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DESERET NEWS PHONES.

Persons desiring to communicate by
telephone with any department of the
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this establishment a great deal of annoy-
ance if they will take time to notice these
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For the Chief Editor's office, 743.
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A FALSEHOOD DENIED.

As Senator Thomas Kearns has seen
fit to make a scurrilous public attack
on me in the United States Senate, in
which he repeated gross falsehoods
that had been manufactured by his
hiredlings, I hereby deny that I, at any
time or place, made false or other pre-
tenses to President Cleveland concern-
ing my family relations, or that I made
any pledges or promises as to my fu-
ture conduct. The amnesty about
which I was questioned before the Sen-
ate committee was obtained by the ef-
forts of a few personal friends, but I
did not attempt to enter into a de-
tailed explanation concerning it. Mr.
Kearns has displayed his malice
against me and has added one more ex-
hibition of stupidity to his already
swollen record. C. W. PENROSE.

THE MURDER OF THE PROPHET

The letter we publish below will be
of interest to the Latter-day Saints
and perhaps also to many persons
who are not believers in "Mormonism."
It may have been published before,
but we do not remember seeing it in
print. It is only a corroboration of
statements that were made immedi-
ately after the assassination of the
Prophet and Patriarch Joseph and
Hyrum Smith, but there are details
which make those statements more
clear and emphatic. The original let-
ter was obtained by two Elders, from
the editor of the paper it was sent to
who did not think it of sufficient im-
portance to publish, but gave it to
them, saying that it might be of in-
terest to "Mormons," but he had no
place for it except in the waste basket.
Brother Oldroyd, of Fountain Green,
had possession of the letter for a num-
ber of years, having obtained it from
his grandfather, who received it from
the Elders mentioned, over fifty years
ago. President G. H. Brimhall, of the
Brigham Young University, obtained a
copy of the letter, from which we
have printed the accompanying com-
munication. The evidence of its au-
thenticity is established:

"Joseph Smith Killed 1844, Carthage,
Oct. 14, 1844."
"Mr. Editor:

"As your paper has quite a circula-
tion in this congressional district, I
hope you will find room in your paper
for these lines. My reason for writ-
ing it is to let citizens of this and the
adjoining counties know who they are
voting for when they are voting for
"Tom Sharp of Warsaw." I have been
tending court here for several years
past, and I find that there are some
that calculate to cast their votes for
Sharp. I will now give my reasons for
voting against him to our friends.

"I came from Iowa to Warsaw, Illi-
nois, three weeks before the murder
of Joseph and Hyrum Smith. I was a
young man not over twenty years old,
and had not much experience in life.
Sharp and some others persuaded me
to call my name Boggs, a son of Gov-
ernor Boggs, of Missouri. I agreed to
do so, and then Sharp circulated all
kinds of mean tales about the
Mormons. He often said in my pres-
ence that there was a young man that
Jo Smith had his father shot, which
had a great influence to raise the pre-
judices the people against the "Mor-
mons." He also persuaded me to join
the company that was gathering there
to meet the Governor's troops at Car-
thage, which I did.

"The time came when we had to
march to Carthage. We marched about
six or eight miles, and met a man with
orders from the Governor that we were
not wanted, and to return to our homes.
This word enraged Capt. Sharp, as he
was called, very much. He said all
might go home that night, but he
would go to Carthage if he had to
go alone. He said Smith ought to be
killed, and if he could raise men it
should be done before night; he was in
Jail and now was the time. He then
asked how many were in the company
that would go with him to Carthage to
commit this disgraceful deed. Clark
Burr, Saug Redman and Hoakes Mid-
dleton were the first to join Sharp. He
then asked if the rest were all now-
adays. At that about fifty or sixty went
over to him, and I went with the
crowd. Jack Davis said he was not
coward, but he would not go in such a
company in a thing of that kind. He
and several others went back. We then
organized and moved for Carthage, as he
had gone on to see if there were any
there who would oppose us.

"When we got to the timber a man
came to us on a large white horse. He
brought with him a note to Sharp, stat-
ing that he would not meet with any
opposition. This paper was signed by
William A. Smith, the man that had
charge of the company which the Gov-
ernor had left at Carthage to protect
the Smiths till the day of their trial.

Sharp sent this man back to know if
the guard at the jail would oppose him.
The Captain of the guard sent him a
note, stating that their guns were all
loaded with blank cartridges, and to
fear no danger. This paper was signed
E. Voorhies.

