

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5, 1877

THANKSGIVING.

TO MORROW (Nov. 29) is Thanksgiving Day, by the ancient custom of the Pilgrim Fathers, by the modern custom of their descendants, by the proclamations of the President of the United States and the Governor of the Territory, and by the general assent of the people. The design of the day, so far as reputable custom has developed it, seems to be to feast and be merry, and for the more religiously inclined to assemble in their several places of worship and return thanks to the Supreme Being for his goodness unto them thus far, and more especially during the year just passed and in the harvest recently gathered.

In accordance with the general and established custom of the country, the inhabitants of this part of the Union, generally, will observe the day, some in feasting and holiday, others in religious observances more or less, some in games and dances, others in "outs" or recreative journeys and visits of various kinds, some in going to the Theatre in the evening, or to some other place of amusement, some few probably in giving way to disreputable and hurtful indulgences.

So far as the thanksgiving part of the time is concerned, all have occasion for that. That is, the people of this part of the earth and of this republic generally. Peace has been assured to the country. An unwontedly exciting crisis, following and consequent upon the more exciting general elections of last year, has been passed with much tranquillity. Alarming and destructive strike riots and threatening cognate indications have been quelled or have subsided, though not without much damage and loss. An abundant harvest has been gathered throughout the country. The threatened grasshopper raids have proved to be of a comparatively insignificant character. Congress has met and deliberated in special session without indulging in any very extraordinary rancor, and it is now about ready to convene in its usual annual and biennial long session, to consider and legislate for, let us hope at least, the real welfare of the Union. The country has been at peace with foreign governments, and such peace continues, as also a like condition in domestic affairs. The late President of the United States has been received by foremost European nations in an enthusiastic manner, highly flattering not only to him, but also to every American. True, business generally has been dull, trade has been depressed, and thousands of citizens and denizens have lacked labor, and consequently have been brought down to suffer many subsequent privations. But even in this respect things might have been far worse, and the outlook is much better than it might have been.

So far as this Territory is concerned, there is little to complain of, and much to be grateful for. One of the most liberal harvests known in the history of the Territory has been vouchsafed this year. There is abundance, especially of grain, on every hand, for man and beast. In a few places in the more northern counties grasshoppers did damage, but still there need be no suffering for food. There is abundance, and a sufficiency is easily obtainable for all, no matter their individual losses.

The passing year has been a very peaceable one to Utah. A grave event, long foreseen, and by some indecently harped upon and hoped for as the beginning of the certain and swift decay and disintegration of "Mormonism," has occurred, but it has passed away without the realization, or prospect of the realization, of such hopes. The efforts of the enemies of the Saints for their hurt have been frustrated, and to such a degree, and in such a way, that those conspiring parties have become demoralized to an unwonted extent, and it is with extreme difficulty

that they are able to rally and recruit their scattered forces and revive their shattered energies sufficiently to devise and agree upon any line of offensive action that promises any degree of success encouraging to them.

There are, therefore, plenty of reasons why the inhabitants of this favored Territory of Utah should feel thankful to-morrow for the divine disposition of affairs to them, and should manifest their gratitude in such seemly manner as may suggest itself to them. One thing would be entirely in good taste, and manifest a grateful spirit—not to forget those of the community who may be blessed to but a very limited extent with the good things of this world, so that by such kindly remembrance they also may find more cause than they anticipated to return thanks to the great Creator for his goodness to them.

CONGRESS.

THE first regular session of the Forty-fifth Congress commences on Monday, December 3. It is the long session, and may end by mid-summer next year, or may be extended into the late fall, as has sometimes been the case, according to the temper of Congress and the nature and amount of the business that shall come before it. There is no real necessity for such prolonged sessions, if the members of the honorable body sitting are all fully bent upon legislating for the good of the country, independent of party or private considerations. But it is these party or private considerations mainly that are the cause of the extremely lengthy sessions. Time and energies are given up to party and to self that should be devoted to the public good, and with an eye single thereto. Party or private legislation, more or less inimical to the public weal, is the bane of legislative assemblies, and should therefore be sedulously avoided by all to whom is committed the high trust of making laws to govern a great people, or any people. The welfare, progress, peace, and prosperity of the country specially, and of mankind generally, is the only true and legitimate object of legislation, the great aim of all real statesmanship, and should be held in view and steadily pursued by all legislative bodies in this great republic, and especially by the federal Congress, in all its sittings and deliberations.

