

THE
DESERET NEWS.

"TRUTH AND LIBERTY."

ALBERT CARRINGTON, EDITOR.

FILLMORE, WEDNESDAY, MAY 26.

HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR CUMMING AND COL. THOMAS L. KANE left G. S. L. City for Camp Scott, Thursday, the 13th inst. Gov. Cumming expects soon to return with his family, and Col. Kane purposes proceeding directly to his home in Philadelphia.

ARRIVALS.—Elders Jeter Clinton, Lorenzo H. Hatch, John M. Wakely and John W. Turner arrived in G. S. L. City on the 13th inst., from their missions to the States and Europe.

Elder John R. Young arrived in this city on Wednesday evening, the 19th inst., from his mission to the Sandwich Islands. Bro. Young has been absent from his home upwards of four years, having been appointed to his mission at the General Conference in the spring of 1854.

TOPICS FOR TO-DAY.

SINCE the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints upon the earth, its members have been called upon to undergo a great variety of privations and to pass through circumstances that have been well calculated to test their integrity and love for the truth. The Lord has taken this way to give them the experience and knowledge which they need, to act in the sphere that He destines them to occupy. It is the course which He has always taken with His people whenever He has had a church upon the earth. Jesus himself, it is said, was made perfect through suffering; and his followers were always made perfect by similar means. The sufferings and tribulations which this Latter-day Church has been called to pass through have had a similar object to accomplish. Yet the wicked and cruel persecutors of the Saints, they who have been the means of causing this people to pass through these scenes of suffering and tribulation, can not escape punishment because of their being necessary for the perfection of the Saints. The Lord granted unto them their agency, and in the free and unrestricted exercise thereof they have preferred this wicked course, therefore He will visit them for their iniquity.

Limited as our experience and comprehensions still are, yet if we but glance at our past movements, it is plainly to be seen that this people have never been driven—have never made a movement either voluntarily or because they were compelled by their enemies, but what the Lord, in permitting it, has had a lesson to teach us. By suffering us to pass through those circumstances, He designed to impress upon us a lesson that would never be forgotten and that would aid us in passing on to perfection. Many of the Saints have not failed to profit by these lessons, while others have manifested an indifference that has prevented them from making the requisite improvement. Those who take the latter course will either be counted as slothful servants and not be found worthy to stand, or the chastisement will be repeated until they do profit by it. But what true saint is there that does not wish to gather instruction from every trial and circumstance in which he may be placed? Or what benefit would difficulties and tribulation be to the people of God, unless they sought to profit by them and free themselves from those faults and imperfections which cling to them and are the legacy bequeathed to them by their fathers?

Though the Latter-day Saints have made great improvement, have divested themselves of many things that have hindered their progress, and have accumulated much valuable experience, yet they are far from being what the Lord designs they shall be. There are many portions of the great lesson that He is teaching us that are only partially learned, and until we completely master these things we may expect that He will, from time to time, continue to enforce them upon us. One of the most important points of these is, to entirely divest ourselves of covetousness and every other feeling that would hinder us from holding all that we have subject to the Lord's dictation and disposal. Every movement that has heretofore been made, has had, among other things, the enforcement of this point in view. The Lord has counselled, entreated and commanded

His people to not place their affections upon property and the things of this world; but to use every thing of this nature as He intended it should be used—as an aid to them in gaining their own salvation and the salvation of their fellows; or in a word, to use it all for the building up and rolling forth of His kingdom on the earth, for this, indeed, comprehends every thing—the temporal and spiritual salvation of one and all. When entreaties and commands have failed to teach the people this, then He has permitted them to pass through circumstances that have enforced it upon them. But how much better it would be if they would be entreated and profit by what is past, and thus avoid such chastisements.

How long will it take the Saints to learn that all they have in their possession is the Lord's, and that they are but stewards? When they have thoroughly profited by the lessons He has been inculcating, then will be bestowed upon them in abundance every thing needful, because such blessings will not then prove to their destruction, as they would be apt to at present were He to bestow them. When these lessons are learned, they will neither be disposed to withhold any thing that they have that may be needed for the forwarding of the work of God, nor to gratify their covetous disposition by taking advantage of their brother's necessities. But they will deal honorably and justly, impart freely of their substance whenever it is needed, and continually feel that by helping roll forth the work and alleviating the wants of their brethren, they are exercising a wise stewardship and laying a foundation to obtain the reward for their faithfulness over a few things by being made ruler over many. In the various movements this people have made, there have been some characters who have always sought to take advantage of them to aggrandize themselves. Instead of seeking to uproot the feeling of covetousness that possessed them, they have encouraged it, and have fattened at the expense of their brethren. What cared they who suffered, if they were only benefited! Their brethren were in a tight place, and they had the means of relief in their hands; but they would not impart to them unless they could derive great benefit from it. Not content with any thing reasonable, they sought to take advantage of the necessity of their brother to increase their own stores. This feeling, however, has been confined to but few, and they have been from time to time sifted out.

