

DESERET NEWS

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - JAN. 3, 1877.

THE OLD YEAR—THE NEW YEAR.

THE NEWS of to-day, Dec. 30, is the last of the present year, the centennial year of the United States, the second epoch year in the history of the republic.

Eighteen hundred and seventy-six goes out and eighteen hundred and seventy-seven comes in with the Union in a very unsatisfactory condition, politically and commercially, morally and socially, inasmuch that in the minds of many reflecting people the great question of popular government is as much an unsolved problem now as it was in seventeen hundred and seventy-six.

Politically the country is distracted by contending parties, pretty evenly balanced as to numbers and influence. Commercially things are in a very poor way, business is dull and the hard times of the last four years linger yet, with little prospect of an early close. Morally, the situation is no better, for the amount of fraud, deception, and iniquity, of various kinds, that is daily coming to light, in public and private affairs, among high and low, throughout the land, is almost appalling. Socially there is not much to boast of. Thousands and thousands of people, people who are able and willing to work and at labor requiring skill and experience, are this day without the means of subsistence in many of the great cities of the land, and without prospect or hope of any means to obtain it by their labor for months to come.

This is anything but an agreeable picture, and the discouragements of it are much augmented by the unpleasant political possibilities and probabilities of the early part of the new year. However, let us hope for the best, and meantime, and notwithstanding discouraging appearances and dismal forebodings, we will wish our numerous patrons, friends and readers a

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

WHY DON'T YOU WRITE, OR AT LEAST SEND A PAPER?

FREQUENTLY complaints and suggestions have been made concerning the neglect of persons residing in these valleys in regard to writing to relatives, friends and acquaintances living at a distance. There is some neglect in this matter of friendly correspondence, but perhaps not more by people in this Territory than by people outside of it, if the facts were sifted and examined. Nevertheless, it would not hurt our citizens if they were to set an example worthy of extensive emulation in this regard. Where some are better than others, some must be best, and it would be no discredit to the people hereabout if they were to take a higher position than they have taken in the practice of frequent friendly correspondence with those with whom they are acquainted, relatives or not, and who live far away from them in the great world beyond the mountains. Somebody must be at the top in this commendable practice, and why not the people of this goodly region?

It is one of the remarkable things in social life, the general reluctance of people to write letters. Persons who can talk by the hour and never be at a loss for something to say, interesting to themselves at least, are exceedingly loth to sit down and write five minutes to an absent friend. Why is this? There is no overwhelming reason for it. Most people can write, and write plain enough to be read and understood.

One objection is that many people do not like to write. What is that? People do every day things they do not like to do. Moreover, it is a distinguishing mark of true Christian courtesy to do things one does not like to do, when they will

please others, and certainly most people are gratified to receive letters from old acquaintances at a distance, complaining letters and dunning letters excepted. But if people do not get into debt they will not be dunned, and if a cheerful and thankful spirit is cultivated there will not be so much to complain of as there is, and consequently there will be less complaining.

Writing is a pleasant occupation now and then, and also an elegant accomplishment, one that is competent to improve the mind, enlighten and enlarge the understanding, and cultivate and develop the affections. It is also much easier than many people think, being merely to jot down your thoughts, as they come along, about anything that will be interesting to the person to whom you are writing, at the same time, as a rule, not committing to paper anything you would fear any one else reading.

With how many people do odd half hours or hours hang idly on their hands, they not knowing what to do to pass the tedious time away! Those odd half hours would suffice to do all the social correspondence needed, and this use of them, moreover, would prove a pleasant variation of occupation and oftentimes a relief and refreshment to the mind, whether burdened with overmuch anxiety, or with ennui for want of sufficient employment, or of a healthful variety of it.

