



**GEORGE Q. CANNON,**  
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Wednesday, - - January 1, 1873.

CHRISTMAS passed off in this city apparently in a cheerful and spirited manner. The weather was remarkable, rain and mud, rain and mud. Didn't it pour on Christmas eve! Inhospitable and miry without, but cheery and merry within. Nevertheless the toy and candy and provision stores were abundantly patronized, the first named especially, some of them being crowded. Yesterday the juveniles were in their glory, and the martial music of infantile drums and trumpets made the streets vocal. The air was mild enough though damp enough until this morning, when Jack Frost helped matters a little by drying and hardening moderately the soft places in the streets and on the side-walks.

The festivities of the season appear to have been generally observed throughout the country. On the Pacific, as here, rain prevailed. On the contrary east of the mountains, it appears, from east to west and from north to south, the cold has been most intense. From Maine to Texas the reports tell of severity unprecedented for several years. A just arrived passenger speaks of it from experience, as "perfectly frightful," more biting than anything he had known in this Territory, and it is nipping cold here sometimes, the middle of January last for instance. But from east of us we have for Tuesday, Christmas eve, such figures as these—in northern Texas (the coldest known) ten degrees above zero, and in various parts of the more northern States from five to fifty below, this last figure being at Lancaster, New Hampshire, at seven o'clock in the morning of Christmas day, but generally running to about thirty degrees below. These figures indicate uncommon severity and will cause the passing Christmas to be a memorable one in the Eastern and Southern States.

THE sad accident yesterday by snow slide in Little Cottonwood Canyon reminds us that the season of danger by that cause has come around again. Formerly the travel and traffic in the canyons was very light in the winter—a little wood hauling being the principal. But with the opening of the mines the case is different. In some canyons the travel and traffic now are considerable, summer and winter, and consequently the liability to danger from avalanches is very much increased. To keep the mines working during the winter and spring seasons, the canyons must be kept open and teams must pass up and down. Can nothing be done, then, to prevent or moderate the results of such painful casualties as that of yesterday? Not much, it is to be feared. But those who value their lives would do well to take such precautions as are practicable. It appears that in this instance a number of teams were passing each other at the fatal spot at the fatal moment. An aggregation of teams at a dangerous point of the canyon at the time when meteorological and topographical indications denote danger or are favorable to accidents of this nature is a bad policy of the road. It would be much better, when practicable, for teams to pass such places singly, and isolated from other teams. Then, in case of accident, the damage would certainly be less. A precautionary policy of this kind, combined with one of not passing such points at all when the conditions are dangerous, would do much to prevent accident, or to mitigate it when it might occur. Snow sheds in such parts of the road as are liable to be visited with avalanches would be capital things, as on the Pacific railroads, though, from the expense of such structures, it is probable that they could not be adopted very extensively in our mining canyons at present.

THE year seems to be going out agreeably enough hereabout, but in the eastern States and in many portions of Europe a rather lurid humor is manifested by Father Time as he passes along toward 1873. In our own country toward the Atlantic the people are visited with very uncommon severity of cold coming down from the northwest, complemented by unusually fierce snow storms. A short time ago business in a number of large eastern cities was greatly hindered and largely suspended by the epizootic, now it is so by reason of the deep snow and the mercury off below zero. Of conflagrations, railroad massacres and holocausts, murders and violence of various kinds, the report is grievous to hear, the newspapers are burdened with horrifying details, and the better part of the population is sick of the abundance of fearful accident and revolting criminality, and the end is not yet.

On the ocean old Boreas has been extraordinarily rude of late, all the vessels arriving at New York and some other ports reporting exceedingly rough weather, terrific gales, and "waves mountains high." Upon the British coasts and other European Atlantic shores, Neptune has been raging in a manner not common even in the most stormy times of the year. England has scarcely settled her numerous strikes ere the elements warred fiercely in gales, heavy rainstorms, and floods of more than ordinary extent. In France, Italy, and other European countries very extensive and destructive floods and inundations have prevailed. Altogether, both in this country and beyond the Atlantic, events of a startling nature have been conspiring to make the closing weeks of the present year very exceptional.

THE cold wave from the polar regions still retains its influence upon the cities, towns, and country of the eastern and northern States, in many of them travel and business being partially and in some almost wholly suspended. Trains and mails are also greatly hindered, which hindrance will be felt here in a few days to greater or less extent among business circles.

