

Correspondence.

SALT LAKE CITY, Sep. 9, 1868.

Editor Deseret News:—Sir—I am at all times unwilling to intrude myself upon public attention, unless duty urges me to do so; but when I find undue prominence being given to, or taken by, an individual as a scientific instructor, I cannot allow statements made by him, which are untrue, to pass unnoticed. I allude to the lectures recently delivered by Mr. Barker in the 13th Ward Assembly Rooms.

Fortunately for us as a people, we have revelation to appeal to upon all subjects which are of interest to us as human beings; but as the individual I allude to does not stand forth, professedly, as a religious teacher, I shall confine myself to the scientific views which he endeavors to present.

He represents no school of philosophy, which is of no importance to me if truth was fairly presented; and, probably would pass unchallenged by me, if I saw that truth was his aim. I may be mistaken, but, when any man assumes to be, and publicly asserts that he is a "Master Spirit," I have a right to be suspicious of and to demand proof of his assertions.

I shall merely handle one part of this gentleman's lecture—that relating to light and the sun as the source of light; and I shall do this, not only in the interests of science, but to show that he is not an exponent of truth as generally understood. The gentleman takes the liberty of asserting that "the Newtonian theory of light is untrue," and also that "the undulatory theory is equally untrue." If such assertions were made, in the same spirit, in the presence of any other people than the Latter-day Saints he would be hissed. Whether these things are true or false, immoderate language is intolerable in giving expression to mere opinion upon subjects which can only be conjectural. There is a courtesy due to the public in return for their attention which is not paid when men, who stand pre-eminent among their fellows, and whose memories are respected, are spoken of in offensive terms; more especially when their *motives* are impugned and their scientific discoveries are pronounced to be "a lie," especially by one who, evidently, is unacquainted with science.

We do not want to know what Moses believed or taught in relation to the origin of things, only so far as they are stamped with the impress of truth. If we want to know concerning these things, we, as a people, have reliable information in the revelations given upon the subject; and, if there is not sufficient, it is obtainable through the channel appointed by the Lord. But, when any man professes to handle things scientifically, he has to be dealt with according to the manner of men.

Mr. Barker asserts that "light is not emitted from objects," in accordance with the emission theory; that light does not pass off from the sun as particles of matter, as taught by Newton; neither does any action of the sun cause a vibration to a suppressed ethereal substance, which vibration is continued to other particles of this subtle ether, so as to produce the phenomena of light; both of these theories are pronounced to be false. This may be true, but who is to prove it? Most certainly he does not. What is his substitute for these theories, either of which may be true? He tells us that a certain "undefined action" of certain fluids existing around us produces light. What are we to understand by "undefined" action? Is it vibration, percussion, oscillation? or is it undulation, which he denies? Again, he asserts that the sun is merely an appearance (mirage); so is everything we see. The light shines upon objects and is transmitted from them, and when the light reaches the optic nerve, an impression is made upon the senses, without which we could not see objects at all. There is no doubt at all, in fact, nobody denies that we do not see the sun, but the rays of light, or, in other words, the image of the sun.

Then he asserts that the sun is not 95,000,000 of miles from the earth. This may be true, but one thing is certain, Mercury and Venus sometimes pass between the earth and the sun, (transit) and therefore the sun is something further off than either of those planets; and if we cannot have some better proof to the contrary than he offers, it is as well to let it remain as it is. With the same confidence we are told that "light does not travel from the sun to the earth in eight minutes." The astonishing velocity of light appears to be incredible to the lecturer, and the fact of light continuing its force throughout its long

journey is said to be impossible. No doubt these things are very wonderful, but this does not justify anyone in denying the facts with which science makes us familiar! Who can doubt the fact that the moons which revolve round the planet Jupiter are eclipsed, at periods which are calculated with precision? Who can deny that when the earth is in that part of her orbit which is nearest to Jupiter by the diameter of the earth's orbit, eclipses are seen sixteen minutes sooner than they would be if on the opposite side of the earth's orbit? About the difference of time there can be no doubt; if light does not travel, but is visible everywhere at the same instant, why does it take sixteen minutes longer, or shorter time, to see the eclipses spoken of, in proportion to the relative position occupied by Jupiter and the earth? As to distances among the heavenly bodies we can only measure them by calculation; this is true of velocities also, till we can determine distances. That light does travel, and that with the astonishing velocity represented by astronomers, is established beyond a doubt, if the distances are correctly stated, which, unfortunately, no one can determine without a higher knowledge than man yet possesses.

