

experiment, obtained some plants from California, and set them out last Spring. Being totally unacquainted with the cultivation of this root, when the vines showed themselves he commenced pulling them out, thinking they were weeds, when he accidentally discovered the bunches of long potatoes shooting downwards into the soil.

Utah as a potato raising country is not, we believe, surpassed by any other part of the globe, and if, by cultivation combined with the natural advantages of the soil, such excellence can be attained in the production of the ordinary potato, the same elements may conduce to superiority in the matter of the sweet potato, which fact has really been shown by Mr. Popper, who, in the results of his first trial equals, in size and quality, the Californian article.

In view of these facts there appears no reason or cause to prevent Utah from raising her own sweet potatoes, which is a matter worth the attention of our farmers.

Some years since it was generally supposed that celery could not be successfully raised here, but fair trials have since shown that that production here is at least nothing inferior to the imported from California. Perhaps the same result will be attained in the matter of the sweet potato.

FROM SATURDAY'S DAILY, SEPT. 23.

**Returned.**—President D. H. Wells got back last evening from Beaver.

**Not Found.**—The body of young Macdonald, who fell through a dilapidated bridge into Jordan River, near West Jordan, last Saturday night, and was drowned, has not yet been recovered.

**The Lake.**—According to the indicating column, erected in Salt Lake under the auspices of the University of Deseret, the waters have risen thirteen inches during the year ending Sept. 14th, 1876.

**Australasian Mission.**—A letter from Elder Isaac Groo to Brother Mark Croxall, dated at Sydney, Australia, states that himself and Elder John Young are in good health and continuing their missionary labors energetically.

**Photograph.**—From J. Booth, photographer, of St. George, we have photographic pictures of the St. George Temple, one showing the east and south sides of the building, and the second the west and north sides, which he forwards to any address on receipt of 50 cents for each picture. He also has one of smaller size which he sells at 25 cents each.

**Rumored Casualty.**—It is rumored that a number of young men, among whom were John Silver, Horace Thompson, and — Palmer, of the 19th Ward, who were on Church Island, were seen preparing to leave for the eastern shore a week ago yesterday, just before the blowing up of the powerful gale that prevailed during a portion of that day, and some concern has been felt regarding their safety, as they have not reached home.

**The School Book Question.**—School teachers in the country settlements especially are complaining that the unsettled condition of the school book question is, in some instances, nearly breaking up the schools. The country stores are not willing to purchase books of any particular kind at present, in case the expected settlement of the matter might leave their purchases in that direction as dead stock upon the shelves, and numbers of the people who could readily procure books at those stores with their produce, are unable to come to the city and get them, on account of the scarcity of money. It will certainly be a good thing when an understanding is reached and the people are advised of it.

**Richmond-Teresa.**—Chief Justice Schaeffer has granted a motion of plaintiffs for a new trial in the suit of Samuel Smith et al. vs. J. M. Richardson et al. It will be remembered that there was considerable interest in the finale of the former trial, owing to a conflict between the verdict of the jury and the decision of Associate Justice Emerson, who set aside the jury's finding, which was for the plaintiff. The action of the Associate Justice in the matter was considered most unusual and almost unpre-

cedented. Where such a conflict of conclusions on the same matter exists a new trial, at least, appears nothing but justice in the premises, for that either the Court or the Jury must be in error is self-evident.

The suit involves the ownership of the Richmond mine.

FROM MONDAY'S DAILY, SEP. 25.

**Postmaster Appointed.**—B. L. Young has been appointed postmaster at Kanab, Kane County, Utah.

**Ogden Iron Works.**—A number of workmen were placed on the Ogden Iron Works to-day, to prepare for firing up as soon as possible.

**Body Found.**—We understand the body of young Macdonald, drowned in Jordan a week ago last Saturday, was recovered from the river yesterday.

**Release.**—Elder Peter Bell, now traveling in the Nottingham and Birmingham Conferences, is released to return home with the Sept. 13th company.—*Millennial Star*, Sept. 4.

