

DESERET NEWS.

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - JAN. 7, 1880.

[From the Daily of Dec. 31.]

THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW.

EIGHTEEN hundred and seventy-nine will soon be numbered among the years that are dead and gone, that have passed out of the living world of time and are buried in the boundless depth of eternity. Its days and hours are no more. But the acts of mortals performed therein do not perish with them. They live in their results; their effects are stamped upon the doers thereof, and impressed upon the indestructible elements, spiritual and corporeal. They cannot be obliterated, neither can their consequences be evaded. For while the years slip down into the grave of the past, are shut out of sight and are almost lost to memory, human deeds have germs of vital power and are reproduced in future times, after their own kind, and by the law of compensation, to be visited upon those who committed them. Good will come back for good, evil for evil, and in an increased degree, as many grains spring from a single seed.

In looking back over the experiences of the dying year, we hope that the large majority of our readers will find the retrospect productive of joy and satisfaction. That their good deeds, shining in its firmament in number and glory like the glittering stars that beautify our cloudless nights, will show their fallings to be but few and venial, and encourage them to acts of greater righteousness in years to come. That resolutions of reform will arise so strongly in the souls of the erring, that the close of another journey of Mother Earth around the mighty Sun may find them strong in the power of a just self-content, and subjects of rejoicing among the ministering and recording angels.

The passing year has been an eventful one. Its successor promises to be equally if not more momentous. The political horizon of our own land is overcast with heavy clouds which threaten tempestuous times. The coming contest for the control of the nation will no doubt be fought with vigor and desperation, and the worst passions of human nature be stimulated into violence if not bloodshed. War clouds may be seen upon the sky of Europe and darkening the sunshine of the Orient. The prospects of "the dark continent" are promising for the opening of its benighted recesses to the light of civilization, as a preparation for the brighter rays of gospel truth. The whole earth is advancing towards the day of universal redemption, and every year brings it another step nearer to its final deliverance from darkness, evil and woe.

Utah greets the new year full of life, hope, confidence and satisfaction. Thus far the efforts of her enemies to enslave, distress and spoil her have been in vain. Her foes are as fierce and false and determined as ever. Their plans are woven, their snares are laid, their weapons are ready. But He who has preserved His people in the seasons of trouble that have fled, will not forsake them in their year of jubilee.

In 1880, on the 6th day of April, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be Fifty Years of age. In half a century it has preached the gospel of life and salvation in all the countries of the civilized world and in many parts of heathendom, gathered many thousands of its members from every clime, made itself known to every race and tribe, performed a work for the living and the dead which has stirred mightily the hosts of the departed in regions beyond the veil, and fairly opened up the dispensation of the fulness of times, that Christ may come and gather in one all that are in Him, both in heaven and on earth. Hail to its Year of Jubilee! May it bring a closer union with its Author; blessings on its people, revelations on its ministers, power on its priesthood, success to its missionaries, repentance or discom-

fiture to its enemies, and glory to its Eternal Head.

We welcome the approaching year, with all that it may bring, of trials or joys, believing that He who knoweth all things will overrule all things for the benefit of His cause and people. And while the last breathings of '79 are lingering upon the frosty air, we thank Him for the Providences of the past, and look with faith for the blessings of the future, and wish our readers and the good and true of every land and clime and creed, His blessings and a happy New Year in Eighteen Hundred and Eighty.

REMISSION OF TAXES.

We are in receipt of the following letter to which we give space, as it expresses the feelings and wishes of quite a number of persons, who find the payment of taxes a very heavy burden.

"Ought not the very poor to be exempted from paying taxes? 'Idiotic' and 'infirm' persons may be rich, but the 'indigent' are poor."