During the ensuing session it is probable efforts will be made, as usual, to procure special and proscriptive legislation affecting Utah, legislation expressly designed to be of a proscriptive character, and sought after for the very purpose of crushing the people of the Territory in regard to their dearest rights and privileges, the privileges included in local self-government, but more especially the privilege of worshipping God according to the dictates of their own consciences. This is the peculiar kind of legislation that has been so persistently attempted to be had towards Utah every regular session of Congress, of late years. Very extraordinary it may seem to many people, but there are reasons for it, reasons as old as Adam. In fact, it is but the outbursting of the old struggle between right and wrong, virtue and vice, liberty and tyranny. The people here, as a body, are American by birth or adoption, and are fully entitled to all the rights and privileges of Americans, or, to speak more precisely, of citizens of the United States. This is all they claim. With this, which is their indubitable right, they are content, they can get along, they can live and increase and prosper, they can enjoy a reasonable amount of peace and happiness. This is what they have a right to expect, it is what they have a right to have freely and fully accorded to them. But this their unprincipled enemies are not willing to allow them. With these vicious characters the people of this Territory have no rights that should be respected. To them there are no such things as indefeasible rights. The common rights of American citizens have no reference to the inhabitants of this Territory. So their enemies think, and to develop this thought to the fullest practicable degree is the object of all this proscriptive legislation desired and worked for from Congress every session.

The evil-minded persons who seek this mischievous sort of legislation year after year wish to take all governmental power from the people and reduce them to a state of complete serfdom, wherein they can expect nothing from their vicious immediate rulers but to be entirely subject to them. All the public offices in the Territory, federal or local, these conspirators would place in their own hands, in direct violence to the wishes of the people themselves, who would then be ruled with an iron hand and trodden in the mire under the iron heel of one of the most desperate and reckless of all brutal despots. For those of the people who would venture to act outside of certain lines proscribed by these vicious aspirants, ambitious and wicked as Lucifer, when they had attained to the all-absorbing power they seek, whether the acts were of a civil or religious nature, would have short shrift in the shape of a speedy trial before judge and jury of pronounced enemies, and prompt punishment, without chance of justice or any sort of fair play.

We have strong confidence that these persistent plotters against the peace and good will of the Territory will be signally defeated in their designs and grievously disappointed in their anticipations and hopes, as they have been in the past, so far as procuring legislation from Congress for the injury of the inhabitants of this fair part of the Union is concerned, and will eventually be covered with the confusion, shame, and disgrace which they and all such conspirators so richly deserve.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES.

THE Church of England, "as by law established," is gradually but rapidly losing its grip on the public mind in Great Britain. A few years ago the christening (baptism) of an infant was generally considered necessary to the child's well being in this world and, by many, essential to its salvation in the world to come. This superstition is fast dying out, and statistics from London show that only about 18 on the average out of every 100 children born and registered, receive baptism at the hands of the parish priests. In the east end of the British metropolis the average of baptisms is only 14 to every 100 births.

Various causes have led to this great change in the sentiments of the people. The growing spirit of infidelity leads many to neglect or scoff at the rites of the churches, and the anathemas of the clergy have little effect where, a quarter of a century since, they were regarded with terror.

Among other influences, the preaching of the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has accomplished much towards the correction of the popular mind in relation to this and other ecclesiastical fallacies. Their voices have been heard in nearly every town and village in England, explaining the true form of baptism, its objects and effects. In the open streets of the commercial capital of the world, as well as in chapels, lecture halls and assembly rooms, they have proven from the Bible that infant baptism is an invention of men, unauthorized of God and foreign to the spirit and letter of the everlasting gospel. And while some have turned from the errors of the churches established by law or growing up from the notions and opinions of uninspired dissenters, and have embraced the old gospel revealed anew in these latter times, a great many more who have not had the courage to face the obliquity which such a step would bring upon them, have become convinced of the fallacy of man made schemes of religion and have renounced allegiance to their systems, and now decline to receive their ordinances, either for themselves or their offspring.

Infant baptism, with its system of sponsors, even when performed in sincerity, which is rare, is so plainly in opposition to the teachings of Christ and His ancient Apostles that it is an easy matter to refute any arguments which its supporters may advance. Faith and repentance are its essential antecedents; infants are incapable of exercising faith and have no need of repentance. Baptism is

"for the remission of sins;" infants have no sins to be remitted. Baptism means immersion, and sprinkling is therefore not baptism. It is in the likeness of death and burial and in the similitude of birth, denoting death to sin and being born to righteousness; and sprinkling symbolizes neither.

In order to be valid it must be administered to a repentant believer in Christ, by one who can authoritatively use the "name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," which none can do unless divinely authorized, and none of the modern churches have the shadow of a claim to this authority, as they all deny the doctrine of modern revelation.

All this has been fully set forth, and has had its effect on public thought, resulting in the rejection of much error, if not the full acceptance of the essential truth. This is a step in the right direction, and is preparatory to the movement which will one day be inaugurated, when the various influences which the Almighty is bringing to bear upon the inhabitants of the earth, will cause them to flock by thousands into the Church which He has set up, and gather to the standard which He has raised for all nations. So may it be.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Providence Tool Company says to Turkey, "No money no guns."

The Miami conference of United Brethren decides that it will fellowship no tobacco-using clergymen.

Mr. C. W. Coudock is playing "Silas Audjo," in "Marriage," throughout New England, in one of Boucicault's Wallack's Theatre travelling companies.

Georgia dries peaches to the amount of \$1,500,000 a year, which means a comfortable income for hundreds of people.

Prentice Mulford says half the people want to do double their present amount of work, and the other half are in agony to get work to do.

