NEWS OF THE WEST.

The Crookbites Coming Into Heirship for Holland Millions.

FATAL BITE OF A RATTLESNAKE.

Salt Lake Stocks Rap ies by Immersion—Suits Against Southern Pacific—General Notes.

All the schools in Fresno, Cal., have been closed on account of diphtheria.

Louis Cavanaugh dropped dead in Sacramento, Cal., from the effects of drinking liquor.

Malad, Idaho, Enterprise: Robert Henderson and son Will, came up from Wilford, Utah, Thursday to prepare for the re-opening of their dairy.

St. Anthony, Idaho, Silver Hammer: Clerk Brumwell informs us that he is in receipt of a great many inquiries for land in Fremont county from Utah. Fremont's population will be greatly increased this year from all appearances.

Old John White, the man whom California chronicles credit with having driven the first mail stage across the plains from the East in 1858, was buried Just as Young of Los Angeles, Cal., on the unfortunate charge of stealing chickens.

Dr. Joseph L. Thayer committed suicide at Los Angeles Friday morning by inhaling chloroform. He was a young man, not over 30 years of age, and was despondent because of his inability to earn a fair living at his profession. He has a sister at Dallas, Texas.

On Sunday night, Feb. 23, Jacob King, a prominent rancher of Antelope valley, Cal., went into his house to attend to the dogs and in the darkness thrust his hand into the kennel and was bitten by a huge desert rattlesnake. He did not receive medical attention until the following morning, and on Tuesday morning he died in great agony, his entire body being almost black.

The governor of Wyoming wired Governor McConnell, of Idaho, that a man representing himself to be William McConnell, son of the governor, had wheedled him for money. The Idaho governor replied that the man was an impostor as his son was attending the state university at Moscow. It was afterwards discovered the man had been working people under a multitude of names.

Friday Mrs. August D. Vandewalker, of Boise, Idaho, reported to the police that her husband had mysteriously disappeared. She said he left his home last Tuesday for the purpose of going down town for some groceries and has not returned. He had been looking to Vale for work to maintain his sick wife and children. They had had a quarrel, but Mrs. Vandewalker did not think her husband would leave on that account.

The Idaho Statesman of Saturday, February 29, tells of the unusual spectacle of a baptismal ceremony in the waters of Boise river on a bleak February day, with the water almost at the freezing point, which was witnessed Friday afternoon by about 200 people. Twenty converts of the Salvation Army were immersed. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Young, who asserted that baptism was not essential to the salvation of souls, but was "glorious emblem of the baptism of the Holy Spirit." He made no attempt to explain his contradiction of the Divine Master's words on the subject.

Instructions have been received from Washington at the office of the United States district attorney in San Francisco to institute additional suits against the Southern and Central Pacific railroad companies and against the trustees of the three land mortgages to recover for the government about 20,000 acres of valuable land along the railroad lines named, a large portion of which lies in Alameda and Santa Clara counties and between San Jose and Sacramento. In all, eight suits will be filed, and must be in by 4 p. m. today, March 2, to come within the act of limitations passed by Congress on March 4, 1891.

Three persons in Fresno, Cal., claim to be heirs to a large fortune said to be in the bank of Holland ready to be distributed. It is claimed that Jasper Crookbite died there 100 years ago, leaving twelve millions in trust to the hands of the government for the heirs of his brother's children. Distribution was not to take place for 100 years. The time is now up, and the estate has grown to $42,000,000. The heirs in Fresno are Mrs. Lizzie Crookbite, Charles Crookbite and Mrs. William Maxwell. They have already taken steps to have their claims to the estate filed with those of forty or sixty other heirs in different parts of this country, but mostly of the state of New York. Those in Fresno are the fifth generation in descent from Jasper Crookbite's brother. Charles Crookbite is a saloon keeper, Miss Lizzie Crookbite, is a saleswoman in a dry goods house and Mrs. Maxwell is the wife of a driver of a hose cart in the Fresno fire department. They have kept track of that Holland estate for many years, waiting for the time to come for its distribution.

