

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM WEDNESDAY'S DAILY, DEC. 5.

CHEAPER IRON.—There is one good piece of news in to-day's dispatches—the Western Iron Association have agreed to reduce the price of iron \$12 per ton and nails four bits a keg. We live in the West, and of course expect to come in for the benefit of the reduction.

[Per Deseret Telegraph.
SPECIAL TO THE DESERET NEWS.

SPRINGVILLE, Dec. 5, 1872.

Editor Deseret News.

In the Hall and Balden shooting case, Balden has been discharged, there not being sufficient proof to bind him over to another court.

ACCIDENT.—James Richards, a carpenter, residing in the Ninth Ward, met with a serious accident yesterday morning while at work on a building in the Twentieth Ward. While he was in a stooping position a bundle of shingles fell a distance of eleven feet, striking him on the lower part of the back, and inflicting serious injury on that part of his body. He was taken to his residence in a conveyance, and it is expected he will be laid up for a week or two.

ACCIDENT.—Last Thursday Joseph Knowles, son of Wm. Knowles of Logan, was in the canyon logging when a huge log came down the slide; though warned of its approach, he was unable to get out of the way, and it struck him on the ankle. James Hobbs and others present picked up the wounded lad, cut off his boot and conveyed him home, where he suffered extreme pain, his injured limb being awfully discolored, and so terribly swollen that it could not be ascertained whether or not any bones were broken. He is still in pain, and his foot and ankle are in a critical condition.—Ogden Junction, Dec. 14th.

THE HOME MISSION.—The appointment of Elders in various parts of the Territory to act as home missionaries in visiting and preaching to the Saints in the different settlements and wards is having an excellent and encouraging effect. The brethren appointed have been generally diligent in laboring with the people in the wards and settlements to increase among the Saints an interest in the work of God. Two days' meetings have been held in many places, and these gatherings have been generally characterized by the outpourings of the Spirit of the Lord, and it is to be hoped that the missionaries, and all other faithful Elders as well, will continue the good work by stirring up the people in the performance of the duties of their religion.

The holding of meetings in the city wards on Sunday afternoons during the winter, instead of having the usual meetings in the Tabernacle, is also having a beneficial effect. This arrangement places the partaking of the sacrament within reach of nearly all the Saints, many of whom were unable to attend at the Tabernacle on account of their living at long distances from that building. The afternoon as well as the evening meetings in the wards are being numerously attended, and a lively and comforting spirit is generally enjoyed in those assemblies.

SUICIDE AND ATTEMPTED MURDER.—Some excitement was produced on the street to-day by the announcement that a man had murdered his wife and then committed suicide. The rumor was speedily confirmed in some of its particulars by the bringing to the City Hall of the body of a man, named Griffiths, a Welshman, who had committed suicide by shooting himself through the head with a pistol, after shooting his wife. The tragedy occurred on West Temple Street, near the corner of Third South.

It appears that Mrs. Griffiths a short time since left her husband on account of his abusive conduct towards her. About six weeks ago he was arrested and fined for being drunk, disturbing the peace and threatening to shoot his wife. When the police went to arrest him on that occasion he talked very quietly and appeared to be willing to accompany them to the City Hall, but made a sudden spring, and grasped and cocked a pistol for the purpose of using it, when Mr. Alexander Burt seized him and, after a severe struggle, took the weapon away from him. He was unable to pay his fine, \$15, and his pistol was retained as security, and it was only the day before yesterday that he redeemed it.

At about half-past eleven o'clock to-day he met his wife in company with two other ladies, when he committed the terrible and bloody deeds by which he terminated his own life, and which will probably produce fatal effects on his wife.

As Griffiths shot himself through the brain he died instantly, and the attention of the surgeons called in, Drs. Benedict and Bush, was directed to the unfortunate woman. When the latter was shot she was running away from her husband and the ball took effect on the lower portion of her back, near the spinal column. An examination of the woman showed that the bullet was so deeply imbedded that it would be dangerous to extract it, as the whole length of the finger could be inserted in the opening without reaching it. The sufferings of the poor woman were most intense, while she is paralyzed on

one side. It is possible that she may live, but we understand it is doubtful.

