

EDITORIALS

AMATEURS AND CRITICS.

THERE is in this Territory a great deal of undeveloped or only partially developed talent for music and the drama. The "Mormons" are a music-loving people. They also have considerable taste for theatrical entertainments. In most of our settlements there are dramatic societies, and concerts form one of the principal features of winter amusements. At one time the everlasting dance constituted almost the sole amusement of the chilly season, an occasional song or recitation giving a little variety to the exercises. Of late years lectures, concerts, and plays have come more into fashion, increasing in interest and intellectuality with the progress of the people and the growth of the Territory. This is a step in the right direction, and those who aid in educating the popular mind and elevating the popular taste are deserving of great praise as well as public support.

This movement naturally brings to the front quite a number of amateurs; some full of ambition, with perhaps a little egotism born of flattery and nourished by the extravagant applause of friends, others naturally modest and timid, who only consent to come before the public from a desire to assist in any good work for which nature has qualified them. What is the proper course to pursue in relation to these amateur artists—singers, instrumental musicians, actors, etc? Are they to be encouraged to continue the cultivation of the gifts bestowed upon them by providence for the benefit of their fellows? Or should they be discouraged and frowned back into the shade of private life to make way for professionals?

These questions are prompted by the severe criticism to which the fledglings of music and the drama are frequently subjected when they attempt to entertain the public. Some critics seem to forget entirely that these amateurs do not appear as professionals, and that even when they attempt difficult performances which only great artists can render perfectly, they merely come forward to do the best they can without pretending to high excellence or assuming the role of the professional.

We think that judicious encouragement should be accorded to amateurs, especially when they do not give themselves airs, nor assume a superiority which they have not. The professional is merely an amateur developed, and if the crude efforts of the *debutante* are to be ridiculed and criticized until the discouraged amateur is scourged back into obscurity, how much perfection can be hoped for from our home talent? When a young man or young lady becomes stage-struck, and, without natural ability, but with a great deal of assurance, comes before the public heralded by a loud flourish of trumpets and much fuss and feathers, criticism is virtually invited and if it is severely administered the sufferer cannot consistently complain, while the dose may prove good medicine to the unduly ambitious youth, as well as save the public from further inflictions from the same source. But when modest efforts are made to cultivate a talent of any kind calculated to entertain the public, we think they should be kindly received, and the amateur ought to be tenderly treated, and if blemishes are referred to, they should be touched lightly and in a friendly spirit, with a view to the improvement of the amateur and not to his or her discouragement.

It is very easy for a looker-on to find fault and discover defects in a musician or an actor unaccustomed to the often overpowering influence of an assembly. It requires no great talent to make objections, to sneer, to joke at small errors, to utter sarcasms at unimportant blunders, and give pompous advice with the assumed air of a sage or the manner of an authority. And we often notice that in some press criticisms of musicians and actors, that the severe pencil-prodder of the amateur shows himself in his business just as much of an amateur as the unfortunate victim who has to grin or grieve and bear his attacks. It requires some knowledge of the musical or dramatic art to constitute a reasonably fair critic of either, and the crude productions of some would-be thought-wise or smart journalistic critics, are frequently far worse specimens of common composition, to say nothing of critical acumen, than the condemned performances are of musical and dramatic power.

We do not think it is wise to laud extravagantly the creditable efforts of amateurs, and certainly consider that it is a wrong upon the individual and the public, to falsely praise and urge to continuance a young man or woman who can only become conspicuous as a failure. It is a strange thing, but notably true, that more persons totally unfitted for the stage, imagine themselves designed by nature for actors, than any other self-deceived victims of a diseased imagination. It is cruel to encourage them to persist in attempts which can only result in mortification and chagrin. But when amateurs who are endowed with natural capabilities, exhibit the shortcomings of the undeveloped and unpractised genius of any profession, their failings should be treated with forbearance, and judicious praise should be accorded to their manifest excellencies.

