

DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - Nov 3, 1875.

THE GREAT FIRE AT VIRGINIA.

VIRGINIA, Nevada, is afflicted in a threefold manner just now—by typhoid fever, by water in its valuable mines, and almost total destruction by the terrible element of fire.

The present Fall season has been a very dry one, rain has been withheld unusually for the season of the year, and everything is as dry as timber, and therefore things combustible have been peculiarly subject to devastating destruction in the contingency of the presence of the consuming element of fire. This city and other cities in this Territory have been providentially preserved from conflagration, partly owing to their less dense accumulation of houses and other buildings. Our cities are large, streets wide, and buildings widely detached as a rule, and liberally interspersed with green trees. This may have had a preservative effect in a great degree, from the ravages of fire, though for business convenience and for some other economic purposes magnificent distances are not desirable in a city.

The dispatches received already relate tenders of assistance to the thousands of sufferers by this great calamity in Nevada, and there is no doubt that many other offers will be made. They are certainly needed by many of those who have been thus suddenly bereaved, at the approach of Winter, of house and home and property. We presume something will be done in Salt Lake and other parts of this Territory, in the same direction. It would be a gracious act of sympathy in the calamities of distant fellow citizens. The site of Virginia once constituted part of Utah, and on that account there is a sort of ancient domain and government relationship between the two sections. The time of need is the time to render assistance, and assistance in time of need is often the truest charity.

RELIEF FOR THE SUFFERERS.

THE community generally will be glad to learn that a meeting will be held in the City Hall to-morrow (Friday) evening, to take steps for rendering some assistance to the many sufferers by the great fire at Virginia, Nevada. The present has not been one of the most prosperous years hereabout, so far as business is concerned, but there has been an uncommonly good harvest nearly all over the Territory, there is plenty of bread and beef and potatoes, and considerable cash in the hands of portions of the community, enough to spare a little for unfortunate fellow-citizens of a neighboring State who have suddenly lost their all by an awful calamity, and it is to be hoped that the meeting called will be a well attended, spirited, and liberal one, so that help and comfort may be forwarded from this city to the people on the eastern slope of the Nevadas, who have been so heavily afflicted, and who are now in such imminent need of material assistance.

THE MORMON PROBLEM AGAIN—GREAT EXCITEMENT.

SOME of our distant contemporaries are beginning to be much exercised over the "Mormon problem" once more. The San Francisco Chronicle of Oct. 25 says—

"The latest advices from Salt Lake indicate the prospect of stirring events in the City of the Saints. * * * Brigham * * * is commanded to appear day after

to-morrow and show cause why he should not be punished for contempt. This implies a threat of imprisonment in case the money is not forthcoming. It is not easy to predict how the Saints will demean themselves if they are called upon to see their prophet haled to prison. Great excitement is said to prevail on the subject. Mormons are thronging into the city from the outlying settlements, and there are some who predict bloody scenes in case Brigham continues obstinate and the Court remains firm in enforcing its authority."

Now where is that great excitement? Where are those thronging "Mormons" from the outlying settlements? Where are those bloody scenes? One of the "Mormons," from a settlement outlying about 350 miles, has just entered our sanctum, for old acquaintance' sake, but he is not much of a throng, nor does he seem laboring under very great excitement. On the contrary, he is apparently as cool as a cucumber. However, "Great Excitement at Salt Lake" may pay to the extent of a few cents, when it appears as a sensational headline in a distant newspaper.

NO PERSECUTION.

IN that remarkable theological discourse, the author thereof declared that neither federal officials nor the people of the United States desired to persecute the people of this Territory, but only desired that crime should be punished. We are glad to hear it. Persecution should not be indulged in, but crime should be properly punished. But we are afraid that the gentleman does not clearly distinguish between the name and the thing named. Besides, did any persecutor ever confess himself such? Did Pharaoh? Did Herod? Paul said he persecuted the people of God, but his confession came after his conversion. If the little Associate Justice were to be converted, if such a thing is within the range of possibility, he might see a great deal of persecution where he does not see a bit now. Circumstances alter cases. A madman casts around him firebrands, arrows, and death, and says, "Am I not in sport?" He does not say he is persecuting anybody. O no. He will not confess that. He is only indulging in a little playfulness. It is sport to him, though death to his victims. He does not see that he is making his name infamous.

O wad some power the giffie gie us
To see ourselves as others see us!

Did Nero, or Caligula, or Bloody Queen Mary, or Alva, or Gessler, or any of the Spanish inquisitors, or any persecutors in any age, confess they were persecutors? O no. They were doing God service, or were executing the law, or doing some other good thing. And thus in all generations have persecutors been deluded, they have deceived themselves by not giving proper heed to the golden rule, to the still small voice of the Spirit of God. Tyrants are not in the habit of confessing tyranny. It is because of this that any person will declare that no sentiment of persecution exists in the minds of men, official or unofficial, against the Latter-day Saints. Such a declaration is a libel upon history, a falsification of the entire history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and is only made by men who are full of the spirit of persecution, from the crowns of their heads to the soles of their feet. In such declarations they may deceive themselves, like the ostrich when it plunges its head into the sand, but they can not deceive others.