Some people say they do not know what to write. What nonsense! They know what to talk about to people whom they meet every day and every hour, but they do not know what to write about to relatives or old acquaintances whom they have not seen for months or years! Isn't that strange? Write to them what you would talk to them, so far as it is judicious to do so. Write as freely as you would talk, so that you write nothing that you would regret writing. Tell them how you are, how your family are, how your stock, or farm, or business is prospering, what is your daily life and that of your families, your duties and your recreations, what your hopes and prospects, what are the transpiring events of importance in your family and in the community, and anything else that will be proper to tell your friends by letter, and interesting to them.

Those who really will not strive to overcome their reluctance to writing to their friends abroad, might, as the next best thing, send them a local paper, as a friendly reminder, occasionally or regularly. Many people like to read papers published in Utah, those that are of a respectable character. For purposes of this kind we do not know of a paper that we could conscientiously recommend in preference to the DESERET NEWS, the weekly NEWS perhaps being best suited for that purpose. It may not be all that we could wish it, as what earthly production really is? But at the same time it contains a large amount of interesting reading matter, carefully written or selected, and as a household, family paper, with high and honorable aims, and designed to present truthful and instructive views of men and things, to give wholesome, interesting and entertaining literature, and to exclude from its columns everything which can be reasonably objected to, or not commended in a favorite family paper, we certainly think the NEWS unsurpassed by any paper published in the Rocky Mountains, or indeed anywhere else, and therefore we can consistently say that, everything considered, we regard the NEWS as the most suitable paper of any we know for the purpose of sending abroad to friends and acquaintances.

In this estimate we are strengthened by the remarks made by the missionary Elders who have been preaching abroad. They kindly inform us that in their travels they found that the NEWS was cordially welcomed and highly regarded as a trustworthy journal by persons in the Church, and by many of the more candid of the people outside the Church. Therefore can we consistently recommend our citizens, when they have not time nor inclination to write to their friends a long way off, to send the NEWS to them, as the best substitute for a letter, and also to send the paper to them any way, whether a letter goes or not. It will do good, and sow the seed of righteousness, to spring up many fold in happy days to come.

Therefore, send the NEWS abroad, all and everybody, to your relatives, friends, and acquaintances who live many miles away, that they may know they are kindly remembered in the valleys of Utah. Now this holiday time is as good a time as can be to commence such an agreeable and useful practice. Therefore send the NEWS abroad, and send it frequently and freely.

Local and Other Matters.

FROM WEDNESDAY'S DAILY, DEC. 28.

Weather Report.—The following is the weather report, received at 2:35 p.m., by Deseret Telegraph—

Pine Valley—Cloudy, looks like storm.

Leeds—Cloudy, storming in the mountains.

Toker—Cloudy, looks like storm, not very cold.

Cedar City—Very cloudy, looks like storm.

Parowan—Cloudy and cold, no snow.

Nephi—Eighteen inches of snow and snowing hard now.

Beaver—Snowing fast, cloudy to base of mountains, snow three inches deep.

Payson—Snowing, snow six inches deep.

Provo—Snow about fifteen inches deep, still snowing.

Paris, Idaho—Snowing, snow about three inches deep.

Rhigam City—Cloudy, snow about three inches deep.

Mount Pleasant—Very stormy and cold, snow now six inches deep.

Ogden—Snow about six inches deep, snowing some now.

Mendon—Cloudy, wind blowing and very cold; railroad open.

Fillmore—Snow six inches deep and still snowing.

Kanab—Fine and pleasant, no snow.

Moroni—About twelve inches of snow, still snowing hard.

Missionary Labors.—We have perused a letter to President B. Young, from Elder J. H. Freeman, now laboring in Wisconsin. It is dated Dec. 16th. He arrived in that State November 4th, and commenced his labors next day, in the city of Janesville, from which point he was sixty miles distant at date of writing. He travels on foot, has been without money, never had occasion to ask aid from any one, and yet had lacked for nothing he needed, the Lord raising up friends to him everywhere, who voluntarily supplied his wants, saying they felt impelled to do so as soon as they saw him, and thus he was realizing the promises made to him by the servants of God before he left his home.

