

# THE DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR

Wednesday, ..... July 17, 1867.

## NOTICE!

To commodiously provide for convening large parties for recreation and for innocent relaxation and enjoyment, the Theatre in this city has been expressly prepared and decorated. This arrangement affords superior opportunities for social re-unions; and the brethren who formerly resided in Jackson County, Missouri, the members of Zion's Camp and of the Mormon Battalion and the Pioneers of 1847, with their many friends, can now have ample room in which to assemble in parties and enjoy themselves in contrasting the present with reminiscences of the past.

For the Pioneer Party, on the 24th inst., the Bishops will please ascertain who in their several Wards would like to attend, and forward their names immediately.

TICKETS, \$5.00 per couple, and \$1.00 for each Additional Lady.

BRIGHAM YOUNG,  
HEBER C. KIMBALL,  
DANIEL H. WELLS.

THE NEWS.

The news lately received by telegraph and mail contains some items that excite considerable reflection, and start inquiries as to what may be the probable results. Maximilian, late Emperor of Mexico, formerly Archduke of Austria and heir to the imperial crown of that empire, has been shot by the victorious Mexican Liberals, after having been taken prisoner of war at Queretaro. The principal governments of Europe have expressed their abhorrence of the deed; but it does not seem whether Francis Joseph will permit his brother's death, ordered contrary to the laws which are accepted among belligerents in times of war, to pass with a simple expression of feelings, or whether he will be inclined to demand retribution for the act. There is a show of excuse for his execution by the order of Juarez in the extreme measures that have been resorted to by both parties during the latter portion of the Mexican struggle; but the Austrian Emperor may not see it in that light; and even if, from his late reverses suffered at the hands of Prussia, he may not be able to act so imperatively and promptly as he otherwise would do, he may seek other means of accomplishing his objects.

The refusal of the Mexican government to permit the departure of the French Minister is a blow at the Napoleonic prestige, which the policy of the French Emperor may impel him to resent, especially coming, as it does, after the death of the man who under his auspices, as his protegee, and with promised succor from him until firmly established on the Mexican throne, sought to gain an empire and found a grave. The recall of the French troops was anything but satisfactory to that large portion of Napoleon's subjects who are sensitive with regard to the honor and glory of France. This latter action of the Mexican government may be construed by popular opinion as an insult which must be avenged; and to strengthen the hold of his dynasty on the minds of the French people, he may be induced to renew his attacks upon Mexico, even at the risk of offending the United States, at whose demand he withdrew his troops.

Meanwhile, Napoleon is playing the host to emperors and kaisers, to kings and potentates; and the glitter, tinsel, show and pomp attending the Exhibition may satisfy the mass for a time, who will feel flattered at the visit of crowned heads to their capital under such pleasant auspices. The Czar of Russia and his "hereditary enemy" Abdel Assiz, Sultan of Turkey, have each become the guest of the Emperor; the Emperor of China is said to be on his way to visit and view the barbarism of the west; all the world, so to speak, is pouring its wealth, and pomp, and state, and talent, and ingenuity, and skill into the lap of Paris, for the latter to toy with for a season. But "all the world" will return home again, by and by, and the memories of the gorgeous sights witnessed will fade away and become dim, while new events, new circumstances, and fresh combinations of circumstances unlooked for and unprepared for, will bring about results very different from the peaceful, friendly feelings that exist now with "all the world" in Paris.

This would be simply a repetition of the history of the past; that which is most likely to occur; and then some of these questions which now occupy but a small share of attention and are after a time apparently buried, will be resurrected, filled with fresh life and used to stir up in men and in nations the worst of passions for the worst of uses.

The news of to-day may not be sensational; but the circumstances of the present seem pregnant with events that in their development may be sufficiently sensational to satisfy the most exciting.

### GROWING DEPRAVITY.—A CLERGYMAN'S TESTIMONY.

A few days ago a letter was received by President Brigham Young from an influential gentleman in the east, who is well acquainted with our views and doctrines, though he never was a member of the Church, and accompanying it was a pamphlet by the Rev. John Todd, D.D., on a subject to which we have made occasional reference, without being in possession of the facts which were available to the author. The letter bore date New York, June 24th, and the following is an extract from it:

I accidentally came upon the little pamphlet enclosed while on a visit to my brother's in New Jersey; a few days since, and obtained his permission to send it to you. It occurred to me that you would hardly be likely to see it otherwise, and I felt convinced that the views of the reverend author must entirely coincide with your own in regard to the inviolability of human life *in utero*, and from the first moment of conception. Had the writer carried the matter still further, and argued the sacredness of the person of the mother during the whole period of pregnancy, his work might have been deemed a valuable acquisition to the so-called "Mormon literature." As it is, I believe you will be interested in it, as showing that a practice, probably wholly unknown in your community, prevails under our civilization to an alarming extent.

The pamphlet forwarded is directed against terrible and rapidly increasing evils, to which it refers in such pointed language that we have been induced to publish it at length. The heinous crimes of which it treats—destroying human life in its embryotic state and perverting the very foundations and current of existence, both being to prevent the increase of families—are becoming so alarmingly prevalent as to show clearly the existence of a state of society that we have frequently referred to, in which lust not love reigns, and where the holiest feelings that animate the united sexes are corrupted and turned to the basest uses. No wonder

such people are incapable of viewing plurality of wives other than as a means of ministering to man's unholy desires. They prove by their terrible crimes that they look upon the sexes as but formed for debasing sensuous communion, while every virtuous and holy thought that swells the breast of true, pure and uncontaminated woman; every desire to fill the measure of her creation as a wife and mother, is crushed down and trodden under.

