



ELIAS SMITH...EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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THE FOURTH OF JULY.

While a spirit of war and contention, of strife and animosity, of anger, hatred and death prevails in the States, and more or less throughout the American continent, and over the face of the whole earth, with the exception of a small portion thereof in the "tops of the mountains" or "everlasting hills," the people of Utah, who are enjoying peace, deem it to be their duty and privilege to celebrate, in an appropriate manner, the approaching anniversary of American Independence. Having, in consequence of their attachment to the principles of civil and religious liberty been considered unworthy of a dwelling or resting place in the States of their nativity and among their brethren and kindred, professedly of the same political faith, and being ejected from the lands of their former inheritance, and compelled for safety to seek refuge in the secluded valleys of the Rocky Mountains, where they have been abundantly blessed by the Almighty, the "Maker of heaven and earth," and are now enjoying a degree of liberty and peace unknown to their fathers and brothers, kindred and former friends, who are now warring with each other and seeking to shed each the other's blood, and to raze to the ground the beautiful "Temple of Liberty" erected by their forefathers and cemented with their blood, the Saints in the Territory of Utah, feel like expressing their firm adherence to the principles of "truth and liberty," for which they have ever contended, by proper demonstrations on the Fourth of July, the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of the Independence of the North American States, and arrangements have been and are being made for that purpose in most, if not all, of the cities, towns and villages in the Territory.

In this city, a meeting of some of the principal citizens was held at the City Hall, on Thursday, the 20th instant, when the matter was taken under consideration, and the following were appointed a committee to make the necessary arrangements for a suitable and appropriate demonstration on that occasion, viz: Hon. Edward Hunter, Hon. E. Smith, Hon. A.O. Smoot, Col. J. C. Little, Capt. L. W. Hardy, Hon. Jeter Clinton, Col. R.T. Burton, Hon. A.H. Raleigh and Hon. E. F. Sheets.

The committee at once entered upon the discharge of the duties required of them, and met on Friday evening, at the City Hall, when it was, upon due consideration, resolved as being very appropriate to the occasion to give the juvenile portion of the community an opportunity of participating extensively in the demonstration, and to assign to them a conspicuous place in the procession; and also to have the agricultural, manufacturing, mechanical and other industrial interests of Deseret properly represented on that occasion, thereby indicating, in celebrating the national birth-day, the sources from which the people expect to derive and maintain their social independence.

The Committee having much to do in arranging matters and things for the celebration, and all of them being otherwise constantly engaged in the discharge of various public duties, the superintendency of the arrangements for the procession by the farmers, mechanics, artisans, etc., has been assigned to the President and Board of Directors of the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society, and that of arranging for the juvenile display to Professor William Eddington; and, from the alacrity with which each and all entered upon their respective duties, it is confidently expected that a creditable exhibition will be made, although the time intervening between this and the day of celebration is too limited to admit of making as extensive and complete arrangements for the procession or any other matter connected

with the usual and proposed ceremonies on the "glorious Fourth."

It has not been designed to make the display unnecessarily expensive, but a proper respect for taste, ornament and decoration will of course be observed, when it can be done by a little exertion with the means within the reach of every individual and without any outlay whatever.

The programme of the doings and ceremonies has not been fully prepared, but the procession, which will have previously been formed on Union Square, will take up the line of march through some of the principal streets to the Bowery, at precisely nine o'clock; and it is expected that all things will be in perfect readiness at the time, that no confusion will ensue.

The New Postage Law.

There has been much said of late and considerable anxiety manifested in relation to the new postage arrangements under the act passed by Congress last winter, which will be in force from and after the first day of July—Monday next, some being of the opinion that it will operate very injuriously to the inhabitants of the Great Basin, and others that it will not, the whole matter depending upon the proper construction of the law.

The question is not, in our opinion, very difficult of solution, if the law, supposed to affect the matter, is to be construed literally and according to the common usage of the English language and no forced construction be placed upon it by interested parties, as is often the case, where there is any ambiguity in the phraseology of statutes, or other documents that may be in question, referring to matters under consideration, affecting the rights of parties.

