

## THE MOFFET REGISTER.

We find that there are many persons who do not understand the bell punch system of taxing the sale of liquor, to which we made some allusion in our issue of Saturday; we therefore now offer a few words of explanation.

This system was introduced into Virginia by Dr. Moffet, a State Senator, after great opposition and ridicule. The instrument which he presented as a machine to register the number of drinks sold in any saloon, was in the shape of a square old-fashioned coffee grinder, with a dial on one side; at each turn of the handle a bell was struck and the dial hand marked a point. The law which he succeeded in pushing through the Assembly required the bar tender to turn the handle when a drink was taken, and a tax of two and a half cents was imposed on each drink of wine or liquor, or on each half pint sold at retail, and one half a cent on every drink or half pint of malt liquor. Each failure to register was made punishable by a fine of not less than \$20 nor more than \$100, one-third of which was given to the informer. The Commissioner of Revenue was required to visit and take the register at each saloon three times a month, after the fashion of taking the register of a gas metre.

Some improvements were made in the machine before it was brought into active service, and amendments will have to be made in the Virginia law before it will be really efficient. The machine now in use is thus described in the *New York Herald*:

"The Moffet register is a cast-iron box with machinery inside moving works like those of a gas metre. It has six dials on the surface. The first dial registers units up to ten, the second tens up to a hundred, the third hundreds up to a thousand, and so on up to a million. It is a combination of the gas metre and an ordinary table gong or bell struck by a spring with a hammer attached. When a drink is sold the handle is turned, the bell punch announces the fact, and the hand on the first dial moves one point. This is the Moffet register. It is secured by a simple, ingenious and very excellent lock, and is quite safe from being tampered with."

It appears that under the Virginia law this may be placed anywhere within view where the liquor is sold. The dials are small, and may be placed so that the bar-tender could touch a bell, in the hearing of the customer, but at such a distance that he could not discern whether or not the hand moved on the dial. In this way the registering can be evaded.

The saloon keepers are nearly all hostile to it in Virginia, and there are so many opponents to it in the Virginia Legislature that its supporters are afraid to suggest improvements in the law for fear that agitation of the matter would lead to repeal. The saloon keepers say they are in terror lest in the rush of business they should neglect to turn the crank, and thus render themselves liable to a fine. Then the additional two and a half cents which has to be charged for the drink to pay the tax, causes many drinkers to buy liquor by the measure, and thus the retail dealer, who only pays the same tax on the half pint as the saloon keeper on a single drink, has an advantage which works an injustice, and while it discourages public dram-drinking it encourages private tippling which many regard as the greater evil of the two.

It appears to us that the chief objections to the Moffet register could easily be remedied by a well digested law, and we regard the principle of taxing the sale of intoxicating liquors according to the amount sold, as far more just and every way preferable to the general license system which prevails in this city and many other parts of the United States.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

Farmers, beware of "patent fertilizers." Some of your contemporaries in the Eastern States have been paying \$30 a ton to a New York firm for dried mud, boxed up and labeled "patent fertilizer."

Upwards of 280,000 persons in India are receiving relief from the British government, and it is expected that the pressure on the authorities from the effects of the famine will last another year. The province of Mysore is suffering the greatest affliction.

The annual coal product of the world is estimated at 240,000,000 tons, one half of which comes from English mines and 50,000,000 from American mines; it has increased enormously during the last thirty years, this country now producing ten times as much as in 1848.

Don't feed eggshells to hens. It teaches them to eat their own eggs. Besides, the shells are of little or no use to them. There is more shell material in a spoonful of lime than in three or four hundred eggshells. The lime in them has been used and will not assimilate again. One crushed bone is better for hens than a peck of eggshells.

The number of failures in this country for the first quarter of the present year is put down by the statistician of the Mercantile Agency at 3,355, with the total of liabilities, \$82,078,826. This is a large advance over the failures of the same period in 1877, and they were greatly in advance of those of 1876. This is a bad showing, and if the increase continues, bankruptcy will seize upon the entire country.

