

DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - MAY 16, 1877.

SEWING MACHINES COMING DOWN.

THE New York *Sun* has the following—

"Washington, May 7.—For weeks past the attorneys of the great sewing machine companies have been around the Patent Office searching for some loophole for an extension under guise of a new issue of the sewing machine patents which expire at noon to-morrow. None has been found, and the following named patents, on which the life of the sewing machine monopoly rests, now become common property to the country: The vibratory needle and reciprocating shuttle, the foundation of the double thread machines; the vibratory needle and the rotating hook, the vital principle of the single thread machines; and the continuous feed in combination with one or both of these, either with wheel motion or fore motion. The last is the vital principle out of which alone, exclusive of the other patents, the monopoly has cleared four million dollars. In the original Howe machine the feed motion was secured by a thin slip of metal with raised points, worked by a ratchet and wheel. After it had gone so far the cloth had to be lifted back, a tedious operation, which made the machine nearly useless. The difficulty was bridged by Batchelder, who substituted a cylinder, making a continuous feed, for the plate. Under various modifications, one of which was invented by Wilson in 1850 for a vibratory feed, this Batchelder patent has remained essential to every sewing machine, whatever its work or make might be. It has been extended twice, to the enormous profit of the combination that was made by the Singer, Wheeler & Wilson, Grover and Baker, and Howe Sewing machine companies to pool the profits in making it. A year ago the great monopoly pooled a million dollars to procure a third extension. Lobbyists and lawyers were retained by the dozen, but the job was too flagrant, even for Washington conscience."

The Washington *Star* says—

"No one will be sorry to know that in the expiration of the patent for certain improvements in sewing machines the four or five large companies who have hitherto enjoyed a monopoly in the business will be compelled hereafter to be content with moderate instead of enormous profits. Heretofore the monopoly in question has exacted from purchasers as a rule about six times the amount of the prime cost of the machines. Some machines selling at \$45 or \$50 can be manufactured, it is asserted, for about \$8, while the cost of manufacturing \$75 machines is somewhere between \$15 and \$20. So heavy were the profits that the companies have been able to afford agents on liberal commissions in all the large towns and cities of the United States to push the sale of their productions. It is stated that four of the large companies have made no less than \$4,000,000 profits on the Batchelder patents, which expire to-day. Of this sum a very large proportion has been derived from poor women who could ill afford the expense of buying a good machine, but who were compelled to submit to the extortion or starve in their garrets. And yet, while American monopolists were selling their machines at an enormous profit at home, they were supplying Europe with them at greatly reduced rates. The price of machines has already fallen materially, and we may look for a still further decline. There are several other valuable patents connected with sewing machines in existence, which will enable the manufacturers to still keep their prices much too high for some time to come."

The Omaha *Bee* of May 10 says—

"The sewing machine monopoly has drawn its last breath, and the millions that toil for a livelihood with the needle are at last to have relief from the oppressive exactions of sewing machine venders. The expiration of the Batchelder needle

plate patent, which occurred last Monday, is the last of the series of patents held by the Singer, Wheeler & Wilson, and Grover and Baker combination, which has controlled the business and exacted royalties from outside companies for a long period. The old Howe patent was held by this combination, and effectually controlled the manufacture of all machines. In addition to this the combination up to three years ago owned the old Wilson patent for a four motion, which, with the Batchelder patent, gave them a practical command of the entire business. Outside companies paid a royalty of from \$1 to \$8 on each machine manufactured by them, all of which went into the pockets of the combination. One of the outside companies paid as high as \$80,000 a year in royalties for ten years, and still made immense profits, the margin in the sewing machine business being so enormous. The actual cost of the \$60 and \$70 machines sold by leading companies is, on the confession of their own officers, from \$11 to \$15 apiece.