"We then marched to the jail, overran
the guard, rushed in the jail. The door
of the room was closed by the Smiths
so hard that we could not enter. One
of our men shot through the door and a
man fell back to the floor, I suppose
dead, as he never made any attempt to
rise. The door flew open; I saw two
men in the room. We shot at them
several times. At length one of them
fell on the floor. The other jumped out
of the window. I ran down the stairs
to see where he was. When I got to
him, he was trying to get up.
He appeared stunned by the fall. I
struck him on the face and said, 'Old Jo,
damn you, where are you now?' I then
set him up against the well curb and
went away from him. He and some
other persons shot him. Whether it was
Sharp or not I never could exactly
learn, but I presume it was, as his gun
was empty. We then left the jail. Then
we got a few rods from the jail, Sharp
ordered all the guns loaded that were
empty, and he loaded his.

"I never can forget the frightened
family that was in the jail. To think
a set of men would go in the house
where there were two women and sev-
eral little helpless children, and com-
mit the wilful murder. It is too bad to
think of it, and I wish I could never
think of it. Clark said before we got
to the jail he wished he could let the
jailer know what they were going to do.
Sharp said they were Jack-Mormons,
and it made no difference. I was led in
this mean act by Sharp and others at
Warsaw. I can only wish they had given
me good advice, in place of that
unhappy man ever since, when I hear it
mentioned.

"When I went to Smith, after he fell
out of the window, I dropped a paper
five out of my hand and left it there. It
belonged to a man by the name of
Phelps, as I understand by some of our
gangs, though he was not one of our
gangs. While we were in the timber he
man on the outside horse brought a letter
to Sharp, how to manage when he came
to the jail, and stated that there were
four men in the jail and to spare none
of them; that they were all four Mor-
mons. This letter was signed A. Simp-
son. I could give the names of several
more, but I will not do it at present.

"Yours truly, I will give my true name,
"W. WEBB."

"N. B.—I hope you will not fail to
publish these lines. I would send you
the money to pay for the job, but I am
a good ways from home and my means
limited. I live in the south part of Mis-
souri."
W. WEBB.

"We certify that this is a true copy of
the original manuscript."
"ALEX. MCGEEN."
"JAMES WARRHAM."

ANOTHER KEARNS GEM.

Our readers will please pardon us for
referring again to the moribund politi-
cian who signalled his departure from
official life by abusing and maligning
the "Mormon" leaders and the people
of the State which honored him, but an
incident occurred previous to his elec-
tion, which ought to be put in print
as an addition to the collection of his
literary gems. At the time when he
was so eager to obtain the influence
that would come from "Mormon" votes,
he was as full of adulation over the vir-
tues of "Mormon" leaders as he is now
of gall and bitterness against them
because he failed to obtain the aid of
that influence.

Kearns was in Cache valley, "on the
stamp," at the time we mention, and
his fulsome praise of the "Mormon"
leaders and pioneers made a lasting im-
pression on the minds of some of his
hearers. Those who relate the story
vouch for its accuracy, being present
on the occasion and not dependent upon
the testimony of others. In his eulogy
of the "Mormon" authorities, he
spoke of their work as pioneers in the
settlement of Utah's valleys, and ex-
claimed: "If it had not been for those
great men and their labors, these ex-
treme streams that now flow down from
the mountains to water your land and
bring forth crops, would still be run-
ning into the Gulf of Mexico!"

This speech ought to be embalmed
and exhibited between his celebrated
orations about "The beautiful island of
Alaska float like a gem in the buzzum
of the Arctic sea," and that in which he
declared that "Gold is now so plentiful
that it is flown" into the lap of every
firebrand. These are but a few glitter-
ing specimens of the ex-Senator's pro-
found geographical knowledge and
glowing oratory. They serve, however,
as exhibitions of the fitness of the
speaker for a place among the greatest
statesmen of the country. His retire-
ment is regarded as a needed relief to
the entire people of the State of Utah.

RUSSIAN CONDITIONS.

The news from Russia is far from
satisfactory. Instead of showing any
abatement of the popular storm, the
indications are that it is gaining in
strength and fury. At home the par-
ty that endeavors to modify autocracy
by assassination, is operating almost
in the open daylight, proclaiming in
public places its deeds of terror. From
the seat of war come the rumors of an
other serious defeat of Kirovpatkin.
The discontent is thereby being nur-
mented, and the government seems to
be helpless in the pending crisis.

