editorial columns of the News filled with reliable information in relation to all public movements and such items of counsel as will make it sought after by every Bishop and Saint who have any desire to keep up with the spirit of the times.

To those who live in the city, the printed discourses do not possess, in every instance, the value they do to those who live in other places. They have the privilege of listening to them as they are delivered. But it is frequently the case that members of their families are not able to attend, who are as anxious to be acquainted with the teachings given from the public stand in this city as the more fortunate ones who have the opportunity of listening to them orally. In reflecting upon this matter, we have deemed it proper to publish a discourse in each Saturday's issue of the EVENING NEWS, so that those who have not heard them delivered, or who may be detained at home, will have it for their Sunday reading. One discourse in the week, laid before our readers on Saturday evening, for careful and leisurely perusal on Sunday, will be very valuable even to residents in this city, and cannot fail to be appreciated by every Latter-day Saint; and if they are preserved for future reading and reference, a vast fund of valuable instruction in doctrine and principle will be thus obtained.

#### AN OBNOXIOUS LAW.

In a letter, recently written from Washington, by Hon. W. H. Hooper to Hon. D. H. Wells, he states that he has introduced a Bill into Congress, repealing the obnoxious provisions in the postal laws, whereby pre-paid letter postage is chargeable on printed matter. This law was passed March 25, 1866, and the section which contains provisions alluded to is as follows:

"All mailable matter which may be conveyed by mail westward beyond the boundary of Kansas, and eastward from the eastern boundary of California, shall be subject to pre-paid letter postage rates: *Provided, however, That this section shall not be held to extend to the transmission by mail of newspapers, [periodicals, magazines, and exchanges,] from a known office of pub-*

lication to bona fide subscribers, not exceeding one copy to each subscriber, nor to franked matter to and from the immediate points between the boundaries above named, at the usual rates: *Provided, further, That such franked matter shall be subject to such regulations as to its transmission and delivery as the Postmaster General shall prescribe.*"

Among the reasons assigned for the passage of this objectionable and unfair law were that the Overland Mail was loaded down with articles which properly ought to have been sent by Parcel Express or freight train. Books sent by mail under the old law cost sixteen cents per pound. Other miscellaneous mailable matter, was transmitted at the rate of two cents each four ounces. It is asserted that these low rates induced numerous parties to make heavy importations through the United States' Mails, loading them down with extraneous matter. We have heard it stated also that parties in the East who were interested in the Isthmus route, anxious to break down the overland mail, sent old books in large quantities from the East to California. Whether all these reasons were correct or not, we can not say; there probably was some foundation for them, and there may have been some exaggeration about them; but it is sufficient for our purpose to say that a Bill was crowded through Congress, and became a law, which cut off all the Territory lying to the westward of the western boundary of Kansas and eastward of the eastern boundary of California from all the benefits of the law regulating the postage on books as enjoyed by the citizens of the other portions of the Union. By the provisions of this new law the people of this Territory have been subjected to great inconvenience and loss. For a considerable period even magazines were stopped at the frontiers, they being viewed as coming within the provisions of this law.

A gentleman of our acquaintance in this city had to send to the East for a small quantity of books which he needed in a great hurry. He wished them to be sent to him by mail. The house to which he sent does an extensive publishing business. The head of the firm wrote to him, in reply: "It seems a terrible imposition on the part of the Government to charge seven dollars and eighty-nine cents for conveying to you books for which I charge you only seven dollars and sixty-five cents. If you lived in California or Oregon, half as far again, the postage on those books would be less than one dollar." This brief extract shows up the glaring inconsistency of the law in a few words. No person who examines it can take any other view than this of it. It is unfair and oppressive, and granting that there were wrongs practiced under it (of which however, we know nothing) it perpetrates greater evils and injustice than those which it assumes to correct. Those evils can be corrected in some other way, than by precluding hundreds of thousands from privileges to which they are clearly entitled, and of which they should not be deprived, because there are some who have abused the liberality of the Government. We have groaned under this law sufficiently long. It is now time that it be repealed, and we sincerely hope that our Delegate may be successful in obtaining its repeal.

#### THE TOWN SITE LAW.

We would urge upon the Municipal Authorities in corporate cities, Mayors and City Councils—and upon County Judges for towns not incorporated, to take immediate advantage of the Town Site Law, the provisions of which are given in No. 82 of the News Semi-weekly, Nov. 19th, and in No. 41 of the News Weekly Nov. 20th, and on which we then wrote fully. There is culpable neglect and indifference manifested by many of the officers on this subject. They should not, by their apathy stand in the way of the people obtaining their rights. They should either act for themselves or resign in favor of men who will attend to this and other duties promptly.

#### HOME ITEMS.

##### FROM TUESDAY'S DAILY.

A NEW PAPER.—The *Daily Rocky Mountain Star* is the title of a new daily paper which made its first appearance at Cheyenne, Dakota Territory, on Sunday, the 8th instant. The *Star* will be Republican in politics, and is under the editorial management of O. T. B. Williams, Esq., with J. J. Pollock, Esq., as publisher. There are three daily papers now published at Cheyenne.

