

was so sick I took his letter of recommendation to the Governor's house. The gentleman was out in the country digging a well, and so I waited for him. In the meantime his wife, who was seated on the floor combing her hair, offered me a cigarito, and smoked one with me herself. The Governor soon came in, looking worse in appearance than an average Irishman in Brooklyn. I gave him the letter, and aided by a young man present, he succeeded in spelling out its contents.

Next day we repaired to the summit of a small hill to the south of Olmos, and there pitched our tent. This was on the 5th; as we had seen but one or two clear mornings since we had been in the country, we were not very sanguine of success on the day of the eclipse. But we had done our best, and waited for the result.

On Monday my companion was again prostrated by a severe fever, though the chill had been broken. All day he lay on the bed in the tent suffering much. Of course there was no time to be lost, so I had to mount the telescope and get everything ready for the next morning. We had a great many visitors who, out of curiosity, came up to see our establishment. Mr. Gillis had eaten nothing for three days, and was so weak that he could scarcely sit up. He was so very feeble that he hoped the morning would be cloudy, as he felt he could not do justice to the work before him. But when the morning came he was much better.

The horizon was entirely obscured by clouds, and we feared our journey had been in vain. By degrees, however, that spot at which the sun came over the mountains was cleared, and though we did not see the beginning of the eclipse, yet long before its totality the sky was clear, and in that part alone. Mr. Gillis had a very successful observation, and determined some new features of the phenomena. As totality approached the darkness became almost complete. The birds ceased singing, the laborers stopped working, and all nature assumed a ghastly look. As I was obliged to keep record of the barometers I had not much opportunity to observe closely the appearance of the sun. I got a glimpse, however, and saw the 'corona light' burst out from around the moon, and I saw quite distinctly the protuberances of solar clouds shining brilliantly at four points of the moon's circumference. It was so dark during total obscuration that I was obliged to hold the chronometers close to the light of a lantern in order to note time."

EXECUTIONS IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.—In aggravated cases the bodies were hung in chains on public spots—generally as contiguous as convenient to the scene of their crime—and that they were numerous we may infer from the following passages in the "Annual Register" of 1763:—"All the gibbets in the Edgeware-road, on which many malefactors were hung in chains, were cut down by persons unknown." Verily, this road, with its many gibbets, must have formed a picturesque avenue through which to enter London, pregnant with sad forebodings of rapine and midnight murder.

The manner in which the burning of women for petit treason was effected at a period near the close of the century is fully detailed in the "Chelmsford Chronicle" of June 23, 1786, and then savored more of a means of insulting their remains. After detailing the execution of six men for various offences, the report proceeds:—"About a quarter of an hour after the platform had dropped, the female convicted (Phoebe Harris, counterfeiting the coin called shilling) "was led by two officers of justice from Newgate to a stake fixed in the ground about the midway between the scaffold and pump. The stake was about eleven feet high, and near the top of it was inserted a curved piece of iron, to the end of which the halter was tied. The prisoner stood on a low stool, which, after the ordinary had prayed with her a short time, being taken away, she was suspended by the neck (her feet being scarcely more than twelve or fourteen inches from the pavement).

Soon after the signs of life had ceased, two cartloads of faggots were placed round her and set on fire; the flames presently burning the halter, the convict fell a few inches, and was then sustained by a iron chain passed over her chest, and affixed to the stake. Some scattered remains of the body were perceptible in the fire at half-past ten o'clock; the fire had not completely burnt out at twelve o'clock.—[From the "Eighteenth Century," by Alexander Andrews.

THE REDUCTION OF ALUMINUM by the aid of sodium, discovered by M. St. Clair Deville, is likely to lead to the reduction of several other metals whose existence has been hitherto only suspected, or at best proved by their production in infinitesimal quantities by means of the galvanic pile. Sodium has already been successfully applied by M. Deville to the reduction of magnesium, and MM. Lios, Bodart and Gobin have produced calcium by the same means, as we learn from a paper just presented by them to the Academy of Sciences.—[School and Home Journal.

OFFICE SEEKING.—How true is this, from a recent essay by Montalembert: "The craving for public office is one of the worst of social maladies. It spreads through the entire nation a venal and a servile humor, which by no means excludes the spirit of faction and love of anarchy. It creates a crowd of hungry beings capable of the utmost fury to assuage their appetites, and ready for any baseness when the appetites have been appeased. A people of place-hunters is the most worthless of all populations."

DESERET NEWS.



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR.

Wednesday, December 8, 1858.

The "DESERET WRITING BOOK" for sale at this office. Price 25 cents.

Advertisements, to insure insertion in the current issue, must be handed in previous to Tuesday morning.

THE Business and Delivery Office of the Deseret News is removed to the north-east room of the Council House, up stairs, where the "News" will be delivered, henceforward.

WOOD and HAY wanted at the Deseret News Office.

