

EXPRESSIONS FROM THE PEOPLE.

OGDEN GENERALITIES—A RACY REVIEW OF THE LATEST SPLURGE OF THE ALLEGED YOUNG DEMOCRACY.

OGDEN CITY, Utah, March 5th, 1885.

Editor Deseret News:

The month of March has fairly set in; but it did not enter like the traditional "Lion;" but it came in

CALM, KEEN AND CUTTING.

The snow has all disappeared from the surface of the ground and some of the roads have already become dry and dusty. In the middle of the day the sun is warm and genial, but mornings and evenings the air is very chilly and ulsters are in requisition. The nights are very cold and the frosts render standing waters and those of some small streams

FRIGID AND GLASSY.

But altogether the weather is seasonable and all that can be desired at this time of the year.

The farmers and gardeners are examining the plows, machines and other implements of industry: they are also looking over their several varieties of small seeds and getting things in order generally ready to commence their spring work which, ere long will be right upon them.

During this winter there have been heavier deposits of snow in the mountains than fell there last year, and if the season opens suddenly and warm as it did last we may again

LOOK FOR HIGH WATERS

and destructive floods, and unless timely precautions are taken those most immediately interested will be no better prepared to fight the watery elements than they were last year, and it is possible that farms, fields and meadows will be unavoidably damaged.

Our commercial matters are still very quiet, the business outlook is not over cheering at the present, and the future prospect is not an enviable one. The merchants do not indulge any very fond anticipations of improvements under the new administration—indeed, the new President's pronounced intentions and policy with regard to the "Mormon" problem, has exercised rather a depressing than an elevating effect upon the minds of those who came

SIMPLY TO MAKE MONEY.

It certainly tends to make business more unsettled, drive away capital from the Territory and to smother the spirit of enterprise, and throw a still greater number of idlers upon the community. But they will all have to be fed by somebody. It is a cause for gratitude that, notwithstanding the stringency of the times, the people have something to eat, something to wear, many of them live in their own homes, and more might do had they remained economical and not become infatuated with a desire to adopt and live for a while up to the spirit and fashions of the times.

We have had a visit from the ALLEGED "YOUNG DEMOCRACY,"

After they arrived here last evening, the 16th Ward brass band paraded the principal streets of the Junction City, with torchlights on their heads. The Opera House was too small to hold their own company and those whom curiosity prompted to go to hear them. But they could not obtain a larger place in which to air their eloquence, the open air was so cold that it would have chilled or frozen their sentiments as soon as they were uttered.

At half-past eight the meeting was organized by appointing Prof. Kingsbury chairman. The speakers on the occasion were J. M. Young, Ben. Sheeks, A. B. Taylor and J. L. Rawlins. The first speaker dwelt mostly on the fact that it was twenty-four years since this country enjoyed the blessings of a democratic government, and congratulated his friends on the restoration of that party again to power. He spoke at some considerable length of the administration of James Buchanan.

He referred the important and difficult questions he had to meet during his reign, but the speaker apparently studiously avoided any mention whatever of Buchanan's nefarious attempt to destroy an inoffensive people by sending out the flower of the American Army fully equipped for destruction. Neither did he tell the people of the miserable failure and the

ARMY'S IGNOBLE DEFEAT.

The orator's tedious and disconnected speech was interlarded with animadversions on the sentiments and faith of his fathers and closed by advising the young "Mormon" of Utah to become as demoralized as he has become, and embrace the youthful democracy of which he is a representative member.

The second speaker hoped all present were good democrats. He then indulged in some lengthy, severe and sweeping strictures on all the older parties in the Territory. Beglating with the old democrats, he said there were an unauthorized few who called themselves the

"CENTRAL COMMITTEE."

He did not know what their duties really were, but they assumed to call meetings, appoint committees, make nominations and then call upon the people to vote their nominees into office. They were irresponsible and the

democracy were not bound by anything this central committee did as a political body.

The republicans are responsible for the present condition of the country, and the speaker was glad that for at least four years to come the people would be free from their dominion.

The "Liberal" party were a class who did not know so much as either the democrats or republicans—they were not wise and could not trust to their own judgment; so they sent to another part of the country for advice and for men to govern the people of Utah. The men to whom they sent know nothing of the ability or the wants of the people of Utah, and hence they sent us men to control and govern us who know nothing about us or our needs, politically or otherwise. The speaker instanced the

UTAH COMMISSION

whose most onerous duties consist in drawing their salary from the National Treasury.

