

## DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, - APRIL 4, 1883.

## THE CHOIR EXCURSION.

THE Tabernacle Choir and a large number of their friends, occupying four coaches, went to Provo by the 2 p. m. express on Saturday. They were very kindly received by the good people of Provo, arrangements having been made to accommodate them among the Saints in various parts of the City, the Presidency of the Stake, Bishops and others being on hand with their usual hospitality.

The concert in the evening was given to a large audience in the Tabernacle under the direction of Professor E. Beesley, the organ being manipulated by Prof. J. J. Daynes. The entertainment was successful in every way and was thoroughly appreciated.

Sunday morning the Tabernacle Choir attended the services in the Provo Tabernacle and sang five pieces in excellent style. The congregation, which crowded the building, was addressed by Elders George Goddard and C. W. Penrose.

Most of the party returned to Salt Lake in the evening, singing hymns and anthems by the way. The trip, the visit to friends, the concert and meeting were highly enjoyed, and nothing occurred to mar the pleasures of the journey except the detention of some of the company, through a misunderstanding, at Provo. The cars for the excursionists were on a side track, and when the train came in from the south and backed on to the excursion cars, it was thought that the train would be pulled out a little way and backed down to the platform. But after the cars were coupled and the conductor had called "all aboard," the train pushed out for Salt Lake, leaving several persons who had intended to come home standing on the platform, mingling with the crowd of friends who had congregated to witness their departure. However, they came in on this morning's train, and suffered no serious inconvenience from the mishap.

The Tabernacle Choir always have a good time, because they not only make sweet music but are in harmony with each other, and are not afflicted with pride and other hindrances to mutual aid and rational enjoyment. Cordial thanks are due to the people of Provo for their liberality.

## CRIME AND EDUCATION.

WE have on several occasions offered proofs of the fallacy of the commonly accepted theory that education is a cure for crime. Of course we use the word "education" in its popular sense, signifying intellectual culture. We have taken the ground that the learning obtained in the schools is not an antidote to vice, and that the worst of criminals are the educated rogues. Mere intellectual acquirements do not necessarily affect the moral and spiritual nature for good. And when the disposition is evil, the greater the knowledge the stronger the power to do evil.

Statistics of prison life in the United States will show that it is not the illiterate who commit the greatest crimes, and that the proportion of persons who can read and right is greater than of those who are unlettered. A French report recently published gives evidence in the same direction. According to the figures presented, "26,000 persons of the class wholly illiterate in that country furnish five criminals; 25,000 of the class able to read and write furnish six criminals; 25,000 of the class favored with superior instruction more than fifteen criminals. The conclusion drawn is that the increase of crime is in direct ratio with the amount of instruction received;

that in the departments in which instruction is most "disseminated," crime is greatly more prevalent. In other words, that morality is in inverse ratio with instruction. Lastly, that relapse into crime is much greater among the instructed than the non-instructed portion of the community."

The trouble is that the rising generation is not really educated, but only taught intellectually. Moral and spiritual training is greatly neglected. Mathematics, geography, grammar or physics will not cultivate the moral faculties or develop the spiritual nature of the pupil. God is banished from the common school room and religion is interdicted. The state takes the teaching of children out of the hands of the church and therefore the whole system of education is secularized. While there are so many diverse religions and so many people who are opposed to religious societies altogether, it cannot be very well ordered differently. The Protestant does not want his children educated in Catholic tenets, the Catholic will not suffer his children to imbibe Protestantism if he can help it, the Jew does not wish his children to become Christians, and the infidel objects to his children being taught any creed whatever. The consequence is that the unbelievers have their way, and the pupils in the public schools receive little if any moral instruction and no religious training at all.

Who can wonder that the spirit of the age leads to skepticism, when it is considered that the juvenile mind is left untutored in religious precepts, and who can reasonably expect that education will prevent crime, when morality and religion form no part of common school tuition?

We fear that unless some better system of education is adopted among the Latter-day Saints, their children will grow up to some extent with similar tendencies to those in the world. Contrary to general belief abroad, our religion is not taught in the District Schools. The public schools of Utah are such that the children of persons belonging to any denomination may attend without fear on the part of the parents that they will be trained in "Mormon" tenets. Under the circumstances we cannot expect or advise any change. If common school education is to be under the control of the State, denominational teaching will have to be excluded, and thus religion must be measurably if not entirely shut out, because it is almost impossible to divest it of the bias of the society in control.

But we think that if the primary schools are left under territorial or state direction, supported partly or entirely by public funds, and that thus religious instruction cannot be included in the system, schools might be established under ecclesiastical direction of an intermediate kind, in which the public funds would not be used in any way but the support would come from church resources, and thus an influence could be consistently exercised in favor of morality and religion, according to the principles and doctrines of the Church which to us is the embodiment of the truths of heaven and the will and word of the Almighty. These would be stepping stones to a higher or university education when desired. They would be occupied by young people whose minds would be sufficiently developed to sense and comprehend the value and force of spiritual and moral teachings and influences, and would be a powerful aid to the formation of character and the training of our children in that direction which we regard as essential to their present and eternal welfare.

