# DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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City Subscribers will kindly notify J. P. Dooley, Superintendent of any irregularity in the delivery of their papers.

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DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING CO.

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## CONTINUE IN WELL-DOING.

In the work of retrenchment of municipal expenses, the reformed City Council need not, like Alexander, sigh because there are no more worlds to conquer. They have made an excellent beginning and at one jump reached a place in the public esteem which it was hardly to be hoped they would attain in two years. But a reform well begun may be only half done; and if they will but cast a glance around, the councilors will still find considerable material upon which to use their axe and pruning-hooks.

Of course there is a kind of economy which is extremely expensive, and each particular department where reduction of the force and compensation is proposed will naturally be sure to think that true economy is against the proposition as far as affects its own case. These arguments will have to be considered in fairness, and stripped as far as possible of the personal aspect or interest in which they will be offered. But there are several men in the Council who are essentially practical—who wish there were more of them—men of affairs, and of hard common-sense. They know from their own experience how a private business has to be conducted to win success. On a larger scale, but all the more carefully, the business of the city must be managed. On general principles, therefore, the measure of safety and benefit which the present Council shall afford the municipality's interests will be determined by the willingness of the inexperienced men to follow the lead of such as we have described. The members ought to be better citizens than partisans, and have a higher regard for the community's welfare than for its politics. Whether they are thus patriotic and high-minded will be determined by the value they give on the various questions brought before them. They may indulge in protestations until they and their hearers faint from sheer exhaustion; but if they do not vote right, their talk is worse than idle.

Meanwhile, they are again invited to look over the city's current expenditures and see if they do not discover further occasion lastly to wield the sickerstone.

## UNFORTUNATE FRIENDSHIP.

If the ancient philosopher had had time to amplify his longing, when he exclaimed "Oh, that mine enemy would write a book!" he would probably have added, as the next best thing, "Or that somebody else would write a book about him."

The suggestion ought to have occurred to Governor McKinley, executive of Ohio, and one of the most prominent candidates for the Republican nomination for the Presidency in St. Louis next summer. His "Life" has just been published by Robert P. Porter, now of the Cleveland World, and formerly of the New York Press and of the Eleventh United States census. The book is four hundred pages in thickness, and from all reports is not only handsomely printed and pictured, but also ably written, which latter is hilarious and especially in biographies is a qualification not too often met with.

With all this, however, many of Major McKinley's best friends regard the volume with consternation, and many of his opponents with corresponding glee. Biographies have not generally proved good campaign material in the history of American politics. As eventful a career and as splendidly interesting a work as that of James G. Blaine did not win for the White-plumed knight that which he hoped for; while Mr. Sherman's recent "Recollections" have put him quite beyond the pale of further political advancement. It is to be expected that Mr. Porter has avoided anything to his write-up of McKinley which can give offense to other leaders of the party, and yet if it has any merit or value at all it can scarcely have avoided memories that are revilings and praise or criticism that is unpalatable.

Moreover, in the plain, common sense of the American people there is a proper and wholesome dislike to printed adulation and gush over living people. In some instances the affection of newise friends amounts almost to the deification of the beloved subject. Books and sketches about people still in mortality are frequently met with which are simply nauseating in their descriptions and praises. The unhappy tendency develops also in other forms, and all of them, where they affect more than the immediate connections and most intimate friends of the person to be honored, are in poor taste and of more than doubtful propriety.

We think that Mr. Porter in his late book has done Major McKinley no service for which the latter owes him any gratitude. We do not think any one who assumes to place a living friend high upon a pinnacle of exaltation to be gazed upon, eulogized or fussed over by the multitude, furnishes an example deserving of encouragement. In the extremity to which the tendency may be easily carried, it amounts either to tomfoolery or idolatry. And neither of these is desirable.

## A TRIUMPH FOR EQUITY.

Disreputable journalism received a crushing blow in Chicago last Saturday, when the jury having returned a verdict of guilty, the wretched proprietor of the Dispatch to that city was sentenced to $5,000 fine and two years' imprisonment for circulating his obscene literature through the mails. There may be delay in enforcing the terms of the sentence, but there is little chance for the miserable man to escape the just punishment that has been passed upon him.

It would be a happy day for the country, and one more welcome to the decent press than anybody else, if the same swift justice could overtake all others of the Dunlop and the Dispatch tik. They are a foul disgrace to any community where they operate, a blot upon the fair exterior of true civilization. They are not only an experiment in vice, but an experiment and apologist for it. They live upon depravity and sin; worse than that, they disseminate its seeds and scatter moral disease everywhere. The innocent and guileless are their prey, and under the false garb of high independence they are the most effective aids to blackmailers, hypocrites, panders and thugs.

In fining Joseph R. Dunlop two thousand dollars when he could have fined the sum at thirty thousand, and in giving him two years' imprisonment when it might have been sixty, the court cannot be charged with having erred on the side of severity. For such a crime there is absolutely no ground for mercy. The only regret honest people will have in the matter is that the money moiet was not heavy enough to destroy the vile newspaper root and branch, and that the jail penalty was not stern enough to shut the base editor out of the sight of decency for life.

