

cover the "North West Passage," did not cease even when that passage was deemed impracticable. Brave men dauntlessly faced the dangers of those icy northern regions, and risked their lives to add to the geographical knowledge of the world some certainty concerning the Arctic polar country. Ross, and Parry, and Franklin, and Kane, and Hall, and a host of others with almost superhuman courage faced appalling terrors there. The North West Passage was discovered by McClure; yet many believed that beyond those everlasting mountains of ice, whose glittering heights seem to mock the sun's power to melt them, there lay a sea or an ocean, and a continent inhabited, yet unknown—a part of our world, yet the people of it so shut out from all intercourse with the rest of mankind as to be practically confined within the limits of a narrow world of their own.

From the account published in the present issue, it would seem as if accident had accomplished what enterprise has failed to do. For some time past we have seen brief notices of this discovery, in a number of our exchanges, some treating the matter lightly, as of no weight or reliability; others looking upon it as a subject of very considerable interest; and now that we have the statement at length, we give it to our readers. The fact of land existing in that region has long been admitted, but of its extent nothing definite has been known, nor whether there was any reason to believe it inhabited. This past summer was so mild in the north that whaling vessels were able to reach a higher degree of latitude than ever before, having gone as high as 73° 30' north. This leaves 16° 30' between the point which they reached and the supposed pole, or the place where calculation and measurement begins to descend. This would give ample space for a large continent; and there still remains a vast unexplored region, which, if opened to the knowledge of the world, might reveal many things connected therewith, now shrouded in mystery, and explode theories growing venerable with age.

As a people we watch closely every thing relative to northern discoveries, for there are strong reasons to believe that when its secrets are unveiled, they will be heralds of events which will startle the world.

AN APPALLING PROSPECT.

The telegrams which we receive over the wires from the East are not always reliable. It is not unfrequently the case that a telegram received in the morning is contradicted by another which comes to hand a few hours after. But there is one point upon which the telegrams received at all hours agree—the irreconcilable nature of the differences which exist between Congress and the President. To-day's dispatches convey the idea that the breach between them is widening and that every day there is less probability of it being bridged.

If, when we left Illinois, and took up our line of march for this country—nearly twenty-two years ago—a description of affairs as they now exist at Washington had been given to the people of the United States, who would have believed that in so short a period such a spectacle would have been seen at the capital of the nation? Then the thought of such a change could not have been entertained; but it has been accomplished so imperceptibly and gradually that the masses of the people are not aware of it. It is only by comparing the present with the past that we can form a correct idea of our true condition and of the rapid rate at which we are traveling towards anarchy. Without such a comparison there are thousands who do not stop to think. They live in the present alone, without a care for the future, or a thought as to what the result of their present course will be.

The fact that we are living in perilous times is patent to the observant and reflecting. Our country is menaced by dreadful dangers; and what is being done to avert them? To a patriot's view the deadly antagonism which exists at present between the law-making department and the Executive of our nation is portentous of direful evils to the Republic. Politicians may sing the siren song of peace, and deceive the people by their lullabies; but the shock of coming events will rudely awaken them from such a deception.

Queen Isabella can't find a husband for her eldest daughter.

"MORMON" INDEPENDENCE.

The true character of the people of this Territory is but little understood by those who have never visited us. The common descriptions which pass current among people in the world outside of us make us out to be but little short of monsters. We have often been amused in traveling, at the manner in which, otherwise well-informed persons would scrutinize us when they learned that we were a "Mormon." They would view us as we might expect they would the inhabitant of some other planet were he to visit the earth. The immense amount of travel there has been across the continent for the past few years, however, has dissipated many of these false and crude ideas. Our true character is now better understood. Some few books which have appeared, the writers of which have done us partial justice, at least on some points, have contributed to this better understanding of our character. It is now pretty universally conceded that the "Mormons" are industrious, persevering, peaceful, temperate, hospitable, and honorable and honest in their dealings. Facts are said to be stubborn things, and that we have exhibited all the above qualities, and many more, in building this city and peopling this Territory our works plainly show. They speak for us, and the testimony can not be disputed.

But there is one feature in our character, (i. e. our independence) for which we have, as yet, received little or no credit. Indeed, it is not often admitted that we possess it. Even many who reside here—non-"Mormons"—fail to fully recognize its existence. They do not understand us sufficiently to comprehend how independence can co-exist with such obedience as the people of this Territory manifest to their leaders. This obedience is viewed by many as slavish submission, as an abnegation of our independence and free agency. The minds of such persons seem to be incapable of understanding that obedience and independence are compatible, and that to be a free agent there is no necessity for a man to be rebellious and disobedient.