"The above clause, which I extract from the excellent letter of 'Index,' is so just, so charitable and so true that 'it touches me where I live!' The law of taxation has been so stringent, that it has caused much suffering both mentally and bodily. It is dreadful to an honest mind to know that it cannot meet just debts; but impossibilities are not to be effected, yet a smile of derision is all that meets such logic. 'If you cannot pay, a portion of your property must be sold!' This very property producing the very pittance that holds body and soul together! It is only the idiot and infirm that can be favored, and they only five dollars! I would not shrink from being placed side by side with the idiot in such a case, the blemished head, sad as it may be to witness, is preferable to the blemished heart, and their future may be grand, but as 'Index' justly observes 'Idiotic and infirm persons may be rich,' of course many of them are among the wealthy; mind is not the matter; it is simply a case of money, and that clause has ever appeared to me inappropriate. The law is severe upon the poor in general, and especially upon poor widows, and I do earnestly pray that our legislators will be inspired to abrogate or remodel it, that they may be exempt till a brighter day comes, and especially those whose lives have been, and are, one of industry, and a desire to do all they are able for the commonwealth. Such I pray will meet with consideration in our approaching Legislature.

A POOR WIDOW.
SALT LAKE CITY,
December 30, 1879."

The above letter and extract convey the idea that while the law provides for the remittance of the taxes of idiotic and infirm persons, no exemption is made for the indigent. But this is a mistake. The revenue law establishes a Board of Equalization, consisting of the County Court in each county, who have power to change and correct the valuation of property made by the assessor, as justice may dictate, on a written complaint made by the property-holder. Also to "remit or abate the taxes of any insane or idiotic person, infirm or indigent person to an amount not exceeding five dollars for the current year." It is not supposed that the Board would remit the taxes of a wealthy person even if infirm or idiotic. And it was no doubt considered by the Legislature in passing the law that any one owning property, the taxes on which amounted to more than five dollars, could not be viewed as very indigent.

The question is, what change in the law is desired by the class represented by "A Poor Widow?" Do they want the law revised so as to exempt all widows from taxation? If so, would not this be unjust? For there are quite a number of widows who are far better off in property than thousands of persons who make no complaint about taxes. It should be understood that laws have to be made equal in their operation. Favoritism cannot be permitted to enter into legislation. The law is cold and impartial. It cannot be endowed with a heart nor be made flexible by sentiment. Its provisions must be fixed and not capable of expansion and contraction at will.

In the exercise of the power of

remitting taxes the Board must be held within some limit. If not there will surely be dissatisfaction. People whose claims for remission are not entertained, will complain that others are favored improperly. Unlimited power of this kind should not be bestowed on any official, for it would be open to misuse, and even if administered with the strictest equity, would expose the holder to the attacks of persons ever ready to accuse a public officer or corporation. If the limit drawn by the law is too stringent it can be enlarged. If five dollars is not sufficient it can be increased to any sum that wisdom would suggest. But would this satisfy those who consider themselves unable to pay taxes, although possessed of real estate of considerable value? We think not.

We have no doubt that there are widows like our correspondent, whose only income is derived from the rent of real estate, and who have barely enough to live on in any degree of comfort. The law seems to bear hardly upon them. But the Board of Equalization is empowered to remit five dollars of their taxes, and if this is not sufficient, and their cases are worthy, other means are at hand for their relief. Such persons are worthy objects of that benevolence which never dies in this community. The Bishops and Teachers will care for the wants of the needy, and the fact that a poor widow has a little property which brings in a pittance for her support, ought not to cripple the hand of charity nor hinder its extension in her behalf. To sell the source of her support to pay the taxes upon it would be a foolish and cruel course, and only make a heavier burden for those to carry who might procure the small amount necessary to answer the demands of the law.

We say, let the poor be provided for and the widow relieved from distress; but let the help come from the sources created for that purpose, while the law is honored and its just provisions are executed kindly but with firmness and impartiality.

THE OVATION TO CARBON PREMATURE.

SIMULTANEOUS with the statement that the electric light had been utilized for domestic purposes, came the report that Mr. James McClean of the St. Rollo, (Scotland) chemical works, had submitted to certain scientific persons and societies some specimens of diamonds which he had succeeded in producing from carbon after several years' experiments. They were said to have been pronounced genuine by Professor Tyndall, also by Professor Smyth, the Astronomer Royal of Scotland, and Mr. Maskelyne of the mineral department of the British Museum.

The report was credited by a great many people, and congratulations were passed on the advance of scientific knowledge with practical results, and that the close of 1879 had witnessed two remarkable productions from carbon, the electric light of Edison in one hemisphere, and the sparkling and precious diamond of McClean in the other. It was admitted that while the specimens submitted to the above-named Professors might be genuine gems, the proof was not clear that they were actually produced by artificial means.

