

THE LONDON "TIMES."

Its Influence, Wisdom, and Independent Integrity.

A keen-sighted American gathers constant material for reflection in this vast city-world. Not a day passes without a new fact in science, government and society. The London Times has been unusually independent and interesting for the last three months, especially on American and French affairs. Some of its views have been unusually fresh and bold, and, as the Times is in a large degree the leader and reflector of public opinion, these utterances must be accepted as far beyond individual opinions. For instance, it has fearlessly asserted, in regard to Cuba, that Great Britain would never allow a constant and bloody insurrection like that in Cuba so near its borders, without a prompt and stern protest. This declaration fell like a thunderbolt upon the English newspapers which had been stigmatizing the course of the United States Government in regard to Cuba as a gross violation of international law. The effect also upon Spanish and Continental sentiment has already been most salutary. The Times has spoken, in language not less decided, in favor of the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, and the article, after the action of the American House of Representatives appropriating \$1,500,000, was a noble specimen of editorial eloquence. On the subject of universal amnesty, it has taken very high and fearless grounds. Earnestly advising that our Congress should exercise the large liberty to the ex-Confederates still under the ban, it does not hesitate to pay tribute to the extraordinary clemency of the United States Government to the leader of the rebellion. The steady reduction of our national debt, and the dissolution of our vast armies at the close of the civil war, have repeatedly received its warm commendation.

Very recently, the Times has discussed the late French elections in a spirit not previously noted in these columns. It regards the triumph of the moderate republicans as the sign of a permanent French government. It applauds the discretion of Gambetta and the wisdom of Thiers, while it denounces the arrogance of Mr. Buffet, and the extravagance of Victor Hugo. These are altogether memorable indications. It is unnecessary to speculate upon the effects of such an argument in such an organ. The English people are for the first time told, in tones of authoritative conviction, that the Republican example is not as vicious as they have been taught to believe, and the great concession is the more weighty, made as it is, in a style of singular grace, and fortified by the best examples. What a contrast between the angry intolerance which, not many years ago, pervaded the English press in reference to Republican, and, especially, American ideas.

The first number of the London Times appeared January 1, 1788. Its founder was John Walter, grandfather of the present proprietor, John Walter, M. P. for Berkshire. Its own history is the record of human progress; and its attitude to-day is a wonderful proof that, if we are not wiser than our own fathers, we are certainly more advanced in the art of making good newspapers. The Times is a model daily journal. The paper on which it is printed, the ink, the types, the whole arrangements place it at the head of its contemporaries. Enormous sums are expended to give it this pre-eminence, and enormous revenues repay the outlay. I do not write of this paper for the purpose of praising it, although an experience of forty years, as printer and editor, would justify my opinion. I prefer it, after eighteen months daily reading of its pages, as a pattern of business management and editorial statesmanship. A well known writer says: "There are many excellent newspapers in the world, yet there is but one Times. Frequent attempts have been made to excel it; many a time has it been said that it would be easily beaten, but in the struggle for journalistic influence and position the Times is first, and the rest are nowhere. Jupiter has several satellites, and no equal."

One of the immediate results of the abolition of the newspaper stamp was the establishment of the penny daily press in London. Previous to this period the lowest

priced London daily paper was the Daily News, which was published at three pence, the Times, Morning Herald, and other morning papers were issued at five pence. The Daily Telegraph was the first of the London penny daily papers, having been established in June, 1855. It was succeeded, in 1856, by the Morning Star, and in June, 1857, by the Standard, which was, to some extent, a cheap edition of the Morning Herald, a paper dating from 1781, and which was discontinued a few years ago in consequence of the remarkable success achieved by the Standard. At first the penny papers each consisted of a large sheet of four pages, but on the repeal of the paper duty the size of the sheet became extended to eight pages. The Times, Morning Post, and other journals reduced their price from five pence to three pence. Subsequently the Daily News joined the ranks of the penny press; its circulation and influence became enormously increased thereby. In 1860 an attempt was made to establish a half-penny morning paper, under the name of Daily General Advertiser, but the experiment proved unsuccessful. Recently a morning edition of the Echo has been issued, with fair prospects of success. The difficulty of establishing new daily papers in London is illustrated by the failure of the Morning Star, Day, Iron Times, and similar ventures, each of which was commenced under what appeared very promising auspices. The number of metropolitan daily morning papers, at the present time, is thirteen. Of these five are published at three pence, one at two-pence half-penny, one at two pence, one [five] at one penny and one at a half-penny.

