DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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THE ELECTION BILL VETOED.

WHEN the election bill passed the Legislative Assembly a good many people expressed the opinion that the Governor would hold it until after the election. This would have been a display of weakness that would expose him to general disappointment. It was scarcely expected that he would sign the bill, as that would bring down upon him the wrath of those with whom he is and intimately associated, for it would be the means of extinguishing the "Liberal" faction, and of putting a quietus to the movement which its leaders have planned against the bills now pending in Congress looking to the liberty of Utah.

The Governor has vetoed the bill, but has signified his willingness to sign it if some changes are made which, it is needless to say, will be just what the "Liberal" faction in this city desires. He says: "The reason which have been given in support of such legislation seem to me to be purely partisan." It seems to us that the reasons alleged against the bill are purely and entirely partisan, and that too in all of a faction in one city, without regard to the wishes of the great body of the citizens of the Territory.

It is true that the people of this city desired a change. It is true that nearly all classes have denounced the "Liberal" mismanagement of municipal affairs. It is true that some of the most vehement clamorers for new officers were members of the very faction that foisted them upon the people. But the vetoing of this bill is, in effect, the yielding upon the city of men elected by the same crowd, and likely to follow the same infamous course. And the postponement of the election for a few months would have done less harm than the election will just now, because a sufficient check is held upon the doings of the "Liberal" officials by the Commission elected by the late People's party and who were kept out of their places so long by "Liberal" trickery.

Of course the Governor ought to do that which seems right in his own eyes, after hearing what can be said on all sides, on a public question. If he is satisfied that what he has done is for the general good, he can afford to suffer the criticism which he would be sure to meet in some form and from some quarter whatever his decision might be.

But we are of the opinion that the great majority of the voters of Utah will look upon this veto as solely in the interest of the faction with which he has been identified from the beginning, and from the influence of which it was perhaps too much to expect that he could at present become disentitled.

A SLUR ON ITSELF.

ONE of the worst things said of the "Liberal" faction appears in its own organ today. It says: "If the town were picked over no better selection could have been made." If some of the names on that ticket cannot be believed in the "Liberal" faction it must be indeed a poor outfit.

Quite a number of the candidates for Councilmen, with the exception of Assessor and Collector, must be classed among the great—or small—unknown. Are there no better business men, more capable and better than they, in the whole combination? Could no more suitable person than Eskelsen be found for the responsible office of Mayor? Without saying one syllable against his personal character, if the "Liberal" faction contains no man more fit than he for that particular place it is indeed in miserable straits.

The present "Liberal" members of the City Council with all their shortcomings are greatly preferable to some of the nominees held up as the very best that could be selected, and the statement made by the organ of that faction is a slur on its own name and an insult to the capable men of all parties in this city.

A NEEDED ENACTMENT.

WE hope that the bill introduced into the Legislative Assembly providing for the exemption from taxation—excepting certain specified property—the funds of Benefit Building Societies and other similar organizations, will be passed and receive the signature of the Governor.

We observe by the Legislative minutes that a petition has been presented from Zion's Benefit Building Society, asking for the passage of such an act as the one referred to. The case of the petitioners illustrates the necessity for such a law as the one now pending. The organization has been in existence for a number of years, and has been conducted upon a plan that is purely co-operative. Its object, which has been beneficiously adhered to, was to enable workingmen to obtain homes by a system of monthly payments, amounting to fifty cents on each share of stock, and a low rate of interest on loans from the association. A boding objection to the taxation of such a society is that it is virtually of a double character, in this way: The tax on the income levied on funds that do not remain in its hands, but forthwith pass out to members in the form of loans, to enable them to erect dwellings, and in the latter shape they are taxed again. The tax against the society has been a great hindrance to its operations, as, in consequence it has had a hard struggle to give loans at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, the highest it has ever charged. Whatever profits accrue from the interest on those loans or from any other source, such as fines for non-payment of dues, etc., go proportionately toward helping the borrower to lessen his indebtedness.

All the officers of the society, with the exception of the secretary, give their services free.

The result of the operations of the society is that numbers of good homes have been created, which would not otherwise have had an existence today.

We are satisfied that any legislator inclined to oppose a measure of the kind asked for would change his mind if he were to take the trouble to inquire into the beneficial character of the society now referred to. This one fact is certain, that opposition to it cannot possibly come from any friend of the workingman.