The lecturer asserts that "space is dark;" there is no doubt of the truth of this assertion. All writers upon the subject have assumed that such is the case; but this does not prove that light cannot pass through it. The room that I sit in is now silent, but sound could pass through it. Light passes readily through a glass jar which is made perfectly empty by the air pump. This proves that light will pass through a vacuum, and, probably space itself permits light to pass even more rapidly than it would if more dense than our atmosphere, for experience proves that light is "refracted," or broken off from its course, by the atmosphere. He asserts also, and endeavors to illustrate this by a diagram, that light only shines "upon" the earth, that the rays of light do not pass by the earth in straight lines, as generally taught. Experience teaches the contrary. That objects beyond the earth are illuminated by the sun unless they get in the earth's shadow, is proved every time an eclipse of the moon takes place; and that light can be stopped in its course is proved by an eclipse of the sun, which only occurs when the moon passes between the earth and the sun. This is also proved by the transits of Mercury and Venus, which obscured the sun while passing sufficiently near to produce a little spot on the sun's apparent disc. All these are proofs that light can be interrupted, or cut off, in its passage, and also that light, whatever it is, moves in straight lines.

The lecturer also asserts that "the atmosphere acts as a lens." There is no doubt of this, every one may gather that information from the schoolbooks; but when he asserts that "it focalizes the rays of light," he is in error. Any one acquainted with optics knows that a concavo-convex lens—which is the form the atmosphere represents, nor even a convex-plano lens, does not bring the rays of light to a focus. It is fortunate the atmosphere does not act in the sense alluded to, for, if the sun's rays were focalized they would melt the earth.

It is also asserted that "light is incapable of acting except upon organized matter." How this can be determined before we know what light is, is as difficult to comprehend as the assertion that "light is produced by the action of electricity (acted upon by magnetism) upon hydrogen, which is converted into nitrogen." This is to assert that nitrogen is hydrogen, changed by the action of electricity; and, if it is true, is capable of demonstration, for both of those elements are within our reach. It is not impossible that hydrogen may be changed into nitrogen and that light, and heat also, may be evolved; but this has never been done, and, until it is done it is only an opinion. Many difficulties in antagonism present themselves, however, with such an opinion. There are no alterations in the condition of the atmosphere since observations were first made by chemists; hydrogen which bears a very small proportion to the atmosphere, and nitrogen exist in the same proportion that they did in 1776, when Priestly discovered nitrogen to be a simple element. Now, if the changes spoken of are continually going on, hydrogen is being exhausted and nitrogen is increasing, which is not the case. When hydrogen is acted upon by repeated charges of electricity passing through it, no change takes place unless oxygen, chlorine or some other element is present; if the former gas is present an ex-

plosion takes place, and water is formed, What is it but light which produces our sun pictures? Any photographer can tell us that the chemical rays produce the change upon the acids used. Light can be analysed better than many more ponderable elements, its heat-giving elements can be separated from its luminous rays and its chemical rays from both.

It is too late in the world's history to quibble about the meaning of words. When it is written by Moses that light was called forth by the fiat of Omnipotence, he does not say that it was created; when he asserts that the sun was to give light upon the earth, he does not say that it was to shine upon the earth alone. He does not, in fact, name the sun at all, but we may infer that "the lights," spoken of were "for lights in the firmament of the heaven."

