

## DESERET NEWS.



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR.

Wednesday.....February 16, 1859.

NOTICE.—Agents for the News, new subscribers and those subscribers whose subscriptions close with this volume, are reminded that we wish them to report, as speedily as possible, the number they want of the next volume, that we may know the number advisable to begin with a new volume, and that they may not be disappointed by finding their papers stopped on account of their not reporting to the 'News' office.

Advertisements, to insure insertion in the current issue, must be handed in previous to Tuesday morning.

For sundry notices the pay will be required in advance.

The "DESERET WRITING BOOK" for sale at this office. Price 25 cents.

WOOD and HAY wanted at the Deseret News Office.

ALMANACS for 1859 for sale at this Office.

We are now prepared to fill orders for the second edition of the Calendar for 1859.

THE Business and Delivery Office of the Deseret News is removed to the north-east room of the Council House, up stairs, where the "News" will be delivered, henceforward.

There is probably no language, living or dead, at once so perfect, and presenting so many imperfections and inconsistencies as our own dear English. When we talk our ideas we can find no language, nor ever heard of one, in which they can be so clearly presented. It is composed of the very pith and marrow of the tongues which have found their graves in the advancement of civilization. Like Truth it has no period, no stopping place, but not content to cull the flowers found blooming over the graves of past generations, it gathers all that is good and serviceable from what is still found in life. And not many generations shall come and pass away before, in our opinion, as the Anglo-Saxon distributes his conquering progeny abroad, and from island to continent and continent to island sways his liberal sceptre, so his language shall crowd out and annihilate or cause to be forgotten all others. The history of the past bears us out in these speculations on the future. The languages of the ancients, where they are not entirely forgotten, are confined to narrow circles. Even the language of the Romans which at one time it was supposed would demand the homage of every tongue, is now almost limited to cloisters or monasteries. In fact like an insatiable conqueror, the English language yields to none, but as it subjugates all others, adopts as its spoils whatever may be turned to good account.

But when we come to the orthography of the language we find, in multiplying numbers, imperfections and absurdities which had failed to obtrude themselves in any other. To talk the language and write it, as it now is, are two very different things. Not to correct, nor make any innovation upon the language itself is the present intention. The Chancellor and Regents of the Deseret University have now before them its orthography and propose its correction, in fact an entire revolution in it. We give them our heart and hand in their undertaking. We trust they realize how herculean the task they have in hand. It is a great one. But they have set about it right. For many years great and wise scholars have tried it—Mr. Pitman, among others. They broke the spell and made many improvements.

Our Regency have struck out for themselves a new path. They present us with new characters. Each character has its own independent sound. That sound is arbitrarily retained in the words where the character is found. The characters will appear crude and impracticable at first sight. We deemed them so when we were first shown them. But it was not long before we saw our error. We do not say that they are perfect. In fact we believe we can ourselves see where improvements might be made. But we have so far scrutinized them

as they are now presented, that we can say unhesitatingly they are not only a great improvement but easy of adoption. We look for improvements, and earnestly commend the subject to the further careful study and unremitting attention of the Chancellor and Regents. They have been selected with whom to intrust the watchcare of the people's education. We are fully confident that they will do honor to their important trust. At the same time we urge upon our fellow-citizens to encourage and support them in their labors. A few men can do but little in such a business. It requires, nay, to be effectual, must have the popular support. It must have it heart and soul, without squirming and hesitation. It is the flood-tide of improvement, and we strip off our traditions and make the plunge. Surely it does not require long arguments to prove the superiority of a system which gives in a common tuition perfection of orthography to a child, over one around whose labyrinths the maturity of college-bred manhood can scarcely wind itself.

We shall from time to time present our readers with short articles or selections in the new characters.

Together with the alphabet, we give this week the first 15 verses of the 5th chapter of Matthew. At present we give preference to selections from the Old or New Testament, as being more accessible for comparison to all parties.

