

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - FEB. 6, 1878.

A BURLESQUE ON RELIGION.

THE *Nation* of the 24th inst. as an evidence of the distress which most newspapers have been laboring under, draws attention to an editorial in the last issue of the New York *Christian Advocate*, the leading Methodist organ in America, in which two and a half columns are devoted to a pathetic appeal for continuous subscriptions. As a specimen of the style in which that paper and the society which it represents works upon the fears and sympathies of the religious public we make, a few quotations. The editorial is addressed "To that Non-renewing Subscriber," and states:

"We have a sort of invested right in you; you have been in our prayers every day since we met."

It is the price of the subscription that the editor seems to have had in his mind while praying for the subscriber in whom he claims a sort of "invested right" as a yearly yielder of cash. Says he:

"Your mother read the *Christian Advocate* before you were born, and read it many a day as she rocked and hummed you to sleep. She has gone late home to heaven. This year's *Advocate* may guide your feet safely to the same heaven. Brother, can you afford to hush these memories and quench his light for \$2.70?"

From this it would appear that the young man whose mother "hummed him to sleep" to the drowsy tones of the *Christian Advocate* can get to the "same heaven" as his maternal parent for the cheap investment of \$2.70. How could he resist a renewal of his subscription? Little fear of getting into some other heaven than his mother's, or of going to that sulphurous region of never-dying flames, which the Methodists maintain in all its bottomless extent, in spite of the Greek roots of Farrar or the new departures of American divines, if he will only send to the *Christian Advocate* the ridiculously small sum of \$2.70! He further says:

"If you allow your *Christian Advocate* to be stopped, and all others should follow your example, of course you would utterly stop the publication of religious papers and literature, and abandon the field for the arch enemy. Brother, can you afford to strike civil society such a fatal blow for \$2.70?"

Here is a terrible condition of things, all to result from the stoppage of the *Christian Advocate* and its failure to receive that magic \$2.70! All religious literature to be "utterly stopped" and civil society to be slain, for the lack of \$2.70! But is it a fact that all religious papers are dependent for their existence on the continuance of the *Christian Advocate*? Or are we to understand that the Methodist organ at Gotham is the only religious paper extant? Was there no civil society in existence before the advent of the *Christian Advocate*, and at its demise from atrophy, caused by the lack of nutriment, in the form of \$2.70, will civil society expire simultaneously? What a dreadful reflection for the "non-renewing subscriber," to think that his retention of \$2.70 has wiped out every anti-Satanic barrier and left a clear field for the arch enemy to devastate and devour! By all means he should send on that potent \$2.70. Just another extract:

"One little boy walks to school once a week, and saves his car fare that his mother may have the *Christian Advocate*. God is certain to honor that lad in time, and almost certain to glorify him in eternity."

Is not this reducing the price of salvation to a ruinously low figure? Certain divine honor in this life and "almost" certain glory in the next, all for \$2.70! What little boy of proper religious feeling would think of riding in a street car, when by pedestrian exercise and the accumulation of \$2.70, to be expended

in a *Christian Advocate*, he can secure such present honor and future glorification?

The first impression produced by these appeals is provocative of laughter. They seem like the broadest kind of burlesque. The next is one of disgust and reprobation. They sound like blasphemy and shameless impiety. No wonder that undevotional people scoff and rail at the professedly devout teachers of religion, when from the pulpit and the press they alternately threaten and cajole the public for the eminently pious purpose of getting money. Preachers of the same denomination as the *Christian Advocate* editor, and, with equal impudence, have traversed the United States with solemn faces, and mourning over imaginary evils in Utah, supplemented by threats of consequences if pecuniary aid were not forthcoming, and bright-hued promises of divine favor for dollars donated, have succeeded in gathering in much cash and scattering many false representations. They are a disgrace to their cloth and bring reproach on worthy and sincere laborers in the cause of human redemption.

