

Attempted Suicide.

Some days ago Mrs. Sarah Muir, wife of David Muir, of Beaver City, took a dose of chloroform with suicidal intent. She is of a hysterical nature and family troubles and the death of a child, drove her to the step. Her life was narrowly saved. Her mind is said to have given way.

New Telescope.

Alvan S. Clark, the telescope builder, is going to build a forty-inch telescope for the University of Southern California. He makes some interesting statements of the difficulties and care of lens-making. The disks are made in France. The principal work of shaping the lens is done by hand, no machinery being accurate enough. The final curves have to be so accurate that every ray of light from a star which strikes the telescope must pass through four surfaces and have its course so changed by refraction that it will meet every other ray in a point no larger than the cross section of a fine needle.

War Ships and Merchant Vessels Sunk.

On March 16 a typhoon suddenly sprang up which swept the harbor of Apia, the principal town on Upolu, one of the Samoan islands. In the harbor at the time were anchored the American warships, *Trenton*, *Vandalia* and *Nipac*, and the German war vessels, *Adler*, *Eber* and *Olga*. Besides these there were a number of merchant vessels, but just how many is not stated.

The hurricane burst upon the harbor suddenly. The German man-of-war *Eber* was the first vessel to drag her anchor. She became unmanageable, and was driven helplessly on the reef which runs around the harbor. She struck broadside at 6 o'clock p.m. The shock caused her to lurch and to stagger back, and she sank in a moment in deep water. Most of her men were under the hatches, and scarcely a soul of them escaped. The German war ship *Adler* was the next to succumb. She was lifted bodily by a gigantic wave and cast on her beam ends on the reef. A terrible struggle for life ensued among the officers and sailors aboard. Many plunged into the raging surf and struck out, some reaching the shore in safety. Others clung to the rigging until the masts fell. Of those in the rigging only two gained the shore. The captain of the *Adler* and several of the officers were saved. Meantime the United States steamship *Nipac* dragged her anchor and drifted towards the shore. The captain, however, managed to keep her under control and ran her on the sand bar. The boats were immediately lowered and the whole company were saved with the exception of six men. These were drowned by the capsizing of a boat.

The U. S. steamer *Vandalia* was carried before the gale right upon the reef. She struck with great force, hurling the captain against

the Gatling gun, and he fell stunned. Before he could recover a great wave swept the deck and washed him and others away into the sea. The vessel sank fifty yards from the *Nipac*, and several officers and men went down with her. Others perished while making desperate efforts to swim ashore. Some of the ship's company tried to save themselves by clinging to the rigging; but the heavy and swift rushing waves dashed over them, and one by one they were swept away. By this time night had set in.

Many natives and Europeans had gathered on shore all anxious to render assistance to the unfortunate crews, but owing to the darkness they were wholly unable to be of service. Soon after the *Vandalia* had sunk the American war-ship *Trenton* broke from her anchorage and was driven upon the wreck of the *Vandalia*, whence she drifted to shore. The bottom of the *Trenton* was completely stove, and her hold became half full of water. As morning broke the German man-of-war *Olga*, which had hitherto withstood the gale, although considerably battered by the heavy seas which broke over her, became unmanageable and was driven upon the beach, where she lay in a tolerably favorable position.

The following is a record of the officers and men lost from the *Eber*: The captain and all other officers except one, and 76 men. The *Vandalia*: Captain and four officers, and 40 men. The *Nipac*: Seven men. The *Adler*: Altogether 15 persons.

Matanaf sent a number of his men to the assistance of the wrecked ships. They rendered splendid aid in trying to float the *Olga*.

All of the merchant vessels in the harbor were lost. The total number of lives lost is not stated, nor is the amount of damage done estimated as yet. Three hundred shipwrecked sailors have applied for passage to San Francisco.

This is one of the greatest marine disasters of modern times. The loss of three war ships there places our government in something of a dilemma, as it feels the need of having at Samoa protection for American interests there, yet has not at hand a war ship that can be dispatched to take the place of the lost vessels.

Gold in San Juan.

Numerous reports have been made by old prospectors regarding placer gold discoveries near the Utah and Colorado line, in San Juan County, Utah, west of La Plata County, Colo., during the past ten years, but no report of gold in paying quantities has been authenticated. Portions of rudely constructed sluices have been found there, but no water save that which might be saved from melting snows and stored in reservoirs. There are shallow basins having earthworks, indicating that reservoirs had been constructed at some time. There can be no doubt that gold can be found in greater or less quantity. That it is an old gold district, and that there were at some time streams of water

to mine or wash the gold is possible in the well-advanced theory that a stream of water once had a natural course through the great Montezuma valley, when it was peopled and cultivated by the ancient Aztecs. It is believed by many that the Dolores River, which now turns west at the Big Bend, once continued its course southward and flowed through the Montezuma Valley, and through the great canyon McElmo emptied into the San Juan River. In this theory, which must be supported by the changing of the course of the streams and contour of the country generally by earthquake, is offered a solution of the mystery which surrounds the destruction of the stone buildings of the Aztecs and the extinction of the race. Every feature of the hills, and in many instances the peculiar course of the streams from the Montezuma Valley on the west to the ruined city on the Chaco in New Mexico bear out the theory that at some time the country has undergone some violent change. Along this distance, in a direction from west to a little south of east, are the ruined cities of the Aztec people. The broken hills scattered along and between the streams, in so many places appearing on either side as the traveler passes between them, as if they had just been broken, all show in their ragged and craggy appearance that they might have been shaken up, broken and tumbled over each other since the stone buildings of the Aztecs were erected. The ruined buildings are found in about the same condition in all the ruined cities, those built of boulders and mud being quite completely demolished. The walls of masonry, some of which are as high as fifteen or twenty feet, showing excellent workmanship, stood the test best. Does not the theory that the course of the rivers were changed apply as well to the Aztec mystery? *Denver News*.

RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Services.

Religious services were held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, March 31, 1889, commencing at 2 p. m., President Angus M. Cannon presiding:

The choir and congregation sang:

Set is the work, my God, my King.
To praise Thy name, give thanks and sing.

Prayer by Bishop Wm. Thorn.

The choir sang:

O Lord of Hosts! we now invoke
Thy Spirit most divine.

The Priesthood of the Fifth Ward officiated in the administration of the Sacrament.

APOSTLE JOHN HENRY SMITH

addressed the congregation. He read from the Doctrine and Covenants the Word of Wisdom, given through Joseph, the Seer, at Kirtland, Feb. 27, 1833, and said: I do not know but the reading of this revelation given to the Church so early as 1833 may possibly startle