

## THE DESERET NEWS.



ALBERT CARRINGTON, EDITOR.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10.

THE CAL. MAIL arrived on the 3d inst., but brought little news of interest, as it left New York in the same steamer with Col. Kane, hence contained no papers of later eastern date than those brought by the Colonel. The meagreness of Congressional news is accounted for by the adjournment of Congress from Dec. 22 to Jan. 4, the latter date, it will be remembered, being only one day previous to Col. Kane's leaving New York.

**SEVENTIES' MEETING.**—On Monday evening, 8th inst., at the regular weekly meeting of the Seventies, Elders Wm. Eddington, Albert Merrell, Charles Smith and John Scott were called to the stand and addressed the congregation upon various interesting subjects.

The decorations of this hall are progressing finely. Already the paintings of the Nauvoo Temple, the prospective Temple and the Seventies' Hall, of Great Salt Lake City, and a sketch of the scenery in the immediate vicinity of the lake at the head waters of Big Cottonwood, are completed.

When all the decorations are finished, the Council Hall will be a delightful place of instruction for the Seventies, which they cannot fail to appreciate; and we would urge upon each President and member of every Quorum of Seventies to sustain the meetings by their prompt attendance.

On Friday evening last, 5th inst., at the meeting of the Deseret Typ. and Press Association, in the Seventies' Council Hall, Pres. P. H. Young presiding, br. Joseph Foreman read an essay on the History of the United States; br. John S. Davis gave a lecture on Astronomy; music by Messrs. Jones, Pitt, Brewer and Midgley, which, interspersed with songs by Mrs. J. McDonald and S. Barson and recitations by Mrs. J. G. Chambers and G. W. Mousley, rendered the occasion instructive and entertaining. Br. Matthias Cowley received a vote of thanks for contributions to the library. Adjourned to Friday evening next, at seven o'clock.

**WE DENY EVERYTHING AND INSIST ON PROOF.**—Polygamy is a sin against a natural law and we can prove it, says the Marysville Times. This assertion has been made in our hearing six times lately, by six different persons, and to our inquiry, 'Wherein is it a sin against a natural law?' we have been answered, 'Oh, because it is.' We are glad that our friend of the Times has said he can prove it, and we know, if we ask him, he will do so. Answer us, General, wherein is polygamy a sin against a natural law? We do not say it is not a sin against a natural law, but the subject concerns a great many people and has been long enough in controversy without having any relevant testimony put on record. [Sacramento Age, Jan. 13.]

Right, Mr. Age, we also would be pleased to have the Marysville Times, or any one else, 'prove' that polygamy is a sin against a natural law, or even against ANY LAW, save that made by a minority of gentiles who are assuredly not guided therein by the Scriptures.

**GEN. SCOTT'S OPINION.**—General Scott is opposed to raising troops in California for the suppression of treason in Utah. He thinks it will cost less to attack them from the Atlantic side, and his opinion is correct. We think there will be no war; neither do we believe the Mormons will attempt to enter the British possessions or Sonora. In fact we consider nothing said about the Mormons as authentic, for every new report conflicts with the preceding one. [Sacramento Age, Jan. 17.]

Mr. Age, we give you much credit for a goodly portion of sound sense and a strong disposition to write justly.

**THE PLUNDER OF DELHI.**—A private letter from Delhi, dated September 27, says:—For a description of the riches of Delhi, my pen is inadequate. Cashmere shawls, lined with gold, bodices covered with gold lace, skirts of druses, watches, bars of gold, beds of silk and down, such as no nobleman's house in England could produce you would see the Sikhs carrying out of Delhi the first day, as if they were almost nothing. A shawl, which in England would fetch £100, they were selling for four rupees, and, you may depend, our fellows were not behind them. It is supposed the R. H. would go to England with upwards of £1,000 each, though General Wilson has issued an order that the prizes shall be all put together and divided. Most of our men are worth upwards of 100 rupees.

At the meeting of the State Agricultural Society of North Carolina, lately, the Hon. A. W. Venable stated that syrup from the Chinese sugar cane was a preventive of typhoid fever.

## A Singular Discovery.

The following statement recently appeared in the States, the Democratic paper recently established in Washington:

It is no secret that Russia, during the late war with England and France, had at her command the inventive talent of the United States. Men of superior science and ability were detailed by the Emperor Nicholas to search the Patent Office and investigate everywhere the latest improvements in military art; and whatever promised well was carefully tested and generously rewarded.

