

DESERET NEWS. WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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THE RECENT STORMS.

FROM all sides come reports of the unprecedented force and protracted extent of the present storm. Our Bear Lake correspondent writes that it has been practically continuous in that region since the first of January. An exchange says: Some weeks ago Foster, the Iowa weather sharp, said that among the most important storms of 1887 would be those of the first eighteen days of February. He said: "During the whole year no eighteen days will give a greater variety of weather, or a heavier fall of rain or snow, or more violent gales, taking the whole country over. There will be more destructive storms later in the season, but none more general." He predicted that the principal disturbances would reach the Mississippi, moving east, on the 1st, 8th, 13th and 18th, inst. within twenty-four hours of sundown. To this date he has been correct as regards locality. He said: "The storms of February 1st and 13th are expected to be the heaviest and cover the largest scope of country. The first storm will probably reach the ninety-first meridian by sundown on the 8th of January, which comes within the time predicted." For the 18th we certainly had storm enough for Foster or any other man. It was the first day in over a year during which the sun was not visible at some time between rising and setting. Foster's next storm is set to cross the Mississippi within twenty-four hours of sundown on the 18th inst. He put no money on the storms predicted for the 1st and 13th, which money, (\$25) was to be forfeited to the Burlington Relief Committee in case of failure.

THE MOMENTOUS QUESTION.

THE fear that enough "Mormons" will exercise the franchise to carry elections in spite of the newly-framed test oath, should the bill be signed by the President, makes the conspirators of both factions feel as though they were seasick. They are halting between two opinions and are suffering the pangs of perplexing suspense. With one breath they declare that the "Mormons" are so false and perjured that they will be sure to take any oath that may be necessary to voting. With the next they declare it impossible for the "Mormons" to take the oath prescribed in the new bill, without giving up the very part of their religion to which they cling with such wonderful tenacity. They acknowledge one day that if the "Mormons" vote, the bill is almost a nullity. The next day they laud the bill as nearly what was wanted, the test oath being its "crowning feature," requiring the "Mormons" either to "abandon their position or submit to defeat at the polls."

To vote, or not to vote; that is the question which the hungry clique imagine the "Mormons" are as much exercised about as themselves. They pretend to despise the idea of doing anything politic for the sake of "some secular offices," and yet "some secular offices" are all the rascals are after and for them they have lied, and tolled, and bled the half-dollar Leaguers—and the probability that those offices will slip from their grasp after all, is such a momentous question with them that they confess "everything depends upon it."

Now, the "Mormons" are not worrying over this matter just yet. When the bill is actually a law and an election or new registration is at hand, probably, they will begin to think seriously of the question, whether or not they can take the oath and exercise the franchise. In all probability some "Mormons" will not take the oath. Indeed it is almost sure that a portion of the people will decline to do so. Those who have more wives than one living and undivorced will most likely refrain from so swearing and voting. But that will not affect the result much, for they have abstained from voting for nearly five years past. If there are any "Mormons" who contemplate or intend taking plural wives or who mean to advise others to do so, they would probably forego the pleasure of swallowing the pill prescribed by Congress. This might lessen the number of "Mormon" votes in some small degree.

But there are many "Mormons" who have not formed plural family relations nor manifested any intention of doing so nor of aiding or advising others to take that step. And if they are in the same mind and condition when the question of taking the test oath comes forcibly to their attention, they will no doubt consider

it carefully and decide for themselves as to whether or not they will register and vote. And whatever decision they may arrive at, we are inclined to think it will not be materially affected by the views of their unscrupulous enemies, as to their "consistency" or "depravity" or anything else that may be said about them. We are afraid that the schemers who have staked their all upon the question of "some secular offices," will have to remain in sickening suspense about what the "Mormons" will do, until the time comes when they do something in that direction.

