



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

Wednesday,.....Jan. 29, 1868.

CLOSE OF THE VOLUMES.

We are at the close of another volume of the Semi-Weekly and Weekly NEWS. Another number of each will close volume II of the Semi-Weekly and volume XVI of the Weekly. At the completion of these volumes twenty-four numbers of the Semi-Weekly and twelve numbers of the Weekly will have been issued since we took charge of the papers. Our subscribers have had an opportunity of judging for themselves respecting their merits, whether they fulfil expectations or not. From every quarter we receive the most flattering expressions of appreciation and encouragement. The feelings of many who have felt lukewarm and indifferent respecting the papers have recently undergone a great change, and they now express a strong interest in them and in their success. The publication of the DESERET EVENING NEWS enables us to lay before our readers of the Semi-Weekly and Weekly NEWS all the telegraphic despatches, the local news, selections and leading articles in greater detail and variety, and at an earlier date than formerly. This cannot fail to give satisfaction to our subscribers. As now published, the Semi-Weekly and Weekly NEWS present unequalled advantages to their subscribers in this Territory. Besides being newspapers in the fullest sense of the term—containing telegraphic despatches, all the current news of the day, choice editorial articles of great variety and range—they are also the vehicles through which the sermons of the First Presidency and Twelve Apostles are made public. In their columns will also, from time to time, be found, such items of doctrine and counsel as the members and officers of the Church should understand and act upon.

No effort will be spared to keep the papers up to the times and to earn a character for enterprise that will be a guarantee to our readers that news will not be allowed to get stale before they see it in our columns. The DESERET NEWS is the pioneer paper of the entire Rocky Mountain region. It had an existence when for twelve or fifteen hundred miles to the eastward of us there was not a settlement, much less a paper published; when to the westward California had only a provisional government and her newspapers were very, very few. There are a great many pleasant associations connected with the DESERET NEWS, especially in the minds of the older residents of the Territory. In fact, to all its readers, it has an agreeable and a familiar face. They can not forget the valuable instructions and the wise counsels which they have received through its columns. We see no reason why it should not be all that it has been in the past and still better; for, with the improved facilities which we now have, it can be made in every way a first-class paper.

To those who live within the reach of a semi-weekly mail, the Semi-weekly NEWS is a very suitable paper for them to subscribe for. It contains a large quantity of reading matter. Its price is \$8 per annum. Those who live in places where there is no mail oftener than once a week can be best accommodated with the Weekly NEWS. Its price is \$5 per annum. It is the intention to have the sermons published in each of these papers, so that every subscriber can peruse them. Both the Semi-weekly and Weekly NEWS are cheap papers—the cheapest papers of their kind published throughout this entire region. We hope there will be no delay on the part of agents and subscribers sending in their names and subscriptions promptly. This will greatly aid us in making calculations about what number to print.

"CHRISTIAN" CIVILIZATION
versus CHINESE MORALITY.

The New York Herald has received a telegraphic letter from Hong Kong, in which it is stated that the "Christian authorities" at Hong Kong have licensed gambling houses, and the Chinese of Canton have protested. The Herald makes the receipt of this intelligence the occasion for an article which contains a considerable amount of irony. After quoting the saying of Confucius, the father of Chinese philosophy:—"Riches and honor acquired by unrighteousness are to me as a floating cloud," and reasoning upon it, the article proceeds:

"It is but natural that the Canton crape philosophers schooled in the lessons of Confucius should raise their voices against the demoralizing fact that gambling receives the sanction of the law. Here is a fine commentary on an atrocious piece of sham. Our Christendom pulpits are eloquent against false gods, and missionaries without number are sent out to ground the deluded Orientals in a knowledge of heavenly things, and here, in the nineteenth century, those pigtailed meet Western enlightenment with an argument against the degrading immorality it not only permits but protects. How, then? Have we no fine texts against this sort of vice? Plenty. Our moral law teems with precepts and commands that declare and threaten on this point. But here is a little difference. Our civilization is so fine and high that we value words as words, and

—words are but wind
Too feeble implements to bind.

Our precepts are precepts only. We listen to the lesson and then do what we like, while those poor deluded Chinamen are actually trying to shape their daily conduct in accordance with their abstract notions of moral right. Much is yet to be done in those countries, therefore, and we ought not to spare our missionary efforts."