To the outsiders generally, and to a
great many Russians who never have
lost their faith in "the little father,"
the czar appears as the weak instru-
ment in the hands of corrupt officials.
Censure is therefore often directed
against these, and they are picked off
by assassins as a warning to conferees
to repent. But this view is not ad-
mitted to be correct by all. Lately ar-
ticles have appeared in the English
press, by Russians, showing that the
responsibility really rests upon the
czar. According to these authors, if
some "are unclean monsters—grand
ducal harpies—who rob the people of
their substance, and break the rec-
ords of vice and crime without draw-
ing down punishment or provoking
censure, he who tolerates, shields, and
befriends them shares the odium of
their misdeeds and participates in
their risks. If the czar robs Finland
of her liberties, despoils Armenian
schools and churches, suppresses the
nationality of the Poles, and keeps the
Russians more miserable than any for-
eign element of our population, we may
discuss his motives, but we can not
question his responsibility." So these
critics argue.

"Only of late has it become known,"
we are told, "that Nicholas II at the
head of his grand ducal satellites has
long been his own adviser and his own
government, and from that moment
the lines of his portrait gained in
sharpness. For he now stands forth as
the author of the present sanguinary
war, the marplot of the military staff,
and the main obstacle to the peace to
which he has so often publicly done
lip-worship."

It is, of course, admitted that the
unhappy ruler is very much influenc-
ed by his cousins, uncles, and other re-
latives, who are constantly surrounding
him with a morally unhealthy atmos-
phere, but, ultimately, the responsibility
for listening to such counselors
rests with himself.

We fear this is but too true. And
in that fact the worst feature of the
present situation is to be found. Were
the czar not actually indifferent to the
dishonesty of his myrmidons, and still
more to the sufferings of the people, he
would break loose from the baneful
surroundings, and build a new regime
upon the love and confidence of a lib-
erated nation. And he would be strong
in the midst of the devoted masses,
while he must remain a weakling, as
long as he is hated by the people and
supported only by selfish interests. Has
the history of France, of Great Britain
or of Denmark, no lesson for him?

While Russia is in the throes of a
life-and-death struggle the Russian
church proves itself as helpless as the
civil government. The latest specu-
lar performance of that organization is
the public proclamation of a curse upon
Father Gapon, and Tolstol. The cere-
mony was ordered in every church
throughout Russia and the country
fairly rang with anathemas. The priest
selected to perform the rite of damna-
tion began by reciting a long list of
religious and political criminals whom
the church had marked in this man-
ner in times past, pausing after each
name to reiterate the words, "Let him
be damned." After many thousand
names had been pronounced the con-
gregation was electrified by hearing the
names of Tolstol and Gapon. The "Let
him be damned" following these names
was most pronounced, and the choir
sang, "Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us."

A country where the political and re-
ligious status is such as indicated by
the daily reports of events there, is ripe
for revolution. There seems to be no
other means of salvation. And if those
in power refuse to set the wheel of
progress revolving, the masses are sure
to do so, and generally without regard
to what obstacles are in the way.

"Apres moi le deluge"—T. K.

The reeling drunkard gathers no
moss.

Henceforth alongside Single Speech
Hamilton will sit Single Speech Kearns.

Having licked Corbett a second time
the great Dane is entitled to be called
Lord Nelson.

In some of the Amsterdam schools
slippers are now kept on hand for chil-
dren who arrive with wet feet.

A London dispatch says that the
Japanese and Russians are fighting on
a large scale. What's the make?

Secretary Hay has assured the Hay-
tian minister that the United States
wants neither Hayti nor San Domingo.

The inauguration may give Mr.
Roosevelt a new sensation but noth-
ing else about the presidential office
can.

Gorky's family and friends are exas-
perated at the treatment accorded him.
It isn't such as to become wildly en-
thusiastic over.

Those votes for U. S. Senator in the
Missouri legislature might just as well
be straw votes so far as accomplishing
results is concerned.

Senator Kearns says that there is a
monarchy in Utah. That is not so, but
his great grievance is that he cannot
be the power behind a throne.

An Arizona rough rider has present-
ed the President with a cow horn cane.
Now some military admirer should
present him with a coehorn.

Hetty Green has been reading "The
Simple Life." She knows quite as much
about it as Pastor Wagner, for she has
led it in the midst of opulence.

Martial law reigns in Poland and ter-
ror reigns in Russia. The czar's gov-
ernment seems to be changing from
an autocracy to a bi-partisan affair.

Secret service officials have ruined
the counterfeiters' trade. Could not the
State well afford to employ them to
ruin the forgers' and bounty frauds
dealers' trade?