Such literary and clerical imposture ought to be discouraged by right-minded persons of all denominations, and the best means of suppressing it is to withhold the supplies. Lucre is the object of these persistent importuners, and if that is not forthcoming they will soon retire from the field and seek more profitable pastures. The world would be the better for their absence, and the cause of true religion would, by their silence, be saved from great reproach.

THE PEOPLE'S CONVENTION.

THIS evening the Convention of the people's delegates will meet in the City Hall at 7 o'clock to nominate a ticket for the municipal election, which is to take place on Monday the 11th inst. Delegates only, with the exception of members of the press, will be admitted. It is not a public assembly, but a meeting of delegates representing the People's Party. If it were a mass meeting there would have been no occasion for the election of delegates to that meeting.

The ticket to be nominated should be one which the masses of the people will be able to support at the polls. The convention is not called for the purpose of exhibiting personal preferences or antipathies, nor for the discussion of political or religious sentiments, but to nominate men for municipal office who will be true representatives of the bulk of the citizens, and who will labor for the general welfare. The delegates have the right to a free expression of opinion upon the qualifications or disqualifications of proposed candidates. But in doing so they will speak, not in a private capacity, for the ventilation of individual notions nor to represent factional predilections or animosities, but as the mouthpiece of the People's Party to prepare a ticket on which the people can unite.

Two tickets from a People's Convention would be a manifest absurdity. The decision of the majority on names proposed should be the voice of the whole convention, and union should be the motto of the delegates as well as of the people they represent. By union we do not mean a dumb and unintelligent acquiescence in the views of others, but a conclusion arrived at after a fair, free and honest expression of opinion, and the result of light mutually reflected, producing harmony and banishing discord. And such a finale can always be reached, consistently and truly, when personal feeling gives way to unbiased patriotism.

The venerable adage "In union there is strength," can find no better application than in the history of the people who have founded this Territory and who more than any others are interested in its welfare. To divide them is the grand object of their enemies, for they can only be overcome by disunion allied to carelessness. We believe that the people's delegates will keep this in view in their deliberations, and that they will not take any step which will tend in the least degree to weaken that force which is the result of union of sentiment and action. Let us have a ticket that will receive the

cordial respect and support of the great majority of the people, and our city will continue to grow and flourish and increase in general prosperity.

THE POSITION.

FOR the present the Russo-Turkish war rests. An armistice has been agreed upon and the victorious troops will stop their march upon Constantinople. The conditions of the protocol are given in our telegraphic dispatches. The only one which is likely to cause much difficulty is the fifth. And this is one of the main issues of the war. It cannot be disposed of by the Czar and the Sultan alone. The other Powers are interested in this question, and England in particular will demand a voice in its settlement.

Pro-Russian journals have uttered much nonsense during the conflict, which is now ceasing for a time, in regard to Russia's maritime necessities. They claim that the free passage of the Dardanelles is absolutely requisite to Russian commercial prosperity, and that the treaty of Paris, in closing the Dardanelles to a Russian fleet, cripples and paralyzes the trade of the Black Sea provinces. They seem to forget that it is only war vessels that are prohibited from the freedom of the straits leading into and from the Black Sea. And this is the point which troubles the Colossus of the North. While this provision of the treaty of Paris is maintained by the Powers, Russian aggression in the south and east will be held in check. Let Russia once gain free ingress and egress for ships of war through the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, and the Black Sea would become a Russian lake, arsenals and dockyards would be established on its northern and eastern shores, and England's supremacy on the seas would become in all probability a thing of the past, while the Empire of Russia would find ample opportunity of extending to the Orient, making Queen Victoria's new title "Empress of India" an honor of very doubtful continuance. So far as commercial interests are concerned no treaty barriers are in the way of Russia. And the fact that it is for the freedom of the Dardanelles for her navy that she contends, is a proof what her intentions are in regard to conquest and extended dominion.

It is stated that Hobart Pasha is instructed to sail with the Turkish fleet for the Pireus. This is the port of Athens, the capital of Greece. The threatened invasion of Turkey by the Greeks, ostensibly for the protection of Christians, the pretext Russia offered for embarking in this war, is to be met by this movement of the Turkish navy. And sharp on the heels of this reported movement, comes word of an English scheme to seize the Turkish fleet and convey it to Malta, to keep it out of the hands of Russia.

