

throw out a formidable body of skirmishers as they near a settlement. On the arrival of the advance of the right wing at Paris, we proposed to compromise, and give them one quarter in the half bushel after harvest; but it was no swap, they attacked our front, center, and rear at the same time and up to date, have captured about one-third of our grain forces. Stone walls, nettles, dirt covered houses, stink-bush and *bahe-lors* seem to be about the only thing they hold sacred. There was not room for all to light on the ground, so one swarm of a few hundred million eased themselves gently into Bear Lake, which resulted in an extensive grasshopper casualty. Their bodies will not be recovered.

BAD LUCK.

While an emigrant was last week driving his wagon, with four fine mules attached, down Bear River Cañon, he took the wrong road and ran into the river, drowning the four mules and losing one wheel from the wagon. He jumped into the river to cut the mules loose, when one of them struck his side pocket with its foot, tearing it in such a manner that four hundred dollars in greenbacks were carried away by the current. This reminds me of a saying of Josh Billings that "when a man begins to go down hill, all the wheels seem to have been greased for the occasion."

The ferry boat between this place and Beunington has sunk twice this summer, each time losing one half a wagon, but recently they have resurrected the lost halves by grappling.

BEAR LAKE MONSTER.

All lakes, caves and dens have their legendary histories. Tradition loves to throw her magic wand over beautiful dells and lakes and people them with fairies, giants and monsters of various kinds. Bear Lake has also its monster tale to tell, and when I have told it, I will leave you to judge whether or no its merits are merely traditional.

The Indians say there is a monster animal which lives in the Lake that has captured and carried away Indians white in the Lake swimming; but they say it has not been seen by them for many years, not since the buffalo inhabited the valley. They represent it as being of the serpent kind, but having legs about eighteen inches long on which they sometimes crawl out of the water a short distance on the shore. They also say it spirts water upwards out of its mouth.

Since the settlement of this valley, several persons have reported seeing a huge animal of some kind that they could not describe; but such persons have generally been alone when they saw it, and but little credence has been attached to the matter, and until this summer the "monster question" had about died out.

About three weeks ago Mr. S. M. Johnson, who lives on the east side of the lake at a place called South Eden, was going to the Round Valley settlement, six miles to the south of this place, and when about half way he saw something in the lake which, at the time, he thought to be a drowned person. The road being some little distance from the water's edge he rode to the beach, and as the waves were running pretty high he thought it would soon wash in to shore. In a few minutes two or three feet of some kind of an animal that he had never seen before were raised out of the water. He did not see the body, only the head and what he supposed to be a part of the neck. It had ears or bunches on the side of its head nearly as large as a pint cup. The waves at times would dash over its head, when it would throw water from its mouth or nose. It did not drift landward, but appeared stationary, with the exception of turning its head. Mr. Johnson thought a portion of the body must lie on the bottom of the lake or it would have drifted with the action of the water. This is Mr. Johnson's version as he told me.

The next day an animal of a monster kind was seen near the same place by a man and three women, who said it was swimming when they first saw it. They represent it as being very large, and say it swam much faster than a horse could run on land. These recent discoveries again revived the "monster question." Those who had seen it before brought in their claims anew, and many people began to think the story was not altogether moonshine.

On Sunday last as N. C. Davis and Allen Davis, of St. Charles, and Thomas Slight and J. Collins, of Paris, with six women, were returning from Fish Haven, when about midway from the latter named place to St. Charles

their attention was suddenly attracted to a peculiar motion or wave in the water, about three miles distant. The lake was not rough, only a little disturbed by a light wind. Mr. Slight says he distinctly saw the sides of a very large animal that he would suppose to be not less than ninety feet in length. Mr. Davis don't think he (Davis) saw any part of the body, but is positive it must have been not less than 40 feet in length, judging by the wave it rolled up on both sides of it as it swam, and the wake it left in the rear. It was going South, and all agreed that it swam with a speed almost incredible to their senses. Mr. Davis says he never saw a locomotive travel faster, and thinks it made a mile a minute, easy. In a few minutes after the discovery of the first, a second one followed in its wake; but seemed to be much smaller, appearing to Mr. Slight about the size of a horse. A larger one followed this, and so on till four large ones, in all, and six small ones had run southward out of sight. One of the large ones before disappearing made a sudden turn to the west, a short distance; then back to its former track. At this turn Mr. Slight says he could distinctly see it was of a brownish color. They could judge somewhat of their speed by observing known distances on the other side of the lake, and all agree that the velocity with which they propelled themselves through the water was astonishing. They represent the waves that rolled up in front and on each side of them, as being three feet high from where they stood. This is substantially their statement as they told me. Messrs. Davis and Slight are prominent men well known in the county, and all of them are reliable persons whose veracity is undoubted. I have no doubt they would be willing to make affidavits to their statement.