THE members of Congress, like less important people, are enjoying the usual holidays of the season, after which they should be able to return to their congressional labors with reinvigorated powers, mental and physical, and a determination to promptly accomplish such of the legislative business as is most needed for the welfare and prosperity of the country at large. To put through all that will be before them will be impossible, and even to satisfactorily consider so much as is really desirable perhaps will be impracticable within the short time that will be left for sitting after the holiday recess is over and the session is resumed. Congress reassembles on the 6th of January and the session ends ready for the inauguration of the newly elected President on the 4th of March, thus giving scarcely two months for the remaining time of the session, which will be a space so brief that it will be likely to be eagerly appropriated to the discussion of measures which will be nearest the hearts of Congressmen or their constituents. Let us hope that the laws passed will be of unexceptionable character, the best that can be devised to promote the general weal. Then everybody ought to be satisfied.

#### MINUTES

Of special meeting of Salt Lake City Fire Brigade, Dec. 25th, 1872, Chief Engineer, John T. D. McAllister, presiding.

Meeting convened in Fireman's Hall at 10 a. m.

Roll called. The fire companies were well represented, about four-fifths of the members being present, in their uniforms.

Chief Engineer, McAllister, stated that there was not much business to be transacted at this meeting. He wished the members of Engine, Hose, and Hook and Ladder Companies to practice a little in their several departments, and regretted that the day was so stormy.

The members then repaired to the engine house, and commenced moving fire apparatus to corner of First South and First East streets, suction hose being placed in the new tank. In seven minutes from the time of lighting fire in the engine, fifty pounds of steam was attained. The hose was taken up

the hill to South Temple street and with eighty-two pounds of steam an unbroken stream of water was thrown over the flag-staff in President Young's grounds. With seventy-five pounds of steam a continuous stream was thrown over the roof of the Theatre. Meanwhile the Hook and Ladder company was not idle, their exercises being the rearing, carrying, and scaling of ladders, etc.

After one hour and a quarter thus employed, the engine, hose, and hook and ladder trucks were housed, members again convened in the hall, when Chief Engineer McAllister stated that he was well satisfied with the exercises of the day, and thanked the members for the response to this special call.

Roll being again called, twelve more members answered to their names, and twenty new members were proposed.

Wm. Calder, on behalf of the firm of Calder and Careless, offered as a voluntary donation one hundred dollars' worth of books for "Salt Lake City Fireman's Library."

A unanimous vote of thanks was then given to the firm of Calder & Careless for their liberal present.

Chief Engineer McAllister gave notice that a committee would be chosen, at the next regular monthly meeting (January 4th, 1873) to make a suitable selection of books from Messrs. Calder & Careless' store.

Sixty-two members handed in their subscriptions for the Fireman's Record.

Meeting adjourned sine die.

CHAS. M. DONELSON, JUN.,  
Secretary.

#### Fatal Accident.

FILLMORE CITY, Dec. 26, 1872.

Editor Deseret News:

Enclosed you will find the results of a coroner's inquest sent to me by Joseph S. Gyles, J. P. in Holden.

It seems that the brethren of Holden had made a cannon of some description, I cannot tell what it was like, as I never saw it, neither have I heard it described, but I understand it was a temporary, home made thing. It seems that they were trying to fire it on the 24th inst., from the evidence of Willis Harmon, corroborated by John Turner and many others who witnessed the fatal accident. They saw Martin Parker take fire and go to touch off the cannon. He tried three times before it went off. When the smoke cleared away, they saw Parker lying on the ground, and thought he was only making fun, until they saw blood when they ran up and saw his brains were nearly all out of his head. He breathed once or twice and was dead.

It was 4:45 o'clock p. m. when the fatal accident occurred. Bro. Parker was a powerful man and very venturesome. He was about 28 years of age, and leaves a wife and three children. Respectfully,  
F. M. LYMAN.

The following is a copy of the verdict rendered by the Coroner's jury:

Territory of Utah,  
Holden Precinct,  
Millard County.

An inquisition holden at Holden, in Holden Precinct, Millard County, on the 24th day of Dec. A. D. 1872, before J. S. Gyles, Justice of the Peace, in and for the county aforesaid, upon the body of Martin Parker, there lying dead, by the jurors whose names are hereunto subscribed. The said jurors, upon their oaths, do say, that deceased came to his death by the bursting of a cannon, fired by deceased. In witness whereof the said jurors have hereunto set their hands the day and year aforesaid.

JOHN D. HUNTER,  
ANSIE P. HARMON,  
JOHN ELLETT.

J. S. GYLES, Justice of the Peace.

NEW BATH HOTEL, Rotterdam.

