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THE NEWS.

By the Eastern mail which arrived on Monday evening, we received New York and other eastern dates to May 19, and St. Joseph to May 21.

The most exciting item of news in the States was the arrival of the Japanese Embassy at Washington, on May 14, consisting of four diplomatic personages with a few servants, and were received and escorted to the Willard House with much pomp and parade. On the 16th, the embassy visited the Department of State, and were received by Secretary Cass preliminary to any official presentation to the President on the following day. They were particularly observant of etiquette.

Another matter of considerable interest was the defalcation of Mr. Fowler, postmaster of New York, who has sloped to the tune of \$155,000. Mr. John A. Dix is his successor, Mr. Samuel F. Butterworth, to whom the office was first tendered, having declined its acceptance. Mr. William Caldwell, deputy postmaster and treasurer of the office, with several other officials are suspected of complicity in the matter.

The Covode committee in Congress appear to have plenty of business on hand, and new developments are constantly being made, and according to the testimony that has been given before said committee, about \$40,000 were expended in bribing members to get the English bill, so called, passed by Congress, one member receiving from \$10,000 to \$15,000 for his vote.

The drouth in New England was very severe, and the source of much trouble among the people. Cattle in some places had to be driven many miles to water; fires were raging in many of the forests, doing a vast amount of damage, and there was not moisture enough in the ground to cause the seed sown and planted by the husbandman to germinate.

Nebraska city was nearly destroyed by fire on the 12th of May. At Hannibal, Mo. there was an extensive fire on the 11th, and also one at Lexington. The same day the steamer R. F. Sass was snagged and sunk near Memphis, Tenn.; there was also a tremendous flood at Baltimore, and two or three vessels were sunk or stranded on the lakes.

We did not receive full files of our exchanges and no account of the proceedings of the Chicago convention after the adjournment on the evening of the 16th of May. If reports of correspondents were true, there was not the most perfect harmony existing in that body; and there was more than a little wire-pulling among expectants and their friends to secure the nomination.

EASTERN MAIL.—The mail from St. Joseph arrived at Hanks' station, 12 miles east of the city on Friday evening last, as reported, but, owing to the breaking of the carriage or some other cause, it was not brought in till Monday at 5 1-2 p. m. There was more than the usual amount of mail matter, most of which was as wet as water could make it, though not badly damaged, excepting the books, which will have to be rebound.

No Express from the West.

There had been no news received from the west, up to six o'clock last evening, later than we published last week. There is unquestionably trouble enough in that direction and many are anxiously looking for the arrival of the next express from Diamond Springs, the furthest point west to which it could proceed with safety at latest dates.

INDIANS.—On Wednesday and Thursday last, there were an unusual number of Indians about the city and, on inquiry, we ascertained that they were from Uinta valley and were a part of White-eyes' band, who had come in to have a talk with the Superintendent and get some presents. We have been informed that they obtained a few blankets and went away very well satisfied.

Improvements in Davis County.

On a tour we had occasion to make last week through Davis county, not to resuscitate, for we are not aware that our physical or mental powers have been particularly impaired by confinement or by too close application to business in the discharge of the various duties devolving upon us, but to see after a few matters that required our personal attention, we were pleased to see the improvements that have been and are being made this season in most of the settlements; they are highly creditable to those immediately interested in their progression and completion and who, as a matter of course, designed and are making the improvements for their own good and that of others, as well as for the general prosperity and advancement of their respective neighborhoods.

New houses and barns have been built or are in progress of erection and additions and emendations are being made to others, evincing a taste for comfort and convenience not universally manifested by the inhabitants of a new country.

There are seemingly a few people scattered through that county, as in other portions of the Territory, who do not know from experience the superiority of shingles for roofing, to dirt and gravel. However it is not proof positive that the owners of those primitive houses that occasionally meet the eye, have no taste nor ambition because they dwell under dirt roofs. There may be causes for their apparent slothfulness that passers by know not, and without knowledge it is impossible to judge correctly in relation to such matters.—In some instances, by the force of circumstances, men are compelled to suffer inconveniences and endure privations against their will, but there are many who have no ambition, nor taste, seemingly, more than the beasts of the field, and would as lief live all their lifetime in a hovel as in a palace, and sooner, if they had it to build, even when the means were at their command.