The speaker next paid his respects to the People's Party of Utah. In speaking of them, he made the mistake of saying while the People's Party believe in Local government, they do not believe in Local self-government—whereas the people do believe in Local self-government, and would like the

CONSTITUTIONAL PRIVILEGE

of governing themselves, but the old and new Democracy, the Republicans and il-"Liberals" deny to them their sacred rights. The young Democracy, however would correct all their evils, and hence Ben had cheek to invite all the young men of Ogden to become Democrats of his stripe.

Mr. A. B. Taylor was the third orator of the evening. When he arose to speak, he was much excited; so looking straight ahead, he said, "Mr. Chairman," which elicited considerable merriment from the audience. He then faced around and said, "Excuse, sir," and looking at Mr. Kingsbury, said, "Mr. Chairman." He devoted the first part of his speech (?) to trying to prove that the anti-polygamy law was strictly constitutional and ought to be obeyed, although he declared that those who prosecuted men for polygamy were not worthy to carry the polygamists' shoes. This declaration called forth hisses, groans and applause, and the speaker then delivered himself of a tirade of animadversions on those who practiced plural marriage. He frequently got entangled with his own confused ideas, and said he had forgotten what he was about to say next. At last in mercy, some one from behind

PULLED HIS COAT TAIL,

And with an apology for his deficiency he sat down.

Mr. Rawlins was the last speaker, who in about ten minutes expressed more good sense than all the previous orators. He confined himself to defining and advocating what he conceived to be true Democracy, to the extension of which these young Democrats had devoted themselves. I have not learned that their labors have been rewarded by one convert to their system of enlightenment.

WEBER.

ASTROLOGY AND KINDRED TOPICS.

EVILS THAT SHOULD BE AVOIDED BY THE PEOPLE.

Editor Deseret News:

Ever since the fall of Adam, when the veil was drawn between man and his Maker, there has existed a desire to penetrate the future, to ascertain if possible that which is to be, as well as that which is. This disposition seems to have been inherited; a feeling that had been born with us, and while we perceive our inability to satisfy this desire, yet frequent disappointment does not destroy it, for it continues to make itself manifest, even down to old age.

The darkness with which both the immediate as well as the more distant future is shrouded in many instances, intensifies this longing, to the extent that the most questionable means are often employed to obtain the end desired. This is fully exemplified in the history of King Saul when he sought out the witch of Endor, who was reputed to be possessed of extraordinary powers, and besought her to bring up the Prophet Samuel from the dead, that he might enquire of him the result of the battle in which he was about to engage, for said he, "God answereth me no more by prophets nor by dreams; therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me," etc.

The Prophets of old—a very brief history of whom is given in the Bible—were continually solicited to

FORETELL FUTURE EVENTS.

In fact Israel when in full favor with the Lord never engaged in battle with their enemies without first obtaining His mind thereon and enquiring in regard to the result. The history of Zalaam is familiar to every one; how King Balak, being afraid of Israel who had pitched their tents upon the plains of Moab, sent his princes with the rewards of divination to influence the prophet to curse Israel and with what result? In the Pearl of Great Price we read that the people in days of Enoch came from all parts of the land to hear him prophesy of future events; that they would point to him and say, "Behold the Seer; for he prophesieth."

The gift of prescience or the power to penetrate the future belongs to and

always accompanied the Melchisedek Priesthood. Whenever and wherever it was not this gift could not be found. Counterfeits have always existed, however, contemporary with the genuine gift, and have succeeded in leading many of the unwary away. During the period when the genuine gift was not upon the earth in consequence of the absence of this Priesthood many individuals have practised what are termed

"THE BLACK ARTS,"

and their devotees have been very numerous.

Isaiah speaking of the time when the Lord would hide his face from Jacob said, that some would then say, "Seek unto them that have familiar spirits and unto wizards that peep and that mutter," and asks, "Should not a people seek unto their God?" He then declares, "To the law and to the testimony, if they speak not according to this it is because there is no light in them." In other words, in the absence of the genuine gift we must be satisfied with the written word. Moses, in his last charge to Israel declares, "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God; but those things which are revealed belong unto us and our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law," inferring that in the absence of revelation, the people would then be justified by a strict observance of the written law.

