

DESERET NEWS

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - MAY 8, 1878.

A FRIGHTFUL OUTRAGE.

A complicated case in the District Court at San Jose, Cal., was brought to an unexpected and sudden termination on the 25th inst. An action was brought by R. Ruhl, guardian of Thomas B. Shaw, an alleged insane person, to set aside a deed of conveyance, made by Shaw, in favor of his stepfather, O. L. Crandall, for half a block on the Alameda. A number of witnesses were examined who gave the most positive evidence of Shaw's insanity, among whom were the examining physicians and the judge who committed Shaw to the insane asylum.

For the defense many witnesses who had known Shaw for a long time, testified that they had never seen any signs of insanity in the young man. But Shaw, very unexpectedly, made his appearance in court, was subjected to a rigid cross examination, proved himself intelligent and capable, related the whole transaction of the conveyance, which was made of his own free will, and declared that the suit was brought without his desire or authority. His sanity was so clear that the counsel for the plaintiff moved for a dismissal of the suit, and Crandall's success and Shaw's vindication were celebrated in the evening by a salute of fifty guns at the home of the former.

It is only a short time since that a young lady named Dickey, who had been incarcerated in an Insane Asylum in the East for several years, proved her sanity in open court and her release was ordered. It appears that the imprisonment of persons of sound mind among idiots and mad people, can be effected in this country by the aid of two or three unprincipled men holding a physician's diploma. This is a horrible condition of affairs and one that calls for a radical change.

The idea that a sane person whose property is coveted by some heartless relative, can be banished from the world, deprived of liberty and made to associate with the demented, is frightful to contemplate, and the laws in regard to the care and custody of insane persons should be made of such a rigid character that outrages of this kind would be impossible.

If Thomas B. Shaw has been made the subject of such a villainous scheme, the perpetrators of the infamy ought to be brought to justice, and the severest legal penalties inflicted upon relatives, doctors, judges, and all who took part in the diabolical conspiracy.

"TROY TO THE PACIFIC."

WE have received two copies of *The Northern Budget*, published at Troy, N. Y., containing some editorial correspondence on a trip from Troy to the Pacific. Of course the editor, Mr. MacArthur, had to call at the City of the Saints, and to give his views of Utah and the "Mormons," from observations on the spot. His letters, dated Salt Lake, March 8th, contain a good description of the country from Denver to the capital of Utah, and the gentleman's remarks on Salt Lake City and our people and institutions are made with evident fairness and an absence of prejudice and bigotry pleasing to witness.

When he tells what he has seen, he is consistent and generally correct. But like all travelers across the continent, he has heard startling yarns about the terrible "Mormons," and, as we believe, without designing to misrepresent, has sandwiched in between slices of palatable fact, a highly spiced piece or two of fiction, which does not improve his well told story. For instance, he speaks of the Morrisite affair on the Weber, in 1862, when, according to the account he gives, 50 or 60 of the Morrisites were killed, and the rest, whom he says

were mostly unarmed, and consisting of "90 able bodied men and 300 old men, women and children," were captured and condemned, "and those able to work marched with ball and chain and set to work on the Mormon Temple at Salt Lake," until, in 1863, Governor Harding "ordered their pardon!" He goes on to say that the lesson learned by these Morrisites "has rendered all apostasy to the authority of the Mormon leaders both dangerous and impossible!"

It is a pity that as intelligent a gentleman as Mr. MacArthur appears to be, could permit himself to be stuffed with such nonsense as this, and should be so unwise as to publish it for truth in connection with an account of things he has seen in his travels. A little inquiry would have shown him the entire incorrectness of the story with which he was beguiled, and saved him from the stupid deductions which he appends to his narration.

He also talks about the family affairs of "the famous Joe Townsend," of the Townsend House, whom he "Joos" repeatedly, conveying the idea of long and perfect familiarity with the gentleman and his household. "Uncle James" would be amused to find himself designated as "Joe" and "Joseph," and to learn some particulars about his private affairs which would doubtless be as new to him as to readers of the *Northern Budget*.

