

MILITIA'S CORRESPONDENCE.

THE correspondence of "Militia," which appeared in our yesterday evening's issue, is interesting at the present juncture. It recalls to the minds of many recollections of the past, which through the lapse of time, may have become dim, and to many who are not familiar with the history of events which have transpired in this Territory, it conveys knowledge of transactions of which they are ignorant. Such communications are needed at the present time. To listen to the expressions and style of remarks indulged in by certain parties occasionally—newly-fledged officials, prosecuting attorneys, judges, etc., one would imagine that there never had been a legally organized militia in this Territory, and that, in fact, there never had been any government here until they arrived. A stranger, not familiar with what has been done here, would be led to the conclusion, in listening to them, that there had been no governors, judges, Attorneys and other officers in this country before they came, or if there had been, he would be apt to get the impression that these functionaries never exercised any legal authority.

Now, it is a fact that Utah Territory was organized in the Fall of the year 1850; a Governor and Judges, a Secretary and Marshal were appointed, and they came here and exercised their functions in due form. A Legislative Assembly was legally elected, which proceeded to enact laws, that still exist upon the statute book and are of binding force. It is also a fact that a militia was at the time regularly organized, the officers of which were elected in republican style and commissioned by the Governor. All these, and many other important facts, are familiar to the people, and when they see the ignorance and assumptions of some of these men who

— "bestride the narrow world
Like a Colossus;"

they are amused.

During the twenty years the Territory has been organized they have beheld many such exhibitions—men who, while in possession of a little brief authority, were so inflated that the entire Territory was too narrow a sphere for them to move in; but who, when stripped of position, wore such an air of meekness, as to evoke the sympathy of all beholders. They have seen officials of this kind come and go like the seasons; but in nearly every new batch of arrivals there has been found a few of this class, who act, speak and appear to feel as if they were the only vigilant, zealous and suitable officers which had ever acted in the positions to which they are appointed since Utah's organization as a Territory. This is especially the case if these men undertake to run "amuck" against the people of the Territory. Their zeal is then something fearful and wonderful to behold. They seem to think that the honor of the Government is in their individual keeping and that, unless they maintain it, the country will be ruined.

It is a bad sign when an officer exhibits this disposition, that is, for himself. The experience of the past twenty years warrants us in saying that a man with such a feeling cannot hold position very long. We never knew it fail. Another thing that we have noticed: officers have come here feeling disposed to act fairly, perform the functions of their office and averse to assailing the people; and after reaching here, there has been pressure brought to bear upon them by some person or class of persons interested in having a difficulty, and unable to resist the pressure and of official decapitation, they have weakened and changed their policy; from that moment they appeared to be doomed and their removal has speedily followed.

MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF STOCK.—In another column will be found the minutes of the meeting held on Monday evening by the Association for the improvement and Cultivation of Stock, Bees, Fish, &c. We have received two very interesting reports from the Committee on Horned Stock and that on Bees, made to the Association at the last meeting, which, for want of space, we are compelled to lay over until tomorrow. The meetings and action of this Association give promise of being exceedingly interesting, and it is desirable that Branch Associations should be formed in every county in the Territory; and that every agriculturalist should be enrolled as a member of the Association where he resides. There is an im-

mense field for the Society to operate in, and its claims upon the people are such that it ought to receive the aid and influence of every public-spirited man in the community. The benefits which will follow its labors, if prosecuted wisely and energetically, are sufficient inducement to enlist every man's influence and aid in its behalf.

THE attention of astronomers will no doubt be excited by the singular position of the planet Venus, on the 8th and 9th of next month. The transit of Venus across the sun's disc occurs, on an average, only once in about fifty-eight years; the occurrence next month is said to be about as rare, and as it is not noted generally in the astronomical almanacs we append the account, from the *Chicago Tribune*:

"For the space of two whole days and five hours, the planet Venus will be behind the sun as viewed from any part of the earth's surface. The planet then is on the further side of her orbit, and her relative motion is only 15½ minutes of arc daily, while at the instant of conjunction she will be within 48 seconds of arc of the sun's centre. The bright planetary spot will apparently touch the western edge of the sun at 11 o'clock, p.m., on the 6th of December, Chicago time, and emerge from behind the solar disc, on its eastern edge at four o'clock on the morning of the 9th. The phenomena of immersion and emersion will not be visible at Chicago, the sun being below our horizon on both occasions, but the two bodies may be seen through the telescope as almost in contact late in the afternoon of the 6th and early in the morning of the 9th of December. The emersion will be visible in Europe."