Nothing that we can think of, at present, shows so clearly how fast and how far mankind are traveling the downward road to degradation and death. When husband and wife can sink so far below the righteous uses of the honorable and holy estate into which they have entered, as to make the former the slave of low sensuality and the latter the peer of the wanton; when the wife who, feeling the burthen of approaching maternity, can barbarously destroy the life God has placed in her keeping, that she may not be called upon to pass through those sorrows which hallow the name of wife and sanctify that of mother, then the unnatural perversions of the laws given by the Creator to govern the propagation and existence of our race, show how fearful is the alienation, of those who are so guilty, from nature and from God.

When we point to these and kindred evils and crimes, as evidences of the moral degradation of Christendom, directly traceable to monogamy and the legislative enactments by which righteous marriage and honorable paternity are sought to be made criminal before the world, part is denied and part glossed over with shallow sophistry, by those who defend the impurity and corruption that abound in the world. But the facts exist and are becoming widely known. Instead of marriage being "honorable in all and the bed undefiled," and children being "a heritage from the Lord," the former is fast becoming simply a legalized form of prostitution, and the latter are viewed as a burden, imposing troubles and cares not to be borne by those who have yet voluntarily accepted the responsibility, and who have nominally professed their willingness to obey the great commandment, "increase and multiply."

The reverend author of "Serpents in the Dove's Nest" is actuated by a strong desire to see the crimes of which he treats becoming properly understood, and shunned as their heinousness demands they should be. He speaks in strong, plain language, and tells some biting truths. The cases are not few, nor isolated. They are wide spread. They are not perpetrated in some out-of-the-way place in some semi-civilized locality, but abound in puritan New England, among the children of ancestors who loathed impurity and vice with a terrible loathing. The remedy has been revealed by the Almighty, let mankind accept it or reject it. That remedy is taught by the gospel, is made known for the good of the human race, yet the world fight against it, and oppose it. Many mourn the decadence of virtue, while they refuse to adopt the only means by which the tide of corruption, vice and immorality now rolling over the earth can be successfully stemmed.

### SERPENTS IN THE DOVE'S NEST.

FASHIONABLE MURDER.

By the Rev. John Todd, D.D.

Nothing but an imperative sense of duty could induce me to pen what I am about to write. Letters from different sections of the country, and from physicians too, are so urgent that I should write on this subject, that I may not choose. I have no fear but what I am about to write will be read; but I wish

it might be solemnly pondered. I am about to speak, and plainly too, of the practice of producing abortions. If any of my lady readers shall complain of a want of delicacy, I beg them to remember three facts: first, that the practice is fearfully common; second, that probably they are every week associating with those who are guilty of the practice; and third, that seventy-five per cent. of all the abortions produced are caused and effected by females. What, then of delicacy?

It is well known that families of children, of this generation, in New England, do not average but three and a half each; and I fear this is true of the greater part of our country. I speak of our native population. With foreigners it is different, and the cause of the difference will soon be mentioned. By the advertisements of almost every paper, city and village, in the land, offering medicines to be effectual "from whatever causes" it is needed,—by the shameless and notorious great establishments fitted up and advertised as places where any woman may resort to effect the end desired, and which now number in the city of New York alone over four hundred, advertised, known, and abundantly patronized—houses devoted to the work of abortionating; by the confessions of hundreds of women made to physicians, who have been injured by the process; and by the almost constant and unblushing applications made to the profession from "women, in all classes of society, married and unmarried, rich and poor, otherwise good, bad, or indifferent," to aid them in the thing—do we know of the "frequency of the crime." The wife of a physician of large practice in the State of New York says, "Being the wife of a physician of extensive practice, I can say that not a week, I might almost say hardly a day, passes but cases of this kind come to my knowledge." And what shall I say of friends who bestow *pity*, instead of congratulations, because the duties and joys of a mother are added to those of a wife?

As a class, the medical profession have taken a noble stand. The desolations have become so fearful, that, as the guardians of human life, they were compelled to do so; and society owes a debt of gratitude to Dr. H. R. Storer, of Boston, especially, for his powerful arguments, lucid arrangement of facts, patient investigations, and earnest and eloquent remonstrances. Among his writings on this subject, the little work entitled "Why Not?" is a "book for every woman," and I wish every woman might carefully read it. But the medical profession cannot arrest the evil, and they tell me they need, and must have, the moral power of good people to aid them. Even now, as I have reason to fear, *all* the profession are not beyond the reach of personal appeal, or an enormous fee; and I do wish that every such a one could see that a fee steeped in blood, and crimsoned with shame, cannot bring a blessing to his family.

I am sorry to learn from undoubted testimony, that the practice is far more common among Protestants than among Catholics—Dr. Storer says, "infinitely more frequent;" and this accounts, in part at least, for much larger families of the Irish Catholics. An Irish woman said recently, "We like large families of children, but American women kill theirs before they are born." There is nothing in Protestantism that encourages, or connives at it, but there is vast ignorance as to the guilt of the thing. But in the Catholic church, human life is guarded, at all stages, by the confessional, by stern denouncement, and by fearful excommunications.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Boston says, eloquently and powerfully, the very instant conception has taken place, there lies the vital germ of a man. True, it is hidden in the darkness of the womb, and it is helpless; but has sacred rights, founded on God's law, and so much the more to be respected because it is helpless. It may be already a living man, for neither mothers nor physicians can tell when life is infused; they can only tell when its presence is manifested, and there is a wide difference between the two things. At any rate, it is from the first moment, potentially and *in radice*, a man, with a body and soul destined most surely by the will of the Creator, and by His law, to be developed into the fulness of human existence. No one can prevent that development without resisting and annulling one of the most sacred and important laws established by the Divine