

# DESERET EVENING NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY

Vol. II.

SALT LAKE CITY, SATURDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 4, 1889.

No. 242

Pioneer Paper of the Rocky Mountain Region

DESERET NEWS, Semi-Weekly

(Published every Tuesday and Saturday.)

THE DESERET NEWS, WEEKLY

(Published every Wednesday.)

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## BREVITIES.

An English paper advertises for sale a few which "commands a view of nearly the whole congregation."

Charles Keen said a bad horse was like a poor play; can't run and won't draw.

Somebody says the reason why Chicago did not fall within the line of the total eclipse was because the Lord did not dare to trust that city in the dark.

Upon the reading of the Declaration of Independence at Ypsilam, Michigan, by a citizen of that place, a gentleman from the rural districts made this comment: "Oh, he reads it well enough; but darned if I believe he wrote it!"

A letter from Florence says the brigands in Southern Italy have recently become very bold and have robbed several travelers: two wealthy Englishmen have been carried into the mountains and are held for ransom.

A correspondent of the Boston Journal says the whisky destroyed by the late Philadelphia fire would have made "sixty-four millions of 'straight drinks,'" which at 15 cents a glass, would amount to \$860,000,000, more than one third of the national debt.

The lighthouse keeper at Clark's Point, near New Bedford, has just lost an African emany bird which had reached the great age of twenty-five years. For twenty-three years Mr. Smith had owned the little songster, which, until within six months, was cheerful and vigorous.

A workman at Liege has invented a breech-loading rifle which will discharge thirty bullets per minute. The trials which have been made show that it will bear a charge of forty-two grammes of powder and thirty-five bullets.

An English cockney at the Falls of Niagara, when asked why he liked the Falls, replied: "They're 'ansome—quite so; but they don't quite hanter my expectations; besides, I got vetted, and lost me 'at. I prefer to look at 'em in an hengravine, in 'ot weather, and in the 'ouse."

Fanny Fern says: "If one-half the girls knew the previous lives of the men they marry, the list of old maids would be wonderfully increased." Whereupon the Boston Post asks: "If the men knew what their future lives were to be, wouldn't it increase the list of old maids still further?"

At Lynn, Mass., a school teacher asked a little girl who was the first man. She answered that she did not know. The question was put to the next, an Irish child, who answered loudly: "Adam, sir," with apparent satisfaction. "Law," said the first scholar, "you needn't feel so proud about it, he wasn't an Irishman."

A Calcutta savant has started India with the affirmation that a race of tailed men and women are to be found in the forests of Borneo. He says his information comes from Sarawak traders, who state that this "missing link" race live in the trees, have bows and arrows and other implements, and subsist entirely by hunting. An expedition has been sent in search of the curiosity.

It is stated as one of the effects of the construction of the Suez Canal that in the adjacent deserts, where a drop of rain was never known to fall, showers are now not unfrequent, and heavy fogs prevail. These climatic changes are attributed to the number of trees planted along the canal, and the shrubbery in the villages which has sprung up at every station along the great water course.

A French writer states that butchers' meat may be preserved in hot weather by placing it in large earthen jars, putting clean, heavy stones upon it, and covering it with skimmed milk. The milk will become sour, of course, but afterwards serve as food for pigs and the meat will be found to have kept its natural primitive freshness, even after eight or ten days.

Extravagant stories have been told of a "meat shower" at Los Nietos, in Los Angeles county, Cal., on the 1st ult. It is now said that only two hundred square feet showed traces of it, and old Californians account for it by saying that it was caused by the California vultures, which, having gorged themselves and risen high in the air, eject what they have eaten from their stomachs, either from sickness or in battle with the eagle.

As an illustration of the trials of shopkeepers in that city, the New Bedford Mercury relates that a lady sent to a dry goods store for a pair of white silk gloves, to be kept if they suited. Two or three days afterward they were returned with the remark that they did not suit; subsequently the fact came out that the gloves were used to grace the hands of a corpse dressed for the grave, and were removed before its interment, and returned to the storekeeper.

The ruins of an Aztec fortress have been discovered on the summit of a mountain near Orizaba, Mexico. The place is so dense with woods and undergrowth, that a thorough exploration could not be made by the discoverers. They found four houses, three sacrifice stones, several pillars, and a kind of urn in which were more than 200 skulls as white as marble, from which not even a tooth was lacking. Several idols and stone statues were discovered.

A Pittsburg inventor, says the Commercial of that city, has constructed a furnace in which a pan of water has been so arranged that water is decomposed and the oxygen ejected into the fire, rendering combustion complete, and saving 50 per cent. of the fuel. Another exchange claims that a similar arrangement was patented in Europe a few years ago, but failed to save fuel, because it required as much heat to decompose the water as was gained by the use of the oxygen.

Warren Hussey, Frank Palmer, Charles Dahler, Salt Lake City, Denver, Virginia City.

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 BANKERS AND DEALERS IN GOLD, SILVER, COIN AND EXCHANGE, Salt Lake City, U. T., and Virginia City and Helena, Montana.  
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