

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

Vol. II.

SALT LAKE CITY, TUESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 21, 1869.

No. 256

Pioneer Paper of the Rocky Mountain Region

DESERET NEWS, Semi-Weekly

(Published every Tuesday and Saturday.)

The DESERET NEWS, WEEKLY

(Published every Wednesday.)

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BREVITIES.

A Michigan editor calls Chicago "brevet hell."

In 1867 there were 307 homicides in France; in Italy, 2,623.

What is the difference between a hungry man and a glutton? One longs to eat, and the other eats too long.

Russia is about to introduce a trial by jury as a new pledge of her progress in civilization.

An exchange thinks it is pretty evident that the champion liar of the world has gone into the business of telegraphing.

A young French butcher allures customers to his shop by announcing on a glaring sign that he "slaughters hogs like his father."

A Pennsylvania farmer writes to his country paper that he cured his daughter of the Greelan bend by pouring water on her and holding her out in the sun until she warped back again.

There is a man down East, rather a facetious fellow, whose name is New. He named his first child something, as it was something new. His next child was called Nothing, it being nothing new.

Crowds assembled at the northern depots in Paris on the arrival of every train, for some days after the publication of Napoleon's amnesty, to welcome back exiles from England and other northern climes.

In Paris "findings are not keepings," and no less than from eighteen to twenty thousand objects found upon the public way are deposited by the finders at a special depot for that purpose in the course of the year. About an equal number of articles left in public vehicles are similarly deposited.

A New Hampshire paper reports that a large body of black ants were seen a few days ago in the highway between Concord and London, formed in two lines, extending entirely across the road. A severe battle was fought by them, which lasted nearly an hour; after which both sides were occupied in burying their dead.

Mr. Spurgeon in a recent sermon referred to the velocipede, saying that "these new inventions which the lads were riding down our streets, would not keep up unless they were kept going; the moment they stopped they fell down; and in this they were exceedingly like the Christian church, which would fall unless it was constantly moving on."

A Litchfield, Conn., clock dealer lately sold a small clock to an Irish woman, who walked off with it under her arm. On her way she turned it bottom upward, and a wire dropped from its position, causing the clock to strike without intermission. Thereupon she returned in trouble, complaining to the merchant, "Sure, an it's cryin' after ye already."

Prof. Haughton, of Trinity College, Dublin, an eminent scientific man and philanthropist, by a series of experiments in the dead-house of the Medical College, has established the fact that, if a certain ratio be secured between the weight of the criminal and the weight of the counterpoise by the fall of which he was to be elevated, the poor victim would die instantaneously, and without the slightest muscular motion. The judicial authorities at Dublin have adopted Prof. Haughton's method, and on the first public hanging by it, there were serious apprehensions of a riot, on the ground that a stuffed dummy had been substituted for the criminal. Since its adoption public executions in Dublin have failed "to draw."

A French idealist, evidently suffering from telegraphy on the brain, proposes to the Académie des Sciences to establish communications with the people of the planets if any such there be. His notion is to mount a great mirror upon the earth, and give flashing signals to Mars and Jupiter. He thinks that if these are repeated regularly in batches of a certain number, the Martians or the Jovians, as the case may be, will come to discern that they mean something, and will retain them; and that thus a code will be eventually agreed upon, so that we may talk across the solar system just as we do across a field.

This silly man calls attention to the bright spots which have occasionally been seen on some of the planets, and suggests that these were probably signals from the inhabitants thereof to us. This idea of planetary signaling is an old one; it has been mooted before, and doubtless has occurred to thousands who have not had the effrontery to give their thoughts a tongue.

A laboring man at Osaka, in Japan, having been early left a widower with two children, took unto himself a second wife. The marriage was an unhappy one. The woman proved faithless to her husband, and in order to conceal her intrigues, determined to death in one of the hot baths which are to be found in almost every house in Japan. Fortunately, her crime was discovered before the wretched had time to destroy the traces of her guilt, and flight alone saved her from receiving summary vengeance at the hands of her neighbors. But though she escaped the certain and instant death that would have awaited her, she was destined to meet with a more exceeding and bitter punishment. She was caught, tried and sentenced to be gradually boiled alive in oil. The sentence, even in the cruel eastern code, is an exceptional one, and let us hope that its infliction is a sign that such dandish cruelty is also rare. A curious feature in the case is that as a warning to others similarly situated, every stepmother in the case is ordered to contribute a certain quantity of oil to the contents of the fatal caldron.

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ROBT. L. CAMPBELL,
Historian's Office. d22 1/2

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