

# DESERET NEWS:

## WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - MARCH 17, 1880.

### THE MONT ST. GOTHARD TUNNEL.

OUR readers have most likely noticed the accounts given from time to time, in our cable dispatches, of the progress of the tunnel through Mont. St. Gothard, and, at length its final completion. This great earth-tube was finished on the morning of the 29th ult., after close upon seven and a half years' labor. It is a triumph of engineering skill and is the longest tunnel in the world, measuring about nine and a quarter miles. The other most famous tunnels are the Mont Cenis, seven miles and a half; the Hoosac, four miles and three quarters; and the Sutor, a trifle over three miles and three-quarters.

Mont St. Gothard is in Switzerland, and the northern entrance of the tunnel is near Goeschanen, in Canton Uri, and the southern near Airolo, in Canton Tessin. The construction of this tunnel connects the railroad systems of three European nations—Germany, Italy and Switzerland. The mountain is in the heart of the Alps, is 10,600 feet high, and the road over the pass of St. Gothard reaches an altitude of over eight thousand feet above the level of the sea. It has been for some time the main route of tourists from northern Europe into the plains of sunny Italy.

At one time it took five days to cross the mountain, but in 1820 the people of the Cantons Uri and Tessin commenced to make a new road, which, after ten years of toil, was completed and shortened the time of the trip to sixteen or eighteen hours. But this is too long a time for travel in these fast days. The road, too, is unprotected from snow slides, or avalanches as they are called in Alpine regions, and the storms that burst forth upon the traveler in the heights of the pass are sometimes terrific in their fury.

The project of boring the mountain was talked of as long ago as 1840, but nothing practical was attempted except preliminary surveys until in 1839, when the three governments most interested entered into a treaty for the accomplishment of the great work. In 1872 a company was formed, and in August of that year the contract was let to M. Louis Favre for 48,000,000 francs. Ground was broken Sept. 13th, 1872, and work was for a long time prosecuted by hand labor alone. Some very hard rock was encountered, but little trouble was experienced from water at the northern end; but towards the south, when some beds of clay were pierced, the water rushed in at the rate of 2,540 gallons per minute, and hindered the work considerably. The temperature also was a hindrance, requiring the erection of exhausters and the forcing in of compressed air, for the equalization of the temperature and the removal of atmospheric impurities.

The contractor at first lost money in the work. But this occurring through obstacles unforeseen, the contract price was raised to 227,000,000 francs. A heavy forfeiture was stipulated for and secured by sureties, if the tunnel was not completed by October, 1880; and on the other hand M. Favre was to receive 1,000 francs for every day from its completion before that time until the 1st of October, 1880. He had 4,000 men engaged and was succeeding admirably, making money rapidly and looking forward to the speedy conclusion of his task, when on the 19th of last July, while showing the levels to a French engineer in the tunnel, he complained of cramp, drank a glass of water and fell down dead.

His sudden decease is a sad comment on the uncertainty of human hopes and expectations. He seemed to have a foreboding that he would not reap much pleasure and profit from his achievement, for, while at the congress held in Paris concerning the building of the Panama Canal, not long before his death, when receiving the congratulations of friends on the near approach of his engineering triumph, he said, as was reported in the New York

*Herald*: "I have worked all my life for a little renown and a little wealth, and now in the moment of my triumph I find that neither is worth what it cost me. Indeed, the only use of the money I have made is to help those who are less strong and happy."

It is to be regretted that the energetic master spirit of this great enterprise did not live to see the benefits to travel and commerce that will result from his ingenuity and perseverance. But the name of Louis Favre will be numbered among those of the great practical minds of the nineteenth century, an age which has given to the world the grandest engineering achievements known to history. And side by side with the wonderful works of the Suez Canal (accomplished), and the cutting in twain of the Isthmus of Panama (projected), will stand in the record of the times, the successful construction of the tunnel through Mont St. Gothard.

