

DESERET NEWS

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - APRIL 11, 1877.

ALL ARE TALKING OF UTAH.

THE newspapers throughout the country are very busy just now in ventilating "Mormonism," or rather any extraordinary thing which it may please them to range under that head. Some few journals have sensible articles, but in many papers the articles in this connection do little credit to the hearts and less, if possible, to the heads of the writers. Some papers we never notice, but systematically ignore, their characters are so dreadfully bad, and are generally known to be so. It is unpleasant and unprofitable to be on the lee side of a skunk, and it is equally unpleasant and unprofitable to be on the lee side of certain public journals. Hence prudent people, when they happen to find themselves in such a disgraceful situation, pinch their noses, give the objects of disgust the right of way without a word, and place themselves in more approved places as speedily as possible.

The New York Herald is one of the foremost in its quoted and original articles upon "Mormonism" and Utah just now. Of course that paper is not responsible for its quoted articles, and of them we say nothing. But many utterances in its original articles, to our view, are very wild and passionate, and entirely unwarranted by the facts in the case. Indeed the Herald seems to be taking an abnormal delight just now in repeatedly setting up a terrible man of straw for the sole purpose of exhibiting its prowess in repeatedly knocking the straw man down again. The numerous overthrows and demolitions of this man of straw are fearful to contemplate. The Herald shrieks frantically for vengeance on somebody whom it supposes to be guilty of many atrocities, some real, others imaginary, and the way that paper jumps to conclusions far surpasses the efforts of womankind in rapidity, but falls unmeasurably behind in correctness of intuition. It may be that the Herald is chagrined and venomous because President Young did not furnish it with a three-column sensational article on invitation. But then that gentleman had the privilege of electing to do so or not to do so, and it is unbecoming in a great newspaper to lose its ordinary good temper and take on so over such a trifling matter.

Another paper, that has always been violent and reckless towards Utah and the "Mormons," is the Virginia (Nev.) Territorial Enterprise. In some respects the Enterprise is a good paper, but there seems to be little fairness or principle in many things that it says. It manifests much more ability than honesty, or sense of justice, or that rather uncommon quality termed common sense. The Enterprise is shouting itself hoarse just now in demanding the partitioning of Utah among neighboring States and Territories, and the disfranchisement of the "Mormons," all and singular, each, every, and either. The Enterprise is simply making itself ridiculous.

Among papers which have taken a more sensible and temperate view of the situation are the New York Post, New York Sun, Omaha Herald, and Omaha Bee. Any other papers that manifest a similar spirit, if they will send their names along, we will acknowledge their merit and place their names on the roll of honor. Meantime we may say to the newspaper world at large—Don't lose your senses altogether over "Mormonism" and the "Mormons." You are not half done with them yet.

Some startling stories are told of atrocities practised in the Massachusetts Reform School at Westboro. Unlimited flogging on the bare flesh, sometimes till the boys fainted, confinement in the sweat-box without food, playing cold water from a hose upon the nude person, and all sorts of methods for raising human suffering appear to have been employed on the boys, without respect to age. One boy was so cruelly tortured that he hung himself.

SLICING UP UTAH.

THE suggestion has been made a number of times, and recently renewed, to divide the Territory of Utah into several parts and parcel it out to the surrounding Territories and States. It has been shaved on its sides for the benefit of its neighbors more than once already, but there is a proposition to blot out the Territory altogether and let it be appropriated piecemeal by its very friendly neighbors.

Utah must be a desirable piece of country to be so persistently coveted, and all of it to be so coveted. Such was not always the case. At first it was considered creation's cast off, and the "Mormons" were very welcome to it, if they could make anything of it, though the general expectation and hope were that they would starve to death here. Now that they have not starved to death, but made something of the country, now that they have made a good thing of it and an admirable place to own and to live in, envious eyes are fixed upon it, and covetous hearts desire it.

