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## THE SPRING FLOODS.

The weather has been quite warm during the last two weeks, the effect of which has been to dissolve the snow in the canyons and on the mountains so rapidly that the streams are exceedingly high and overflowing their banks, inundating the low lands to no considerable extent. Much damage to bridges, roads and mills has already been sustained, and should the weather continue warm, for which the prospects are fair, the work of destruction will continue to increase, and many thousands of acres of farming land in this valley will be overflowed and the crops destroyed, for which there is no remedy. The Jordan is higher than it has been before within the last eight years, and in places has more the appearance of a lake than a stream, particularly at the foot of South Temple St.

So far as heard from, there has been more damage done to the mills, bridges, dams and other improvements on Big Canyon creek, than on any other stream flowing into the Jordan, through Great Salt Lake Valley, every dam and bridge from the mouth of the canyon to the county road, crossing that stream near the Paper Mill, having been swept away, and the roads badly damaged, as also many fields between the County and State road, over and through which the waters have flowed. Both of Gov. Young's grist mills have ceased operations, the dam of the upper one having been washed out, and the pond at the lower mill having been filled up with mud and gravel, brought down by the force of the flood. No estimate of the amount of damage thus far sustained in this county has been made, but it will amount to several thousand dollars, and unless the weather becomes a little cooler before many days, the amount will be greatly increased.

The Ogden and Weber rivers at Ogden city are reported to be very high, and traveling north of that city, in the direction of Box Elder, has been entirely suspended by the operations of the flood, which has washed away bridges, and otherwise damaged the road, so that it has been rendered impassable.

The high water at Provo is doing considerable damage to the farming lands, and it is feared that, if it continues to increase, the river will break over its banks and form a new channel through the lower part of the city. The citizens are reported to be taking active measures to prevent such a disastrous occurrence.

All the bridges on Hobbie creek have been washed away, including the one on Main Street in the city of Springville, at which point the foaming element carried off a blacksmith's shop. The grist mill, owned by Messrs. Johnson and Miller, is rendered useless by back water. Our latest advices say that a saw mill and several other valuable buildings are considered in imminent danger.

The Spanish Fork river is reported to be out of its banks, and overflowing the road from bluff to bluff, at Spanish Fork city, to the depth of from two to three feet. Other streams in Utah county are reported to be discharging water at a rapid rate, but no particular damage is reported to have been done to the roads, bridges and mills beyond Spanish Fork.

**REMARKABLE SNOW SLIDE.**—A singular snow slide recently occurred in Provo canyon, near Cold Springs. A huge pile of snow, it appears, came sliding down the south side of the canyon with such tremendous force and velocity that it passed over the river, and continued sliding up the hill something like ten rods, having on its top, it is estimated, at least twenty cords of wood, which will be quite convenient for wood haulers when the canyon again becomes accessible.

## Meeting Houses.

In most of the cities, towns and villages of Deseret, at an early day after their commencement, organization or settlement, arrangements for building one or more meeting-houses or public halls for the public assemblages of the people, in religious and other capacities, have been inaugurated; but, of all the improvements that have been commenced of as much importance to the prosperity, comfort and convenience of a well-organized and civilly constituted community, as a good, substantial, commodious Meeting-house or Hall, where public meetings can be held when occasion requires, none have, seemingly, been attended with so many difficulties and hindrances as the erection of the buildings designed for those purposes. How many of those commenced years ago are yet in an unfinished state we know not, but, so far as our knowledge extends, some half dozen of those commenced before the "Utah war," as the military expedition sent hither by the late administration is generally called, have not progressed very rapidly since that threatening, recession storm passed over, and are not yet finished, and the indications are that more than one of them will not be the present season.

The work on the meeting-house at Bountiful, as commonly called, in Davis county, which has been in building several years, is, as reported, being pushed forward with great rapidity, and will soon be finished. It is represented as being one of the most commodious, tastefully designed, and substantially built edifices in the State; and although its completion has been so long delayed, it will, hereafter, represent the industry, thrift and perseverance of the citizens of the place, and be a monument of the patience and endurance of those who have superintended the work and aided most in its construction.

