DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING CO.

THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK.

THE NEWS is devoting rather more space these days to politics and political subjects than is its custom, general policy or inclination. For this, however, we shall make no apology. It is enough to know that the people themselves are unusually interested in politics, and a newspaper must necessarily be a reflex of the times as they are, a chronicler of events as they occur.

The times are such as to call for all the reason, enthusiasm and actual work in those directions that an otherwise placid community can give. And surely they are not calling in vain. This is shown in the monster gathering of citizens at the Theater the other evening, fully 1000 being in attendance. Abundant evidence of other but no less significant character is at hand to prove that in the hearts of the people the limit of forbearance with existing evils is reached.

All that is necessary to secure the wished-for redemption is that every voter shall regard his ballot as the one essential to success and shall act accordingly. Then the sun of November 7 will surely set upon a field fairly won and honestly to be held by those who will end the present and past iniquities which have ruined our credit, sullied our reputation, squandered our substance, disgraced our high places and involved us in a mountain of useless incumbrance which this generation will hardly be able to overcome. All shoulders to the wheel and on to victory!

DIVINELY PROTECTED.

The return of Elder Ira Williams, of Byron, Cache county, from a mission to Great Britain, where he has been for nearly two years, recalls an exciting experience on his outward trip. Elder Williams left Liverpool on his return the 11th of the present month, on the Alaska, the fastest of the Guion company's boats, once famous as the "greyhound of the ocean." His outward voyage, however, on which he started from New York on the 15th of December, 1891, was begun on what was then the slowest of the Guion fleet—the Arpadnia.

A full account of the chief episode of the voyage was given at the time by the NEWS special correspondent, and it is unnecessary now to recite the details. The Arpadnia had been announced to leave New York on Saturday, December 12, but was delayed one day in taking her cargo. Her passengers numbered fifty-nine—thirteen cabin and forty steerage. Among the former were three missionaries for Great Britain, Elder Joseph H. Richards, of Arizona, Elder Joseph M. Kerr, of Payson, Utah, and Elder Williams.

Considerable rough weather was experienced on the voyage, but all went well until the fifth day out—Friday, December 15. In the forenoon a slight mishap to the machinery caused a slacking of speed for repairs. Between noon and 1 p. m. fire was discovered in the cargo, and efforts were at once made to extinguish it. None of the passengers learned the nature of an unusual activity among the crew, but were informed by the stewards that nothing serious was to apprehended. At dark there was no sign of the proximity of any other vessel—nothing but the usual expanse of angry waves and the black clouds which betokened a continuance of the storm in increasing severity of the weather.

The Bremen paid little heed to the alarm extinguisher bells, and it was some minutes apparent to the officers that the ship was doomed, preparations were hastily made to launch the small boats. These would have been of no avail in the fury of the storm which came on in the night, but they afforded the only hope of means that was known. Up to this time the passengers had not been informed of the extent of their peril. Yet they were soon within three hours of the time when no to that there had given their shelter was to be a mass of flames, and there was not a sign of relief in sight.

While preparations for lowering the boats were going on a film of black smoke became observable some distance to the right and in the rear of the Alpadnia, and soon a large steamship came into view. While those on board the Guion liner learning the full danger of their situation, it was only the prospect of injury and that prevented a panic. As it was, the blanched face and anxious movements told how they were affected. Signaled distress were put out in the morning watch, and were quickly responded to by the new arrival, which proved to be the N. de Grasse Liggs steamer Spree, from New York, December 15, for Southampton and Bremen. The German vessel came up to the burning steamer, and seeing the condition of affairs, proceeded to take all on board—no other that was plainly seaworthy—and boats were lowered from both ships.

A movement was in progress and the sea was running very high, making the transfer difficult and dangerous. It was accomplished, however, without any serious accident, and by 4 p. m. the passengers and crew of the Alpadnia were on board the Spree. The former gained so rapidly that there was an opportunity of saving anything from the inter ship but our precious mail and human freight. The personal baggage of the passengers was left on deck, Elder Williams being even his trunk. By 4:15 p. m. when the Alpadnia became lost to the view of those on board the Spree, she was shiver from stem to stern.

But all on board were saved. There had been just time for that no more. Even at this distance it causes a shudder to think what would have been their fate if it had not been for this special interposition of Providence in their behalf; all that history could have revealed of their sad ending would have been that the ship which carried them from port had sailed and had been heard of no more. If the Spree had been three hours earlier she would have passed the Alpadnia "all well;" if she had been three hours later there would not have been a vestige of the Guion boat on the surface of the ocean. The Divine Hand had guided her in the whole and storms of a three and a half days' voyage from New York, so that she arrived on the scene in the very hour when her presence was so needed.