The truth is, that with their submission to the counsel and guidance of their leaders, whom they view as the servants of God, our people cherish an independence of thought and feeling far greater than those do who accuse them of being destitute of that quality. Their history substantiates this. It is their very independence of character that helped make them Latter-day Saints, or as they are called "Mormons." In nearly every instance, those who were not born or brought up in the Church had sacrificed to make in embracing the doctrines they now profess. The "Mormons" were poor and despised. All the so-called great men, the popular voice of the age, the pulpit and the press, joined in denouncing and calumniating them. A "Mormon" with them, was the synonym of everything low and vile. To join them was to invite persecution, obloquy and hatred. To mingle with them was to sever the ties of kindred and friends, to become a moral leper which former associates and bosom companions would unfeeling shun. To be known by their name was to risk everything—good name, friends, employment and worldly ease and comfort—all that make life desirable.

Yet all these things the bulk of the inhabitants of this Territory have faced and endured. If it was not true independence of character and moral courage, under the blessing of the Lord, which enabled them to pass through this ordeal, what was it? Thousands of pretty fair people, endowed with a tolerable degree of nerve, who were probably as fully convinced of the truth of the doctrines as they were, have shrunk appalled from it. They did not have sufficient independence to act up to their convictions and brave all the consequences attendant upon such a step.

Obsequiousness and servility form no part of the "Mormon" character. The people render willing obedience and respect to an authority which they know to be legal and properly constituted. The exercise of this authority by those who wield it is not despotism, the submission to it by those who obey it is not slavishness. Let others who have not this authority attempt to lead them, or with the exercise of power, to coerce them, and how will they succeed? Let our past history answer. We have repeatedly shown the world that we will have the undisturbed enjoyment of independence, even if we have to forsake all to obtain it.

The prevalence of the idea that the people of this Territory are despotically governed by their leaders, and are too submissive, arises to some extent, doubtless, from the fact that the former talk with a plainness and boldness which other religious teachers dare not use. Those who are not familiar with our organization can not understand how any people can submit to be thus talked to unless they are afraid to resent it. Now, this style of teaching has its sole origin in the independence of the ministry. Were the religious teachers of this people to be dependent upon the latter for their living, they might modify their teachings to suit their feelings. But they are not. It does not make two cents' difference with them peculiarly, whether the people are suited or not. They are not dependent upon or amenable to the people. God has given them a sacred charge. He has placed the souls of the people, to a certain extent, in their trust. He will hold them to a strict accountability for the manner in which they discharge that trust. They know this. Hence, their independence. The people know it also. They know that when they are warned or reproved by those who lead them, they are doing no more than their duty. Hence, their submission.

LEGISLATIVE.

Friday, Jan. 17th.

Council.—Council met pursuant to adjournment.

Roll called. Quorum present.

Prayer by the Chaplain.

Councillor Callister presented Petition from John W. Radford and eighty-six others, praying for a Charter for Deseret City, which was read, and

On motion of Councillor Young, said Petition was referred to the Committee on Municipal Corporations, Councillor Callister being added to said committee for the consideration of said Petition.

Councillor Johnson presented (C. F. No. 2.) "An Act to incorporate the Springville Young Men's Library and Reading Room Association," and

On motion of Councillor Harrington, was referred to the Committee on Private Incorporations.

Councillor Johnson presented (C. F. No. 3.) "An Act concerning Coroners," which was read, and

On motion of Councillor Benson, was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

The requisite oath was administered to Councillor Erastus Snow, by P. Lynch, Esq., Clerk U. S. District Court and Secretary of the Council. Council adjourned till 1 p. m., to-morrow.

January 17, 1863.

House.—House met. quorum present.

The Speaker referred the Governor's Message as follows:

Paragraph 7 to the Committee on Penitentiary.

Paragraph 8 to the Committee on Judiciary.

Paragraph 9 to the Committee on Municipal Corporations.

Paragraphs 10, 11, 12 to the Committee on Judiciary.

Paragraph 13 to the Committee on Agriculture, Trade and Manufactures.

Paragraph 14 to the Committee on Private Incorporations and Telegraph Companies.

Paragraphs 15, 16, 17 to the Committee on Agriculture, Trade and Manufactures.

Paragraphs 18 to 20 to the Committee on Judiciary.

Paragraphs 21 and 22 to the Committee on Revision.

Paragraph 23 to the Committee on Petitions and Memorials.

Mr. Cluff presented a bill for an Act granting unto Lafayette Granger the right to erect and control ferries and bridges across Ham's and Black's Forks in Green River County; which was read and referred.

Hosea Stout, Esq., city attorney, acknowledged receipt of the courtesy extended to him.

Mr. Wright moved that Sec. Higgins be requested to furnish the *Utah Magazine*.

House adjourned till Monday at 10 a. m.

Saturday Jan. 18.

Council.—Council met pursuant to adjournment.

The following report was received and read:

To the Honorable the President and Council:

Gentlemen:—The Military Code Commission appointed by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah, Jan. 18, 1867, report, in compliance with the Resolution appointing them, that they have made progress in the labors devolved upon them, and respectfully ask further time.

Daniel H. Wells,
Chairman.