THE people of Sioux Falls City were furnished with a large supply of buffalo meat in an unexpected and extraordinary manner one night towards the close of last month. An enormous fire had been burning on the prairie on the Dacotah side of the river, all the afternoon, and approached near enough to the city to lighten its streets after dark at night. Groups of citizens in every direction stood watching the progress of the flames; when suddenly, from many came the cry: "The buffalo are crossing the river." The men speedily procured their rifles, and were ready for work by the time the herd was passing through the streets of the city. As they thundered along, crash, crash, went the rifles, causing a sudden halt

SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENTING.

MESSRS. W. JENNINGS & Co., have lately been experimenting in the smelting business and for that purpose have erected, in the Fifteenth Ward, temporary smelting works, and, so far, their efforts have been crowned with gratifying success. Their first attempt was made with a quantity of ore from the "Hidden Treasure" mine, in East Canyon, owned by Messrs. Jennings & Lee, and the result was some excellent pigs, composed of clear lead and silver, were cast. Those castings can be seen at the works, near Mr. Jennings' tannery. They have not been assayed but they indicate a large percentage of silver. Temporary works for experimenting in the manufacture of iron, from the native ore, are about to be erected also, by the same firm, by which the theory of making iron in Utah will be thoroughly tested and, as the members of the firm engaged in making the experiments are thoroughly up in the business, having had a long experience in the "old country," there is every reason to believe that their efforts will be as successful as they have been with other metals. The caution of the experimenters in first demonstrating the practicability of their theory on a small scale is business like and commendable, for after overcoming the difficulties that are to be encountered in making iron on a small scale, the manufacture of this important article can then be entered into to a large extent without fear of failure. Should the experiments now being made by Messrs. Jennings & Co., prove entirely satisfactory, of which there is but little room for doubt, we understand it is their intention to put up furnaces &c., on an extensive scale in a suitable location.

When the manufacture of iron can be said to have really commenced here, a new era will have begun to dawn upon Utah. As an evidence of this it is only necessary to point to the Island of Great Britain, which, although insignificant in point of dimensions, is one of the wealthiest nations in the world, and her greatest source of wealth has been in her coal and iron mines. Then what is there to

hinder Utah from becoming one of the wealthiest spots on the globe? Here are the elements of wealth strewn around us in profusion in various forms. We have coal, and an abundance of iron ore of the richest description; and in addition we have all the requisite muscle and skilled labor to develop these invaluable resources. All that is required then is the application of the necessary capital. If the success of the numerous enterprises with which Mr. Jennings has heretofore been connected is anything to judge from, there is little doubt but the matter above alluded to will prove another triumph of perseverance and energy. Capitalists, there is wealth in the iron business!

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM FRANCE.

THE news from the seat of war in today's telegraphic dispatches is conflicting, but of more than ordinary interest and importance. It will be seen that the army of the Loire is reported to have suffered serious reverses if not irretrievable discomfiture. If confirmed, this would seem almost to extinguish the last hope of France extricating herself from the fearful predicament into which the misfortunes of war have plunged her.

Other dispatches, however, are of a very different character. According to them, intelligence had been received in London that Generals Trochu and Ducrot had made successful sorties from Paris; the former on the north, and that he had broken the Prussian lines, driven them from all their positions, and routed them. Ducrot, with an army of a hundred thousand men, had also crossed the Marne and been completely successful in a movement against the Prussians. A big battle was also said to be going on to the west of the city.

The report, like many others that have been sent from the seat of war, may prove to be without foundation; but should it be authenticated by subsequent dispatches, its effect can hardly be overestimated. It will revive the spirits of the entire nation, and prove that Prussia is not yet completely invulnerable, as her course in the present war has almost indicated.

Trochu, by his firm, yet moderate course, in the management of affairs as military governor of Paris, has gained a large share of respect; but should this successful movement under his guidance, be confirmed, his fame will be world-wide, and he will be on the high road to supreme power in France.

A diversion in favor of the French arms is very much needed; it will relieve the monotony of the war, and, one would think, would almost be grateful even to the Prussians themselves. At any rate it will be an immense relief to France, and will revive the drooping courage of the whole people. It is premature, however, to speculate as to the effect of the present reported French successes; and a confirmation, and subsequent developments will be awaited with great interest by the friends and sympathizers on this side of the Atlantic, of both the Prussians and French.

NEW RELIGIOUS SECT IN AFRICA.