On the Spree, the comfort of those who had been saved was amply provided for, and, on the night of December 22, the entire party was safely landed at Southampton. The promptness, courage and uniform courtesy and kindness of Captain Willgerod, master of the German vessel, and his officers and crew received the highest commendations from those whose gratitude they merited by rescuing them from a watery grave. The Elders felt that in providing the means of their escape from danger the Almighty had indeed answered the prayers which are offered up by His people for the protection of those who are called to carry the Gospel to the nations of the earth.

This occurrence is one among many noteworthy events that go to make up the history of the Elders and members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in connection with their travels across the mighty deep. The result which covers the entire period of sending out missionaries and gathering the Saints is remarkable in its immunity from disastrous results to those engaged in the work. In the extensive journeyings that have been undertaken not even all the dangers of the sea have been allowed to intervene a barrier that closed the way. There have been occasions when every earthly hope seemed gone, yet there never failed to provide that which was necessary. The supplications of wives and of children, of parents, brothers, sisters, relatives, and of the body of the Church, in behalf of the missionaries and the Saints who are gathering in obedience to the Lord's command, are heeded and receive response in the protecting power of Providence that is unceasingly manifest. Recognizing the great blessing that has long been bestowed, the Saints should so live that their petitions may prevail "the prayer of the righteous" that shall be of avail in invoking a continuance of the Divine Watchcare over those who seek to fulfil His purposes.

ENGLAND'S PRESENT WAR JOB.

Those of the readers of this paper who carefully perused and still remember an article on "Gold Mounds in Africa," published in the DESERET EVENING NEWS of September 2, will have a much clearer understanding of the causes, difficulties and prospects of the present war in that section than have valid partly which upon the occasion of its appearance. The article was written by Mr. Joseph W. Rich, then in Africa, on leave from personal observation to Mr. Lorenzo Snow, editor, who was engaged at a time in Europe in forwarding the work of the Elders in Europe, the ministry and filling subscription of their wants, etc. He presented the very remarkable facts, which were then, and still stand, as evidence of the failure to navigate the rivers and take possession of their country, and an quite probably an moderate solution for the would be so difficult—by the English, which conclusions are also here set forth. The ownership of the properties has been by no means settled; the job, earlier summer having been followed by unrelated but unsuccessful disorder. It seems to be admitted that, taking all the natural difficulties into consideration, a larger force than the whites now have in the field will be needed to complete the conquest. The Matabele are brave, numerous and bloodthirsty, and they have great powerful allies in a natural rampart known as the Matopo Hills, and in the footpaths of heaven within two or three weeks may be expected to open to their aid. The grounds alluded to stretches away between the most populous part of the Hottentot's kingdom and the British service columns, and is pierced by but a single pass through which a mounted army could by any reasonable means force a way. The savages will doubtless defend this desperately, and meanwhile the rainy season draws nearer and nearer, which is especially for Europeans and makes broad deep rivers out of small creeks and vast swamps out of level plains. Delay means disaster to the whites and at least a reprise to the blacks.

But more than a respite it will scarcely be. If unsuccessful this year, the grasping foreigner will try again next year; and perseverance will eventually result in this case, as it has in all the cases in the past, in native subjugation. It is a sign of modern humane civilization that to cover the country of a barbaric race is but the short prelude to its conquest, though at every step of that conquest man must revel in cruelty and wade through blood.

THE OREGON.

The new line battleship Oregon which was launched at the Union Ship yards, October 26th, in the presence of a vast multitude, will when completed be one of the most powerful vessels of the navy. A very neat device was used for christening the first out which set the huge craft free. Instead of the traditional silver hatchet an electric guillotine had been erected. When Miss Eugene Shelby, representing the city of Portland, touched a button, a sharp blade was thrusted and fell twenty-five feet, cutting the small rope below, whereby the dog-shores and wedges were set free and the ship slid off the ways gracefully, plunging into its own element.

The vessel is expected to be ready for its trial trip by next March. She will have four main boilers, each fifteen feet in diameter and eighteen feet long. There are also two auxiliary boilers, ten feet two inches in diameter and eight feet six inches long. The main boilers have four furnaces, two at either end, making eight in all, while each of the auxiliary boilers has two furnaces. These are of corrugated iron.

The two engines which are to drive twin screws are of the horizontal type. It is expected that the combined indicated horsepower of both engines will be about 9000 and that they will make 130 turns a minute. The speed is figured at fifteen knots.

The armament is very heavy. There will be four thirteen-inch breech loading rifles to be placed in two turrets and eight eight-inch rifles in four turrets, four six-inch rifles in five-inch armor-plate sponsons, and twenty-four six-pound rapid-firing rifles to be mounted on the superstructure and bridges, together with eight one-pounders. There are six torpedo tubes, one at the bow, one at the stern and two at either broadside.

