

THE GREATEST DISCOVERY OF THE AGE.

If all that has been said of the discovery, by Mr. Henry M. Paine, of the decomposition of water, and the production of an inflammable gas that is safe and easily managed, and can be applied to domestic uses, be true, then this must attain the rank we have assigned it at the head of this article.

Mr. Paine does not claim the discovery of decomposing water, which was known sixty-five years ago; but he does claim the discovery of a new principle of electricity, by which the decomposition of water is very rapidly produced, and at a merely nominal cost.

During the last winter, Mr. Paine erected a light-house upon a hill in front of his house, from which he directed the rays by a reflector, to a village opposite Worcester, and one mile and a sixth distant in an air line. The light was so powerful, that persons in the village could read by it.

Another illustration of the character of this light, is in the fact that an excellent daguerreotype has been taken by it.

Mr. Paine exhibited the stove which warmed his room. It was about fourteen inches in diameter; composed of two circular pieces of sheet iron, between which a flame issues, and the cold air rushing in, gives forth a most delightful heat. The stove may be used for cooking, and in fact, for all purposes where heat and light are required. The entire labor required to make a day's supply of gas for a common dwelling house does not occupy two minutes in turning a crank; and the machine takes up about as much room as a common mantle clock.

Writing upon this subject, Elihu Burritt, the "learned blacksmith," says: "There is not only a saving of expense, but of work, and the inconvenience and care of wood, coal and ashes; and the danger from fire almost completely annihilated. This is not supposition; we saw the lights followed the pipes to the cellar, and saw the apparatus employed for the decomposition of the water; and must say we can hardly find words to express our astonishment at the simplicity of the machine, when at the same time we think of the greatness and grandeur of the discovery. This must rank, if not above, certainly equal, with the greatest discoveries and inventions of the age. Wood, and coal, and oil, and fluid may all be dispensed with, by the use of Mr. Paine's apparatus."

Mr. Burritt further says: "Two jets, such as were burning in his house would be sufficient to light a moderate sized hall every night, at an expense of the interest on the cost of the machine, (about six dollars per annum,) with only the little trouble of occasionally filling the water cistern."—[Boston Transcript.]

A WRITTEN LANGUAGE IN WESTERN AFRICA.—One of the Sierra Leone agents of the Church Mission Society of London, Rev. Mr. Koelle, has discovered a written language existing in the interior of Western Africa—the Vy language. Mr. Koelle says that the alphabet consists of about one hundred letters, each representing a syllable. The new characters are said to have no analogy with any other known. Mr. Koelle has taken a passage on board of a vessel going to the nearest point from which this Vy Nation can be reached, with the resolution to investigate fully this interesting discovery.

EXTRACTS FROM JOURNAL.

Monday, March 17. At half past 3 p. m., Presidents Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball started in the carriage on their intended visit to the Utah valley; saw many brethren very busy beautifying their city lots by planting every variety of shade trees, others breaking the ground to prepare for spring crops—every thing ushering in the approach of spring; arrived at the house of Abraham O. Smoot at 7 p. m., where we received the hospitalities of his house.

Tuesday, 18. At 9 a. m. resumed our journey: after travelling a few miles, we were met by William Draper, who requested the president to go to his house and administer to his daughter, who was very sick; he immediately turned out of his road; arrived at Bro. Draper's at half past 11 a. m., when we laid hands on her head and rebuked her disease; then pursued our journey around the hill, which requires much labor to make it a safe road. On entering the Utah valley, we beheld the increasing industry and improvements in rescuing the waste lands from their desolate condition. Twelve months ago not a house or fence was to be seen on the north side of the Provo; but now we behold villages springing up, fences to enclose thousands of acres of excellent land, and detached farm houses, with the busy sounds and hum of happiness; passed through Evansville and McArthurville, and we arrived at Pleasant grove as the sun was setting, and were received into the houses of George Clarke and John Holman for the night.

Presidents Young and Kimball visited the camp of Amasa Lyman and William Crosby in the evening.