As to the assumptions of the lecturer, they are novel where they are untrue; and, anything advanced by him which is true is presented in an unseemly manner. His want of education would be no defect if he did not lack in humility. It is pardonable to be unlearned, but to be arrogant as well as ignorant is no mark of regard for true science, the nature of which is to teach us that humility which characterises all who have learned the first lessons in true education—self knowledge.

I am, sir, yours faithfully,

A LOVER OF TRUTH.

BIBLES, TESTAMENTS, AND SUNDAY SCHOOL TICKETS And REWARDS,

For Sale by

w31:1m

W. H. SHEARMAN,
Logan.

LADIES' SELECT SCHOOL.

Mrs. Martha T. Cannon's
SELECT SCHOOL FOR LADIES

Re-opened in the

West Wing of the 14th Ward School
House.]

On MONDAY, Sept. 7, 1868,

For Terms apply at her residence.

d257 td

Notice to Tax Payers in Tooele County.

NOTICE is hereby given, that I will be in attendance at my office on **Saturdays of each week** to receive payment for Territorial and County Taxes for the year 1868, which if not settled for on or before the 30th day of November, 1868, will be collected in the manner prescribed by law.

H. S. GOWANS,
Assr. and Coll. Tooele County.
Office—corner of Main and Vine streets, Tooele City.

w32:3

ESTRAYS.

[From Goshen.]

Ox, 7 years old, red, white belly, legs and on left side of rump.
Steer, 2 years old, blue roan, white on belly, tail and flanks, O left hip.
Ox, 10 years old, brindle and white, star in forehead, white of flanks and left shoulder and left side of rump, S M left side.

Steer, 3 years old, red, white on belly and tail on left shoulder, a heart on left side, crop left ear.

Stag, 4 years old, red, J G O on left horn, P on left hip, crop right ear, two undernotches left. The above described Stock, if not previously claimed, will be sold at the County Pound, Provo, Sept. 26, 1868.

w32 1

EDSON WHIPPLE,
Utah Co. Poundkeeper.

AGENTS WANTED

IN EVERY TOWN in the Territories of UTAH, MONTANA and IDAHO,

TO CANVASS

For the MOST POPULAR BOOKS PUBLISHED. Also Maps, Charts, etc., etc.

Apply to O. H. ELLIOTT & Co.,
Booksellers and Stationers,
Hooper's Corner, S.L. City.

32:3

MRS. JOHN McMILLAN,
Dealer in all kinds of
STOVE and TIN WARE,
Corner 6th St., Washington Avenue, St. Louis,
Parties emigrating to Utah can be supplied with all kinds of Stoves, Tin Ware, etc., at the Lowest St. Louis prices.

w8:6m

NOTICE.

In the Supreme Court of the United States for the District of Utah.

In the matter of }
GEO. N. SAVAGE, } In Bankruptcy.
Bankrupt.

TAKE NOTICE: That a Second General Meeting of the Creditors of the Estate of George N. Savage, of Salt Lake City, in said District, duly declared a Bankrupt upon his own petition, by the said Supreme Court, in Bankruptcy, will be held at a Court of Bankruptcy to be held at Salt Lake City, at the office of R. H. Robertson, Esq., Register, on the 30th day of September, A.D. 1868, at 10 o'clock A.M., for the purposes named in the twenty-seventh section of the Bankrupt Act, of March 2, 1867.

P. L. WILLIAMS,
Dated at Salt Lake City,
September 3, 1868.

Assnec.
w31:2

NOTICE.

In the Supreme Court of the United States for the District of Utah.

In the matter of }
CHAS. B. TROWBRIDGE, } In Bankruptcy.
Bankrupt.

NOTICE is hereby given, that pursuant to an order made by said Court, in the matter of Charles B. Trowbridge a Bankrupt, on the 1st day of September, A.D. 1868 a hearing will be had upon the petition of said Bankrupt, heretofore filed in said Court, praying for his discharge from all his debts and liabilities, proveable under the Act of Congress entitled, "An Act to establish a uniform system of Bankruptcy throughout the United States," approved March 2d, 1867, and for a certificate thereof, before said Court, on the 1st day of October, A.D. 1868, at 10 A.M., in the city of Salt Lake, in said District, at which time and place any creditor of said Bankrupt, or any other person in interest, may appear and show cause, if any they have, why the prayer of the said petitioner should not be granted.