There is no adequate reason for any such obliteration of the Territory. There is no justifiable reason for cutting up the oldest (New Mexico excepted), most industrious, most peaceful, most law-abiding, most prosperous of the Territories, to partition it out among the surrounding commonwealths, none of which can approach it in the above characteristics. Consequently such a proposition can not secure the support of a single intelligent and honorable man, and the wishes of the unintelligent and dishonorable among men certainly should not be granted under such circumstances.

Nevertheless, there is reason to suppose, should such a thieving and unworthy proposal be adopted and put into execution, that it would eventually prove a disappointment and loss to those who advocate and hope to profit by it, and a corresponding means of advancement and gain to those whom it is designed to humiliate and despoil. There is no doubt of it in our mind, for in all such unjust proceedings the principle comes into play that nothing can be done against those designed to be injured, but rather for them.

There was a man who saw a mustard plant gone to seed in his field, and he was so angry that he kicked the plant all over the field. After a time, behold, there were mustard plants all over the field! So with Utah and the "Mormons." If they are let alone they will get along tolerably well, and will multiply and prosper quietly. They have means of multiplying that many other people do not believe in. At present the "Mormons" occupy Utah and are gradually extending over its boundaries and settling in the neighboring Territories. But let the proposal be put in force of dividing Utah bodily among the neighboring commonwealths, and instead of the "Mormons" politically controlling this one Territory only, they would hold the balance of power, especially in great crises, in all the Territories or States among which they were apportioned. If Arizona and Idaho were to have slices of Utah, the resident "Mormons" would soon hold the balance of power in those Territories. More than this. If Nevada and Colorado were to be awarded large portions, which they no doubt would do their best to secure, many "Mormons" would enjoy that of which they are at present deprived—a State government, and they would soon be able to control the elections in those States.

So the despoilers can proceed and push their proposal to slice up Utah if they choose to do so. We are not very particular what they do. It matters much more to themselves. If they do not push their proposal Utah will get along very well. If they do, instead of the "Mormons" controlling the politics of only one commonwealth, they will soon be controlling the politics of half a dozen or so, and, which is more, when they hold the balance of power in a State or two, they may, with that, hold the balance of power in the United States, in the presidential election, and in Congress. They would have done in this last election. How would our very friendly neighbors, of Nevada for instance, relish that? How would they like

to see their favorite political managers and candidates come hat in hand and crook the pregnant hinges of the knee in order to obtain a few "Mormon" votes to insure the election of said candidates? Just think over that a little. It might do the Virginia Enterprise good, savage as it seems, to ponder over such possibilities and probabilities.

THE SCHOOL BOOK QUESTION.

THE School Book Question is one that causes a great deal of comment and discussion in various parts of the Union, being liable to much abuse. It has been proposed in some of the States to print books for schools in the State that used them. The Ohio Legislature has this subject before it, and the interest in it increases rather than diminishes. There are several bills before the Legislature of that State pertaining to the subject. Among some of the provisions are that the school boards, not the teachers or superintendents, after adopting a series of books, shall not change them for six years. Another provision is to authorize and require boards of education to purchase books directly from the publishers, and sell them to the pupils at cost, and furnish them free to indigent persons at discretion, proposals for contracts to furnish such books to be issued every two years. Another provision seeks to prohibit members of boards of education from showing any favoritism to publishing houses, and from being interested in contracts for books. The following is from the Cincinnati Times of March 31—

"It will be remembered that some weeks ago the representative of one of the largest publishing houses in the country, in the course of an elaborate argument against the publication of books by the State, declared that school-books were now furnished at as low a figure as it was possible to manufacture them, and yet, since that time, the leading publishing houses in America have sent their price lists showing that their school books have been reduced from ten to twenty per cent. recently, and one well known Ohio house has sent in its price list showing what they are willing to do if the Assembly will pass a law authorizing school boards to purchase books directly from the publishers.