### BEGIN AT HOME.

"It will probably surprise, as well as disgust, the majority of Americans to know that there is more street begging in Washington than there is in Rome, which has generally been considered the paradise of beggars. It is safe to say, also, that there is far more crime here than there, and of worse kinds, although the population of Rome is more than double that of Washington."

The foregoing is from the Washington *Star*. "Open confession" is said to be "good for the soul." We do not doubt for a moment the statement of the *Star*. The city that contains so many beggars and criminals, is the seat of government in the "greatest nation under the sun." Every year the elect of the people meet there to enact laws for the welfare of the country. And every year they manifest great concern at the state of affairs in Utah, away off in the vales of the Rocky Mountains. So much concern is felt over this little community that the Chief Magistrate considers it necessary to draw the attention of Congress, and invoke the majesty of the courts, toward the suppression of one social practice which offends the sensibilities of the great and pure souls exalted to temporary power. Yet Utah is peaceful, thrifty and industrious. A beggar is a strange sight within her borders. Crime is at a very low standard. And it would be much lower if the dignitaries who congregate in the great city of beggars and criminals would leave Utah to manage its own affairs.

Why is it that the solemn humbugs and dignified frauds, who pretend to be so scandalized at the marriage customs of distant Utah, do not commence a crusade in the interest of "Christian morality" in the city where they sit to make speeches, write messages and draw their pay? Why not begin at home? The District of Columbia is, beyond all dispute, under the supreme control of Congress, power of exclusive legislation therefor being given to that body by special Constitutional provision. And yet it is fuller of beggars than Rome, and is cursed with greater crime and of worse kinds than the Papal City, notorious the world over for mendicants and thieves.

Utah is placed under the ban simply because of a social system which aims at providing every woman with a husband; and Washington, D. C., where laws are made, reeks with infamy and no special legislation is called for to suppress it. Cadgers ply their calling on the chief thoroughfares; drunkenness revels in its principal places; prostitution drives a flourishing trade, particularly while the sessions last; women are frequently outraged in the streets by white as well as colored ruffians; burglary, pocket-picking, swindling, bribery and corruption abound; and the "Christian Senator," pious Representative, and sanctified Cabinet official, snuff a faint odor of polygamy from afar, but no smell of foulness and rank abomination that thickly taints the air they breathe every day, reaches their elevated nasal organs pointed towards the West.

Let Congress cleanse the inside of the platter. Establish good government in the city of magnificent distances. Provide labor for the idle, protect the weak and punish crime in the District of Columbia; and then, when it has vindicated the

majesty of good laws in the square of ten miles over which it has exclusive authority, concern itself about Utah among other portions of the country, and point to the pure, orderly, sober and virtuous territory wherein is placed the seat of national government, as an example for other portions of the United States to imitate.

### THE SCHOOL LAW.

We publish to-day a letter from Judge Z. Snow in answer to some inquiries made of him, concerning the intent and meaning of certain passages in the school law, recently enacted. We direct attention to it, as the subject is of much importance to the people of all parts of the Territory. The object which Judge Snow has in view is evidently the preservation of peace, the avoidance of litigation and the safety of school trustees in performing the duties required of them by law. This is a laudable purpose deserving of commendation, particularly in a lawyer, who is popularly supposed—often undeservedly—to be one desirous of promoting legal disputes in order to reap profits from the strife.

There are some conclusions, however, in the Judge's opinion which do not appear to us altogether correct. Therefore, while respecting his experience and his efforts to do good, we shall take the liberty of indicating the points wherein we do not agree with him. This we consider to be our duty, having given space to his communication.

In the first place, we think his conclusion incorrect, that the newspaper in which publication of notice is to be given for a meeting to vote on a school tax or for the election of trustees, must have general circulation in the "district." The Judge says, "the word therein in said section (section 5) means the district." Not so. It clearly means the county, because it says so. The notice must be given "in some paper published in the county, having general circulation therein," or by posting up notices in three public places in the district.

