

THE REAPER.

The reapers bend their dusty backs;
The sounding sickles sway;
At every stroke the golden sea
Recedes to give them way;
The heavy ears fall blowing down,
And nestle at their feet,
Such will, such work as theirs perforce,
Must win—must homage meet.

So careless of fatigue they go,
So just, so steadily,
The admiring traveler on the road,
With marvel of the soon-fallen breadth,
The lounging gossip tell;
But the reapers labor for us all:
'Tis need they should work well.

Ere the great sun that burns above
Shall crimson in the west,
And the children's poppy nose-gay fade,
And they lie down to rest,
Each golden spear that upward points
Shall fall upon the field,
And the farmer drain a sparkling glass,
Rejoicing o'er the field.

Ply, bonny men, your sickles bright,
And give the people bread!
At every conquering stride you take,
On want and woe you tread.
The products of our mother earth
You gather from this plain,
That man may be refreshed and firm
And do great things again.

God bless the hands, all hard and brown,
That guide the cleaving plow,
That cast abroad the shining seed,
And build the wealthy mow;
They rear the bread our children eat;
'Tis by their toil we live.
Hurrah! give them the loudest cheer
That grateful hearts can give!

Correspondence.

The Liquor Business.

PAYSON, Aug. 7, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

The ladies of Payson, four hundred and eighty in number, have petitioned our City Council to prohibit, by ordinance, the sale of spirituous and fermented liquors within our city limits. This I consider a move in the right direction, and have no doubt but that our city fathers will see the subject in the same light, and grant the prayer of their fair petitioners. Our community have been, and still are, divided in opinion as to the wisest course to pursue in handling this liquor question. All are united in condemning the traffic, but not in the *modus operandi* of suppressing it. For nearly four years we have been trying to regulate it by a license ordinance. Our experience in that policy has not, however, been satisfactory, and a great majority of the people are now decidedly in favor of prohibiting the sale of liquor altogether, except for medical purposes. This has always seemed to me to be the only safe and consistent policy for Latter-day Saints to pursue.

Very respectfully,
Yours in the Gospel,
ISAIAH M. COOMBS.

FORGETFULNESS AND RECOLLECTION.—Good news for miners and all!—Visiting S. L. C. on the 24th inst., I felt conscience smitten and sorrowful at my ingratitude. Dr. E. L. Plant, whose wonderful powers of healing ought to be known to every one, cured me some months ago of a very distressing complaint which had caused me fearful suffering. I caught it while working in the mines and is known among us miners as leading. Witness my hand.

JNO. FERGUSON AVONDALE.
Bingham, July 27, 1876.
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TRUTH DECLARED.—Will ye receive it, when kindly told? This is to certify that my daughter was afflicted with epileptic fits for several years; but no symptoms of that fearful scourge has been experienced by her during the last twelve months. The remedies prescribed for her cure by Dr. E. L. Plant, of Market Row, Salt Lake City, were simple, efficacious, and his terms very reasonable. D. L. SKIDMORE,
Opposite Townsend House.
S. L. C., July 29, 1876.
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The Sioux War.—What an Indian Editor Has to Say.

Indians who believe that God punishes men for their wickedness and regards them for their good work will very certainly look upon their success in killing General Custer and his troops while invading the Sioux country for no better a service than the protection of whites who were violating law and justice as being significant of the will of the Great Spirit. The Sioux did nothing more than defend their homes and their rights, as would have been the case with any people on earth under like circumstances. Indians though they be, and of rude and unpolished habits, too, there are men possessed of as keen a sense of honor, as noble and as brave hearts, in this tribe as may be found anywhere. Though the mass of the Sioux are, of course, uneducated, they are men of sentiment and reflection, after all. They know as well as any that in the matter that has proven so disastrous to the noble boys who were led into the jaws of death by the rashness, to say the least, of the famed and gallant Custer, they have nothing to answer for. Whenever pecuniary profit has offered it has proven a sufficient inducement to treachery on the part of the whites in violating treaties made by the government; though when they were made they were to be binding in nature as gold is indestructible, and as lasting as is the tendency of water to flow and grass to grow.

