

# DESERET NEWS

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1876

## POLITICAL INTEGRITY NEEDED.

THE Fifth Avenue Conference may not have a markedly appreciable influence in the coming presidential election, but it must be considered as an earnest protest of high-minded gentlemen against the political corruption of the times, and a note of warning that a continuance in the same downward direction is fraught with imminent danger to the perpetuity of American liberties and even to the existence of the nation as an enlightened democratic republic. The gentlemen comprising the conference will be rated by many who are more or less wedded to the present state of things as a set of "old fogies," anxious to re-establish, in this progressive day, the political ways of what they fondly look upon as the good old times, but which ways of late years have been thrust aside as antiquated and entirely out of keeping with the political proclivities of the present, and no more desirable to be restored than the knee breeches and scuttle bonnets of our grandfathers and grandmothers.

Nevertheless this is the centennial year of the Union, and nothing is more becoming to the whole people of the Union, nothing more desirable, and perhaps nothing more necessary to the vitality and good repute of republican institutions, than a calm, candid, careful and thorough review of the situation of the Union, politically and morally. The heads of thousands of the best and most honorable citizens in the land are bowed down with grief and shame at recent revelations of cupidity and turpitude in the high places of the nation as well as in various positions of responsibility and trust in ordinary civil life. It is but natural that such persons should earnestly and vigorously protest against the corruptions which do appear, and cast about for some hopeful means of reform, some men and some measures that give fair and trustworthy promise of a return to a higher plane of political morality, which shall raise the country in the estimation of its own best citizens and of the civilized world at large.

It would be one of the saddest things in all history, one of the most discouraging and fatal to all aspirations towards the perfection of popular government, if it should be even tacitly conceded that political integrity is hopeless, that political corruption to a dangerous degree is chronic in the United States, and impossible of cure. No well-wisher of his country or of his race wants to believe in such concession so long as it can be avoided. But, unfortunately, the signs of the times do not augur very promisingly.

## THE TIMES.

THE phrase, "The times are out of joint," surely never had a better opportunity for truthful application than is presented by the existing state of affairs in all the world generally, and in our own country specially, and well may the question be soberly asked, Whither is mankind drifting? We will merely take a cursory glimpse at the condition of civilized countries on the eastern hemisphere. Mr. Hardy, a member of the British Parliament, expressed much in this connection the other day, when, defending the increase of the army estimates of Great Britain, he said, "When the tramp of armed men was heard in every country in Europe, it was necessary that England should keep her place among the nations." Startling as the fact may appear, the "tramp of armed men" is really heard as stated, indicating a restless, watchful, and may be, insomniac instances,

belligerent feeling among the nations of the old world, that causes an unsettled condition and foreboding presentiment to prevail. Who is prepared to say it is not the very feeling and even the very time spoken of by the Saviour, who, in alluding to the signs of the latter times, said men's hearts would fail them for fear of the things to come?

Little specks of war are breaking out in various places, some of which, the Herzegovinian trouble and the Salonica affair for instance, may, at any time, by the serious complications which are likely to be evolved, precipitate some of the more powerful nations into a deadly conflict with each other and cause the horrible clang of battle to ring through the old world. At any rate this feeling or presentiment appears to widely prevail in the minds of men, the most sagacious statesmen, by their frequent expressions of concern, indicating that they consider the times dangerously critical.

Had we the space we might allude to the numerous disasters by sea and land, in the old world, with the accounts of which the newspapers have of late been teeming. We might point to the appearance of the plague, particulars of the ravages of which we hear from the far Orient, with journalistic prognostications of the probability of its taking its horrible, death and terror-spreading march westward, mayhap in fulfilment of the words of the Lord, who said, as contained in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, page 135, that in the generation in which the fulness of the gospel should be brought forth in the latter times, it would transpire that "a desolating sickness shall cover the land." But the entire paragraph contains, in our view, matters of all-absorbing interest to the whole of mankind, whether they think so or not, and we therefore give it in full—