The word "therein" clearly refers to "the county," and no mention is made of the district as an antecedent to the word "therein." He further advises both publication and notices for the purpose of "clearing the proceedings from doubt." While we have no objection to this where it is possible, we do not see what doubt there can be as to the legality of either method alone, for the law provides for publication or posting; either is sufficient to answer the law's requirement in this particular. But if notices are posted they must be put up in three public places in the district, while the publication must be in some paper published in the county and having general circulation in the county. To use the Judge's own quotation "plain terms used in a statute need no construction."

The next and the main point wherein we do not agree, is the Judge's advice to trustees not to levy a tax for the purpose of paying teachers. We think that if by a two-thirds majority vote, the property tax-payers in a district, present at a meeting called for the purpose, decide upon the assessment of a tax for the payment of school teachers, they are fully entitled to do so under the law, providing the amount does not exceed in one year two per cent. on the taxable property in the district. Our reasons are set forth in the Judge's well made remarks. Such an assessment just as he says, would not be doing "serious violence to the Act." Indeed, it would not be doing any "violence" to it at all. The question is, what are "school purposes?" Can it be denied that money paid for the services of a school teacher is devoted to school purposes? Is not a teacher one of the indispensable to a school? And is not payment one of the essentials to secure his services?

Then the special proviso that "the property of non-residents shall not be liable to tax for the payment of teachers," clearly implies that the property of residents shall be liable to such a tax. But the Judge objects that this is only "implication." Yet we find that he thinks implication would be enough in reference to the power of the trustees to employ teachers. He says, "I find also it is made the duty of the trustees to employ teachers, but this duty would have been in the act by implication

if it had not been made so in terms." This being the case in relation to the employment of teachers, why not equally so with regard to the payment of teachers? "Implication," if good in one case ought to be equally good in the other.

But there is a good deal more than implication in the law in reference to the tax for the payment of teachers. The term "school purposes" covers the ground of any expenses that may be deemed necessary by a two-thirds majority of the taxpayers, for the conducting of schools in the district. And that this was "the intent of the legislature," which the Judge admits "must govern," should be plain to every one who was present during the discussion of the bill, or who has read the published accounts of the debate; also by the adoption in the new law of the wording of the former statute, under which taxes had been repeatedly assessed in many districts for the payment of teachers, without any dubiety as to the power so to do conferred by the law. The only change made in the wording of that clause was the reduction of the three per cent. to two per cent. And the argument offered in favor of this was, that if any district wished to have a free school by taxation, the three mills on the dollar provided for in the revenue law for the payment of teachers, with the two per cent. maximum assessable tax in the district, made up an abundant sum for the purpose. And when it was urged in favor of the continuance of the three per cent. in the law, that the other amount would be insufficient for the payment of teachers in new districts where school-houses had to be built out of the same tax, the reply was, new districts would have enough to do in building, without assessing a tax for a teacher.

Thus, the intent of the Legislature was at this session, as at the session of four years ago, to establish a local option law in regard to the payment of teachers by taxation. And the reason why every purpose for which a tax might be assessed was not separately specified, was the fear that some necessary purpose might be omitted and thus the taxable powers be crippled, and therefore the words "other school purposes" were inserted, as sufficient to cover all needful ground, with the consideration that the exemption of the property of non-residents from taxation for the payment of teachers, was a plain implication, placing it beyond cavil that taxation of the property of residents for the payment of teachers was one of the school purposes within the meaning of the act.

As to levying a tax on one man's property "for the payment of a teacher to teach another man's children," the objection would equally apply to any "school purposes" whatever, not specially mentioned in the act. The vote of the two-thirds majority would rule, and we do not think that any court of competent jurisdiction and common judgment would rule away the right of the people on a mere quibble and a strained and awkward construction of a section of a law that does not require to be construed.

