

## THE DESERET NEWS.

ELIAS SMITH.....EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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## Squaring up.

\*Several of the agents and ex-agents for the News, who, for reasons that have been stated, were not able to settle up their accounts as they became due, are making honorable exertions to square up at the earliest practicable date. Bishop Allen Weeks, of Cedar Valley, has already done so and, from present appearances, other names will soon be added to the list of those who are not in arrears with the News office.

There are a few dollars due from some who take their papers at the office that was to have been paid in a certain way, about this time or a little before, and when others are paying up, they will, of course, come and do likewise.

## Municipal Laws and Regulations.

The City Council have had published of late a compilation of all the City Ordinances that are now in force, or that have not been repealed, and the presumption is—that the Municipal authorities, from the Mayor down to the lowest ministerial officer of the corporation, intend that hereafter the ordinances, rules and regulations that have been made, ordained and established "for the peace, benefit, good order, regulation, convenience and cleanliness of the city; for the protection of property therein from destruction by fire or otherwise, and for the health and happiness thereof" shall be honored and observed, and every wilful violation of the same, either by the descendants of Shem, Japheth or Ham, shall be punished according to the true intent, letter and meaning of the law.

It is superlative nonsense to make and ordain any law or rule for the benefit of the inhabitants of a city or for any community unless those whose duty it is to enforce obedience in the event, as is generally the case, the law is not honored by that class of people for whom it was made, by unhesitatingly and punctually causing every transgressor to pay the penalty attached for its wilful violation.—The law has no terrors to evil doers, unless the forfeiture is required. The drunken brawler and rowdy will continue to parade the streets, day after day, and night after night, to the great disquietude of all good citizens, so long as he can do so with impunity. But, if the law prohibiting such conduct is enforced in every instance, either by fine or otherwise, he will be very apt to improve his course of life, or seek a residence elsewhere.

The certainty of punishment, even if it is not severe, will prevent many from committing crime that would not be deterred by the existence of a rigid law, when the chances are decidedly in favor of their escaping the penalty affixed, either by not being arrested or, if taken into custody and arraigned for the offense, by getting clear in virtue of some technicality, or by some influence that may be brought to bear in their favor.

The circumstances that have transpired in this city and county, as well as in other parts of the Territory, and the difficulties that have attended the enforcement of municipal and statutory law, are well understood; and there is no disposition on our part to find fault with those who have been intrusted with the administration or execution of municipal rules or the laws of the Territory, during the epoch of anarchy, from which Utah is now emerging. However, when the time shall come, if it has not already arrived, when written constitutional law can be enforced without hindrance by tyrannical usurpation, it is hoped that there will be no flinching by municipal authorities nor by any conservators of the peace in the execution of the laws that have been provided for the peace, good order and safety of society.

There certainly can be no more favorable opportunity presented for making some little improvement in such matters than the one now offered and, if the city authorities shall deem it expedient to take one short step in that direction, they will unquestionably have the hearty co-operation of every law-abiding citizen.

## Territorial or State Roads.

The road north of the city has been repaired, as we are informed, so that if there was not so much mud everywhere it would be in very good condition. It cost the county \$100 to fix one of the mud holes or sloughs, and how

much the city paid for fixing the others we do not know.

The money that has been expended by the City, County, and Territory from first to last on that road, in order to make and keep it in repair from time to time amounts to many thousand dollars, notwithstanding which it has been often times nearly or quite impassible, as it has the past summer.

The road between the City and Mill Creek south, has had much work done on it during the season. About three hundred and fifty rods of the road, including the worst places has been turnpiked, at a cost of from five to eleven dollars per rod, and yet there are many places that are, or will be bad enough if they do not freeze up soon.

There has also much labor been performed on the road leading to Jordan bridge, and thousands of dollars will yet have to be expended there before that can be made a good road, unless some better disposition can be made with the surplus waters of City Creek which pass off in that direction than there was last spring.

For some weeks during the month of June, that section of the road immediately at the foot of north Temple street, as much resembled the *bottomless pit* spoken of in scripture, (barring the fire and brimstone) as anything of which the mind of man could have any conception. The corporation tried faithfully to keep the bottom of the road in, and after it fell out or disappeared, to make another, and after a lengthy struggle with some assistance from the county, the road was so far made passable that it has been used up to the present time.

Some work has been done on it lately, but if it is not made much higher than it is now, and a good broad ditch or canal made on each side to carry off the water, when spring comes again, if there should be as much water as there was this year, and for which there is a fair prospect, the road will soon be as bad as it ever was and perhaps worse.