But now comes the news by telegraph that Mr. Maskelyne, after a thorough test of these so-called crystallized forms of carbon, has pronounced them a compound of silicious matter and not diamonds at all.

Will a similar verdict be pronounced upon the other alleged triumph of carbon? Or has Edison really accomplished all he has claimed? There is no doubt that the electric light can be produced, and that it is a powerful illuminator. But it appears to us that its production and division in such a manner that it can be successfully managed by ordinary persons for domestic uses, and thus made to supersede the present simple and easily manipulated gas-light, is yet a feat of the future. Talk is cheap, boasting is common, especially on Columbia's soil, but facts are stubborn, and so are the tests of time and practice.

We should be glad to chronicle the success of the diamond manufacture, and much more so to announce the perfect success of the electric light; but until something

more is done than has yet appeared, we fear carbon will have to keep its former place in the world of science and the walks of every day life. The proclamation of its triumph was premature.

MINERAL PRODUCT OF UTAH FOR 1879.

By the courtesy of J. E. Dooley, Esq., agent of Wells, Fargo & Co., in this city, we are able to present to our readers the Company's annual statement of the mineral product of this Territory for the year just expired.

SALT LAKE CITY,
Utah, Jan. 1, 1880.

	OZS. GOLD.		OZS. SILVER.		LBS. LEAD.		LBS. LEAD.		BASE BULLION.
	PROD.	REF.	PROD.	REF.	UNREFD.	REFD.	PROD.	REF.	
Chicago Smelter.....	270	270	90,000	90,000	1,739,138	12,301,276	2,301,276	2,301,276	Chicago Smelter.....
Germania Smelting and Refining Works.....	2203	2203	344,886	344,886	4,184,832	5,000,298	5,000,298	5,000,298	Germania Smelting and Refining Works.....
Ontario Silver Mining Co.....	63	63	248,938	248,938	5,000,298	3,025,104	3,025,104	3,025,104	Horn Silver Mine (H. S. M. Co's Smelter).....
Stewart Mining Company.....	10	10	847,313	847,313	3,025,104	2,972,200	2,972,200	2,972,200	Marine Company.....
Other Mills.....	381	381	54,552	54,552	2,972,200	6,124,527	6,124,527	6,124,527	Marine Company.....
Bingham Placers.....	1480	1480	245,339	245,339	6,124,527	15,740	15,740	15,740	Marine Company.....
Leads District.....	24	24	153,735	153,735	15,740	235,604	235,604	235,604	Morgan Smelter.....
Total.....	561	561	1,755,340	1,755,340	24,541,050	2,301,276	2,301,276	2,301,276	Pascoe Smelter.....
	63	63	42,229	42,229	1,900,309	2,301,276	2,301,276	2,301,276	Waterman Smelter.....
	1,797,559	1,797,559	26,441,359	26,441,359					Total.....
									Lead, Silver and Gold in Ores Shipped.....
									Total Ores and Base Bullion.....

DORE BARS AND DUST.	OZS. SILVER.		OZS. GOLD.	
	PROD.	REF.	PROD.	REF.
Germania Smelting and Refining Works.....	24,880	24,880	240	240
Ontario Silver Mining Co.....	1,169,180	1,169,180	5699	5699
Stewart Mining Company.....	6,043	6,043	3600	3600
Other Mills.....	841,555	841,555	1000	1000
Bingham Placers.....				
Leads District.....				
Total.....	2,097,458	2,097,458	10239	10239

RECAPITULATION.		
2,301,276 lbs. Refined Lead, at 4 1/2 per lb.....		\$103,557.42
23,441,359 lbs. Unrefined Lead, at \$45 per ton, average price for 1879.....		504,930.57
3,835,947 ozs Silver, at \$1.10 per ounce, average price for 1879.....		4,218,551.70
15,932 ozs Gold, at \$19 per ounce, average price for 1879.....		302,708.00
Total.....		\$5,219,747.69

The above includes the product of ores received from Idaho, Montana and Nevada, aggregating 126,000 lbs Lead, 102,800 ozs Silver and 200 ozs Gold.