Such a step would set Europe in a blaze, and precipitate that general conflict which has several times appeared imminent. But, however feasible such a scheme may appear, and although it would no doubt checkmate Russia in the high-handed game she is playing for extended power on land and sea, it looks improbable that England would commit such an overt act, and take upon herself the responsibility of forcing a continuance and enlargement of a struggle which possibly may now be settled by peaceful negotiations. The story is probably a press sensation.

But the war, though resting, is not at an end. The settlement of the terms of peace cannot be effected by the principals. No private arrangement favoring Russian advantage in the Dardanelles will be tolerated by the other Powers, and if Russia insists on such special privileges as seem to be held in view, wars and rumors of wars for a long time to come will convulse the eastern hemisphere.

The latest remedy proposed for the frequent famines in India is irrigation. However, it has been shown that the British Government has expended very large sums for irrigation works in that country, nearly two millions sterling being used last year and about eleven millions during the past five years. And still famine slays its thousands.

Local and Other Matters.

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY, JAN. 31.

Priesthood Meeting.—The regular monthly meeting of the Priesthood of this Stake of Zion will be held on Saturday, February 2nd, 1878, in the Fourteenth Ward Assembly Rooms, commencing at 11 a. m.

Retrenchment Meeting.—The General Retrenchment Meeting held semi-monthly in the 14th Ward Assembly Rooms, will convene in the Council House, Saturday, February 2, on account of the Priesthood meeting being held in the first named place.

M. I. HORNE, Pres.

Personal.—We were favored, today, with a call from Mr. Richard Ballantyne, proprietor of the *Junetion*, Recorder James Taylor, Assessor and Collector Thos. D. Dee and Mr. W. H. Pidecock, of Ogden, also from Bishop Daniel Thomas of Lynne. They are all live men and were welcome.

Seeds, Plants, Bulbs, etc.—Nanz & Neuner, of Louisville, Kentucky, publish, in January and September, an Illustrated, Descriptive Catalogue of Seeds, Plants, Bulbs, etc. It gives the prices of the various articles they deal in. The Catalogue furnishes a great deal of information of much value to the people of this city and Territory, in view of the increasing interest in horticulture and floriculture. It is also an excellent specimen of typography.

Chinese New Year.—This is the first day of the Chinese New Year. The Mongolians of this city have, on request, received permission from the Mayor to celebrate the occasion in their usual juvenile method of exploding firecrackers, etc. Their festivities and rejoicings continue for ten days, commencing this afternoon. The permission to set off fire works was granted on condition that due precautions be taken against the probabilities of fire.

Benefit.—Mr. John S. Lindsay, who has long been a favorite with the Salt Lake admirers of the drama, and who is a careful and talented actor, receives a complimentary benefit on Saturday evening next. He will produce the splendid play of "Evadne, or the Hall of Statues," with Miss Nellie Colebrook as Evadne, for which she is admirably suited. Mr. Lindsay obtained great applause by his rendition of *Ludovic* several years ago; he will appear in this character on Saturday. It is one of his best impersonations. "Nan the Good for Nothing" will close the entertainment. It is a good bill, and we hope there will be a full house.

"Juvenile Instructor."—We have before us number 2, Vol. 13, of this ever welcome periodical. Since the receipt of a supply of paper, the non-arrival of which caused some delay, the publisher has shown great energy in presenting the numbers due, two having been issued within a few days. The paper at hand is unusually interesting. It has, "Curious Head Dresses," illustrated; "Big Words," by a very able contributor; "About Books," "Curiosities in Human Food," "Cheerfulness," "Questions and Answers on the Book of Mormon and Bible," "Sunday Lessons," "Editorial Thoughts," "The Llama," illustrated; "Travels in India," "Joseph Smith the Prophet," "Leaf from an Elder's Journal," describing a very interesting incident; "The Gospel Principles," "Lake Bonneville," "The Iron Rod," with music. Besides the foregoing there are several selected articles. The *Instructor* should be in every family in the Territory.