A New York physician declares that
greenbacks are infested with germs.
Most people would be perfectly willing
to take the germs if they could only get
the greenbacks.

A St. Louis minister claims that Mon-
day is the hardest day in the week for
a person to be good. Probably because
of the reaction from the strenuousness
of the day before.

The "News" did not receive the
courtesy of an advance copy of Sen-
ator Kearns' speech, so was only able
to publish the A. P. condensation of it.
Still enough is as good as a feast.

The last session of the Fifty-eighth
Congress enacted over a hundred laws
affecting the general public and passed
a thousand private acts. This would go
to show that even national legislation
is a private snap.

Earl Percy, British under secretary
for foreign affairs, has regretfully in-
formed the house of commons that
Great Britain's effort to "butt in"
in Cuban reciprocity has come to naught
because of the attitude of the United
States regarding the most favored na-
tion clause. The moral of the incident
is, Don't try to butt in where you don't
belong.

The delay of the farmers of Northern
Utah to perfect negotiations with the

Government, to secure Utah's propor-
tion of funds under the arid lands act
is foolish enough, but it is eclipsed in
folly by the proposition in the Legisla-
ture, to abolish the Utah reclamation
commission, which is an absolute nec-
essity to the safe and efficient co-op-
eration of the people of this State with
the government officials. What is the
matter with those "Solons?"

The Boston Herald quotes expert au-
thority for the statement that there's
nothing better for a seasonable and
healthful drink, than hot skim milk,
not lukewarm sour milk, but boiling
hot fresh skim milk, the cheapest and
the best of drinks on a cold day, not
only for the child on its way to school,
but for the workman, the automobilist,
the policeman, the reporter—in fact,
for anybody needing a nourishing stimu-
lant to withstand the cold. Besides,
it's cheap.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Red Book for March presents a
fine set of photographic art studies
from Paris, and over a dozen cleverly
written short stories. Among these are,
"The Lovers of Clochette," by Eliza-
beth Stan Chatfield; "A Personally
Conducted Courtship," by Una Hudson,
and "Her Royal Highness," by Con-
stance Morris. Not the least attractive
feature of this publication is the cover
design.—The Red Book Corporation, 155
State St., Chicago.

Articles of timely interest, and a
wealth of fiction, are noticeable in the
Century Magazine for March. How
the Russian gibbular was cracked open
by the Japanese, before the food sup-
plies were nearly exhausted, is ex-
plained by Richard Barry, an eye-wit-
ness, in "The New Siege Warfare at
Port Arthur." David Bell Macgowan,
who will be remembered as the author
of a recent article on "The Russian
Lourdes," and last month of "The
Conflict in Finland," now writes of
"The Outlook for Reform in Russia."
"A Wonder-worker of Science," by Wil-
liam S. Harwood, is the first of two
authoritative articles on the achieve-
ments of Luther Burbank, the Cali-
fornia producer of the thornless cactus
and other plant novelties, which are
shown pictorially. The celebration in
January of the centennial of the Phila-
delphia Academy of Fine Arts renders
timely a profusely illustrated paper by
Harrison S. Morse, describing that
city's great contribution to American
art; and Joseph Pennell, in a group of
new etchings, shows how the "Sky-
scrapers of New York" impress upon
an American artist who returns to find
that the metropolis has been mar-
velously transformed during his absence
in London. Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin
contributes the first part of an idyllic
novellette called "Rose of the River,"
the colored frontispiece of the magazine
being George Wright's ideal of her her-
oine, a village belle, Alice Hogan Rice
carries forward the fortunes of her new
hero, "Sandy," and other stories are
contributed by Maud Wilder Goodwin,
Anne Warner, Anne Douglas Sedgwick,
Caroline Abbott Stanley, L. Frank Took-
er and Claudette Johns.—Frank Took-
er and Claudette Johns.—Frank Took-
er and Claudette Johns.

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JOSEPH MURPHY AS DAN O'HARA,
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With the great Forge and Race scenes.

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JOSEPH MURPHY AS LARRY DON-
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PRICES—25c to \$1.00. Matinee—25c to
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Week

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"What Happened to Jones."

"A Laugh in Every Line."

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Dr. Carl E. Dufft, from Metropolitan
Opera House, New York.

AMERICAN GREATEST BASSO.

Mr. W. C. E. Seebacher.....Pianist
Miss Elizabeth Blum.....Soprano
Full program will be announced later.
Season ticket holders entitled to re-
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