But we think it well enough to consider here the ground on which it is predicated that the "Mormons" cannot vote without "abandoning the position" they have taken before the courts. "There are none so blind as those who will not see." Any one who uses his mental eyes can discern the radical difference between the question that confronts a "Mormon" defendant in court, and that which will come up for a "Mormon" decision when registration is at hand. The conditions are diverse, the individuals are not in the same position, the questions are dissimilar. In court, the defendant is a polygamous "Mormon" (We use the popular term). The person to register is a monogamous "Mormon." Here is an essential difference of conditions. One is asked to give up something that he has covenanted to keep for ever; the other has not taken upon himself any such obligation. The "Mormon" under sentence is required to obey the laws "as construed by the courts;" the "Mormon" about to register, simply agrees to obey the laws as they are. The courts make a demand that no honorable man can comply with; the test oath is one that a great many honorable men can take.

We are profoundly affected by the solicitude of those hungry hypocrites, lustful for place, who are so shocked at the thought that any "Mormon" will "violate his conscience" for the sake of voting. It is very kind of them to be so tender on that point. We can imagine the crocodile tears they shed while cautioning on this question upon which they say "everything depends." Their nice appreciation of "honor" is truly moving. And if they would only state the position fairly or with an approach to correctness, how much more striking their attitude and exhortations would be!

But we cannot consent even to comfort them a little in their pendiulous and harassing condition, that our friends should be bamboozled into the idea that there is anything in common between the disgraceful pledge demanded of a plurally married "Mormon" defendant in court, and a bachelor or one-wived "Mormon" before the registrar. A husband of two or more wives whom he has vowed before God to hold and cherish as his for time and eternity, would be breaking faith with them and with Deity if he agreed to do what the courts require in order to escape imprisonment. But a single man, or the husband of one wife, who has no present intention of entering into plural marriage, might take the oath prescribed as a condition to registration without doing violence to his faith or his integrity. It is a question for him to decide for himself and no other person can fully decide for him.

The courts demand a great deal more than the law. What they require is cruel, inhuman and far beyond either the spirit or the letter of any enactment. The test oath embraces none of these features. It is bad legislation, framed with the view of excluding, if possible, the majority of our citizens from the polls, for the benefit of the minority. But the Constitution stood in the way of making it entirely exclusive. And so, as it stands, it does not directly infringe upon a man's belief or the expression of that belief. And it affects a different class of citizens from those affected by the pledge demanded by the courts. There is no fair comparison to be made between the two in any shape, form, principle or effect. The effort to confound the two or make them one is worse than sophistry, it is direct misrepresentation. It shows that the inventors are as weak as they imagine their readers to be.

The question, then, providing the bill is signed by the President, must become an individual one. It comes to the citizen himself as a matter for personal determination. If he is in any doubt as to what he can do, honorably and consistently, he must examine his own intentions and compare them with the oath. If he is still in doubt, he will most likely ask advice from his friends. Unless he is a dolt and an imbecile he certainly will not seek counsel from the scheming rascals who expect to profit by his relinquishment of the right of suffrage.

We expect to be maligned. We have no reason to anticipate anything like fairness or honor in the discussion that is likely to arise on this question. So it will make no difference whatever how much the mendacious scribes and lying Leaguers falsify our position and circulate calumnies as to our motives and our acts. Whatever is done will be accomplished without reference to their opinions. But in the light of their agonizing anxiety about "some secular offices" it looks as though what they fear the most is the very thing that should be brought about, providing it can be done without infringing upon right, duty and the dictates of honor and conscience.

—Shoshone county, Idaho, is in debt \$155,000.

VILE AND SENSELESS.

THERE is a statement in our local columns to the effect that some filthy minded fellow has written disgusting missives to each of a number of gentlemen holding official positions. Language is inadequate to express the loathing we feel for such contemptible methods, which are only resorted to by base and cowardly sneaks. No man with an atom of dignity in his composition would be guilty of such unmitigated meanness. It is more than likely that it is the work of some morally irresponsible crank who is oblivious to the better instincts of humanity. We have an unqualified contempt for anonymous sneaks in general, and the class to which the writer of the vile missives evidently belongs in particular.