Sunday Schools are most excellent institutions. They are doing a splendid work in Israel. They ought to be encouraged and supported. There are no better in any country than in Utah. But they take hold of our children only one day out of seven, and the rest of the week the little folks, outside of such teachings as they may receive at home (and how much do some of them receive of that?) are under instruction from which religion is almost if not quite excluded. Five days to the secular, part of one day to the religious! We think there should be a change in this policy, and we are of the opinion that the establishment of such schools as we have here suggested, could be made successful in every way, and that they would be a blessing to parents and children.

Of one thing we are persuaded: Godless schools will not send out godly children to become faith-in-

spired, spiritually trained and morally matured men and women. The history of secular education in this country and other parts of the civilized world, is fruitful with lessons for our people, and if we are wise in our generation we will avoid the errors which others have fallen into. Industrial, moral and spiritual education for the young is one of the needs of the times, and forms a problem well worthy the attention of the best minds of the period.

## SCHOOL TAX ASSESSMENT.

A FEW weeks ago we made some explanations of the law in relation to school meetings, in answer to questions from a school trustee, showing that in the election of trustees only registered voters can take part, while for the assessment of a school tax it requires a two-thirds vote of the resident taxpayers. The main purpose of the article was to define the difference between the class of voters for the election of a school trustee and that for the assessment of a school tax.

But it appears that this required a little further explanation, as some persons have drawn the inference that for the assessment of a school tax a vote of two-thirds of the property tax-payers resident in the district is required. This is a mistake. It is a two-thirds majority vote of such tax-payers, present at a meeting called for that purpose, that is to determine that question. This is an important difference. If two-thirds of the property tax-payers were necessary, it would in many places be impossible to assess a school tax because they could not be induced to assemble. But as the law stands, when the meeting has been duly called—by notice given at least ten days before the time appointed, either by advertising three times in some newspaper published in the county and having general circulation therein, or by posting up notices in three public places in the district—a two-thirds majority of those resident property tax-payers who are present at the meeting may assess a school tax on the taxable property of the district, not to exceed two per cent in one year. If objection is had to the assessing of such a tax upon the property of those who had no voice in the levy, the answer is, they should have attended to the meeting and have spoken or voted for themselves.

The law is very plain and pointed on these matters, but it seems that some trustees do not post themselves in regard to their duties and authority, and therefore they do not understand them alike. And it is a curious fact that when it comes to voting for assessments for educational purposes, those who make the loudest cry for "free schools" usually throw the greatest obstacles in the way of raising the necessary funds. It is easy to talk about "educating the masses," but when it comes to paying the expenses, the pretended friends of learning are often the least in favor of taxes for its support.

## NEW MARKET FOR UTAH PRODUCTS.

THE Denver and Rio Grande Railroad is expected to complete its line connecting the capitals of Colorado and Utah by Friday, March 30th or Saturday the 31st at the latest. Regular passenger traffic however will not be commenced just yet, but the road will be open for freight by the 1st of April.

The benefits of this new outlet for Utah will be very soon perceived. Leaving out all considerations of the competition which it may promote for the passenger and carrying trade to and from the east, there will be new fields opened for local enterprise. Between Salt Lake and Denver supplies will be needed by the settlers in new places, and our farmers and gardeners will find a market for their produce all the way to the Colorado centre.

Utah vegetables and fruit are noted for their excellent quality and flavor. The new road will afford facilities for their shipment to points, both in Utah and Colorado, where they are not raised at present and will not be for some time to come. And although Colorado now raises most of its own potatoes and much other "garden stuff," yet the excellence of Utah products will give them an advantage in the cities

and mining camps of our eastern neighbor now brought into swift and easy business connection with us.

Our gardeners should be prepared to take advantage of the trade thus opening up. During the coming summer and fall, vegetables and fruits will be in demand along the new line, and if freights are regulated with an eye regard to Utah business interests—as we have reason to believe they will be—our gardeners and orchardists will find profitable markets for their wares. Onions, cabbage, beets, potatoes, tomatoes and different kinds of garden products will be wanted and large breadths should be planted by those who expect to supply the demand. Fruits of all varieties, too, will find ready sale.

And here we would call attention to the necessity of foresight in preparing proper receptacles for the careful shipment of both fruits and vegetables, so that they may be kept from damage and may present an attractive appearance. If our farmers and exporters expect to compete with eastern growers and dealers, they must put up their goods in such shape as to please the eyes of the purchasers. Slovenly and ill-packed goods will not command the market, and unfair dealing—putting good kinds on the top and poor ones underneath—will not retain it. Honesty, thrift, neatness and promptness will effect much in this business as well as everything else, and we throw out these hints for the benefit of our farming friends.

The connection of this city with Denver, of this Territory with the flourishing State of Colorado, cannot fail to be beneficial to our commercial interests, if our business men and producers are only wide awake to the opportunities that will be afforded them by the completion of the new road. We congratulate the Denver and Rio Grande Company on their enterprise, and wish it full and complete success in every way.

