

## THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH, LIBERTY.



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY:

Wednesday-----March 14, 1855.

ADVERTISEMENTS to ensure insertion in the current number, must be handed in previous to 1 o'clock, p. m., on Tuesday.

## Our Paper.

Inasmuch as the history of Joseph Smith, and the sermons delivered in the Tabernacle first appear in print in the "News," it has been deemed advisable to alter the form into a better shape for binding, which will doubtless please all who wish to preserve their papers: and, in order to furnish a still greater amount and variety of articles, smaller type is used for the advertisements and miscellany. Not being of that class who are fond of trumpeting their own deeds, we have been content with furnishing the best and most varied matter that the size of the paper, the mails, correspondents, contributors, our judgment, and other circumstances would permit, and as it is a day of progression it will be the aim to keep the "News" in the front rank of "Truth and Liberty."

For the encouragement of subscribers it may not be amiss to state that all the profits arising from the paper, and from all the work done at the printing office flow in the same channel with the tithing, as all the material is owned by, and the whole affair is managed for the Church, and is designed to be a benefit to the Saints, and to all who prefer truth to error. From this fact the Saints will understand that all payments of subscriptions, after deducting the necessary expenses, go directly to swell the means under the control of the Trustee in Trust, hence all who take the "News," in addition to reaping a direct, interesting, and personal benefit to themselves and families, assist directly in building up the Kingdom of our God, by disseminating the principles of eternal truth.

The great majority of our population came to these valleys expressly to do the will of their Father, and would be disappointed if outsiders surpassed them in the energetic support of any good cause, the circumstances being equal. Still it has often seemed that very many, in the different settlements, were not fully aware that the "The Deseret News" contains so much really valuable information. Such being the facts, and the price being payable in every kind of articles of use or value, it would be strange if any head of a family, professing to be a saint, should be so short-sighted as not to provide himself with the "News," and thus deprive himself from becoming familiar with the current teachings and news of our cause, and of the world, and allow his brethren to outstrip him in bearing a greater portion of the weight of our common duties, in gaining more knowledge, which is power, and of course in receiving a richer crown among the faithful.

DOUBTLESS IT IS STRANGE, to those who do not discern the signs of the times, that Utah scarcely furnishes the minutest noticeable item towards swelling the vast catalogue of crimes which are cursing every other portion of the earth. It is for this reason, we presume, that the world's papers so often read, "the news from Utah is unimportant." It does not seem to be spied enough for the morbid appetite of this fast generation. Independent of having no extensive catalogue of revolting crimes that would even make devils blush, and independent of bowing down with the whole soul to gaining notoriety, amassing wealth, and giving loose rein to every sinful indulgence of passion, is there no beauty, nor interest in the chronicle of the even tenor of the righteous course of a mighty community? Is there nothing enticing and instructing in the history of Joseph Smith, the man through whom the Almighty restored the Priesthood and the everlasting gospel to the children of men in our day? Is there no discernment of the hand writing of the Lord upon the historic scroll of the 19th century in the movement of a noble people from under the immediate grasp of priestcraft and tyranny, and their peaceful and prosperous settlement in a savage and desolate region? Then indeed, in fulfillment of prophecy, does darkness reign, and "gross darkness covers the people," and "as with the priest so with the people," and the whisperings of priest and people are, "our works are in the dark," "who seeth us? and who knoweth us?" The cunning and power of the devil is not obviously manifested at present in but few cases, if any, more plainly than it is in

his so successfully hoodwinking the world in regard to the true character of the Latter-day Saints. In a great variety of ways the facts are before the world, but they will not heed them, simply because they are blinded by the god of this world.

Utah is a portion of America that no white people, except the "Mormons," had, have, or would have settled. It has been settled by people from almost every clime, and, amid disadvantages and forbidding prospects that appalled and still appall all others, the desert has been made the peaceful and delightful abode of the most loyal, law-abiding, virtuous, and upright population to be found in the United States, or in the world.

And notwithstanding her residents have been raised under so many diverse traditions and forms of government, the majority are made one by the spirit of truth, and her escutcheon shines with a clearness and brilliancy that delights the eyes and rejoices the heart of every lover of truth. It is not denied that there are some within her borders who are not as good as might be desired, and we will frankly admit that a few professed lawyers have found their way here, most unfortunately for all persons who are so unwise and short sighted as to employ them.