SOME time last spring or early in the summer, among the many visitors to this city was a man named Groenwoude, a native of Holland, who claimed to have constant communication with and revelation from God; and that his mission was to travel and preach through the world and gather the elect to South Africa. He represented that he had then been traveling several years, and had merely called here on his journey round the world. The man was apparently earnest and fervent, and the impression made upon those to whom he was introduced, during his short stay in this city, was that if a deluded, he was an honest, man.

The New York *Herald*, of the 23rd ult., contains a long article from the Cape Town, (South Africa) *Standard* of the 18th of last August; wholly devoted to the doings of a new religious sect, of which Groenwoude is the founder, located in or near Cape Town. The account is anything but flattering, but its information is admitted to be from one Schunke, a Swiss, who had apostatized from this new faith; and the experience of the Latter-day Saints, from the organization of their church in 1830 until the present time, has convinced them that apostates are not at all particular what they say; and that it is next to impossible for them to tell the truth. This South African sect may be guilty of every folly and excess as-

cribed to it, but something far more reliable in the way of evidence than the testimony of an apostate would be necessary to convince the people of Utah that such is the case.

The *Standard* says that the founder of the new faith, Groenwoude, came out from Holland as a pedler; married the daughter of a Dutch editor, sixteen years his senior; became missionary of the Dutch Reformed Church; became dissatisfied, seceded, and became an apostle to the heathen, had himself and wife rebaptized; and at last became a sect-founder, revelator and prophet.

The sect is generally styled Anabaptists, but they call themselves "Children of Jesus." None can join the party, says this man Schunke, without surrendering all they possess to the heads of the community, Groenwoude, the prophet, his wife, the prophetess, and two apostles, formerly rich merchants who have been induced to embrace the faith. The progress of the community, under such circumstances, so far as an increase in numbers is concerned, is very slow, and at the time the *Standard's* article was manufactured its entire strength was only a trifle over fifty. They live according to the communistic idea; and all their affairs, even to the number and quality of their meals, are directed by revelation, the method of obtaining the latter, as described by Schunke, being of the most ridiculous character. It is as follows:

Groenwoude, sitting at the table, would suddenly close his eyes hysterically, rap the floor with his heels, and this would be the signal for two of the brother prophets to lay him on his back. Then, while kicking and groaning, he would have a pencil and paper handed to him, on which he would write what he asserted was a communication from on high.

They profess to work no more after the manner of the world, and to take no thought about what they shall eat or drink, or wherewithal they shall be clothed; also that the female portion of their community bear and bring forth children without pain, and that the curse of Eve has been so far removed from them that they are no longer "servants to their husbands."

Some of the discipline of the church, according to the testimony of this apostate, is indecent in the highest degree. The process, of "killing the flesh," consists of exposing the persons of those going through the operation, in a state of complete nudity before all the others. No title or relationship is acknowledged but that of "brother" and "sister," "father" and "mother" being entirely ignored. Polygamy is practised among them. In consequence of their inattention to worldly matters, prosperity is by no means great, and the food of the members is of a poor quality.

These and other details, equally ridiculous, are furnished by Schunke; but they are so entirely in opposition to common sense and decency, that it is hard to believe that any community of respectable white folks, which they are said to be, could act so much like fools; and the whole narrative leads one inevitably to the conclusion that the informant of the *Standard*, apostate-like, is thoroughly unreliable, and is a "skunk" by nature as well as by name.

THE "REBELS" BAILED OUT.

THE writ of *habeas corpus* in the case of Messrs. Savage, Ottinger, Graham and others, who have been confined at Camp Douglas for ten days, ending last Saturday, for "rebellion," for having turned out with the men of their company in compliment to their juvenile martial band, having been refused, by the Judge temporarily presiding over the Third Judicial District Court, the bond demanded by the same dignitary, was given by the captives on Saturday, and, on the evening of that day, they were liberated. This morning we had the pleasure of again beholding, shaking hands and conversing with Messrs. Savage and Ottinger, and receiving from their lips an account of their "captivity," from which we are highly gratified to learn one fact,—namely, that the officers and soldiers at Camp Douglas have demonstrated, by their course towards our brethren, that they are entirely uninfluenced by prejudice against "Mormons," that they have no sympathy with the proceedings in which certain federal functionaries have made themselves supremely ridiculous; and that in their treatment of captives they have deported themselves like thorough gentlemen. We are satisfied that if this farce produce no other good result, it will be the means of creating and promoting the most cordial feelings between the people of this cit-