

THE EVENING NEWS

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BRIGHAM YOUNG,
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Saturday - January 5, 1878.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Japanese pyrotechnists have invented fireworks for use by day-light. These are sent up to a great height and form on bursting beautiful shapes of trees, birds, and animals.

The bullion shipments from Silver Reef in southern Utah from August 1st, 1877, to January 5th, 1878, amount to \$14,832.11. So we learn by telegraph to-day. This, in the winter season, is a pretty good showing for one mining district of Utah.

The cent is expunged from the currency of these western regions. But the addition of one cent per bushel in the price of corn makes a difference of \$10,000,000 in one year to the United States.

Apropos of the coming struggle, in which Germany is likely to take sides with Russia, a West German boasts that the German fleet, though less in number than the French or English navy, is superior in material and armament, as well as in the skill of its officers and the completeness of its equipment.

Putting up staves kept an excavating task for irritable people generally. It is a comic proceeding, but in a recent instance resulted in a tragedy. A lad named Cheney, with his father-in-law, Snyder, while fixing some scaffolding joints in Lancaster, Pa., quarreled, fought and Cheney was killed. Piping times, the m.

Ingratitude is a heinous crime. What do you think of the return for kindness made by a girl? Augustus, Ga., a short time ago? She jumped from a bridge into a river, a man who saw the rash act rescued her, and, on her sister's urging to do it again restrained her. She turned round and had him arrested for assault.

On the 2nd Inst., we received the first number of the Salt Lake Independent, but have seen no more of the new-born infant. Does the child still live? If so, it must have better be sending it round for inspection, and let the cargo sail it or bring it inside the gun. It is too tender to be thrown on the ground this frosty weather.

Our latest dispatches incite the triumph of the war spirit in England. If John Bull sets in between the Great Bear of the North and its prey in the south, there will be a rush of the other animals to either side, and all Europe will be involved in the struggle. The events of the next few days will be momentous. The gods are vivid for a general European conflict.

THE "MORMON BIBLE."

An article has been giving the rounds of the papers about "the original Mormon Bible." It is started in the Detroit Post and Tribune, a reporter of which interviewed Major J. H. Gilbert, of Palmer, who claims to have set up in trying all the matter for the first edition of the Book of Mormon, and to have unbound sheets as to tell them from the press and exhibit them as a great curiosity.

There is a great deal of nonsense talked about this first edition. It is said to be a very rare book, and in many respects essentially different from the subsequent editions. There are quite a number of copies of the first edition of the book in this Territory, and its contents are substantially identical with all other editions of the work. The chief difference is in the printing and binding, which are either in the later editions than in the first.

The article to which we refer states that "nobody but the himself ever saw the golden tablets." It is evident that the writer of this statement is ignorant of the history of the book and of the facts in the case, and that he has never examined the work about which he talks so positively. The book is prefaced with the testimony of Oliver Cowdery, David Whitmer and Martin Harris, who state with words of truth and soberness that an angel of God came down from heaven and showed them the plates and the engravings thereon, while the voice of God declared to them that the record was translated by the gift and power of God, and lest this testimony might be rejected, as partaking too much of the supernatural, the testimony of eight witnesses is appended, who state that Joseph Smith had shown them the plates, which they handled with their hands. These eight persons saw the plates naturally, and three others in addition to Joseph Smith testify that they were exhibited to them by the power of God.

It has been represented that the three last named witnesses subsequently apostatized and denied their former statements. This is as grossly incorrect as the allegation that there were no witnesses. Those men, having been greatly favored, were tempted to a corresponding degree, and failing to endure were deceived by the Church. But they have never denied their statement concerning the plates and the heavenly manifestations in relation to them. On the contrary, they always maintained the truth of their testimony under every circumstance. Two of them—Oliver Cowdery and Martin Harris—testified to the same, and died within its fold, retaining their first testimony to the last. The article in the Post and Tribune states that Martin Harris did not follow the "Mormons" out, and but

"remained near his home where he died two years ago." This is also inaccurate. Martin Harris came to Utah asking forgiveness for his faults, was received into the Church and died in Cache Valley in this Territory, bearing testimony of the truth of the Book of Mormon. David Whitmer has not yet returned to the fellowship of the Church but, like the other two witnesses, when questioned concerning the Book of Mormon repeats his former statement in the firmest manner, and, so far as we are aware, and we have conversed with many persons who have interrogated him, he has never denied his original testimony in the least degree.

