

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - AUGUST 13, 1873.

THE RAINS.

So far as we recollect, the rain storm of yesterday was unprecedented in these valleys in August. We do not say that there never was such a storm hereabout in this month, but we cannot recall one to our mind within our recollection. It was exceedingly heavy a portion of the time, the water in places literally pouring down in torrents, tearing up the roads and filling up the irrigating ditches. So far as the country was visited by the storm, the rain undoubtedly did much good, but very probably considerable harm to standing crops, and perhaps to some that were gathered. The soil is well soaked, and except on very dry ground, will not need irrigating again for some crops, and hardly for any within one to three weeks, which will be a great saving of irrigation labor. And further, the bounteous rain which has fallen has watered the soil much more thoroughly than it would have been done by irrigation, and much more extensively. The pasture grass in the fields and on the ranges will be greatly improved, although possibly some portions of the hay crop may be more or less injured by the fierceness of the storm. Altogether, the good will undoubtedly overbalance the harm.

In regard to the comparative frequency of rain in the summer time of later years, many reasons are supposed and projected. One is, that the Salt Lake is the cause of the increased prevalence of rain. This can hardly be, because the lake has always existed, when the land was parched and summers more arid, and now when the land is irrigated and the climate in summer is less arid than formerly.

Other persons suggest the presence of the railroad as the exciting cause of increased summer rain. On this point a correspondent in a late New York paper says—

In view of the wonderful climatic changes now going on along the lines of the great railroads crossing the plains, it is impossible to imagine a probable limit to the vast area which may here, within a few years, be deemed among the best portions of our country for the purposes of agriculture. The secret of this transformation from a desert to a fertile plain is contained in a few words—the railroad has brought rain. No element was wanting in the earth itself, nor was aught in excess to enforce sterility, but everywhere there was drought. In the hot dust nothing grew but stunted hardy grass and sage brush. All seemed desolation and utter hopelessness. Wherever irrigation was tried, its success exceeded the most sanguine expectations in developing an almost miraculous productiveness in the soil. No enthusiast dared, however, to dream of the possibility of artificial irrigation over all this enormous expanse. Rivers entering here would have been drunk up by the thirsty earth and sky, long ere they could have reached its centre. Yet man's work has irrigated this land by an unexpected means. The railroad has brought rain. To the electrical influence of these long lines of iron between East and West, some attribute the change. By others it is affirmed that the effect has been produced by merely the displacement of the atmosphere, caused by the numerous heavy and swiftly rushing trains. Be the cause what it may, the fact remains the same—that, year by year, since the Union Pacific Railroad has been operated through, the rainfall has steadily increased, until this season it has become, so far at least as the road is concerned, a decided nuisance. Who of the projectors of this road ever imagined that a time would come when its trains would be delayed in the middle of the plains by the overflow of water from violent rain-storms covering the track, and in places even sweeping it away? Such has, however, been the fact this spring. Trains have been as much as twelve and even fifteen hours behind time from this cause alone. The result of this rain-fall is already to be seen in the settlement of the country along the route. When first the Union Pacific road was open to travel, one would ride all the long day through without seeing a human habitation, except at the miserable stations where trains were "side-tracked," coal taken on, or water drawn from wells of great depth. Now, as far west as Cheyenne, houses are scattered all about, fields are seen in a flourishing state of cultivation, and numerous herds of cattle prove how well the graziers have found the country adapted to their wants.

Without saying that the railroad has exercised no influence in this matter, we may present facts to show that the effects were here before the advent of this supposed cause. May has been the principal wet month of late years. July has had an occasional slight thunder shower, August not, or with great rarity, so far as we recollect. Wet Mays were known years before the railroad was constructed, and one season a fifteen-inch snow storm fell in that month. The railroad did not bring that

snow, nor did it bring the other rainy summers we speak of, any more than it brought the drouthy, hot, dusty summer of 1871.

