

# DESERET NEWS:

## WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - APRIL, 19, 1876.

### THE SEASON.

THE present is one of the most backward seasons we recollect to have experienced in these valleys. The winter was exceptionally mild in the lower valleys, but severe in the upper valleys, and long drawn out in both, long at both ends in the upper valleys. Nevertheless, the general harvest may come along about as early as usual, though of course early crops are likely to be later.

Of late years our springs and of course our sowing and planting times have been more uncertain, irregular, and precarious than they were in former times. It was common years ago to have three or four weeks settled weather in March, so that plowing and digging and early sowing and planting could be done continuously, and be followed by two or three weeks of wet weather, which served to give the small seeds and grain a good start. Of late years, however, the weather has often been more mixed in the early spring, hardly giving time after rain or snow for the soil to dry sufficiently for good working before another storm broke and more wet fell. It has been this way in this locality this season, inasmuch that there has yet been comparatively little sowing and planting done, except in the drier soils. This causes farm and garden work now to be rushing, and cultivators of the soil to be the most busy of men, that they may get their necessary early work done before the hot, dry weather shall come on, which it may do all at once, and then in a week or two there will be plenty of wishes for more rain.

There is one thing favorable to good crops, and that is the large amount of snow that has fallen on the mountains, which, if it does not melt too suddenly, will produce an unusually liberal amount of water for irrigation. If the snow should melt very quickly, then the streams and ditches and embankments will need looking after to prevent serious damage by floods.

### WONDERFUL POWER OF GUN-POWDER.

LAST week the residents of this city learned by experience something of the wonderful force pent up in gunpowder, and other powders of similar nature. The following from Appleton's American Encyclopedia will be found interesting upon the same subject—

"The wonderful power developed by the explosion of gunpowder is shown by the experiments of Count Rumford. He loaded a mortar with one-twentieth of an ounce of powder, and closing up every aperture he placed a cannon so as to rest upon the charge with a pressure of 8,081 lbs. On firing, the mortar burst with a loud explosion, raising the cannon upon it. Twenty-eight grains of powder closely confined in a cylindrical space which it just filled on exploding burst a bar of iron capable of resisting a strain of 200 tons.

"One of the most remarkable gunpowder explosions on record occurred at Wilmington, Del., May 31, 1854. Three wagons from Dupont's mills, loaded with 150 barrels of powder, which contained 12,000 lbs., were passing through the town near together. By some means fire was communicated to the powder, and the whole blew up. The effects were felt in the buildings for more than a mile around. Some were destroyed; windows in those near by were burst in; in others the nearest windows to the explosion were burst in, and the others out; while in those further off the force was exerted outward. A wagon tire was torn off the wheel, and a piece left on a hill a quarter of a mile off. Shoes were stripped off the feet of the horses, and in the houses the casters from the furniture and the hinges from the doors. Under the wagons depressions were made in the hard macadamized road by a condensa-

tion of the earth. The one under the middle wagon measured 10 by 5, and was three feet deep. Cast iron water pipes four or five feet below the surface were broken off.

"The most terrible explosion which ever occurred was that at Brescia in August, 1767. In the vaults of the church of St. Nazaire a large quantity of ammunition was stored belonging to the republic of Venice. This was fired by a stroke of lightning, 207,600 lbs. exploding at once, reducing nearly one sixth of the city to ruins, and destroying about 3,000 of the inhabitants."

The above instances are of explosions of ordinary gunpowder, but the Giant and Hercules powders, dynamite, nitro-glycerine, etc., are vastly more powerful and destructive, and some of them are exceedingly uncertain and dangerous in regard to liability to explode with slight cause.

### IN A BAD WAY.

THE people, or rather the politicians, office-holders, etc., of the United States are very busy washing and airing their soiled linen. Badly soiled indeed it is, or is made to appear. While it may not be just to accept all one hears about the condition of that linen, still it is almost if not quite impossible to reject all the charges that are made and the testimony that is offered in support of those charges. On the contrary, one is almost obliged to believe that the morals of public life in this country, and in the high places of the nation too, are in a very deplorable condition. Day after day new revelations are made, which, if only half true, should cause the blush of shame to suffuse the cheeks of every American citizen, and which does serve to moderate the desires of Old World people to come and take up their permanent residence in this land of freedom.