The Eastern and Western mails, due on the 5th and 6th inst., had not arrived as this "News" was going to press at noon of the 8th.

The severe cold and stormy weather of the past week has had a very salutary influence in certain quarters, and for several days the most irksome task devolved upon the police has been to keep from freezing. This is encouraging, and it is to be hoped, while the weather is ruling down rowdyism and curbing licentiousness, that the present period for reflection will induce many to meet the recurrence of a genial atmosphere with conduct worthy accountable beings.

It is so much easier and more customary to find fault than to aid or amend, that the few who actually love truth, law when a rule of order founded in justice, and the fair extension of rights and powers to each human being, must expect to meet and endure more or less carping, malice, and varied oppression and violence, so long as evil has place upon the earth. But in the midst of all the opposition that evil can array, whether simply vexatious, expensive, or violent, there is the eternal comfort and guarantee that none can be overcome of evil, unless they prefer it. Gambling may be introduced, but is there any requirement upon a single individual to gamble? And if he gambles, has he any one to fairly blame but himself? No, though evil spirits and evil persons still have their condemnation for leading astray the innocent. So with drunkenness and every species of abominations, and corruption.

And still, amid the workings of the good and the evil, there is no feature more strange than that persons professing to possess sense and humanity should so far outrage all propriety as to constantly interfere, other than by mild and plain teaching, with the religious faith and practices of their fellow beings.—And in no country is such conduct so supremely outrageous and inconsistent as in the United States, for here the supreme law of the land most wisely and emphatically declares that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;" the enactors of that law being fully aware that religious faith and worship rested alone between the creature and his Creator.

December has set in its worst, fury and the consequent covering up of grass on the range admonishes more than ordinary care on the part of those who own or have charge of stock. The average of our past winters have yielded sufficient grass to keep cattle and horses alive on good range. This winter, it must be remembered, unusually large herds have mown the ground almost entirely bare within some fifteen or twenty leagues of this city. Prudence would suggest that those who have fodder on hand at once gather in, secure and feed their animals. For those who are not thus prepared the most prudent course would be to drive their stock, while it has yet strength and the snow has not fallen in any great depth, to good fresh range, if possible contiguous to sheltering timber. It should then be herded with great care and strongly guarded. A too great anxiety on the part of herdsmen to make the business lucrative has been the origin of many of the losses by theft and otherwise from which stock-owners have suffered in this Territory. The grants of herd-ground privileges by the Legislature were not made that the grantees should sell the grass which is the bounteous gift of nature alike to all: but that they should give in fair exchange their labor and care for their herding-fees.

Not only have we reason to apprehend inroads from the Indians this winter, but some white men have appeared lately to be not entirely above suspicion. Among the horse-thieves who for this region have been quite numerous lately, we understand one Charlie Clark (as he is familiarly called by his friends) has been arrested and is now in the custody of the Army. He is one of the loyal citizens we have heard of who had loudly called for the federal protection. He has it now and we trust that he will receive the just reward of his conduct.

We warn our readers against that class of men, of whom too many have looked out their winter-quarters in our midst, who consider the world indebted to them a living. There are discharged employees of government who have been fleeced of their last dime. There are men who wear fine clothes with empty pockets who will not work. There are numerous gamblers whose misfortunes have made them outcasts from their party. Against all these we warn our readers. They will not lurk around your herds without a purpose. They will not scrutinize your stable doors save they have an eye to your fat horses. To all of these classes who will try to earn their bread we recommend that employment be given.

The fullness of the desolation caused by the fearful storm of the 2d, has not yet been made known. Rumors of several deaths by freezing have reached us. We trust the death of our respected brother Leaver is the only one we may be compelled to record.

To our friends in the country, and indeed to all, we suggest that on such a night no prescribed limits be placed to free considerate hospitality. No cry for aid should be heard unheeded; nor should even a dog be compelled from our door to confront death in such a storm. It is true there may be villains base enough (and we have met them in our time) to take the meanest advantages of the kindest hospitality, and pour poison into the cup from which they had just drank the drops of life.—But the lamb must not perish because suspected as a wolf. If suspected, muzzle and watch, but nourish and save life.

We would gladly indulge the hope that the winter might pass over without the recurrence of another death by freezing. But such practical admonitions too often pass unheeded; the indulgence of a whim, the thirst for gold, or pining for a name, appear to outweigh the responsibility men are under to their Creator to take reasonable honest care of the life He has given them. Our lives were not given us to be wasted idly or poured out in folly. They were given us to be made useful, to glorify the Great Being who gave them. They were given us that we might diffuse happiness through the social relations of mankind—and illuminate the world by the mutual exchange of intellectual sentiment. They were given us to exert their strength in the cultivation and adornment of the earth and in the subjugation of all things to the will of the Almighty Maker.

HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR CUMMING, EX-GOVERNOR YOUNG AND JUDGE CRADLEBAUGH were present at the sitting of the District Court on Friday, Dec. 3.