The Times, notwithstanding the formidable rivalry to which it has been exposed by the increase in the number and circulation of its contemporaries, has contrived to maintain its place as the most influential journal in the United Kingdom the liberality and enterprise which mark its conduct being unparalleled in the annals of the newspaper press. It generally consists of a sheet and a half, forming twelve pages, but, during the sitting of Parliament, when the pressure on its columns is unusually heavy, each issue frequently consists of a double sheet, or sixteen pages. Sometimes it has been found necessary to make up a number consisting of two and a half sheets, or twenty pages, the price of the paper remaining the same. Advertisements form a conspicuous feature of the Times, the revenue from these being considerably in excess of that obtained by any other paper in the United Kingdom from a similar source, although no advertisement canvassers are employed, and all advertisements of an objectionable character are excluded. In fact, the censorship exercised by the Times over its advertising columns is of the strictest possible character; even the advertisements of professional betting men, money lenders, dealers in quack medicines, and the like, being refused insertion on any terms; the conduct of the Times in this respect favorably contrasts with that of the generality of newspapers.

But there is one feature in the Times that I have more than once referred to, its inflexible impersonality. Such a thing as a reply to a personal antagonist is as rare as an attack. Only the names of public men are mentioned in its editorial columns, and though their votes and measures are scrutinized, there is no malignity in the criticism, and no passion in the judgment. Nor is there any slavish adulation of parliament or the crown. More than once in the Times has spoken of the one with severe censure, and of the other with resolute reproach. It is often humorous, always liberal, frequently diplomatic, and sometimes equivocal, but through all there is the same fairness that marks a philosopher or a jurist. I may be called extravagant in this opinion, perhaps I have been swayed in reading it by the impartial correctness of the Times in its later reflections on American affairs. Some of its editorials would do credit to the pen of Junius, and all of them are stuffed with facts and figures. Of course there are mistakes, but not half as many as other London papers make when they write of English affairs. Nor are all these reflections praises. Our country is criticized boldly, and sometimes with angry severity. But the Times does not conceal our better side. It is not forever exposing our faults or our weaknesses.

I confess that I often envy the possession of gigantic powers so gently yet so resistlessly wielded. Such a position requires immense self-control.

Nothing is so intoxicating as supremacy, whether in statesman or soldier, and nothing tempts to a more fatal recklessness than journalistic command. But in the London Times we have that golden mean, that wise restraint, and that independent integrity, never perceptible in small minds, and too rarely seen in those the world is in the habit of calling great.

J. W. FORNEY.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Hot Weather—Fond of the Dollar—Indifference to Religion—Meetings—Baptisms, Etc.

SYDNEY, N. S. W., Australia, Feb. 9, 1876.

Prest. Brigham Young:

DEAR BROTHER:

This is certainly the warmest climate I ever experienced in my life. I can compare it to nothing but one of those hot, southerly dry winds we have at home for a day or so at a time, only here it keeps up night and day incessantly. The nights are so warm and close that one cannot sleep, and days so parching hot that one cannot feel comfortable, and no rain to cool the atmosphere. The old residents say they have not had such a dry season for eight years. Vegetation is parched, fruit and vegetables are dwarfed. It would do me good to even look at some Utah vegetables and fruit. But after this month the weather will be cooler. My health has been good, for which I feel to thank my heavenly Father. I was very much pleased to see by the papers that the Old Year had taken with it some of the poor miserable scum of politicians who have been so zealous in fighting our people. My brethren with myself felt to offer up a prayer of thanks to that all-wise Being who has at all times watched over his people, and hope that our friends at home, while in their busy affairs of life, will not fail to acknowledge the hand of God in all things. When the news of your release reached us, although feeling sure all would be well, yet we had some anxiety, we felt like shouting our thanks out aloud among the crowd at the post office.