Week by week, as the mail arrives, is heard the quick, sharp question 'what's the news?' And to those who have not opportunity for perusing papers from abroad, the answer 'nothing of any importance' does not always seem to be entirely satisfactory to the enquirer, when in fact it is strictly true, and of late particularly so. Our western neighbors are enraptured and enraptured with their commercial and golden dreams and labors, while our eastern, in addition to their characteristic tireless vehemence in social and industrial pursuits, are strongly absorbed in the various political questions so enticing to Congress and the majority of our nation, President-making, so far as Congress and cliques and parties are concerned, apparently taking the lead.

The Nicaraguan filibusters are slightly 'under the weather,' and no fighting has transpired in Kansas since our last notice of events in that region, though there is still much quietude and some hard threatening. The reputation of the Pike's Peak gold mines increases with each mail, and so early as the middle of January many companies were starting and preparing to start from the frontiers in quest of the yellow dust so plentifully scattered in western Kansas, and the next spring's population is already estimated at 100,000.

In foreign countries affairs are much the same as when last noted.

The weather has been cold and the snow deep in portions of the States, as will be found elsewhere in this number, as will also the few other items of interest we have been able to glean from the last mails.

AMERICAN DESERTS.—Not very long since a letter was published in the Dallas (Texas) Herald describing the passage of McCullough's train across the Llanos Estacado desert in that State:—

From Fort Chadbourne we traveled south to the Chonco river (old Camp Johnson), then followed up the Chonco to the edge of the great American desert, which is a barren waste. Soil light color and alkaline nature, producing mostly salt grass and a few mezquite bushes and cactus. This kind of country extends from the Colorado to the Rio Grande, is 250 miles in width, and extends through our continent, being narrower in some points. There are but few watering places on the route from the Pecos to the Rio Grande. The herd had no water for 76 hours, and traveled 130 miles. The herdsman were without water or nourishment 30 hours. Their exercise was very hard, riding and hallooing at the cattle, and was calculated to bring on thirst soon. The men suffered extremely for want of water and sleep; many shot down the famished bullocks on the road, stuck them, pulled off their boots or shoes, caught the thick, hot blood, and drank it freely, and by so doing saved their lives. The cattle were all very much excited, and any of them would fight, and the men were compelled to shoot many. We went into the Sand Hills with 1,600 head of cattle, or struck the sand with that number, and left with about 1,050, many of the missing having died for want of water. On arriving the men were all excited and hardly knew their comrades. Dan Murray, Celson, Wheatly and Collier would never have got to water had not some of the herdsman been sent on after water and returned to them. They had stopped by the side of the road.

Fort Chadbourne is on the line of the Southern Mail route.—[Sac. Union, Nov. 13.

EXTRAVAGANCE OF THE DAY.—Mr. Parker says some shrewd things which go directly to the heart of the popular follies of the day. He has no exalted idea of the present system of domestic education as tending to frugality or economy. He says in one of his sermons:—

In the town of Somewhere, lives Mr. Many-girls. He is a toilsome merchant, his wife a hard-working housekeeper. Once they were poor, now they are ruinously rich. They have seven daughters, whom they train up in utter idleness. They are all doing nothing. They spend much money, but not in works of humanity, nor even in elegant accomplishments, in painting, dancing, music, and the like, so paying in spiritual beauty what they take in material means. They never read nor sing; they are know-nothings, and only in vain show, as useless as a ghost, and as ignorant as the block on which their bonnets are made. Now, these seven "ladies," (as the newspapers call the poor things, so insignificant and helpless,) are not only idle, can earn nothing, but they consume much. What a load of finery is on their shoulders, and heads, and necks. Mr. Many-girls hires many men and women to wait on his daughters' idleness, and these servants are withdrawn from the productive work of the shop or the farm, and set to the unproductive work of nursing these seven grown-up babies.

