

## Deseret Evening News.

GEORGE Q. CANNON, Editor.

SATURDAY EVENING, DEC. 7, 1867.

### AMUSEMENTS.

In the first settlement of this valley, the people were thrown upon their own resources for means of amusement. If they had any fun, they had to create it. Performers could not be imported, neither did they come with the same facility as at present. But the necessity for some means of innocent amusement was soon felt. The unremitting toil, which was necessary in the beginning, was too heavy a strain on the physical energies of the people to be continued for any length of time without relaxation. Dancing, therefore, became very popular. Old and young alike enjoyed the social intercourse which gatherings of this character afforded. Balls were not patronized so much for the sake of dancing as for the opportunities they presented of meeting with friends and enjoying their society. Years have elapsed since then; but our balls still maintain these characteristics. They are social gatherings, where friends meet and indulge in friendly intercourse and conversation, and brighten up old acquaintanceship.

But this amusement did not supply all the wants of the people. Recreation of a mental character was needed. The recognition of this want gave rise to the "Deseret Dramatic Association"—a society which was organized under the auspices of President Brigham Young. He erected the Social Hall, and, in 1852, it was dedicated as a place of recreation and amusement. During that Winter the Association gave performances on its boards to the great satisfaction of the people, who never failed, especially of later years, to crowd its walls whenever its doors were opened. We still remember the sensations of pleasure which we experienced at witnessing the performances at that elegant little hall. Every one gave way to unrestrained enjoyment, for all felt at home. The audience were always in good humor, and very readily overlooked any defects in the scenery and appointments or shortcomings in the performers—they were "our folks."

As population increased, the Social Hall was found to be too small to accommodate the public. The erection of the present Theatre was decided upon. This magnificent building was opened to the public early in 1863. If any doubts ever existed as to the propriety of building such an edifice and for such uses, they must, in view of subsequent occurrences, have long since vanished. The good that it has accomplished can not now be questioned. Like every great movement that has been undertaken by the Latter-day Saints, under the direction of the President of the church, it was the right thing at the right time.

There is a class of people in the world who have a holy horror of the very name of theatre. Such persons imagine that impiety and vice are inseparable from dramatic representations. But in this country, with a theatre conducted as ours has been in this city, there is no room for entertaining such feelings. The moral purity of the drama has been maintained, and nothing has been permitted, knowingly, to appear on the stage that would cause a blush to mantle the cheek of the most sensitive and virtuous. In order that these results might be attained, and that the drama might be the means of elevating and instructing the audience who would be likely to frequent the theatre, President Young, for some years kept the entire control of everything connected therewith in his

own hands. He was determined that the influence of theatrical representations here should be healthy; and, therefore, watched them with jealous care. Now, his scrutiny is still exercised, but he can intrust the care to other hands, who carry out the design for which the building was erected.

It would be unwise to underrate the power for good or for evil, which the drama is capable of exercising. In every age, and among every people who have been its patrons, the results accomplished by it have been very great. In early ages, especially among the Grecians, the drama was intimately associated with religion. The influence of such representations upon them was almost unbounded. Even the news received by the Athenians, while engaged in witnessing a play, of the total defeat of their army before Syracuse, could not check their enthusiasm or cause them to withdraw their attention from the performance. Among the Romans the drama became terribly degraded, especially in the latter days of the empire. It is an agency that must be controlled. Too strict a surveillance can not be maintained over it. It is capable of accomplishing much good; but, if misdirected, its power for evil is also very great. It is the earnest wish of every right-feeling person that the same care which has heretofore been exercised over our amusements may still be continued. Every thing that would be likely to excite impure thoughts or in the least corrupt, should be carefully suppressed. It is better to err on the side of being too fastidious, than to permit even a *double entendre* to find expression. Better for a community to be deprived of amusements, than to partake of those of an indecent or impure character. Our managers and performers have a great mission assigned them—their opportunities of doing good are not limited. But they must be sustained in their efforts by the public. If a vitiated public taste should demand a certain class of representations, it would be difficult, if not impossible, for managers or performers to control it. Managers must be sustained in their exertions to inculcate correct morals, and in the case of our own theatre we feel assured they will not be found wanting.