For the further protection of the vessel there is a roller dam extending three and shall, twelve feet deep and six feet in breadth. This is filled with cellulose, should the armor plate be penetrated and the hole filled with water, this cellulose would at once become spongy and fill up the breach, preventing the water from filling the vessel. The steel armor plate is sixteen inches thick; the diagonal fourteen; the bar tables seventeen and the turrets fifteen inches. Long may the Oregon rule the waves!

THEOLOGY CLASS.

In our local department will be found a notice concerning the establishment of a theology class in connection with the Church University. We respectfully and confidently position for the movement the hearty support of our people. The class comes into existence by prayer appointment and auspices, being established under the direction of the First Presidency of the Church, and being warmly supported by the Presidency of the Stake, and the other general as well as the local officers. The Church University has been founded by the people's vote, encouraged by the positive queries of the Church, for the purpose of affording means of educational advancement in secular branches, accordingly with the high study of the principles of the Gospel. Although circumstances have allowed for the present scholastic year but a limited enrollment to be undertaken, yet to the scores that have been so anxious a most suitable round is being made. We doubt not that in the theology classes results of the same high order will be attained. The class is appointed to meet on Sundays, thus affording opportunity to many whose time is entirely occupied during the working days of the week. The class is meeting at 12:15 p. m., so arranged as not to interfere with the Sabbath schools, while allowing Sabbath school teachers to attend the class.

The great problem now within the the highest consideration of the Church, is based, it shows by the facts that in the theology class as well as in the scientific courses, all worthy applicants are admitted, without regard to sex or church membership. The work of the Senior class will be under the direction of Dr. J. E. Talmage.

AN ENGLISH medical journal advises "literary women" to rise early, take a cup of coffee with toast at half past six, write for a while, take breakfast at eight, write till noon, take a lunch at one o'clock, smoke a pipe after it, take a cup of black coffee at two, write a couple of hours, take a cup of tea at four, write till half past six, take dinner at seven, winding it up with a cup of black coffee, take things easy till quarter to eleven, then take a small cup of cocoa, and be ready for bed at eleven. The "literary" who could live under such a regimen would be a physical wonder; it would kill a cart-horse or a sewer laborer. Perhaps the motive of the advice lies in the fact that the journal which gives it bears the grim name of *The Hospital*.

(EXPERIMENTAL.)

ABSTINENCE AND REFORM.

It was said by an old writer that "man is a bundle of habits;" and the experience of most persons would confirm this expression after a little consideration. Men do a great many things, good and bad things, not primarily because they are evil or good, but in an unconscious way, from use and custom, and if a reason were asked it would be hard to supply. They have become mechanical as it were, asking a blessing at meals, having family prayers, uttering mentally supplications in all duty from sheer force of habit. There is an uncomfortable feeling if these usages are neglected or overlooked, even if there is but little warmth in the performance thereof. Appetite is indulged on the same basis. Persons may not care for or hanker after tea or coffee, but they would miss the warm drink wonderfully, and if visiting where these beverages were unprovided, there might be exhaustion without thought or comment, and yet all through the day there would be a feeling as of something lacking, which might (or might not) gradually die away. This is evidence of the power of habit and its tenacious hold upon humanity.

If this "bundle of habits" were mainly of an unwise or evil character, each one would have to be broken singly, apparently, or the change would be beyond individual efforts. By taking one at a time, whatever the fault or habit, it seems much easier to overcome; save in the case of spiritual regeneration, where, after resolve and obedience to prescribed law, man is assured of Divine aid in the labor for salvation. Many men are in slavery to habits which (from a lack of will power) bold complete mastery over them. But compulsory restraint does not seem so much or so trying as they or others might imagine. Once under the discipline of a prison, for instance, the use of liquor is suddenly cut off, and no serious inconvenience results, while other vicious features of unreasonable character may (as we know) continue in unrestrained activity. Men of years, where habit has become "second nature," are at times to be pitied quite as much as blamed, and probably some of these characteristics partake some way of heredity. But young men can be found without number who have thoughtlessly or deliberately acquired habits which are not only offensive, but absolutely injurious in their effects. The use of liquor and tobacco have this feature. First indulged in as a matter of bravado, to wile away a few idle moments, from imitation, or a mistaken idea that it was manly to drink or smoke—without special proclivity they have formed habits which to their gratification have dragged them down to death!