Among other things, it was suggested to the late Russian Consul General at New York that the terrible Greek fire of the ancients had been rediscovered by a young inventor of New York, who was experimenting on the application to a new system of military defenses.

The Consul-General knew Mr. Mont Storm, the young inventor in question; and, on bringing forward the subject, was informed that, whatever service he could render the inventor, he placed, without conditions, completely at the service of Russia until the close of the war.

The Allies were then before Sebastopol, and Mont Storm's first advice was to carry out a series of distinct wires from the citadel to the Redan, Malakoff, and every redoubt and advanced post which could possibly fall into the hands of the Allies. Carries and huge shells of a particular construction, charged with powder, and a burning material difficult to extinguish, were to be laid in the most destructive positions, under the outer defenses, and connected with those concealed wires. By this application of the electric telegraph—for this it is in effect—these posts could be hurled at will, to instant destruction at miles and leagues distance. Half a dozen vigilant and well-posted men could watch over and blow up, at the moment a foe obtained possession, any extent of fort, highway, or whatever approach they could manage to plant with these formidable shells.

Something of the kind was imperfectly attempted at the taking of lower Sebastopol; but the French discovered and cut the badly concealed wires, too hastily put down at the last hour. The electric wire, however, must be counted henceforth in the list of military appliances and, with the aid of the Greek fire, and what the inventor styles the 'nautilus principle,' it may revolutionize the existing war system as completely as cannon and gunpowder displaced chain armor and archery.

It was, however, principally with reference to coast and harbor defense that Mont Storm valued his discovery and combinations, and he was quietly preparing his experiments in that line, in co-operation with the Russian Consul-General, when the news came of the peace negotiations. Mont Storm then concluded to lay his plan before Congress, and ask for it a thorough public trial; and an accomplished designer and machinist was engaged to prepare the necessary drawings and specifications. This man was an English Mormon—a self-sacrificing devotee to his faith, but of excellent private character apart from that, and exemplary in the discharge of the business confided to his care.

The first set of drawings and specifications he prepared were submitted to Secretary Davis, with a request that he would refer them to some officer of ability, as the inventor wished the preliminary opinion of some experienced military man on certain points before they were presented to Congress. Secretary Davis complied with this request, and an officer of the highest character and capacity was consulted on the system. This officer and Gen. Quitman, chairman of the Military Committee of the House of Representatives, and two other gentlemen, formerly in the military and naval service of Texas, were the only parties intrusted with the details of Mont Storm's system of defense, with the exception, of course, of the inventor's Russian friends.

Upon the suggestion of some of these parties, Mont Storm withdrew his plans from the Government archives, where they had been filed, and prepared to make a series of experiments on the best mode of exhibiting the incendiary material. As he was much occupied with some other invention, he made inquiry for a capable man to take charge of his experiments, and soon found one whose quick comprehension and mechanical ingenuity entirely fitted him to take charge of the business.

To compress the whole subject in one sentence, it now comes out that the pattern-maker and experimenters were all Mormons; and after becoming perfect masters of whatever there was to learn of the new system of land defense, they left the service of the inventor, and carried their knowledge to Utah. They had satisfied themselves that old kegs, hollow trees, common boxes, anything in short which could be made to contain a bottle of the burning fluid, a little powder and considerable amount of missiles, whether of balls, iron scraps, or pebbles and fragments of rock, could be converted into cheap and formidable batteries, whose discharge could be governed, at almost any distance, to a second of time; and the Mormons may be prepared to try the powers of the new system in the defiles of Utah.

It is admitted that the Mormons are manufacturing arms, and their arrogant defiance of the military forces of the United States, and the boasts of their elders that they are ready to send to swift destruction tens of thousands of the Gentiles, if they dare enter their territory in battle-array, may not be altogether without a serious meaning. The absolute and final result of a conflict between the Mormons and the legal authorities of the United States must be the triumphant vindication of the law; but it will be well to look thoroughly into their capacity to give trouble, and be on the alert for every contingency.

Pitifully ignorant Editor of the 'States,' Utah has simply acted in most justifiable self-defense against tyranny, usurpation, mobocracy, military

despotism and religious persecution, meted out by those who should sustain the Federal Constitution. What law in Utah needs vindication?—Not one, for in truth and strictness no law has been transgressed. Why do you not specify wherein Utah has sinned against the Constitution and Constitutional laws? Because you cannot, neither can any other person. Then why do you indulge in such ignorant and slanderous general assertions? To please your corrupt appetites and taste, fostered and blinded by the evil one.