**Convicted.**—In the Second District Court, at Beaver, the jury in the case of Idaho Bill, Al. Winn and Nate Hanson returned a verdict, on Saturday afternoon, of "guilty as charged in the indictment."

**Magazines.**—From Mr. James Dwyer, newsdealer, we have, for October, that excellent magazine, "Scribner's Monthly Illustrated," also "St. Nicholas," Scribner's Illustrated Magazine for Girls and Boys.

**Relics.**—From Moroni Adair, of Pahra, Kane County, we have received some calcined corn, found by his brother near the place named, in the vicinity of the location of an ancient Indian mound. It was found some inches under ground, and a number of specimens of pottery were picked up in the same locality. The relics are probably several hundred years old.

**Bad Accident.**—Last evening, at Centerville, a boy between twelve and thirteen years old, son of Mr. Thos. J. Brandon, of this place, while riding a horse very fast through the streets was thrown, striking his head violently against a shade tree, on the sidewalk. He was picked up insensible and has been in that condition ever since. Doubts are entertained of his recovery.

**About a Watch.**—There was a case about a watch before Justice Pyper this morning. The matter occurred at Park City, where John Bratt got possession of William Pickering's watch, took it to a saloon and lost it in gambling. Bratt's excuse was that he intended to return the article, being so sure of that game that he could have staked a house and lot on it. He said he had three kings, but his opponent had three aces. Judge Pyper fined him \$50 which he will work out, at a dollar a day.

**Tabernacle Meeting.**—Elder John Taylor delivered a discourse yesterday afternoon, on the eternal duration of matter, in which he showed that all the knowledge developed among men consisted of discoveries of the properties of matter, being principles that always did and always will exist. God, he said, was the fountain or source of all the intelligence existing among mankind. He also treated upon the everlasting character and unchangeableness of the principles and ordinances of the gospel of the Saviour.

**Mammoth Vegetables.**—To-day Brother James Paskett, of Hennesville, Summit County, brought to our office a couple of White Globe turnips, weighing 16½ pounds, a couple of Swedish turnips 12 pounds, and some Kohl Rabi, a somewhat rare but excellent vegetable, and a mammoth Drumhead cabbage, weighing 15 pounds. One of the latter brought to town by him last week weighed as high as 28 pounds. There were raised on Brother Paskett's place.

**The Supposed Drowning.**—A party were preparing to-day to go to Church Island in search of the young men Silver, Palmer, Thompson and others, who were seen to put out from the Island in a boat, just before the gale of a week ago last Friday. It is supposed that the young men are safe, and that instead of leaving the lake shore

they merely removed to another part of the Island, where they were engaged to work prospecting for claims for Rev. Dunn's partner. We are inclined to believe this theory, but the party who purpose going in search will probably be able to determine the matter. The young men were engaged for one month, which time will not be expired till October 5th.

**Emigrants at New York.**—Through a dispatch from Elder W. C. Staines to President B. Young, we learn that a company of Saints, numbering two hundred and eighty souls, reached New York from Liverpool yesterday, accompanied by the following Elders returning from their missions to Europe—William L. Binder, Thomas Callister, N. M. Peterson, John W. Larsen, Ed. W. Clark, Erasmus Christenson, David Bullock, Erick M. Larsen, John S. Hawkins, James T. Belliston, James Wolstenholme, Niels J. Gondlund and Henry Parker. The Saints will continue their westward journey to-day. They should arrive in this city on October 2nd or 3rd, that is, next Monday or Tuesday.

**Book of Doctrine and Covenants.**—We have now in the press, and expect to be able to issue some time before the approaching Semi-annual Conference, a new and revised edition of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants. It will be a work of nearly 500 pages, in large clear type, printed on a fine quality of paper, and substantially bound in cloth and leather, the type, paper and binding materials having been imported expressly for the work. A plate of tasteful design has also been specially made for embossing the back and sides of the book.