"4. And in that day shall be heard of wars and rumours of wars, and the whole earth shall be in commotion, and men's hearts shall fail them, and they shall say that Christ delayeth his coming until the end of the earth. And the love of men shall wax cold, and iniquity shall abound; and when the times of the Gentiles is come in, a light shall break forth among them that sit in darkness, and it shall be the fulness of my gospel; but they receive it not, for they perceive not the light, and they turn their hearts from me because of the precepts of men; and in that generation shall the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled; and there shall be men standing in that generation, that shall not pass, until they shall see an overflowing scourge; for a desolating sickness shall cover the land, but my disciples shall stand in holy places, and shall not be moved; but among the wicked, men shall lift up their voices, and curse God and die. And there shall be earthquakes also in divers places, and many desolations; yet men will harden their hearts against me, and they will take up the sword, one against another, and they will kill one another."

The foregoing extract is from a revelation given through the Prophet Joseph Smith, March 7th, 1831, and which the Lord explained what he taught his disciples at Jerusalem, relative to what should be the signs of the near approach of his second coming, in the latter days, the fulness of times.

In connection with the revelation mentioned let any person interested read also the portion of the New Testament bearing on the same subject, carefully, with a desire to arrive at the truth, and, if he be a believer in prophetic inspiration, see whether he can come to any other conclusion than that we are living in a day of days, even in the latter times, when there are "wars and rumours of wars, the whole earth in commotion, and men's hearts failing them for fear, and yet it is but the beginning of sorrows."

We have only alluded so far to the signs of the times and commotions in distant parts of the earth, but does the picture assume a brighter hue when we turn our gaze nearer home? The answer comes back in the form of a forcible, unmistakable negative, for indeed on this broad continent the scene presents a coloring still more foreboding and gloomy. But lack of space precludes our alluding in detail to the peculiar situation of affairs in this land, and their, to us, plain purport, at present.

## Local and Other Matters.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, MAY 19.

**Frosty.**—Hoar frost every night now, and the vines and other tender vegetation are rather wilted.

**Captured.**—Thompson Davis the escaped penitentiary convict, was captured, by deputy marshal Cannon, who brought him to town yesterday.

**Snow.**—Yesterday the snow lay about Farmington, Centerville and Bountiful, rather more thickly than in this city. Farther north to Ogden the snow did not lie, if any fell. The Weber is much lower than it was.

**Disastrous Frost.**—A dispatch from the south, to Bishop Edward Hunter, states that a very sharp frost prevailed at Kahab on the night of the 17th, which unfortunately killed all the apricots, plums, apples and grapes, and even killed the growth of shade trees.

**Glass.**—Mr. C. R. Savage having received the glass to replace that of his show window smashed by the recent explosion, had it put into the shop to-day. By the courtesy of Z. C. M. I. he was enabled to obtain the article on very favourable terms.

**Deceased.**—The Ogden Junction of May 18th records the death and burial, in Arizona, of F. A. Hammond, junr., one of the missionaries in Capt. Lot Smith's company, and secretary of the same. He was taken suddenly ill, with a severe pain in the right side.

**At New York.**—We learn through a private letter from New York, that Bishop O. N. Liljenquist and the missionaries who accompanied him arrived in New York, all well, on Thursday, 11th inst. The party intended to leave that city for Liverpool the following Tuesday (16th inst.) by one of the Guion & Co. steamers.

**And in Her Pocket a Thousand Pound.**—We learn from Mr. Geo. Whitehead that his sister-in-law, Miss Morris, now residing at his house, in this city, received a letter from a lawyer in London, from which it seems that an aunt of Miss M. (who is a sister to Mrs. Whitehead) has recently left a legacy of one thousand pounds to each of three sisters, with other property in prospective. Miss Morris is to go to England at once, to see about the business. — Ogden Junction, May 18.