There you have the monster story so far as completed, but I hope it will be concluded by the capture of one some time. If so large an animal exists in this altitude and in so small a lake, what can it be? It must be something new under the sun, the scriptural text to the contrary, notwithstanding. Is it fish, flesh or serpent, amphibious, am-fabulous or a great big fib, or what is it? I give it up, but live in hopes of some day seeing it, if it really exists, and I have no reason to doubt the above statements. Here is an excellent opportunity for some company to bust Barnum on a dicker for the monster, if they can only catch one; already some of our settlers talk of forming a joint stock arrangement and see what they can do in the business.

I have already extended this letter beyond the limit I designed. The health of the people is good and everything satisfactory, except the rushing, buzzing music of the everlasting grasshoppers as they waft themselves through the air, freighted with our grain in the milk. May they mash their brains out against the North Pole!

Very respectfully,
J. C. R.

Dear Brother Cannon:—I have talked with some of the parties in relation to the monster story, and it is as Joseph has stated it.

I am, yours truly,
CHARLES C. RICH.

THE MORMONS.

The *Deseret News*, of July 3, publishes our article on the "Mormon Question" and treats the subject with more calmness and candor than we expected from the press of Salt Lake. The *News* claims that if polygamy were abandoned, other causes of complaint against the Mormons would be found or invented. It says:

"There are other features that would be and are equally objectionable with that of plurality of wives. Our belief in present revelation, in the Book of Mormon, in a divinely inspired head to the church on the earth, in apostles, in the ancient ordinances, in the gifts of the Spirit, and in the gathering of the people together. If the demand for the abandonment of polygamy could be complied with, it would be followed by demands for the renunciation of every distinctive feature of our religion, until we would sink back into the condition in which the people were found when the truths which they now believe were taught to them."

We beg to assure the *News* that it misunderstands the general sentiment of the nation on this subject. Free toleration for all religions is a part of the constitution; and it will be maintained by all denominations of Christians as essential to their own safety and devel-

opment. The Chinese have even Pagan temples in San Francisco, and very soon after the Pacific Railroad is completed we shall have them in Salt Lake and Chicago. Of course, if Brigham Young and his people adopt the Book of Mormon as their rule of faith and practice, nobody has any right to interfere with them. The *News* truly says that they suffered more persecution previous to 1852, when the doctrine of polygamy was announced as a part of their faith, than they have since; but the history of those persecutions will show that the Mormon faith in itself had very little to do with them. It was claimed—whether truly or falsely it is not to our purpose at present to inquire—that very many of the followers of Jo Smith were villains of the deepest dye, and that they were all banded together to shield these criminals from justice. The sentiment, then almost universal, that the Mormons were thoroughly dishonest and criminal—they may if they choose declare it most unjust and gratuitous—was in our judgment the origin of all their early persecutions and misfortunes. All that the country will now ask of them is that they abandon their polygamy and submit to the laws, and the whole power of the government will be exerted to protect them in all their rights.

But, says the *News*, "as to the statute making polygamy a crime, every unprejudiced jurist knows that it is unconstitutional." Not at all. The Constitution provides that "Congress shall have power to make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory belonging to the United States." Under this provision nearly every crime known to the common law has been enacted into the statutes of the United States. Whatever casuists may claim as to the right of a State to legalize or to condemn such a domestic institution as polygamy the power of Congress to prohibit it in the Territories cannot be successfully denied, and the Territory of Utah must so remain till this "last foul blot" is effectually eradicated from her social system. Congress has the same right to make it a crime that they have to punish any other offence against the laws of the land. The law making polygamy a crime was introduced by the late Senator Douglas, and it was passed when some of the ablest jurists that the country ever produced were members of Congress.

As the practice of polygamy is all the excuse that anyone, good or bad, can have for condemning or quarrelling with the Mormons, we, in common with tens of thousands of our people, sincerely hope that Brigham Young will very soon have another revelation peremptorily abolishing it. This would be the simplest and, we freely concede, the most effectual mode of stopping it. His influence and power over his followers leave no room to doubt that they would render implicit obedience to his precepts. The Pacific Railway will be completed to Salt Lake within a year, and both the Mormons and the nation will be brought face to face on this question. In that same kindness and candor that lead us to assure the Mormons that in all save polygamy the country will protect them in all their rights, we tell them kindly and frankly that the nation cannot and will not tolerate that system. If in the execution of the laws of Congress they force a trial of strength, the result cannot be doubtful.