Music and the drama are potent popular refiners and educators. They should be encouraged and utilized in this community. Under proper regulation, which excludes vulgarity and everything of an immoral tendency, they can be made powerful agencies for the good of mankind. Of all people in the world, the Latter-day Saints should cultivate everything that tends to elevate and improve the race, and therefore we hope to see the musical and dramatic talent which exists to so large an extent among our people, aided and encouraged by all whose word or influence is valued by the public.

THE COLORADO "MORMONS."

A PAPER published in Rico, Colorado, is much exercised over the colonization of Conejos County by "Mormons." It is their political influence that appears to be dreaded. It is predicted that they will hold the balance of power in the politics of the county, and this is referred to as its "political ruin." The *News*, which assumes the role of a prophet and makes these and other assertions in a very reckless manner, accompanied with some very strong language and abusive epithets, need not be in any concern over this matter. Its editor is no doubt led away by the nonsense which other writers have circulated about the "Mormons," and on closer acquaintance and better information, will no doubt find out his error and use a little milder manner of speech. We do not care to soil our columns with his expletives, but will just quote one paragraph in order to show him how much he is mistaken on one point, and that may lead him to reflect and find out that he has blundered on others:

"The Mormons do not colonize of their own accord; they are ordered out of Utah to such a place as the leaders of the Church may designate, and they always vote as a unit."

The people who are settling in Conejos County are not from Utah. They are principally from the Southern States, and the *News* will find on inquiry that they make excellent citizens and first-class settlers. That they are industrious, thrifty, moral, peaceable, orderly and temperate. As to their voting, we do not know. Quite likely they may be very much united. We hope so. But whether they vote on the Republican or Democratic side, they will exercise their own agency and act according to their own choice, as they consider they have the right to do, and we do not think the *Dolores News* would like to say they ought to be hindered in the exercise of this privilege. Perhaps the editor will show how they can be made to colonize in any place "not of their own accord."

Another Colorado paper, the *Great West*, takes a different and, as we think, much more rational view, and expresses itself in this wise:

"Seventeen Mormon elders have been sent south to make converts to bring into Colorado. The Mormons are as welcome in Colorado as are those who belong or who do not belong to other companies, if they are good workers, industrious citizens, and given to mind their own business. One Mormon who lives by labor is worth more to the State than are 213 growlers and gabblers, who are afraid that God does not know there are Mormons."

The people who advent provoke these various comments have just as much right to settle in Colorado as so many Methodists or infidels,

and the Democrats among them have just as much right there as those of them who are Republicans. Neither religion nor politics has anything to do with the question of colonization under the laws of the United States or of the State of Colorado, and editors will only exhibit their own folly as well as impotence in trying to deter any "Mormons" from settling in Conejos County, or elsewhere, by an exhibition of bigotry and intolerance. The "Mormon" settlers will prove to be wealth and prosperity for Colorado.

"STAR" ITEMS.

THE *Millennial Star* of October 25th announces the release of Elder Jesse West from being a traveling Elder in the Manchester Conference, to return to Utah on account of ill health. He left with the other returning Elders on the S. S. *Wisconsin* which sailed Oct. 23d.

The *Star* has the following concerning Elder John Nicholson:

"On Saturday last, the 23d inst., we bade farewell to Elder John Nicholson, who left for home in charge of a company of Saints on board of the S. S. *Wisconsin*. Elder Nicholson arrived in this country on the 6th of September 1878, having been appointed to labor in the editorial department of this office. He has continued in this capacity since that date, and has in every respect merited the approval of the presiding authority in these lands. He has also, during his stay been very assiduous in the authorship of pamphlets for the spread of truth among the people, and his forcible logic has found its way into many a home through 'Comprehensive Salvation,' besides the large dissemination of 'Means of Escape' and 'Latter-day Prophet,' so well known among the Saints engaged in 'tracting.'"

Elder Nicholson has been a useful missionary, an able expounder of the gospel both with his pen and tongue, and now returns to his mountain home with our best wishes for his future success and happiness."

Elder C. W. Stayner succeeds Elder Nicholson in the editorial department of the *Star*. He gives an interesting account of his labors in the mission field, and relates particulars of manifestations in the Nottingham Branch—tongues, interpretations, prophecy and healings. He enters upon his duties in the *Star* office in faith and with a desire to be guided by the Spirit of Truth.