In contemplating the state of society here, coupled with the hot, dry climate, it brings to mind the saying of Ben Wade, who met an old friend on the line of the U. P. R. somewhere about Sherman, who, in reply to Ben's question how he liked the place, said—"First rate; we only lack two things—good society and water." Ben replied that was about all they lacked in h—l. The people here care nothing about religion, only so far as it tends to assist them in business. The almighty dollar, or pounds, shillings and pence, is what they are looking after. The Catholic element predominates, and it seems as if the hiring priests had the people bound up in bundles that the big Woolwich gun could not burst asunder if fired in their midst. But I am in hopes that we shall be enabled to make an impression on some of the people, for it seems to me there must be some honest souls amongst the great many.

Bro. Groo's policy is to make friends and acquaintances as much as possible, to get them interested in our people, to disabuse their minds and pave the way for preaching the gospel to them. We find it impossible to get them to come to our meetings, although advertised. We are now getting 1000 tracts printed, and intend placing them in some of the stationers' windows, and distribute them wherever we can get the people to read them. We have made quite a number of friends and acquaintances already, and hope to see some of the fruits of our labor in due time. My music has been the means of introducing me to quite a number, and if I can bring some of them to a knowledge of the truth I shall feel more gratified than if I was amusing the people in the Salt Lake Theatre.

In regard to the Saints in Sydney, there are fourteen, men, women and children, and all of them as poor as Job's turkey, with the exception of Bro. Pegg's family. He receives a pension, having served in the British army in India for over twenty years. He is 80 years old. Sister Pegg does a sort of wholesale

washing business, hiring help. She has a son 17 years old, who works at the railroad office for the government, a daughter 13 years old, and another 6 years. The family are good faithful Latter-day Saints and are very anxious to gather. They have saved up some little towards it but not enough. We are making our home with them, as the other Saints are too poor to help us. They make us very welcome and have always kept their house open for elders from Utah.

Bro. Groo received a letter from Bros. Swan and Burton, who are laboring in Hobart Town, Tasmania, 600 miles distant. They met with a very good reception, both from the people and the press. Two different papers gave quite a truthful account of their first meeting, which was attended by about 200 people, with prospect of larger attendance at the next one. They found a family named Green (man and wife only), whom Bro. Geddes baptized, and who received them kindly, and took them around to the newspaper offices, and seemed well disposed towards them and invited them to call and see them at any time.

Bros. Miller and Cluff are at Goldburn, 100 miles from here, where they found two families who had joined the church in 1854, and had not seen an elder from Utah for 16 years, but the gospel spark was still burning in their bosoms, and they wanted their children that had grown up baptized. They are all anxious to gather to Utah.

Advices from Melbourne, where Bros. Welling and Hoagland are laboring, state that they are doing some outdoor preaching with considerable opposition. Still they are persevering, and live in hopes of realizing some benefit for their labor. The Saints there are all poor.

Bro. Groo received a letter from a man, named W. H. Mitchell, at Adelaide, 800 miles from here, inquiring about our principles. He sent him a "Voice of Warning" and some tracts, also wrote him a letter inviting him to correspond freely. It is the intention of Bro. Groo for him and me to visit that place soon, if we can find any way of getting there, as we understand there is a good class of people in that vicinity, mostly farmers. In New Zealand the brethren are active in the work.

A letter just received from Bros. Cluff and Muller, near Goldburn, says they have baptized two daughters and one son of one of the Saints' families, with prospect of rebaptizing others, and altogether make a very good report of the place.

As regards myself, I am feeling the best kind, and have the spirit of my mission. I can assure you I feel my weakness and inability to give expression to my thoughts in a public capacity, but can feel myself improving slowly. I speak a little every meeting. My only desire is to be instrumental in the hands of the Lord in doing good, faithfully daily what I have been sent here to do. I shall continue to give heed to the advice you gave me when I bid you good bye. I already feel the benefit of it in enjoying good health in this trying climate. I should be pleased at any time to hear from you, and receive any counsel you may feel like giving me. I desire an interest in your prayers, both for myself and my brethren. Praying the God of Israel to bless you and yours, and those associated with you in the cause of righteousness,

Your Brother in the Gospel of Christ,
MARK CROXALL.