Whereupon Councillor Young moved that, the House concurring, the Military Code Commission be granted the further time asked for in their report.

Councillor Carrington presented a petition from Z. Snow, Deputy Attorney-General, praying for an appropriation to compensate him for services rendered as such.

Councillor Carrington presented "An Act changing the name of Great Salt Lake City, to Salt Lake City," which passed its first and second readings.

Adjourned till 1 p. m., Tuesday, 21st.

January 20th, 1863.

House.—Mr. Gates was qualified and took his seat.

Mr. Giles presented petition from R. H. Porter, for toll road, on road from Cache to Bear River, in Summit county; read and referred.

Gen. J. W. Clappitt, U. S. Special Mail Agent, was tendered the freedom of the House.

Mr. West presented Memorial from the Weber County Co-operative Association, asking for a charter; read and referred.

The Auditor of Public Accounts presented bill of H. K. Cranney, amounting to \$75.00, for services rendered in collecting delinquent taxes in Cache county; read and referred.

Mr. Cluff presented bill for a charter to the Echo Canyon Wagon Road Company; read and referred.

Mr. Alred reported a bill for an act granting

to Lewis Robison and Joshua Terry, a charter for Green River ferry, which was laid on the table.

The report of Weber Canyon Road Company was read and ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. Rockwood, the Committee on Revenue were instructed to ascertain if parties having grants for toll roads, bridges and ferries, had complied with the requirements of their charters.

The Petition of A. M. Paul, wounded in the Sanpete expedition, for relief, was reported back and three hundred dollars ordered to be inserted in the Territorial Appropriation Bill, for his relief.

Mr. Wright presented Memorial to Congress, for the establishment of a Land Office in Utah; read and laid on the table to come up in its order.

F. H. Head, Esq., acknowledged by letter, the courtesy of the House in extending the freedom of the same to him.

Adjourned till 1 p. m. to-morrow.

Correspondence.

LOGAN, Jan. 12th, 1863.

Editor *Evening News*:—At last we are having a taste of our good, old-fashioned winters; the mud has given place to ice, the rain has changed to snow, and the damp fogs to clear, sparkling, frosty air. Everybody feels better and more cheerful, and the merry jingle of the bells announces that our citizens are making the most of the sleighing. We are not indulging in so many parties and theatres as usual, this winter; and in lieu of them, by the earnest wish of Prest. Benson and Bishop Maughan, we have organized Lyceums, Library Institutes and Schools, for our mutual improvement, which are well attended and becoming increasingly attractive. In Logan we have vetoed debating, but leave every speaker free to express his sincere views upon any subject presented.

Realizing the refining and elevating tendency of good music, I feel very glad to be able to report an increasing interest in this "art divine." In this, as in other educational movements, it will take time to cultivate a pure and appreciative taste, but our lovers of music flatter themselves and the community—with good reason I think—that the good time will come. The Logan choir, under the leadership of Bro. O. C. Goodwin, assisted by Bros. Wm. Knowles, David Lamoreaux, Adam Smith, etc., has made very commendable progress, and gave a concert here the other evening, which was well attended and pronounced to be the best ever given here by home talent. They propose to get up a series of concerts here, if the people will patronize them, for the purpose of purchasing an organ for the new Tabernacle when completed.

The citizens of this county feel obliged to you for the interest you manifested in our postal arrangements. It may seem a small matter to others, but it is decidedly annoying to us, to say the least, to have our letters and papers occasionally lost, or reach us, *via* Montana.

The Sabbath Schools are very flourishing; since the introduction of tickets, rewards and libraries, the interest is increased tenfold. I hardly knew there were so many children in the place before—we only lack books and rewards.

I am happy to report an increasing interest in the *DESERET NEWS* and *Juvenile Instructor*. Several have remarked that your editorials on Cragin's Utah bill, are worth the price of the year's subscription. Poor Cragin, all the inhabitants of Utah put together won't lose as much sleep over his bill as he has lost in concocting it. Doubtless he wanted a little notoriety and has gained it,—more probably, he will eventually find, than he bargained for. Smart politician as he professes to be, he does not know enough to worship at the rising sun. Were he half as smart as he thinks himself he could see that "Mormonism" contains within itself the indestructible elements of success and permanency, that it is the rising power of this continent, and is destined to be the ark of its liberties if any are preserved. But it is all right; we neither court the favors nor fear the frowns of such men. But it would be well for individuals and the nation to sit down and count the cost, before measuring arms with the Almighty. Time was when the presentation of such a bill would have aroused my anger; now, contempt takes the place of anger, and I only feel anxious that I and all Israel may be able to understand, love and practice the truth—then God will be our defender. I would respectfully remind Messrs. Wade, Cragin and Congress that "The measure they met (to us) shall be meted back to them, pressed down, heaped up, and running over." They may deem us a very wicked, ignorant set of fanatics, but we have a pretty good idea what they are.

Your Brother,
W. H. SHEARMAN.