The Utah Northern Railroad is reaching out northward on its way to Snake River, which it will touch before summer is past. Passage to Montana is now secured from Omaha by stages connecting with the new Utah Northern terminus at Round Valley, and with the increase of freight which the extension of the line will certainly induce, the road is not only on its way to Montana, but on the high road to success.

A new blasting powder has been manufactured by a Dublin professor of chemistry. It is a mixture of 75 per cent. chlorate of potassium with 25 per cent. of a substance called sulphurea. Separate, the ingredients are non-explosives, but mixed, the powder is of immense force and can be ignited at a lower temperature than gunpowder. Its safety in the storage and transportation of its separate parts is one of its main recommendations.

A solicitor at Manchester, England, has been sentenced to five years' penal servitude. He defended a client who had stolen a portmanteau from Mr. Arnell, M. P., and was convicted of taking payment from his client derived from the stolen goods, knowing the money to have been thus obtained. If this rule were carried out in this country a great many attorneys would become practically familiar with the peculiarities of prison life and diet.

Orchardists pay attention to this: Recent experiments have been made by the members of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society with the apple borer, some of which were as follows: One man concluded, after years of experience, that the borer begins operations as near the ground as possible, working downward, and that the eggs are thus easily destroyed. He piled up the ground around the tree, and then they were easily reached. Another member used to his satisfaction a mixture of soap, oil and clay, with which the trunk is to be washed.

Ogden City Directory for 1878 is received. It contains 132 pages and a large amount of information concerning most of the cities, towns and villages of northern Utah. It will be a means of widely advertising the Junction City and its principal business houses, which are well represented in this volume. For Ogden's first directory the work is very creditable, and it is to the interest of the merchants and live men of that city to circulate it as widely as possible. We suggest that the next edition be printed on better paper and bound in cloth, of which we think it is well worthy. We hope the publishers, Messrs. S. A. Kenner and Thos. Wallace, will meet with encouragement and pecuniary success in their venture. The book can be obtained of the publishers, price one dollar.

The Norristown *Herald* knows a woman who wears out her husband's trousers; but does not state whether she wears them out on herself or on him.

## JUAB STAKE CONFERENCE.

Minutes of the Quarterly Conference of the Juab Stake of Zion, commenced at the meeting house in Nephi, April 20th and 21st, 1878. Present on the stand, President George Teasdale, Joel Grover and K. H. Brown, of the Presidency of the Stake, and the whole of the officers of the Stake. After singing and prayer, the bishops of the several wards gave a very flattering report of the condition of their respective districts, and that an excellent spirit prevailed throughout the settlements, and through the assistance of the several societies and the teachers in the Sunday Schools, they hoped to make a better showing by next conference. The general instructions were, that the people should see the necessity of aiding the forwarding of the Temple at Manti.

Singing and prayer.

2 P. M.

Elder Joel Grover addressed the congregation on the necessity of prompt action in all their movements and to live so that every man and woman know for themselves by the spirit that they are doing the will of the Almighty.

Elder K. H. Brown bore testimony to the work of God, and said that if we would take the councils of the servants of God and be united, as the heart of one man, the blessings of the Father would be and abide with us. God is no respecter of persons and he will answer all who will give heed to the whisperings of his spirit.

After a few spirited remarks from President Teasdale, on the duties of the priesthood, and his satisfaction in hearing the bishops give such encouraging reports of their several wards; conference adjourned until Sunday morning, 10 a.m.

Sunday morning, 10 a.m.

Singing and prayer.

Brother Elmer Taylor, of Levan, exhorted the people to live so that whatsoever might transpire they would be prepared for every event, and showed the necessity of our laboring, not altogether for this life, but for eternity.

President Teasdale read a dispatch from the city, stating that owing to the press of business none of the Twelve would be with us.

Their sang an anthem.

Adjourned.

2 p. m.

After singing and prayer President Joel Grover being the first speaker, said that we all should live so that when the servants of the Almighty were called to address us they could feed us with the bread of life; and then gave some very excellent instructions on the principle of sustaining ourselves.