An individual who understands the broad principles of civil polity, is familiar with those enactments of his country which are a "rule of order founded in justice," and tempered with mercy, as all laws should be, and as Utah's are, can benefit his fellow beings, by using that knowledge as it should be used.

But it is passing strange that several, who otherwise appear to be men of sense and judgment, do not appear to be able to keep away from that class of lawyers who are as ready, or more so, to defend the wrong as the right, and always watching to hire on the side that will pay the most. Is it not obvious that a client is better off without such a lawyer than with? unless indeed he is also corrupt, and wishes to escape from justice through the infernal technicalities and quibbles of corrupt lawyers who are a disgrace to the profession.

To avoid supporting such a nuisance, be wise, and arbitrate all differences, and in this way compel the itching palmed gentry to go to raising potatoes, to engaging in some other useful occupation, or to leave the country, and thus rid the community of a serious source of annoyance to all who love righteousness.

WHEAT AND OTHER PRODUCE.—As a time is again at hand for operations in farming, gardening, setting out trees, &c., it may be thought by some that the "News" should be stirring up its readers in regard to these matters; but it is taken for granted that each one is aware of the "signs of the times," is familiar with the adaptability of his soil to the products he desires to raise, and knows the necessity for good fences, and of joining works to his faith. This being the case, it only remains for the "News" to furnish, from time to time, such additional information for the promotion of the great producing interest as may come to hand from any source. In the mean time it would seem to be good policy for farmers to get hold of labor saving implements as fast as possible, such as the best seed drills, reaping machines, &c., &c., that fewer hands may be able to raise more produce with far less labor. By all means let seasonable storage be made for properly preserving the rich products of the soil, that when they are gathered they can be placed in a position to be wisely used, for rest assured, that all that can be raised will be needed.

PAMPHLETS neatly stitched and covered, and containing "Discourses delivered by Presidents Joseph Smith and Brigham Young on the relation of the "Mormons" to the Government of the United States," for sale at the Post Office.

THE WEATHER, since the 27th ult., has been cloudier, though part of the time very clear and pleasant, and much seeding, gardening, and setting out of trees has been done. Early peas and radishes are up and growing nicely. During the last four days showers of rain, and snow squalls have been putting the ground in admirable condition for the development of this year's crops. Wednesday, 14th, cloudy and cool. Thursdy, 15th, a.m., snowing.

## Items from Miscellaneous Correspondence.

By letters from Elder A. Badlam to Elders George A. and John L. Smith, dated at Sacramento Jan. 12, and 17, we learn that he is becoming more familiar with the Chinese, and their language, and is pleased with their character, and intelligence, in proportion to his acquaintance. He gives them much credit for energy, industry, determination, and punctuality, remarking that a trader in Sacramento told him that during

four years deal he had lost but little, if any, by the Chinese, but much by other purchasers. He also adds that they are liberal and obliging, have a strong attachment to their rites and ceremonies, and a great love of home; sending their dead to China, whenever practicable.

—Elder J. C. L. Smith writes to Elder George A. Smith from Parowan, Feb. 19, that the weather had been remarkably fine, and the grist and saw mills were doing a good business; and, under date Feb. 21, that the Iron Company had built a small furnace for experimenting on their ores and fluxes, and that their was a fair prospect of their soon making good iron.

—We respectfully suggest to our friend at San Bernardino, who signs himself 'A Know-Something,' that the size of the 'News' compels us to omit many articles that might otherwise find a place in its columns. Also, that we are fully aware of the corruptions and abominations of 'the lower world,' and that the inhabitants of this earth are constantly 'waxing worse and worse,' in fulfilment of prophecy. Still, if there are any in Utah who are not satisfied on this point, let them go down and examine, the road is open and free; and on the other hand, those who are in the caldron cannot escape for the present unless they come up into the pure moral atmosphere of Utah. Will not 'A Know-Something' write again?

[We shall be obliged to our correspondents if they will quit writing their communications upon tissue paper, for it compels us either to impose upon the compositors, to reject the article, or re-copy it.—[Ed.]

## Western Summary.

In our Western papers we notice but few items of news, except of a local interest. Dec. 31, a severe storm visited quite a portion of the northern part of California, during which houses, house roofs, trees, tents, awnings, &c., were blown down, and some mining flames washed away, or damaged by the sudden rising of the streams. Much rain and snow had fallen in the forepart of January, but at latest accounts not enough to fully supply the requirements of the miners, though sufficient to moisten the soil for the plow which the farmers were busy in using.