## THE HAVER TICK HOMICIDE.

THERE will be general satisfaction over the discharge of George W. Conkling, who shot Wm. H. Haverstick in New York on the 19th of March. The particulars of the case have appeared in our dispatches. Haverstick had induced Mr. Conkling's sister to leave her husband, J. Clement Uhler, with whom he had been in business partnership. The husband and wife quarreled, the temptor stepped in and seduced the wife from her home and the guilty parties had lived together about two years. Mr. Conkling, Mrs. Uhler's brother, is a U.S. Surveyor and lives at Reno, Nevada. He went to New York to make a reconciliation if possible between his sister and her husband, or induce her to leave her paramour and come and live with him, promising her that though unable to provide her with luxuries he would make her comfortable. She consented, and on his going to the house where she lived with Haverstick, with whom she had been quarrelling, an altercation ensued, Haverstick throwing off his coat and throwing an image at Conkling, when the latter drew a revolver and shot his assailant, who died in a few minutes.

At the coroner's inquest it was elicited that Haverstick had behaved with brutality to the woman whom he had seduced, and that Conkling's deed was done in self-defence; yet as the verdict of the jury was that the deceased came to his death by a wound inflicted by Conkling, and the shot was fired under great provocation, the prisoner was re-committed to the Tombs. However, he was admitted to bail on his case being taken before a Judge of the Supreme Court and, when the charge was made against him before the Police Justice, he was acquitted on the ground of justifiable homicide.

It will be considered by many that the case ought to have been submitted to a jury. This, no doubt, would have been more satisfactory in every way. The killing of a human being ought not to be passed over as of little moment, even though the evidence, so far, all runs against the deceased and is such as to enlist public sympathy in favor of the slayer. And it would be better for the accused to be cleared by a jury of his countrymen of any imputation of guilt than to be discharged without a full and fair examination.

That Haverstick was worthy of death few persons will attempt to deny, and that Conkling was justified in slaying his sister's betrayer most people will admit. And if the adulterer or seducer—the invader of family honor or the betrayer of maiden confidence and virtue—were always in danger of meeting a just reward for his villainy, there would be fewer blasted homes and wrecked and shameful lives in the world. But the penalties against the defiler of woman should be made adequate by the law and be legally inflicted. Private vengeance ought not to be necessary. It is a poor substitute for legal punishment. But it is better than none, and while we deplore the need for it here or elsewhere, we cannot utter a word of blame when a husband, father or brother of a betrayed woman takes the law into his own hands and smites the guilty villain unto death. If a few of such scoundrels were made to bite the dust in these parts, the moral atmosphere of this region would, in our opinion, be much pleasanter to breathe.

## LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY, MARCH 19

**State Convention.**—The Delegates to the State Convention should bear in mind that the adjourned meeting is set for April 10th, at 2 p. m.

**Southern States Mission.**—Today President John Morgan was to leave Chattanooga with a company of Saints from the Southern States Mission, bound for Manassas, Colorado.

**Elder B. H. Roberts, of Centerville, Davis County,** has been set apart to meet Brother Morgan and assist him in the presidency of the Mission.

**A Mysterious Matter.**—The Ogden Herald contains lengthy details of the finding of the body of a newly born female infant at Mound Fort, Weber County, last Monday evening. The remains were discovered by some children at play in the rear of a stable owned by Mr. Michael Wahlen, and a short distance north of the lot of Mr. Powell. An inquest was held on Tuesday by Coroner Mark Hall and a jury, but the investigation failed to discover the mother of the child.

**Fatal Accident.**—A very sad accident occurred on the U. P. R. R. at Rawlins, on Monday. Just as train No. 7 was pulling out from that place, William Lally, aged 25 years, was about to go from a coach to the caboose, instead of stepping from one platform to the other he attempted to step on the drawhead, when a sudden side motion of the train threw him between the cars. The wheels ran across his neck and shoulders, breaking both arms and crushing him fearfully. His death was almost instantaneous. The train was stopped as quickly as possible and the remains carried back to the station. Lally's wife and seven children were on the car with him, but neither of them witnessed the accident.

**A Singular Incident.**—The other day a peculiar incident occurred in Denver likely to result in the death of a human being. Dan. Hogan was driving a switch engine of the Kansas Pacific Railroad near a vacant lot where some boys were playing base-ball. A crowd of rowdy lads threw several volleys of stones into the cab of the engine. This so incensed Hogan that he leaped from the engine and rushed toward the crowd to punish them. They scampered in every direction, while Florence Smith, a colored boy of seventeen years, lay prone on the ground convulsed with hilarious laughter, incited by the scare. Hogan gave him several vigorous kicks, and although he protested his innocence, also gave him some severe slaps. With the agility of a tiger, the lad seized a base-ball bat, sprang to his feet and, as quick as thought, brought it down upon Hogan's head with such terrific force as to lay the skull bare by a long ghastly gash. Hogan fell to the ground insensible, and to all appearance dead, while Smith stood and looked at him in horror. The latter was seized by some people and kicked and beaten by them. The moment he was released he fled from the spot with the fleetness of a deer, and at last accounts had not since been seen. Hogan was so badly hurt that no hopes were entertained of his recovery.