The relation of the government to the Indians of this continent is spotted with treacherous acts, and the late trouble with Sitting Bull and his adherents is nothing more than a result of an "infamous policy," though not a "peace policy," but a policy that was inaugurated and has been perpetuated by a class of men who ignore obligations of honor and seek the glories attending the rule of military despots while struggling in their efforts to exterminate a whole race who have been doomed, unheard and unsung, to ignominy and death by the hands of those whose hearts have been hardened by criminal acts and desires. "Oh shame, where is thy blush?"

A right to the country in which there is now trouble with the Sioux is yet in their hands. Their right to the soil is unimpeachable, and the unsuccessful attempt to purchase the Black Hills did not in the least invalidate treaty obligations, nor release the government from its pledge to protect the Indians of that country from invasion or other trouble by whites until a purchase was effected at some future time. But, notwithstanding all this, as we said in our last issue, reckless whites flocked to the reputed country of gold, in violation of law and justice, and then, because the Indians, who were the sufferers in this case, and in consequence of this unfortunate and dishonorable circumstance, tried to defend themselves, in the entire absence of help from the government that had pledged itself to protect them in their rights, Generals Crook, Gibbon and others were sent into the Indian country to operate against the Sioux for protection of whites who were obtruding themselves where they and everybody else knew that they neither had business nor privilege to be. And now, in the face of these facts, which are so well known to everybody, and our boasted disposition to do justice to all and to do unto others as we would be done by, doing God's will in grave matters as well as small things, the cry to exterminate the Indians goes up from the mouths of hitherto respectable contemporaries. What may we not expect next?—*Pawhuskz (I. T.) Indian News.*

Gen. Crook and the Indian War.

If the Sioux retreat into the mountains the campaign will probably be prolonged into the winter, and artillery will be necessary in the field. General Crook, however, has a peculiar prejudice against the utility of this arm of the service against the Indians, although in the battle of the Rosebud it certainly would have been of great avail.

At present those who see him every day and converse with him, even field officers, are as ignorant of his plans as they were when the expedition was first organized. He seems to have formed his estimate

of the Sioux from his experience of the Apaches, and the surprise which he suffered on June 17th was the first awakening from this delusion. Nothing is more certain than that the Apaches are insignificant and contemptible in comparison with the Sioux.

Yet, although a stranger to the latter at the beginning of his administration in this department, General Crook, as well as I can learn, consulted none of his subordinates regarding their knowledge of the enemy whom he was about to fight. Many of these gallant gentlemen had been constantly engaged in dealing with the Sioux in their military capacity since 1866. Ever since its departure from Fort Fetterman the conduct of this expedition has been remarkable for the contempt shown by the general commanding for many of the fundamental principles of military policy. One might have inferred that the enemy against whom we were moving was impotent and harmless. The march has been unguarded; the camps have not been competent enough for the most advantageous defense; the scouting has been without system; the troops, although many of them were the rawest recruits, have scarcely been drilled, notwithstanding that they have been languishing in idleness for nearly two months, and the proximity of Indians has not been taken advantage of to strike them a blow.—*New York Herald's Correspondent with Crook's Army, July 23.*

Hell Gate Honeycombed.

The Preparations for the Great Blast Nearly Completed—Fifty Thousand Pounds of Explosives To Be Used—Nature of the Obstructions Sought To Be Removed, and the Benefits Expected To Be Derived.

