

EDITORIALS.

AIR-GAS.

THE Sheffield, England, correspondent of the *Iron Age* says that Mr. Wright, of that town, the inventor and patentee of the new "air-gas" for lighting and heating purposes, is engaged in procuring patents for his invention "all over the world." The correspondent states that on the 28th of March a further experimental trial was made of the gas, in the presence of a number of practical gentlemen, including several of the leading Sheffield manufacturers, who had been invited to witness the experiments, which were conducted in the yard of Messrs. White and Henderson, silversmiths, Elcho Works, Burgess street, Sheffield. Among the experiments were the creation and steady maintenance of a flame of the gas, measuring six by four feet, for heating boilers of any construction, hard soldering by silversmiths, brazing and work usually done with a blowpipe and blast. With a strong atmospheric pressure behind the flame, the heat emitted from a three-inch nozzle was intense, and from a perforated iron plate so powerful as to be capable of heating a boiler of almost any size, and whether cylindrical or tubular. The trial was considered most satisfactory.

It is estimated that the cost of heating boilers on this plan would not be more than one-twentieth or at most one-fifteenth of the present expenditure with coal or coke. For illuminating purposes, the gas can be adapted to the present coal gas pipes, burners, and other fittings, though the air-gas burns best with perforated Argand burners. The inventor is convinced that for shipping, blast or puddling furnaces, boilers, smelting metals, and similar purposes, it must be speedily adopted. Where a steam vessel now carries several hundred tons of coal for a voyage, she can stow away materials for the gas for the whole time in a very small space, and at comparatively little cost. Thus the use of the air-gas would have prevented the awful Atlantic disaster.

The air-gas is produced without the aid of coke or coal or any other kind of fuel, being a chemical distillation made from a very plentiful and cheap material, properly mingled with atmospheric air. The apparatus used for generating the gas occupies a space of four or five square feet, and contained, according to Mr. Wright, about 150,000 feet of the gas-and-air combination, costing, for heating purposes, about five-pence per thousand feet, and leaving no ashes nor other residuum. For ordinary lighting purposes the inventor produces (but of course does not supply) a superior gas at about sixpence per thousand feet, believed to give a clearer and purer light than coal gas. An eminent London analytical chemist is of the opinion that the gas is quite free from sulphur, that it cannot emit any deleterious fumes, that it is in no way calculated to injure picture frames, gilding, curtains, etc.; indeed that it is utterly innocuous.

If the representations made of Mr. Wright's air-gas and of Mr. Ruck's water-gas, both English inventions, are true, the days, or nights, of coal gas are surely numbered, and any further alarm over the fuel question must prove short-lived.

NEED BE NO TROUBLE.

THE sentiment was expressed in yesterday's NEWS that if the judiciary of the Territory would do their duty honestly and impartially, without prejudice to any party or person, there would be no particular trouble in Utah. That is true enough, and seeing the signal failure of those judges who for the last three years have been operating more or less in a contrary spirit, the idea suggests itself that it would be the best policy for new appointees to reject the prejudiced policy and strive to be, in deed and in truth, honest, impartial judges, without prejudice against or bias toward either "Mormon" or Gentile, without any other mission, without any other purpose in the discharge of their official duties, than to administer the law in the obvious spirit and intent thereof, in the obvious spirit and intent of the constitution, and as far as practicable in the spirit of justice, with

such manifestation of mercy as is allowable and is plainly consistent with and conducive to the public good.

It is hard to believe that a course of this kind has been the aim of the large majority of the Utah judiciary. It is much easier to believe, from what we know of the community at large, that if such a course were to be taken and resolutely persisted in by the Utah judiciary, no Territory or State would be more peaceable nor have fewer judicial difficulties than this. As things go, the first thing that impresses the other than superficial observer is that there is a decided and never satisfied desire among officials to create difficulty, to excite and establish a conflict, which should force congressional if not executive interference, in the hope that such interference would give one portion, and that a small minority, of the community a clear and unjust advantage over the rest. This is the germ of all the difficulty, all the trouble, all the conflict, all the excitement in or over Utah, with which the ear of the public has been saluted so much, more or less, for two or three years past.