We advise Mr. MacArthur, and other gentlemen who take a trip over the country, when they write for publication an account of their peregrinations to confine their descriptions to that which comes under their own observation, and leave to the romancers the yarns and bits of scandal which may fall from the lips of slander-mongers. His paper will be a more respectable and reliable *Budget*, if he excludes from it those fishy items that may creep out from the many budgets of falsehood which any one can find on a trip "From Troy to the Pacific."

LET IT ALONE.

WE are in receipt of a letter from a friend in Millard County, asking advice in regard to his accepting an agency for the sale of a work called *Western Wilds*, published by a firm in Chicago. The writer says he knows the publishers to be reliable, but is in doubt concerning the author of the work, whose name is J. H. Beadle.

Accompanying the letter is a circular containing extracts from the book, with cuts illustrative of some of the scenes described therein. One extract from this circular ought to be enough to decide as to the "reliability" of the work, and the name of the author ought to be enough to condemn it in the eyes of every person having at heart the true interests of Utah and its people. This is the extract:

"The Mormon doctrine that 'it is right to lie for the good of the Church' has made deceit an institution. It can scarcely be said that any disgrace attaches to perjury."

Every "Mormon" knows that there is no such doctrine in the Church, but that lying is denounced and condemned in its written standards of faith and practice, as well as by the teachings of its leading authorities. It will be perceived that Beadle quotes the saying as though it was a "Mormon" aphorism. This shows that the author of *Western Wilds* practices himself the sin which he ascribes to the "Mormons," and that he considers "no disgrace attaches to perjury" when used to misrepresent and vilify the people of Utah. For years he has never hesitated at any kind of a falsehood, when opportunity has offered for stirring up prejudice against the "Mormons" and their religious principles.

One cause of his bitter hostility added to his natural repugnance to anything good and divine, is the castigation he received a few years ago in northern Utah, for his inexcusable abuse of a gentleman and his family. In a libellous sheet which he edited for a short time at Corinne, he took occasion to vilify the gentleman alluded to and drag his private affairs before the public in a most infamous manner, adding

falsehood to scurrility. The gentleman's son, a sturdy boy of about fifteen or sixteen years of age, took the libeller by the nape of the neck and the most convenient part of his pantaloons, and after shaking him a little, reversed his position without regard to the damage that might ensue to his hat. The lad was fined for the assault but never regretted the action. Since that time Beadle's head has been turned, so to speak, on everything "Mormon," and he never loses a chance to attack and misrepresent it.

The falsehoods told in that part of his book which relates to Utah, forming one of its principal features, vitiate the whole work and render it entirely unreliable. Therefore no "Mormon" can conscientiously assist in circulating *Western Wilds*, and neither our friend in Millard County nor any other person who has any scruples about aiding in the publication of sensational, pernicious and trashy literature, should have anything to do with the work in question. It may be ranked among those yellow covered doses of moral poison known by the name of Beadle's Dime Novels. Let it alone.

THE DISTRESS IN WALES.

BY request of Elder John Parry, we publish the following portions of a letter written by Brother John D. Evans of Cwmbach, now living at Pontypridd, South Wales, as it shows something of the terrible suffering endured by the poor in that part of the country. A good work is being done in raising means to help out the Welsh saints who are in affliction, and it is to be hoped that their fellow countrymen in Utah will amply respond to their thrilling appeal for help.