Rev. Alexander Webster, a clergyman of Edinburgh, sensibly claims that dancing is less objectionable than Presbyterian quarrels.

Missouri has long been a mob State. More than three-fourths of all the hangings in that State the last ten years have been done by mobs. So it is declared.

A Philadelphia citizen forgot that he had been summoned to serve on a grand jury. So the judge fined him \$200 as an aid to memory. Very efficacious.

A Miss Le Franc, at North Adams, Mass., has walked fifty miles in twelve hours. More than many a man could do in double that time.

Baby George, the infant acrobat, is being looked after by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and by the New York courts, on the charge of being made to perform difficult and dangerous feats.

Mr. Luddington, inspector of marine products, in Washington, says he has little doubt that much of the winter sickness in that city comes of the eating of stale oysters, which are hawked about the streets by unprincipled vendors.

The Oakland (Cal.) Transcript says Mrs. Clara M. Foltz recently delivered the most brilliant speech ever made by a lady orator in that city, being of marvellous beauty and logical force, and much more of that sort. The subject was the civil rights of women. Mrs. Foltz is a young woman, from San Jose. She completely captivated her Oakland audience.

Dr. E. N. Chapman, of Brooklyn, N. Y., says that alcohol is an antidote to diphtheria, as antagonistic to it as belladonna to opium, or quinia to malaria. He uses a combination of alcohol (in the form of whisky) and quinia with great success, forty-nine out of fifty cases being recoveries. In a long experience he knows of only one case where a drunkard has had diphtheria. Quinia is an efficient alloy to alcohol, re-energizing the nervous system. Meantime, judging by the amount of alcohol in various forms consumed in this part of the globe, many people must be rather afraid of diphtheria.

The trade of the United States with South America is very lively, and vessels are laden with goods for the various Pacific ports. Brazil is investing largely in our products and manufactures, and "drummers" from our chief centres of trade are busy soliciting orders in those "foreign parts."

Small pox has broken out at Yuma, Arizona, and fourteen well-developed cases are reported. Quarantine regulations have been established, but there is fear of its communication to Los Angeles and other places, as the matter was kept secret for some time by the County Physician. Such conduct is criminal as well as cruel, and deserves severe punishment.

In the December number of Godey's Lady's Book are the valedictories of the editor, Mrs. Sarah Josepha Hale, and the publisher, Mr. L. A. Godey. Mrs. Hale has been editor of the Lady's Magazine and afterward of the Lady's Book fifty years, and she is now ninety years old. Mr. Godey is seventy-three years old and has pursued an active literary life fifty-eight years.

Thanksgiving Day was generally observed in San Francisco and the interior, business being almost wholly suspended in that city, which put on a holiday appearance. The working men's procession, about 7,000 in line, several hundred boys included, moved at 10 a.m. from the corner of Brannan and Fourth Streets, through the principal thoroughfares to the lots in front of the new City Hall, where the literary exercises were held. All passed off quietly.

Marysville, Cal., has been excited over the question whether John Briggs died a Catholic or a Presbyterian. His brothers tried to provide a Protestant burial while the widow insisted upon Catholic ceremonies. Services of each denomination were performed, so John Briggs' body has had a double "benefit of clergy." This makes it satisfactory all round one would think, but as each church claims the deceased, the controversy is likely to be prolonged unless either party can summon John Briggs from the spirit land to bear testimony in his own behalf.

The Ontario, Canada, folks have been treated to a shower of fish of the pickerel species. The fish were in good condition, fine, fresh and firm, and were scattered over the ground for about three-quarters of a mile. They were collected by several persons, smoked, dried, and put away for winter use. Ontario only needs a shower of manna or some kind of bread stuff to alternate with the fish supply, and it would become the bummers' paradise, providing they could get some one to pick up the provender for them. Salt Lake could spare quite a number of that fraternity, whose chief employment now is to loiter in front of hotels, expropriate tobacco and ogle feminine passers by.

Zamacoza, agent of the Diaz government, has arrived in Washington from Mexico, to impart correct information concerning his country. He says that American manufactures might be made to almost entirely supersede those of Great Britain and other foreign countries in the matters of cotton goods, agricultural implements, etc., and Mexico could send to the United States desirable products that are not now sent, to the mutual advantage of both countries; that Mexico is anxious to secure friendly relations with the United States, as evidenced by the recent supplanting of the inefficient local Mexican forces by regular troops on the Rio Grande, to maintain order in co-operation with the troops of the United States.

The New York Herald has the following concerning Captain Tyson's arctic expedition: "Washington, Nov. 21, 1877.—Captain Howgate has received a letter via Scotland from Captain Tyson, who commands the Florence, the advance vessel of the American arctic expedition. The letter is dated September 29, and reports Captain Tyson's safe arrival at Nuntilik Harbor, Cumberland Gulf, after a tedious voyage of forty days. He proposes moving to the head of the gulf in a few days to go into winter quarters and carry out his instructions in reference to the collection of material. The crew are all in good health and spirits. Messrs. Sherman and Kumlein are reported as doing well in their respective departments."