If the judiciary in the past had been half as eager to discharge their judicial duties faithfully and impartially, without reference to religion, or to politics or plunder, as they have been to hatch conflicts, contrive political issues, and bring about exciting crises, the administration of the law would have gone along like clock-work, the courts would have been universally respected and the officers thereof honored, and Congress and the administration would have been saved all their anxious thought upon the situation in Utah. When judicial matters get into snarls and tangles in this Territory, it will usually be found that not the people but the courts are in fault.

A SCIENTIFIC COUNTER-BLAST.

PROFESSOR JOHN LIZARS, of the Royal College of Surgeons, has published a small work on tobacco. After a very thorough scientific investigation into the merits and demerits of the weed, he comes to the conclusion, as the disappointed husband did regarding his wife, that it is "all worse and no better." By chemical analysis the professor finds that tobacco contains a large proportion of nicotine, a colorless, liquid alkaloid, with an acrid burning taste, "one of the most intense of all poisons, approaching in its activity the strongest preparation of prussic acid." Another constituent of tobacco is nicotine, also a poison of deadly power.

By long experience and close observation the professor is satisfied that the physiological effects of tobacco are ruinous in the last degree, but the physical injury resulting from its use is by no means the greatest, because "a danger of far greater interest to those concerned in the preservation of the individual is the enfeeblement of the human mind, the loss of the power of intelligence and of moral energy; in a word, of the vigor of the intellect." The professor gives his opinion that tobacco in all its forms, is "a most deleterious drug," and he dwells particularly on the evil of smoking in early youth. He cites a large number of cases of paralysis, heart disease, and other organic disorders caused by the use of this noxious weed.

One of the strangest things in all human experience is the proneness of humanity to adopt evil and injurious habits, of which the use of tobacco is one. It is a habit that binds those who adopt it in chains of slavery from which escape is very difficult, and with some apparently impossible. The adoption of the habit by any one is a stigma, a disgrace rather than a credit. It is not a thing to boast or be proud of, but to be ashamed of, because it is a habit injurious to the possessor and offensive to others. It is therefore worthy of censure and not approval. The formation of a habit of this kind should be avoided, especially by the young, as a deadly enemy.

SQUABBLES IN HIGH PLACES.—Caleb Cushing's book upon the Washington treaty and the Geneva award reflects severely upon Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, the representative of Britain at the council, who of course feels wrath in return, and the newspapers at least

have much to say about it. As a counterpart to this squabble of legal luminaries, the diplomats of Russia and Britain are chewing over antagonistically the Eastern question. The late prospect of an open quarrel, at least diplomatic and possibly physical, was dissipated and the crisis tided over by Russian explanations and assurances of no mischief intended. But in a more quiet and indirect way the squabble reappears. Sir Henry Rawlinson, learned in Indian matters, has been delivering lectures strongly reprobative of the aggressive spirit of the Czar. The lectures are being extensively published on the continent of Europe, and have their influence upon European opinion concerning the Eastern question and the policy of England and Russia. On the other hand Prince Gortschakoff has directed the St. Petersburg Geographical Society to hold two sittings this month and next and discuss Central Asia from a Russian point of view.

There can be no doubt, notwithstanding all diplomatic explanations to the contrary, that Russia has its eye upon Khiva and other portions of Asia as well as Turkey, with reference to possible future annexation, and also that Britain, if she does not herself seek to annex further in the East, does desire that Russia approach no nearer the boundaries of the Indian domain of the former power. War is not at all unlikely to come of these cross purposes yet, as it has done heretofore.

MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR OF MONTANA.