From the sad consequences of such a contest we turn to a brighter picture. With polygamy abolished, Utah could at once be admitted into the Union. With Brigham Young and George A. Smith in the Senate, Captain Hooper and Mr. Jennings in the House, Utah would soon become one of the most prosperous and productive of States. Her magnificent mountains, her splendid lake, her beautiful city, and her pure, bracing air and bright skies would make her the resort—we might add the pride and the pet—of the entire Union.—*Chicago Tribune.*

[Special to the *Deseret Evening News.*]

By Telegraph.

GENERAL.

Pittsburg.—A terrible oil explosion occurred last night at the oil works of Lafferty & Waring, three miles from this city, killing one man and fatally wounding Lafferty. A third man is missing and is probably killed. Eight tanks exploded and the works are entirely destroyed.

Cleveland.—The still, in Parker's oil refinery exploded last night, killing one and severely injuring two others. The premises were burnt; loss, \$100,000.

Late Arizona advices say that the Indians attacked the mail escort between

Camp Reno and McDougall, and killed four of the soldiers of company E, 8th cavalry. The mountains are full of Indians; signal fires are burning in every direction. The savages continue their depredations.

San Francisco, 31.—Alaska advices to July 20th say the troops are well. Business is dull. Coal mines have been discovered near Sitka on the main land. They are considered unequalled for quality and extent. The seam is over twenty feet wide and is traceable some distance. The United States steamer *Saginaw* had tried the coal and pronounced it excellent. It has the appearance of pure anthracite, and is superior to any of the Lehigh coal.

The Russian Minister has received a draft for the payment of Alaska.

Leavenworth.—Gen. Frank Blair addressed an immense meeting here tonight. His speech was devoted principally to the action of the Radicals with regard to reconstruction, and the record of General Grant. He charged Grant with having changed his views on the subject of reconstruction, he having, at the close of the war, urged the immediate admission of the Southern Congressmen. He said that the secret of the adherence of Grant, Sheridan and other army officers to the Radical party is that the tendency of that party, in having overthrown the prerogatives of the Executive and the Supreme Court, is towards a military despotism, which would give prominence to the officers of the army. He denied that the sentiments expressed in his New York letter were revolutionary. He said the Radical party made Copperheadism respectable.

Chicago.—Schuyler Colfax had a magnificent reception to-day upon his return home from South Bend, Indiana. Several thousand assembled to welcome him. Mayor Humphreys delivered a welcoming address, to which Colfax replied in a brief speech, avoiding political subjects. Other speeches were made.

Baltimore.—Reverdy Johnson and family sailed to Southampton to-day, on the steamship *Baltimore*, of the Baltimore and Bremen line, which was escorted down the river by a large number of personal friends and a dozen steamers and tug boats crowded with passengers. Among those who escorted Mr. Johnson were Baron Geralt, the Prussian Minister. Mr. Johnson responded to a toast given him, saying:—"I go to England as a minister of peace. My instructions are to look to peace, and if I am able to carry them out in the spirit in which they are given, peace will result." He said all good men of both nations earnestly desired peace. He complimented the representative of the Prussian government as a consistent friend of the United States, and endeared to all who knew him.

Baron Geralt expressed his gratitude for this kind recognition by Mr. Johnson, and reiterated his firm and devoted friendship to the government and people of America on behalf of himself and his government.

Mrs. Lincoln, who has been in waiting some days, intending to go out in the same steamer, was taken suddenly ill last night and did not feel well enough to undertake the voyage. She will shortly go to Bedford Springs.

Washington.—The statements in regard to the financial affairs of the post office are not reliable. Whatever deficit exists is owing to the establishment of expensive mail routes in the new western territories.

The President has appointed Ex-Gov. Bigler, of California, one of the United States' Commissioners to examine the Central Pacific Railroad, vice L. D. Smith, resigned.

The Postmaster General is preparing an official statement to show that the actual deficiency for the year is less than \$4,000,000.

Montgomery.—The Senate, to-day, passed the militia bill, which authorizes the Governor to organize the militia when he sees proper.

Oil City, 31.—That portion of Oil City, west of Oil creek, was all afire this morning.

Leavenworth, Kansas.—The Democratic Convention, yesterday, nominated Geo. W. Glich, Governor; Maxwell M. Cashin, Lieut. Governor; Charles W. Blair, for Congress. Resolutions were adopted re-affirming the Tammany Platform and endorsing the nominations of Seymour and Blair.

New York.—Fernando Wood resigned his membership of the Mozart executive committee.

A general convention of the I. R. B. will be held on the twenty-fourth, when a new head centre will be elected.

A fire at Coburn's station on the Central Pacific Railroad, to-day, destroyed fifty buildings. No insurance.