He had been successful in arousing a spirit of inquiry in many, who were so interested as to defend the principles of truth, and he had hopes of bringing some into the fold. He had had the privilege of speaking in the school-houses, and the spirit and power of God had strengthened and sustained him. So active was the spirit of inquiry among the people that he had never been able any night to retire early to rest. For the first two weeks the climate acted injuriously upon his health, but he was becoming acclimated. The weather had been stormy and intensely cold, the thermometer going as low as thirty degrees below zero.

There is a universal looking forward with foreboding to the future, the people having a sort of undefined dread of the near approach of some great national calamity, their "hearts failing them for fear." The bigotry and hatred of parties is most intense, and not a few are looking to the mountains as a likely place of refuge and safety when the crash shall come. Numbers of people are becoming very kindly disposed to the Elders sent to them, indicating the approach of the time when many will be led to exclaim, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of great joy," and when thousands will seek the mountain retreat of the Saints as a place of refuge.

Elder Freeman says it would allay much prejudice if many in Utah who have relations and friends in the states would write often to them and send them the DESERET NEWS. This course would bring many to a knowledge of the truth, by causing them to investigate, and would be a great

aid to the missionary Elders. He will be pleased to call upon the friends of any of the Saints who may be in Wisconsin. His address is—John H. Freeman, Wausan, Marathon County, Wisconsin.

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY, DEC. 29.

A Little More.—A little more snow fell last night.

Falling.—Snowing lightly at times to day.

Plenty of It.—If you are ever short of reading matter, the *Congressional Record* is coming again.

Icy.—The icicles are of all lengths now, up to six feet. They make cool walking sticks.

Going.—Three more days of '76, and also of leap year. The time is short.

Good.—Better sleighing than for several years past in Christmas week. The "merry jingle" is heard at all hours.

Another Office.—To-day the Deseret Telegraph Company opened an office at Bellvue, between Tiquerville and Kanarra.

In Town.—Hon. C. W. Penrose, of the Ogden Junction, made a brief call at our office this afternoon.

Not Found.—Mrs. Turnbull, the aged woman who has been missing from her home in the 11th Ward, for some time, has not yet been heard of.

The Social Evil.—The police authorities are making a raid on the dens of prostitution in the city. About fifteen lewd women of the town have been arrested.

Diminished in Number.—In January, 1876, there were forty-eight liquor establishments, of various kinds, in this city. There are now thirty-seven, being a diminution of eleven.

Likely to Rise.—Should the present stormy weather continue long, it will probably have the effect of causing a rise in the price of beef, as owners of cattle will be compelled to take their herds to distant ranges.

Degradation.—This morning a man was found lying upon the sidewalk, on East Temple Street, in an unconscious state, from the effects of strong drink. He was conveyed to the City Hall, in a wagon.

In Print.—Here is the Strasburg (Pa.) *Free Press* of Dec. 16, containing a letter from Elder A. M. Musser to the editor, concerning the mission there of the former, etc., also a notice of a meeting to be held in Massett Hall the same evening.

A Good Time.—Now is a good time to pay off debts, if you can. It does a man good to recover an old debt, almost as much good as it does the debtor to liquidate it. Pay up, if you can, and let everybody concerned rejoice accordingly, and take fresh courage in the beginning of the new year.

The Wide Awake, an illustrated monthly magazine for young people, is published by D. Lothrop & Co., Boston, Mass., and contains a large amount of interesting, entertaining, and instructive reading matter for the little people, well printed on good paper, and freely illustrated in a high style of the art.

Passed the House.—A few days ago the House of Representatives passed a bill (H. R. No. 4258) to provide for the payment for certain improvements on lands now embraced in the military reservation of Fort Cameron in the Territory of Utah, and the same was presented in the Senate.