Wide Awake for February, 1878.—The February Wide Awake opens with a jolly "Snow-storm" as frontispiece, accompanied by a poem from Miss Farman, the editor. Following are "Jack's First Contract," by Kate Tannatt Woods; "The Child Toilers of Boston Streets," by Emma E. Brown; "Why Julia Changed her Mind," by Mrs. W. E. Bryant; "The Baby," by Edgar Fawcett; "The Pictures," by Mary A. Lathbury; "True Blue," A Valentine Poem; "The Poet's Homes," papers; "Furnace and Fireside," A General Misunderstanding; "The Boston School for Deaf Mutes," "Seeing the Pope," "The Tables Turned," "Naming the Dolly,"

The second adventure of "Little Miss Muslin;" "Lucelet's Anger-storm;" "The Society of Wide Awake Helpers." \$2 per annum, 20 cents a number. Ella Farman, Editor. D. Lothrop & Co., Publishers.

Fish and Game.—A petition has been presented to the Legislature, asking that body to take into consideration the necessity of amending the law in relation to fish and game. We are not aware of the nature of the changes asked for, but there is an opinion among some interested in the subject that the law, especially as it relates to fish, is a little too stringent. There is an impression that, in consequence, there are more infringements upon it than there would be if it were somewhat wider and more liberal in its provisions. It is a fact that the law is frequently broken, while its penalties are scarcely ever enforced. A law that is not strictly applied is but little better, if any, than no law at all. It is very desirable that our streams and lakes should be protected against the wholesale and illegal depopulation of their finny inhabitants. Whether a less stringent law than the one now on the statute books and which appears to be comparatively inoperative, would conduce to that end, is a subject worthy of some consideration.

Tanning Materials.—Some of the brethren take the trouble to collect roots and other vegetable material in the hope of the same being suitable for tanning purposes. They sometimes go to the expense of bringing or sending specimens to the city for examination. This is unnecessary. It is those plants which contain tannic acid that are applicable to such purpose; the oak apples or galls, the bark of the oak. Some native plants contain "tannin." When the juice of a plant blackens by having any salt of iron, such as green vitriol, or when a decoction of a plant has an astringent taste, it may be useful for tanning and other manufacturing purposes.

It is very probable that there is much material suitable for making leather in this region. Brother A. L. Siler, a botanical collector, of Southern Utah, has reported the existence of trees, shrubs and plants of that nature, in that locality. It would be advisable to have a collection of specimens in that department at the next Agricultural Fair. It should be kept in mind that, to be of real utility in manufacture, any article having tanning properties must necessarily be abundant, and obtainable at small cost.

New Discoveries.—We live in an age of wonders. Little by little men are lifting the veil which conceals from the view of mortals the deep things of creation, and getting glimpses of the unseen forces of the universe. It has been known for many years that some of the gases could be made into fluids, and even into solids by mechanical contrivances. Carbonic acid gas has been solidified, and it has been suspected that even the so-called permanent gases could be brought into the fluid state and made visible to the eye and sensible to the touch.

This has been done very recently both in Germany and in France. The air we breathe and its component gases, oxygen, nitrogen and hydrogen have been brought into the fluid condition by means of enormous pressure and the application of intense cold. And this discovery is likely to prove to be one of immense importance; no one can tell how many and how great results may be brought about by this wonderful event. All the sciences are so closely related to each other that the sum of human knowledge may be likened to a vast expanse of network, stretching out into the eternities. We can only see a tiny portion of the great work, but we can see every part is interwoven with every other, and that there is a complete interdependence in every portion.

So far as the operations of liquifying and solidifying gases is concerned, the natural forces are and have been constantly bringing about similar changes. Our coal fields were thus elaborated by the solar energies and the gases, of which men are only now beginning to discover artificial methods of using. To what extent the natural processes may be taken advantage of and made subservient to the interests of man remains to be proved. It is impossible for us to see the outcome of the discoveries made within the last half century.