"With much sorrow I pen you the following few lines. Our health as a family is moderate, nothing to boast of, but our temporal circumstance are very poor indeed. The trade has fled from this country, to where, I am not prepared to say. But this much I know, that hundreds of mortals are falling daily to the ground, owing to starvation. The collieries do not work on an average more than eight days a month; this is a fact. The poor workman is also pressed so much in his occupation that even when he does work, he can not earn but two shillings a day. Provisions are very high indeed. Flour is 22s. per hundred, butter 1s. 3d. per lb., cheese 9d. per lb., sugar 5d. per lb., and all others are very high indeed, and this great war in the east is now the means of rising everything. Clothing is also very dear. A suit of clothes for an adult will cost £5 Boys' suits about £3, and everything is comparatively beyond the reach of a poor man. Masons and carpenters are doing first rate here, getting upwards of six to seven shillings a day, and that day only consists of eight or nine hours. But poor colliers, laborers, etc., are gone to the dogs. No one seems to care for their service. There are thousands of men in Wales without employment, and subsequently their doom is starvation.

Perhaps you would like to know about myself, how I am situated. Dear brother, I will do my best to picture it out to you, but the very thought of it makes me to shudder. O, my heart is nearly breaking to hear my darling little ones crying out, 'Give me a little bread, father, ere I die,' and at the same time I have none to give them. O dear, dear, could I but suffice their wants I would not care for myself. My wife is also suffering most bitterly, and so much suffering has caused her a great deal of sickness. You may think I am not as diligent and as watchful as I ought to be with my means, but oh! dear brother, let not such thoughts enter your heart, for truly a father who loves his children would not stand the bitter crying of his wife and little ones, if he could but stop it. Everywhere is closed on us because we are not able to pay what we owe, not because we are dishonest, but because we have not the means so to do. To let you know all, my wife and children have had to walk the streets barefooted and with an empty stomach, and have had to beg from door to door, we have also been threatened many times to be bundled out of our house. As for our furniture, that is gone long ago, and our beds are the cold stones

and planks. Oh! my heart fails me to write such distressing news. The pen cannot describe my situation, and many hundreds as well.

Scores of people are living by eating grais and treacle mixed together, with a drop of cold water to quench their thirst. Children are to be seen in the streets with hardly sufficient clothing on to cover their nakedness, and sorry I am to say that my children are numbered among them. We have had to move from Cwmbach owing to trade being so dull, and we are no better off after moving down to Pontypridd. Lizzie my daughter emigrated last spring, being sent for by a friend of mine, who was so kind as to release a little burden from off my shoulders. I would to my Creator that some one would again open their hearts to send for one or two more ere they will starve before my very eyes. They are quite willing to go, and proud of having the opportunity. They are willing to work for them and do anything that would be required of their hands if it would be possible for them to do it.

THE COMMUNE IN AMERICA.

THERE is pretty good evidence that an extensive Communistic organization is in existence in this country, extending to all the most important cities of the United States. In several large centres of trade the members of the society are drilled and armed, and guns and ammunition are kept stored at convenient places ready for use when occasion requires. The principal storehouse is said to be Pittsburgh. San Francisco has the most thorough and efficient organization, and the first outbreak, when a contemplated uprising takes place, is expected to occur in that city.

A great many foreigners are enrolled in the ranks of the American Commune—Frenchmen, Poles, Germans, Hungarians, Scandinavians and Irish, all enemies to the existing conditions of society, and imbued with the spirit that led to the horrors of the brief reign of the Paris Commune.

The great conflict between labor and capital in this country has yet to come. The riots of last July were merely indications of the power and intentions of the Communists, and mere shadows of coming events. The reckless spirits who have fled from European countries where it was not safe for them to remain, take advantage of the pressure of the times, the lack of labor, the lowness of wages, the envy of the thrifless when looking upon the success of industry, and the hatred of the criminal classes for all that represents authority, and sow the seeds of revolution and violence in a well prepared soil.

Communism now means something more than socialistic theories and impossible schemes for equality in all things. It signifies an absolute leveling by means of physical force. It means the destruction of the rights of property; the subversion of civil government; the pulling down of institutions that are the fruits of labor gathered by the hands of capital. It means rapine, pillage, destruction. It means fire, bloodshed and anarchy.

