

EDITORIAL NOTES.

California wants a new constitution. The election for delegates to the convention for the purpose of framing it is to take place on the 19th of June.

The New York elevated street car railroad is using, successfully, compressed air as a motor. Nine miles an hour is the speed required, but experiments have proven it capable of 30.

Ericson, who invented the turret ship, has now produced a fast running torpedo boat of a peculiar character, to knock a turret ship higher than a kite. Strange what turns are made in the mind of genius.

The telegraphic dispatch said to have been sent from the British Government to the Canadian administration, declaring war to be inevitable, we believe to be canard. That is not the way governments generally communicate such important matters.

San Stefano, which has sprung into notoriety and will occupy a prominent place in history, is said to be the ugliest, flattest and most uninteresting of country villages in the vicinity of Constantinople. Fortune seems to be just as fickle with places as with people.

An exchange states that the clown at a circus lately uttered two new jokes. The consequence was that the misguided man was instantly discharged. We cannot credit this without the proof. Bring forth the new jokes and let us see them, or we shall regard the announcement as a heartless canard.

The directors of the Consolidated Virginia Mining Company have commenced suit against the "Bonanza Kings," in the Twelfth District Court of California, for the recovery of \$35,634,333, claiming that this amount of loss has been sustained by illegal dealings. That is something like a suit. With ten per cent. interest claimed as recoverable in addition, it will lift it up to about \$45,000,000.

The old folks are to have an out. It will do them good. The committee who have the arrangement of the excursion in hand have succeeded admirably before, and we believe they will do equally well again. We hope they will receive all the assistance, pecuniary and otherwise, that they can reasonably anticipate. Read their communication, and help to give the old people a genuine treat.

A farmer's daughter, near Cleveland, Ohio, a short time ago, was foolish enough to answer a "personal" in a newspaper. She entered into correspondence with the "unknown," was induced to meet him, married, and in two months returned home, wrecked in health and happiness, and looking like a beggar. Her husband was a gambler and a loafer. This is a true romance. Who will take warning by it?

According to the New York Sun, the sum of \$305,000,000 has been spent on the United States navy since the close of the civil war. The question is where is the navy? Eleven monitors and twenty-four steamers comprise the marine armament of the country. The navy is not to be found, and those millions are sunk out of sight, and out of recovery, yet this is the most glorious government the sun ever shone upon.

The London Globe tells an oily story about a Russian plan to burn the English fleet near the Bosphorus. It is to pour several tons of petroleum on the waters, ignite it, and thus burn up the shipping. Seeing that steamers can travel faster than the current, and that the coal oil would not take long to burn itself out, the cost of the scheme would be much too dear for the possible results, and we think the Globe's story not only oily, but decidedly fishy.

The waltzing mania, which prompted persons, with livelier heels than brains, to dance from five to eight hours in succession without resting, has apparently subsided. And now a singing trial of endurance has commenced. Mrs. Maud Giles sang for three consecutive hours without stopping, at the Cooper Union, New York, on the 15th inst. She sang forty pieces, and was not then tired, except from standing. Somebody else will be sure to try and beat that. Look out for squalls.

A little boy, five years old, at Brooklyn, a few days since, while playing with his three-year old brother, found a loaded pistol and fired it, the ball entering the head of the younger child, killing him instantly. The boy who did the deed showed the coroner how he cocked the weapon and fired it; he seems to be aware of the awful consequences and it is feared his reason will be affected, as he stares into vacancy and it is difficult to attract his attention. When will people cease leaving such dangerous weapons where they can be handled by infants?

James Young, steward of the White Star steamer *Britannia*, is a hero. A few days ago four boys were upset while rowing near the New York docks where that vessel was lying. Young jumped into the water and, although hampered with his clothing and heavy boots, swam round the pier, seized three of the boys, while he pushed the fourth to the dock piles, gained his ship and held on till a ladder was lowered. He saved them all, and just in time, for the tide was hurrying them out to sea. Sad to say, if Young had killed as many persons as he saved, he would have gained a notoriety before which the fame of his bravery is as nothing. Strange, isn't it?

Senator Sargent has introduced a bill to regulate immigration. It is intended to hinder the influx of Chinese, but makes it unlawful to bring into the United States "any persons by or through whose presence in this country the free institutions thereof would be endangered." That is a little too broad to pass. There are many people besides the Chinese whose presence here might be considered dangerous to American institutions. Does the Senator intend to shut out all the political refugees, Communists and Fenians who come from Europe to "the asylum of the oppressed?" In aiming at the Mongolian he strikes the Caucasian.

As evidence of Russian Christian toleration the *Edinburgh Review* states that "No minister of another faith than that of the Orthodox Church can even enter the Russian dominions without the express permission of the Emperor. Just before the late war the Anglican Bishop of Gibraltar wanted to proceed to Odessa to confirm the children of British subjects residing there, but the necessary visa of passport was peremptorily refused, although the British Ambassador at Constantinople personally exerted himself to obtain it. General Ignatieff said he had not the power to grant the visa necessary to enter Russia to a foreign clergyman." This is the government that smite Turkey to liberalize its institutions.