FREE LIBRARY AND READING ROOM.

ON Friday evening the first of a series of sociables was held in the Fourteenth Ward, the object of which is to obtain means for the establishment of a free library and reading room. The party was successful in every way, a refined and artistic entertainment being given and the sum of forty dollars obtained as its financial result.

We believe the project will find favor in most quarters. Places where our young people can spend an evening in pleasurable society for the improvement of their minds, must have a beneficial tendency if properly conducted. There should, in our opinion, be several of these institutions in this city, and one at least in every populous town in Utah. Young people by these means may be kept from roaming the streets at night, or visiting resorts where moral and intellectual culture are farthest from thought and practice.

We understand that the intention in this case is to provide facilities for the youth and others of our own people to gain useful knowledge and literary entertainment. Care will have to be taken that the reading room is kept free from improper attendance. Rules will have to be adopted, in the onset, with this object in view. That which is intended for good may be turned into a vehicle of evil. But this may be said of everything designed for the nature, use and benefit of mankind. Precautions may be devised to keep the institution free from evil and preserve it to the purposes designed.

We learn that President Taylor as Trustee in Trust has signified his approval of the movement in a characteristic and forcible manner, by forwarding a hundred dollars by way of donation to the purpose in view. He has also expressed his opinion that "a free library and reading room properly managed, would be a most excellent institution for the young people." The words we have placed in italics should be particularly noticed. Gifts of books are being received from various quarters, and leading men are endorsing the movement, which we believe will be carried forward to deserved success.

We hope that the Latter-day Saints of this city and its vicinity will do all they can consistently to aid in establishing a good and extensive library, which will not only be for the use of the Fourteenth Ward, where it is to be located, but for members of the Church generally in this neighborhood.

THE EARTHQUAKES.

THE News' telegraphic columns today are freighted with frightful tidings, loss of life and destruction of property by means of a mighty earthquake, one of the greatest of recent times, not only as relates to destructiveness but to extent also. The rupture seems to have extended from Gerona on the northeastern Spanish coast, and following the semicircular shore of the Mediterranean around the southern part of France and Italy, nearly if not quite to Rome. This is a vast scope of country to be affected at the same time and in the same manner by one of the planet's spasmodic pulsations, and the consternation and awe of those in that and the adjacent territory must have been extreme. At this writing the extent of the damage done cannot be computed with anything like accuracy; details come along slowly, as the affrighted people recover their equanimity, but so far little but round figures and guesses more or less exaggerated have been sent to the world. Fifteen hundred deaths are reported from one place, another says three hundred, and smaller figures come along numerous and variously; it is perhaps within the limit to place the loss of life at not less than 5,000 persons, and the destruction to property at an amazingly large sum, one that time and careful calculation alone will enable us to even approximate.

One incident in connection with the sad catastrophes which attended the earthquake, was as suggestive and impressive as it must have been painful to the participants. At Nice, a party of revelers had been to a grand carnival the whole night long and were wending their way homeward in a semi-somnolent and more or less in-

ebriated condition, doubtless singing ribald songs and making drunken leers at those they chanced to pass—when all at once, and without an instant's warning the ground seemed dropping from beneath them, buildings began to totter and the face of nature, like many of their own was distorted and disfigured. They could scarcely keep their feet, and many did not want to, preferring for the time their knees to rest upon doubtless for the first time in their lives. Their hilarity and recklessness, suddenly ceased, and prayers and lamentations followed. What a spectacle that must have been! The clown, the columbus, the demon and the monsters of varied shape and hue prostrate before the Being whose image was only in their minds when the moment of peril came, supplicating Him as only those can who know Him not when all is peace and no danger threatens. Those who stand in holy places, who acknowledge the existence and revere the will of Deity, may be greatly moved at such, or any manifestations of His power; but they will not be so overwhelmed nor absurdly unprepared as were those revelers whose paint-thickened tears mingled with the dust while they implored aid and mercy from the Source whence alone it could come.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, FEB. 25.