Gov. Young attended as a witness in the case of Burr vs. Ferguson, in ready compliance with a subpoena served upon him by Marshal Dotson, at the request of Mr. D. H. Burr. Judge Sinclair had courteously informed Gov. Young that his attendance would not be required until his testimony should be called for, when he would be notified to that effect. But Gov. Young, having held himself in readiness to answer the summons on the day named, and learning that the case upon which he was subpoenaed was continued to the 3d inst., promptly to the hour walked into the Court, that no hindrance of business might be charged to neglect upon his part, nor any circumstance occur to cause the Judge to regret having extended a highly appreciated courtesy.

We find, in the Reporter's Court minutes, that the subpoena served upon Gov. Young by Marshal Dotson, is termed an alias subpoena; but to what official document it was 'second' appears to be very uncertain, for, so far as we can learn, neither Gov. Young nor any person about his offices or premises is cognizant of either the service or attempted service of any subpoena to which the one served could properly be termed 'alias' or 'second.'

It affords us much pleasure to commend the good order maintained in his Court by Judge Sinclair, and to coincide with the deserved compliment paid to the dignity of the Court by Mr. Ferguson in his remarks at the Bar on

Monday last. And while upon this subject, we take liberty to suggest to the public that neither the Court nor the Bar are required to speak loud enough for spectators to hear, and trust that hereafter no spectator will so far transgress the rules of propriety and good order as to bawl out 'speak louder,' or be guilty of any impropriety.

Attention is called to the advertisement in this "News," offering a reward for the apprehension of three prisoners named Edward Britton, Richard Jones and J. Dalton, who escaped from the city lock-up on the 6th inst., and it is rather singular that the guard are unable to inform us whether they made their escape during the afternoon or evening. While we fully sympathize with our municipal officers and the police, in the discharge of their tedious duties in this severe season of the year, we cannot rid ourself of the impression that nothing but an unpardonable neglect of duty could permit the escape of the prisoners. The lock-up adjoins the police quarters and has but one possible mode of egress. We shall expect more vigilant guarding hereafter.

COUNTY JAIL.—Somewhere near the S. W. corner of the Fourteenth Ward there has been standing for some year or two, a fine, large, respectable looking building. On inquiry we learn that it is the County Court House. For its appearance and as an ornament it does great credit to the county. But as to its utility it is at present entirely worthless. It is unfinished. Not a room in it can yet be occupied.—There are also jail-cells in it we are informed suitable when finished for the safe keeping of prisoners. And yet our city police have to be burthened with prisoners committed to the custody of county officers and with whom the city has really nothing to do. Although we cannot wink at neglect of vigilance on the part of the guards of the public peace, we certainly feel some compunctions that we are compelled to reflect upon them for dereliction in what in reality is not their proper duty. Let the County officers exert themselves and take upon them their own proper burthen.

SEVERE WIND—LIFE LOST.—On Thursday, Dec. 2, a high and piercingly cold wind prevailed throughout the day and most of the night, doing much damage. So far as we have heard of its effects, houses were unroofed in Farmington and Bountiful (Sessions' Settlement); on Big Canyon creek the east gable and roof of the cell house of the Penitentiary were blown off, also the gables and roof of br. Charles Decker's barn, (killing a cow), and the gables of Young & Little's tannery, in course of erection. In addition to damage to property, br. Samuel Leaver was frozen to death while coming from Camp Floyd to his home in this city, the particulars of which will be found below.

In this altitude there is extra risk in venturing far from shelter, during the prevalence of high winds in winter, or the occurrence of a cold snap; and it is presumed the late melancholy effects of exposure will prompt to all possible care and foresight to avoid it in future, and the most ordinary reflection and care will certainly prevent parents and others from sending little children to school or upon errands, when the distance exceeds a block, during the prevalence of such inclement weather as that of Thursday last.

Circumstances attending the decease of Elder Samuel Leaver.

[Reported by Elder Thomas Bullock.]

Elder Leaver's body was found by Mr. Daniel Hill, soon after sunrise, Friday, Dec. 3, in Mr. Jonathan Brown's garden, and within hail, in calm weather, of some six to ten families. It appears that Mr. John Pymm heard three shouts, between 6 and 7 p.m. of the evening previous, but supposed they proceeded from boys feeding stock at a neighbor's yard. Elder Leaver rode in the stage from Camp Floyd to Little Cottonwood, where the driver, apparently entirely bewildered, took the mules from the carriage and started South, saying he was going to G. S. L. City. It appears that Elder Leaver then started on foot for shelter at br. Bullock's, an old acquaintance residing a short distance from the road, and, becoming benumbed and unable to raise aid with his shouts, the scattered families being closely housed from the terrible inclemency of the weather, froze to death.

Elder Samuel Leaver was born in Banbury, Oxfordshire, England, April 13, 1809; emigrated to the United States in 1834; was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, April 30, 1842; moved to Nauvoo