By letter from Elder Van Dyk, dated Zwolle, Oct. 17th, we learn that he had lately baptized two ladies, which, with six other baptisms there recently, makes eight new additions to the Church among that people, who seem to be waking up through his labors.

Brother John Potter of Manchester writes to Elder Francis Cope, particulars of a remarkable case of healing. A brother by the name of Eden having been given over to death by the doctors, was restored to health and soundness through the laying on of the hands of the Elders, the doctors who anticipated his death, being astonished to find him seated at the table eating his breakfast.

The *Star* has the following to which we invite special attention:

"We would in this connection solicit our friends and the Saints in Utah to subscribe for the *Star*. It is a record of missionary labors among the white races, containing, as it does, reliable correspondence from the elders engaged in the ministry, and will be found very interesting to those who have friends on a mission, and also to those who have received the Gospel in these lands. And as the organ of the Church abroad, it should be sustained and read by the Latter-day Saints in all parts of the earth. To our friends in America we would say, that about the time this number reaches them, it will be a suitable time to subscribe, as they will be able to begin with the commencement of the next volume, and by saving the numbers, will have a work suitable for binding. In subscribing, such parties can either do so through our agents, or send direct to this office; it will be better, however, for those who send us direct, to form a club of three, as that number of copies can be forwarded for the same postage as it would cost for a single copy. Persons need not put themselves to the expense and inconvenience of going a Post Office order, but send the amount, \$1.50 for one copy, or \$3.70 for three copies

for a year, in U. S. currency, to William Budge, 42, Islington, Liverpool, England."

As Apostle Albert Carrington has succeeded Elder Budge in the Presidency of the European mission, since the date when the above paragraph was published, those who subscribe for the *Star* should substitute the name of the former for the latter in their advices to Liverpool.

ENCOURAGING.

THOSE of our citizens who are suffering from a lack of fuel, or from half burnable rubbish with the bogus title of coal, will be pleased to learn that the Utah Eastern is moving ahead. Bishop Burton, who has just returned from the scene of action, reports that the line is completed and cars running a little distance this side of Wanship, and that the folks in that region who wanted to attend the Conference at Coalville were conveyed there yesterday by Utah Eastern train.

The work has been somewhat retarded by severe frost, which congealed water in Wanship wells, and a snow storm which covered the track to the depth of several inches. But the snow is being cleared off as track laying goes on, for the road-bed is good to Kimball's, and if the present open weather continues, the track will be completed to that point in about a week, in spite of the efforts of Mr. Frost to nip the fingers and toes of the workmen and shorten the time in which they can labor.

Teamsters should now be getting ready for a trip to Kimball's, to haul in the black diamonds and "make hay while the sun shines," or rather, make good wages while the road lingers on its way to the city. And meanwhile, all who want to aid in the completion of the enterprise, should communicate with the secretary of the Company, at its office in the Kimball Block, First South St., Salt Lake City.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Good authority places the number of organized Nihilists in Russia at thirteen millions. What a lively honeymoon they could make for the newly married Czar.

The second number of the "Faith-Promoting Series," is exceedingly interesting, and is published at the *Juvenile Instructor* Office. Price 25 cents, not 20 cents, as previously announced.

One more of them has been found out. Eastern papers report that the Rev. Dr. J. W. Carhart, presiding elder of the Northern Wisconsin Methodist conference, has been convicted of dishonesty, lying, perjury, and general immorality, by a court composed of fifteen Methodist Episcopal clergymen.

Paper money is poor stuff without good solid backing. The Chilians have got all the rag-baby they want. Their war has forced them to issue \$12,000,000 in paper, and the consequence is general financial uncertainty and distress. A Greenback party would have a hard time in Chili.

The importation this year of heavy draught breeding-horses from Europe to the United States is noticeably large, and bids fair to exceed that of 1876, when about 300 animals were brought over. These horses are chiefly of the Norman and Clydesdale breeds, and when crossed with large native mares produce the handsome and powerful teams so highly valued for heavy draught purposes in large cities.