Situated as this people have been, and even are at the present time, there is a strong temptation to take a course of this kind; but will you yield to it, ye Latter-day Saints, and set at nought all that the Lord has been striving to teach you? Will you give heed to a spirit that would prompt you to take advantage of your brethren's necessities as a means of enriching yourselves? If you do this, what better are you than the heathen? What have the scenes of suffering and tribulation you have passed through or the sacrifices you have made, profited you? What we have is the Lord's, and though we are His stewards, yet can we suppose for a moment that he would be pleased for us to increase it by iniquitous means? His Spirit produces no such feeling; but on the contrary, condemns it. God has chosen us out of the world and called us to be His people—a choice and peculiar people—a people diverse from all others, the lesson He is teaching us to-day and every day that we live, is intended to bring us up to this standard, to make us God-like, perfect even as He is perfect. Will we profit by it?

THE WEATHER, &c.—This city during the past week has been visited by a succession of strong winds, which, rising about eight or nine o'clock in the morning of each day, continued, without intermission until about sundown. These winds were violent and excessively disagreeable to travelers and those engaged in outdoor occupations. There have been some indications of rain, and a few of the weather wise have predicted showers; but up to the present no rain has fallen, and there is now every prospect of settled dry weather. We noticed yesterday the brethren busily employed in repairing the water ditches, preparatory to irrigating their city lots. The crops generally are looking well; but begin to need water.

The range for stock at the present time in this valley is excellent. Since the grasshopper season the grass in some places has been poor; the ravages of these insects at that time destroyed and poisoned it, but this spring's heavy rains have removed all traces of their visit.

The Solar Parallax—Results of the Expedition to Chili—Report of Lieut. Gilliss.

U. S. NAVAL ASTRONOMICAL EXPEDITION,
WASHINGTON, Thursday, Feb. 18, 1858.

SIR:—I have the honor to communicate to you the results of the observations specially made by the United States Naval Astronomical Expedition to determine the solar parallax—the sun's distance from the earth.

It will be remembered by the Department that Dr. GERLING—in eminent geometer of Germany—suggested the practicability of determining this fundamental astronomical datum from observations of Venus near the inferior conjunction, instead of awaiting the rare phenomenon of transits of the planet across the sun's disc; that an expedition to the Southern Hemisphere was proposed to the Department by myself for the purpose of making these observations, which, in connection with similar observations to be made at the Naval Observatory, would test the method; and that the earnest commendation of the measure by physicists, both in Europe and this country, induced Congress to authorize the Expedition by special grants in the appropriation bills approved in 1848 and 1849.

We were absent from the United States nearly three and a half years, and the observations constituting the more immediate object of the expedition extended through parts of each of the years from November, 1849, to September, 1852, inclusive. So many classes of observations were embraced in the plan of operations adopted by the Department, that our small party was almost constantly occupied in observatory duty proper, and it was not possible to prepare any of the data for the final computations until after the return of the expedition to the United States. Then our first efforts were to put in proper form for the computer all the observations of the planets Venus and Mars, and the stars with which they had been compared. Whilst our men of science had been unanimous in advocating the organization of an expedition, because of the additional mass of important information certain to be collected by it, there were some who entertained an opinion that the method of determining the parallax proposed by Dr. Gerling would not afford a result as reliable as had been derived from the transits of Venus in 1761 and 1769. For obvious reasons, therefore, it was proper that the discussion of the results from our observations should be intrusted to an astronomer thoroughly competent to appreciate the problem, yet wholly uncommitted as to the comparative merits of the two methods.

Under the sanction of the Department, Dr. B. A. GOULD, JR., of Cambridge, Mass., was selected for the purpose; and the elaborate refinement with which he has executed this difficult and delicate task, is ample evidence that the confidence of the Department was not misplaced. His report does him great honor. It will fill from 130 to 140 pages of volume 3 of the results of the expedition, the larger portion of it, and all the remainder of the volume, being already printed.

The result obtained by him for the Sun's Equatorial Horizontal Parallax is 8".4950 or 0".0762 less than the value commonly adopted, and he concludes that we may assume with advantage 8".5000, corresponding to a distance from that luminary of 96,160,000 statute miles. As the information is of high interest to astronomers, I have the honor to suggest that it be made known in advance of the publication of the volume. I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. M. GILLISS.

Hon. I. TOUCEY, Secretary of the Navy.

The Florida War.

HOW THE SEMINOLE WAR IN FLORIDA IS PREVENTED FROM COMING TO AN END.

We have just received from a correspondent in Florida, the following sketch of the Indian War, which has been going on nearly ever since the Resolutions of '98. Our readers can get an idea of how expenses accumulate, and why it is that the War Department is compelled to pay \$50 a cord for wood; \$60 a barrel for flour, and "other favors in proportion."

TAMPA, Fla., Tuesday, Feb. 9, 1858.

Speaking of William Bowlegs, Esquire, let me give you an idea how the Indian excitement is kept up in this region. A company of volunteers is enlisted for six months. Well, they "scout" for nearly that time, and when their term of service is almost out, lo! they take some prisoners, generally aged squaws, young children, or very delapidated old men. Thus, on the excitement generated by this "great success," other companies volunteer, (at a stunning expense to our beloved Uncle Samuel,) and so the farce goes on.