Our own opinion is that the increased moisture of the summers of late years is due firstly to the hand of Providence, and secondly to the cultivation of the land, the building of cities and towns, the planting of trees, shrubs, and various crops, the distribution of the creek waters over the cultivated hay and pasture lands, the increased moisture of the atmosphere by the evaporation from such irrigated lands and from the trees, shrubs and vegetables planted. These are the principal causes, in our opinion, of the increased prevalence of rain in summer time in this and adjacent valleys. For it is reasonable enough that a stirred and irrigated soil, and thousands of acres of trees and shrubs and various kinds of cultivated vegetable crops should give into the atmosphere much more moisture than a hard, dry, barren, bare, bleak, and parched prairie could possibly do. And when the atmosphere was sufficiently charged with moisture in a proper condition, it might reasonably be expected that the same moisture would be returned to the earth in the shape of showers.

THE LESSON.

THE lesson of the Ogden fire, as of all fires in this western country, is that it is best to make buildings as substantial and as near fire-proof as is reasonably practicable. It may cost less in the end to put up the right kind of buildings at first, than to put up mere shells, firetraps, tinder-boxes, which is largely the kind of buildings that have been erected in this city and in others in the Territory in the last few years. Perhaps in many instances the persons building have not been able to build more substantially, but in others it is fair to presume that the case has been different, and more solid, fire-resisting structures might have been erected. A street of gingerbread shells for houses or stores is not much to boast of, although they may subserve various temporary purposes. But they are worse than nothing before a devouring fire, and, in view of the flimsy and very combustible character of many of the houses and stores of our chief cities, it may be considered providential that extensive and disastrous conflagrations have not been numerous. How long we may continue to be so blessed, is not for us to say, but it is manifestly prudent to encourage those who build to avail themselves of every practical precaution to prevent the possibility of any such catastrophe as some cities have been afflicted with in the shape of wide-spread and heavy destruction by fire.

THAT BALLOON VOYAGE. —The day approaches for the inauguration of one of the greatest enterprises of modern times—the across-the-Atlantic aerial voyage of Professor Wise, which is expected to be commenced from New York in a fortnight or so, and to be completed within less than a week afterward. This very novel undertaking, there is every reason to believe, will certainly be attempted by the adventurous and sanguine professor and those other adventurous spirits who will accompany him. While there are good scientific reasons to augur a successful accomplishment of the voyage, yet it is still but an unproved project, and by many people grave fears are entertained of a disastrous termination. If successfully accomplished, or if so near successfully as to furnish data whereupon to reasonably predicate a successful accomplishment, early in the future, much will be gained. If the present venture prove a success, Prof. Wise will earn an undying name, and the voyage will be the commencement of a new era in over-ocean travel; and although the number of people who may patronize that method of voyaging is likely to be few, at least for some years to come, yet a number will be daring enough to take advantage of it, and at all events a great point will have been gained, a great advance made in the science of aerial navigation, from which many benefits, direct and indirect, will be sure to accrue.

The New York-Graphic, through the instrumentality and at the expense of which the voyage will be undertaken, continues to give illustrations and verbal descriptions

of the progress of the preparations for the great undertaking. All the world will look with eager eyes for news of the commencement of this novel voyage, and still more for every item of information concerning its progress. It is a "big thing," and the Graphic will make a "big thing" by it, if it be successful, and thus be rewarded for the enterprise and public-spiritedness manifested in providing means for the prosecution of this remarkable undertaking.

MARRIED A HUNDRED WIVES. —An extraordinary adventurer recently turned up in London, who went under the name of the "Rev. Reuben Alleander Berson." This gentleman is described as of excellent education, tolerable appearance, and attractive manners. His baits were mostly laid in the Matrimonial News, and his object appeared to advertise for and marry one woman after another until he had accumulated sufficient money from them to enable him to settle down and live with the one he might like best. But he married one too many, named Miss Boulton, the daughter of a retired naval officer at Clapham, who advertised in the Matrimonial News for a situation as governess, and Berson thereupon obtained an introduction to her, wrote her some very pious letters, secured her father's consent, and married her, borrowing £200 from General Frangini, at whose house Berson was staying, on the strength of his engagement with her, as a great heiress. After the marriage, Frangini "found him out," and turned him and Miss Boulton out of doors. Miss B. was plucky and put Mr. Berson in the grip of the law. The name of another of his "wives," all that was necessary to satisfy the law, came before the public—a Miss Kidd, daughter of a justice of the peace at Armagh, Ireland, in 1870, while acting as assistant master of a school at that place. When the affair became notorious, Berson's "wives" turned up by the score, one a German young lady, decoyed by him to London. From his extensive correspondence and other signs, it is supposed that the number of his "wives" amounted to not less than a hundred. He had been engaged in seeking them about ten years, or from soon after he was twenty years old. The court sentenced him to five years' penal widowhood.