The section of the new law regulating the rates of postage between the States and territories on the Pacific, and those East of the Rocky Mountains, upon which a diversity of opinion exists, reads as follows:

Sec. 14. And be it further enacted, That the act of third of March, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, entitled "An act further to amend the act entitled 'An act to reduce and modify the rates of postage in the United States, and for other purposes,' passed March third, eighteen hundred and fifty-one, be, and the same is hereby, so modified as to require the ten-cent rate of postage to be prepaid on letters conveyed in the mail from any point in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains to any State or territory on the Pacific, and from any State or territory on the Pacific, to any point in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. And all dropleters shall be prepaid by postage stamps."

Under this section it is contended by some, who probably have never traveled the entire distance across the continent, and perhaps have not duly considered the geographical location and relative position of the Great Basin, in which Utah and Nevada Territories are situated, that letters sent from hence to any point eastward in the United States, should be charged with ten cents postage, and that on letters sent hither from the States and territories eastward, the same amount should be paid, while others are firmly of the opinion that the present postage of three cents is all that can lawfully be required.

We have carefully examined the matter and have not been enabled to discover from the phraseology of the law, how the ten-cent rate opinion can be deduced. The points designated in the law are definite and not subject to dispute. If there are any doubts as to the location of Utah, it can be determined beyond all controversy by asking a few simple questions, which almost any school boy can readily answer.

The law requires "the ten-cent rate of postage to be prepaid on letters conveyed in the mail from any point in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains, to any State or territory on the Pacific" and vice versa. Now the only thing to be determined is the geographical position of the Great Basin, in which Utah is situated. Is it on the Pacific? No. Is it on the Pacific Slope? Certainly not. What intervenes between the waters flowing into the Basin from those flowing into the Pacific? A range of the high, lofty, and with few exceptions, impassable Rocky Mountains. Is Utah on the east of the mountains indicated? Surely not, for a low range of said mountains intervenes between the waters of the Valley and those flowing to the Gulf. How then, we ask, can ten cents be required for conveying a letter from Fort Laramie, which is on the "east of the Rocky Mountains," to Salt Lake city, which is not in "any State or

territory on the Pacific." Not by law, for it will not bear that construction, for Utah Territory is not included in either of the designated sections of country to and from which if a letter be conveyed, ten cents shall be charged for its transmission. On the other hand it would most certainly be unlawful to charge ten cents for conveying a letter to Laramie or to any point in that direction from Salt Lake city, because it would not be mailed in nor conveyed from "any State or territory on the Pacific" the part or portion of the United States to and from which ten cents per letter is required for conveying from points "east of the Rocky Mountains."

From the facts thus ascertained, it cannot be otherwise than apparent to all, that the ten-cent arrangement is entirely inapplicable to Utah Territory, for it is neither "on the Pacific" nor "east of the Rocky Mountains." It may be alleged, as is often the case, when law will not bear a desired construction, that such was the intention of the law-makers, but it is the letter of the law that is in force and binding upon those who administer it; and we hazard nothing in asserting that the very definite and precise wording of the law in question will not authorize nor justify any Postmaster either in Utah or Nevada, in requiring or charging ten cents for conveying a letter not exceeding a half ounce in weight in the mail of the United States, to any State or territory "east of the Rocky Mountains" neither to "any State or territory on the Pacific."

If the law should be considered to mean east and west of the Rocky Mountains, it would not alter the case in the least so far as Utah would be concerned, for the Territory is neither on one side of those mountains nor on the other. It is neither on the Atlantic nor the Pacific Slope, but on the top of "the Rocky Mountains," and under the new law, as well as the old, the citizens have an unquestionable right to have their letters conveyed in the mails throughout the mountains and down either slope by pre-paying the lawful postage of three cents, without being subjected to the unjust operation of a statute enacted for other and specific locations.

Australian News.

Dates from Melbourne of March 9th, received at San Francisco, announce that a great discovery had been made at Ballarat in the amalgamation of gold, by which every particle of precious metal is extracted from quartz. It was thought that it would work a complete revolution in quartz mining.

On the morning of March 4th, a meteoric stone fell between Ballarat and Creswick, which left an excavation twelve yards in width. It was very brilliant, and seen from various points in New South Wales.