The strange and increasing use of cigarettes is a case in point. Contrary to older examples, against general counsel, and even with some distaste, this habit grows space; until all self-respect is lost, all shame at being, all regard for those to whom it is obnoxious; at unseemly times, and in proper places where it is most of all a nuisance, long suffering people wish that it could be abated, or prevented. Somewhere into the billions of cigarettes are made and sold annually in these United States, and many eminent men of observation declare that this habit is more fatal than even the use of alcohol, and liquors rob the nation ten times more than all that is spent on tobacco! It is claimed that the cigar keepers are as four to one in comparison with ministers and clergy of all denominations combined, and the startling assertion is made, that while many thousand of our population die annually of drunkenness, there is more demoralization from cigarette smoking than even those appalling figures may imply!

Leading newspapers have been investigating the composition of this popular and apparently innocuous thing, and chemical analysis has determined that they are all made of tobacco impotently permeated, and that consequently nicotine, one of the most deadly poisons, is calmly in cigarettes, as a rule. Then in addition to this inherent quality, nearly all manufacturers evidence of having been charged to impatient haste or another. Surprise is generally made; a smoker unprepared with belladonna or extract of Jamaica weed, bulk dangerous to smoke, as implying to the nerves other trends are mixed with opium, so each brand assigned contains more or less sand, dirt and sweepings.

Need the world be surprised that the result of smoking these articles is determined that there is unnatural thirst and consequent catarrh? that the nerves thereof are morbid in their feelings and irritable in temper? that their complexion becomes sallow, and their countenance gradually acquires that drawn and anxious look noted from time to time among cigarette smokers? Is it a wonder that cyspepsia seizes hold of the victim of such a habit? that there is capricious appetite and uncleanliness of the bowels? that there is an increasing aversion to active and a preference given to a lower grade of companionship? and that after the nerve centers become demoralized from adulterated circulation, the action of the heart becomes fitful, until sudden suspension fills the suicide for a premature grave? All these features are common among cigarette smokers, and it is lamentable that boys and young men in large numbers exhibit all the preliminary symptoms of wasting vitality and early death. Hence there are laws in some places against selling tobacco or cigarettes to minors, shall they—like some other regulations—are not enforced. In fact legislation is powerless, however well meant, unless there is vigilant home training and supervision. Parental and public school effort should go hand in hand in preventing or mitigating this growing evil.

It may be said that Utah need not be under any concern in regard to this feature in the habits of boys and young men. Probably, however there is ignorance in regard to the extent of this practice and the money spent to sustain it. There are several million cigarettes used annually in Utah, and certainly not less than a quarter of a million pounds of cut tobacco of various grades for smoking purposes as well. To be sure, this is not nearly all consumed by the Mormon youth of our Territory, but too much of it is. The great congregation of the Tabernacle in this city every Sabbath has to pass through long lines of smokers to their homes, particularly if there is an evening meeting. Then, along the Temple block itself as well as for blocks outside, everybody's nostrils are saluted with the odor of pure (?) or adulterated tobacco, and the sparks strike out as thick as fireflies in their favorite haunts. Every evening ward meeting, Sabbath or otherwise, seems to provide for a thoughtless crowd the opportunity of exhibiting their uncultured manners and offensive as well as aggressive disregard for persons and those, and pious; and the young—brothers and sisters in Israel too often link arms with the users of the filthy weed, as if in acquiescence of significant opposition.

Nor is this deleterious habit confined to this city. Instances of this fatal habit extends into the outer settlements more or less. A friend handed the writer a clipping from a Brigham City paper in which some proprietor of a store claimed that he alone disposed of 3000 cigarettes a month, or 36,000 a year; and it was further claimed as among the possibilities that the consumers of that little model town (as we have understood) can claim an annual consumption of 300,000 cigarettes, which at five cents a package amounts to the rather startling sum of fifteen hundred dollars every year, all specific the gratification of an abnormal habit in many cases thoughtlessly acquired. The old men (Mormon or otherwise) ought to be ashamed if they have a child set the example, and the younger victims to a dirty and injurious practice should command the thought and counsel of the wiser and better elements of society. Nor should this frown come from the low place of expense, though that is a weighty consideration. Morality, virtue, purity and religion are each violated when disobedience to righteous law prevails. Every man in authority should set his face as a flint against the spread of so pernicious a practice. Fathers and mothers should discourage the very beginning of it. All a boy's shinning should be publicly reviewed or ridiculed so that the odor may not pervade the house and bedrooms thereof. Every sweet, pure girl should protest against the practice, and should give preference in society, in the dance, in all social entertainments to those whose breath and persons are clean from this or any other vicious habit.

This general frown would surely reduce to a minimum an evil which thoughtful men are everywhere deploring. The words of inspiration and the counsel of the Elders would be insured through obedience, and legislation, deemed necessary elsewhere, would be superfluous and uncalled-for in the homes and by the saved or redeemed of the youth of our beloved land for and securely coming Zion!

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