There is the usual lengthy list of revolting crimes of almost every description, and occurring in various parts of the State, the printing of which, aside from being worse than useless, would crowd out matter that is much more interesting and valuable to our readers.

Another feature in their society might awaken the reflective, if they would but stop a little in their mad career after money and immoral pleasures, and that is the frequency of the death penalty adjudged by Lynch court, and administered by its officers; especially where they have so many towering church steeples, such a numerous corps of sanctimonious priests, judges, and lawyers, and so voluminous a mass of statute law, and backed up by the labyrinths, mazes, uncertainties, injustice, and nonsense of "common law."

For a further understanding of the position of affairs in one locality we publish the following editorial found in the Sacramento Union of Dec. 30, 1854.

THE RECENT RENCONTRES.—The unenviable notoriety which the city of San Francisco long since acquired, as a town unequalled for the number of duels, affrays, rows, and personal rencontres of various kinds perpetrated within its limits, has been enhanced by the disturbances of the last few days, of which full particulars have been heretofore given in the columns of this journal. These personal encounters on public thoroughfares exhibit an utter disregard of the laws, a recklessness of human life, an indifference to public opinion, and a spirit of malevolence and revenge unparalleled by similar occurrences elsewhere. There is a radical defect somewhere. Either our statutes are so inoperative, or our legal authorities so lax or corrupt, that the violator of the laws stands in no dread of punishment, or else the passions of men are more ungovernable here than in the lands from whence they came. Certain it is that crime and its attendant ills are by no means on the decrease in the metropolis of the Pacific. Murders, forgeries, duels, robberies, thefts, assaults, personal collisions, incendiarism, adulteries and seductions, were never more ripe than now. The law sometimes reaches the perpetrators, but the guilty often escapes through its meshes. In a community where the law maker is so frequently the law breaker, it is next to impossible for justice to be visited upon the offender. When vice and corruption are countenanced and indulged in by those who sit in judgment on the evil doings of men, it is folly to suppose that society will be improved so long as they are, by their example, if not in precept, undermining its stability and purity. We do not want established laws subverted, but such result will assuredly, in time, be brought about, if the officers and ministers of the laws continue to be either unprincipled, incompetent, derelict in duty, or unduly exercised by extraneous influences."

## Buried Cities of the West.

Every fact recorded by the Spanish historians would go to show, that there has existed in Central America a vast empire, of great civilization and great antiquity. It must be so old as to have received the traditions of the creation as they were known to Moses, and so civilized as to have perpetuated them in writing. The fact of the builders of these ruined cities having taught their barbarous conquerors, the Tascans and the Aztecs, to adore a nameless and a formless Deity, would seem to argue an antiquity to which the imagination can scarcely rise. There is no reason to suppose that Phenicia could have sent forth a colony with ideas of the Deity such as these; nor can we ascribe to that commercial, corrupt, and idolatrous city of commerce, the knowledge of the true account of the creation and the event of the deluge, which the Spanish historians and the early missionaries agree to have been old among the traditions of the aborigines of Polynesia and among the people of Mexico, when Europeans first appeared upon the continent and among the islands. How, then, did

these dwellers in Central America obtain the knowledge of the creation and the deluge? Fortuitous coincidence is impossible. The fact of their knowledge rests upon testimony, which, in the case of any ordinary historical fact would be held indispensable. The zealous Catholics who studied the Maya language, and constructed admirable grammars and vocabularies of this and other American tongues, read the traditions in their ancient books with much wonder, but with so little favour, that they ascribed the knowledge to Satan. Spaniards, lay and ecclesiastic, looked upon the whole system as a device of the devil and a work of magic, and they destroyed priests, temples, and books, with indiscriminate hostility. It was not likely that they would invent for the benefit of these "miserable heathen" a knowledge of the revelation made by God to man of the early history of the earth. Bernal Diaz and De Solis, Villa Guierre, and Cogolludo, may be dishonest in their descriptions, or in their compilations; the books of bark, the writings upon cotton, and the hieroglyphic books seen at Zempoala, may be fictitious or modern forgeries; but the testimony that these are not so is at present very strong, and not disproved. On the other hand, there is nothing impossible in the suggestion that the race which strewed monuments over lands that are now deserts and forests, may have been, as their traditions assert, the grand-children of Noah, and the contemporaries of the patriarchs. The subject is at any rate worthy of research, and yet how little it has been investigated!—[New Quarterly review.]