To-day we have news of a strange state of affairs in Chicago, a state approaching civil war, or anarchy, which of the two the future must determine, for vigilance committee or Lynch law is really civil war, one portion of the community arrayed against another portion, and the law of the land entirely out of the question, and vigilance business is broadly talked of.

While all these disconcerting things are going on in the States east of the mountains, our citizens will do well to pursue the even tenor of their way, and endeavor to build up and establish a community where morality, law, and order shall be respected, and where the virtues and not the vices shall rule.

### THE PRESIDENT IN A PREDICAMENT.

OUR dispatches the other day reported that President Grant would veto the bill reducing the presidential salary to the old figure, \$25,000. This salary business places President Grant in a very unpleasant predicament. Of all the eighteen presidents of the United States, to him attaches the unenviable distinction of being the only one who signed a bill to double, or even to increase, his own salary. This is not generally considered very creditable, as witness the bill passed by the present Congress to reduce the salary to the original figure. For an official to wish to have his own salary increased is natural enough, and it is not necessarily censurable for him to sign a bill to have it increased, when it can be legitimately increased in no other way. But for any official to sign a bill to double his own salary, to make the amount paid to himself double that paid to any other incumbent of the same office since the foundation of the Government, is, to say the least, a very suspicious act, an act favoring self more than the public weal, and virtually saying that he thinks that his services are worth double those of any of his predecessors in that office.

If President Grant has vetoed the salary reduction bill, or if he shall veto it, he will appear to be antagonistic to the dictates of that spirit of economy and retrenchment to which two or three years of very hard times have compelled the people of the country generally to give heed.

If he shall approve the bill, he will appear, after having received the doubled salary during his own term of office, to have no objections to his successor receiving only the original salary, but half what he has been receiving.

If he has vetoed the bill, or shall do so, and Congress shall fail to pass it over his veto, he will also be in the unpleasant position of placing his successor in a somewhat similar predicament—that of receiving double the salary which, if Congress shall pass a similar reduction bill during that successor's term, and he shall approve it, he will be willing should be received by his successor in office.

If President Grant has vetoed the bill, or shall veto it, and Congress shall not pass it over his veto, and, during the term of his successor or successors in office, Congress shall pass a similar bill or bills, and that successor or those successors, taking advantage of the precedent President Grant shall have set them, shall veto that bill or those bills, and Congress shall fail to pass the desired law over the veto, then President Grant will stand forth in history as the one great obstacle in the way of the much desired economic policy, and as the fixer of the doubled presidential salary upon the national expenditure, perhaps for ever.

Thus does the President appear to be in an unpleasant predicament, let him now act as he will in this matter. The great trouble was in the beginning, the first step taken in the business. If the increase of the presidential salary had only been from \$25,000 to \$30,000, or \$35,000, and possibly even to \$40,000, there would not have been so great an outcry against it, nor need the President have had such strong scruples against signing the reduction bill, seeing the long and great hardness of the times and the consequent general enforced retrenchment throughout the country. But the original step was such a large one, the increase was not ten or twenty, but a hundred per cent., perhaps an unprecedented thing in official life. This makes the act of increase to stand out as so disagreeably notable, and would cause the approval of the reduction bill to appear so invidiously distinctive in favor of himself and in disfavor of his successor in office. The first evil step is the step that does the mischief.

Of course it is a matter of great regret to us that the Chief Magistrate of the Union should be in such a predicament, and we should be pleased to help him out of it if we could. It would have been much easier at first to help him to keep out of it, if it had been within our province.

### THE "MORMON" PRESS.

AN Idaho paper remarks in this way—

"However the Utah press is to be condemned for standing by their religious belief, a Mormon newspaper is seldom seen advocating the wrong side of a question."