On the other side of the way, Hon. Mr. Manyboys has seven sons, who are the exact match of the merchant's daughters; rich, idle, some of them dissolute; debauchery coming before their beard; all useless, earning nothing, spending much, and wasting more. Their only labor is to kill time, and in summer they emigrate from pond to pond, from lake to lake, having a fishing-line with a worm at one end and a fool at the other. These are first families in Somewhere. Their idleness is counted pleasure. Six of these sons will marry, and five, perhaps, of Manygirl's daughters, and what families they will be found, to live on the toil of their grandfather's bones, until a commercial crisis, and the wear and tear of time, has dissipated their fortune, they are forced reluctantly to toil!

Besides there is an enormous waste of food, fuel, clothing, of everything. We are the least economical civilized people on the earth. Of course the poor are wasteful everywhere, they do not know how to economize, and they have not the means. They must live from hand to mouth, and half of what is put into the hand perishes before it reaches the mouth. So likewise are the rich wasteful who have inherited money, almost never such as have earned it. The great mass of the people are not economical but wasteful, it is the habit of the whole country.

COLOSSAL GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH IN ST. PETERSBURGH.—A German letter from St. Petersburg, June 16, says an immense concourse of people continued to visit the Place of St. Isaac, notwithstanding that the dedicatory ceremonies were concluded and the Imperial family had repaired to the summer palace. Crowds still passed into the building to feast their eyes upon the splendors of the great oriental cathedral, composed as it is of granite, marble, iron, malachite, alabaster and lapis-lazuli, of bronze and silver and gold—wood having been altogether excluded from the building, except in some of the doors.

The lightning rods are made of platina; while the great dome and the five crosses, visible at a distance of forty versts, are plated with 274 pounds of gold. The interior area is 60,000 square feet. The entire structure, as it stands, including the 112 gigantic pillars with Corinthian capitals, the dome, and the immense bell of 75,000 pounds weight—with all its interior splendors of porphyry, of Carrarian marble and gold, the "Iconostase," with its gilt decorations, and the works of art in painting and sculpture—represents an expended capital of nearly ninety million thalers (nearly \$60,000,000). The granite monoliths, measuring 56 feet in height and 7 feet diameter at the base, cost each 12,000 thalers. 400,000 thalers were expended on gold ornamentation. There is no organ, as the Greek Church allows no instrumental music of any kind, and, likewise interdicts female voices in the house of God (the bells, too, must only be sounded by striking, not by ringing); at the dedication, however, the four principal voices were each represented by 250 male singers, and the grand choral resounded through the vast building like the swelling notes of a monstrous organ.

Governor S—, of South Carolina, was a splendid lawyer, and could talk a jury out of their seven senses. He was especially noted for his success in criminal cases, almost always clearing his client. He was once counsel for a man accused of horse-stealing. He made a long, eloquent, and touching speech. The jury retired, but returned in a few moments, and, with tears in their eyes, proclaimed the man not guilty. An old acquaintance stepped up to the prisoner and said:—"Jem, the danger is past; and now honor bright, didn't you steal that horse?" To which Jem replied:—"Well, Tom, I've all along thought I took that horse; but since I've heard the Governor's speech, I don't believe I did!"

FREEMASONS EXCOMMUNICATED AT BUENOS AYRES.—A letter from Buenos Ayres, in the Havre Journal, states that the Bishop of that place has excommunicated all Freemasons, and declared their doctrines incompatible with those of the Catholic Church. In consequence of this, the clergy have exhorted from the pulpit the wives and children of Freemasons to quit them, and servants to denounce them.

[From a late Paris Paper.]

## The Precession of the Equinoxes.

M. Poinsoot, the distinguished member of the Institute, and celebrated for the discovery of the theory of couples in mechanics, has recently solved an important problem, which has baffled the ingenuity of mathematicians since the time of Newton. It is well known that the intersections of the terrestrial equator with the ecliptic, called the equinoxes, never occur twice at the same point, but that every year they appear to recede by about 50.18 seconds.