The chronicles of colonial times speak frequently of the dangerous passage of Hell Gate, where the East River debouches into Long Island Sound. Even genial old Diedrich Knickerbocker, in his veracious account of the discovery of the Island of Manhattan, tells a thrilling tale of how the broad Dutch burghers of Communipaw started out on a voyage of conquest and discovery of the unknown waters of East River, in the wake of a school of losel porpoises, and were nigh being wrecked and cast upon the treacherous reefs of the Hell Gate passage. Indeed, some of the party were capsized and would have been drowned had it not been for the buoyant power of the numerous breeches which they wore. The daring band was under the leadership of Olaff, the Dreamer, and naught but the guardian care of the good St. Nicholas saved them from a watery grave. When the frightened voyagers returned they told a horrible tale of how they saw the evil one sitting on the rocks, and skimming the boiling caldron with the huge iron ladle, and one unlucky Dutchman averred, with many nine-jointed Saxon oaths, that he put his hand in the water, and found it scalding hot, and, therefore, they called the fearful passage "Hell Gate," and thus it has been known until this day.

Coming down to a later time, the records of the Revolution tell us of a British transport ship laden with \$2,000,000 in gold, with which to pay off the British army, that essayed to sail through the passage, but struck on the rocks and was towed into Port Morris, off the Westchester shore, where she went to the bottom with all the treasure on board, and there it lies until this day. At present a sanguine speculator is working with a diving bell to exhume the long buried guineas, and confidently expects to find them. May he have better luck than the searchers after Captain Kidd's treasures have had thus far.

But laying all romance aside, the fact remains that Hell Gate has been an obstruction to the commerce of the port from the time when Hendrick Hudson dropped anchor in the bay of New York until the present time. Long Island Sound is the natural outlet of the port to the eastward, and shortens the trip to Europe by eighteen hours or over. In the days when the carrying trade of the ocean was done under canvas, this was not so much of an item as it is in these days of steam and rapid transit. It is to be wondered at, somewhat, that the work was not undertaken by Government years ago. But it is only within the past few years

that inventive genius has made the work easy. Several years ago the Government undertook the long deferred task of improving the harbor of New York, but when the work was once commenced it was pushed forward with vigor.

Chief among the obstructions were the rocks at Hell Gate. It was determined to deepen the channel and allow a free passage for vessels of the largest draft to the Sound. To do this it was necessary to remove over an acre of rock to a considerable depth.

The Hell Gate obstruction consists of a ledge of rocks stretching from the Long Island shore, near the village of Astoria, to one of the islands opposite, a distance perhaps of a quarter of a mile or more. The channel through which light draught vessels pass is on the Long Island side of the centre, and here it is that the extensive mining works have been carried on for the past few years. The rock had to be removed by blasting, and there was so much of it that it was determined to do it on a large scale. For this purpose a coffer dam was built on the Long Island shore, and when the water had been pumped from the enclosure, a shaft about fifty feet long was run to a depth of thirty-five feet below mean water mark. The shaft went down through the rock; it forms more of a pit than now is usually known as a shaft. Tunnels, or "headings," were then commenced in the rearward face of the shaft, and these were carried out to varying distances, according to the location. The longest extend about 250 feet. Keep in your mind the idea of the section of a wagon wheel. The hub will represent the shaft, and the radiating spokes the tunnels or headings, and it will give you a good idea of the ground plan of the Hell Gate improvement. As the headings progressed, of course the intervening rock grew broader, and it became necessary to open supplementary tunnels. Connecting passages and openings were made, until, when the excavation was finished, the whole acre or more of rock stood supported on numerous pillars, forming an extensive cavern under the bottom of the channel. The floor of the tunnels is about level, perhaps with a slight pitch, but the line of the roof is slanting, conforming to the pitch of the rock at the bottom of the channel. At the extremity of the tunnels you cannot begin to stand upright, and to reach the extreme end you must crawl on your hands and knees. The blasting was done with nitro-glycerine, and it required constant pumping to keep the chambers free from water. The rock is of a hard, flinty nature, with seams and crevices that admitted the water somewhat. The excavations are completed, and at present the only work done is by the pumping engines to keep the headings free from water.