David T. Hanbury and George Lange, of Victoria, B. C., left that city March 2, on an exploring trip through the northern portions of British Columbia and the northwest territory. The trip will occupy at least twelve months and possibly longer. They intend to go through a country that has never before been traversed by a white man. Leaving by the steamer Danube, they will go to the north of the Skeena river, where the Hudson Bay company's steamer Caledonia will be waiting for them. She will take them as far up the river as she can go and they will then make their way to Lake Lake. From there they will strike north of the headwaters of the Tahtan river, and then west to the Mackenzie, where they will resume their exploration in the spring. Mr. Hanbury's only object in making the trip is to satisfy his desire to see the country. He spent some time last year hunting along the northern coast and it was then that he formed the wish to see the wonderful picturesque country of the northern interior.

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Prospectus For Volume XVII. OF THE CONTRIBUTOR. 1895-6.

We are pleased to announce the following as some of the leading features of Volume Seventeen of THE CONTRIBUTOR. It is the determination to make this magazine occupy the front rank in our home literature, and we trust this effort will find encouragement in the liberal patronage of the public.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH will instruct and interest our readers with some articles descriptive of

Early Days in the Valley,
Which will contain reminiscences of his valuable though oftimes trying experiences as a boy and man in Utah.

My First Mission,
Will be the title of some articles from the pen of APOSTLE FRANCIS M. LYMAN, wherein he will give an account of his interesting experience of travelling "without purse or scrip," and many narratives incident connected with his ministry abroad.

APOSTLE HEBER J. GRANT will contribute in a series of illustrated articles the incidents of a

Visit to the Moquis,
Made by himself and APOSTLE BRIGHAM YOUNG. These papers will portray in a remarkable manner the care and power of God which accompanied these Elders. The customs of this Indian tribe will also receive attention.

Salem Witchcraft.
A succinct historical account of this remarkable feature of New England colonial history. Theories and explanations of its phenomena, offered by leading writers, discussed in the support from the standpoint of a Latter-day Saint, by H. E. CUMMINGS, JR.

ELDER MARVIN E. PACK will prepare a series of illustrated and highly interesting papers on

The Sandwich Islands Country and Mission
These articles will give a brief historical account of this group of islands, review some of the customs of the people and describe the past labors of our missionaries and the present condition of the interesting work.

Twelve papers will be furnished by ELDER JAMES H. WALLIS, on

The Consistencies of Mormonism.
These will be most ably written, and are designed to furnish arguments in favor of the truth for our missionaries and those who are called to defend our religion.

My School Days at Ann Arbor,
Will receive treatment by ELDER RICHARD R. LYMAN who recently graduated as a civil engineer from this noted Michigan school with high honors. These articles will be illustrated.

John Stevens' Courtship. A Tale of the Rochester Wars.
Is the title of a deeply interesting serial story which will be continued through the whole volume; its author is our versatile and talented friend SUSA YOUNG GATES (HOMEPEN), whose already published narratives have been of so much interest.

Ideal Manhood: Some Suggestions About It.
This will be the title of some articles containing valuable suggestions to our young men who have an ambition to do or be something in the world. The author is a long resident of Utah, but desires his identity concealed and will consequently write under the nom de plume of SIMPLEX.

College Department.
The latter day Saints' College in Salt Lake City, will be represented by a department which will be supplied with essays and other articles from students and teachers. These productions will represent, so far as possible, the actual work of the college, and will pass through the hands of the Principal, who will see that everything sent is of a high order.

The Musical Department
Will be in charge of Professors JOHN J. McCLELLAN and WILLARD DONE. A graded series of musical compositions, original and selected, will be published including solos, duets, quartettes and choruses chosen with special reference to their adaptability to M. I. A. work. Home composers are earnestly invited to send their productions to the editors of the department.

The Eisteddfod Prize Male Quatrette,
For which THE CONTRIBUTOR gave a $25.00 cash prize, will appear in this volume of the magazine.

Association Intelligence.
In this department will appear all instructive or interesting matter pertaining to M. I. A. work, including answers to questions, reports, suggestions, etc. We particularly invite all active workers in the Associations to assist by their literary contributions in making this department of prime importance.

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By MILTON H. HARDY and GEORGE H. BRIMHALL committee on compilation.

M. I. Work,
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