**A Lively Chase.**—This morning a city prisoner named Joseph Reynolds, was sent out, by Supervisor Hyde, in charge of a workman, named Irvin, to work at putting in hydrants. When near the 12th Ward School-house he made a break and ran away from his keeper, who started after him at full speed. Reynolds being a fleet runner, the chase was consequently a long one, which a stern chase is proverbially. However, Irvin held out the longer and caught up with his man, near the extreme edge of the First Ward. Before Irvin got to him he picked up a couple of rocks and told him to keep off or he would hurt him, which threat was unheeded, and, seeing his pursuer was undaunted, he surrendered, and just then, Mr. Hyde, who had been notified of the occurrence, came up and Reynolds was taken to the City Hall.

This is the second attempt this prisoner has made to escape, and he was serving out a term of thirty days for disturbing the peace and resisting and abusing the officers, and, on being taken before Justice Pyper this morning, thirty days more were added. He had only served two days of the previous term.

**Becoming Intolerable.**—We take occasion to draw the attention of the mail agent to a nuisance which numbers of the people of Tooele have been afflicted with for about a year past, in postal matters. A considerable time back we received several letters from subscribers, stating that the P. M. of that place refused to deliver or assort newspapers coming in bundles, unless they were folded in the package, with the name-label in such a position that each paper could be picked up and placed in each particular pigeon hole without any trouble. That this fastidious P. M. might have no shadow of a legitimate excuse for neglect or churlishness, we arranged the papers in the packages as he prescribed, but this does not bring the remedy, for we

keep receiving letters from subscribers stating that the inconvenience to which they have been subjected in this regard is unabated, numbers of papers never reaching those to whom they were directed, through sheer carelessness or neglect of the party in charge of the Post Office.

Several subscribers inform us that a proof of the papers reaching there all right is the fact that they not unfrequently fall into other hands than those of the subscribers, and as a last resort they ask us to put the papers up in single wrappers.

**Land Sharks.**—The following was handed in this morning—

"Editor Deseret News:

"Land sharks are in the city, and are buying up every rod of ground they can get. The way it is done is this—the person who sells the land has to sign a bill of sale, and the man that buys promises to pay in six or nine months, so that no money passes between the parties. And the buyer has a chance to double his money before he pays for the land.

"PAUL PRY."

One would suppose that dupes of the kind alluded to in the foregoing would scarcely be found, but it may be that they exist, and are preyed upon by sharpers of the class spoken of by the correspondent. It would appear that those persons denominated "land sharks" make pretended purchases in the hope of a rise in the price of land, in which case they find a second buyer, from whom they secure a good round price, paying the original owner of the real estate out of the money they thus receive, pocketing the balance, probably amounting to more than the first price.

People should beware of such speculators and land gamblers, who live by preying upon their less cunning fellows.

While on the subject of land matters we take occasion to advise everybody to avoid, by every honorable means, selling their homes, and also to avoid mortgaging them as they would avoid becoming a slave, for when the property of a person is under a bond or mortgage he is virtually in a species of, at least, financial bondage, and also avoid, as far as possible, going into debt at all.

FROM SATURDAY'S DAILY, MAY 20.

**Grasshoppers.**—We are informed that grasshoppers have appeared in the 11th Ward, in considerable numbers.

**Glass.**—Z. C. M. I. have received the necessary amount of plate glass to make good the damage done to the building in that line by the explosion.

**Going to England.**—Mr. Thomas V. Williams, for a number of years in the employ of Z. C. M. I., leaves to-morrow morning for his native country, England, for the purpose of visiting relatives and friends. He anticipates being absent two or three months.

**Fined.**—Yesterday evening nine saloon keepers obeyed an invitation to confront Justice Pyper, on charges of disregarding the license ordinance and for permitting gaming in their establishments. They were fined in sums ranging from \$20 to \$25.

**The Weber.**—We learn that the snow along the banks of the Weber river, in some localities, is still from eight to ten feet deep, and by about the second week in June it may be expected to be higher and more dangerous than ever, the late high water being only a temporary increase.