This shows a falling off from the total of 1878 of \$844,865.31. During the first part of the past year, in consequence of the heavy decline in the price of lead, many of the smelters shut down, and the mining industry was much discouraged. But its rebound stimulated the production of bullion and brought it up pretty nearly to the figures of the former year. The prospects for 1880 are excellent, and the next report of Wells, Fargo & Co. is likely to make a showing for Utah of an increase of three or four millions.

"A VIGOROUS AND RADICAL SCHEME."

THE St. Louis *Republican* of the 29th ult., has the following on the "Mormon" question:

"Mr. Hayes is reported to have decided to recommend to Congress a very vigorous and radical scheme for the solution of the Mormon problem. He proposes to break up Mormonism, and spike in advance a Democratic gun, by the same measures, which is a disfranchisement of the Mormons and the transfer of the government of Utah to Gentile hands. To effect this revolution he would make the Governor of the Territory and the Judges of the District Courts a board of registration, with authority to pass upon the qualifications of all voters. No one would be allowed to vote without being regis-

tered, and no person applying to be registered would be accepted who is a practical polygamist, or sustains or encourages others in the practice of polygamy. Of course, under such a system as this, all the Mormon inhabitants of the territory would be completely disfranchised, and the few Gentiles, about one-fifth of the population, made the only qualified voters. The first Gentile Legislature chosen under this scheme would, he thinks, pass severe laws against polygamy and other Mormon practices, and against the accumulation of property by ecclesiastical bodies, the effect of which would be to extirpate polygamy and break the power of the Church in five years." Mr. Hayes would first have to give us a Governor that would not stand in with the Mormons on the little scheme.

There is a great deal more reported about "Mr. Hayes'" intentions and sentiments than the President would like to acknowledge as coming from him. Words are put into his mouth that he never uttered, and views and threats are attributed to him which originated only in the vivid imaginations of newspaper correspondents. What "Mr. Hayes" has been reported as saying and intending, and of which he is entirely innocent, would fill a great many issues of the *St. Louis Republican*.

But the revolution described in the above paragraph is just such a measure of extreme radicalism as a few vagabonds, utterly devoid of principle, and bent only on stealing a Territory, desire to see inaugurated. To perceive the damnable iniquity of the suggestion, one only has to look at the result as pictured by its authors. "Of course," says the *Republican*, "under such a system as this all the Mormon inhabitants of the Territory would be completely disfranchised, and the few Gentiles, about one-fifth of the population, made the only qualified voters."

Just imagine such a system in the great and free republic of the United States! Eighty per cent. of the population (they form really ninety per cent.) disfranchised without any judicial action or proof of crime, to make it possible for the small minority to take possession of the Territory and its resources. The people who opened the vast and fertile regions of the Rocky Mountains, and prepared the way for the building up of the States and Territories which have added so much to the wealth and greatness of the nation, to be trampled under the feet of a few adventurers greedy for power and plunder! We think we see them enjoying the fruits of our toil. We imagine them wrestling from us he few rights of local management which we now hold by virtue of our vast majority! We fancy we can see them making the laws, weighting the people down with taxes, and haling men and women to prison on the reputation of being polygamists or "sustaining or encouraging others in the practice of polygamy."

And then again we think we don't. In all these calculations, the wise, would-be solvers of the "Mormon" problem by force and the vilest forms of tyranny that were ever thought of in a country under monarchical despotism, never seem to count on the fact that the "Mormons" may have something to say and do in the matter. About the time when such things, now worked out on paper, are attempted in deed, we have an idea that the "Mormons" will not be found fast asleep. There are points beyond which those who are plotting for our destruction will not be permitted to pass. We intend to honor and obey all righteous laws, to respect the rights of those who differ from us and to uphold the Government and Constitution of the United States. But we cannot be expected to sit down with our hands in our pockets and look on supinely, while a small pack of human wolves, whether under color of law or otherwise, attempt to gorge themselves upon our substance, tear from us our rights, and rend asunder our most cherished institutions.

However, we do not anticipate the passage by Congress of laws which would be so utterly subversive of the fundamental principles of American republicanism, as any of the projects put forth by the rabid Mormonomaniacs. This nation has not yet so far depart-