As to your prophecy concerning the 'final result' (you who believe that the Heavens are sealed) we take pleasure in correctly informing you that our women can teach you in that matter.

Mr. States, if your MASTER will not suffer you to write and print truth about the 'Mormons,' you had far better leave the subject entirely alone and confine your puny efforts to those minor topics within the scope of your feeble comprehension.

## Proverbs.

For the Deseret News.

Fixed resolution in the virtuous, leads to fame and good fortune; in the wicked, it changes its name to obstinacy and leads to ruin and disgrace.

Patience and cowardice are often taken for each other, the former cannot be awed into fear or resentment, nor be cast down by prostration; the latter is soulless, cruel, and petulant.

Reverence and prodigality are often taken for twin-brothers; but they have no relationship. The former secures the blessings of heaven for the good of man, the latter throws them away to the wicked, the indolent, and improvident.

Honest industry, and covetousness, have both attained unto wealth by exertion; but they have not the same reward nor the same end; the former is stimulated by virtue and frugality. The latter is fraudulent, miserable and penurious.

Humility and sycophancy are opposite qualities in the human mind, the one exalteth a man before his maker, the other becometh him before his fellow man.

Fortitude and impudence have often been taken for the same virtue. The former is based on knowledge and valor, the latter on ignorance, stupidity and cowardice.

Ignorance is the masterpiece of presumption, and the enemy of intelligence.

Hypocrisy is the devil's suit loaned out to his imps to preach and practice in, every day in the week and Sundays too.

LYON.

**VARIOUS AFFAIRS ABROAD.**—The most destructive freshet that ever visited Central and Western New York was that of the second week in November. The N. Y. Central Railroad track was washed away in places, bridges and culverts swept off and other damage done. It caused a number of breaks in the Erie Canal, and at last accounts navigation was entirely suspended between Buffalo and Syracuse. All the central portion of the State suffered much damage in the loss of bridges, mills barns, &c. The Crooked Lake Canal is in ruins. It will be impossible to repair the damage this season.

In the Genesee Valley, the flood was worse than anywhere else. Houses, barns, cattle, produce, bridges, timber, &c., were swept off. The loss of property must be immense. The Erie R. R. is also a great sufferer. The track was submerged for most of the distance between Elmira and Corning. Many bridges and culverts were carried away. The Connetquot R. R., Genesee Valley R. R., Niagara Falls and Canandaigua R. R., and the Central routes between Rochester and the West are also more or less seriously damaged. At Seneca Falls much damage was done to the mills and factories, and almost every village and town in the region of the New York lakes are serious sufferers.

**THE WELLS OF SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA.**—The first artesian well in Santa Clara county was bored in the fall of 1853, since which time the number has increased to upwards of 400, having an average depth of 150 feet. There are 10 or 15 wells within a few miles of the city, from 250 to 400 feet deep, which throw a stream of water from two to five feet high, with a force sufficient to prevent stones weighing from half a pound to two pounds from sinking when dropped into the pipes.

Very many wells flow only an inch above the pipe, some still less, while the balance vary between the heights stated. The expense of boring an artesian well is about two dollars per foot. The pipe generally used is of No. 16 sheet iron, from 6 to 8 inches in diameter, driven to the whole depth of the well, as fast as the boring progresses. It is not often that the boring of a well has to be discontinued on account of not finding water; a stream is most always obtained throughout this valley, at a depth varying from 50 to 450 feet. The water obtained from these wells is generally warmer than surface water, and in some instances, until it has been exposed for a short time to the air, is unpleasant to the taste; owing, undoubtedly, to the gases absorbed in the subterranean passages. The water is as good as that obtained from the usual sources.

A writer in one of the London papers asserts that cast iron is the best material for cannon. One of the cast iron guns taken at the capture of Bomarsund underwent an experimental trial, and the metal, contrary to all expectation, withstood the experiment unharmed. The grand object is to have the iron properly made.

## The Opium Curse.

A correspondent of the New York Examiner, writing from Bangkok, Siam, gives the following fearful yet truthful account of the desolation this narcotic is working in the nation:—

Opium is scooping deeper furrows among these nations, and filling them with a more blasting torrent than any that ever issued from Vesuvius or Etna. The lightning from heaven scathes not with a more unerring certainty, than does that faint and flickering blaze that hovers over the bowl of the opium pipe.