The Lord chooses his own channels of communication and will not recognize anything other than that which he himself appoints. The Prophet Amos says: "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."

The question may be asked: Is

THE "SCIENCE OF THE STARS"

From which data future events are determined, reliable? for a belief in this art has obtained largely among the people of Christendom as well as the heathen nations. I would answer, there is nothing really reliable that God has not revealed. Abraham undoubtedly held the keys of the science of Astronomy, and while on a visit to Egypt charmed the Egyptians with his knowledge of these principles, as is evident from the Book of Abraham. He says: "But the records of the fathers, even the Patriarchs, concerning the right of Priesthood the Lord my God preserved in mine own hands, therefore a knowledge of the beginning of the creation and also of the planets and of the stars as they were made known unto the fathers have I kept even unto this day." "And the Lord said unto me, Abraham, I show these things unto thee before ye go into Egypt, that ye may declare all these words." Then follow some explanations in regard to the gradation of the heavenly bodies.

The first king of Egypt is said to have been a righteous man, but being a descendant of Ham, who was cursed, could not hold the Priesthood, yet God blessed him with the blessings of wisdom. It is said of this Pharaoh that he sought "to imitate that order established by the fathers even in the reign of Adam and also Noah, whose great grandson he was. And being undoubtedly familiar with the fact that the Patriarchs possessed knowledge concerning the heavenly bodies, was anxious to obtain the same; neither is it strange that his descendants should manifest this desire also; hence we find Abraham, while Pharaoh's guest in Egypt, discoursing upon the subject of the heavenly bodies before the assembled court.

SACRED HISTORY IS SILENT

upon this subject from the time of Abraham until to-day, though Abraham said that he would "write some of these things for the benefit of his posterity." But we must conclude from the reading of profane history that this science has occupied the attention of mankind from the earliest periods of antiquity; but, that the relative positions, juxtapositions, aspects etc. of the heavenly bodies (in view of our limited knowledge thereof) can forecast accurately future events or that they shall be used by Latter-day Saints for this purpose is very questionable. But the time will come when whatever truth there may be in this subject will be restored to knowledge is beyond doubt, as it belongs to the priesthood to receive all truth both as pertaining to the earth as well as to the heavens. Is it not safer then to wait until the Almighty shall reveal things unto his people that the knowledge thereof may be used for his glory, than that they should accept of data derived from incorrect hypotheses, and entirely outside of the legitimate channel that God has appointed? Strong believers in astrology may feel like disputing my position, but Latter-day Saints will readily recognize the correctness of my reasonings.

There is also

THE "SEER STONE" OR "PEEP STONE," which differs little in appearance from an ordinary stone, the finding of which has generally been the result of accident, though some have claimed that they were made known to them by revelation. They are found in the hands of men, women and children, but are not numerous. Those in possession of these stones claim to be endowed with the gift of the seer, and are besieged by all classes to learn something in regard to their individual affairs; such as the whereabouts of lost animals or stolen goods, the character of a man or woman with whom the enquirer is anticipating marriage. In some instances where persons are suspected of evil designs the "peep stone" has been used to verify the suspicion; the sex, as also the future of an unborn

child has been enquired after. In this Western country they have been often used to determine the location of a good paying mine, etc. Strange to say most individuals who have had recourse to this source for information exercise considerable faith in the findings of the individuals who claim inspiration through the method.

Then we have

THE GYPSY PROGNOSTICATOR

who, if well paid beforehand, will tell you everything you want to know concerning the past, present and future, and will (like the professional astrologer) often prove the correctness of their predictions by telling you something in the past that you did not believe was known to mortal being but yourself.

Then there are others who claim that certain persons are possessed of the

SPIRIT OF WITCHCRAFT;

that they have the power to produce injury to any individual they may choose. These have always been shunned by the masses, and in numberless instances have fallen victims to the most cruel persecutions as well as the most horrible deaths. Unquestionably thousands of innocent persons' lives have been sacrificed who have been suspected as belonging to this class. Individuals who are made to believe that they are under this spell or influence, generally visit the astrological professor, and in too many cases have their suspicions confirmed that they are really bewitched; then follows some of the most ridiculous recommendations and the use of some of the most revolting antidotes to break the spell.