One W. J. Coggeshall, has been lecturing in New York, with the title of Rev. prefixed to his name. This is Coggeswell the actor, who figured here for a short time, after being led over the mountains "by the spirits." He was very good on the stage when he was sober, and might have succeeded well if he had overcome the vice of intemperance. Failing in his profession, he has started as an anti-Mormon lecturer, and the pious people of the East have picked him up as an "exposer of the secrets of Mormonism." He has made them believe that he was a great man in Utah, and if he can keep sober and hold his face long enough, may make some money out of a gullible public. This is all he is after. But the announcement on the bills about Rev. W. J. Coggeshall, is too funny for anything.

[FOR THE DESERET NEWS.]
INFIDELITY.

BY CHARLES W. STAYNER.

Chapter 2.—Refutations—Infidel Reasonings, continued.

Besides the traditions contained in the Chinese Records, we might mention the fanciful narrative given by the heathen poet Ovid, in which he speaks of a time when "a day was lost," and tells us that the intense heat of the sun on a certain occasion, endangered the earth. He gives the name of Phaeton, who was a Canaanitish Prince, and we find that the fable or tradition had its origin with a people called the Phoenicians, the very people with whom that battle was fought by Joshua, during which

he commanded "the sun to stand still," and "it hasted not to go down for the space of a whole day." True, this is only a tradition, but does it not show that the truth of peculiar events had been embodied in this legendary manner, as if to perpetuate its memory among the heathen nations; and is it not corroborative of the plain statements made in the Scriptures? Those who are versed in these matters will please excuse allusion to them, for the benefit of the young readers who may never have heard of them before.

"Well," says the skeptic, "but it was not the reasons you have stated that caused me to disbelieve in the Scriptures, but it is the geological peculiarities of the earth that have convinced me its age is far greater than six thousand years." This gentleman has probably read or heard of Brydone's description of Mount Etna, wherein the traveler states that he found a stream of lava congealed on the mountain side, which had no soil on it. It was perfectly naked. No dust or dirt had settled there to furnish a hold for vegetation, consequently the vegetation had not grown and decayed here after time, and thus added depth to the soil, while near the foot of the same mountain, if a pit were sunk we would pass through seven different strata of lava with two feet of soil between. This traveler thinks that the stream of metallic rock mentioned was caused by an eruption described by Polybius as occurring nearly 1,700 years ago, and argues from this conjecture that if it takes nearly 2,000 years to produce one layer of soil, of course seven layers would take 14,000 years, consequently the age of the earth must be over twice that given it by Biblical chronology. This is the sort of reasoning that has turned thousands of people laying claim to common sense, to infidelity.

But, wait a moment, reader, turn to another passage of the same work, and the author tells us of a beautiful country which was celebrated for its fertility, once called Mel Passi, the Honey Land; that it had been overwhelmed by lava from Etna, become barren, and was then called Mal Passi, or Mean Land. The next eruption, which soon followed, covered with ashes, and a wonderful fertility ensued; it was then called Bel Passi, Beautiful Land. In a short time it was again devastated by an eruption of fire and reduced to sterility. Showing that frequent changes caused by the quick succession of eruptions are effected in some places, while other spots remain barren, apparently without cause, for many years. Again the cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii were buried by an eruption of Vesuvius about 1,800 years ago. These cities were discovered about 1,700 years afterwards, and in digging down to search the streets, they passed through six different strata of lava, with two feet of soil between them.

How easy to see that if six different layers of soil, each two feet thick, could be formed near Vesuvius in 1,700 years, it would not be a difficult matter for seven layers to be formed near Etna in 5,000. Is it not strange that some will entertain conjectures against the Bible, in preference to facts in its favor?

Correspondence.

Missionary Labors.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa,
May 24, 1878.

Editors Deseret News:

Since the arrival here of Elder C. H. Wheelock and party, on the 12th inst., the Elders who accompanied him, ten in number, have all reached their fields and have thrust in their sickles, or are engaged in scattering the seeds of truth. Elder Wheelock and I have been laboring in this place ever since his arrival, with the exception of a three days' visit to a point 50 miles east of here, from which we returned last evening, feeling highly gratified with the results of our trip. We put up with a family of old-time Saints, formerly warm friends of Elder Wheelock's, whom we feel will again enlist in the cause of truth. We made many friends, found a marked spirit of inquiry, and were invited to hold meetings in two different towns, rooms being offered us, and good houses and a kind reception guaranteed. We also heard of

a number of old-time saints whom we have reason to believe might be reclaimed. On the whole the opening seemed an excellent one, but our appointments here would not allow us to prosecute it at once. We, however, arranged to send out some appointments, and design to go there again as soon as circumstances will permit.

Last Monday we baptized one very intelligent lady, and have an appointment to baptize two men on Sunday next. There are excellent prospects for numerous other baptisms in the near future, and it is the design to organize a branch here shortly, as there is material for making a good, strong one. There are a score or more saints here now, but they are in a disorganized condition.