Did these 'receiving ships,' that carry on the merchandise of this baneful drug, but discharge hot shot or sixty-eight pounders into these maritime cities, instead of opium, they would inflict a small evil in comparison. The enterprise and elastic vigor which distinguish the race would, as soon as the storm had passed over, impel them to rally, and rebuild their mansions more durably than before. It is thus they lose no time in repairing the damages caused by typhoons along their coast and inundations in their rivers. But when in silence, and oftentimes in the darkness of midnight, they discharge through their gangways their black shells of 'Malwa' and 'Patna,' they are hurling broadsides, in comparison with which chain shot would be a mercy.

The most malicious hater of his race could not have compounded a more efficient missile of destruction than these East India bombs. All the ills that flesh is heir to, and some that humanity would otherwise never have known, are there inclosed. Poverty is there; disease is there, in all its wasting forms; emaciation is there; premature decay is there; shame is there; anguish and despair are there; falsehood, perjury and blasphemy, all have a place. There, too, is to be found treachery to confidants, ingratitude to friends, neglect of parents, abuse of families. Theft, robbery and arson are there. Murder and suicide are there. Temporal death is there, and then, worse than all, death eternal is in these shells.

And when they burst, they hurl their blazing fragments into every circle of society, from the lofty to the lowly; from the opulent to the famishing; from the man of learning to the unlettered coolie. They go to curse. They fly to destroy. They fill the dark road to perdition.

'Flagellum Dei' (scourge of God) was the name given in former days to the pestilence that occasionally swept through Rome. Flagellum Diaboli (scourge of the devil) is no unsuitable designation for these twin scourges—Alcohol and Opium.

**IMPROVEMENT IN CARTRIDGES.**—An improvement is chronicled relating to cartridges for firearms, whose bore is entirely formed of a number of circular grooves. It consists in the arrangement, side by side, with their axis on the same circle, of several balls of cylindrical or conical or other partly cylindrical form, of a size to fit the grooves of the bore, the number of balls being equal to the number of grooves, so that every groove may receive a separate ball. The balls are also separated by a partition piece of paper or other material for the purpose of preventing their union by fusion when the charge explodes, which, without the partition piece, would sometimes occur when lead balls were used. When a ball-cartridge, constructed in this manner, is fired from a gun of straight bore, it is found that the balls will scatter very slightly—that is, they will be confined within a circle of about two feet six inches in diameter when projected to the distance of three hundred paces, thus being very destructive. By giving the grooves a twist the balls will scatter less.

**SUBSTITUTE FOR GOLD.**—A new metal has been discovered in France, which forms a good substitute for gold in articles of use and ornament. It resembles gold in color and appearance; it does not oxidize, and is not tarnished even by strong acids. It costs in ingots only about eighty cents a pound, and is called 'oreide.' A manufactory of it has been established at Waterbury, Connecticut, where they are producing spoons, sugar tongs, napkin rings, goblets, various articles of plain and chased jewelry and cast ornaments, and plates of various thickness, from tin foil to a sixteenth of an inch thick, combined with gold, as to show gold on one side and oreide on the other, and it is very difficult to tell which is gold and which is oreide. It will, beyond a doubt, prove a valuable acquisition to the arts, but will also lead to innumerable frauds. In France the government have required that every article manufactured from it shall be stamped with the name of the metal.

**LET US STRIVE.**—The San Francisco Bulletin says: 'The divorce mania must be checked. Let us strive to ascertain how this can be done.' Very well, 'strive.' We have a great desire to see by what means divorce can be checked in San Francisco. As yet, there has been no remedy for the evil, but we may now feel pleased; the Bulletin, a famous 'yerb doctor,' says the mania must be checked, and, therefore, it shall be checked. 'Let us strive,' while the doctor prepares his 'doctor stuff.' Checking divorce! We did not know, until this date, that any one connected with the press was so empty of sense as to suppose that divorces could be checked in San Francisco. [Sac. Age, Jan. 2.]

**SILVER MINE IN ALABAMA.**—We learn, says the Huntsville (Ala.) Advocate, of Nov. 12, that an old silver mine has been discovered in Hancock county, in this State, near the Morgan and Walker line. It is on the lands of a man named Blake, and a party of Georgians are now at work at it. It was walled up with solid masonry, which had to be broken up with powder, and then the mine was opened again. It must have been worked hundreds of years ago, as trees are now growing over and around it. The ore is said to be rich.