We do not suppose that in many districts there will be any need to assess a tax for the payment of school teachers. But should there be, we would have no hesitation whatever in assisting to assess and collect it, if placed in a position requiring such action. The law is a good one as far as it goes, and we do not believe there will be any real difficulty in carrying out its provisions. Judge Snow's experience makes his opinion valuable, but there are two sides to every question, and we have endeavored in this case to give both a chance for investigation.

### THE COMPENDIUM.

We are pleased to announce to our readers that Apostle Franklin D. Richards intends to issue a second edition of a work which for some time has been out of print, and which met with a ready sale for many years. It is called the *Compendium*, and is a book of reference to standard authorities on the doctrines and principles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It was originally published by Elder Richards in Liverpool, and has been found exceedingly useful, especially to our young Elders when sent forth into the missionary field. And to any one not thoroughly familiar

with the Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants and the standard Church works, the *Compendium* was a great saver of time in searching for proofs of the faith of the Saints.

Since the work has been out of print we have been repeatedly asked for its republication, and many have wondered why so valuable a book could not be obtained at this office. We feel glad that this public want will soon be supplied. Also that in the new edition very important additions will be made. Elder Richards purposes revising the work so that the references will correspond with the new editions of the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants, and embody such subjects as have been introduced or more fully developed since the first publication of the book. The revelations on celestial marriage and the United Order will receive consideration, and such other matters as will bring the *Compendium* fully up to the spirit and requirements of the times.

In this connection we are permitted to say that Elder Richards will be pleased to receive suggestions from the brethren concerning any improvements that they may think desirable in such a work, which, however, is not designed to be a bulky volume, nor to be made expensive, but to be adapted for pocket use and to come within the reach of the people. Those who desire to offer any suggestions should be prompt therewith, as it is desired to publish the work at as early a date as possible. We are sure that this announcement will give general satisfaction.

### LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, MARCH 12.

**Married.**—Yesterday morning Elder John G. Midgley and Miss Eliza A. Winder, both of this city, were united in marriage, by Elder Joseph F. Smith. The bride is the daughter of Colonel John R. Winder and his wife Ellen, and the groom the son of Elder Joshua Midgley, and one of the firm of Midgley and Sons, painters. We wish the young couple a happy experience in married life.

**Z. C. M. I. Stock.**—"Have you any Co. op stock to sell?" was a common street question yesterday afternoon. Speculators were abroad, as it was expected they would be, buying up all the shares they could find, and considerable property changed hands. Shares were sold at \$106. The persons who parted with their stock at this rate, think now they are ahead, but after the stock dividend is declared in April, they will perhaps find themselves a little "out."

**Look Out for Him.**—The *Junetion* of last evening says:

The other night Officer James Brown arrested a man who gave his name as Burton, for drunkenness. He was claimed however by the sheriff of Box Elder County, as being an escaped prisoner, was given up to him and taken back to the jail from which he had broken. Yesterday Mr. Brown received a telegram from Box Elder, stating that the fellow had again escaped, and had started for parts unknown.

**Park City Water-works.**—The contract of putting in the pipes and fixtures for the Park City Water-works, has been awarded to David James, Esq., the enterprising plumber and steam-fitter of this city. The material has all been ordered, including a fire hydrant, water gates and piping, and Mr. James starts for Park City next week. He is expected to furnish everything but the main pipes and the digging. The mains will be of the wooden piping, made by the American Pipe Company, San Francisco.

**"Yes" or "No."**—Citizens who cast their ballots at the special election to be held on Monday, the 5th of April, will decide the question whether or not Salt Lake City shall incur an indebtedness of \$250,000, or such portion of that amount as the City Council may deem necessary, for the construction of the Salt Lake City and Jordan Canal. Those who vote "yes," are of course in favor of the indebtedness, those who vote "no" against it. All should keep their eyes open, and see that their votes are cast according to intention. Mistakes are liable to occur at the ballot box, hence this caution. Those who registered at the last municipal election are eligible to vote on this question.

**Deseret Museum.**—The curator of the Museum respectfully acknow-