There is one point connected with this argument about the expulsion from the Church of the three witnesses, which our opponents do not appear to perceive. If these persons were in league with Joseph Smith, to pain upon the world as a divine revelation a work written or adopted with intention to deceive, would the chief conspirator have had the temerity to excommunicate his chief associates in crime, on their infraction of the rules of his church? Does not the fact of his dealing with them as with ordinary members prove, if it proves anything, that the notion of a conspiracy between those four persons is a fallacy? And if they were not conspirators and deceivers does it not follow that their testimony is true?

The article closes with a repetition of the (Solomon) Spaulding story, which has been so often refuted during the last thirty years or more that we will not waste space upon the matter further than this: The connection between the supposed Spaulding and his manuscript about the "lost ten tribes," and Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon is always made to be Sidney Rigdon. He is represented as a printer in the Pittsburgh office, where the manuscript was said to have been deposited, and to have cooked it up with Joseph Smith into the Book of Mormon. Passing by the fact that the Book of Mormon is not a history of the "lost ten tribes" and only mentions them once and that incidentally, it is well known that Sidney Rigdon never saw Joseph Smith nor had any connection with this Church until after the Book of Mormon had been printed for some time. Sidney Rigdon, a Campbellite preacher was converted to "Mormonism" by Parley P. Pratt, and the latter was not baptized until September, 1830, several months after the Book was published. Elizur Pratt first saw the Prophet Joseph Smith at Manchester, New York and being sent by him on a mission to the Western States, on his way met Sidney Rigdon in Ohio, to whom he presented the Book of Mormon, and whom, with many other Campbellites he convinced of its truth. This is well established history.

Those who desire to devise or accept some plausible story of the origin of the Book of Mormon, should be shamed of such silly inventions as the Spaulding nonsense.

It is copied from paper to paper, and standard Cyclopedias print it with the utmost gravity. When the story was started it was exploded and so entirely shattered that its inventors never touched it again.

But of late years it has been picked up and patched together, as the only means by which the production of such a work as the Book of Mormon by an uneducated boy can be accounted for. All that any person need do to disprove the Spaulding story to his own entire satisfaction is, to hear it carefully and then read the Book of Mormon.

The testimony of the witnesses of this book cannot be gainsaid nor disproved. They could have no objection in making it except to sell the truth. It was of no pecuniary benefit to them. They had no prospect of getting any reward for it but personal and consummate. And it stands to-day unproven and unquestioned as a witness to this generation of the work commenced for the consummation of all things, and of the re-opening of the long lost communication of man with his Maker. The "Mormon Bible" is the same Bible that all Christian sects profess to believe. The Book of Mormon corroborates and supports the Jewish record, but does not supersede it, and both unite in bearing testimony to all nations, Jew and Gentile, that Jesus is the Christ and that the day of His everlasting dominion is near at hand.

THE GOLDEN CASE.

YESTERDAY'S "POINT."

WHAT THE COMPANY'S MINUTE BOOK SAY.

The combatants in this trial are giving themselves a rest after a day of revelations which have surprised everybody, and both sides are now waiting the Monday's resumption of the fray to learn the tenor of Mr. Holden's reply to the formidable army of accusations brought against him. Yesterday, counsel for plain folks opened and practically closed their testimony, the chief witness being Mr. McCormick, the banker, Mr. Beebe, railroad engineer and agent, and Mr. Meader, lawyer. Mr. McCormick, in the hands of an able examiner, entered into the details of the account of the New Mexico and Old Telegraph mines at his bank as follows:

From February, 1876, to December, 1877, \$2,821,61; March, \$2,257,50; April, \$12,257,50; May, \$20,257,50; June, \$20,257,50; July, \$20,257,50; August, \$20,257,50; September, \$20,257,50; October, \$20,257,50; November, \$20,257,50; December, \$20,257,50. The deposits for 1877, were: January, \$74,416,50; February, \$71,250,50; March, \$49,000; April, \$49,000; May, \$49,000; June, \$49,000; July, \$49,000; August, \$49,000; September, \$49,000; October, \$49,000; November, \$49,000; December, \$49,000. The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That in view of the bill now under consideration in Congress which proposes, in effect, to supersede the existing law requiring the redemption of legal tender notes in gold coin on and after the 1st of January, 1878, by making silver dollars of 432 grains standard coinage, and the payment of all debts and expenses of the United States in gold coin, it is the duty of the bank officers to seriously inquire what effect so important a change in the circulating medium will have upon the conduct of the general business and upon the respective institutions under their charge, and what measures should be taken to prevent the consequences of such a change from being fatal to the public welfare. The bill will force England into a position where war seems almost unavoidable.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be immediately telegraphed to the clearing houses of Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore, inviting the bankers to meet in conference to consider the best method of action to be taken in view of the imminent danger.

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