B. F. POTTS, Governor of Montana, sent in his message to the legislature of that Territory, convened in extraordinary session on the 14th inst. The first subject which he submits for their consideration is the duty of providing by law for the care, custody and management of the United States Penitentiary at Deer Lodge City, remanded to the care and management of the Territory by act of Congress, approved January 24, 1878. The United States still retains the title to the Penitentiary, but requires the Territory to support in it all U. S. prisoners, convicted or held to answer in the Territory, at the rate of one dollar per day per head. The Governor recommends the creation of a board of directors not to exceed three, and a warden, who should also be clerk of the board. The directors to prescribe rules and regulations, and specify duties of officers and employees, at least two of the directors to visit the penitentiary monthly, and the board to hold quarterly meetings, and report to the Governor annually. A well-defined code of laws for the management of the Penitentiary is also held to be desirable.

The Governor invites attention to certain ambiguous enactments of the codified laws of the Territory, which he terms a bundle of incongruities and contradictions, and recommends a number of changes referring to juries, county commissioners, justices of the peace, the crimes of murder and manslaughter, and the interest on county bonds and warrants; also suggests legislation concerning fees of court officers; the abolishment of the office of county treasurer; the making of the sheriff ex-officio county tax collector; the provision of some penalty for the failure of county officers to perform their legal duties; the prohibition of sporting and unnecessary labor on the Sabbath; provision for the repression of vigilantism or mobocracy, and the propriety of conferring upon the Governor additional powers for the enforcement of the criminal laws of the Territory.

The income of the Territory from Dec. 1, 1871, to April 1, 1878 was \$78,082.25; expenditure, the same, excepting \$155.11 balance in hand. Debt of the Territory April 1, 1873, \$143,586.37; registered debt, Dec. 1, 1871, \$117,515.52; increase of debt in sixteen months, \$29,070.85, which the Governor says is to be attributed to the extravagant expenditures of the last legislative assembly. Little encouragement is held out for the financial future, but still the Governor is not without hope.

The public debt, Territorial and county, exceeds half a million. Extravagance must be checked, says the Governor, and economy exercised. The present year \$20,000 of the Territorial debt may be cancelled. Sheriffs ought to have less for conveying convicts to the Pen-

itentiary, the warden might be sent to fetch the prisoners.

The Governor recommends the restoration of the act of 1870, giving the Territorial auditor a fixed salary; that officer should prescribe the blanks to be used by county assessors, to insure uniformity of assessment. The voting of county bonds for the construction of railroads should be considered as to the powers of a Territory to grant bonds to aid private corporations, in view of legal decisions that taxation is a mode of raising revenues for public purposes only, though it is agreed that municipal subdivisions can subscribe to the capital stock of railroad corporations or own and operate railroads. The Governor thinks, in the present financial position of the Territory, to vote bonds for any purpose would be suicidal.

EDITOR AND PRINCESS.—A romantic story is going the rounds of the press that James Gordon Bennett, of the New York *Herald*, has a fondness for one of the daughters of Christian IX, of Denmark, and that the European department of the *Herald* and the Livingstone discovery have been shrewdly manipulated in the interest of Bennett's soft attachment, or intense infatuation, as it is termed, although he finds it necessary to proceed with great caution, because King Christian is a haughty old sovereign. Young Bennett it is said, first met the Princess in Berlin four years ago. A few weeks before his mother died he was introduced to King Christian, and now, it is asserted, "on the best authority," that the marriage has been agreed upon. It is also said that Bennett induced the Princess Dowager of Schleswig-Holstein (daughter of a Boston merchant named Ray, and who was married to a cousin of the king) to leave the kingdom, as the old monarch would not acknowledge her as a princess at his court. Count Rantzow, a great favorite of the king, is deeply in love with Miss Labiotteaux, a young American girl and companion of the Princess Dowager. Miss L. jilted him some time ago, but she being a relative of Mr. Connery, managing editor of the *Herald*, Bennett had influence to bring about a reconciliation between her and the count, and in return the count exerted his influence with the King in Bennett's behalf. Jennings of the *Times*, it is said, has something to do with the matter, and will visit Europe to push on the arrangement, Bennett having determined on an early celebration of the marriage. So runs the story, which is more likely to be false than true.

Correspondence.