"One of the immediate effects consequent on the expiration of the patents will be a great reduction of prices, and the increase of sewing machine factories. Heretofore, three or four rich companies have held the principal patents, and have forced their weaker brethren to pay them a heavy royalty on every machine manufactured. Now, anybody who pleases can make a sewing machine, and sell it, too, without liability to punishment for infringement of law. There are, of course, many patents still held by the great companies which protect various parts of the machine from imitation, but not one is essential, and not one but may be dispensed with by any other manufacturer."

As one of the early consequences of the expiration of the above named patents, sewing machines are falling in price as much as 50 per cent. already. One firm which claims to manufacture and sell more machines than any other in the country, and which sells many machines in Utah, already advertises in State papers to sell its sixty dollar family machines for thirty dollars. This is the Singer company.

According to the New York *Sun* the Wheeler and Wilson people say they could sell a machine, that costs \$15 to make it, for \$25, if they received the cash, instead of waiting two years for it by installments. They say they can and will sell their \$55 machine for \$25, and their \$60 machine for \$30; that there is no reason why a really excellent machine should not be had for \$30; that the installment plan must come to an end, and ready cash be the motto, with machines at low prices.

The Howe people say that it costs about \$15 to put up a machine, the rest is paid out to agents and in getting the machines before the people, also that there are enormous losses on the installment plan.

This may be vexatious news to people who are paying ninety or a hundred dollars by slow installments for sewing machines already had, but it will be good news to the public generally and to all who need to buy machines hereafter.

Local and Other Matters

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY, MAY 10.

Southern Mission.—We have seen a letter from Brother Joseph McRae, with the Jones camp of settlers, in Arizona, to his father in this city. It states that the health of the people is excellent and their affairs are prosperous.

Musical Entertainment.—Prof. A. C. Smyth, a gentleman who takes much interest in promoting culture in the art of music, will be the recipient of a complimentary benefit to-morrow evening, at the 17th District School-house. The Sunday School children will take part in the exercises.

A Noted Literary Man.—M. D. Langdon, Esq. (Eli Perkins), arrived in the City last evening. He represents the New York *Sun* and is a writer of marked ability, and partly humorous. He is the same gentleman who recently wrote a striking and graphic description of Cheyenne, which was re-produced in the NEWS.

Decease of Bishop Johnson.—The following came this morning per Deseret Telegraph Line—

SPRINGVILLE, May 10, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

Bishop Aaron Johnson died at his residence in this city, twenty-five minutes to seven a. m., of nervous exhaustion from cold, aged seventy-two years. Funeral services to-morrow at two p. m.

District Court.—Thursday, May 10th, morning.

William C. Henrie et al vs. Lucien Livingston et al; depositions ordered published; jury trial.

United States vs. a specified number of gallons of spirits, two cases; same order.

Klopfenstein & Miller vs. Patrick Bradley; jury trial.

Personal.—Yesterday we had the pleasure of a call from F. R. Myers, Esq., General Passenger Agent of the Pittsburg and Fort Wayne R.R., and Geo. A. Dadmun, Esq., General Passenger Agent of the Phila., Wilmington and Balt. R.R. Both gentlemen were accompanied by their respective wives, and left this morning for the west.

Mr. Myers is an efficient and courteous railroad official, well known to not a few Utah people who have had occasion to travel in the east.

In Michigan.—A letter to President B. Young from Elder O. H. Eggleston, Ortonville, Oakland Co., Michigan, states that he and Elder W. M. Palmer are laboring thereabout. They had met with considerable opposition in some quarters and with encouragement in others. The only weapons used by those who opposed were lies, abuse and misrepresentation. They had discovered that when they resorted to fair or reasonable means they were invariably vanquished, and falsehood was the only recourse of those enemies of the truth.

The Sanpete Temple.—We have been permitted to peruse a letter from Bishop John B. Maiben, of Manti, to the First Presidency of the Church. He says—

"The brethren of Manti have turned out very well the past week and have made a good initial mark upon the Temple approaches and foundation."

He also states that a call had been made upon the settlements north of Manti, for aid in the good work, to which Mount Pleasant had responded, having nearly completed the construction of a house for the accommodation of their hands, and the other settlements were making arrangements to follow suit.