Notice is further given, that the Third Meeting of Creditors of said Bankrupt will be held before R. H. Robertson, Esq., Register in Bankruptcy for said District, at his office, in Salt Lake City, on the said 1st day of October, A.D. 1868, at 9 o'clock A.M. of said day, and also at the time and place first aforesaid, John C. Wells, Assignee of said Bankrupt's Estate, will apply to said Court for a settlement and allowance of the account filed in said matter, as such Assignee, and for a discharge from all liabilities as such Assignee.

W. I. APPLEBY,
Clerk of the District Court of Bankruptcy
For the District of Utah.
CHAS. H. HEMPSTEAD,
Petitioner's Attorney.
Dated at Salt Lake City, Sept. 1st, 1868.
w31:4t

NOTICE.

In the Supreme Court of the United States for the District of Utah.

In the Matter of }
JOHN A. QUICK and } In Bankruptcy.
EDWARD GAGNON, }

NOTICE is hereby given that, pursuant to an order made by said Court in the matter of Quick and Gagnon, bankrupts, on the 11th day September, A.D. 1868, a hearing will be had upon the petition of John A. Quick, (individually,) one of the bankrupts aforesaid, heretofore filed in said Court, praying for his discharge from all his debts and liabilities, proveable under the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States," approved March 2nd, 1867, and for a Certificate thereof, before said Court, on the 13th day of October, A.D. 1868, at 10 o'clock a.m. at the office of R. H. Robertson, Esq., Register in Bankruptcy for said District, in the city and county of Salt Lake, and Territory of Utah, at which time and place any creditor of said bankrupt or any other person in interest may appear, and show cause, if any they have, why the prayer of said petitioner should not be granted.

Notice is further given that the third meeting of creditors of said bankrupt will be held before R. H. Robertson, Register, at the office of the said Register, in Salt Lake City in said District, on the 13th day of October, A.D. 1868, at 9 o'clock a.m. of said day, and at the time and place first aforesaid, Henry W. Isaacson, assignee of said bankrupt's estate, will apply to said Court for a settlement and allowance of the account filed in said matter, as such assignee, and for a discharge from all liabilities as such assignee.

W. I. APPLEBY,
Clerk of said Supreme Court in Bankruptcy.
O. F. STRICKLAND,
Petitioner's Attorney.
Sept. 14, 1868.

w32:4

NOTICE.

In the Supreme Court of the United States, for the District of Utah.

In the Matter of }
GEO. H. HARRIS and } In Bankruptcy.
JOSEPH L. FOUTZ, }

THIS IS TO GIVE NOTICE That on the Tenth day of September, A.D. 1868, a Warrant in Bankruptcy was issued against the estate of Harris & Foutz, of Pleasant Grove, in the county of Utah and Territory of Utah, who have been adjudged Bankrupt on their own petition; that the payment of any debt and delivery of any property belonging to said Bankrupts, to them, or for their use, and the transfer of any property by them are forbidden by law; that a meeting of the creditors of the said Bankrupts, to prove their debts and to choose one or more assignees of their estate, will be held at a Court of Bankruptcy, to be held at Salt Lake City, before R. H. Robertson, Esq., Register, on the 16th day of October, 1868, at 10 o'clock a.m.

JOSIAH HOSMER,
U. S. Marshal and Messenger in Bankruptcy.
By WM. I. APPLEBY, Deputy.

w32:4

STRAYED

FROM me, at St. George, one pair of HORSES; one a bright bay, six years old, star in forehead, branded B S on left shoulder; the other a yellow, with black mane and tail, seven years old, branded Y on left hip. I will reward any person who will deliver them to me.

OSCAR B. YOUNG.
Salt Lake City, Sep. 10, 1868.

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