

KEEPING LENT.

Here is old Robert Herrick's plan for keeping Lent, as good now as three hundred years ago:

Is this a fast to keep
The harder lean
And cleane
From fat of veales and sheape?

Is it to quit the dish
Of fleshe, yet still
To fill

The platter high with fish?

Is it to fast an houre,
Or ragged goe,
Or show

A downcast look and sowe?

No! 'tis a fast to dole

Thy sheate of wheate

And meate

Unto a hungry sowle!

It is a fast from strife,

From old debate,

And hate

To circumsise "thy life,"

To show a hearte grief-rent,

To starve thy sin,

Not bin,

A fast that's to keepe thy Lent!

MONTANA NOTES.

We glean the following from the *Bozeman Avant Courier* of March 17—

The people of Gallatin Valley apprehend a plentiful visitation of grasshoppers the ensuing season, and as a consequence the farmers think of putting in little or no crops, and parties who have grain propose to hold it till they find out what the grasshoppers intend to do.

The *Yellowstone* is a new steamboat, to be confined the coming season to running on the river of that name.

The *Montanian* has been purchased by the *Madisonian*. The latter will then be the only paper published in Virginia City.

The Northern Pacific R. R. has accepted the Montana proposal of three millions in bonds, in due form.

Utah Northern—The Legislative Propositions Declined.

Yesterday a telegram was received from T. M. Bassett, President of the Utah Northern, announcing that the railroad subsidy passed by the Legislature to be used in aid of the construction of that road into Montana, is declined.

The reasons for this decision are as follows:

1st. If both roads accept the propositions, and the aid is voted by the Territory, it would result in a public indebtedness of four millions of dollars, which would swamp the Territory and make the aid comparatively useless.

2d. The company is required to build 200 miles of road before a dollar of the subsidy can be realized; and if it should be made to appear that the Territory has no authority so grant this aid without the consent of Congress, the company would have to incur the entire cost re construction and shoulder all the responsibilities which it might occasion.

3d. It thinks that the most reasonable plan would be to get seventy-five percent on every section of fifty miles.

4th. The road will be built to Fort Hall. Any way, and its terminus then being within 250 miles of the heart of the Territory, the chief objections to a larger subsidy with less objectionable restrictions will be obviated.

5th. They prefer to risk their chances before the next Legislature, confident that the people will not vote the Northern Pacific loan, and that they will derive no advantages from it if they do.—*Deer Lodge (Montana) Independent*.

TERRITORIAL DISPATCHES.

PER DESERET TELEGRAPH LINE.

Homes for the Poor.

[Special to the DESERET NEWS.]

MONROE, Utah,

March 28th, 1876.

This is the valley for the poor to obtain farms; the no fence law works admirably; stock owners are made debtor to the farmers when their animals trespass. No farms fenced in this county, which is

celebrated for great results in grain and vegetables. Large tracts of land are already sown to grain. The weather is fine all winter; no snow of any account has fallen in the valley. There are large snow deposits in the mountains. The weather has been very fine.

A. M. M.

THE FIRST PRAYER IN CONGRESS.

Thinking it might be of interest to the readers of the NEWS, we publish the first prayer in Congress, by Rev. Mr. Duche, copied for the NEWS from a manuscript, from the papers of John Hancock, which, with other relics of revolutionary times, is on exhibition at Independence Hall, Philadelphia. It reads as follows—

"Oh Lord, our Heavenly Father, high and mighty, King of Kings, Lord of Lords; who dwelt from Thy throne behold all dwellers upon earth, and reignest with power supreme and uncontrolled over all Kingdoms, Empires and Governments; look down in mercy, we beseech Thee, upon the American States who have fled to Thee from the rod of the oppressor, and thrown themselves upon Thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth dependent only upon Thee; to Thee have they appealed for the righteousness of their cause; to Thee do they now look up for that continuance and support which Thou alone canst give. Take them, therefore, Heavenly Father, under Thy nurturing care, give them wisdom in council, and valor in the field. Defeat the malicious designs of our cruel adversaries, convince them of the unrighteousness of their cause, and if they still persist in their sanguinary purposes, O let the voice of Thine own unerring justice sounding in their hearts constrain them to drop the weapon of war from their unmoved hands in the day of battle.

"Be thou present, O God of wisdom, and direct the councils of this Hon. Assembly, enable them to settle things upon the best and fairest foundation, that the scene of blood may speedily be closed, that order, harmony and peace may be effectually restored, and truth and justice, religion and piety prevail and flourish amongst Thy people. Preserve the health of their bodies, and the vigor of their minds, shower down upon them and thine millions they represent such temporal blessings as Thou seest expedient for them in this world, and crown them with everlasting glory in the world to come. All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, thy Son and Savior. Amen."

Cowardly Assault and Attempt at Robbery.