"DICTIONARY OF THE BOOK OF MORMON."

THE community of Latter-day Saints are indebted to Brother George Reynolds on account of his being virtually the pioneer of a line of literature growing out of the Book of Mormon. Some time ago he gave to the public a valuable work of this character, entitled "The History of the Book of Mormon," a volume which required, and received at his hands, a great deal of study and research to produce. He has just published another, a copy of which is before us. It is entitled "A Dictionary of the Book of Mormon." It mentions all the biographical and geographical as well as other proper names contained in the volume to which it refers. Accompanying each name is given valuable information associated with it.

This contribution to the literature of the Church has a useful sphere. It will be a valuable aid to students of the most remarkable record ever given to the public, by enabling them to more fully comprehend its character and purport. Taken in connection with the other work, by the same author, referred to in this article, the new book will be a most effective aid in quarrels of the Protestant, Mutual Improvement Associations, Sunday Schools and theological classes, which pursue a through investigation of the merits of the Book of Mormon, as an authentic record, brought forth by the administration of angels through the great Prophet of the latter times.

We hope that Brother Reynolds will pursue this branch of literature, for the production of which he has very marked and special ability, under the blessing of God. It will prove an inestimable benefit to the community, and his writings are not altogether penned for that object, they will cause his name to be perpetuated among men long after he has disappeared from the present life.

SOME THINGS WE DON'T KNOW.

No man can be considered well informed who has not delved deep enough into human understanding to find out how comparatively near at hand is the line dividing our sphere of knowledge from the unknown. The infidel is more honest or more enlightened than those who have not acquired the information upon which he claims nothing beyond his range of vision. They are, however, on an equal plane as regards inability to peer beyond the horizon of human affairs.

The mind is truly a wonderful, even an inscrutable entity in our composition. By means of its analytical, penetrating and retentive power, man masters all other earth ly things, and civilization man overcomes and holds in subjection those who are not equally cultivated. But to the most gifted, the most profound and the most studious has been given the inevitable awakening, sooner or later, that, as the seat of the mind is limited to a narrow sphere so also are the present powers of the mind itself.

In nothing is there a more complete accomplishment of this than in the domain of astronomy. Within its proper sphere, the graduated devotee makes no mistakes; he can foretell the solar and lunar eclipses to a record of time for centuries ahead, which each will be seen at its best and where it will not be seen at all, and these will as surely occur precisely as he predicts them, so that the prediction is made. So also with transits, observations, the visitations of many of the comets, and so on.

This, of course, is the result of having complete mastery of the most minute branches of mathematics and is therefore predicated upon demonstrable rules; but when the rules are understood and applied, how far have we gone? Not much beyond the comparatively narrow system in which our earth is connected with other members of the sun's retinue during its periodical revolution—a space compared with which the expanse surrounding it is as all the waters of the ocean compared with a solitary drop! Sir John Herschel, the greatest astronomer of the last century, was once so overcome by a contemplation of the vastness of the field opened out before him through his telescope, that his reason and physical faculties gave way for a time and he fell helpless to the floor. He had learned the lesson suggested at the beginning of this article.

We have learnt, not that the finite mind, aided however greatly by education, by all the appliances of art and the discoveries of others, cannot penetrate; it is certainly much beyond the solar system. It is a well understood fact that it has not mastered all the details of even that limited extent of space. Astronomy, aided by mathematics, gives us the weight of the globe on which we live, and while it is impossible under any circumstances to compute so vast a bulk with exactness, we have reached the approximate figure, and when spread out before us on paper, they look as unlike and simple enough; yet they are so utterly inconceivable as to be practically meaningless to us, and any prolonged attempt to grasp and comprehend their magnitude must have upon any mind but the same effect as was instantaneously produced upon Herschel—the faculties would give way temporarily, perhaps permanently.

It being granted that the earth has been correctly weighed in the invisible scales, we have still not reached the threshold of the simplest division of our universe. The moon has been weighed, as have all the major planets excepting Uranus and Neptune, whose extreme remoteness renders any computations with reference to them more or less random. This is true in a smaller degree regarding all other equations of celestial bodies within or without the sphere of actual scientific exploration. The density of the moon, for example, is given at so much, its specific gravity at so much, and then its sum total of avoirdupois would be tolerably plain sailing for the brighter of our more advanced school boys; but when found it would be of little value, even as an incentive to conjecture, because of being the sequence of a measurably hypothetical condition.