Why is it that, wherever so-called Christianity goes, results precisely similar to these against which the Chinese protest follow? It might be imagined that a pure system of morals, such as its preachers and missionaries declare it to be, would bring forth different fruits to these. But it does not. Visit every land where *soi disant* Christian ministers have gone to propagate their creeds and evangelize (?) the heathen, and you will find the same result. The poor, ignorant creatures lowered by the pernicious teachings of their visitors. Treading on their heels are all the vices of their false civilization, which are a blight and a curse to any nation among whom they are introduced.

The christianity of this age has been of no benefit to any heathen nation to whom it has been preached. The visit of its missionaries to a pagan land, is the sure precursor of misfortune and evil to that hapless race.

In proof of this we need not refer to our own aborigines, to India or China; but only to the Sandwich Islands. For years that group of islands were held up as the missionary paradise. There christianity had achieved its highest triumph. And certainly missionaries never could ask for a fairer and more unrestricted field for the propagation of their system and the practical carrying out of their schemes for man's redemption than they had there. The entire control of the government, the education of the princes and nobles and leading men of the kingdom, and the dictation and the enactment of the laws, were all in their hands. They were virtually the rulers of the country. Had their system been anything but a sham, they might have made the people as attractive as their climate. But misery, degradation and prospective annihilation are upon and before the people. The laws which they enforced and the practices they promoted, have proved the ruin of the nation. The institutions of modern christianity have crushed them, and they will soon be blotted out.

The people of this Territory should be thankful that pseudo-christianity finds no field for its operations here. It is true that owing to its absence we have no number of sanctimonious, devout-looking men—we have no churches and chapels; but neither have we any brothels, gambling saloons, and the other concomitants which flourish under its protecting wing. If its missionaries could operate to their satisfaction, our happy and peaceful Territory would speedily be transformed into a pandemonium. Under their fostering care, the institutions of Christendom, in all their villainies, would soon flourish here. In this manner would we be christianized, if they had their way.

To call such systems christian is a

libel on the Savior. The fruits they bear give unmistakable evidence of another origin.

VIGILANCE COMMITTEES.

At Dale city, so the telegrams of yesterday inform us, three men were hung by a Vigilance Committee, numbering one hundred men, who came over from Cheyenne city for the purpose. The two cities are not very distant from each other, and probably possess many features in common. In reading this account, the mind naturally reverts to the circumstances under which this city and country were settled. One cannot help drawing a contrast between the scenes witnessed elsewhere in the early settlement of towns, and those which transpired here in early days.

When this city was settled, there was no organized society to the eastward of us nearer than fifteen hundred miles. We were beyond the reach of all law, only such as we framed ourselves. Yet good order was preserved, life and property were safe, and that, too, without having recourse to Vigilance Committees. We have extended our settlements North and South; they stretch upwards of five hundred miles from one extreme to the other. In every one of those settlements law and order have been paramount. There have been no violent outbursts; no secret or illegal combinations; no appeal to Lynch law. Men and women have slept peacefully and securely in their wagons and tents, until houses could be built, as they could have done had they been surrounded by impregnable walls.

In the settlement of neighboring States, Territories and cities the organization of a Vigilance Committee seemed to be almost the first thing thought about. It is asserted that law and order could not be maintained without such organizations. And not unfrequently desperadoes have joined them to better screen and carry out their own schemes of rascality. The great and prosperous city of San Francisco has been compelled, more than once, to call Vigilance Committees to her aid, to free herself from the dreadful tyranny under which she groaned. They have become fashionable, especially throughout this Western country, and so familiar have men become with their existence that their organization ceases to excite any remark; they are looked upon as a matter of course, and acquiesced in as a necessity of the age. There may be circumstances under which it may be necessary for sharp, severe and thorough measures to be taken to check crime and execute justice. But the people who are compelled to organize Vigilance Committees to accomplish these ends are in a pitiable condition. In the most of instances a vigilance committee is but another name for a mob. And, of all the despotisms which ever existed, we think that of a mob the most frightful and odious. Cruel and indiscriminating, subject to whims and caprices the most extraordinary, a mob knows no law but the prejudices and passions of its individual members. We have suffered from their violence, and well know how dreadful and heartless is their tyranny. But, it is worthy of remark, *en passant*, that since mobs were first organized against us, and the people looked calmly on without condemning them for their fiendish cruelty, the nation has been cursed with mobs, and the disposition to organize them is spreading!