Wednesday, 19. At 10 a. m. again pursued our journey over a new and better road to the Provo river, where we found C. C. Rich's camp; tarried two hours making arrangements for all to rendezvous on the Peeteineet, to organize preparatory to their final move. We crossed the Provo on a new and substantial bridge, and arrived at the house of Bishop Higbee, in Utah fort, about 3 o'clock p. m.

At 7 p. m. the inhabitants met in the school house, when they were addressed by Pres't. Young, and afterwards the people re-elected Isaac Higbee to be the president of the branch in Utah, and organized a high council for this stake, namely: Asahel Perry, Thomas Guyman, Aaron Johnson, William Miller, Peter W. Conover, William Pace, Alexander Williams, John Banks, Samuel Clark, James Ivie, James A. Smith, and David Canfield.

Elias Blackburn was elected to be the bishop of the place: Isaac Higbee nominated Jehu Blackburn and Thomas Willis for his counsellors.

The meeting continued until after 10 p. m. when they were dismissed with benediction by H. C. Kimball, when we retired to Alexander Williams' for the night.

Thursday, 20. The ground covered with snow. At 10 a. m. held a meeting in the school house, and ordained Isaac Higbee as president of the branch, and Jehu Blackburn and Thomas Willis his counsellors.

Ordained Elias Blackburn a high priest and bishop of the branch, and William Young a high priest and counsellor, and Harlo Redfield second counsellor to Bishop Blackburn. Also ordained John Banks, James A. Smith, and Alexander Williams high counsellors;

also Peter W. Conover, William Pace, Jas. Ivie, David Canfield, and Samuel Clark, to be high priests and counsellors in this stake of Zion.

The congregation was then addressed by P. P. Pratt, H. C. Kimball, and Brigham Young, on their several duties as president, bishop, high council, and Saints; and were blest by the president.

At a quarter to 1 p. m. we started on our journey, calling at the new mill of James A. Smith, to examine his new principle wheel. When we were near the beautiful spring creek, we were met by two companies of horsemen bearing a flag, who opened columns and received us, and then returned to escort us into the fort of Springville, where the whole male population were paraded in a line to receive us. After visiting several beautiful springs, and examining some of the richest soil that man can wish to see in any part of the world, we returned to supper at William Miller's.

At 7 in the evening, the school house was filled by the people, and were addressed by the presidency until 9 p. m.; and they afterwards ordained Asahel Perry as president of the branch at Springville, and Noah Packard and Stephen C. Perry as his counsellors;—Aaron Johnson to be the bishop of the branch, and Wm. Miller and Miran Crandell as his counsellors; ordained Asahel Perry, Aaron Johnson, Wm. Miller, and Thos. Guyman as members of the high council in Provo city; at the same time ordaining Stephen C. Perry, Wm. Miller, and Miran Crandell to be high priests; an excellent spirit prevailing.

We tarried all night with Aaron Johnson and William Miller.

Friday, 21. Hail and snow storms at intervals through the day; crossed the Spanish fork over a new bridge, and arrived at Payson about 3 p. m., and tarried with Captain James Pace; when P. P. Pratt and C. C. Rich's camps came up and formed a coral on the west of the fort.

Saturday, 22. Warm day; many brethren roll into camp and join the main body;—Pres't. Young sick.

Sunday, 23. Warm day; a meeting in the fort at noon, addressed by C. C. Rich, H. C. Kimball, and A. Lyman; and again in the evening at James Pace's house, when Benjamin Cross was ordained a high priest, and set apart as bishop at Payson.

Monday, 24. Pres'ts. Young and Kimball having organized all the camps, we commenced our return journey at 9 a. m., and arrived at Utah fort at half past 4 p. m.

At dusk the high council of Provo city met and organized, and afterwards tried a case, John Wheeler versus Alexander Williams, for damage done to wheat that was not fenced; which was dismissed at half past 9 o'clock p. m.

Tuesday, 25. We resumed our journey, having a very strong north wind in our face, which was very severe; the storm cloud was never more visible nor rapid in its movements than to day; and before we arrived at a place of rest we were almost perished with the cold, and were happy to arrive at Abraham O. Smoot's house, as the snow pelted in its pitiless fury; which continued all night.

Wednesday, 26. As the sun rose it dispersed the clouds, and the mantle of snow from the ground, when we resumed our jour-