DOWN ON THE DOCTOR. —A bearded husband is taking his revenge, for death's doings, on the doctor. It would have been better had he followed the oriental custom of paying the doctor a fair remuneration if he had saved his patient, and not paying him a cent if the patient was lost. But the story is about Mr. W. F. Storey, of the Chicago Times, who loved a woman, a handsome woman, of course, and married her. But sickness came, death followed, and the afflicted husband mourned his loss, mourned it for months, and he finally informs the public that he has not a particle of a doubt that the lady's death was caused by "the gross recklessness, carelessness, and neglect of the attending physician," and he makes "this painful revelation, not hastily or without consideration, in the sole desire to guard others against a like sad experience." This is generous and public-spirited on his part, but bad for the doctor, although, being a professional, and his accuser a non-professional, and the charge relating to a professional matter, the Doctor appears to have the best of the quarrel to begin with.

The following is one of Mr. Storey's cards, in the Chicago Times—

I had hoped that no further occasion would arise for public reference by me to the matter of the accusation which I have deemed it my duty to make against Dr. H. A. Johnson. But the action of a dozen members of the Chicago Medical Society, most of whom are chiefly distinguished for their obscurity in the profession, in holding a meeting and adopting a report whitewashing Dr. Johnson, seems to require a word of replication.

The report adopted by these members of the Chicago Medical Society does not meet, as Dr. Johnson has not attempted to meet, the one essential point in my accusation against him. That point is not simply that he administered dangerous medicines, uncertain in their effect at all times, and doubly so in the peculiar condition of the patient—as chloral, for example, when the patient's brain had all the while been and still was in a condition of marked excitement, and subsequently morphia, aggravating the effect of the chloral toward con-

gestion—but that he administered them with reckless carelessness; that he did not wait, or return, to see their effect, and to correct by antidote, any ill effect, but left the patient to the chances of whatever might be their uncertain effect, and placed himself beyond recall. This is the accusation, and neither Dr. Johnson nor anybody else can satisfactorily answer it. And beyond it, no other aspect of the case need be discussed. I have not undertaken to discuss any other. W. F. STOREY.

TWO DAYS' MEETINGS.

According to appointment, the holding of two days' meetings commenced this morning, August 9th, 1873, at ten o'clock, in the New Tabernacle, President Brigham Young Presiding.

Meeting was called to order by PRESIDENT B. YOUNG.

The choir sang:

The time is nigh, that happy time,
That great, expected, blessed day.

The opening prayer was offered by ELDER GEORGE Q. CANNON.

See! all creation joins
To praise th' Eternal Go!

was sung by the choir.

ELDER GEORGE Q. CANNON

addressed the meeting. He expressed the opinion that the circumstances surrounding the Latter-day Saints at the present time required great effort and much faith on their part to enable them to be in a condition to render them pleasing to the Lord. Were they to abandon everything else but the making of money the objects for which they had gathered here would be lost. Those who abandoned themselves entirely to a lustful feeling after riches would be sure to lose the spirit of the gospel. Had the Lord chosen and gathered the rich to co-operate with him to build up his work, such people would probably have imagined that it was their riches and influence that had accomplished the labor. As it was, God alone could and must have the honor of bringing about his purposes. He would show the world what he himself could accomplish in gathering a people together and directing their labors. The Lord had his own way of accomplishing his purposes. Jesus had his own way of choosing his Apostles and servants generally. He did this independently of other considerations than that those whom he chose had the love of the truth in their hearts. This was the way he acted in selecting Joseph Smith as an instrument to usher in the last dispensation. He had made the Elders of this Church mighty, not because of the birth or natural advantages of the latter, but by the outpourings upon them of his Holy Spirit.

God had called his servants to labor for the amelioration of the condition of the inhabitants of the earth. On every hand could be seen the most powerful evidences of the necessity for a reformation. The poor and oppressed of every nation were calling aloud for emancipation from the evils in which they were enthralled. The line between the rich and poor was becoming more marked and distinctive. None could provide a remedy for this deplorable state of things but the great Creator himself.

