

## THE DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

### THE CRETANS.

By our European telegrams we occasionally hear of the efforts for freedom and independence now being made by the inhabitants of the Island of Crete or Candia. For nearly two years the contest has been waged, and still the Cretans hold out, seemingly determined to die to a man rather than submit to the rule of the hated Moslem.

Crete was anciently one of the chief centres of Grecian commerce and civilization. In the days of Homer it was celebrated for its hundred cities, and for its great fertility, and boasted of its millions of inhabitants.

But like Greece, Rome and other grand civilizations of the past, once the pride of the ancient world, its glory has departed: wealth and refinement, luxury and sensuality, have wrought their usual effects, and to-day, instead of numbering its millions of people in the highest state of civilization, its people fall far short of two hundred thousand, most of whom are said to be but little advanced beyond a state of semi-barbarism.

Candia is a small island in the Mediterranean, 160 miles long, and varying from five or six to nearly fifty miles in width. Its position, however, has made its possession a matter of importance, and in consequence it has had many rulers. In the last century before Christ the island became tributary to the Romans; in the ninth century the Saracens became its masters. About a century later it changed hands, and the Byzantines assumed control; and in the thirteenth century the island was sold to the Venetians, and remained under their rule for about four centuries, enjoying a great share of civil and religious freedom. During that time it had occasionally suffered from invasions of the Genoese and the Turks; but until about the middle of the seventeenth century these were successfully resisted.

In 1644 the Turks determined to wrest the island from the Venetians, and a contest commenced which lasted twenty-five years, when the Cross had to yield to the Crescent, and the Turks became masters of the island. Thirty-one thousand Cretans fell in defence of the City of Candia, before surrendering. From that time until 1830, the Cretans, who are Christians and members of the Greek Church, were engaged in almost perpetual contests with their Mussulman conquerors.

In 1830, after a continued struggle of nearly ten years, Candia, at the instance of the Great Powers of Europe was ceded to Egypt, and under the rule of Mehemet Ali various improvements and reforms were introduced among the Cretans. In 1840, however, the little island was again placed under Turkish rule; although Lord Palmerston, then leader of the British House of Commons, strongly protested against it. From that time on exaction and oppression of intolerable severity were again imposed; and in 1865 and '66 it is said that the Turkish government exacted more in the shape of taxation from the Cretans, than the gross amount of their incomes for one year. Determined if possible to obtain a redress of their grievance, their leading men, in accordance with their custom for thirty centuries, called an assembly of the people and respectfully memorialized the Sultan, stating their grievances and praying for redress. The reply was to the effect that their government was wise and beneficent, and that if their demands were persisted in, imprisonment and the sword would be the result. A second appeal was framed, and forwarded to the Governor General of the island—Ismael Pasha; but only resulted in a proclamation for the assembly to disperse; troops being dispatched to enforce it.

Finding remonstrance vain, a National Assembly was formed, the Christian powers of Europe were appealed to, and the Islanders were summoned to arms once more to battle with their oppressors for their rights and liberties. Within two days from the call to arms 20,000 Cretans were in the field, confronted by as many Turks. From that time until the present the war has raged with more or less intensity. Great cruelties have been committed by the Turks, and heavy losses sustained on each side. But the little band of Cretans are bidding defiance to an empire whose people are more numerous than the people of the United States.

The Czar of Russia is willing to aid them in their efforts, the Russians and Cretans being co religionists; and has

proposed to England that they shall jointly settle the Cretan difficulty. But England, through fear of Russian influence in India, views all interference in Turkish affairs from that quarter with extreme distrust.

In our own country the war in Crete is beginning to arouse public attention. The cause of liberty, naturally excites the warmest sympathies of the American people. Earnest appeals, in behalf of the Cretans, are being made in various quarters. A fair was recently held in Boston, the profits of which were for the benefit of the Cretan patriots; and a paper—*The Cretan*, wholly devoted to the interest of the cause, is now being published, and if the Americans take no actual part in the war for Cretan independence, the voice of the people of this country may yet have some influence in successfully deciding their heroic efforts.

### STOKER POST OFFICE.

On the 8th ult. we wrote a brief article, under the head of "Postal Injustice," respecting the discontinuance of the Stoker Post Office—Sessions' Settlement, Davis County. In that article we said we felt assured that if the Post Office Department had been acquainted with the true condition of that Office, and the benefit it was to the people of that neighborhood, the order for its stoppage would never have been issued. We also recommended that the people get up a spirited remonstrance and petition, setting forth the facts of the case, and forward to the Post Office Department at Washington, and at the same time write to our Delegate. On the 22d ult. Captain Hooper received the EVENING NEWS containing the article, and immediately went to the Department, where he found a numerous signed petition from the residents of the neighborhood of Stoker Post Office. He called the matter up, and after an interview with Gen. Skinner, First Assistant Postmaster General, and writing a letter to and having an interview with Governor Randall, the Postmaster General, an order was issued on the 23d ult. for the re-establishment of the Stoker Post Office, and the appointment of D. W. Sessions as Postmaster thereof.