If not considered out of order, we would suggest that something should be done to prevent the water from running in the middle of the street after it reaches the bottom lands. If a bulkhead or dam was put in and the water divided and made to run on each side of the street in suitable ditches, it would be of incalculable benefit to the road, and also prevent the water from overflowing the lots and gardens as it did last spring to the great damage of the owner. The expense of such an improvement would not be great, nothing hardly in comparison to the benefit that may be expected to be derived from it.

What say you, city fathers? Can or shall that street be properly fixed up?

## Seventeenth Ward School.

Mr. Isaac Bowman, who is well known in this city as a successful and competent school teacher, has been engaged to teach in the 17th Ward, during the coming winter, and commenced his school on Monday last.

The school house has been comfortably fitted up and when a few more of the high, uncomfortable, backless seats are replaced by others now being made, the school room will be as well arranged for the comfort of the scholars as any in the city, that has been built on the old stereotype plan.

Mr. Bowman also proposes to teach evening schools for the benefit of young gentlemen and ladies or any others who may wish to attend, and we hope that those boys who have lately been hooting and carousing about the streets, night after night, because their heads were so empty, will avail themselves of the opportunity now offered to store up a little useful knowledge and, in some measure, fill up the "aching void" in their craniums, which has been suffered to remain empty so long that it is grievous to be borne, if not by themselves and their parents, it certainly has been by their neighbors.

It is never too late to make improvement; but delays are dangerous and often attended with great inconvenience and expense to those who put off till to-morrow, what can and should be done to-day. Those who have not made proper improvement of their time heretofore, had better commence the work of reform immediately and while there is an opportunity.

We would like to see the boys in the 17th Ward take the lead in this matter and, if they will follow the advice of Bishop Callister and others, their parents unquestionably included, in relation to the acquisition of knowledge, if nothing more, it will prevent them from making many unearthly noises as they pass thro' the world.

## The Salt Lake and California Mail Contract.

The underground railroad and wire-working operations of this corrupt age are carried to an unlimited extent by those whose sole business seems to be to supplant, pull down and destroy, whenever there is anything to be made by such operations. As soon as any individual, company or community, by enterprise, industry and perseverance, succeeds in getting anything into operation that is remunerative, some wire-working operation is instituted to oust those who have originated the scheme, or been fortunate enough to obtain the proprietorship of the concern, the proceeds of which, unprincipled villains covet and thus seek to obtain.

In our last issue, we had occasion to refer to the apparent intrigue that had been, and was being practiced in relation to the mail contract between this city and Placerville. From the miserable effort that was made by the editor of the *Mountain Democrat*, to asperse Major Chorpenning, and to laud Mr. Brady, who was on hand at the moment to take the mail from the office, at that end of the line, and had made arrangements, according to the showing, to put the best of stock on the road and establish stations, etc., it was fully made to appear that there was something rotten not far from Hang Town and, that there was more than one person interested in obtaining a transfer of the contract by the Department, from Major Chorpenning to Mr. Brady, who was so ready to carry the mail on a road that had been principally discovered and made passable by the exertions of the Major's agents, and so abundantly able to serve his country and perform service for a valuable consideration when all obstacles had been removed, and there was nothing to do but to enter into and reap the reward of another man's labor.

We understand that the conductor who brought through the mail, under the temporary contract made by the Post Master at Placerville, presented a like contract to Mr. Morrell the Post Master at Salt Lake City, for his signature, which he refused to execute, as he had no acquaintance with Mr. Brady, and moreover there had been no failure on the part of the contractor's agents to take the mail from the office and to carry it according to contract, on this end of the route and, for aught he knew, on the other end also; and when the out going mail was demanded by Brady's agent, the Post Master here justly and promptly refused to comply with the demand, and so the party had to put back without it.

What the result of this underhanded, but poorly concealed game will be, time, that great revealer of secrets, will in due time disclose. It is a matter with which we nor our friends have little or nothing to do, but we despise underhanded, wire-working operations, and like to see even handed justice meted out to all. With Major Chorpenning we have but very little acquaintance, but, so far as our knowledge extends, he has faithfully and punctually fulfilled his contract with the Department in carrying the mail between this city and California, up to the time that his animals were attached, at the instance, as reported, of those who had conspired to cause the agents, in the absence of the Major, to seemingly break the contract, and had made extensive arrangements to supplant him in his mail-carrying operations before there was any failure on his part, that has yet been made to appear.