A study of the acknowledged attributes of the Almighty should be sufficient to convince the most skeptical that he had nothing to do with the organizing of society as it existed to-day. The Latter-day Saints had before them the high privilege of assisting the Lord in the great work of reformation, and they should never forget this important object of their gathering together. The people of this territory were everywhere surrounded by the evidences of his favor and fostering care, and they should therefore not forget him nor his work. He had many times delivered his people when they had been overshadowed by the threatening clouds of adversity.

The Saints had to build up the Zion of God, which was the church, kingdom and power of God, and they had to teach the inhabitants of the earth that there was a people who had faith in God, and who could accomplish mighty things through trusting in him. If the Saints manifested that they had faith in God, by sending for the elders of the church to anoint their sick with oil and administer to them, and abolished doctors, these things would have their effect upon the people of the world, and they would engender faith in the hearts of their children.

ELDER CANNON then spoke of the deplorable condition of the nations politically and the political and moral condition of Utah, also in deprecatory terms of the course taken by some of the representatives of the Federal government, whose duty was to be conservators of the peace and of public morals, but who had encouraged drunkenness, debauchery and other crimes. He alluded to the time when there were no drinking saloons, brothels and other sinks of iniquity and abomination here, and contrasted that state of things with what existed now. The Saints had to watch over the youth to see that they were not led into evil ways. If the Latter-day Saints became engrossed in the spirit of the world, the Lord would soon scourge them.

ELDER LORENZO SNOW

was the next speaker. He said serving the Lord honestly and faithfully was a most delightful business. It was a labor, however, in which some of us occasionally got discouraged, and required to be urged. An incentive to faithfulness was a correct understanding of the nature of the future rewards in store for those who served the Lord undividedly. The Lord was willing to show the nature of the future of the just, that a knowledge of it might act as an incentive to works of righteousness. The obligations of the Latter-day Saints, instead of decreasing as they progressed in the work of the Almighty, kept constantly increasing, and there was a necessity for a corresponding increase of knowledge and wisdom, that those obligations might be faithfully and intelligently discharged.

The speaker next dwelt upon the restoration of the gospel in this age, the gathering of the Saints and the object for which they were gathered, also of the sacrifices required by the Lord and made by the Saints. He concluded by alluding to his recent tour in Palestine and other countries.

PRESIDENT B. YOUNG

then delivered a brief but very powerful, interesting and instructive address, in which he showed, with great plainness, that as the earth was the Lord's, and the fulness thereof, and that those who kept his commandments finally obtained all in existence that was worth having, riches, honor, glory and exaltation, anything that people could undergo for the ultimate attainment of those blessings could not be designated as sacrifice.

The choir sang—

I will extol thee.

Prayer by Elder Joseph F. Smith.

SATURDAY, Aug 9th, 2 p.m.

The choir sang:

Praise ye the Lord! my heart shall join
In works so pleasant, so divine.

Prayer by Elder WILFORD WOODRUFF.

Come we that love the Lord
And let our joys be known,

was sung by the choir.

PRESIDENT D. H. WELLS

Addressed the congregation. He commenced by bearing testimony to the truth of the gospel received and practiced by the Latter-day Saints. The latter had been called to be co-workers with the Lord to accomplish his purposes and build up his kingdom on the earth. The speaker explained why the inhabitants of the earth were required to leave the presence of the Almighty and pass through a probation in this world. Those in whose hearts the principles of righteousness were embedded could not fail to be elevated in the scale of being. Life on this earth was a continual warfare for the Saints, yet those who practiced righteousness had peace in the present as well as the assurance of eternal peace in the world to come. No person could possibly be in greater bondage than to be enslaved by his own passions. Men had their agency and could choose the road to life and eternal riches or that which led to misery and death.

The speaker showed the necessity of people living in such a way that their actions would bear the closest scrutiny. He touched upon many points of interest to the Latter-day Saints, and exhorted them to conduct themselves in such a manner that they would not be ashamed to meet and greet their heavenly Father himself.

President Wells then predicted the final triumph of the kingdom of God, and those who