When all the circumstances are considered under which our settlements have been made in this Territory, exemption from these illegal combinations and the scenes of violence which attend them, is remarkable. Had they ever existed here, and executed their victims in the arbitrary and summary style practised elsewhere, what a howl would have been raised about the proceedings of the people of Utah! There have been some persons who have vied with each other to see which could tell the most absurd and blackest falsehoods about us. They have done this when we have had a degree of peace here, the equal of which might be sought for in vain within the limits of our national domain, and when life and property were most sacredly valued! But what kind of a character would Utah have had from them, had Vigilance Committees ruled in every settlement, and performed their fell work as they do elsewhere?

HORSE-BREAKING AND MONEY-MAKING.

The young men of our Territory are, as a rule, fine horsemen, and have con-

siderable pride in handling and breaking horses. This is more the case in the country settlements at the present time than in the city, as their circumstances are favorable to the cultivation of such a taste. Any plan, therefore, that proposes to make them more proficient in this business than the one now in practice is likely to attract their attention. Such an improved system has been advertised and widely noticed here of late. It has been asserted that it is a very excellent system of horse-breaking and training, and its professor has been making a tour of the settlements, imparting a knowledge of it under an oath of secrecy on the part of the pupil that he will not divulge it for a certain time. We are informed that the period is fifteen years. Ten dollars is the cost of instruction for each pupil. Of course where a system of this kind is highly lauded there are many who think such a sum is not much to pay in view of the benefits to be derived from the knowledge of it. Neither would it be, if we were as good as vaunted. But we are informed, by one of our leading citizens from the north, that it is but little, any, better than a humbug. He has conversed with several who have learned the system and he says, there is nothing worth paying for to be learned from it. The chief, and, it is said, only thing to be learned is how to hump a horse, and by appliances prevent him from kicking, &c.

Presuming that this is correct, we advise our citizens not to part with the money so easily to any and every person who may come along and claim to have some great knowledge in his possession that will be of vast benefit to them. This is an age of humbug. There are thousands of men who make the living by imposing upon the credulity of their fellow-men. But in this country we earn our money too hard to part with it without receiving a fair value in return.

CIVILIZATION IN ALASKA.

But a short time has elapsed since the press of the country at large teemed with congratulations upon the great acquisition to American Territory, and its consequent increase in wealth and influence effected by Mr. Seward's purchase of the Russian possessions in North America. Immediately after the transfer had been accomplished, Congress appointed the necessary officer and troops to go and take possession and hoist the Stars and Stripes, introduce the benign rule of Uncle Sam, and to extend the blessings of American civilization among the far off tribes of Alaska. It is but yesterday, as it were, since these changes were set afloat, and already, according to our latest telegrams, and news from other sources, the results that one might naturally have expected are beginning to follow. Our authorities are interfering with the customs of the aborigines, and creating discontent among them by so doing. Councils of war have been held among the Indians, and savage threats, it is said, have been made by them against the new comers. It is also reported that some of the Indians have been shot for refusing compliance with the regulations of their new rulers.

With the advent of this new civilization we also learn that a billiard saloon, gambling house and pawnbroker's shop have been opened, and that burglaries and brutal fights are not unfrequent. These signs, which will no doubt soon be followed by all the adjuncts and concomitants of our advanced civilization, seem to indicate that the purchase of Russian America will not prove so advantageous as was anticipated, and may cost more to govern than it is worth, and that at no distant day Alaska, through Indian outrages upon "unoffending" whites, may become as fruitful a field for dishonest Indian Agents and Army Contractors, as some of our Territories nearer home have proven in years past.

CONGRESSIONAL PRIVILEGES.

There must have been some amusement in the House of Representatives the other day over the remarks of Mr. Stevens, during the discussion of the Deficiency Appropriation Bill. He said that some of the members procured—under the name of stationery—pantaloon, shirts, and shaving soap sufficient to last for years; and some of them had run up a stationery account to