We do not see wherein any press can be justly condemned for defending its religious belief. If a people really believe anything, that belief is conscientious belief, and to be conscientious people they must defend or stand by that belief. It is their indefeasible right to do this, and if they do it they are entitled to the respect of their fellow-citizens for their conscientiousness, their integrity to their convictions. So far as the "Mormon" or Utah press does this, it is entitled to respectful consideration.

If "Mormon" newspapers, as stated by our Idaho contemporary, are "seldom seen advocating the wrong side of a question," that fact is one that redounds to their credit in a very high degree. Would to God we could make a similar comment in regard to the press generally. A mighty engine the press is, for good or for evil, and it must be confessed that not infrequently its mightiness is directed in the interest of evil.

So far as the News is concerned it may be stated that the endeavor is always to advocate the right side, the inherently right side, of a question, and never the wrong side, whether treating upon religion, or politics, or any other subject.

—The Iowa Legislature finally failed by one vote to restore the death penalty.

### Local and Other Matters.

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY, APRIL 13.

**Utah Reservation.**—A bill was passed in Congress to-day, restoring the Utah reservation, in this Territory, to the public domain.

**A Large Audience.**—People of all classes flocked to the Gilmore matinee concert, at the New Tabernacle this afternoon, the audience numbering about two thousand.

During the performance at the Tabernacle this afternoon, the principal stores of the city were closed, to allow the clerks and employees an opportunity of attending.

The 14th Infantry Band from Camp Douglas met the troupe at the Depot last evening, and escorted them with torch lights to the Theatre.

**Land Patents.**—The following cash patents have been published as being at the Land Office in this city, and ready for delivery—

Andrew Allen, Orson D. Despain, Wm. H. Clayton, Frederick Boyed, John Armstrong, William Lowe, Mary Bentley, Peter C. Petersen, Jeas P. Jensen, Henry A. Ferguson, Wilmet J. Bowen, John J. Bauser, Ebenezer Hanks, George P. Jensen, Judson L. Stoddard, Ransom D. Mitchell.

**Served Him Right.**—Yesterday a fellow giving the name of Ed. Fisher, a transient, visited a house on Commercial street and asked a woman residing there if she would do washing for him, and, after some maneuvering, subsequently made indecent proposals to her, when she, very properly and indignantly, picked up a chair and went at him with the view of pulverizing him, he beating a hasty and disorderly retreat. On the arrival of the lady's husband, the latter went out on a hunt for the brutal fellow, succeeding in finding him in the Theatre, where he was arrested by the police.

This morning Fisher was taken before Justice Pyper, who gave him what he deserved, by fining him \$100 and sentencing him to imprisonment for thirty days.

**Serious Accident.**—This morning George Moncey, son of Peter Moncey, was coming from Hooper with a team, and while walking on one side of the wagon, the horses commenced to run, when he reached for the lines, which were tied to the seat, when he fell under the fore wheel, which passed over his left arm, producing a compound dislocation of the elbow and a comminuted fracture of the arm above the elbow, the bone protruding the skin. He got into the wagon and managed to drive into Ogden. Dr. P. L. Anderson set the bones, but is doubtful whether he can save the limb.—Ogden Junction, April 11.

**Gilmore's Concert.**—The very large audience present at the Theatre last evening furnished an additional and overwhelming proof that the love of music is very strong among the Salt Lake public, and that the expectation of a musical entertainment of a high order of merit will ensure substantial patronage; for the building was filled to its utmost capacity with an audience which it is safe to say included a large percentage of the most intelligent and respectable inhabitants of the city, anxious to see Mr. P. S. Gilmore, the renowned musical conductor, and to hear his famous band.

One drawback to the pleasure of the large assemblage last evening was the waiting, caused by the late arrival of the band. The performance was announced to begin at 8 o'clock, but the troupe did not reach the city until sometime after that hour, and it was but a little more than a quarter to nine when the first strains of the opening overture were given. However, the audience was very good humored, seemingly determined to be satisfied, no matter what the delay or inconvenience, provided they could have the pleasure of hearing a first-class musical entertainment.