Returned Missionary.—This morning we received a call from Elder N. V. Jones, who returned on Monday evening from a mission to the eastern States. He left here on the 15th of last November, and labored in the St. Louis district, under the direction of President David M. Stuart. He, in company with Elder Samuel R. Bennion, went from St. Louis to Canton, Fulton County, Illinois, where they baptized four persons. Thence they went to Henry County, in the same State, where they did some preaching. Their next field was Ohio, in the vicinity of Toledo, where they had an opportunity of preaching to the people. Besides the places above named, they visited several other parts of the country, and preached where opportunity offered.

Elder Bennion is expected to return within a few days.

Progressing.—Elder D. W. Jones writes to President B. Young, from Camp Utah, Maricopa County, Arizona, Hayden's Ferry, under date of April 23rd. We are enabled to extract—

"Our ditch is ready to have the water turned in, and we expect to have it running upon our land this week, and to commence plowing for corn, &c., about the 1st of May. We want, if possible, to plant about 200 acres. The land is easy to cultivate. There could be two thousand acres planted here in one field, without a break, all good land. Our ditch covers the whole of it. By extending it about four miles we can cover between five and six sections of land, of the best quality, all in a body, and well situated for cultivation."

Elder Jones states that the people are living in the United Order, and good feelings prevail. In this system a great deal more work is accomplished in developing the settlements than could possibly be in a divided capacity.

The Indians are very much interested in the settlers—Pimas, Maricopas, Papigos and others having made two or three days' travel to visit them. Some of them have worked upon the ditch and appear peaceable, honest and kindly.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, MAY 11.

Rising.—There has been a rise in breadstuffs hereabout during the last few days. A wag says it is caused by the condition of the (y)east.

In Kentucky.—By letter, from elder William Leany, now laboring as a missionary in Kentucky, we learn that he is actively engaged there preaching to large congregations. Elder Leany's health is poor.

Improving.—The numerous friends of Elder Brigham Young, jr., who has been laboring under a severe attack of illness, for some time, will be pleased to learn that he is gradually improving.

Bound Over — Fined.—John James, who shot at Joseph Crosier, last evening, had an examination, before Justice Pyper, to-day, when he was held, in the sum of \$200, to answer to the grand jury.

Crosier, charged with threatening to kill James, was fined \$15.

Tramps.—The city is being overrun with tramps, who are floating this way from various directions. Three fellows belonging to that genus were brought up to the City Hall, from the depot, last night. They are arriving daily, in a "steal or starve" condition. When characters of that class are abundant it is a good time for citizens to look after any loose property they may have lying around.

Funeral Services.—Mr. Robert McEwan desires us, through the NEWS, to return thanks, for him, to those who attended the funeral services of his wife, Janet H., yesterday, and for other manifestations of sympathy to him in his bereavement. The deceased lady was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, Sep. 29th, 1820.

The obsequies were largely attended, and the congregation was addressed by Bishop Hickenlooper and Counselor Brumley.

Buried by an Earth Cave.—The following was received last evening—

SALINA, Utah, May 10, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

To-day, about 12 o'clock, Franklin Harmon, a boy aged 13 years, was out with his brother herding. While taking their dinner near a large creek, a bank caved in, and falling upon him he was completely covered up. His brother succeeded in getting him out, but he shortly expired. His mother, a widow, is very much bereaved.

Returned.—This morning we received a visit from Elder Joel Parrish, of Centreville, who returned recently from a mission to the States. He left here November 20th, and proceeded to Illinois, where he labored nearly the whole of the winter with the exception of a short time he spent in Missouri and Iowa. He visited a large number of his relatives, preached to the people at the fireside, and also had some opportunities of addressing them publicly. He baptized three persons in Illinois.

Trading Postage Stamps.—Michael Stoker, a resident of Summit, Iron County, Utah, was arrested on Thursday last by Deputy United States Marshal Curtis, charged with disposing of United States postage in the limits of the post office under the charge of Charley Meyers. The gentleman was examined and testified to receiving the stamps from John Hewlett, Postmaster at Parowan, Utah, the said stamps to be used for the purchase of goods for Hewlett. The proper affidavits were made in the case and forwarded to the Department at Washington, D.C.—*Pioche Record*.