CAMP ON THE RIGHT BANK OF THE RIVER ABANA, DAMASCUS, SYRIA, March 18, 1878.

President Brigham Young:

Dear Brother—On the 10th, a ride of five miles from Nazareth brought us to a small huddle of rude stone huts, said to be on the site of Cana of Galilee. A primitive looking house is shown, said to be on the site of that in which the wedding was held when the Saviour turned the water into wine. Two large, rough stone pots, much resembling the old hominy blocks of the early settlers of Missouri, were shown us by a monk, who, in very broken English, informed us they were the ones the Saviour used at the time; they will contain some twenty-four quarts, and are now used for baptismal fonts.

About two miles from Cana is the site of Jotapa, memorable in history for its desperate defense, under Josephus, against Vespasian, in the Jewish war. We passed through the valley of Hattin, where Saladin, the Caliph of Egypt, gave the final blow to the power of the crusaders in the Holy Land. The region traveled over is smoother and less rocky than any thus far this side of Jerusalem, except the plains of Esdraelon. Camped inside the walls of Tiberias, which is on the west shore of the Sea of Galilee, or Lake of Tiberias, or Lake of Gennesareth, some four miles north of where Jordan leaves the lake. There are extensive ruins here that date back to the time of Herod the Tetrarch, the murderer of John the Baptist. The present walls were probably built by the Crusaders, and inclose much unoccupied ground. The place was damaged by an earthquake in 1837. The inhabitants are mostly of Jewish descent. Some hot sulphur springs, about a mile south, were formerly celebrated for their efficacy in rheumatic complaints and skin diseases. We saw three small fishing boats, one of which had just unloaded several fish resembling suckers, bass, shiners and catfish. There were very fair potatoes in the market, and our dragoman bought some. I looked through the principal shops for a pair of gloves, but they had none.

Our dragoman, Anthony Makloot, on the morning of the 11th, chartered a fishing boat, and Bros. Carrington and T. Jennings and I took a three-hours' boat row, some nine miles, to where the Jordan enters the Sea of Galilee, where we took a short stroll on the right bank of Jordan; there was an encampment of Bedouins on each side of the river, with their goats, hair cloth and rush cane or flag tents, flocks and herds; several of the cattle, as they passed us, fat

and jolly, curled their tails like young pigs. The river enters from between low hills, and has a small valley on each side by the lake, and is about three feet deep across the bar. We lunched under the shade of two large old trees, and then rowed three miles along the western shore about three miles and landed at the supposed site of Chorazin, where are a few ruins. Another hour's row in the same direction brought us to the supposed ruins of the Bethsaida of Peter and Andrew, where are now some Arab mills, from which point a short row brought us to our camp, which had moved up the lake about six miles to the fountain of the fig tree (Ain-et-Tien), on the supposed site of Capernaum, where there is scarcely a ruin visible.

On the 12th, on our route, we ascended rocky hills several thousand feet and viewed the lake. Aside from the Bible associations, the lake is very beautiful; our guide book and maps state it to be from 600 to 650 feet below the Mediterranean; the hills surrounding it slope to its shores, except at the small crescent shaped valley of Gennesareth. As the location of many of the Saviour's teachings it is an object of great interest to the Christian mind. While I was bathing in the lake I saw a pilgrim bow down to the lake and kiss the stones, from ignorant reverence. It is about six miles by thirteen, and is 165 feet deep. If abundant rains fell upon the country it would be fruitful. Our dragoman tells us that nearly all vegetation now looking so fresh will in a few weeks be dried up.

At several points in ascending the rocky hills on the morning of the 12th, we saw traces of an ancient road, said to have been built by the Romans from Damascus to Tiberias, on which the rocks they had smoothed were so slippery that our horses could scarcely keep their feet. In the afternoon we passed some patches in cultivation, and a large spring named Ain Melitahab, on which is a rude mill, and camped at another large spring in the upper valley of the Jordan, the finest region we have seen this side of the plains of Esdraelon. Some of our Bedouin neighbors visited us. A boy about nine read, apparently very well, in Arabic what our guide said was a portion of the history of Joseph. Several were moving their tent villages, preparatory to farming; they have considerable herds of cattle and flocks of sheep and goats, and a few camels. Their ploughs are insufficient for good work; they plough with oxen. Frogs were numerous and musical.