Oil and Glue.—Brother Thomas Harris is making progress in the manufacture of glue and neatsfoot oil. He has over a thousand pounds of glue on hand, which, however, he has been unable to get dry as yet, on account of the weather. He has turned out a considerable quantity of oil, which is strictly pure, being totally devoid of foreign materials.

Fined.—To-day the case of James Robbins, proprietor of the Great Western Hotel, charged with keeping a house resorted to for the purpose of prostitution, was concluded. Judge Pyper decided that the accused was guilty and imposed a fine of \$100. Robbins gave notice of an appeal to the District Court.

Several young men who had resorted to the same house for lewd

and lascivious purposes were charged accordingly and fined, some a hundred dollars and some fifty dollars, the latter sum being imposed upon those who pleaded guilty to the charge.

The pleading guilty of some of the parties charged with lewd conduct at the house of Robbins rather clinches the case against the latter, although the evidence adduced by the prosecution at the trial was of itself of a most conclusive character.

An Uncomfortable Position.—If the various threatening documents purporting to have been received by Governor Chamberlain, of South Carolina, are authentic, his position must be one of considerable discomfort.

Here is a specimen, said to have been picked up recently on his doorstep—

"To His Honor Gov. D. H. Chamberlain:

"Please find enclosed warning No. 2. No. 3 will be a winding sheet & before thirty days after warning No. 3, will come warning No. 4, which will be an end of Daniel H. Chamberlain. As you cannot be Gov. of S. C. & wants to be a Gov. so bad I will have compassion on you & make you Gov. of Hell where you can practise all your hellish games without having me to transport you elsewhere as I hate you so much, if you were to go to heaven, & I knew it, I would go to hell to get rid of the Damnedest Villan the Devil ever made. If you leave S. C., in thirteen days after No. 4, all good and well if not take the consequences. I do not wish to stain my hands with blood of the blackest villan I ever saw. That is my reasons for sending you this warning. [Leave S. C. or die.]"

Pennsylvania District.—We have perused a letter from Elder Henry Grow, of this city, now on a mission. After his arrival in Philadelphia, Nov. 6th, he visited the Centennial grounds four days, and had a pleasant time. He visited some of his relatives in that city and also in Montgomery County, going over some of the ground familiar in his boyhood, and found great changes had occurred in thirty-four years. He next went to Pottsville, Schuylkill County, where he found Elder Lorus Pratt, and the two held meeting at a place called Fishbrook. They visited several other places, holding meetings and preaching wherever they had opportunity. They visited a woman named Morgan, sister to Brother Giles, the organist, whose husband was killed on the railroad last Summer and who is very anxious to come to Utah. At Cresona they had a full meeting, and preached the Gospel freely, some of the congregation expressing, subsequently, their pleasure at what they had heard. Elder Grow left Elders Pratt and Brinton to hold meetings there weekly, and departed himself for another part of the State, where he met with Elders Musser, Neff and Whitney. Elder Neff was taken ill and would probably have to return home.

Elder Grow thinks considerable good can be done in some portions of Pennsylvania. He had talked a great deal to the people he met with and had made numerous friends among all classes. He had enjoyed his mission thus far, taking great pleasure in bearing testimony to the Latter-day work of the Lord. He states that there is a general depression of business and the poorer classes are suffering.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, DEC. 29.

Returned.—President John W. Young returned from the east last evening.

Stallings.—There is a letter at this office for Mr. E. Stallings. Call and get it.

Their Luck.—Thawing is the order of the day, and the boys and girls don't like it much.

Seriously Ill.—We regret to have to state that Brother Charles Lambert, of the Seventh Ward, is seriously ill.

Rain.—The slight snow fall last evening changed to a fine drizzling rain. But most of the snow remains, notwithstanding.

A Crash.—This morning a couple of awnings, one in front of the store of H. Smith, seedsman, First South Street, and the other in front of an unoccupied store next door to it, unable to withstand the pressure