The fruit trees in most of the settlements look very well, not having suffered as much from the effects of the cold blighting winter, as in Great Salt Lake County, but the people there have not planted out as many trees for fruit, shade or ornament as they have here; in truth there ought to be at least one hundred fold more of those emblems of life growing there, than there are now.

The stone fences in Farmington and Centerville, precincts attracted our attention and brought fresh to mind many scenes of youthful days. They are preferable to ditches, mud walls, or poles, though in some instances, those fences in Davis were not laid up by workmen acquainted with the business, but by those who had but faint ideas of straight lines and right angles, and no very clear conceptions of neatness in architectural structure; otherwise they would have made walls more pleasing to the eye and at the same time more durable than some of those structures will be.

Among other things of a public nature, the roads in that county are receiving some attention; and if the work of improvement continues in that respect, as it has commenced this spring, the Territorial road through that county will, in the course of a few years, be quite passable; but it needs straitening in many places.

In passing through Davis, as also through other portions of the Territory, the scrutinizing traveler cannot but be impressed with the importance and necessity of improvement in the construction of houses made of adobies, especially those of the larger size and more than one story high, to prevent them from cracking and requiring props in some instances to keep them from falling. When built as they should be, adobie houses will stand as well as those made of other materials; but they are not very safe nor valuable when they are built without reference to strength and durability.

The new stone house at Bountiful, built by Mr. Daniel Carter, is a neat, substantial, good looking building, and will resist the action of water and the corroding tooth of time better than those built of wood or unburnt bricks; and where building stone can be easily obtained, buildings can be made of rock at as little expense, as of any other material used in this country.

Having said thus much about the enterprize and thrift manifested by our friends in the agricultural county of Davis, where the crops have generally been good and are now looking

first rate, we cannot well close without expressing a hope that, while other things are receiving due attention, the large and commodious meeting house at Bountiful, not yet completed, will not be forgotten; and that the good people at Freedom will "arise and build" a splendid house on the foundation that was laid there years ago. A structure should be raised there that would be an ornament to the place and an index to the character and enterprize of the citizens; and the next time we have occasion to pass that way, we shall be pleased if on our return we can report that the houses to which we have referred have been, or that they will shortly thereafter, from appearances, be completed.

ENDED AT LAST.

There has been some kind of a court or inquisition in session, day after day, at the Farnham House in this city, for a long time, involving some mystery, and although it seemed to be exclusively confined in its operation, so far as the public were able to discover, to government officials, some considerable interest was manifested occasionally by those who witnessed the outward pomp and parade that attended the concern, to ascertain what was up, and what had or had not transpired to cause such a lengthened investigation, in which all connected with the Indian department and many others were evidently particularly interested.

Contrary to the expectations of some with whom we had conversed on the subject, and who professed to be better informed in relation to the matters depending than the public generally, and who were of the opinion that the court by whatever name it was or should be known, would continue till the close of the present administration, without premonition it adjourned without day on Wednesday last.

It is understood, though we will not vouch for the truth of the report, that Judge Cradlebaugh, when in Washington, preferred some charges against Dr. Forney, relating to his doings as Superintendent of Indian Affairs in this Territory, either because he had squandered or embezzled too much or not enough of the Government funds, since he has been the incumbent of that office, and that Surveyor General Stambaugh and Major Montgomery, who have been conducting the court of inquiry at Farnham's for six weeks or two months past, were appointed commissioners, either by the President, the Secretary of the Department or the chief of the Indian Bureau, after the fashion of the day, to take testimony in the case and make report thereon in due time.

How many witnesses were examined, and what the nature of the evidence that was elicited we do not know. It must, of course, be very voluminous, from the length of time occupied in taking it by several first rate clerks and reporters, whether valuable or not.

The expense incurred in the investigation must have been great, and if Dr. Forney shall be found guilty of what may have been alleged against him and has the costs to pay, as do men when unsuccessful in suits at law, it will take the greater part of his spare change to square up, unless he has been a greater adept at swindling the government than supposed, for if there are not those handling government funds, who can beat him badly at that business, we are much mistaken in our opinion.