We are holding meetings every Sunday in a large hall, which we have rented, and the interest steadily increases. Four different persons, who attended our meeting last Sunday evening, have since stated that they never heard the truth preached before. There has been some talk on the street, among a disreputable class, of "suppressing 'Mormonism'" in Council Bluffs, but our enemies have not yet taken definite action in the matter, and we have faith to believe that all their efforts in that direction will be overruled for the work's advancement.

In traveling through this region I am struck with the difference between the manners and customs of the people of the West and those of New England, among whom I traveled so much on my former mission. Here one may easily make acquaintances on the street, in the train, in a railroad depot, or elsewhere. The people are free, and comparatively unrestrained in their intercourse with each other and with strangers, and there is vastly less of etiquette and cold formality than one witnesses in New England.

I do not recollect having ever made an acquaintance in a train in New England on more than one or two occasions. A stranger there meets with much difficulty in extending the circle of his acquaintance, but when society once ascertains that his pedigree is unexceptionable, his character unimpeachable, and particularly that his education is classical and complete, they become hospitable and obliging towards him, and take pleasure in extending favors to him.

Our Elders are rarely able to obtain the use of school-houses for meetings in New England—at least I found it so; but in Iowa and Nebraska this favor is granted us much more frequently, and the people turn out much better. For these and other reasons the Western States, in my humble opinion, present a far better field for our missionaries than does New England or the Middle States.

In accordance with Elder Wheelock's desire, I will remain with him for some time longer, as the field affords us plenty to do.

Your brother in the gospel,
B. F. CUMMINGS, JR.

A Dissatisfied Witness.

She was a farmer's wife, and, as she took the witness stand, in a case before Justice Brown, she had her hands clenched, her lips compressed, and the fire in her eye was evidence that she was burning to tell the truth.

"Well, tell the jury what you know about this case," said the lawyer.

She moved around a little, looked the jury square in the face, and getting a good hold of the witness box, she began:

"I was out to the barn to ask my husband if he thought it was going to rain and he said he guessed not and I said I guessed not when three or four men came in. They were jawing and swearing and it almost made my blood run—"

"Never mind all that," interrupted the lawyer. "Did you see any one strike a blow?"

"I guess I did see some one strike a blow, and three or four of them and I never was so frightened in my life and I wonder I didn't faint away and I think this man they call Robinson was the one who struck first and I'm almost sure of it and if I'd been a man I'd have—"

"Do you swear that Robinson struck the first blow?"

"Yes, sir. I swear that I think Robinson struck the first blow, though I may be mistaken, of course, and of course I don't want to swear to a lie for no one

and I was excited and I don't know but some one may have hit him with an ear of corn and—"

"That will do," said the lawyer. "Why—why, I haven't hardly commenced yet," she protested.

"Well, I've got all I want of such testimony." "I say it's a mean trick to bring me into town, over 'leven miles of mud road and then not let me swear!" she exclaimed as she stepped down. "I guess I'm just as good as some other folks out my way, and I guess I've got just as good an education for swearing in court, even if we haven't got upholstered chairs in the house!"—*Detroit Press.*

Words of Wisdom.

A grain of prudence is worth a pound of craft. Boasters are cousins to liars. Confession of fault makes half amends. Denying a fault doubles it. Envy shooteth at others and woundeth herself. Foolish fear doubles danger. God reaches us good things by our own hands. He has hard work who has nothing to do. It costs more to avenge wrongs than to bear them. Knavery is the worst trade. Learning makes a man fit company for himself. Modesty is a guard for virtue. Not to hear conscience is the way to silence it. One hour today is worth two to-morrow. Proud looks make foul words in fair faces. Quiet conscience gives quiet sleep. Richest is he that wants least. Small faults indulged are little thieves. The boughs that bear most hang lowest. Upright walking is sure walking. Virtue and happiness are near kin. True men make more opportunities than they find. You never lose by doing a good turn. Zeal without knowledge is fire without light.

"Well, Father Brown, how did you like my sermon yesterday?" asked a young preacher. "You see, parson," was the reply, "I haven't a fair chance of them sermons of yours. I'm an old man, now, and have to set putty well by the stove; and there's old Miss Smith, 'n Widder Taff, 'n Mrs. Bylan's darters, 'n Nabby Burt, 'n all the rest setting in front of me with their mouths wide open, a swallerin' down all the best of the sermon; 'n what gets down to me is putty poor stuff, parson; putty poor stuff!"

New Edition

OF THE

DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS

AND

JUST PUBLISHED!

A New, Revised, Enlarged, and improved edition of the *Doctrine and Covenants* of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, containing the Revelations given to Joseph Smith, Junr, the Prophet, for the building up of the Kingdom of God in the last days.

Printed on fine paper, from new, large clear type, and containing nearly 600 pages.

To this edition there have been a number of additions made the sections have been revised and numbered, and a full and comprehensive Index and Contents has been added.

Orders received now will be filled in order of receipt.

Mailed to any part of the Territory on receipt of price.

PRICES:
Full Cloth, Embossed Sides, gilt back, sprinkled edges, \$2.00.
Full Imitation Morocco, embossed sides, gilt back and sprinkled edges, \$2.50.

address
CANNON & YOUNG.

Deseret News Office.

Salt Lake City U