INVITING COLDS.—It is no uncommon thing for careful mothers to wrap up little boys so closely about the throat and head, when cold weather sets in, that the parts covered are kept in a continual state of perspiration while the covering remains on. Warm woolen comforters are tied around the throat, and crossed over the head, to keep the ears warm; and if they should get loose, or move in the least, the cold air striking upon the heated parts, feels almost like a knife cutting the skin. This is simply inviting sore throats, catarrhs; and pulmonary affections, rendering the little one's throat and head susceptible of colds and making him enervated and puny instead of strong and cold-defying. A golden mean between unwise exposure and undue carefulness should be observed, so that those parts of the human system which must be more or less uncovered may not be too easily affected by such exposure. A child whose head and throat is so carefully wrapped up at times, is liable to take cold at any moment about home when merely passing from a close warm room to the open air, in certain conditions of the atmosphere. It is wise to take all needful precautions to preserve the health of every one, young or aged, but cumbersome wrapping to preserve heat at one time, of parts liable to exposure at another time, does not seem to be the wisest thing that could be done to avoid colds and the diseases consequent upon them. Washing the throat with cold water regularly, and, where it is weak rubbing a little alcohol upon it, with the head kept moderately cool is a much better preventive than heavy wrapping.

SHOWER.—A smart hail shower about mid-day was the atmospheric effort, following a thick overhanging of clouds. An exchange says that the Indians in their neighborhood are predicting a severe and an early winter. If so, their calculations are incorrect, as far as the early setting in of cold and snowy weather here is involved. It is still cloudy overhead, but quite mild.

PERSONAL.—Mr. James Stark, the celebrated actor, arrived in this city, by stage, from the east yesterday afternoon. For years Mr. Stark has sustained the very highest reputation in his favorite roles. In the heavier roles—and in light comedy, he maintains a very high reputation in the profession. When passing through Denver, this last time, he gave a reading for one night, attended by the elite of the place, which was successful in every respect. It is nearly three years since he passed through our city going east. At that time there was no opportunity of his appearing on our boards, but we trust our citizens will have the opportunity of judging for themselves of his fine abilities at a not distant day. He has some thoughts, during his sojourn here, of visiting his brother, Mr. Daniel Stark, of Payson, Utah County, and enjoying a brief period of fraternal society.

THE WEATHER.—By Deseret State Telegraph Line we learn that the following is the state of the weather to-day, at the points named:—Logan; cloudy, with about an inch of snow on the ground. It looks like more snow. Ogden; fine and clear. American Fork; sun shining, but cloudy. It looks like storming. Mount Pleasant; cloudy, but mild. Cove Creek; very dark, with a south wind. Parowan; cloudy, with a cold south wind. Tokerville; very cloudy.

##### FROM WEDNESDAY'S DAILY.

NOT DEAD.—We clip from the *Helena Gazette*: The *Idaho Statesman* has a report that John S. Potter, formerly of the Wood Street Theatre in this city, died at Julesburg recently from the effects of the rupture of a blood vessel of the lungs. It also publishes a rumor that Carrie Chapman committed suicide recently at Council Bluffs. We recently received a programme from the Dubuque theatre on which we notice the names of J. S. Potter, Walter Bray, Carrie Chapman, and Mrs. De Wit Waugh, and must conclude that the reports are both unfounded.

CEDAR CITY.—By letter from Bishop Henry Lunt, of the 11th inst., we learn that the people of Cedar, Iron Co., were progressing rapidly with their fall plowing, and were enjoying beautiful weather.

ITS PRICE.—The *Daily Herald*, published at Helena, Montana, is a sheet, about a sixth larger than the *EVENING NEWS*. It sells for twenty-seven dollars yearly; sixteen dollars for six months, and nine dollars for three months. It contains about the same quantity of reading matter as the *NEWS*.

GROWING.—The business growth of the city is very apparent now to any person who will take a walk through the business portion of the city. We noticed to-day, in walking up East Temple St., teams delivering freight from abroad, teams delivering their loads brought in from the country, an air of lively business on the face of almost every one around, with hurry, bustle and liveliness in doors and out.

SEVENTIES' HALL LECTURES.—We understand that Elder Eli B. Kelsey, who was announced to lecture this evening in the Seventies' Hall, will be unable to do so in consequence of his suffering from sickness. Elders E. L. T. Harrison and Robert Campbell are expected to occupy the time.

##### FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY.

ADOPTED.—At a meeting, held last night of the Board of Regents, it was unanimously resolved to adopt the phonetic characters employed by Ben Pitman of Cincinnati, for printing purposes, thereby gaining the advantage of the books already printed in those phonetic characters and now becoming so much used. The alphabet adopted has forty-three characters representing as many sounds, which include those in use in the English language. This alphabet has been in use in the East for some years and is becoming very widely known and much appreciated. Last winter an effort was made in Congress to have all State documents and papers printed in phonotpy, and to request the Government of Great Britain to do so also, but it was permitted to drop at that time without anything being accomplished in the matter. Still, it showed the growing interest in phonetics; and that its claims, as a valuable and most important improvement on the present barbarous orthography, are beginning to be recognized.