Dec. 5th, 1872.

Geo. Q. Cannon Esq., Salt Lake City,  
Dear Brother:

My time is so completely occupied in attending to the business and traveling arrangements of our party, that it is impossible for me to send you further correspondence, but Brother Lorenzo Snow kindly volunteered to attend to it.

We are all well, enjoy ourselves very much, and intend to leave here for Antwerp tomorrow at 10-10 a. m. On the 8th inst we shall reach Brussels, and at Paris we intend to make a stay from the 11th to the 18th inst., at Lyons the 20th, Marseilles 24th, Nice 25, Genoa 27th, Turin 29th, Milan Jan. 1st, 1873, Venice Jan. 3rd, Bologna Jan. 9th, Florence 10th, Rome 16th to 24th, Naples 26th, to 30th, from Brindisi to Corfu Jan. 31st, Alexandria Feb. 7th, Cairo 23rd, Jaffa 26th, Beyrout, March 23rd, Constantinople March 31st, Athens April 5th, Trieste April 19th. Should we stay six weeks in Palestine instead of four weeks, the last four dates will be two weeks later each.

Remember us kindly to President Young and Wells, and to all inquiring friends.  
Yours truly in the Gospel,  
PAUL A. SCHETTLER.

#### A BILL

Granting lands to aid in the reclamation of desert lands in the Territories of the United States.

[Introduced in the House of Representatives, Dec. 16, 1872, by Hon. W. H. Hooper, read twice, referred to the committee on the public lands, and ordered to be printed.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the purpose of aiding in reclaiming the desert lands in the Territories of the United States, and of furnishing water necessary to irrigate said lands for agricultural and other uses, the right of way through the public lands be, and the same is hereby, granted to the said Territories of the United States for the construction of canals, with the right to take the necessary materials of earth, stone and timber for the construction thereof, and also the right to take and divert from any and all rivers or streams running through said public lands the water necessary to fill and feed said canals: *Provided*, That the right of way shall not exceed two hundred feet on each side of the line of said canals, and that, within ninety days after the completion of their survey, copies of the survey shall be forwarded to the proper local land-office and to the General Land-office.

Sec. 2. That there be, and is hereby, granted to said Territories of the United States, for the purpose aforesaid, every alternate section, designated by odd numbers, of the lands lying on each side of said canals as far as the said canals shall have capacity to irrigate, but not to exceed ten miles from their lines: *Provided*, That the rights of settlers now upon the lands hereby granted shall be in no wise affected by this act; but the proceeds of the sales hereafter made of any of said lands to which the right of pre-emption has attached shall be paid over to the said Territories of the United States upon the order of the Secretary of the Interior. *And provided further*, That the lands hereby granted, and the proceeds of the sale of such as shall be sold as aforesaid, shall be applied in the construction of said canals, and shall be disposed of only as the work progresses, and shall be applied to no other purpose whatever. *And provided further*, That any and all lands reserved to the United States by any act of Congress for any purpose whatever be, and the same are hereby, reserved from the operation of this act, except so far as it may be necessary to locate the routes of the said canals, or any of them, and to construct the same through such reserved lands.

SEC. 3. That in the distribution of water for the purpose of irrigation there shall be no distinction made in regard to lands so situated as to be flooded by the waters drawn from said canals, or any of them, but each and every owner thereof shall have the right during the irrigating season, to sufficient water at reasonable rates (to be fixed by the legislative assemblies of said Territories of the United States) to irrigate the lands which he may have under cultivation: *Provided*, That the owner or owners of lands as aforesaid shall, at their own cost, construct and maintain the necessary side-ditches to conduct the water from said canals over their lands, the right of way for which, of sufficient width, over the public lands within the limits of aforesaid, is hereby granted as a public easement; and all sales of said land shall be subject thereto.

Sec. 4. That the lands hereby granted shall be disposed of by the said Territories of the United States in manner following, that is to say: when the governors of the said Territories shall certify to the Secretary of the Interior that ten continuous miles of said canals, or any of them, from the point of departure on said rivers or streams, the waters of which have been taken out, is completed, then the alternate sections hereby granted for such distance may be sold, and so, from time to time, until said canals are completed; and if said canals are not completed in ten years, no further sales shall be made, and the lands unsold shall revert to the United States.

Sec. 5. That authority is hereby given to the legislative assemblies of the said Territories of the United States to incorporate companies, with power to construct said canals, or any of them, and to transfer to such companies the lands and franchises hereinabove granted.