At Farmington, the county seat of Davis county, a meeting-house is being built of stone, a more suitable material for such buildings than adobies, which are generally used in these valleys, in the absence of rock, brick, and other substances less subject to decay when exposed to the action of water, to which, notwithstanding the dryness of the climate, buildings in this country are greatly exposed, especially when such storms occur as have visited every part of the State within the last six months. The foundation of the house was laid last season and the walls reared, and it is understood that it is the intention to push the work forward to completion in the course of the coming summer, which will doubtless be done, as the ability of the people, so far as means is concerned, is not problematical; and they would not like to be considered wanting in energy in matters of public improvement, and of interest to themselves individually and collectively.

The people of Kaysville, so called, the most northern settlement in Davis county of any considerable importance, commenced, like those of other places, to build a house for public worship many years ago, but, before the walls were entirely completed they were levelled to the ground by one of those hurricanes of common occurrence in these mountains, since which, no great efforts have been made to recommence the work and move it forward, as they are certainly able to do; for the citizens of that ward are reputed, at least, some of them, to be among the most wealthy in the State. The foundation of the building is firm and substantial, and if the people will rise up and say "let us build," they can soon reconstruct the walls of the contemplated edifice, and finish it in the most superb style, and when done be sure to prize it more highly than they do now their flocks and herds which would not, probably, be diminished by the operation.

In Brigham city, Box Elder county, a Meeting-house was commenced, soon after a settlement was formed there, of extensive dimensions, and after the walls were put up, and the work of finishing considerably advanced, it was so much damaged in the fall of 1860 by the tornado which swept over the northern counties, that the walls had to be taken down and rebuilt, which was done in a more substantial manner; and the house, said to be second in size to but one or two in the State, is reported in a fair way to be completed at an early day. The first settlers of Box Elder county were not wealthy, and the increase of their earthly substance since then, has not

been great, but by diligence, perseverance and economy they have progressed with their meeting-house, and other improvements, more rapidly than some others more favorably situated.

In most of the wards in this city, particularly in the more populous and wealthy, houses for meeting, or congregating purposes, of larger size and more substantial and suitable structure than the Ward school-houses, have long been in contemplation, but, in only two Wards—the thirteenth and fourteenth—have halls of that kind been built as yet, and one of those is not a very substantial building and will have to be partially rebuilt before it will be of sufficient strength for durability.

A commencement was made last summer to build a Meeting or Ward House in the seventh Ward, but not much progress was made further than digging out the foundation and hauling the rock for the basement story. It is understood, however, that the work will be vigorously prosecuted this season, and, if no unlooked-for obstacle be presented to cause a hindrance, its completion may be expected before next Christmas.

The people of several other Wards are talking about building similar institutions, but whether anything further will be done than to discuss preliminaries we are not prepared to state.

The dwellers in Provo, the second city in the State in point of population, commenced to build a place for worship such as was required for their use, by their position and circumstances many years since; but, for reasons that might be explained, the walls of the building are not yet ready for the roof, and for two or three years previous to last summer, the concern remained in statu quo, the basement story only having been constructed.

At Nephi, Juab county, a large Meeting-house was commenced last season, and from information recently received, it gives pleasure to announce that every possible arrangement has been made to complete the building as quickly as the work can be performed, the materials having been provided and mostly on the ground, for finishing it in good style. With the superintendent, T. B. Foote, Esq., we have been long intimately acquainted and if obstacles be presented which he cannot overcome their magnitude may be considered greater than those commonly interposed to retard the progress of works of a public nature, which, in no country are more numerous than they are in this, and often of that kind which require more than ordinary diligence, energy, and perseverance to surmount or overcome.

The building of Meeting houses, or the making of improvements of a public nature, is not so impoverishing an operation as many seem to suppose; and when nothing of the kind occurs in passing through a city or village of any considerable size, there is not that thrift to be seen in any department of business as is manifest in places where such improvements are not wholly contemplated.