As a matter of fact our most gifted astronomers do not know what the physical condition of the moon or any other of our solar neighbors is, and they cannot know because it is beyond their present mental grasp. They know more of the subject than the others does, more even than most people who are highly educated, because they know how rapidly it moves in its stately procession around our sliding place, can accurately determine the degree of centrifugal and centripetal force in which it is subjected, and these things being determined they have a basis upon which to rest their calculations as to weight. But it should be borne in mind that other full seems may operate in the production of rapidity, and that any conclusion based upon that or attendant similar facts must in the very nature of things be exceeding faulty; anyway, it is not knowledge.

Proceeding further to the celestial journey and reaching our next nearest neighbor—Mars—the signs must fall still more signally, or if correct, be the result of the merest chance. It moves immeasurably to its orbit than we do, and our earth and it have a sensible attractiveness for each other when in conjunction. But this does not enable our scientific brethren to determine its specific gravity, to conclude to the fraction of an inch how rapidly a stone dropped on the Martial planet will fall the first second, and so on. They can come much nearer to it than we who are unskilled can, because of reasons previously suggested and some others, but they do not force these conclusions to be exact—they only know them to be the result of careful investigation, watchful scrutiny and close computation. It is given us with as such unbentating directness as are their announcements in the almanacs of how many eclipses we are to have during the year, where they will be observed to the best advantage and where it is useless to look for them at all—for, while these are things so much beyond the knowledge of the common run of mortality as are the Candects of Jupiter beyond the comprehension of a Hottentot, they are yet within the field of mortal achievement and a few have succeeded in gaining the higher ground—as high, no doubt, as they can get and remain altogether mortal. Their achievements set upon them all the more gratefully from the fact that in most cases they cheerfully concede that their knowledge is limited to a span and that all beyond is nearly as mysterious to them as to the "United uninstructed by books." Furthermore, they are seldom arrogant and never self-sufficient.

Few indeed of the learned minds that make an occupation of celestial exploration will not readily concede, and some of them assert, that the real basis of their achievements is outside of books, beyond the sphere of mechanical instrumentality, and above the field of mere mental research—that unaided by inspiration and unguided by a monitor whose workings are as potent as unseen, they could have accomplished but little. What is known seems great, but what is unknown is so vast as to defy any attempt at description.

DEMONS INCARNATE.

IN Vienna, yesterday, perhaps one of the most sensational murder trials of the century was brought to a close. Schneider and his wife were found guilty and sentenced to death. As described in the dispatch, the closing scenes of the trial were intensely dramatic. The man, in sobbing tones, charged his wife with leading him on to the perpetration of the foul deed, and in turn the woman cried out piteously for her husband to tell the truth.

During the trial it was by sight and in evidence that the defendants, married and robbed eight persons, yet, but the additional charge was made that the man with the connivance of his wife, intrigued each victim before murdering her. Schneider admitted that in two instances he did violate his victims, and in a third that he did himself kill the girl. He then charged his wife with having dragged and killed the five others.

The skull and hair, together with the torn and blood-spattered clothing of one of the victims were produced at the trial. The effect on the spectators was horrible, and even the fiend Schneider himself shuddered, and evidenced so that the ghastly exhibition was the means of making him confess his guilt.

Beyond the fact that the two girls were traced to the house of the two fiends, further evidence of their depravation was obtainable only with difficulty. But Schneider, after breaking down, confessed that he strangled the girls, and even gave the court, lawyers and jurors, a dramatic presentation of how he did the work. Being a man of great strength, he seized his victim by the throat with his left hand, and with the powerful right hand clutched her by the throat and strangled her. He admitted having acquired so much proficiency in the art of strangling that with his last victims the struggle was only the work of a moment or two. It appears that the male object of the murderers was gain. Whatever clothing, effects and valuables the girls had were appropriated. The women used to hire them to work for her, and of course was accessory to the crime, if not an actual participant.

THE RUSSIAN SUFFERING.

COUNT LEO TOLSTOI, the eminent Russian novelist and philanthropist, has a six-column article on the famine among his countrymen in a recent issue of the New York World.