GOOD OUT OF EVIL.

THE San Francisco Chronicle thus administers comfort and consolation to the Virginia people in the time of their affliction—

"So far as the first item of damage is concerned, though it has involved a prodigious destruction of property, there is every reason for believing that the enterprise and recuperative energies of the people of Virginia City will prove equal to the emergency, and that within ninety days but little traces of the

catastrophe will be visible. The work of rebuilding the burnt district will furnish employment to thousands of men. A new and better class of buildings will take the place of those that have been destroyed. An improved system of sewerage will be introduced, and Virginia City will present altogether a finer and more prosperous appearance than ever before."

Local and Other Matters.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, OCT. 23.

Not.—This is not exactly the morning to choose for a cozy walk under the shade of the trees.

Gone.—How the storm has cleared the air! The dusty haze is all gone, and one can see any distance through the bright transparent atmosphere.

The Mass Meeting.—The public should not forget the mass meeting at the City Hall to-night, to receive contributions to aid the Virginia sufferers.

Arrested.—In accordance with the order of Judge Boreman, Marshal Maxwell arrested President Young this afternoon, at the latter's residence, where he now remains in custody of the Marshal.

The Statistician, for October.—Published by L. P. McCarty, San Francisco. This number contains statistical tables concerning the former and present occupants of the thrones of the European nations, a rule to ascertain the day of the week of any given date, the value of currency when gold is at any given rate, revised Pacific Coast Distances, and a great variety of other useful statistical matter.

YOUNG vs. YOUNG.

The decision of the Court in the matter of the order requiring the defendant, Brigham Young, to show cause why he should not be punished for contempt, in not paying nine thousand five hundred dollars, and five hundred dollars per month, alimony *pendente lite*, as ordered in February last, was delivered in the Third District Court this morning, by Judge Boreman.

The Court had previously ordered that the defendant should appear personally in Court when the decision was rendered; but his counsel, Mr. Williams, stated that he wished to offer the affidavits of two physicians, sworn to this morning, stating that the defendant was scarcely able to be out of bed, and that it would be very dangerous for him to leave his room, and for that reason they asked that he be excused.

The Court said that it was the duty of the marshal to see that the defendant was in Court.

Mr. Williams did not so understand it, as this was an order to show cause, and not a warrant. Mr. McBride confirmed this statement of Mr. Williams.

The Court said that he signed a paper without examining it minutely, and he thought it was a warrant, and then said that if the parties desired it he would render his decision this morning, or he would wait until the defendant could appear in court, it made no difference to him.

Mr. Tilford, of counsel for plaintiff, said that after consultation with counsel they did not deem it necessary that the defendant should be personally present, and they desired that the opinion of the Court should be rendered.

Mr. Williams then offered the affidavits, but the Court said they were not necessary, and then proceeded to deliver his opinion. He said he approached the consideration of the question with much hesitation and solicitude, because the subject of the motion, prior to its hearing before him, had been twice ably and elaborately argued by counsel and passed upon once by Chief Justice McKean, and once by Chief Justice Lowe, the former ruling one way and the latter another.

The Court then gave a brief resume of the history of the case, giving the date of and the amount indicated by Chief Justice McKean, to be paid by defendant as alimony *pendente lite*, and for counsel fees; also referred to the subsequent proceedings, including the decision by

Chief Justice Lowe denying the motion for and discharging the rule ordering the defendant to appear in court and show cause why he should not be compelled by attachment to pay the amount ordered; and the application made to the court, on the 18th inst., by plaintiff's counsel to again order the defendant to show cause why the order of Judge McKean should not be enforced.

The Court then reviewed and commented at some length on the various points of law raised during the argument last Saturday, by the counsel on each side, and at the close spoke as follows—"The order in this case (granting alimony *pendente lite*) was not improperly made, and it stands unrevoked and not obeyed, and no good reason is given for its not being obeyed. I am asked to enforce it. A Court, in order to maintain its dignity, self-respect and authority, can not allow its orders to be repudiated, disregarded or denied. Were a Court in a condition not to be able to enforce its authority its failures in making efforts thereto might be proper; but when a Court can enforce its authority but flatly refuses so to do, it can not be long held in respect. A court is therefore bound to enforce its orders, and there is but one course for this Court to pursue, and that is to enforce the order. It is therefore the judgment of the Court that the defendant be imprisoned until the ninety-five hundred dollars and the costs of this suit are paid, or until released by the Court."

Mr. Hempstead, of defendant's counsel, gave notice of an appeal from the order of the Court, and asked the Court, as the statute was not explicit on the subject, to fix the amount of the bond and to stay the execution of the order.

Counsel for plaintiff objected, Mr. McBride saying that in its very nature, an order for alimony was an order for the support of a destitute person, and if that could be stayed by appeal the whole purpose of it would be lost, and they might as well be without the order.

Mr. Hempstead thought an appeal in his instance was a matter of right, and he was desirous of having the Court set a time for, and not to decide the matter until after argument.