The body of Griffiths presented a hideous spectacle. His features were naturally unprepossessing, but with the unclosed eyes glazed in death and the pallid features covered with gore, the sight was one calculated to inspire the on-looker with feelings anything but pleasurable. His features are large, and heavy, particularly the lower jaw, and his forehead is low and receding. He appeared to be a man of from fifty to fifty-five years of age, his hair and beard being iron grey. We are informed that Mrs. Griffiths is much younger, having probably not yet attained her thirtieth year. We understand that Griffiths has been in this Territory nearly eighteen years.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, DEC. 6, 1872.

KANAB COUNTY.—Mr. C. H. Oliphant reports things moving favorably at Kanab and in that region. He thinks highly of the mild and equable climate of that locality, and of the resources and prospects. The settlers raised good crops there the past season, the Indians are peaceable, more so than many white folks. He speaks of a fine country around there, good soil, water and grass, and many inducements to settlers.

FATAL STABBING AFFRAY IN DRY VALLEY.—A fatal stabbing affray occurred in Dry Valley, near Pioche one day last week. Jas. Evans and Henry Lucas, both miners, quarrelled and came to blows. The former inflicted a mortal wound on the latter with a knife or other sharp instrument. Evans is at Pioche, under arrest. So says the Record.

Per Deseret Telegraph.

The Wheeler Expedition.

ST. GEORGE, Dec. 6.—The Southern division of Lieut. Wheeler's expedition arrived at Washington a few days ago. It met with brilliant success. One man, F. Kettleman, was wounded in the narrows of Pahreah Canyon. Lieut. Wheeler's officers and assistants will return to Washington, D. C., about Dec. 20th.

FIRE.—Between nine and ten o'clock last night two haystacks in the 14th Ward were discovered to be on fire. The bell at the City Hall rang the fire alarm, and the City fire engine and the engine belonging to Z. C. M. I., the "Water Witch," were taken to the spot, but some difficulty was experienced in obtaining water. When a supply was obtained, although late on the ground the "Water Witch" got to work first. There was some delay in getting the City fire engine out and to the scene of the fire.

We are pleased to note the efforts being put forth by the City, in the business portions, for the prevention and subduing of fires, by the construction of tanks, &c. We have reasons for believing that those measures will be prosecuted to a degree that will, before long, abolish any difficulty that may now be experienced on account of a lack of water.

No further damage resulted from the fire than the consuming of the two haystacks named.

THE GRIFFITHS TRAGEDY.—We are informed that but little hopes are entertained of the recovery of Mrs. Griffiths, who was shot yesterday by her husband. The unfortunate woman, however, does not suffer much pain, it being necessary to keep her under the influence of opiates.

This morning our reporter had an interview with the son of Griffiths, an intelligent lad about eighteen years of age, from whom the following information was gleaned. He stated that his father's age was fifty-eight years and that of his step-mother thirty-eight. She, the woman who was shot by his father, was the latter's third wife, his two previous wives having died. Griffiths was from Swansea, South Wales, and had only been in the Territory fifteen months. His son, our informant, and Mrs. Griffiths preceded him to this Territory, they having been here about three years. By saving their hard earnings they jointly raised sufficient money to pay one half of Griffiths' fare from Wales to this country, and that was the way he was enabled to come here. He had given way to drinking spells, but had been very temperate for several weeks prior to yesterday, when he perpetrated the horrible deeds of blood which were recorded in our yesterday's issue. On that morning, however, he had been drinking a little, but not so freely that its effects could be readily perceived on him.

Griffiths resided in the 15th Ward, and at the beginning of the present week he went to his son and told the latter, who was employed by Mr. Samuel W. Richards, to call at the house and take his things away, as he did not want him there. He had accordingly called, took his clothes, bid his father good-bye and left.

On Tuesday Griffiths redeemed a pistol which had been left at the City Hall by him as security for the payment of a fine which had been imposed on him for being drunk and abusing his wife. He afterwards went around the city in search of his son, but the latter kept out of his way, as he had been told that his father intended to kill him, and had offered money to different persons if they would tell him where the lad was. These warnings came to him so strongly that he concluded

to leave the city and go to Evanston. He kept out of the way all day yesterday and was in complete ignorance of the fact that his father had shot his step-mother and then killed himself. The heart-sickening intelligence came to him while he was on the evening train for Ogden. The conductor had the speed of the train slackened and he jumped off and made his way to town, and on his arrival he learned the particulars of the affair.