He begins by referring briefly to the sympathetic of the outside world with the condition and locality of the famine-stricken districts, this having been accomplished by means of mail and telegraphic communication and the press, and the repeated bestow of rebuke of alleged apathy and indifference. These reproaches he claims to be exaggerated, if not entirely groundless, and "I have," he says, "come to the conclusion that society and the Zemstvos have been straining every nerve to help them, and that their efforts have attained a degree of tension which admits only of relaxation, not of increase of energy." He, also, he says the central government are doing, their contributions being in the form of alms, public works and grain-loan funds. These efforts, added to those of charitable societies, churches, journalists, men of letters, and the more wealthy in the various departments of life, are all that could be expected.

He says, if the results of all these efforts are inadequate, the fault is not essentially with the government or society. The relations of the government to the people are more to blame, and these he makes clear, prefacing his explanations with the startling statement that the culminating point of the distress has not yet been reached. Two things, which appear to the author as the cardinal conditions in that behalf, are the failure to supply seed corn to the peasantry who needed it, and not giving them gratuitous fuel from the state forests.

These faults seem to us so simple, so easily overcome, that it is only by a perusal of the entire article we can be made to understand how it is that such seemingly trivial circumstances constitute the keystone in the great wall of distress that surges up and out from the Muscovite peasantry.

Most of the seed corn furnished came so late that its object was not accomplished and the hungry ones were compelled to devour it at once instead of reserving it for the use designed; and of the fuel distribution Tolstoi says that on September 15 "permission was accorded to the families of necessitous farmers to gather dry, windfallen wood in the forests belonging to the state, which, however, were situated at such considerable distances from the villages for which this privilege was conferred, that the peasants, none of whom had any cart for their horses, found it absolutely impossible to cart it home. I know for certain that in my district not a single peasant profited by the boon."

This represents a state of affairs not confined to one or a few instances or localities, but is widespread and general, being dwelt upon by the writer at considerable length.

The question as to whether there is famine or only a panic prevalent in the stricken districts, Tolstoi answers by a characteristic illustration:

"If you want to pitch a hole in a coat or other garment, it is necessary you know of all to find out the size and shape of the rent. This is the first step which any reasonable man would think of taking. But, as it happens, it is precisely about the shape and size of the rent in the surface of the Russian people that the representations of the rulers and the governors are now of slack and serious. The authorities maintain that it is so very small and imperceptible that no patch is needed, that a patch of any kind would only spoil the garment and render it unfit for wear. The humor contend that it is so immense that all the cloth available would not suffice to cover it. And while they both stand there wrangling and waiting, but the boy wind is blowing through the hole, and the tatters of the unfortunate wearer are becoming stiff and numb."

And then he summarizes his answer by setting forth what he saw "with his own eyes." In some places the people were eating bread containing thirty to fifty per cent. pigweed, this being not figuratively black, that is dark or brown when applied to bread, but inky black, heavy, clammy and bitter.

"And this is the food which young and old, weak and sickly, compose delicate little children on its women before and after confinement are nourished on it, mothers who make their breasts dried from them from it whenever strength and nutriment is not given, and the sick and dying feed the flickering lamp of life with it."

Similar instances are numerous, and even harder cases are frequent—such as a peasant selling three of the four wooden walls of his hut and burning the fourth for fuel; buying potato peels at a hundred and the buyer binding himself to fill an equal amount of land to that from which the peels (or vines) were taken, in payment.

The situation is so appalling, so unbelievably miserable, so unmitigatedly, unceasingly, heartbreakingly distressful that moral restraints are broken down, drunkenness prevails wherever and wherever the opportunity comes for it, and it really seems that if the prevailing distress were to be relieved altogether, the train of evils entailed upon the people, as a consequence of their sufferings, have taken no firm a hold as to be for a long period entirely overcome. It is indeed a terrible, terrible tale.

CABLE COMMUNICATION WITH THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

THE Fifty-first Congress made an appropriation for the purpose of testing the practicability of laying a cable between San Francisco and Hawaii. The "Albatross" was then detailed on a surveying expedition and has just concluded her work.

The result of the exploration discloses the fact that a very uneven surface exists at the bottom of the Pacific. In one place a ravine 300 fathoms deeper than the surface at either side was discovered. The total depth in the ravine was 2,500 fathoms. In other places actual soundings from 500 to 1,000 fathoms in height were found. The range of irregularities in depth showed about 2000 fathoms in the points sounded. It is thought that some day a cable will be laid, and Hawaii made a telegraph station between America, Asia and Australia.

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Stair Mats	3 00	2 00
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Smyrna Rugs, 18 x 36	1 50	90
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