Before raising his baton Mr. Gilmore apologized to the audience for the delay, which he said he very much regretted; he also announced that owing to the non-arrival of some of the music a slight change in the published programme would be necessary, and that instead of giving the overtures of "Robespierre" and "Jubel," the band would play "Semiramide" and "William Tell."

Then commenced the introduction to "Semiramide," the clarionettes and other solo instruments

telling with beautiful effect, and the overture as a whole was performed with a vim, precision and perfection such as a Salt Lake audience never before had the pleasure of hearing. This seemed to have the effect of dispelling every vestige of impatience caused by the delay in the opening of the concert, and elicited enthusiastic applause.

Mr. Letsch's solo on the trombone followed, and while little can be said, really, about the beauties of trombone music, the gentleman gave proof of far more than ordinary skill on this difficult instrument, and received hearty manifestations of the pleasure of his hearers.

"The Awakening of the Lion," by the band, is a composition giving rare opportunities for fine instrumental effects, and the gentlemen of the "Concert Organization" gave abundant evidence of their artistic excellence, the piece being splendidly rendered, and greeted, as it richly deserved, with enthusiastic manifestations of pleasure and delight.

Next came a solo by Mr. Arbuckle, on the cornet, which demonstrated that the fame which that gentleman has acquired on his instrument is well deserved; he received an encore, and responded, performing a well known and favorite negro melody in a style unapproachable save by a master of the instrument.

Then came a song by Miss Thurstby, and in listening to her one is forced to the conclusion that, while her vocal organ is not one of great power, she is a thoroughly educated musician, and that her voice is a soprano of rare purity. She was encored, and responded with a bow; but the audience would not be satisfied so easily, and the lady finally gratified the enthusiasm of her admirers with a very sweet Scotch melody.

"Rhapsodie Hongroise" by the band, formed a splendid finale to the first part of the programme.

Without any intermission the band next gave the fine overture "William Tell," which was a choice piece of instrumentation, and was received with every manifestation of pleasure and delight by the audience.

Mr. Levy and his cornet solo, the "Maid Valse," was next on the programme, and the appearance of that gentleman—his fame having preceded him—was the signal for hearty tokens of welcome by the assemblage. His performance on the cornet can scarcely be spoken of too highly; his double tonguing, triplets and chromatic runs are the perfection of cornet playing, and stamp him as a great master of the instrument. In response to a hearty encore he favored his hearers with the ever famous "Last Rose of Summer," the concluding strains being rendered with such delicacy as to almost resemble an echo borne on the gale.

"Gems of Faust," by the band, was a gem of instrumental excellence, and was followed by the Shadow Song by Miss Thurstby, which was encored; and then came the last number on the programme—Mosaic, "From Concert Air and Variations," by the band, so arranged as to introduce short solos for all the leading instruments—clarinet, cornet, hautboy, saxophone, trombone, etc., all rendered with the ease, precision and finish of very excellent instrumentalists.

After hearing Gilmore's band we feel justified in saying that it is a splendid "Concert Organization" and merits the fame it has acquired. It is not a claptrap affair, with its fame resting upon newspaper puffing; but its members are artists of great ability, and capable of rendering and doing justice to the compositions of the great masters. One very noticeable feature of the entertainment last evening was the great excellence of the accompaniments to the various solos, they were magnificent.

With regard to Mr. Gilmore, as a conductor, we may say that his style is perfectly free, but gentlemanly in the strictest sense; there is no attempt at parade or display, he evidently feels thoroughly at home with the baton, and while witnessing him conduct a band of fifty one can easily believe, as his past history has proved, that he is capable of conducting as many thousands successfully. Mr. Gilmore and his band are the possessors of ability of a high order, and during their visit to the Pacific Coast the people there may rest assured that they will have opportunities of hearing some excellent music; and we hope that the financial success of the