Thirteenth.—Passing numerous Bedouin tents and herds, and crossing a branch of the Jordan on a very rude stone bridge, we lunched at Dan, under two large oaks. Here is one of the principal fountains or springs of the river Jordan; we drank the pure water, and thought of Abraham at Dan, in pursuit of the kings, to recover Lot (when he pursued the kings to Hotab, on the right hand of Damascus), and of the call which Jeroboam set up here to prevent Israel from going to Jerusalem to worship, unless there was better water at Jerusalem than then now, Jeroboam had selected the most pleasant site. In the evening we camped at Banias, the Cesarea Philippi of Herod Agrippa, where Paul was held bound. The place is now a small village of filthy, miserable Arab stone huts, and fragments of broken columns and pilasters occupy the site. Here we visited another of the main springs or fountains of the Jordan, which supplied the ancient city with an abundance of the best of water, and is now used for irrigation.

Fourteenth.—We rose about 5,000 feet over rocky steep paths and one snow bank on the eastern spurs of the Mount Hermon range, rendered slippery by the rain of the previous night, and then a long rapid descent rough and stony, brought us to an Arab village on a beautiful little stream in a deep rocky gorge, where we lunched, and we camped for the night at Kep Hanwa, another small Arab village on the bank of a pretty stream; here is a reported burial place of Nimrod. We have seen several small groves of timber being raised by irrigation. Our pack train starting some time after we did were caught some two hours in a rain and snow storm, while we were ahead of it. A boy came into camp with six perfect toes on each foot, and six fingers on each hand.

On a high peak above Banias are the ruins of the castle Subelch, which covered an area of 1000 by 200 feet, and which we passed near by on our left; it dates to the period that Judea was a kingdom, and is said to be one of the most magnificent ruins in Syria. It was in the reign of Cesarea Philippi (Banias) that Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16, 16.

Fifteenth.—As we advanced toward Damascus cultivation began to increase, and we passed some vineyards on light reddish soil, and lunched in a small grove of young thrifty trees, carefully raised by irrigation. For some two miles outside the walls, on the side we entered, we passed between large fields, orchards and garden made luxuriant by irrigation upon the plain in practice in Utah, and this belt of cultivation seems to extend around the city, while beyond the belt thus cultivated it appears barren. Our way to camp led directly through the city by narrow and ill paved streets thronged with people. This city, said to be the oldest in the world, has made very shabby improvements. Eliezer, Abraham's chief steward, was a native of Damascus, about 1913 years before Christ. It needs some Yankee enterprise to reconstruct this place, though its present condition demonstrates what irrigation might be made to do in this part of the world.

Sunday, 15.—We met in one of our tents and administered the sacrament in the afternoon.

Monday, 17.—We made a call upon the American consular agent, N. Meshaka, a native Syrian, who has never been in America. He treated us very courteously, and we conversed with him for some time. He asked us many questions in relation to our faith, being able to converse to some extent in the English language; he is not a Mahomedan. He informed us that the Mahomedans could marry four wives, and buy as many as they might be able to, or wished to; this system, of course, has a tendency to develop male licentiousness. He said the Turks would not approve of allowing women the privilege of voting, that placing them too near an equality with man. We walked through a portion of the street called Straat, and through many streets and ways all narrow, and visited what our dragoman told us was the best private residence in the city. We came to the conclusion that Damascus is one of the shameliest built cities we have ever visited; its great beauty consists in the possession of water and land for perhaps some twenty square miles, which has been reclaimed from the surrounding desert. It is wonderful to us how these crowded haunts of human beings are preserved from destruction by pestilence. The Consular Agent told us that at this season the city was healthy, but in summer and fall it was sickly. According to Dr. Burns