The Court said, "If there were any doubts in my mind in regard to this matter I would be willing to hear arguments. But the question is settled, and has not been disputed in this argument, that there was no appeal from the original order for alimony *pendente lite*, and if there was no appeal from that order, there certainly can be no appeal from another order enforcing that order. I therefore decline to fix the amount of the bond."

Mr. Williams then raised the question as to what prison the defendant should be confined in. He said that in a previous case this respondent had been sent twenty-four hours to the penitentiary, but he respectfully submitted that a penitentiary was a place for felons, and not for them until after conviction. He called the attention of the Court to this matter, as he objected to the respondent being committed to the penitentiary.

The Court said that where no place was specified by statute, it would be proper for the prisoner to be in the care of the Marshal.

LARGE FIRE!

NINE BUILDINGS DESTROYED!!

Shortly after eight o'clock last night fire was discovered in the store of Louis Reggell, East Temple Street, two doors south of the White House. As soon as possible the fire alarm bells were rung. The Fire Brigade, with their apparatus, were soon on the ground, and several streams of water were soon playing upon the flames, from Pioneer steam engine No. 1 and one from the Wasatch hand engine. The building named and those contiguous to it being all mere shells, constructed of lumber, the devouring element, despite the manly energetic efforts of the brigade, gained rapidly, and the flames shot upward in living tongues, casting a lurid glare for miles around, the whole city being brilliantly illuminated, the light being powerfully reflected by the moist particles with which the atmosphere was filled. The whole picture was one of wild grandeur, that will not readily be forgotten by those who witnessed it.

To the northward of Reggell's the

flames caught the two story building owned by Mr. George Romney, the upper floor of which was rented by Mr. Podlech, proprietor of the White House, for sleeping apartments, and the lower portion by Mr. Hind as a barber shop. By the most herculean efforts the firemen prevented the fire going further in that direction, the hook and ladder men doing splendid work in tearing down most of the burning structure, thus saving the White House, which, at one time, was threatened with apparently inevitable destruction.

The next store south of Reggell's, Leo Hollander's jewelry store, caught and soon succumbed to the march of the devouring fire, which continued its southward course, consuming also, in a short time, the grocery store of J. G. James & Co., then the cigar store of Leebes & Co., then Dr. Taggart's drug store, then the cigar store of Julius Jordan, and next the beer saloon of H. Buhning. At this point the march of the flames seemed to be effectually checked; this was near eleven o'clock. The people were just congratulating themselves that the fire was at length subdued, and that the lively stables of Mark McKimmins were saved. Several parties walked through the stables, one of them assistant engineer H. Dinwoodey, and could see no evidences of fire, when there was a sudden flash and blaze, and it burst forth and soon took hold of the building, which, being a large wooden structure, was rapidly consumed, making a tremendous blaze. Simultaneous with the bursting out of the flames in the stable a couple of guards, Robert Patrick and William Salmon, observed two men rush out at the rear end and run westward, causing them to suspect that they had set fire to the building. The two men, who proved to be Sam Clark and a person named Thompson, were arrested and placed in jail, on suspicion of being incendiaries.

An adobe house at the rear of the stores, belonging to Mr. John Hawkins, blacksmith, was also almost destroyed, a small one story addition only escaping, while the two story part was all consumed, saving the walls.

Besides the stores that were kept in the burned buildings there were a number of business offices, among which were those of Dr. Calder, dentist; A. Miner, real estate agent; Folsom & Taylor, architects; Dr. Meik, homeopathist; Burns & Smedley, insurance agents, and the printing office of the *Utah Scandina-*

It is stated that Mark McKimmins' loss amounts to about \$8,000, insured \$4,000; that of Chislett Bros., who owned one of the buildings, about \$6,000, insured \$3,000; Mr. Mathieson about \$8,000, insured \$2,500; Dr. Taggart \$2,500; Mr. Romney's loss is probably over \$2,000, insured \$2,000. The loss of Mr. Hawkins will probably run up to about \$1,500.

Most of the goods that were in the buildings were saved, but many of them in a very damaged condition. Mr. Sangiovanni, liquor dealer, estimates his loss at about \$700. Mr. Podlech, of the White House, whose goods were removed, must have been damaged in the vicinity of \$2,000, and the property of the proprietors of several adjacent buildings, who had their goods removed, because of their premises being in imminent danger, were also damaged more or less, making a total loss probably, by the whole affair, of about \$30,000.

While the fire was progressing a heavy rain storm prevailed, which changed latterly to a heavy snow fall, and the whole destruction of property was accomplished in the short space of about four and a half hours. The origin of the fire, which commenced in the upper story of Reggell's store, is as yet a mystery, but there is a strong suspicion that it was the work of an incendiary, the building being untenanted at the time.

We do not vouch for the absolute correctness of the figures stating the alleged damage, but merely give them as based on the best sources of information at hand, and as being approximate.

FROM SATURDAY'S DAILY, OCT. 30.

At Work.—The committee appointed at the meeting called by the Mayor to take steps to collect relief for the Virginia City sufferers, have been actively engaged soliciting contributions to-day for that purpose.