"This house proposes to furnish books at the following rates:

	Present price.	Contract price.
Spelling Book.....	20 cts.	10 cts.
First Reader.....	20 cts.	10 cts.
Second Reader.....	40 cts.	20 cts.
Third Reader.....	55 cts.	30 cts.
Fourth Reader.....	65 cts.	40 cts.
Fifth Reader.....	\$1.05	60 cts.
First Arithmetic.....	25 cts.	13 cts.
Second Arithmetic.....	40 cts.	20 cts.
Third Arithmetic.....	75 cts.	45 cts.
Primary Grammar.....	45 cts.	30 cts.
English Grammar.....	94 cts.	55 cts.
Primary Geography.....	85 cts.	50 cts.
Intermediate Geography.....	\$1.00	\$1.00
Copy Books.....	15 cts.	10 cts.

"Another well-known house proposes to do even better than this, which conclusively proves that even publishers of school-books are not in the business for mere amusement, or because they love the young and rising generation. School-books have been and are now costing too much, and it is the business of the Assembly at its present session to do something which will have a tendency to reduce them below what they were when gold was two hundred and sixty. With rents, labor and materials reduced in price, why should not school-books come down in price also?"

GETTING UP ANOTHER CRUSADE.

It appears that a few unprincipled malcontents in this city and Territory have a mind to take advantage of the present excitement in various parts of the Union and endeavor to presume upon it and to work it up to a higher pitch, so that there shall be, if not a general demand for extreme measures, at least an acquiescence in them by the public. The great point to be aimed at is to procure further special and proscriptive legislation from Congress, applying solely to Utah, for it would be fatal to the

demand to have it of general application in the Territories.

There are just two things which these unscrupulous malcontents desire in the way of legislation—they wish a law that would enable them to control and do all the voting, and another law to allow them to be judge, bar, and jury when any "Mormons" are on trial, which would be all the time, so long as any were left alive. Give these corrupt agitators these two things and that is all the license they would ask, as with them they would have everything. With "Mormons" disfranchised virtually, and none but the bitter enemies of the "Mormons" allowed to sit in the jury box, and it would be very easy to see how things would go. This is what the crusaders desire. It is the object of all their crusading efforts, disguise it as they may. Should they obtain any such satisfaction of their desire, republicanism, democracy, self-government, and liberty would be supplanted in this republic by a ferocious and remorseless tyranny, would fall in all probability to rise no more.

Local and Other Matters.

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY, APRIL 5.

Forty-Seventh Annual Conference.—The Forty-seventh General Annual Conference will convene at 10 a. m. to-morrow, in the Temple of the Lord, at St. George.

In our view the Church or its representatives have never assembled, in this dispensation, in a like capacity under more favorable auspices. The fact of the Saints being in a position to meet on the occasion within the walls of a temple, specially built and dedicated to his name, is sufficient of itself to warrant this opinion. It is a great step in advance in the glorious work of the redemption of the race. The Latter-day Saints have a privilege now of more fully extending, to those who have lived and passed away from earth without a knowledge of the gospel, its saving powers and blessings. By this means also will the Saints be strengthened, by having more of the unseen and thus liberated powers behind the veil to aid them in the good work.

As the work of the Lord is advancing it is likely that the powers that are opposed to its onward march will be aroused, and seek with greater effort its overthrow. This is mostly on account of the almost universal ignorance that prevails among them of the nature of the great work of the latter days, but no power will be commensurate to the task of destroying or uprooting it. Its destiny is onward and forward, and blessed is the position of him who seeks to bring it forth and build it up.

The Latter-day Saints enjoy privileges and blessings that are great beyond the power of human estimation; blessings that, as remarked yesterday by President Young, have not been enjoyed by any people on the earth since the days of Enoch. No wonder, then, if the powers of earth shall soon be shaken, as the revelations given through Joseph Smith say they will be, the issue involved being the taking from the grasp of the powers of evil, from error, superstition and darkness, the earth itself, that the powers of light, peace and intelligence may prevail.

The whole business of the Latter-day Saints is to be faithful, preserving their integrity to the great principles that have been revealed in this dispensation, of the fullness of times, and, according to the promise, they will surely see manifested the salvation of the Omnipotent Ruler of the Universe in their behalf, and in behalf of the work he has inaugurated.

We do not doubt that those who have the privilege of attending the General Conference which will commence to-morrow will enjoy themselves; and the minds of thousands, unable to be present and have part in the time of refreshing, are now directed toward St. George.