A Fruitless Raid.—To-day a force of deputy marshals hastened to the residence of Bishop William B. Preston, in the Seventeenth Ward, and searched the premises in anticipation of finding and serving a warrant of arrest upon the Bishop. They were disappointed, however, and concluded to make another effort at the General Tithing Office. The buildings there were also ransacked, but nothing satisfactory to the searchers was brought forth, so they retired.

Utah Central Railway.—Commencing Tuesday, March 1st, the Utah Central Railway will put on an additional passenger train for the accommodation of the public, to leave Juab at 5:35 a. m., Nephi 6:15, Santaquin 7:11, Payson 7:25, Spanish Fork 7:47, Springville 8:01, Provo 8:15, Pleasant Grove 8:45, American Fork 8:55, Lehi 9:01, Draper 9:40, Sandy 9:52, Francklyn 10:10; arrive at Salt Lake at 10:30 a. m. Leave Salt Lake at 4 p. m., arrive at Juab at 8:55. Other trains run as usual.

Fatal Accident.—Joseph Nelson Sawyer, son of Walter O. Sawyer, of this city, died at the residence of his grandmother, in the 11th Ward, on the 24th inst., at a quarter past ten p. m. On the 12th day of this month he met with an accident while loading his pistol. The pistol was discharged and the ball entered the left lung and passed through the body. This occurred on the 12th inst., at a sheep herd over which he had charge, which was about forty-five miles from Grantsville. He was brought to this city and Dr. W. F. Anderson called to his assistance, but the wound was mortal. He was 21 years old December 13, 1886. The date of the funeral will be announced hereafter.

Court Notes.—Proceedings in the Third District Court to-day: Wm. Kellogg et al. vs. David Williams; demurrer to complaint sustained.

The People vs. James Casey; selling liquor without a license; continued to March 14th.

The People vs. John Harrington and David R. Musselmann; Monday at 10 a. m., set for arraignment.

The People vs. Hannah Brightmore; grand larceny; trial before a jury; verdict of guilty; sentence fixed for Monday, February 28th, and bail increased to \$1,000.

The People vs. L. Hansen and A. Jensen; assault and battery; defendants plead not guilty; case set for Monday, Feb. 28.

A. C. Meacham vs. John W. Meacham; trial before Court; submitted and taken under advisement.

Court adjourned to 10 a. m. on Monday, the 28th.

To be Sure.—Deputy Wm. Thompson, Jr., who shot and killed Edward M. Dalton, at Parowan, last December, has commenced suit against the DESERET NEWS COMPANY for the sum of \$25,000, that being the size of the plaster that he deems will be about adequate to cover the damage to his reputation. The papers were filed yesterday. The complainant is represented by assistant Prosecuting Attorney C. S. Varlan, the gentleman who was so delightfully unanimous with Thompson's attorney when he was tried at Beaver. This time he will not champion his cause in the capacity of prosecutor, however. This is the same Thompson who was discharged by his superior officer—U. S. Marshal Dyer—shortly after the killing on the ground that, the offense with which Dalton was charged being a misdemeanor, "he had no right to shoot." The ground taken for the complaint consists of portions of a series of articles that appeared in the News in which Thompson and the bloody deed were commented upon. We shall see what we shall see.

JOHN C. GRAY, under sentence for a violation of the Edmunds law, was down from the penitentiary to-day, on some business which made his presence in the city necessary.

EDWIN RUSHTON

ARRESTED ON THE PREVAILING CHARGE.

This afternoon Edwin Rushton, an aged resident of the Fifth Ward, was arrested on a charge of living with Mary A. Rushton and Sarah Rushton as his wives. The complaint was made by E. A. Franks. He was arraigned before Commissioner McKay and pleaded not guilty.

