DESERET EVENING NEWS.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LESSEES.

Friday, December 2, 1892.

TAKE THINGS MODERATELY.

The injunction to be moderate in all expressions and temperate in all actions is a standing one, but the prominence of mankind to ignore it becomes more apparent every day. In nothing is this more pronounced than in the social enjoyments and pastimes which prevail where there are any considerable number of people living in proximity, and the larger the community the greater and more nearly continuous the indulgence in sensuous pleasure as a rule. The devotee of "society" is rarely found in the villages and smaller towns, but becomes apparent in the smaller cities and more numerous by ratio as the population increases; and in the latter class of cases the demand is too often for an all but incessant whirl of gaiety garnished with blasting costumes and set to the pace of unappeasable demand.

It is not that we should be sober and serious and matter-of-fact all the time; nor is there any need that we eschew neat and becoming attire, or that we keep away from places of amusement altogether. This represents the other extreme, and extremes are what we are protesting against. Amusement should be a means of mitigating the acerbities of life, of imparting relaxation to the mind and of creating pleasurable though innocent diversion; it should not be as it is in too many cases, the sole aim and end of life. Those who would make of this existence an endless round of pleasures are cultivating an appetite which grows by what it feeds on. The keen enjoyment of yesterday becomes the dull monotony of today and must be sharpened and added to in order that it may be again relished, and thus it goes till the appetite for enjoyment is sated, nothing gives pleasure any longer, and the world becomes a gloomy vale with all things in it dull, uninteresting and even repugnant.

It is as proper to attend a theatrical exhibition where vice and immorality are excluded, as it is to read a chapter from a useful book; while it is as improper to permit the mind to be constantly immersed in theaters and things theatrical to the exclusion or even curtailment of the practical things of life, as it is to do anything else which has a tendency to impair our usefulness. Our minds should amount to something more than a mere receptacle for sensational, fanciful and unreal impressions, and our feet should at all times walk the paths of righteousness even when "treading the measures" of a dance; but the minds which find no time for the contemplation of religion, philosophy, science and the events of the hour, and the feet which are trained only in the exercises of the ball room, are a reproach to the Giver and the receiver alike. Be moderate, be circumspect, and above all remember the time to come.

JAY GOULD IS NO MORE.

Jay Gould, the Midas of real life, the wizard of Wall street, and one of the greatest financiers in point of successful operations the world ever knew, is no more. He had been ailing for several days, yet a favorable turn now and then suggested the possibility of his weathering the storm, but it was not so to be, and at a quarter past nine o'clock this morning his spirit took its flight. The cause of death was consumption. He was about 60 years of age.

Gould was immensely wealthy; what his exact possessions were will probably never be known, certainly not by the public. So much of it was in stocks of various kinds that it naturally fluctuated all the time, and the announcement of his death will cause something of a depression all along the line, though this may be only momentary. It is quite safe to say that his possessions in cash and property convertible into cash would not fall short of $100,000,000. We believe there are no Gould institutes of learning, orphan asylums, homes for the unfortunate indigent, public libraries or educational endowments, and yet he may have done good by stealth. Certainly in his business transactions he was thorough, masterly and met his engagements in accordance with the terms thereof. The Christianity of man is his saving quality, and it is no more than charitable to observe the Latin maxim—*de mortuis nil nisi bonum*—and say nothing but good of the dead.

SOCIAL PROGRESS.

The Boston *Herald* makes the point that when reference is made by some sanguine individual to the possibility of future government and social reforms, we are apt to look upon the proposition as indicative of an excited imagination and as having but little basis of possibility in the experience of mankind. But it is not improbable that those who judge of human nature and social and government institutions by what they see around them are entirely in the wrong as to the adaptability of mankind to better conditions. Mr. Froude pointed out in one of his essays that the difference between men of the present day and their predecessors in early historical times is that, while we believe that the world is improving, that there is a better time coming and that our own condition is preferable to that of our ancestors, the ancients thought that the golden age of the world, when mankind was happiest, and therefore had the best right to be contented, was in the past, and that society was deteriorating instead of improving. This is from a strictly liberal standpoint, but as an aberrant proposition its truth may be accepted.

That mankind progresses in the arts and sciences, in the more abstruse departments of physical life and in the means of disseminating his impressions and information, cannot be disputed; that he has become more humane in civilized modern than in medieval times, is also undisputed. This invites our contemporary to place before us a study of contemporary history—a class of research that was denied to the ancients — as having been the chief cause of our belief in social progress, and this supplies us with evidence of improvements that have taken place within a relatively short space of time. For example, Mr. J. C. Jeffreson has recently collated and printed a large number of extracts from the Middlesex county [Eng.] records, these including indictments, convictions, coroner's investigations, etc., from the seventeenth year of Charles II to the fourth year of his successor, James II; that is, at a period of about 200 years ago. One obtains a tolerably fair idea from the crimes committed, from their character, who committed them and the punishment accorded for them, of the social conditions of the people, and, taking a few of them as samples, the condition of England 200 years ago would seem as impossible to Englishmen of today—if it were not for historical proofs that can be furnished—as the conditions foreshadowed by some of the most radical of social reformers.

A number of cases might be cited showing the intolerance, cruelty and oppression of those in authority toward their subjects in those times, but these are individual instances illustrative of he law's delay or inaction in dealing with one class and its rigorous promptness and severity in dealing with another class, a condition which this age has modified somewhat, but which has the hardihood to say that it has entirely overcome it? The publication of the recent satire would add nothing to the general proposition nor take anything from it, as there is no point gained by the repeated references made to cruelty and wrong-doing in the days agone. One more instance, however, being valuable as a feature of those time and people, may be given:

Another offense which these records show to have been very prevalent was that of kidnapping young women, who were seized near the water side, put on board ship and sent to the West Indies to be sold as slaves to the planters. Judging by the number of persons, both male and female, who were convicted of the offense of kidnapping, the crime of thus depriving one's fellow-citizens of their liberty and all that made life enjoyable was astonishingly prevalent in England two centuries ago. Apparently, the punishment for this offense was entirely incommensurate with its enormity. Occasionally, the offenders were heavily fined, and were even sentenced to sit in the pillory, but in many cases the kidnappers escaped with a fine of a few shillings.

But surely we of this generation do not have to wander so far back as the cause way of time to find incidents of kidnapping for the purpose of selling into slavery, or of indignities and outrages—even crimes—committed upon the victims of that dastardly business. As a plain matter of fact we don't have to go back at all; current history furnishes us with such events now and then, growing fewer and fewer let it be thankfully said, but not yet obsolete. In such light the cumming up of our able and always brilliant Boston contemporary loses something of its force. "From this and other evidence that could be given," it concludes, "one is made aware of the immense distance in social condition and restraint that separates those who lived 200 years ago from those living at the present time. Our progress in this brief space of time has been made toward greater equality and the better protection of individual rights and happiness, which, being the case, one has a right to argue that changes equally great may take place in the years that are to come; for, be it remembered, it is not alone that official guardianship is exercised at the present time, and that individual rights are respected under the law, but the offenses then committed, and the punishments then bestowed are, many of them, of a character which would be considered abhorrent by those now living, even if there were no legal restraint imposed." Certainly, 200 years hence and even much less time will bring upon the earth and the children of the earth many changes, changes of more import and greater extent than are set down in the vocabulary of man.

A VILE IMPOSITION.

The superstitious negroes of Chicago —and where they are ignorant they are as a rule densely superstitious—are being practiced upon in a manner calling loudly for the intervention of the law; yet the officers make no interference, although they not only know of the impostors' tricks but have them practiced right before their eyes in the police court if nowhere else. He is named "Professor" James J. Allen; he occupies pretentious apartments in the suburbs and makes no secret of his whereabouts, in fact he prefers to have it known because of the increased business coming to him thereby, and to that end has his name on the door in big gilt letters. His customers are mainly those who want fortunes told or seek to avoid some threatened evil. He has a bigger police court practice than any of the lawyers, those who are "run in" employing him to ward off impending duties or injustice as the case may be, when he has a case of this kind he takes a seat by the side of the accused and, as the latter pushes his statement to the judge, the long, bony fingers of the wizard sprinkle some substance over the prisoner and, strange to relate, the "charm" is successful oftener than otherwise.

Allen is said to be fairly educated; he speaks English, French, German and Latin moderately well, and is making a fortune. His charges are very high and he is visited by hundreds every day. The papers of the lake city discuss this matter as though it were a harmless imposition with which they can only interfere to the extent of giving it clever reportorial notice; but it wears a more serious aspect than far away.

THE RAINMAKERS.

Science wielded by learned men and backed by the federal government has been brought into requisition to assist those occupying the arid regions of the country by compelling rain to fall where it has all along refused to do so, at least in sufficient volume to amount to anything practically. To this end Congress made a big appropriation last session, and a corps of capable men headed by General Dyrenforth has been bombarding the upper deep at a point near the famed Alamo in Texas, with what success those of our readers who keep an eye on the telegraphic dispatches already know; that is, no success whatever worth naming.

While the general and his gunners, balloon men, gasmakers, cannon and magazine stores are pounding away at the impalpable air, the Chicago *Record* gives an account of the adventures of another American manufacturer of thunderstorms who has been among the farmers of Hungary. The "professor," whose field of operations has removed him from his own country, explained to interested farmers near Pesth that rain is produced by lightning. His bit of natural science having been honored with full credence, the next step was to show that by setting traps for the valuable product, catching it and corking it up in caskets specially prepared for its reception, the farmers could have rain for their crops whenever they wanted it. After the hard-working scientist had captured fourteen full-grown thunderbolts and stored them away for future use the police of Hungary interrupted his labors and sent him to jail.

These alleged rain-makers seem to be not in the least overcome by the utter failure of their plans and workings so far, and evidently think that with persistence the missing link in the chain of natural science necessary to success will be developed. Meantime the unthinking—and a good many who are not unthinking—of the populace are disposed to weaken in their faith regarding the experiments; that is, those who ever had any faith in them are doing so, and rapidly joining the other class where the salutation of each announcement of failure is the quite familiar one—"I told you so!" But still the experiments go on and will probably continue so long as the appropriation lasts. We are advised by one of the more facetious that on Saturday last General Dyrenforth, unterrified by the prospect that it would rain presently without his aid, filled a balloon with a hydrogen-oxygen mixture and sent it sailing up into a black cloud, where it exploded, precipitating a heavy shower, which presently turned into a steady and long-continued drizzle, which leads to the conclusion that while the explosive balloon is a great deal more honest than the lightning trap, it still remains to be proved that the rain-making powers of the former are superior to those of the latter.

There are a good many places in Utah that would be converted from unproductive wastes into fruitful fields if the golden secret sought by Dyrenforth and claimed by Melbourne could be attained and its principle applied. The idea that concussion would bring aerial moisture to its vicinity was caused by the fact that it has been known to rain quite copiously on a battlefield just after a severe battle; but this has not always been the case by any means, and it would seem as if the conditions overhead must be propitious, in which event the rain would come sooner or later anyway, the concussions having but the effect of hastening matters a little.

The Louisville *Courier-Journal* is after the office-seekers who have driven Mr. Cleveland into dusk-destroying retirement. It says the stampede was wild enough to drive any man with a pull to suicide or the wilderness. "About one Kentucky Democrat in five seems to want something. The usual clamorous throng of ramp-holders, chunk-heads, Democrats for revenue and office only, to this time reinforced by a surprisingly large number of good men from every rank of life, all wanting something and wanting it badly."

As Ohio girls her hand in marriage against a $50 prize, Gen. Harrison would be elected. This is one of those absurd election bets that can be tolerated, especially when paid, as this one was without even waiting for the official returns.

The many promising field for the display of the peculiar talents of the greatly militant brother, Elliot Shepard of New York, is to get himself elected commander-in-chief of the Salvation army.

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Sealed bids will be received at the office of the undersigned until noon, Dec. 15th, for the erection of a Bathing Resort for the Saltair Beach Company at Saltair, Plans and specifications can be seen at the same office after Nov. 30th. The company reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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L. Gatewood, of the Ontario Mine, Park City, says: Ballard's Snow Liniment cured him of Rheumatism of long standing after all other remedies had failed. He states: "I cheerfully commend it to my friends as being the best Liniment in the world for cuts, sprains, bruises, old sores, rheumatism, neuralgia, backache, sick headache. It goes right in and draws out all inflamation."

It will cure a spavined suckle in twenty-four hours. It will cure any old sore on man or beast. It cures all pain and all inflamation.

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Estate of Elsie A. Faust, deceased.

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Dated December 2nd, 1892.

ANGUS J. CANNON,
Administrator of the Estate of Elsie A. Faust, deceased.
JOHN M. CANNON,
Attorney for administrator. 7tu

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