What are the Indian Agents Doing?

Provo City, June 8, 1860.

ED. NEWS.—There are many among the people who are inquiring what the Superintendent of Indian Affairs and the other Agents employed by the Federal Government at a heavy outlay, both of salary and perquisites, are doing to preserve peaceable relations with the red men.

We hear of hostile acts on the northern and also on the southern routes to California, while the middle route, and the western part of the Territory, has come in for a large share of Indian troubles.

What have the Indian Agents done and what are they doing to preserve and promote peaceable relations with the Indians in the Territory? Many of your readers are anxious to know.

INQUIRER.

On the receipt of the foregoing we thought of filing it away and passing it over in silence, as it must be known to all that there has been very little done for nearly a year by the Indian agents for Utah to promote friendly relations with or improve the condition of the Indian tribes in this Territory, and along the lines of travel passing through it from the Missouri

river to the Pacific, and nothing whatever since Superintendent Forney went east last fall. However, on mature reflection, we concluded to treat "Inquirer" civilly, and answer his questions for the benefit of those who may not know, if any there be, by saying that the Indian agents of the United States in Utah Territory are not required by the Department to attend to the duties legitimately belonging to them, and their offices severally are sinecures, *defacto*, consequently they are doing nothing to appease the anger of the savages which has been aroused by the many perfidious and flagitious acts perpetrated by those who have, in their intercourse with them, sought their degradation and debasement, rather than their elevation in the scale of being, and, in too many instances, have sought their total extinguishment by shooting them whenever they had a chance.

As things are now being managed, there is no probability that there will be any safety in passing hence to California, or to Western Utah this season, nor until a treaty of peace and amity is made and concluded with the hostile bands and tribes that now infest the roads, and steal and murder whenever opportunity presents. There is not, to our knowledge, any effort being made nor suggested to bring about a better order of things, not even on the mail and express route, and the presumption is that both the mail and express between Salt Lake City and California will soon be entirely abandoned. Dr. Forney has been making arrangements to return to Washington, and, according to report, the Indian agents are employed by the U. S. Marshal in taking the census. The presence of the few troops that have been ordered out on one route, a short distance towards where the Indians are the most troublesome, will of course, as all well know who are acquainted with the character of the Indians, only tend to promote hostilities and keep the red men on the alert, constantly acting on the offensive, thereby rendering traveling through their country more insecure than it was before there were any soldiers along the road.

Some months since in referring to the Indian agencies, as managed in Utah, we considerably said that they were a "humbug," and we have had no occasion since to change our opinion. We do not say that the Superintendent and agents are in fault, for they may be strictly carrying out the instructions they have received from the Department.

G. S. L. County Court.

By reference to the notice published in another column, it will be seen that there will be an adjourned session of the County Court for Great Salt Lake County held at the Court House on Thursday the 21st inst., at which time all persons feeling themselves aggrieved by having their property subject to taxation assessed too high, will do well to make complaint, that all errors of the kind may be corrected before the tax lists are completed, and placed in the hands of the collector.

That some errors may have been made by the assessor is not improbable, but if those interested do not take the necessary steps to have all things made right, as the law prescribes, they ought never to complain afterwards.

MORE SHOWERS.—Showers are becoming quite frequent in this part of the Territory and artificial irrigation has not as yet been very generally resorted to by those tilling the soil and if, as for some time past, there should continue to be a good fall of rain once in six or eight days, wheat in most locations will mature without being otherwise watered.

There was a beautiful shower on Friday night last, and several smaller showers have passed over other portions of the valley since, and from the appearance of the storm clouds on the mountains, a considerable amount of water must have fallen there in places during the week.

A NOTED DAY.—The 23d of April, the day of the meeting of the Charleston convention, is the date on which Brazil was discovered, Warren Hastings was acquitted, the battle of Ratisbon was fought between the Austrians and the French, the Charter of Connecticut was granted by Charles II, the first number of "The Tatler" was published by Steele, Addison and Swift. It is the anniversary of the death of Cervantes, Baxter, Tickell, Wordsworth, and Shakspeare, and of the birth day of Douglas.