[It is amusing to observe the numerous guessings, suppositions, and wide-off-the-mark comments of professedly learned men concerning the American Continent and its ancient inhabitants. To save the waste of so much time and paper with such foolish results, we respectfully refer the New Quarterly Review and all people, whether learned or unlearned, to the Book of Mormon which contains an authentic and correct sketch of the condition of the Western Hemisphere, its settlements and inhabitants, from near the time of the confusion of languages at the Tower of Babel to about the fifth century after the resurrection of the Messiah. In addition to filling a wide gap in the world's history, and which at present is filled in no other way, the Book of Mormon will inform its readers of the dealings of the Lord towards America's ancient inhabitants and His desires and designs in regard to those now occupying it, together with much plain doctrine necessary to be understood and observed by all who desire salvation in the Celestial kingdom of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.—[En.]

EDITOR OF THE DESERET NEWS:—

Sir,—If the accompanying document meets your views I place it at your discretion.

Very respectfully,

G. HURT.

G. S. L. City, March 12, 1855.

## Greatest Enterprise of The Day.

In course of the development of our widely extended western domain, an urgent necessity has arisen for a more facillitous and reliable mode of communication between the Pacific Coast and the Valley of the Mississippi.

In view of this fact, the public mind has long been engaged, and often puzzled in efforts to solve the practicability of a Railroad across the Rocky Mountains—and while we admit that the subject is one before whose magnitude the mind of the boldest speculator would be likely to falter, yet a reasonable conclusion, based upon that indomitable spirit of enterprise, which pervades, and animates the bosoms of a patriotic people, leaves no doubt of its practicability, or ultimate consummation. To promote this object, and to accomplish other useful purposes which are making urgent demands upon the public attention, a daily line of Stages from Missouri to California via G. S. L. City presents itself as indispensable, and as a harbinger of the early completion of the great and magnificent scheme, a Railroad to the Pacific.

The subject of a daily line of Stages, though of recent origin, has engrossed the attention, and engaged a lively interest in its behalf among the great masses of the people both East and West. Some are busily engaged in calculating the probabilities of its success, while others, with all the capital at their command, necessary to put the whole work into speedy motion, are vacillating between doubt and resolution.—They view with eager delight the golden visions which the contemplation of so great a scheme would naturally conjure up in the mind of the money loving miser; but they turn again and fix their gaze upon the almighty dollar and tremble with fear, that it might escape their grasp.

A few suggestions drawn principally from actual observation during a winter trip across the plains might perhaps be of some utility to those who feel an interest in the subject.

In all great enterprises, what most retards their progress is, an inability in the human mind to calculate with accuracy, the probability of success or failure. In order to obviate this difficulty, and to bring the work more completely within the comprehension of the mind of the undertakers; we propose that the whole route be divided into at least three divisions, and that each division be let to a separate company of contractors.

Let so much of the route as lies between Fort Leavenworth and Fort Laramie be let to one set of contractors, and so much of the route as lies between Laramie and G. S. L. City be let to a second set of contractors, residing at G. S. L. City. The remainder of the route to be let to a third set of contractors residing in California. This arrangement, would place the whole route more directly under the supervision of its contractors, and enable them to calculate more accurately the cost of an outfit, and the amount of capital necessary to be invested. It would also act as a barrier against any attempt that might be made to convert it into a monopoly of wealth and power, to mark its impress for weal or woe, upon the political institutions of the vast expanse of country over which it passes.

Put this line of Stages into operation, and the Telegraph will soon be erected upon its route isolating time and space, whereby the slightest pulsation of the great heart of the nation would fly upon the wings of lightning to her most distant shores, and whereby the perils, and sufferings of the care-worn pioneer, would vibrate upon the sympathies of a mighty people.

We claim it also as the harbinger of a Railroad to the Pacific. It will furnish every facility for a more thorough exploration of the country over which it passes, and be the means of settling with a thriving population numerous tracts which are now a waste, developing their resources, and bringing the public to a more correct estimate of their value.