The consumption of mule and horseflesh is steadily increasing in France. The weight has risen from 171,300 pounds in 1866 to 1,982,620 pounds in 1879. In the principal cities of the provinces the consumption of horseflesh may be considered to have fairly taken root. The average price of horse meat is from 15 to 35 cents per pound. Each horse furnishes about four hundred weight of meat, which is capable of being prepared in many ways, such as *pot-au-feu*, boiled, roast, hashed, haricot, jugged, fillet, etc.

The exports of breadstuffs from the United States for September, as reported by the bureau of statistics, amounted in value to \$4,881,936, being about twelve millions less than for the corresponding period in the year preceding. But the ex-

port of breadstuffs for the past nine months aggregated \$208,679,549, being over thirty-two millions more than for the corresponding months of last year. The figures for the last month show to what extent the export was checked by the weakness of the foreign market.

A new remedy for typhoid fever was tried with remarkably good effect in Tuskegee, Alabama, recently. A young lady who was supposed to be dying with that disease, was married on her "death bed" to her lover, to whom she had been for some time engaged, when she immediately rallied and commenced a course to amend rapidly, with prospects of a perfect cure. Doctors make a note of this. Matrimony is an excellent prescription for many ailments.

The late "Liberal" candidate for Delegate hails from Frisco. The *Times*, published at that place, says "The election here on Tuesday was a thin affair," and "but little interest was manifested. Not as much on the part of Mr. Campbell's friends as we had hoped to see, and certainly not as much as that gentleman had a right to expect." "A thin affair" describes the outcome of the "Liberal" prodigious effort stump-speaking, abuse of the "Mormons," subscription gathering, etc., etc. After all the noise in advance, "but little interest was manifested" on election day.

The following from the *Boston Post* shows the estimation in which the harlequin of the pulpit is held at "the hub." "In regard to the Mormons in Utah, the Rev. Talmage says: 'Arbitration by all means; but if that will not do, then peaceful proclamation; if that will not do, then howitzer and bullet, and bombshell and cannon ball.' If Talmage would only take up his residence in the Territory the Mormons would leave without the aid of any of the forces recommended by Talmage. That is, presuming the Mormons are as level-headed and as particular as regards society as it has been said they are."

Correspondence.

MALAD CITY, Idaho,
Nov. 10th, 1880.

Editor *Deseret News*:

On the 2nd, election day, all went off very peaceably, except a little fracas between two young men, the particulars of which are not worth mentioning, only this: Bill stuck Tom with a pocket knife, and Tom in return sent a bullet through Bill's cheek, passing down his throat as innocently as one of Parr's life pills. Both boys are doing well.

Several of our brethren have been elected by a very large majority.

On Saturday, the 6th, Brothers Oliver G. Snow, Elijah Box and Isaac Smith, presidency of this Stake, paid us a visit, and at 7 p. m. held a priesthood meeting in which the matter of organizing the presidency of the Malad City Ward was presented by Prest. O. G. Snow; Brothers Geo. Stuart for bishop; John L. Roberts, first counselor and Jas. P. Harrison second. The vote was unanimous in their favor.

Sunday, 7th, meeting at 10 a. m. Bros. Jepson and Isaac Smith occupied the stand, and both gave good, sound instructions, principally on morality, etc.

2 p. m.

After the usual opening exercise, Prest. O. G. Snow read from the Doctrine and Covenants, page 279, old edition, and page 388, new edition, showing very plainly the necessity of magnifying our calling in the priesthood, that all should strictly observe the law of tithing, and lead a moral life. Bro. Box, in his usual calm and deliberate style, started his discourse from the following words: "Peace on earth and good will to men." He treated very extensively on the sealing principle of the gospel, turning the hearts of the fathers to the children and the children to the fathers, etc.

Bro. Smith treated the first principles of the gospel in a masterly manner, introducing scripture, both New and Old Testament, upon every point. May God bless young Isaac, that he may become as powerful in the midst of Israel as Isaac of old.

6 p. m.

Bros. Oliver, Elijah and Isaac occupied the stand during the evening, taking for their subjects tithing, temple and general and moral principles. CYMRO.