Last night, between eight and nine o'clock, a complaint was made before Justice Middleton by Joseph Bliman, against one L. R. Freeman, who, for the past few months, has resided in this city. The complainant was in a terrible plight, bleeding profusely from several wounds in the head. A warrant was made out and placed in the hands of Sheriff Brown, who arrested the defendant about nine o'clock, at his place on Wall Street. Freeman pretended he was too sick to be removed, but Dr. J. J. Murphy, when called in, did not coincide with this statement, deciding that there was nothing the matter with Freeman but an attack of nervousness. He was accordingly locked up for the night in the city jail, no one being found who was willing to risk anything on his bail.

It appears that Freeman, who, we are told, publishes a "patent-outside arrangement" in this city, which he tries to dignify by the name of newspaper, engaged Bliman as traveling agent; that the accounts between them were not satisfactory to the former, and the trouble grew out of this disagreement.

According to the statement made to us by Bliman, he was urgently requested yesterday by Freeman to go to the latter's office on Wall Street, to talk business. Accordingly he went to the office, between seven and eight o'clock last evening and explained some matters of difference between them. Bliman, who is a very small man, was sitting in a chair, smoking, with a loaded-headed cane lying across

his lap. Freeman, who is tall, and weighs a third heavier than Bliman, and who meanwhile had locked the door, seized this cane and dealt Bliman a terrible blow with the loaded end, just above the temple, following it up with repeated blows on the top, side and back of the head. Bliman staggered, bleeding, to one of the cases and leaned over it insensible. He was "brought to" by water thrown over his face by Mrs. Freeman, who told him he had better escape by the back way. He got out of the house, but was overtaken by Freeman and forced back into the room, when Freeman seized him by the throat and demanded his watch. He had none, but Mrs. Freeman obtained possession of his pocketbook, examined it, and finding no money in it, turned it. He was then allowed to depart, Freeman, who began to see the consequences of his brutality, trying to "square it" with him on condition that he would not complain against him.

Dr. Murphy dressed Mr. Bliman's wounds last night and again this morning, and had considerable difficulty in checking the flow of blood. Sheriff Brown says there was quite a pool of blood in Freeman's office, and blood stains were in the back room when he made the arrest. The cane has been hidden and cannot be found.

The case was set before Justice Middleton to-day at 2 p.m.

Mr. Wilkinson, of Chicago, deposed to hearing Freeman requesting Bliman to come to his office in the evening "or he would have a head put on him," and to seeing Bliman after "the head was put on him," when he looked like a "stuck pig." The case was continued by request of defendant's attorney, Mr. Margary, till to-morrow at 9 a.m. Bail was fixed at \$200.

Great indignation is excited in town over this deliberate, cowardly and brutal assault, the difference in the physical powers of the two men making the attack most tardily and shameful.—*Ogden Junction, March 30.*

"FANNY FERN" must have flopped over in her grave last Sunday night, when her daughter married her husband. Fanny had two very fat, plain girls, always her constant companions. The one married Mortimer Thomson (Doesticks), and died the first or second year thereafter, leaving a nice little girl who must be now fifteen years old. The other was an old maid, who, after her mother's death, took care of the child and her stepfather. Now she goes off to Massachusetts and marries her [step] pop. My gracious! What a people! All the little details were attended to; nothing seems to have been omitted, except a casual glance at the statutes of the State. Fanny's daughter was a remarkably plain girl, but I should suppose she might have found some one outside her immediate family. Go on, James, and while you fix up the statute, make it lawful to marry your wife's granddaughter, for there's little Miss Thomson coming up; you may want to marry her in a year or so.—[N. Y. Cor. St. Louis Republican.]

MOTHERING SUNDAY.—The harshness and general painfulness of life in old times must have been much relieved by certain simple and affectionate customs which modern people have learned to dispense with. Amongst these was a practice of going to see parents, and specially the female one, on the mid Sunday of Lent, taking for them some little present, such as a cake or a trinket. A youth engaged in this amiable act of duty was said to "go a-mothering," and thence the day itself came to be called, Mothering Sunday. One can readily imagine how, after a stripping or maiden had gone to service, the old bonds of filial love would be brightened by this pleasant annual visit, signalized, as custom demanded it should be, by the excitement attending some novel and perhaps surprising gift. There was also a cheering and peculiar festivity appropriate to the day, the prominent dish being "furmety" which we have to interpret as wheat grains boiled in sweet milk, sugared and spiced.—*Chambers' Book of Days.*

THE ABOLITION OF LENT.—An effort is making in the Reformed

Episcopal church to do away with the observance of Lent as a church fast. At a recent conference of clergymen of that denomination in Philadelphia it was decided to recommend the policy of abandoning the service to the general standing committee, on the ground that the indulgence in worldly pleasures before and after Lent is increased by way of compensation for enforced abstinence during the season of fasting, and upon the further ground that uniform moderation of life is the church's great need, and that this may be better secured without Lenten observances than by them. The change, if it should be made, will be a radical one, and will work a wider breach than ever between the two Episcopal churches in this country.—*N. Y. Evening Post.*

At Clarkston, Cache county, March 20th, 1876, of putrid sore throat, MARY HALE, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Stokes, aged 7 years, 2 months and 22 days.