SEVENTIES' HALL.—Last night Elder E. G.

Taylor discoursed on vegetarianism and the laws of natural life. After treating on the natural food of infants, and the young of certain granivorous animals, he referred to the means adopted by Mungo Park, to discover, in his African explorations, what he could eat with safety, trusting to the instinct of a monkey to avoid poisonous berries and articles of vegetable food. He reasoned that the natural appetite rejects those kinds of food which are unsuited to the stomach; it is the pampered and false appetite which seeks for and delights in food and dishes which are injurious and hurtful. Thus, a child will eagerly seek for fruit; and so keenly is this appetite manifested in the young, that they will often steal to gratify it; but who ever heard of a child stealing meat? He referred to the experience of Sylvester Graham in support of vegetarianism; said that his own family and himself had been strict vegetarians for fifteen years, with highly beneficial results; advocated a proper diet and healthy exercises; disapproved of the young being employed at labor too severe for their age and strength; and urged that we cannot violate the laws of life without suffering the penalty.

Elder E. L. T. Harrison followed, treating on science as illustrative of the truth of our religion.

A vote was taken on the subject, and it was decided to have lectures on the evenings of Christmas and New Year's days. Elder Eli B. Kelsey was announced to lecture on Christmas evening.

STORM.—Yesterday afternoon and evening a southerly wind blew, with considerable severity at times, and the gathering clouds to the north and north-west told of a coming storm. Through the night, when the wind changed, the rain fell with violence, but afterwards turned to snow which covered the earth with a white mantle at daylight. A little snow kept falling during the forenoon, but that on the ground was melting more rapidly than it was replenished from overhead. Slush and mud are plentiful this afternoon.

PERSONAL.—We were pleased to have a call from Elder E. T. Benson, who had just arrived from Cache County, as we were going to press. He reports the roads rather bad between here and Bountiful, from which place he came to-day, but no worse than in the city. In Cache, all was well when he left. It looked like Spring; the people were plowing and some putting in grain; and everything betokened thrift and prosperity.

##### FROM MONDAY'S DAILY.

SABBATH MEETINGS.—Elder G. B. Wallace occupied the forenoon. He spoke of his connection in former years with the Baptist church, of which he had once been a member, and of his acquaintance with the Methodists and other denominations; and said that when he heard the truth he embraced it and received a testimony of it, and never doubted it from that time until the present. He referred to a recent trip made by him to Cache Valley, and reported well of the people there; and treated on the order of the kingdom of God, showing some of the blessings which follow an honest and sincere obedience to the gospel.

##### AFTERNOON.

President B. Young preached. Among other things he treated at some length on fasting and fast days, and instructed the Bishops of the various wards to see that every family in their respective wards should, on the fast day, carry, according to the size of their families, the quantity of food which would have been consumed by them to the bishops, for the poor; and the bishops—particularly of the 13th and 14th Wards—were instructed to cut off from the Church those who refused thus to assist the poor.

His remarks were reported in full. Pres. Joseph Young, pointed out the great blessings which the gospel secures to all who obey it and live faithful. He spoke of his visits to various settlements, and the feelings which existed among the people to serve God and do His will, though there is still much room for improvement; and he urged upon the congregation to seek for the Holy Spirit, and live according to its monitions.

NEARLY A FIRE.—This morning shortly after day-break, smoke issuing from the engine room of this office, in the lower story, caused apprehensions of fire. It was soon discovered that there was a fire among the wood piled up for feeding the engine; and Bro's George Romney, Allen Hilton and some others, with some of the office hands, packed water and speedily extinguished it. The damage was not serious, though it might have been. The cause of its origin appears to have been spontaneous combustion, starting in a pile of saw-dust which had got wet.

A SUGGESTION.—In some cities where we have been, each householder is required by municipal ordinance to keep that portion of the sidewalk opposite the premises he occupies clean, carefully swept, and at certain stated times thoroughly washed; thus preserving the cleanliness of the city at large. Without going quite so far here, where it would be much more difficult, for a variety of reasons, for each person to keep the sidewalk opposite his premises clean and free from mud, we think that the occupiers of stores and business places on East Temple St., South Temple St., and a few other places, would add much to the public comfort, and would not lose any in business by regularly sweeping opposite the premises which they occupy. During such weather as we have had for some time back, when mud and water strive for supremacy, it would be an invitation to intending purchasers to step inside a store whose owners had made the outside clean and pleasant for walking. We commend the idea to those occupying premises in the streets named, to "clean up" once or twice a day opposite their places. Some may think it of no use to sweep away the water in such rainy times as we have had, because more would soon be deposited, but such people should try the plan of not eating on the ground that they would soon be hungry again. Part of East Temple St., is now being nicely graded; a portion of the sidewalk is also well made and graded; continue the work, and have the whole of the sidewalk in the business part of the city well laid, well graded, and regularly swept; and then we will have clean walking there all through the winter, excepting, perhaps, an occasional short time, when a storm may be falling. This latter is more properly the duty of owners or occupiers of premises than that of the city authorities, and is growing to be a desideratum which will monthly become more imperative.