**St. George.**—By letter from St. George we learn that between forty and fifty joiners, in addition to those already there, are wanted to work on the Temple, and some of that number are likely to be called from this city. The Temple is a delightfully cool place to work in.

The health of President Young continues to improve. Although the thermometer has stood as high as 102 in the shade, the heat has not been oppressive.

**Attempted Murder.**—The following dispatch is from Silver City, Tintic, Utah, May 20th—

"Mr. Oaks, a saloon and store-keeper in Silver, makes another attempt at murder. This time the victim is Mr. Mike Conley. After dark, on the evening of the 18th inst., while Mr. Conley was in

John Oaks' store, a dispute arose between them, some hard words were exchanged and Oaks struck Conley with one hand, holding a six-shooter in the other, giving Mr. Conley no possible chance to retaliate, he having no weapon. Oaks ordered him to leave the store. He did so. Oaks followed and shot him, the ball taking effect in the right shoulder. Mr. Conley is doing well and will undoubtedly recover in a few weeks.

**Plenty of Work.**—Coe and Carter, who have the contract for supplying ties for the Union Pacific Railroad Company, for repairing the road, have about one hundred men at work on the job, in the east part of the Territory. The ties got out by them in the fore part of last Winter are still under about five feet of snow. When the Weber falls it is the intention of Messrs. Coe & Carter to float the ties down that stream to Echo, at which point booms will be constructed for the purpose of catching them.

Operations in filling this contract have supplied a ready market for the produce of Rhode's Valley people and for those of others in the same vicinity, as well as giving employment to a large number of men.

**Farewell Concert.**—On Monday evening, May 22nd, Mr. Willard E. Weihe, the well known violinist of this city, will be the recipient of a farewell benefit concert, got up by his Scandinavian friends. Mr. Weihe, who was a former pupil of the celebrated Ole Bull, is going to Germany for the purpose of completing his musical education.

The concert will be given at the 14th Ward Assembly Rooms, of which Bishop Taylor has kindly tendered the free use for the occasion. The Theatre orchestra, conducted by Prof. C. Thomas, have kindly volunteered their services. We do not doubt that the entertainment will be an artistic success, and we trust the young gentleman's friends will turn out in force and make it so financially as well. The prices of admission are 25 cents, and 50 cents for reserved seats. Performance to commence at eight o'clock.

**Silver Creek Rampant.**—We learn from Brother E. R. Young, just returned from the neighborhood of Wanship, Summit Co., that Silver Creek, in that vicinity, has been playing some mischievous freaks. The stream, a short time since, was higher than ever it was known to be before. It carried away the bridge leading to Rhodes' Valley, and a temporary one had to be constructed, that travel might not be altogether impeded. The dam and tail-race of Mr. E. R. Young's grist mill were also completely destroyed, were replaced again, when, a few days since, the dam was again carried away, and still another had to be constructed. The mill itself was only saved by the construction of "Vs," composed of willows and rock. During the last few days the spell of cold weather greatly reduced the volume of the stream. While it was high it overflowed large tracts of land and did considerable damage.

**The Arizona Mission.**—Brother John A. Blythe, one of the Arizona missionaries, writes from Allen's Camp, Little Colorado, under date of April 24th, to a friend in this city, and we are enabled to make the following extract from the letter:—

"We have settled on a rolling country, between seventy and eighty miles south of east from the San Francisco Mountains. The river here is about as large as the Big Cottonwood stream. It runs nearly due west from here, and above this point takes a curve to the south-east.

"The weather here is pleasant, but very dry, and will be so until July, the rainy season, which lasts about two months or more; so say the settlers in this neighborhood. The nearest settlement from us is up the river about seven miles. It was started by a Spaniard, but is occupied mostly by white settlers. The only farming plot of consequence near is on the river about thirty miles above here. It is owned by a man named Stinson, Assessor and Collector for this county. Yavapai is the name of the county.

"The companies are located as follows—Lot Smith's, about 140 miles up the river from its mouth, at Sunset crossing; Ballinger's, below Lot Smith's three miles and