If no other dishonorable conspiracy had ever been made in relation to mail contracts in this Territory, the one to which we have alluded might have been passed by in silence as most of the rascality of this corrupt generation has been heretofore. To record the villainous acts of those who neither fear God nor regard the rights of their fellow men, that are daily committed on that small portion of the globe lying between 110 and 112 degs. west longitude and 40 and 42 degs. north latitude, even in these quiet times, would require much labor with little or no prospect of any good resulting therefrom, consequently they mostly pass unnoticed, especially such acts and deeds as are in a fair way to terminate favorably to those who have had no agency in their commission.

The course that was pursued by interested parties and the action of the Department in relation to the annulling of the contract made with H. Kimball, Esq., of this city, for carrying the mails of the United States between Salt Lake City and the Missouri river, in 1857,

have not been forgotten. What Postmaster General Holt will do in the case of Major Chorpenning remains to be seen. He may comply with the wishes of those who are seeking for an annulment of his contract, as his predecessor did in the case of Mr. Kimball, and increase the pay of a new contractor four fold for performing the same service, but we think not. If there were other things connected with the affair, and other circumstances to be considered, Mr. Brady would unquestionably succeed in getting a transfer of the contract to him with an increase of compensation for the service, unless the Postmaster General is a more honorable man and made of sterner stuff than some of those who have preceded him in office.

This is certainly a remarkable age, and men have become so corrupt and hardened in iniquity, that they do not always even seek to conceal their designs, and when they do make an effort to cover them up they generally use very thin cloaks, through which the least observing eye can easily penetrate, and as soon as they succeed in a scheme to injure a fellow being they triumphantly boast of the deed, that they may be lauded for their success by their fellows.

Many, who call themselves Christians and some who profess to be Saints, are unscrupulous in such matters, not knowing or not believing that when they cease to spoil, they will be spoiled, and when they make an end to dealing treacherously, others will deal treacherously with them, or in other words, that the measure they mete will be measured to them again.

## California "Cursed" with Grain.

The wheat crop in California, the past summer, has been very abundant and, from reports, there is a large surplus on hand, more than the people know what to do with, and many are cursing, because there is so much bread stuffs and so little cash. The farmers, with their granaries overflowing, are complaining of 'tight times.'

The following is from the *Napa Reporter*: "Napa county to-day is cursed with a plethora of grain. We have more wheat than we want or know what to do with and, as all have a surplus, nobody can find a market for the product of his fields. Four large warehouses are crammed to overflowing, and tens of thousands of sacks still remain in the hands of our farmers. This county depends almost entirely on the grain crop for its supply of money, and so great is the yield this year, that the market price is less than the cost of production. The result is that there is no money in circulation, and a whole year's indebtedness stands uncanceled. Everybody is in debt to everybody and nobody can pay. Such times we have never seen in this part of the world and hope we may not see it again. The more property a man has the worse he is off, especially if his taxes are unpaid, for he can sell nothing except at an immense sacrifice, and still it costs something to hold on to what he has. We believe the amount of taxes to be raised this year is some \$70,000. The money to pay this sum, or even one quarter of it, is not to be found, we believe, in the whole country.

"We can see no prospect of relief, even temporary, until our grain crop is sent to market and sold, even if it must be at a low figure.—What else can we part with to procure money enough even to pay our taxes? We cannot borrow ourselves out of debt even if lenders were to be found; and from present appearances, there is but little encouragement for expecting better prices. We are sorry to say it, but we fear that many must lose who ought, according to all previous calculations, to have made a fair profit upon the year's farming operations. At present, business is stagnated for want of money, and everybody waiting for better prices in the grain market."

The *Martinez Gazette* says that the "main dependence of its people is upon their grain crops and stock; and now, when wheat will sell for one and three-eighths cents per pound, and the feed is so short that cattle are in a fair way of starving—many persons being compelled to sell a portion of their stock at an enormous sacrifice to prevent such a calamity and to raise money to meet their current expenses—it is peculiarly 'tight times' for the farmers."

It may seem strange to some that there should be a scarcity of money in a land of gold, and that there should be so much distress in a State that has been considered one of the best in the Union, and more to be desired than sterile Utah, by many who have left this Territory and gone there to better their condition.

If all the reports of distress in that country in consequence of the scarcity of money are true, the people there are not any better off than they are here. Of the two, the scarcity of money is preferable to a scarcity of bread and, if the order of things in that respect is