President Teasdale then presented the general authorities of the church as they were presented at the General Conference, who were sustained without a dissenting vote; also the Stake and Branch authorities which were also unanimously sustained, after which he read from the Bible and gave an interesting discourse on the glories to be obtained by keeping the commands of the Almighty and living so that we can commune with God the Father.

We had an excellent time and a good spirit prevailed throughout the whole of Conference and the people from all parts of the country felt happy.

JOHN PYPER,  
Clerk of Conference.

## Kicking a Bear.

*Forest and Stream* tells this "stunning" bear story about a Vermont, named Jack Foster, a man of great physical strength:

Jack was in the woods, on his way home from sap trees, where he had been boiling maple sugar. It was a mild day in March. The snow was six feet deep, and the warm spring air had softened the surface so that no one could walk on it without snow-shoes, a pair of which Jack had on his feet.

He was unarmed. As he walked on, he came to a fallen tree directly in his way. He stepped upon it, but just as he did so, a large bear rose up behind it, and rushed at him with open paws.

The warm air had roused the creature from her winter sleep, and she was furious with hunger.

Taken wholly by surprise, Jack gave a tremendous leap which carried him a distance of ten feet from

the trunk of the tree. But he sank deeply into the snow, and the bear was upon him before he could extricate himself.

Then the battle began, man and beast rolling over and over each other in a desperate struggle. As often as the bear tried to seize him with her teeth, or overpower him with the fatal hug, Jack would save himself by kicking her on the nose with his snow shoes.

Finally, with one fierce plunge of claws and teeth, the brute fastened upon Jack, and failing to hold him, tore off almost all his clothing at a single sweep.

Fortunately, just at that moment, he hit the top of her nose with a most powerful kick. A blow on the end of the nose causes pain so acute as to disable a bear for a time, and it had the effect in this case.

The brute gave back a little, and, while he was wincing under the pain, Jack regained his feet and got several steps away.

His assailant started after him again but the snow was so soft she almost buried herself at every step, while Jack walked on the surface and escaped. So his snow shoes, which rendered him a clumsy fighter, finally saved his life.

## Running Amuck.

Major McNair, in his new book on the Malays, says that probably few persons are aware of the extent to which the practice called "running amuck" really obtains. Rajah Mansur, one of the sons of Yusuf, the present ruler of Perak, during a strange fit of excitement, drew his kris and rushed off, striking right and left, killing six and severely wounding two persons, and finally making his escape into the jungle. He was only 20 years old. On occasions of this kind, the "amok" may be the cause of death or severe injury to 20 or 30 people, before he is literally hunted down and destroyed like a mad dog.

The Malay, speaking of amok, says: "My eyes got dark and I ran on."

Major McNair gives a terrible description of the scene when the cry of "Amok! amok!" is raised, and the police turn out, armed with a huge, short-pronged pitchfork, to catch the madman by the throat and pin him to a wall, where he is driven to bay. Generally speaking, the amok is killed by the crowd or his pursuers, though occasionally, as in the case of the son of Sultan Yusuf, he escapes to the jungle. Very few are brought to trial. Major McNair does not believe that the amok is a result of opium-eating, but holds it to have had its origin in the deed of some desperate Malay, to have been handed down by tradition to his highly sensitive successor, and since then "regarded as the right thing by those who are excited to frenzy by apprehension, or some injury that they regard as deadly, and to be washed out in blood."

## Fish that are Food, Fuel and Candles.

A correspondent of a leading Eastern sporting paper writes from this city: "Through the kindness of S. R. Throckmorton, one of the Fish Commissioners of California, I was shown a candle-fish (the Indian name is 'Achalan'), that had just been brought from Nass River, near Cook's Inlet. The fish was about seven inches long, and resembles somewhat the New England coast smelt, but is more delicate in form and appearance, being longer and more slim, has a sharp nose and is covered with very fine scales of a bright silver color. I should judge by this dried specimen that they must be a fish of great beauty and symmetry. They use this fish for fuel and for light, it being full of oil. They come in shoals so thick that they take them out in masses with a sort of split shovel. They are now taking oil from them and shipping it in large quantities as an article of commerce. These fish are said to be of the most delicate flavor, and will fairly melt in your mouth. Smoked and dried they are said to excel any herring known. Now, there is a fish for you that will keep you warm, and furnish you light and the very best kind of food."