General Newton, of the United States engineers, who has charge of the improvements about the harbor, says the blowing out of the bottom will probably take place about the middle of September. There is money enough appropriated to carry the work to its completion, and there need be no more delays upon that score. It will require fifty thousand pounds of explosives to do the work. The materials used will be nitro glycerine, rend rock and dynamite; according to the nature of the rock to be blasted. Instead of placing the explosives in several large masses, it will be scattered over the rock in small charges. The method by which this will be done will be as follows: Holes have been drilled in the rock columns that support the roof, the number varying according to the height of the column. These will be charged with the explosives and then it will be exploded by means of electricity. The blowing up will be done in three sections, and the effect will be to crumble the pillars and allow the roof to sink in.

The general opinion that the whole mass will be hurled into the air at one grand blast is erroneous. Beyond a few beautiful jets of water shot into the air, and perhaps a few pieces of rocks hurled above the surface of the water, nothing will be seen. The terrible shock that was anticipated when the explosion takes place will then be avoided. The bids for the explosives have been received, and the contracts will be given out very shortly. It will then require about three weeks to deliver the materials, and the work of placing the charges will take about two or three weeks

more, so that about the middle of September the work will be ready for blasting. When all is prepared the water will be let in and the chambers filled, thus forming what is called in engineering parlance "a wet tamp." The water will confine the force of the numerous blasts, and enable them to act with greater force. After the explosion it will be necessary to do considerable dredging in the way of hauling out pieces of rock. This will take several months, but will probably be completed by next spring. The work has been hindered from time to time by the failure of appropriations, but now no more delays are expected from that source, as the money in hand is sufficient to complete the work. The explosion will doubtless be a pretty sight. Masses of water will be tossed into the air like enormous fountain jets. There will be three of them, and those who may have witnessed the blowing up of Diamond and Coenties reefs in the East River can well remember what a beautiful display that was. The persons operating the blast will occupy a position about 300 or 400 feet away, and it is not expected that the shock will be very great.

A visit to the works is very interesting. The visitor is provided an umbrella and a small oil torch, and descending into the shaft by a staircase can explore the tunnels and chambers at leisure. You are constantly exposed to the drippings from the roof which, in some places, come down in small cascades. It is wonderful how little light is received from the torches. They only serve to make the intense darkness more visible. No work of this magnitude for the improvement of the harbor has ever before been carried out. The idea of tunneling under the bottom of the sound and then blowing it up is a novel work, but the engineering difficulties which it presented were not great.

The benefit to be derived from the improvements is almost incalculable. It will deepen the channel about thirty feet, and allow of the passage of the largest vessels, where before only crafts of light draught could go. It is expected that the ocean steamers will take this route to and from Europe, as it is shorter than the Sandy Hook route by about eighteen hours, and that is too much time to lose in these days of rapid travel, when it can be avoided.—*Brooklyn Eagle.*

SPELLING REFORM.

The Cautious Suggestions of the American Philological Association.

The committee of the American Philological Association, appointed last year to consider the subject of reform in English spelling, submitted the following report at yesterday's session in this city. It was signed by all the members of the committee and adopted by the unanimous vote of the Association.

1. The true and sole office of alphabetic writing is faithfully and intelligibly to represent spoken speech. So-called "historical" orthography is only a concession to the weakness of prejudice.

2. The ideal of an alphabet is that every sound should have its own unvarying sign, and every sign its own unvarying sound.

3. An alphabet intended for use by a vast community need not attempt an exhaustive analysis of the elements of utterance, and a representation of the nicest varieties of articulation; it may well leave room for the unavoidable play of individual and local pronunciation.

4. An ideal alphabet would seek to adopt for its characters forms which should suggest the sounds signified, and of which the resemblances should in some measure represent the similarities of the sounds. But for general practical use, there is no advantage in a system which aims to depict in detail the physical processes of utterance.

5. No language has ever had, or is likely to have, a perfect alphabet; and in changing and amending the mode of writing of a language already long written, regard must necessarily be had to what is practically possible quite as much as to what is inherently desirable.

6. To prepare the way for such a change, the first step is to break down, by the combined influence of enlightened scholars and of practical educators, the immense and stubborn prejudice which regards the established modes of spelling