[Special to the Deseret Evening News.]

### By Telegraph.

THE IMPEACHMENT QUESTION IN THE HOUSE!

Menabrea thinks the Pope's Temporal Power Inconsistent!

73 DEATHS BY CHOLERA IN ONE SHIP!

Trouble expected in the Virginia Convention!

HANCOCK THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT!

Washington, 6. The Senate held a short session, when several resolutions were introduced and referred. They were mostly regarding finance. Adjourned till Monday.

House.—Boutwell concluded his argument in favor of impeachment. Wilson replied and said Boutwell had signed the Report of the Reconstruction Committee, asserting in some matters which now claimed impeachment that the President has not been actuated by wrong motives. He said the House was asked to impeach the President for fear he might do something wrong, and concluded by moving the whole subject be laid on the table. The motion caused much excitement, several Members wishing to make speeches. Fillibustering ensued, and a motion to adjourn was made and several votes were taken. The list seemed to indicate that there were about 54 friends of impeachment, and 107 opposed to it. The House finally adjourned.

London, 6. The Times editorially approves of the transfer of St. Thomas to the United States; and thinks the American sanitary measures will remove the cause of contagious fevers.

The Times says, relative to the correspondence of the Alabama claims that

Stanley was right in refusing to permit their foreign policy to be reviewed by any power whatever. On any other subject England will gladly meet half way.

Florence, 6. The Italian Parliament is opened. Menabrea's speech justified Garibaldi's suppression in his illegal attempt at invasion, but declared it as inconsistent for the temporal power to exist at Rome as for a foreign power to hold possession of Paris.

Paris, 6. In the Corps Legislatif, Minister Rouhr ably defended the Emperor's policy on the Roman question. He admitted that the unity of Italy is desirable, but in its accomplishment, Italy should never go to the extreme of taking possession of Rome by force.

New York, 6. The ship Lord Brougham, from Hamburg, reports the death of 73 passengers by cholera in the ship, in a 48 days' voyage. She brought 332 passengers and is detained at quarantine.

Richmond, 6. The Convention adopted a resolution requiring the members to report whether they are disfranchised by the action of Congress. This movement toward ousting the Conservative members, will give rise to serious trouble.

The Convention will probably favor the Radical repudiation of debts contracted before the war.

New Orleans, 6. The Convention adopted an ordinance forever prohibiting capital punishment.

New York, 6. The Tribune's special says a number of prominent Democrats, including John B. Haskin and Jno. Hickman are in Washington consulting with regard to the candidate for the next Presidency. The chances of Johnson, Seymour, Pendleton and others, were severally discussed, but they decided to take up a new man, and Hancock was agreed on. Several other political details are said to have been agreed upon.

### Correspondence.

[From Our Foreign Correspondent.]  
FROM THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS TO THE ALPS.

ACROSS THE SEA.

The good English steamer "Manhattan" was the vessel that took some of us Traveling Elders across the sea. If some of those who went down upon the sea the first time may have realized an uncomfortable feeling in the beginning, it wore off when the beautiful summer afternoon unfolded to us the magnificent scenery of New York harbor, which gradually receding and sinking down into the immense expanse of water, presented so lovely an aspect that everybody cheerfully accepted it as a good omen of a prosperous journey.

Republicanism, democracy and all the principles of the modern school of politicians are *non est* on board a ship. There it has been found expedient to retain the old monarchical system, without even any of those constitutional modifications that have been the yeast in the political bread-baking of Europe for the last century. Even the society on board has its distinct caste, inasmuch as the captain and officers only associate with the first cabin passengers, as the aristocracy of the little kingdom; while the steerage passengers, as the plebeians, are left to the care of under stewards, whose attentions are in exact proportion to the little considerations you may feel inclined or able to bestow from time to time. The crew contained as beautiful specimens of the genus "ruffian" as the most fastidious disciple of Lavater could have wished for.