In the north-east part of the 20th Ward, Salt Lake City, at 7:40 a.m., April 3, after a lingering illness of four or five weeks, of dropsy HANNAH, wife of George Chissold, aged 51 years, 3 months and 8 days.

Deceased was born in Horsley, Gloucestershire, England; was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, by Elder Enoch Williams, in Birmingham, November, 1849; emigrated from that place, with her family, August, 1860; stayed in the States a few months, and arrived in Salt Lake City, May 8, 1870.

Deceased was a member of the Church in Birmingham about twenty years, and was well respected and esteemed by the Saints there. She was true and faithful to her religion, departing in full faith of the Gospel, in the hope of a glorious resurrection. She leaves a husband, one son and three daughters, besides many relatives and friends.—*Millennial Star*, please copy.

In this City, April 2, of hernia, MARIA DEGRAY, aged 71 years.

Deceased was born at West Bromwich, England. She lived and died in full faith in the Gospel and of a glorious resurrection. She had many friends and was respected by all who knew her.—*COM.*

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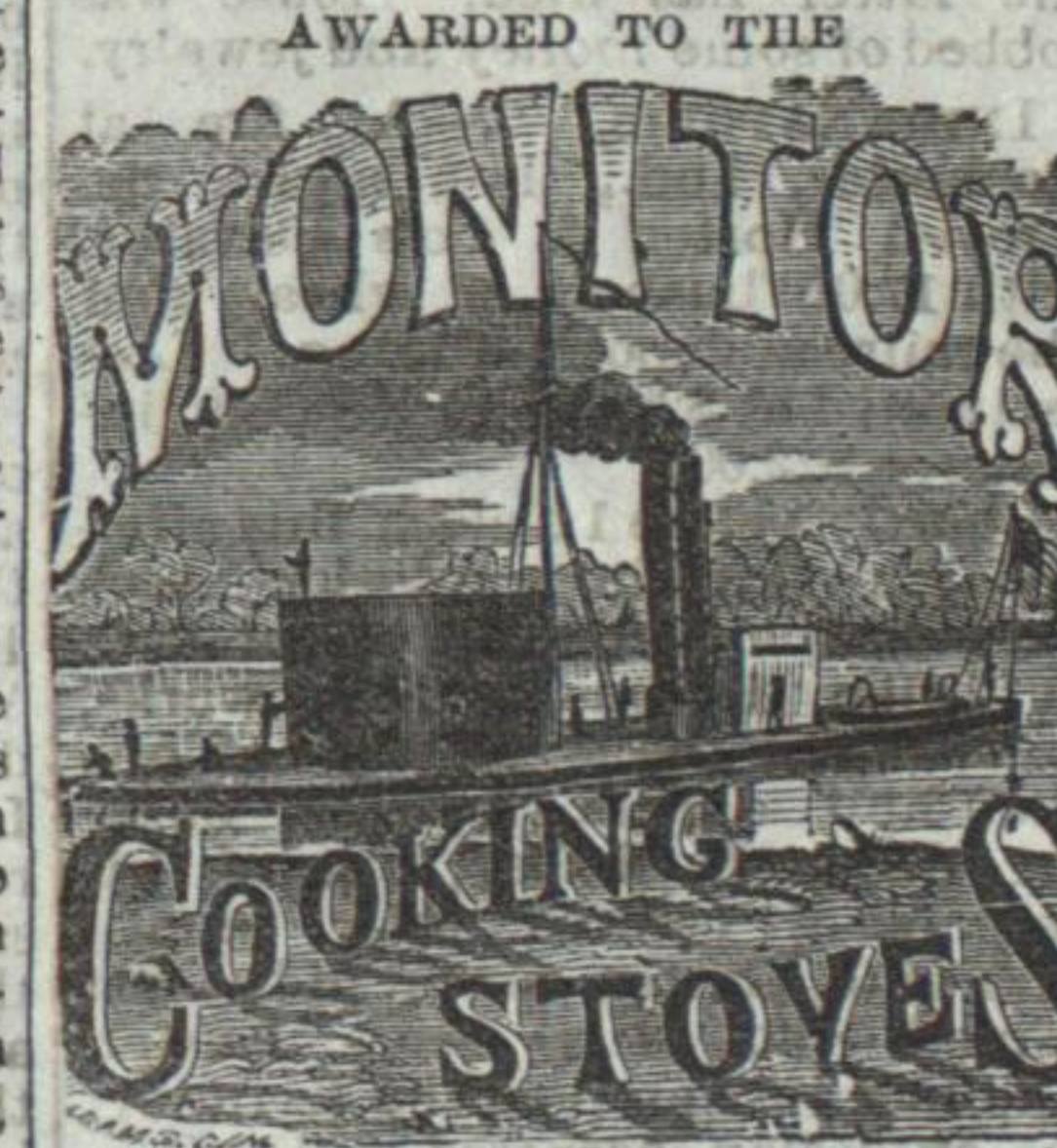
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