The lad seems to have a deep affection for his unfortunate step-mother, who he says is a most excellent woman. In speaking of her there was a tremor in his voice and the tears welled up into his eyes.

From a variety of circumstances there can be but little doubt that Griffiths intended not only to kill his wife but also his son and then put an end to his own existence, and he seemed, by the way in which he searched for the lad, to have pre-determined this purpose and to have been most intent on its accomplishment.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

The following are the minutes of an inquest held in the City Hall, Salt Lake City, and County of Salt Lake, December 5th, 1872, at 2 p.m., to inquire into the cause of the death of Griffith Griffiths, aged about 58 years, Coroner George J. Taylor presiding.

The following were duly impaneled and sworn as a Coroner's jury:

William C. Neal, M. B. Shipp and Frank Dewey.

J. W. Johnson was the first witness sworn. His statement was, in effect, that while in his home on West Temple Street, in this city, at about eleven o'clock on the day above mentioned, he heard screams, and on going outside he saw a woman lying on the sidewalk and two other women running in a southerly direction. He saw deceased with a pistol in his hand, the weapon was discharged once, apparently accidentally, and the deceased then cocked it, raised it to his head and shot himself dead. Deceased fell on the sidewalk and did not seem to move after shooting himself through the head. Witness identified the deceased as the man he saw shoot himself. He also identified the pistol as the one with which the deed was done. He did not see deceased shoot his wife.

Alexander Burt was sworn, and identified the deceased as a man named Griffith Griffiths. He knew him because, as an officer, he arrested him about four weeks ago.

William Paul, jun., was next sworn. He was on West Temple Street about eleven o'clock, when he heard screams and a report of firearms, and immediately afterwards saw three women running towards him southward. He saw a man follow after them. The man fired a pistol at one of the women and she fell to the ground wounded. The man then tried to shoot himself, but seemed to fail in the first attempt to do so, but finally shot himself through the head. He heard three shots fired in all. Witness identified the deceased as the person who shot the woman and himself.

F. D. Clift was the next witness. He was walking northwards on West Temple Street, when he saw three women running southward and a man after them. The latter was a few feet in the rear of the last woman, whom he fired at and shot. She was shot in the back and fell immediately afterwards. The man fired at the woman again after she had fallen, when the woman held her hands up in a suppliant manner. The man then shot himself through the head, killing himself instantly. Witness identified the deceased as the man who did the shooting.

After the foregoing evidence was elicited the jury retired, and in a few minutes returned with the following verdict:

"Territory of Utah, 4th Precinct, Salt Lake County.

"An inquisition holden at the City Hall, in the Fourth Precinct, Salt Lake County, on the 5th Day of December A. D. 1872, before George J. Taylor, Coroner of said County, upon the body of Griffith Griffiths, there lying dead, by the jurors whose names are hereto subscribed. The said jurors upon their oaths do say that, on the 5th day of December, 1872, about the hour of eleven o'clock a. m., the said Griffith Griffiths came to his death from a pistol shot by his own hand.

"WILLIAM C. NEAL,
"MILTON B. SHIPP,
"B. F. DEWEY,
Jurors.

"I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the verdict rendered.

"GEORGE J. TAYLOR, Coroner.

"JOHN NICHOLSON, Clerk."

FROM SATURDAY'S DAILY, DEC. 7.

FINE ART DISTRIBUTION.—Amateurs and lovers of the fine arts will feel themselves amply repaid by a visit to Savage's Fine Art Gallery, East Temple street, where is now on exhibition the most beautiful collection of works of art that has, perhaps ever been seen in Utah. The usual annual fine art distribution, from this noted establishment, will take place in about a fortnight. The collection, for distribution, comprises paintings by the leading home artists, American, German and English chromos, steel engravings, &c., including many beautiful gems of art. The number of tickets issued for the drawing will be two hundred. The distribution will be on the plan of the London

Art Unions, every holder of a ticket receiving a picture, the retail selling price of the poorest being two dollars and a half, of the best twenty-five dollars. Visit the gallery and see for yourselves.