This news will be very gratifying to the people of Stoker, as it is an evidence that the Department was not prompted by unfriendly feelings towards them in discontinuing their office, and that when the facts were properly stated, speedy amends were made. The Department acted upon what was deemed sufficient evidence, without consulting our Delegate, Hon. W. H. Hooper; but it is likely that should such a case occur again, and he should be in Washington, no action would be taken without his being, at least, apprised of it. We have been pleased that he has been able to get this matter rectified in so prompt a manner; we expected nothing else.

### C. P. R. R. FREIGHTS.

The Sacramento Daily Union suffers no opportunity to escape of finding fault with the charges of the Central Pacific Railroad. The Union Pacific Railroad made a general reduction on freight charges between Omaha and Cheyenne equal to twenty-five per cent. of the old rates, to take effect on the 11th ult. This would reduce freight to ten and six-tenths cents per mile currency; which is seven and a half cents in gold. The Union says that the rates charged on the Central Pacific end of the road are just double those now charged between Omaha and Cheyenne. As the Union Pacific will doubtless continue the same rates on to this city, that paper submits, to all having at heart the real public interests of California, whether it would not be a good deal better for them to encourage the Union Pacific Company in becoming a rival of the Central Pacific by pushing their road through from Salt Lake, via Beckworth Pass, to Vallejo. That paper will, at least, think so until their home company manifests so much public spirit as to carry as cheaply as the Eastern Company. With such charges for freight it cannot see the force of the arguments that the people of the Pacific Coast are directly interested in the Central Pacific Company first reaching Salt Lake City.

Washburne, of Wisconsin, made a speech some time ago in Congress favorable to the reduction of fares on the whole line. In the course of this speech he stated that it would cost \$5,000 to freight a car-load of merchandise from San Francisco to Chicago at the rates that then ruled. Those rates were those then charged by the Union Pacific—14 cents per ton per mile—or about 40 per

cent., the Union says, less than the rates still charged by the Central Pacific. But since his speech the U. P. R. R. to meet the demands of the public, has come down 25 per cent. on its charges. The price, even with this reduction, is still high enough from the East, at least our citizens who have them to pay will think so. The Union thinks the Central Pacific one of the "home institutions" which everybody not a stockholder has a very direct interest in helping to a rival.

### PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

THERE is every prospect at present of a very exciting Presidential campaign. Both of the great parties are preparing themselves for the contest with a zeal and determination unparalleled in the history of the nation. Already the columns of the party journals teem with personalities; the Republican papers with eulogies of Grant and Colfax, and their opponents with denunciations of them and their policy. If we believe the papers which advocate their cause, their election will confer blessings unnumbered on the nation; if we believe their opponents, the dismemberment and ruin of the Republic must be the inevitable consequences of their elevation to office. As the Democratic party has not yet selected its candidates for President and Vice-President the fight on their part is confined principally to assailing the Republican nominees. Ere long they will have to assume the defensive, for whoever may be chosen by them must expect to receive the measure of abuse and villification which falls to the lot of political candidates, and especially those who aspire to the chief offices in the nation.

If we could attach any importance to the report of the New York Herald's special at Washington, embraced in yesterday's dispatches—which it is very difficult to do—we should conclude that Judge Chase is coquetting with the Democrats. His name has been frequently mentioned of late as a probable candidate for the Chief Magistracy, and the propriety of his being taken up by the Democratic party has been agitated in many journals. The names of some five prominent Democrats have been mentioned in connection with the Presidency. They are the Hon. G. H. Pendleton, Gen. W. S. Hancock, Gen. G. B. McClellan, Gen. F. B. Blair, jr., and Gov. Haight. Another very prominent name is that of Gov. Seymour, who is very popular with his party and would doubtless carry his State, New York; but it is reported that he will not suffer his name to be submitted to the Convention.

From present appearances it seems as if the case would be narrowed down to the choice between Mr. Pendleton and Gen. Hancock, for it is not probable that Gen. McClellan will be taken up again, and the other two gentlemen, General Blair and Governor Haight, have no enthusiastic supporters outside of their own States. Gen. Hancock is the choice of the War Democrats. With such a leader they think they can win. The Peace wing of that party leans to Mr. Pendleton. Previous to the impeachment business, President Johnson, it was thought stood an excellent chance of obtaining the nomination as the most available man the Democrats could select for their standard bearer in the Presidential campaign. Of late we have not seen his name alluded to in this connection.