In order not to be overcome by these influences, people ought to carefully avoid any association with or practice of these doubtful and unreliable pursuits that must of necessity lead the mind into darkness, and if continued will finally lead to apostasy. Jesus predicted and gave us warning of false

spirits, who should arise especially in the last days, "who should show great signs and wonders inasmuch that if it were possible they should deceive the very elect."

Let us not then seek to

ANTICIPATE THE ALMIGHTY

by foolishly endeavoring to penetrate into futurity to discover that which is wisely hidden from our view, but wait the appointed time when, in the language of the revelation, "Nothing shall be withheld but all shall be made manifest." "If there be bounds set to the heavens, or the seas, or to the dry land, or to the sun, moon, or stars, all the times of their revolutions, all the appointed days, months and years and all their glories, laws and set times shall be revealed in the days of the dispensation of the fulness of times."

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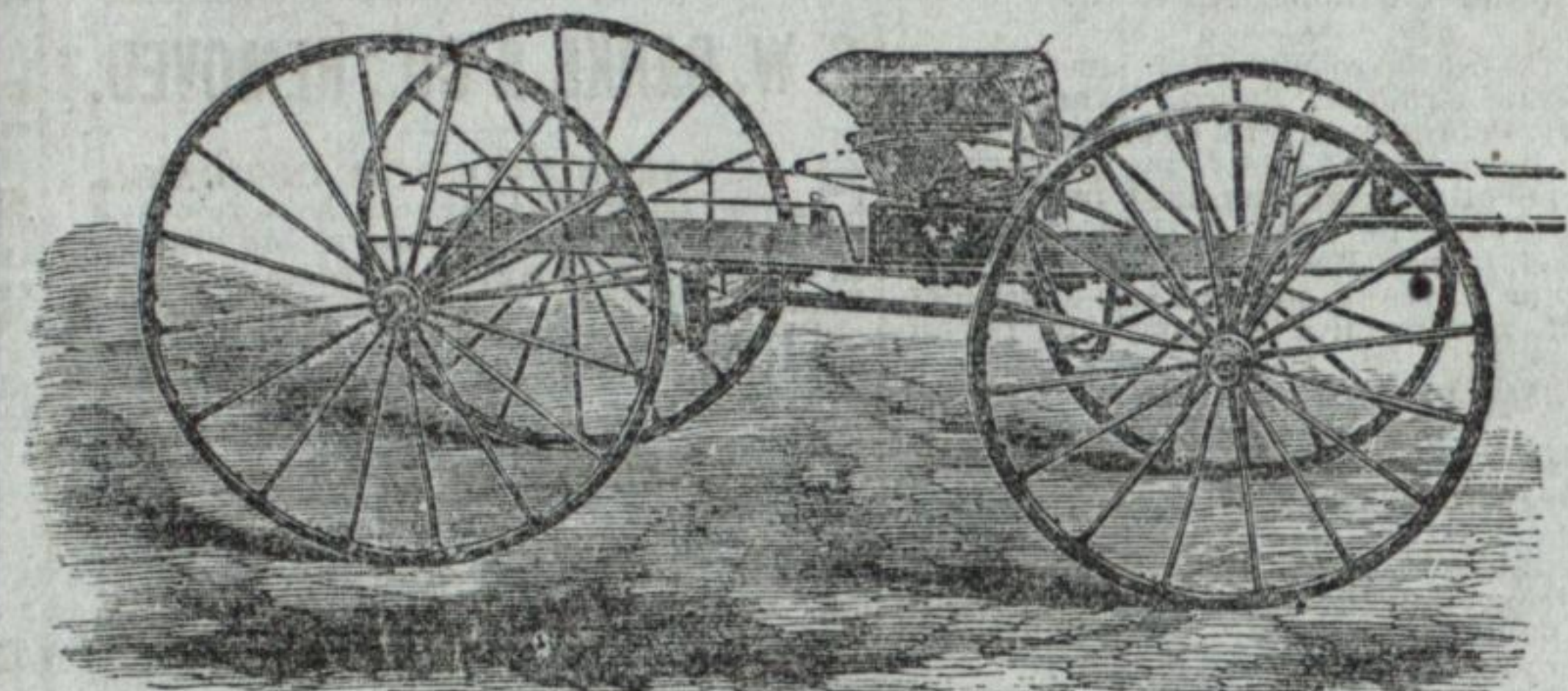
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