UTAH COUNTY AND SOUTHWARD.—Elder Edward Stevenson sends us the following communication dated Salt Lake City, Dec. 5th—

"On Nov. 28th I enjoyed a splendid ride from Payson, passing Santaquin and Mona, to Nephi, where we held meetings in the evening in a very comfortable meeting house. Considerable improvements have been made in those settlements since my last visit, which is over one year ago. The fine crops of the present year find a good market at Pioche and other mining camps, affording the farmers a good chance to improve their farms, dwellings and stock, and replenish the wardrobe, which had become in many cases rather lean on account of the previous ravages of the grasshoppers. Also the Pioche freight from the terminus of the Utah Southern R. R. is placing in the hands of many of those settlements greenbacks by the handful, especially as the roads are in so favorable a condition and the weather is so delightful. The roads are literally lined with teams and many of them are loaded with rails, iron, cars, and other equipments for the 12 mile railroad at Pioche. I enquired of one teamster with double team how much he anticipated realizing for the round trip of 300 miles, occupying from 25 to 30 days. He had on his wagon 30 rails, weighing 133½ lbs. each, 4,000 pounds in all the rails being 25 feet long. His load would fetch him \$150 at \$3.75 per 100 pounds. This R. R. freight alone, although at low rate, will place in those settlements considerable ready money, which will, if judiciously used, assist much to improve those southern settlements. The co-operative stores, by reason of transient custom, are doing a lively business, and things generally are rather lively. The road from Nephi to Scipio, formerly so lonely, is now much more pleasant, on account of scattering families along the route of 40 miles. The new Sevier bridge, just finished, is a very good one, and much appreciated by the traveling community.

"On the last day of November I enjoyed a delightful ride of nine miles up to a clear, beautiful lake, three miles long, one and a half miles in width, and quite deep. Strange to say, no fish has ever been discovered in it. The lake is supplied principally by springs, and the people of Scipio are expecting to make an effort to supply the lake with fish, which evidently will supply the settlement with the luxury. During the past year abundance of water was afforded from this lake to the settlement, the only source of supply. Some years ago the water did not run down to the settlement, and should some seasons become dry, the only resort would be to dig the channel near and out into the lake, which would then supply an abundance of water for the present settlement, and even for its enlargement. A brick kiln of one hundred thousand, the first effort of the kind in that place, was successfully burned lately to build a school and meeting house. This small round valley up in the high mountains bids fair for prosperity. The co-operative store, under the care of Thomas Yates, is an excellent success.

"Bishop Thompson and his settlement of 600 convened and on Saturday evening we enjoyed a good meeting.

"We held meeting the following evening with a very full house at Nephi, on Monday evening at Payson, and at Lehi on the 3rd.

"A few nights previous a new wagon was stolen from the station at Lehi and a freighter, taking a circuitous route, was detected and captured, selling his Pioche road of freight."

TWO DAYS' MEETINGS.

Two days' meetings will be held at the undermentioned places, on the dates mentioned in connection therewith:

DRAPERVILLE, Dec. 14th and 15th, Elders R. Miller, R. F. Neslen, George Teasdale, John Nicholson, George Swan, and Isaac Groo and Bishop A. Gardner.

South Cottonwood (Rollin's Ward), Dec. 21st and 22nd, Elders R. Miller, D. Candland, N. H. Felt, A. Smith, M. B. Shipp, Milo Andrus and Wm. McMaster, and Bishop A. Gardner.

Meetings will commence at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

The Saints living at a distance should come prepared to stay until the close of the afternoon meetings. The Saints living in Fort Herriman and Big and South Cottonwood and those in adjoining Wards, are cordially invited to attend the meetings to be held at Draperville.

Sunday Dec. 22nd Elders George Teasdale and John Nicholson will preach at Farmington.

Elders appointed on these missions are requested to be prompt in filling them.

L. D. YOUNG, per R. F. N.

A Western editor, in acknowledging the gift of a peck of onions from a subscriber, says: "Such kindnesses as these bring tears to our eyes."