Like a Lion—Inquiry—Sectarian Opposition—Forebodings—Hog Cholera and the Pork Business—Why Don't They Write—Fried Froth, etc.

BUCK CREEK, Ills.,
March 1st, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

If the old adage, "Come in like a lion, go out like a lamb," holds good, we certainly must expect that March will close very pleasantly, for to-day old Boreas appears to have been turned loose with a vengeance, and the wind blows and the snow flies as only the wind blows and the snow flies on an Illinois prairie.

Bro. Jos. Standing and myself have been holding a series of meetings in this part of McLean Co., during the last three weeks, and have been enabled to do much good in causing a spirit of inquiry

among the people, some of whom expect to subscribe for the NEWS, and others send for the various books that treat upon the faith of the Latter-day Saints. This part of the country has been pretty thoroughly canvassed in the last three months, and we have found many friends, but not without stirring up the power of the evil one to traduce and vilify us and the gospel, and, strange as it may seem, the ones who stoop to the lowest level in talking in regard to us are invariably the leading men in the various churches of the day; the wild stories they set afloat are generally so improbable that none but the wilfully blind will believe them. We generally get the school-houses to preach in, and when they are closed against us we find private houses open to speak in, and always a good attendance by the people, who give close attention, and in some instances seek further information relative to the doctrines we teach. All, without a single exception, agree upon the one point of a near approach of fearful times, coupled with vague ideas of a religious war, and it is astonishing how widespread this sentiment has become, so much so that it is talked of in every household, and is one of the never worn out topics for discussion. Certainly there is abundant material in the land for a war of massive proportions, in the hatred, jealousy, and bigotry of the various sects that pretend to worship God, in their various ways, for the Pharisees of old possessed no more of the three above named vices than do the ranks of modern religionists and their followers.

One point that would probably interest your readers is the character of the pork, bacon and lard that the States now produce, and that is shipped west for consumption. For more than fifteen years this State has been swept at intervals by the hog cholera, at times entailing upon the dealers in hogs heavy losses, and at no time have the hogs been entirely clear of the disease. The result is, I am satisfied, that vast amounts of this diseased pork have been placed upon the market and consumed by the people. One lot of hogs, numbering some forty head, I noticed were doing well, fattening nicely. When the cholera broke out and killed a few, the owner immediately shipped the lot to market to prevent further loss by the death of more hogs, or in other words, killed them to prevent them from dying on his hands. Men who are engaged in the business of buying and shipping hogs, tell me that it is no unusual thing for hogs to die in the cars, while in transit, and, as one bluntly told me, if they were not swelled too bad, they packed the pork. Now this may be a healthy diet, but misgivings will naturally arise in one's mind upon the subject, and we who buy pork or bacon in Utah, shipped from the East, run some considerable risk of buying the diseased meat, for that there is an abundance of it in the market there can be no doubt, and from what I can learn the history of this State is but a repetition of the history of all portions of the hog producing country of the States. Certainly some more appropriate use could be found for our money than expending it for diseased meat, to poison ourselves with.

In passing about the country I often meet with those who have friends and relatives among us, that they have not heard from for years, and the universal feeling is an anxiety to know something of them. If those in Utah, who have friends and relations in the States, would write to them, it would do much to allay the prejudice and bad feeling that we so often meet, and would be the means of bringing many to a knowledge of the truth, by causing them to investigate. I am satisfied that we as a people neglect this important means of conveying information to the world entirely too much.

Bro. Standing and myself expect to go east toward Indiana from here, and then south, travelling through the country, preaching as we go wherever the opportunity offers, or we can obtain houses to preach in or people to hear us.

We are stopping now at the house of Mr. Samuel Ogden, an old citizen of this county, having come here some forty-three years ago, and lived in this immediate neighborhood ever since. He is not a member of any church, and consequently does not feel it a Christian duty to turn us away from his doors, as do too many "Christians" we come in contact with. His platform