The native war in New Zealand was still progressing and another skirmish had taken place, in which several British officers were killed and wounded. The New Zealand journals give the gloomiest picture of affairs. Notwithstanding the recent victories of the British, the Maories were not awed into submission. Defeat had only rendered them more cautious, but not less active in hostilities. It is said to be a guerrilla struggle, the end of which may be far in the future. The Maories hover on the skirts of the troops and scour and plunder the whole country, rendering it unsafe for any one to stir beyond the entrenchments of New Plymouth. An outdoor encampment of the whole of the volunteers of Victoria (some 6,000 or 8,000, or more) was to be formed on the Werribee, on the 30th of March. Rifles, artillery and cavalry were ordered out. The encampment was to last four days, during which time the volunteers were to be subject to strict military discipline.

The town of Ballarat had been visited by fire and one third part of the business portion of it destroyed.

The number of schedules in insolvency, filed in the colony of Victoria during the year 1860, was, as reported by the Melbourne News, one thousand, three hundred and seventy-three—in the proportion of about five per day. The amount of insolvency was nearly eighteen dollars per head for each man, woman and child in the colony—the result of the gold discovery, as alleged.

COUNTY COURT.—A special session of the County Court for this county will be held at the Court House, on Friday next—the 28th inst., commencing at 10 o'clock a.m.

The Seventies Hall of Science.

The Seventies throughout the Territory and those abroad among the nations will learn with satisfaction that Prest. Brigham Young—the elected Trustee in Trust, of the Hall of Science—has now everything in a forward state for the immediate erection of that edifice.

The general interest of the Saints in all public buildings in the city, induced us to take a drive yesterday with General H. S. Eldridge, to visit the new brick-yard and other places now engaged by the Seventies, in the prosecution of this object.

A new brick yard has been opened in a field adjoining President Young's lower mill, where good clay has been obtained. Mr. Rumell was there preparing to fire a kiln of thirty-five thousand bricks, for the first experiment in burning, and there were nearly one hundred thousand mors piled up in the field, ready for the next kiln. There is no scarcity of clay at that place, and very excellent sand is obtained on the bench east of the city and easily hauled to the yard.

We sincerely wish success to the enterprise, and hope that the day is not far distant when burned brick will be a successful, marketable commodity everywhere throughout the Territory.

We understood from General Eldridge that a large amount of the \$25,00 shares had been taken up, and that the citizens of this county particularly, had freely responded to their promises, and that there was no apprehension of the work being hindered by any backwardness on the part of shareholders.

In such an undertaking, on which it is expected that probably a hundred men will be employed during most of the season, it is easy to comprehend the demands that will be made on the Trustee in Trust, and to foresee the general advantages of keeping his hands full. We do no more, therefore, than our duty in drawing the attention of all interested in the progress of the building, to the opportunity now presented, of contributing effectively at the present time.

Many of the citizens here have very properly promised much of the imported that will be required for the finishing of the Hall, and the Presidents of Mass Quorums are expected to give judicious counsel to shareholders and contributors throughout the different settlements, so that subscriptions on shares may reach the hands of the general agent with as great facility as possible, and with the least possible expense.

Every kind of produce and stock is, and will be, required for the support of the workmen engaged on it; wood for burning brick and making lime, and lumber for the building itself. Those living distant from the city taking shares, can pay in stock, in horses and mules, which cost little or nothing in bringing here, while those who are living in and contiguous to the city, can furnish with as little expense, the produce, the lumber and the merchandize that must necessarily be called for.

General Eldridge, as general agent, will of course be consulted by all shareholders and contributors, and receive such instructions as will make their contributions of the most avail. He has his office now in the Seventies Council Hall, where he or Mr. R. H. Attwood, his Secretary can always be seen.

It is the calculation to enclose the building this season, (and it will be done if the shareholders are true to themselves) so that the joiners can work within during the winter.

With President Young as Trustee in Trust, General Eldridge as general agent, Mr. Folsom as architect, and Mr. Rumell as superintendent, there can be little room to doubt of everything being done in a proper and efficient manner.

We feel assured that not only the Seventies, but all others who contribute to the erection of any such building, will have satisfaction in their labors. The Hall of Science is greatly needed, and besides meeting the demands for proper accommodation to a vast number of the population, the edifice itself will be a credit to the city, as well as to the Seventies themselves as an organized body.

The many demands of a new country, and the very peculiar position of the past few years, have necessarily retarded many public improvements; but we are glad to have so many substantial evidences of a general disposition to build up, improve and embellish the chief city of the Saints.