

THE DESERT WEEKLY

PIONEER PUBLICATION ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.

ESTABLISHED TRUTH AND LIBERTY JUNE 1850.

NO. 6.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1890.

VOL. XII.

ERE AGE CAME NEAR AND YOUTH HAD GONE.

BALLADE.

You laugh because, oh, rosy boy,
My eyes are dimmer than of yore,
Bid me my spectacles employ,
And say I am aging more and more.
'Tis true, dear lad, for you upsoar
The larks in skies yet pink with dawn,
O'er pleasant paths I dared explore,
Ere age came near and youth had gone.

Laugh on; your brisk and boyish-joy
Nor takes my youth nor can restore.
Time shall the brightest eyes destroy,
While shadows creep across the floor.
We, far at sea, still love the shore,
In azure distance slow withdrawn,
We love the mocking face we wore,
Ere age came near and youth had gone.

Too soon would ruthless Time's annoy
Chase smiles from lips whose May is o'er,
Life's brightest gold prove base alloy,
And mute the lark her skies upore,
Say that we human love implore
He bids revive the faded lawn,
And, as of old, the larks outpour,
Ere age came near and youth had gone.

ENVOY.

Who loves his kind can Time ignore—
All youth and joy he holds in pawn,
And smiles in age, blithe as before,
Ere age came near and youth had gone.

CHARLES NOBLE GREGORY.

OUR CHICAGO LETTER.

The year 1890 will certainly be a memorable one in meteorology as well as in other affairs. It is, in truth, a year of disasters. There is not a day that something more thrilling is not chronicled. It would be safe to say that many thousands of lives have been lost by accidents, disasters and such causes. Only a few days ago Chicago was startled by the blowing up of a large steamboat, resulting in a loss of some thirty lives. Next day comes a terrible cyclone in Minnesota, bringing death to hundreds of pleasure seekers. Turn over the files of a daily paper for a few months and figure up what nature in the way of wind, water, hail and lightning has done. Kentucky seems to have suffered most. On January 13, eleven lives were lost by a cyclone; on March 27, 440 lives were lost by the Louisville cyclone; on June 13, twelve lives were lost by a cloudburst, also in

Kentucky. This makes 500 lives lost for Kentucky alone.

By the February flood in Arizona sixty-five lives were lost. The April cyclone in Arkansas destroyed fifteen lives, the June cyclone in Nebraska 15, and by the June cyclone in Illinois some twenty lives were lost. During what has been spent of this year it is safe to say that about 2000 lives have been lost by cyclones and lightning both directly and indirectly.

A gentleman named Duncan in Kentucky says that all this means the end of the world. He quotes scripture to prove it, and when he finds it convenient he draws on science. The Chicago Post says that it does not mean the end of the world, but that it might mean something to remind us of the transitory nature of earthly things. The Post contends that if these disasters meant the chastening of a wicked world, Chicago could hardly escape.

That 1890 is one of disaster, calamity and catastrophe no one can dispute. Scientists seem as much in the dark about it as the religionists. In the primitive days of Christianity we find that the great Roman empire was visited by similar calamities. Devout Christians looked upon these as visitations of Providence for the cruelty and rapacity of Roman soldiers and citizens. It is probable that devout Mormons in the future will look upon our disasters as similar visitations of Providence for the cowardly, un-Christian, treacherous manner in which Mormons are treated today. Certainly the pious Mormon has as much reason and right to think so as his prototype the early Christian had. At all events, we have had calamity enough to remind us of what we owe to God and to humanity. The year opened with sorrow in the most distinguished families of our country; how it will end God alone can tell. The prospects are gloomy, with yellow fever raging in Cuba and cholera holding high carnival in Spain.

Speaking of carnivals, it was in extremely bad taste for the people of Ogden to advertise themselves as a colony of mummery kings and princes, of pantaloon dukes and earls, and of plastered clowns and cranks, while death and destruction

prevailed all over the country. If an individual or city cannot be serious in the presence of death, then there is something radically wrong. There are nations, it is said, where the wakes and funerals are scenes of revelry and mirth; if so, sad indeed must be the condition of such countries. A little nonsense is not at all out of place sometimes, but when it comes to making mummery a king, and bowing the knee to Momus, with governors, judges and generals playing harlequin and glorying in it as a symptom of national greatness, it is little wonder that Providence is angered. After the carnival comes the lottery, and under a Gentile or "Liberal" rule the Louisiana robbery may find a home.

A new development in divorce business has brought Utah once more into public notice. It appears that a character named "Doc" Sims, well known in criminal matters, and implicated in the recent election frauds, made a business of procuring divorces according to the "Utah law." His method was to advertise extensively that divorces could be obtained without inconvenience or notoriety for residents of any State or city by virtue of the "Utah law." The reply to this advertisement, usually coming of course from a prospective candidate for divorce, was met by another reply which stated terms and regular printed forms to be filled out, and returned with an accompanying fee of \$20. A few weeks later the doctor would again write and say that the divorce was secured, and all the papers ready to be delivered when the regular fee of \$50 would be sent.

A Pennsylvania woman went through the process, but not having the \$50 in full, more correspondence than usual was occasioned. The doctor compromised for \$40 and the \$20 presentation fee, making in all \$60 instead of \$70, the regular expense. This voluminous correspondence brought the affair to the notice of the postal authorities. Inspector Fleming investigated, and the result was that the doctor is now held in bonds of \$3,000 to the grand jury.

U. S. District Attorney Milchrist explained to the papers the doctor's system. After relating in full the negotiations by which the Pennsylvania woman obtained her divorce he says: