

THE DESERET WEEKLY.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING
COMPANY, LESSEES.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Per Year, of Fifty-two Numbers, - - - \$2.50
Per Volume, of Twenty-six Numbers, - - - 1.50
IN ADVANCE.

Saturday, - - - July 15, 1893.

A NEW SECT IN THE SOUTH.

The eastern and southern religious press is quite worked up over the appearance of a new sect that has lately made itself known among the primitive people of an island community on the Virginia coast. According to one authority these people have come together from different sections, and call their organization "Christ's Holy Sanctified Church of Chincoteague Island No. 1." They have built a church costing about \$2000, in which they conduct services on Sunday and nearly every night in the week. They all claim to be sanctified so that they are incapable of committing sin. They hold that all who are not sanctified will be lost, and that those who profess to be Christians, but are not sanctified, are no better than the most abandoned sinners. They refuse to allow any regularly ordained minister to perform any official act among them, and have succeeded in persuading the judge of the county court to grant to one of their members license to celebrate the marriage ceremony. According to reports published in the secular papers, the religious exercises held by these people are extraordinary. They work themselves into a frenzy of excitement, jumping, shouting, and screaming until, in many cases, they fall exhausted on the floor. It is also stated that some of their customs savor of socialism and communism, and they have been subjected to the severest criticisms on account of their social relations. They see visions, dream dreams, receive revelations, and profess to have knowledge of invisible things which are denied to other mortals. As above stated these accounts of their creed and practices are given by newspapers not in sympathy with the sect, and are therefore liable to contain exaggerations if not untruths. It can readily be imagined that the claim to divine revelations would be looked upon as in the highest degree preposterous; we are used to hearing that all such things were long since done away. It would be interesting to hear more, and from the members themselves, as to what their belief and doctrine really consist of.

THE SALT LAKE VIPER.

On Sunday morning last a venerable and beloved member of this community, one whose long life has been devoted to deeds of kindness and true charity, undertook to pay a visit in a neighboring county to an aged and enfeebled friend, a woman of ninety-three years. For this purpose he had to take the cars at the Great Salt Lake

and Hot Springs depot in this city, where he was met by his wife, and a home missionary and his wife, who were going in the same direction to attend Sabbath services. While waiting for the train, the party occupied seats which the manager of the railroad courteously placed for them in the shade. And out of these facts a story utterly false in all its essential features was concocted for and published yesterday morning in a local sheet which has thus given one more proof that it is a disgrace to reputable journalism wherever the term is understood.

When we say that the veteran referred to was President Wilford Woodruff, there rises before the public eye a man who forty-six years ago accompanied the Pioneer band into this valley and, on the day whose anniversary we shall celebrate on the Twenty-fourth, brought in his carriage their bed-ridden leader and Utah's founder to this spot; a man whose eighty-six years of life have been marked with such conspicuous honesty, simplicity and probity that not even the most vindictive foe could breathe against him a reproach. It is scarcely necessary to say that the paper which yesterday published the contemptible falsehoods about him was the Salt Lake Tribune. The author of them is a sneaking, nameless whelp, who gluts on offal and ever and anon for hate or lucre spews it out again over a *nom-de-plume*—and on this occasion even he could not dare to stand parent to his effort.

An outraged public sentiment, a loathing indignation, may be trusted to treat appropriately a wretch who can be so low and a paper that can be so base. The one is the veritable spawn of hell, that pollutes the earth he treads; there is not a beast so hideous that its hide would not be soiled in cutting his false and besotted face. The other, in prostituting itself to his infamy, is a stench in the nostrils of all decency.

THE CHAMBER'S SECRETARY.

On Monday Mr. S. W. Sears retired from the responsible and exacting if not very lucrative position of secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of this city, he having previously resigned. It is well assured that in saying that few men in the community could or would have brought to the position the business qualifications, the great experience, the general ability and the willingness to serve that have characterized Mr. Sears's incumbency, we do but voice the sentiment of all who know the man and are familiar with the subject. A great many questions affecting the community at large but more directly the business part of it have arisen at times, and some of these have required deliberation, courage, firmness and tact to successfully cope with. No small part of such contests has fallen to the lot of the secretary, who had to plan and act in the absence of the board and arrange things conveniently and properly against their convening. Mr. Sears has always proven himself equal to these emergencies, and the success with which the Chamber has

dealt with important measures was largely the result of his work and methods in every case. His resignation was accepted with regret, and he retires with the respect and esteem of his late associates and of all who know him.

To Mr. Irving A. Benton, late postmaster of this city, and still later U. S. marshal, has been awarded the portfolio of secretary. It is questionable if a better choice could have been made. Certainly some very able and conspicuous gentlemen were candidates against him, but he carried off the prize, such as it is. We shall look for no less a degree of zeal and capability in the present than in the former secretary, and feel assured that we shall not be disappointed. Thorough business ability, tireless energy, and uniform courtesy have characterized Mr. Benton's official life in Salt Lake City, and notably in the trying position of marshal was he able to prove that an efficient law officer may still be a genial gentleman. The Chamber of Commerce is to be congratulated upon securing his services.

THE "MORMON WAY."

A lady and a gentleman of this city, according to a cotemporary, think our latest Fourth of July a rather commonplace sort of day, reminding the parties "of the time when the Mormons were in control here." Some people are either poorly informed or altogether ignorant as to the subjects they sometimes speak of and at such times these would show their "wisdom more wise" were they to maintain that golden silence which oftener than otherwise is becoming in every one and ought to be an invariable standard of conduct with the majority.

If those who talk so flippantly about what the Mormons did or did not do in the early days here would before airing their groundless prejudices take the trouble to acquaint themselves with the subject, they might spare their better posted friends if not themselves some little humiliation. When the Mormons were in complete control here—because there was nobody else on the ground—there was never a Fourth of July permitted to come without a most hearty, joyous welcome awaiting it. All the flags—the Stars and Stripes we mean—that the community possessed were brought into requisition and made to add to the glories of the occasion. Preparations began weeks ahead and there was always a successful parade as the result of frequent rehearsals in which all cheerfully took part and did not mind the time and trouble they were put to. The nice clothes—very few people had more than one extra suit and very many not so much—were brushed up, mended where needed and everything held in readiness for the great day. And scarcely had the preceding hour of midnight passed before the small boys and those who were older and had joined the ranks of "young America" broke loose from restraint and made the remainder of the night as hideous as the means at their disposal would permit. Promptly at daybreak and again at sunrise cannon and anvil would