Every State in the Union, and every municipality of magnitude should look closely after this secret combination. It is not a phantom, it is a reality; it is not simply a threat, it is a power, willing, and nearly ready to strike. New York, Chicago, Pittsburg, Cincinnati and San Francisco are its strongholds, and constant communication is kept up between the leaders of the conspiracy. It is an enemy that cannot be grappled by sentiment, nor conquered by reason. It must be seized by the might of legitimate authority and destroyed by the grasp of the law, even if it takes the military arm to assist the civil arm of local governments in the necessary work of its repression and extinction. Reform is needed sadly in public affairs. People have the right to plan for the redress of popular grievances. Liberty of thought and speech is a fundamental principle of American political life. But Communism goes beyond all legitimate means for the rectification of national wrongs, and is the embodiment of mobocracy, robbery, murder, and social chaos.

It is the enemy of every vested right, and while pretending to establish freedom, is itself the greatest of all tyrants. Therefore it is the foe of the law-abiding, and of all who have any material interest in the country, and as the destroyer of capital, is also the foe of the working man, and should be opposed by every man and woman who desires the prosperity of the nation, and the welfare of universal humanity.

THE TREATY OF SAN STEFANO.

THE consequences of the treaty of San Stefano, if it should be sustained by the Powers, or go into effect through any cause, apart from its effects on British interests in the East would be the following changes of territory and inhabitants: Servia would gain 3,280 English square miles and 216,000 inhabitants, of whom 92,000 are Mussulmans. Montenegro would gain 1,160 square miles and 45,000 inhabitants, of whom one-third are Mussulmans. Allowing for the exchange of Bessarabia against the Dobrukscha, Roumania would gain 3,980 square miles and 194,000 inhabitants, of whom 100,000 are Mussulmans. New Bulgaria would consist of 51,240 square miles, and contain 3,822,000 inhabitants, of whom 1,430,000 are Moslems; of the latter, 800,000 are Turks and Circassians, and the remainder Mahomedan Bulgarians. The total loss of Turkey in Europe alone would therefore be nearly 60,000 square miles of territory, with 4,277,000 inhabitants; and 1,637,000 Mussulmans would pass under Christian domination.

All this would result from a war waged by a gentle Emperor who only wished to protect the Christians against Turkish cruelty, and had no idea of territorial changes, or Russian aggrandizement, or anything else but objects of benevolence.

There is little prospect, however, that the treaty will ever be worth more than the paper or parchment on which it is inscribed, except as a relic of history and a specimen of disinterested Imperial championship of Christianity as held by the Greek Church.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A disastrous fire at San Francisco on Wednesday last destroyed a large acid works on the Bruno Road. The total loss was \$20,000. The fire is supposed to have originated from the spontaneous combustion of the nitre stored on the premises.

Massachusetts has a State debt of \$33,000,000, which is annually increasing. The lawmakers of the State are engaged about one-half the year in planning for the expenditure of public funds, so there is a prospect of a further accumulation of indebtedness in an increasing ratio.

For \$165,000 Herr Krupp, the famous gun maker, will furnish any nation that wants to play at soldiering with a little implement weighing 124 tons, using 500 pounds of powder at one charge, and throwing a shot that will crash through three feet of solid iron. Pretty plaything, isn't it?

Dime novel reading is to be charged with inciting to another crime. A respectable boy 13 years old, in Forsyth county, North Carolina, deliberately shot his cousin, with a revolver, three times in the chest. He had no quarrel with his victim, but had read novels till he had a craving for adventure. The wounded boy died next evening after suffering horribly.

This is the way they do things in Texas. A negro having seduced away, a farmer's pretty blonde daughter, a charge was trumped up so as to cause his arrest. He was taken while going for a license to marry the girl. She was found in his miserable cabin and avowed her unalterable affection for him. He was chained up in a cabin, when fifteen men, on the 10th inst., having removed the guard, fired into the negro fully two pounds of buckshot. If this is not murder, what is it to be called? But the assassins go free, without effort for their capture.