The natives of Alaska make a candle of the fish, in this manner: They dry the fish, then light it at the tail, and it burns with a clear, sparkling flame, which the wind will not extinguish.

## Partial Muscular Development.

Any careful observer, passing along our busier thoroughfares, or hap-pening into any country town on market day, or any where else where men congregate, can hardly have failed to notice that while there are many strong ones and many hearty ones, there are very few who are either thoroughly erect or well-proportioned throughout. And when it is remembered that the large majority of men in this country are sons of farmers, merchants, mechanics, or laborers, it is not difficult to account for this one-sidedness of build and indifferent carriage. For, while the farmer's work is vigorous and in the open air, far the greater part of it, and especially the harder part of it, constantly uses his back, and does but little for his front, and particularly for the front of his chest. Mowingstoops him over and rounds his back, so do spading, and hoeing, and weeding, and lifting of every sort. His back grows thick and strong, perhaps massive, so do some of the muscles of his arms, of his abdomen, and of his legs, until they soon outstrip the others that his spine, getting once crooked from being so long and so firmly held in one position, never gets out of it, day or night. While his whole work strengthens, it also stiffens him. He is seldom a good walker, the habit of always hitching up, though the errand is to a place half a mile away, contributing to his stiffness, found, as it usually is, with an incorrect position as he rides, so unlike, by the way, that which is so common among English stage-drivers, who elicited praise from Emerson for their dignified, grandfatherly air.

Few of the mechanic arts are any more favorable to symmetrical development and uprightness of carriage. The blacksmith, like the farmer, works some muscles tremendously; those of his hands, of one of his shoulders, and of one of his arms, for instance; but his legs are often indifferent, and his loins nothing great, while, in common with hosts of mechanics, his work is not done in the open air. Painters and plasterers have good wrists; carpenters plane and saw and drive nails well with their right hands; masons, with backs bent, lift heavy stones, which, with one of their hands, they have chiselled into shape for their purpose; shoe-makers hoop their backs rather more successfully than any other trade; and the jewellers, compositors, designers, and all who do the finer, lighter work, would never, merely by their daily toil, develop into well built, erect men, if they kept at it for a thousand years. Men in mercantile life sit or stand many hours each day, are frequently burdened with important and trying work, have so many irons in the fire as to get no rest, and at the end of the day find themselves thoroughly exhausted, and in humor for anything but vigorous muscular exertion. If their work calls them out much, it uses their legs only, leaving the arms idle, and so keeping the development but partial. The spade, the pick, and the bar of the laboring man keep him stooped over in spite of all he can do, and he lives and dies, as Charles Reade described him in his admirable sketch of the brave, blind swimmer of the Scottish firth, James Lambert—a man with a slouch in his gait.—WILLIAM BLAIRIE, in *Harper's Magazine* for May.

The man who doesn't wait to spit on his hands before striking out is the man to win the fight. This is not intended as a hint to Queen Victoria.

"How long did good King Hezekiah reign?" was asked by a Sunday school teacher of a little boy last Sunday, when the history of Hezekiah's life formed the subject matter of the lesson. "Forty days and forty nights," promptly responded the lad, who was more familiar with the rain of Noah's time than with the reign of any of the Kings of Judah.

The Rev. David Keppel writes for the *Northern Christian Advocate*, one of the official organs of the Methodist denomination, an article, entitled "The Morals of Hell," in which he argues that hell is "a well-regulated prison, in morality only second to heaven." He says that no sin can be committed beyond the grave, and that therefore hell is necessarily free from it.