A great portion of the other steerage passengers being from the Green Isle, returning thither under various pretenses, we soon found out some real live Fenians who seemed willing to go the whole length for the redemption of Ireland. Now, sir, it was not the first time that I met champions of independence and revolution, having done something in that line myself once; but I always had been under the impression that in such affairs not only muscle but also brain, besides a plan for tearing down as well as one for building up again, and after the calculations for success in fight also the idea of a regulated peace—are indispensable requisites of a revolution; here, however, I observed of the second named proposition nothing at all, and of the first ones very little to justify any sensible man to engage in such an enterprise. Erin is a lovely land when her green and hilly shores rise up before you on emerging from the desert of the endless ocean, and such a country

should be inhabited by a free and prosperous people, as it once has been. The causes which have produced the present condition of its inhabitants would require more time to discuss than I have to spare.

That the presence of twenty-four "Mormon" elders on board the ship would soon attract the curiosity of some of our fellow travelers, we expected as a matter of course; and it was not long before a minister of the Methodist Church requested an interview with your humble servant, which was participated in by several other gentlemen of the first cabin. It would be perfectly superfluous to recapitulate here all the various topics discussed, as they are familiar to every elder of any experience, but my arguments and ideas appeared to my interrogators of such novelty that, at their particular request, the first interview was soon followed by many more, each one occupying sometimes several hours; on all of these occasions, however, these strangers never violated the respect which one gentleman owes another, nor made any remarks in the least indicative of animosity against our principles, polygamy excepted, upon which latter, beyond my testimony to its divine origin, I had declined on the start any discussion, as I had been sent to preach the first principles of the Gospel, which instruction I calculated to adhere to until otherwise directed. These gentlemen went even so far as to request the captain to give us permission for holding a meeting on deck, in which, at the close, the reverend gentleman addressed the brethren in words that not very often may have been spoken by a Methodist minister to a "Mormon" congregation, and which did honor to his heart and principles as a man.

If the beginning of our voyage presented us with all the indications of a pleasure trip, we were destined, nevertheless, to experience rough weather almost all the way through; and the usual cold spell and stormy weather near the banks of Newfoundland put on extra airs at the occasion of our approach. But, to the complaint of the inconvenience of a voyage across the sea now that you can do it in a steamer in about two weeks, instead of, as formerly, in a sailing vessel being obliged to endure it for nearly three times as long, would be unjustifiable even in a steerage passenger, with ship-crackers for supper every day, and hard dumpplings for dinner three times a week.

Every journey leads, finally, somewhere; and so did ours. We arrived at Liverpool, being welcomed on board by President Franklin D. Richards and Bros. Preston and Penrose. Thus ends our voyage across the sea, and its description, and the material for my next communication lies before me: "Through England."

KARL G. MAESER.

HERISAU, Cant. Appenzell, }  
October 28, 1867. }

Coleridge was descending, in the presence of Charles Lamb, upon the repulsive appearance of an oyster.

"It isn't handsome, Coleridge," said Lamb, "but it has the advantage of you in one thing."

"What is that?" queried Coleridge, who, as every one knew, was an exhaustless talker.

"It knows when to shut its mouth," was the reply.

"What is the reason of a blow leaving a blue mark after it?" asked an inquiring young gentleman. "It is easily accounted for," answered a medical student; for you know that blow is the perfect of blow."

A printer in Texas has dubbed his infant son Brevier Fullface Jones. That boy will learn from a long primer, and be a minion of knowledge.

FROM SANPETE.—Our Special south, writing, informs us that the roads are in a very dilapidated condition in places. Once he was compelled to pull his buggy, horse and harness out of the mud by pieces. He speaks well of the public spirit manifested by Bro. D. Holladay, Bishop of Santaquin, and talks highly of the Sanpete brethren, who having been afflicted for a length of time by Indians are now well provided with the means of defence, and are making several public improvements, while performing their varied duties with energy and good spirit.

### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES BY STAGE TO-DAY.

From the East—A. Alex. Mesler.  
To the East—Martin Beem, John Mauldin, Samuel Smith, E. A. Sherman, Cap. W. G. Monroe, E. G. Frazier, Conrad Cohn, C. H. Reddington.  
To the West—Miss Louisa Harrison, Robert Toothill, N. Harrison, Geo. Davis.  
To the North—Frank Deil.