## Deseret Musical Association.

About a year ago, we noticed in the News the institution of classes in President Young's school room for the purpose of teaching the Tonic Sol Fah Method of singing, with the view, as we then mentioned, of extending this method of singing among the young and rising generation throughout the settlements of Utah. From that time the classes have, with the exception of short intervals, on particular occasions, been open summer and winter, and during that period about three hundred pupils have been in regular attendance. We have not been able to avail ourselves of the invitation to visit the school room during the tuition and practice of the classes till last evening, when we dropped in for a short time and was very much gratified to hear so many young voices singing harmoniously and apparently with much facility. We have often noticed, from our office, the youngsters passing to and fro to their classes, and occasionally as they have returned from practice they have carried from the school-room to the evening breezes a few strains of music, and were seemingly cheerful enough, but we had no idea that this singing had such a hold upon the young till we paid a personal visit. They take hold with earnestness; and in attendance, are constantly on the increase.

We learned from Mr. Calder that two classes have met twice every week since the

commencement—pupils being classified according to age, force of voice and acquisitions. In addition to the young, a goodly number of persons of riper years, and of both sexes, have also joined the classes for the purpose of adopting this new method of singing. The teacher and the taught have had every encouragement and assistance from President Young, and no drawbacks or hindrances were mentioned to us by way of apology for any thing, which is certainly gratifying, for nearly every new movement or institution comes before the public loaded with apologies, and many seldom ever do more than peep into existence and die away.

Having attained to a position warranting organization for more extended practice and usefulness, upwards of a hundred of the advanced pupils met in the school-room on Friday evening last and organized themselves under the name of the Deseret Musical Association. Governor Young was unanimously chosen Honorary President of the Association, Mr. David O. Calder, Vice-President and Conductor; Mr. Jos. A. Young, Secretary; Mr. Frederick A. H. F. Mitchell, Treasurer, Mr. John S. Lewis, Librarian, and five other members were elected to act as a provisional committee for the purpose of drafting laws for the Association, and otherwise assisting in its development.

It has given us great pleasure to know that our young folks have shown such readiness to respond to the invitation first made to them to join these classes, and though we are in no ways enthusiastic nor ambitious that the Deseret Musical Association should attain to the highest pinnacle of fame, yet it is very satisfactory to see that there is a growing taste for music among us, and we will be as gratified to notice the progress of this new Musical Association in the future as we have been pleased to notice thus far the efforts with the young in the Tonic Sol Fah Method.

Though unconnected with this Association, we cannot pass from a notice of musicians among us without paying a tribute justly due to Prof. C. J. Thomas for his unremitting labors, during last fall and winter, with the theatrical orchestra, and now we see him, with pleasure, conductor of the Tabernacle Choir. Mr. Thomas has already given satisfactory evidence of his high attainments as a composer and conductor; and, as a teacher, we are told that he is eminently successful. He enjoys the hearty good wishes and co-operation of the profession, and we shall be glad to know that during the close of the Theatre our young folks, musically inclined, will keep the professor as busily engaged as he has been heretofore.

## What is to be Done with the Negroes?

By the operations of the war, the Free States are in a fair way to be overrun with negroes, and the question is being asked by many, what is to be done with them, as they will have to be disposed of in some way, but where they are to be placed and how cared for is a problem not easy of solution even by Abolitionists, and it becomes more complicated as time progresses. Many propositions have been put forth by the editorial fraternity, but none of them meet with general favor. The Northwestern States or most of them do not wish to increase the number of their colored population, and the Middle and Eastern States have as many now as they know what to do with and are not anxious to have any more come among them.

In relation to the free negro question, a St. Louis paper of recent date says:

"It is one of the most difficult questions of the time to determine what is to be done with the free negroes now overrunning the country. The remedy is at hand. Let the slaves remain where they are, but the free negro must have a home where they can be fed, clad and cared for. Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio need free blacks for servants. New York, New Jersey and the New England States have never had their share of this population. Yet for servants they are needed everywhere, for the real benefit of the blacks. Iowa could, out of this population, readily employ twenty thousand colored men instead of their laborers which have been taken from her fields by the war. Societies should be formed for the relief and transportation of blacks to Iowa, where the black man has rights to be duly respected, where he can be a witness, and where he will be admitted to vote whenever the people learn his mild, genial nature."

FOUND, a shawl, which has been left at this office for the owner.