Availability will be a great recommendation with that party. Judge Chase's department throughout the impeachment trial has secured the admiration of many of the Democrats. He is thought to be an available man; but even if he were to consent to stand on their platform, it is doubtful if they could unite upon him. It has been asserted that a plan was in contemplation to form a new party of which he is to be the leader, and which the seven Republican members, who voted for the acquittal of President Johnson, were to be members. This is contradicted by the New York Times, which paper says, that "these gentlemen, as there is the best authority for stating, are all for Grant, and entertain no other political purpose than to do what in them lies for his success on the Chicago Platform during the coming campaign." Some zealous Republican thought the seven who voted "not guilty" ought to be read out of the party, but the New York Sun says: "No Republican politician, except the fools, has ever thought of turning these Senators out of that party. We can tell the Republicans, too, that they have no votes to throw away, and that they had better enlarge their party rather than diminish it, if they wish to carry the next election."

### DISCOURSE

By Elder GEORGE Q. CANNON, delivered in the New Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, April 7th, 1868.

REPORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.

The subjects which have been touched upon by Bro. George A. Smith ought to be of paramount importance to us as a people under our present circumstances. The gospel of life and salvation, which we have received, would be of comparatively little avail to us unless we can prolong our lives and the lives of our children and posterity on the earth. The greatest boon that God has given us, and that upon which every other hinges, is life. With life we need health, the power to carry out the designs of our being upon the earth. Without these blessings every one must perceive that other blessings which we value very highly would be of little or no account. God has moved upon His servant Brigham in a very powerful manner of late to stir up the people's minds to the consideration of a great variety of subjects connected with our temporal well-being; and the more these subjects are reflected upon the more important do they appear, and the more we hear about them, the more we are impressed with the necessity of paying attention to them.

We have heard considerable of late, especially since twelve months to-day, on the subject of the Word of Wisdom. Almost every elder who has spoken from this stand has felt the necessity and importance of calling the attention of the people to this subject. We are told, and very plainly too, that hot drinks—tea, coffee, chocolate, cocoa and all drinks of this kind are not good for man. We are also told that alcoholic drinks are not good, and that tobacco when either smoked or chewed is an evil. We are told that swine's flesh is not good, and that we should dispense with it; and we are told that flesh of any kind is not suitable to man in the summer time, and ought to be eaten sparingly in the winter. The question arises in the minds of a great many people, "What then are we to eat if we drop swine's flesh and eat very little beef or mutton, and cannot drink tea or coffee, why, dear me, we shall starve to death." In conversation with one of the brethren the other day, he remarked "the diet of the poor is principally bread and meat, and if they dispense with meat, they will be reduced to very hard fare." I reasoned with him on the subject, and before we got through, I believe I convinced him that other articles of food could be raised more cheaply and in greater variety than the flesh of animals. But just at the present time we are destitute, to some extent, of this needed variety; and, hence, the very apparent necessity that we as a people should turn our attention to the multiplication of varieties of food in our midst. We should not confine ourselves to a few articles of diet and be content therewith; but the people who have the opportunity of so doing should cultivate a variety of food for the benefit of themselves and families.

It is a fact, which the experience of ages has confirmed, that man of all creatures, requires the greatest variety of food. His stomach is fitted to digest a greater variety of food than the stomach of any other animal. God has created him lord of creation, and all that is created around us is created for man's use and benefit. It would therefore be very unwise for intelligent man, inasmuch as God has given to him the vegetable creation, and has made him lord of the animal creation and placed him as monarch of the finny tribes, to be content to sit down and eat as our degraded Indians do.

It is to remedy this that we hear the teachings that are given at the present time by the servants of God. Man requires food to build up his body. He requires food that is adapted to the development of bone, muscle and sinew; but this is not all. He requires food that is suitable to feed his brain and to supply the waste sustained in consequence of the use of his mental faculties. There is a necessity, therefore, for us to take these things into consideration. My opinion is that it will be most difficult for fathers of families to induce their wives and children to refrain from the use of tea and coffee, if they do not supply their tables with other articles in their place, and unless food, suitable to the requirements of the human system, is provided, our wives and children will be exposed to constant temptation to transgress the counsels that are given in regard to our diet. It is an exceedingly difficult thing for most people to break off and discontinue cherished and long standing habits. A