A number of revelations not published in former editions have been incorporated in this, the different sections have been divided into numbered verses, and it includes a full and comprehensive index. In fact this edition has a variety of acquisitions that will be valuable to students and general readers.

There have been a variety of causes for the delay that has occurred in the publication of this work, which has required much labor and care in its preparation and the expenditure of a considerable amount of means. However, as will be seen by the advertisement, in another column, we have placed the prices for copies as low as admissible.

[Special to DESERET NEWS.]

## TERRITORIAL DISPATCHES.

PER DESERET TELEGRAPH LINE.

### SECOND DISTRICT COURT.

**Klingensmith Gone South.**—Al. Winn Escaped—Case of Idaho Bill et al. Given to the Jury.

**BEAVER, 23.**—Yesterday morning Klingensmith left here, per western coach via Pioche, for his hermitage at Ehrenberg, Arizona. He was not used in the Lee case, and kept himself out of sight during the trial. He looked more dejected and haggard than at the former trial, and avoided all conversation or enquiry.

Last night, about 10 p. m., Al. Winn, who has been under arrest on indictment with Idaho Bill and Nate Hanson, for robbery at Deseret Springs, escaped from the custody of the Deputy Marshal here. The trial has been going on for two days, and the evidence was all in at five p. m. yesterday, and the facts adduced being a clear case against him with the other two, he watched his opportunity, and made his escape. It appears that he had some friend helping him to get away, as he went straight to a horse, saddled near by and tied to a post, a short distance from his place of confinement, and was out of sight immediately.

This morning a man sat down and talked with him at his house, some twelve miles west of here, when Winn said he would never come nor be brought back to Beaver alive.

This morning the court hesitated as to the legality of the plan on which the trial should proceed in consequence of Winn's absence, as proposed by the prosecution, but he accepted Attorney Howard's views, and Judge Boreman read his instructions to the jury, and those asked by the prosecution and defense, Christian Denny, Hawley and Swift for defense, Howard, Bishop, and Whedon, prosecution. Case will be given to the jury in a few minutes.

## THE BOOK OF MORMON—WHAT IT IS.

[The following is an extract from an article concerning the Book of Mormon, written by Orson Pratt, Church Historian, in December, 1874, for insertion in the *Universal Cyclopaedia*. It is now forwarded for publication in the DESERET NEWS.]

The first edition of this wonderful book (meaning the Book of Mormon) was published early in 1830. It has since been translated and published in the Welsh, Danish, German, French and Italian languages of the east, and in the language of the Sandwich Islands of the west. It is a volume about one-third as large as the Bible, consisting of sixteen sacred books.

A small volume of plates of the first six books of this collection were made by the prophet Nephi, nearly six centuries before Christ. Nephi gives a brief sketch of his father and family, who were commanded of God to leave Jerusalem six hundred years before Christ. They came to the eastern borders of the Red Sea, where they encamped, and were soon joined by two or three more families from Jerusalem. This little company proceeded for many days in their journey along the eastern borders of the sea; after which they altered their course nearly eastward, and came to what they called the great waters; this must have been the borders of the Arabian Gulf or Indian Ocean. Here they were commanded to build a ship, on which they embarked, being directed continually in the ship's course by a miraculous instrument, prepared by the hand of the Lord for the purpose. At length, after many sufferings and hardships, they landed on the western coast of South America, not far, as is believed, from the thirtieth degree of south latitude.

This little colony brought with them from Jerusalem, their ancient scriptures, engraved in Egyptian characters, on brass plates. About one-half of the colony apostatized, and greatly persecuted the righteous, and sought to destroy the prophet Nephi. Being commanded of God, Nephi and his followers secretly fled from their enemies, and traveled a great distance north, and located their colony, near the head waters of what is now called the Amazon. But a few years elapsed, when the Lamanites, having discovered the location of the Nephites, began to make war upon them, committing many depredations and murders. The enmity between the colonies continued for many generations, during which hundreds of thousands were slain in battle.