Mormonism.—This is the way the Franklin County (Va.) *Gazette* combats "Mormonism"—

"We are surprised at any sensible person being led astray by the obnoxious doctrines preached by these people. Yet we are told that they have crowded houses to listen to their vulgar harangues. There are two of these so-called ministers in our county, doing, we fear, much injury to our religious principles, and imbibing those horrible doctrines into the bosoms of the unsophisticated. Our community

would be much better off and better entertained by staying at home and not giving encouragement to these lazy vagabonds."

From Sandwich Islands.—To-day we were pleased to receive a visit from Mr. J. L. Richardson, from the Sandwich Islands. He has been a resident of that part of the globe about nineteen years, and is now on his way to visit his relatives in Iowa, after an absence of nearly twenty years. His property there adjoins the Church plantation and he has made the acquaintance of nearly all our missionaries to the Islands for years past. To-day he met brother George C. Lambert upon the street and at once recognized him as a brother to Elder Richard Lambert, now on the Islands, from the striking family resemblance between the two. Mr. Richardson first went to the Islands with a view to recovering his health, which had become impaired, the result in that respect being as good as he could reasonably desire.

Shooting Affair.—Between five and six o'clock last evening a man giving the name of John James attempted to kill Joseph Crosier, firing a couple of shots at him from a pistol. Fortunately for Crosier, James is a poor marksman, enabling Crosier to escape unhurt. Some citizens arrested James, who was taken to the City jail and locked up.

The shooting occurred on East Temple Street, nearly opposite the Walker House, and was the result of ill feelings about a woman with whom Crosier was living. The same woman has preferred a charge against Crosier of threatening to take the life of James.

Crosier asserts that the attempt upon his life by James last evening was the second, the latter having, he states, about a year ago, fired four shots at him, without, however, doing him any damage.

Yachting.—Last evening, in the Emporium Building, there was an adjourned general meeting of yachtmen of this part of the Territory, for the purpose of forming a central organization and adopting a constitution, both of which objects were effected. The various clubs were consolidated under the name and style of the Salt Lake Yacht Club. The following were the officers elected—

David L. Davis, Commodore; I. M. Barratt, Vice Commodore; William J. Silver, Measurer; Douglas A. Swan, Secretary; L. Cummings, Treasurer.

Four boats were represented: the *Water Witch*, *Petrel*, *Mary Askey*, and another, a new one, not yet named.

It is probable there will be several regattas during the season, in which it is expected that boats from other parts will participate. Steps are being taken to prepare for the one that is proposed to come off early in June. At present sailing only will be engaged in, but it is designed to introduce rowing as well, so soon as practicable.

A Terrible Engine.—In this great republic the administration is adopting measures consistent with an anticipated peaceful condition of affairs, but on the eastern hemisphere it is entirely different. There the minds of peoples and governments are filled with visions of blood and destruction. Men's hearts are "failing them for fear" of horrible anticipated developments of the future, and the inventive genius of man is perverted to the channel of producing engines for the destruction instead of the propagation of human lives. Surely the plowshares are being beaten into swords, and the pruning hooks into spears, precursors of a reversal of that unhappy condition.

The most remarkable engine of destruction ever invented is now being tested by the British Admiralty. It is the production of the genius of the Rev. C. M. Ramus, a clergyman, who appears to mix up with his desires to save, if he have any, his fellow creatures, a proclivity to destroy them. It is called the "rocket float," and consists of an iron or wooden vessel, constructed on the plan of a series of inclined planes. The rocket, by means of the combination of which the "float" is propelled, is laid along the deck. It can be sent to its objective point at the rate of 275 miles an hour, for four miles; the head is explosive, and contains sufficient gun-cotton to shatter to "smithereens" the most powerful ironclad ever built. If the "rocket float" is what it is claimed to be, it