The blessings that are being enjoyed by the people in Southern Utah will probably act as a stimulus to those in this more northern part, in increasing exertions to complete the Temple in this city, and also to build others that are contemplated, one in Sanpete and another in Cache County.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, APRIL 6.

Conference.—General Conference began at St. George this morning.

New Postmaster for Ogden.—Our dispatches state that Lloyd B. Stephens has been appointed postmaster for Ogden.

Departed.—It will be seen by obituary notice, in another column, that Sister Mary Ann Naisbitt, wife of Elder Henry W. Naisbitt, now on a mission to England, departed this life last evening, after a somewhat lingering illness. She was a lady who was much respected for many excellent qualities.

Tanning.—This morning a tanned sheepskin, such as is used for linings of shoes, was exhibited to us. It was tanned at Bishop Hunter's tannery, in the 19th Ward, and is of excellent quality. Mr. W. H. Rowe says it is at least equal to anything of the kind imported, and he is an authority on the subject. The tanning material used was the "Utah Tea Plant," and the Brothers Robert and Charles Morris are the practical tanners employed by Bishop Hunter.

At Their Old Business.—The rabid anti-"Mormon" element call for a "Come One, Come All" mass meeting, on the 14th inst., for the purpose of taking initiatory steps with a view to securing special legislation for Utah, that will be inimical to the best interests of the great majority and the more industrious and better behaved portion of the people. This is, as everybody is aware, by no means a "new movement." It is becoming somewhat stale, or, as Mark Twain would say, "monotonous."

Fugilistic.—Last night a very rough customer, who is familiarly known in some of the mining camps as "fighting Dan," was in a semi-intoxicated state, and exhibited his quarrelsome qualities, making himself exceedingly obnoxious. He was arrested and fought and struggled with the officers all the way to the City Hall, and there he struck and bruised one of the policemen about the face.

"Dan" is the fellow who, not long since, showed his cannibalistic proclivities by biting and chewing a couple of fingers for Patsey Marley.

The Proposed Tannery.—At the Bishops' meeting, held last evening, in accordance with a report and recommendation of the committee appointed to take preliminary steps toward the establishment of a co-operative tannery, it was decided that each Bishop's Ward of the City should appoint a delegate to meet with the committee, at the Council House, on Monday evening, at 7 o'clock. The object of this meeting is to effect a preliminary organization, by electing a temporary President and Board of Directors. The organization and business thus effected will be laid before a mass meeting of all interested in the subject of establishing a tannery, to be held at the Old Tabernacle, next Thursday evening, at 7 o'clock.

The capital stock of the enterprise will be \$100,000, and \$25,000 of it to be paid up. The shares are placed at \$10 each.

District Court.—Thursday, April 5th, afternoon.

Cunnington & Co., vs. J. R. Walker et al.; case dismissed as to defendants J. F. Woodman, C. W. Bennett and G. E. Whitney, and judgment by default against J. M. Richardson.

Spiers vs. Ely; dismissed at plaintiff's cost.

Henry Day vs. Erickson & Cook; by consent dismissed as to Peter A. Erickson, and ordered that he recover his costs; judgment against Cook for \$63, and interest and cost.

Friday, April 6th, morning.

Sarah Ann Cook vs. H. S. Young, et al.; motion of Williams and Young to dismiss the appeal of the said Sarah Ann Cook, from the Probate Court, argued by counsel for respective parties and motion overruled by the Court, to which the defendant, by his attorneys, excepts. Decision of the Court below reversed.

Charles M. Gilbertson vs. Miller M. & S. Co.; on motion of J. C. Hemingray, attorney for plaintiff, it is ordered that the plaintiff have ten days to file amendments to defendant's statement on a new trial herein.

The People, &c., vs. William Henderson, indicted for embezzlement; prisoner arraigned and plead not guilty. Bail fixed at \$500.

Frederick Reich vs. N. Grosbeck; Hemingray and Morgan withdrew as attorneys for the plaintiff.