About four centuries after leaving Jerusalem, the Nephites again migrated northward; traveling many days through a wilderness, they found themselves upon the banks of a river, which they called Sidon, known in modern times as the river Magdalena. Here, to their great joy, they discovered a colony of Jews, who left Jerusalem the same year that their nation were carried captive into Babylon. The Nephites united with this colony. About this time, the small plates of Nephi were full, being occupied mostly with prophecies and revelations.

The prophet Nephi, not only constructed the small volume of plates above referred to, but also made a large volume of plates, intended for a more extended history of his people, and to embrace a more voluminous collection of sacred writings, that might, in future generations, be revealed. Both volumes were kept by a succession of inspired men, each recording the most prominent historical events of his day, together with the additional revelations received.

During the first half century before Christ, the north wing of the continent became extensively colonized, by emigration from the south. At the time of the crucifixion, both the Nephites and Lamanites, because of their great wickedness in the stoning and killing of their prophets, were visited with great judgments, in the form of tempests, earthquakes, and fire from heaven. Three days of total darkness occurred.

Nearly a year after these events, Jesus, the resurrected Redeemer, descended from heaven, taught them his gospel and chose twelve ministers to preach the same and

established his church. All the inhabitants of the continent were soon converted, righteousness prevailed for two or three centuries, succeeded by a dreadful and almost universal apostasy. A lengthy exterminating war followed. The Nephites were conquered and slain by the Lamanites, their last battles being fought on and round about the hill where the sacred plates were found. This national extermination happened three hundred and eighty-four years after the birth of Christ.

Before this dreadful event, the prophet, Mormon, by the command of God, made a volume of plates, and engraved thereon an abridgment of the history of the nation, from the time the colony left Jerusalem until his own day. This abridgment was chiefly taken from the large volume of plates constructed by Nephi. In this abridgment were copied a very few of the many revelations and prophecies which had, from time to time, been given to the nation and engraved on former records.

The small plates of Nephi, in the possession of Mormon, were by him joined in the same volume with those which he, himself, had manufactured, and the two sets combined, were called the Book of Mormon.

After Mormon had completed the abridgment, he committed the volume, which still contained many blank pages, into the hands of the prophet, Moroni, his son, with instructions to finish the history, record a few other revelations, and then deposit the same, to preserve them from the Lamanites, who had sworn to destroy them. All the balance of the Nephite records where hid by Mormon, in the hill above referred to.

The Prophet, Moroni, after the destruction of his nation, kept himself hid from the Lamanites thirty-six years, during which he wrote a short sketch of the history of a still more ancient nation, called Jaredites, whose ancestors came from the Tower of Babel. This colony crossed the great western ocean in eight barges, being three hundred and forty-four days upon the water. They landed on the western coast of Mexico, and extended their settlements over all the North American portion of the continent, where they dwelt until about six centuries before Christ, when, because of wickedness, they were all destroyed. Ether, one of their last prophets, wrote a sacred history of his nation, upon plates of gold. These were translated by the power of God into the Nephite language, a brief sketch, as above stated, was engraved by Moroni, on the plates of Mormon, and called the Book of Ether.

One of the founders of the Jaredite nation, a great prophet, saw in vision all things from the foundation of the world to the end thereof, which were written, a copy of which was engraved by Moroni, on the plates of Mormon, and then sealed up. It was this portion which the prophet Joseph Smith was forbidden to translate, or to unloose the seal. In due time this will also be revealed, together with all the sacred records kept by the ancient nations of this continent, preparatory to the time when "the knowledge of God shall cover the earth as the waters cover the great deep."

Moroni informs us that he was commanded of God to hide the records in the earth, with a divine promise that in the latter times they should be brought to light, and their contents published to all nations. The last date given by him is four hundred and twenty years after the birth of Christ.

ORSON PRATT, Sen.  
Historian's Office,  
Salt Lake City, Dec. 17, 1874.

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