This retrograde motion is called the precession of the equinoxes. To explain this motion by the theory of universal gravitation became an important problem at the time when Newton made that great discovery. He himself attempted an explanation of it, but the imperfect state of astronomy at that period deprived him of the advantage of certain data which were indispensable to arrive at the desired solution. In 1747, Bradley, by a series of laborious observations, patiently continued for the space of twenty years, at length ascertained that the earth's axis had a peculiar swinging motion, of which no astronomer before him had even suspected the existence; and this motion he called nutation. He also proved that this nutation, which causes the axis of the earth to describe in space a sort of fluted cone, having a base of an elliptical form, but modified by certain minute undulations, about 1,400 in number, was closely connected with the motion of precession. D'Alembert now took up the problem, and in 1749 published a solution of it, which indeed accounts for the above motions in a general way, but is far from sufficient to explain the cause of those singular undulations which the pole of the earth describes. The delicacy of the question will be easily understood from the fact, that within the compass of the earth the axis appears to have no motion at all, and that the phenomenon of nutation is only perceptible at an immeasurable distance in the heavens.

We now come to M. Poinsoot's admirable solution, founded on his well known theory of couples. Neglecting all useless considerations that had embarrassed his predecessors, he proves by mathematical calculations, which, considering the difficulty of the problem, have the merit of extraordinary simplicity, that, by the law of gravitation, the earth's axis must describe an oscillation of 1.08 seconds in virtue of the attraction of the sun, and 16.9 seconds in virtue of that of the moon, or about 18 seconds in all, in the course of nine years and three months, after which a similar oscillation takes place in the contrary direction. This quantity of 18 seconds all but exactly coincides with the results of observation; and his determination of the precession is equally exact, since he finds it to be 50.4 seconds. It must be borne in mind that observation always has a great advantage over calculation in astronomy, since it gives facts as they are, while in calculation it is often necessary to reject certain small quantities which are in the way of integration.

M. Poinsoot proves a singular fact, viz., that the precession would be the same if the earth, instead of being a solid spheroid, were hollow, or if its mass or volume were changed, provided its momentum of inertia remain the same. Thus all d'Alembert's complicated speculations touching the influence of the sea, the nature of the strata of the earth, &c., turn out to be useless. M. Poinsoot demonstrates various other curious theorems connected with the subject, but which are too abstruse to be mentioned here.

DOLEFUL TIMES.—The traveling correspondent of the Madison (Wis.) Journal gives a very gloomy picture of his experience in the country. He writes:

"To travel round among the farmers as we have done for the last four weeks, and hear 'hard times' repeated forty times a day, as excuse for not taking a paper or paying up old scores; to see men, women and children in threadbare and tattered garments; paper pasted, boards nailed up, or old hats or clothes stuffed into windows where should be glass; to find country stores closed, or doing very little, men working for their board or a mere trifle; promises in pay, whether verbal or written, of no account; men even denying their own notes; to see the closest economy practised by all, those whose large houses and barns indicate considerable means as well as those living in cabins; to hear the dolorous complaints of taxes—one realizes the severity with which the financial pressure is felt."

ONE OF THE SUPERSUBSCRIPTIONS.—A letter passed through the Post-office here recently with the following excruciating superscription:—

Ye Democratic P. M.'s don't let me delay,  
But send me along with speed on my way  
To Lizzie S. Ellis I'm sent, that's true,  
In Miami County in the village of Peru,  
In the State of Indiana, just as true as you are born,  
Where whisky's legal tender, and the women hoe the corn.

MOUNTAIN MEASUREMENT.—The highest peak of the Black Mountain in North Carolina, which is the highest land east of the Rocky Mountains, has been measured three times by scientific persons, and the results are quite remarkable. Professor Mitchell measured it in 1855, and Professor Guyot in 1856; the first reported the height to be 6,708 feet, the latter's figures were 6,709 feet. Major J. C. Turner measured it last year, and reported the elevation to be 6,711 feet. The first two were barometrical measurements; the third was made with the spirit level.