A few days since Capt. —'s Company of mounted volunteers, who had but a week more to serve, while scouting in the Big Cypress Swamp, found an Indian grave which looked so fresh that they were induced to open it. They found the body of an old man with only two teeth, but from his dress presumed he must have been a warrior of distinction. This was on the sixth day of the scout, and they had provisions to last eight days. Soon after digging up the body, (which many people would call unnecessarily desecrating the grave,) the men were fired upon by an Indian spy, who then attempted to escape. He was, however, wounded in both thighs, and taken prisoner. He told his brave captors that some of the people were in camp a few miles off, and offered to guide them to the spot to be released. On their way they found and burnt over one hundred bushels of corn, which had been stored by the Indians.

The volunteers soon came upon the camp,

when the Indians broke in three different directions. The pursuers followed the largest trail, and soon found a little child wandering about alone. After a little while they also found an old squaw, who said she was the wife of "Sam Jones," (not the fisherman, but one of the chiefs,) and that the child was hers. Finding no more "savage foes," they retraced their steps; and the next day, the eighth of the scout, they discovered and destroyed a number of hogs, took eight Indian ponies, and returned to their own camp, out of provisions!!

So after having wantonly destroyed provisions enough to have kept them a week, during which they could, in all probability have come up with the main body of Indians, they returned to their camp with one wounded Indian, one old squaw, and one little child (since dead.) And, they will now retire upon their laurels, or be "mustered out" of service with a flourish of trumpets for their brilliant achievement, and other volunteers will be "mustered in" to commence the game anew.

Cannot some in authority exercise influence enough to put a stop to this petty warfare, or are the contractors for supplies too powerful?

Yours truly,

—[N. Y. Times.

Increase of Naval Chaplains.

To the Editor of the New York Times:

Last month a meeting was held in Philadelphia, for the purpose of getting up a memorial to Congress to increase the number of chaplains in the Navy, and to introduce certain reforms. There is no doubt that sailors and officers too, need a great deal of moral and religious teaching. But before asking Congress to increase the number of chaplains, it would have been wise in that convocation of clergymen to have inquired whether those now belonging to the service are employed. If they had made diligent inquiry, they would probably have learned that it is nearly three years since there was a chaplain at the Navy Yard in Washington, or the receiving ship or Hospital at Charlestown, Mass.

A moderate degree of effort would have discovered the fact that the administration of the Navy Department during the last three years has been, morally and religiously speaking, very loose. The feebleness of Mr. Dobbin's health made it necessary for him to leave these details to his chief clerk, and we presume Mr. Toucey has not had time to attend to such matters, and they have been intrusted to the same faithless hands. If there ever was a time when the Administration needed praying for, it is just now, and we recommend Mr. Secretary Toucey to haul aboard his piety tacks, order to duty all the chaplains he has places for, and it may be with their help the ship of State will weather the storm.

PURITAN.

A STARTLING INTIMATION.—The recent developments of the number, magnitude, and impunity of crime in this city [New York, and the writer might have truthfully said in every other city] have roused the attention of reflecting men, and awakened intensely anxious apprehensions of the future. One of the daily journals to which we are accustomed to look for sober views of things holds the following language:

"Who can be amazed at the free talk about vigilance committees and lynch law? Have not our courts been constantly warned that they were fast losing the confidence of the people? Has not their inefficiency become a public scandal? Is it not known that under their administration not one murderer in thirty is brought to the punishment the law ordains?—Is it not notorious that though dozens of murders have been committed within the last eighteen months, but one of the perpetrators has expiated his offence on the scaffold, and that man suffered only because he was a poor, ignorant, despised, drunken negro? How long do our courts imagine that this course of things can continue? We tell them—we have told them before, and we repeat—that they are hazarding their functions by their unfaithfulness. The body of our community will not forever consent to be trifled with. They will not submit to this perpetual insecurity of life. If our courts will not punish crime the people will punish it. It is weakness to blink this fact. It is idle to cry law and order when there is no law and order. Self-preservation is the first law of nature. It must be had. It will be had. If our courts will not protect the community against the assassin's blade and the murderer's bludgeon, the community will ultimately fall back upon their own natural rights, and protect themselves. There is a limit to all human endurance. There is latent in the human bosom an inborn and noble hatred of murderers which no earthly power can stay when once fairly aroused."

This is a startling intimation. We repel the thought. We will not believe we are on the eve of such a day as the reign of terror would introduce. But it is well for our magistrates to know whether their inefficiency is tending. It is well that our police commissioners should look the possibility of such a calamity steadily in the face. It is high time that our staid and sober citizens, who take no part in the miserable party strifes of the day, should arouse themselves to action. We must have reform and that speedily. Probably there was never a time in the history of this city when so much crime was committed with so much impunity as at present. Our policemen are notoriously inattentive, absent when needed, and some of them are found in the act of violating the laws they are set to protect. If this state of things grows worse the remedy will be awful.—N. Y. Observer, Feb.