## X-IGRAPHY.

Only a few weeks ago the announcement was made that Professor Roentgen of Wuerzburg had discovered a process whereby objects within surfaces generally considered opaque could be photographed. Experiments are now being made by prominent scientists on both sides of the Atlantic with startling results.

The principle on which the discovery rests will be understood from the following summary of an account given in the Wiener Zeitung, and reproduced in the Open Court, a periodical devoted to religion and science and published in Chicago.

A long time ago Geissler and Gaudoit constructed closed tubes filled with rarefied gases, in the end of which platinum wires were soldered. Afterwards, Professor Hittorf attached to the electrode through which the negative electricity enters, a flat strip of metal. This electrode is called the cathode. When the gas is quite rarefied this strip remains dark, while opposite the cathode, on the tube, a spot is visible which glows according to the composition of the gas, with a yellow, green or bluish light. This is the fluorescent spot. A body within the tube intercepts these cathode rays and throws a shadow on the wall of the tube.

The tubes in this country are known as Crooke's tubes. Crooke originated the hypothesis that the cathode rays are material particles emitted from the metal strip in rectilinear paths. German scholars, however, took the view that the action was undulatory and bore some resemblance to the rays of light.

At this stage of the investigation Professor Roentgen planned his experiments. The room in which he was working was darkened. The tube was enveloped in a casing of wood, impenetrable to the electric light and the rays of the sun. Near by was a screen covered with a substance commonly used in fluorescent experiments. It emits a bright white glow when it is struck by violet light rays or cathode rays.

This screen was immediately illuminated whenever the electricity was made to pass through the Crooke's tube, although the latter was enclosed in an absolutely opaque casing and was totally invisible to the eye. The conclusion was inevitable that the rays from the tube actually passed through the black casing though this was opaque to ordinary light. The rays in question make no impression on the retina of the eye; but if, they produce an sensation of light. They issue from the part of the tube where the glass wall is struck by the cathodic rays.

It was further found, if an object were placed between the spot and the screen, a distinct, but not perfectly dark shadow of the body was visible on the screen. The rays, consequently, passed through such bodies, but became weakened or absorbed in proportion to the thickness of the body penetrated.

Scientists are inclined to the opinion that Roentgen's discovery is nothing less than that of an entirely new physical agency, the longitudinal (longitudinal) waves of the ether. Common light-waves are supposed to be transversal, originating in a similar way as the waves in water struck by a stone thrown into it. The presence of longitudinal waves in the hypothetical ether has long been expected but without actual demonstration.

The practical side of the new discovery at once became apparent. It was found possible to photograph, for instance, the skeleton of living persons, the new rays penetrating the covering of skin and flesh. The Open Court reproduces a photograph by Professor Schubert, of Hamburg, in which the interior of a hand is laid bare. The rays have passed through the fleshy parts, which are not fairly seen on the picture, while the bone parts are more distinctly visible, and the gold ring encircling one finger stands out as a considerably dark object. The picture is really a photograph of the shadow of the objects rather than of the objects themselves, and the process by which it is obtained is as far known as x-ography. Mr. Edison is now at work trying to obtain a picture of the brain, and his experiments are watched with much interest. In Chicago, as will be seen in a dispatch from that place Messrs. Herlbner and Horry, the latter a physician, have already enlisted the new discovery in the service of the medical art. They have succeeded in locating in a man's hand a bunk-shot that for two years had caused pain but eluded all efforts to find it.

There is practically no limit to the usefulness of the new x-rays, as they are called, when their nature shall be fully understood. If by their aid the shadows of hidden things can be materialized, their discovery must be the signal of a new revolution in human arts and pursuits. By their aid, as a no distant future, the very interior of the mountains may be made visible and the earth itself become, as it were, a crystal, a sea of glass.

## VALUE OF GOLD AND SILVER.

A curious reason for the improved price of silver is advanced by an eastern gold organ, the argument being none other than that the firmness of silver quotations is due to the enlarged production of gold. The proposition otherwise stated is of course that gold is getting cheaper; and if overproduction makes gold cheaper, the theory of the enemies of the white metal that silver is only a commodity and should be treated as such, applies equally to the yellow metal. Then what becomes of the "fixed value" of gold, which even in their most enthusiastic moods is relied upon most strongly by the monometallists to support their idea of a single gold standard?

What causes the rise in the price of the white metal under the increased production of gold and the stationary or reduced production of silver is undoubtedly that the value of the silver is measured by the gold. But would not an increased demand for silver have the same effect? It would surely do so. But inasmuch as the opening of the mints to silver coinage would increase its value, and would reduce the demand for and lessen the value of gold, the gold patriots resist it to the last extremity and exclaim vain things about the "honest" dollar. The honesty of motives is a subject which they do not seem so anxious to discuss.


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Mr. A. L. Armstrong, an old druggist, and a prominent citizen of the enterprising town, says: "I sell some forty different kinds of cough remedies, but have never in my experience sold so much of any one article as I have of *Ballard's Horehound Syrup*. All who use it say it is the most perfect remedy for Coughs, Cold, Consumption, and all diseases of the Throat and Lungs, they have ever tried." It is a specific for Croup and Whooping Cough. I will relieve a Cough in one minute. Contains no opiates. Sold by Z. C. M. I. Drug Store.

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