

UTAH'S DAY CHANGED.

The telegraph advises us that Utah day at the Columbian Exposition has been changed from the 24th of July to the 9th of September. Of course this is done to enable the Tabernacle choir to be present and participate in the services, and perhaps for some other reasons, and thus reflects good judgment on the part of the managers; but the former was the date par excellence. It is Utah's natal day and around it cluster a host of sacred recollections of patriotic performance, of daring achievement and of triumphs won in the field of peace and progress. We thought no day so fit to signalize our Territory's temporary dominion at the great Fair, and when the choice of it was made we gave it our most hearty approval, as we believe did everybody who gave it a thought in Utah. However, those who are on the ground looking after the Territory's welfare would not, let us feel assured, forego a date so entirely appropriate were it not for the best, all things considered; even then, we confess to a slight twinge of disappointment over the unlooked-for change.

NEWSPAPER FAILURES.

Utah has not, all things considered, been a bad newspaper field; on the contrary, it has been a tolerably good one and the great number of journalistic ventures that have gone down here attest this proposition, paradoxical as it may appear. The proof is in the fact that newspapers do not rush into a bad or utterly unpromising field; they look out for good grazing grounds, and when these are found more of them move in than there is grass for. That is about the correct statement, we think; and the graveyard that Utah has become for newspapers which went hence at various but always tender ages only shows that we have attracted more of such enterprises than we could carry. But the life of periodicals which find and for some years have found sustenance here is a very long one, as long as or longer than that of any other commonwealth of no more than 250,000 people in the world.

The latest newspaper to succumb to the stringency of the times was the *Provo Dispatch*, which apparently went down on Tuesday. It was a paper, Democratic in politics and conducted with some degree of ability. There are a good many Democrats in Provo, and Utah county is claimed as their stronghold; but to sustain a publication, even a small one, in a field where there is already one well established and holding thus the bulk of the patronage, seems to have been more of a task than they were able to cope with. The truth of these observations is not impaired by the later intimation that the suspension was not permanent and that an arrangement was made by which publication will be resumed. If the paper can weather the storm, there will be no complaints thereat from this quarter.

THINGS ARE unequally distributed in Chicago, where the banks get the runs and the base ball club doesn't.

DEALING WITH CRIMINALS.

A memorial resolution regarding the late ex-President Hayes was adopted a few days ago by the Prison Reform association, of which he was an active and thoroughly earnest member. The organization is composed mainly of men of like purpose and temperament, holding that, as relates to our manner of dealing with violators of recorded statutes, we are not nearly abreast of our civilization and enlightenment otherwise, and by agitation and precept it is hoped to effect such changes and modifications as are most needful to make society secure without resorting to cruel or unusual punishment.

The subject is by no means confined to the United States. It would be rather singular if it were, in view of the fact that almost any part of Europe contains a greater proportion of criminals, especially when the comparison is made as between the older and thoroughly settled districts of each country. An article in relation to the matter spoken of recently appeared in the *Espana Moderna* of Madrid, in which it was declared that, after all, there is no cure for born criminals but to keep them locked up where it is impossible for them to do any harm, or to hang them, when they become very dangerous to the rank and file of honest people. Nevertheless, outlets are to be found for criminally inclined persons. They may be led to take up such occupations as would satisfy their particular passion, and this passion will thus not only be less dangerous to the public, but may even be made useful. The butcher trade, it is suggested, will do for the bloodthirsty as well as the army—which is often nothing but an official slaughtering establishment. The circus is pronounced available for athletic horse-thieves, and that is the only preventive measure for those who appear incurable. But the treatment should be less radical for chance offenders, especially women.

Our reform school or probationary system is spoken of as possessing special interest. Here a young criminal who is not yet a hardened offender is not at once sent to prison. The judge will pass sentence upon him to the effect that, at the first repetition of unlawful actions, he will be sent to the house of correction; in the meantime he may remain under the vigilance of a special agent. If this agent thinks that the charge does not receive the needed moral influence, then the agent reports this to the court, and obtains a writ which empowers him to place his charge in an institution—a means of dealing which it is declared has produced excellent results in the country at large, and we can attest to the fact that it has done so in Utah. It is noted that young prisoners have almost completely disappeared from the jails of Massachusetts; and it has been proved that in the majority of cases it is sufficient to place these young offenders for some time under the rigorous supervision of the state agent, and to keep them in terror of the Damocles sword of a term in the house of correction.

Such results have led to the idea that the system may be applicable to adults as well as children, and a law was passed in 1878—for the city of Boston only—appointing a functionary with

the title of probation officer, whose duty it is to examine the character of every individual prosecuted in a criminal court in Boston, and to report the cases in which it is likely the offenders will reform without being punished. The figures show that in 1888, 244 persons were placed on probation. Of course, many of the promises to reform were not kept, but in the majority of cases they produced a very decided effect. The agent declared that out of every 100 persons placed under his supervision, about 95 behaved so well that they could be freed from that supervision altogether. Out of 244 only 13 were recognized as hardened and incorrigible criminals, and were made to undergo their penalties.

The late A. P. Rockwood, while warden of the Utah penitentiary, was often criticised and not infrequently ridiculed for the compassionate manner in which he dealt with his charges. The food was never bad and sometimes it was decidedly good, equal to the best in fact. This, while showing a humane disposition and not therefore to be despised or condemned, was hardly the proper thing after all, because if it did not actually cause some to seek a term in the penitentiary, it went a long way toward overcoming its unpleasant features. A medium course is best, but just how to get at that and make a system of it is the question that is vexing the philanthropic.

NEWSPAPER LOTTERY.

According to a circular issued from Montpelier, Idaho, on the 5th of June, 1893, Editor James H. Wallis of the *Post* had two days previously been arrested charged with using the mails for lottery purposes, and bound over in \$500 to await the action of the grand jury. The offense, according to Mr. Wallis, was that he gave away a sewing machine to his paid-up subscribers; numbers corresponding to those on coupons held by subscribers were placed in a box, and the fiftieth one drawn was the one winning the machine.

Following is the editor's motive for sending out the circular referred to:

I am confident that the anti-lottery law was never intended to cover cases of this nature, and if a decision can be obtained in my favor it will be of great importance to the country newspaper. I have therefore determined to make a test case of it, and my object in addressing this letter to you is for the purpose of enlisting the support of my brother newspapermen to editorially comment upon this case after giving it their careful attention.

The editorial comments of the *News* will scarcely carry much comfort to the heart of Brother Wallis; for while unfamiliar with the law in question and hence unable to study its language, much less pass upon its intent, we are forced to say that the sewing machine raffle looks very much to us like a lottery and ought to be discouraged. This is not saying that many other country newspapers, and some that consider themselves metropolitan, have not resorted to the same and similar devices and have gone unpunished. It will not have been for-