Mrs. Mary Ann Rushton testified—I was married to the defendant in 1841; I have not lived with him for six years; he had no other wife when I married him; I live in the Sixth Ward; we don't visit each other; we speak if we meet each other; I have not been in his house, nor he in mine; I have never been divorced.

Mrs. Sarah Rushton testified—The defendant is my husband; I live in this city; my husband lives with me; my youngest child is ten years old.

The defendant was placed under \$1,500 bonds to await the grand jury's action.

H. H. EVANS ARRESTED.

HE IS BROUGHT BEFORE COMMISSIONER MCKAY.

About 6 o'clock this morning Deputies Greenman, Pratt, Bush, Frank, Thompson and others made a raid on the Sixth Ward. Hyrum H. Evans was arrested on a charge of unlawful cohabitation, made by Deputy Franks, and alleging that he had lived with Etie Evans and Ada Evans as his wives from March 1st, 1884, to February 1st, 1887. After the warrant had been served on Mr. Evans, and his wife and little daughter subpoenaed, the deputies inaugurated a search for the alleged plural wife, whom they insisted was in the immediate neighborhood. They drew from their pockets a sufficient number of candles to suit their purpose, and by the light thus afforded examined every apartment and corner in the house, as well as all the out-buildings, but to no purpose. A number of witnesses were then subpoenaed from the neighborhood, and the accused was taken before Commissioner McKay, at 10 a. m. The Commissioner fixed the preliminary examination for this afternoon, and Mr. Evans was released on \$1,500 bail pending the result. A. G. Giauque and O. A. Woolley being sureties.

This afternoon Mr. Evans stated that he desired to waive examination. Mr. Dickson replied that if he would admit the facts charged he would permit it; otherwise he would not.

Mr. Moyle said the defendant would admit having two wives, Henrietta and Ida Rushton Evans, and that he had lived with them during the past three years.

The defendant was held in \$1,500 bail to await the action of the grand jury.

FIRST DISTRICT COURT.

Provo, Feb. 24.

The grand jury was completed last night at 4 p. m. W. H. Lietzer, foreman, Lewellyn Thomas and H. N. Green completed the number.

A commitment was ordered in the case of the United States vs. R. C. Kirkwood; unlawful cohabitation.

McCrystal & Co. vs. Simmons; dismissed by consent.

The Judge charged the grand jury, giving about the following construction to "unlawful cohabitation." It is to be construed to be an apparent relation of polygamy, whether he has intercourse or lives in the same house, not as a real fact between the parties, but the appearance of that relation. You are to determine whether the plural marriage relation has been made in the past. I commend the third section of the Edmunds act to your consideration. That is the law of the country and must be enforced. Hoax, actual religious belief is no defense. It is no defense to murder, to arson or to polygamy; it is part of the universal law of the country and must be enforced.

The prosecution were not ready for trial this morning in the case of the People vs. Hank Robinson, waiting return of subpoenas, so postponed.

Mads Peterson pleaded guilty to a charge of battery, and upon the statement of Mr. Read, of Mantli, and a petition from the citizens, both to the effect that it was a trifling cause, and that he had already served two months in jail, the court suspended sentence. The defendant went out of court a happier man.

Messrs. Hoge and Dusenberry, on the part of the defendant, moved suspension of sentence in the Pearson case, accompanying the motion by numerous petitions to the same effect.

The Court took the matter under advisement till to-morrow morning.

JAMES C. WATSON AGAIN ARRESTED.

HE IS CHARGED WITH VIOLATING THE EDMUNDS LAW.

About 5 o'clock this morning James C. Watson was, for the second time since his release from the penitentiary for living with his wives, arrested on the charge of unlawful cohabitation. He was on the street engaged in his duties as nightwatchman, at the time the warrant was served. Immediately afterward a host of