

we were "Mormon elders" from Utah, and he took great pains to show us everything of interest about the Capitol. We visited the "Historical Rooms," which contain a first class library, as well as many articles of curiosity and interest. Among them we noticed the design of the Temple now being built in Salt Lake, also a Salt Lake City 50cts. bill. A sight that interested me much was the flags of the forty-eight regiments from this State, who participated in the late war, some of them being blood-stained, and literally shot into ribbons. While gazing at them, I thought "Why will men reject the Prophets of God, and engage in such scenes of carnage? The thoughts this brought up caused me to be sad, and I turned to other objects of interest.

We also paid our respects to "Old Abe," a fine eagle, which accompanied the 8th Wisconsin regiment through all the bloody battles in which they were engaged, being in front of Petersburg during the siege. He was slightly wounded once or twice, and was a great pet among the regiment. He did not seem to be well pleased at our visit, as it was about 9 p. m., and we no doubt disturbed his quiet slumbers.

A few days ago, six teams, drivers and wagons, loaded with pork, broke through the ice, and were all lost, while crossing the Wisconsin river.

It has been raining now for two or three days, with a howling wind, causing the Kickapoo river, which is usually a small stream, to rise about eight feet, overflowing the entire bottom. In some places the water is near three-quarters of a mile wide. Some of the houses in that locality have from three to four feet of water in them, the inmates having to seek shelter with their more fortunate neighbors. I already hear of one bridge and mill dam being carried away, and no doubt the loss of property will be great, as many fences, as well as other floating material can be seen, floating down towards the Mississippi, and from thence no doubt they go into the Gulf.

My feelings are, O Lord give me strength that I may be able to do my duty in preaching the gospel, and faithfully warn the people.

Bro. Lewis Anderson has baptized two persons into the Church in Columbia Co., Wis., and is faithful in his labors.

We are well, Bro. McAllister and I, and are striving to do all the good we can, in our weakness, trusting in God.

MILES P. ROMNEY.

Unprecedentedly Mild Winter... Thunder and Lightning--Dull Times, etc.

VIOLA, Richland Co., Wisconsin, March 14th, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

This last winter has been a peculiar one here--scarcely any snow yet, warm most of the time, raining and foggy. The lightning has flashed and thunders have rolled, never known in winter here before.

The people seem to sleep in the slumber of death, popularity is the banner of religion, the young in this land are drifting to infidelity, and still all are down on the "Mormons." Persecution is the cry. Old Babylon is one against God's church, but there are one of a city and two of a family that will not soil their hands in the sins of the age. There are a few that will listen and obey the truth, one in a thousand, or two in ten thousand, as it seems to me.

Brothers Romney and McAllister are doing their duties well in preaching the gospel of life and salvation. I have often seen the inspiration of the Lord in those elders made manifest; they carry with them the peaceable influence of the Spirit of God; and all that come under the sound of the Gospel, as proclaimed by his saints in this age, and repent not, it will prove to their condemnation, and to those who will repent and prove faithful their joy, exaltation and salvation in the Kingdom of God.

I have a bad cold now, and it prevails around. It is somewhat unhealthy in different parts of this State. Times are very dull, money is scarce. There are hard times now, no show for better, but worse. Whither is the country going, and where is its destination? Oh, United States of America, the home of the oppressed of every land, the home of the free and brave, a land

choice above all others, arise and look around, awake from your slumbers of darkness ere it is too late, let not tyranny and oppression be your rule, travel not in the road that other mighty nations have travelled to their overthrow. Where are the powerful nations that once were? Where are the mighty nations that once dwelt on this land of America? There are records of nations that once were, and are now almost forgotten. What was the plague, what the cause of their overthrow? Was it not for their wickedness, for rejecting the Gospel, for the persecution of God's people? Tyranny, oppression, superstition, worldly popularity and false tradition tend to degradation, therefore God raises up nations at his pleasure and destroys at his will. JOHN M. MATTHEWS.

"I'LL NO TRUST YE."—Two centuries ago it was thought an insult in the Highlands of Scotland to ask a nobleman a debtor. It was considered the same thing as saying "I doubt your honor." If parties had business matters to transact, the stepped into the air, fixed their eyes upon the heavens, and each repeated his obligation with no mortal witness. A mark was then carved on some rock or tree near by as remembrance of the compact. Such a thing as breach of contract was rarely met with, so highly did the people regard their honor. When the march of improvement brought the new mode of doing business they were often pained by these innovations. An anecdote is handed down of a farmer who had been to the Lowlands and learned worldly wisdom. On returning to his native parish he had need of a sum of money, and made bold to ask a loan from a gentleman of means named Stewart. This was kindly granted, and Mr. S. counted out the gold. This done the farmer wrote a receipt and offered it to Mr. S. "What is this, man?" cried Mr. S., eyeing the slip of paper. "It is a receipt, sir, binding me to give ye back yer gold at the right time," replied Sandy. "Binding ye? Well my man, if ye canna trust yersel I'm sure I'll na trust ye. Ye canna hae my gold." And gathering it up he put it back in his desk and turned his key on it. "But, sir, I might die," replied the canny Scotchman, bringing up argument in favor of his new wisdom, "and perhaps my sons might refuse it ye; but the bit of paper would compel them." "Compel them to sustain a dead father's honor!" cried the Celt. "They'll need compelling to do right if this is the road ye're leading them. I'll neither trust you nor them. Ye can gang elsewhere for money; but ye'll find nae in the parish that'll put more faith in a bit o' paper than in a neighbour's word o' honour and his fear o' God."

The St. Louis Republican finds that since the repeal of the law licensing the demi-monde of that city public demoralization has increased. But how about the private demoralization?

An exchange says, "There is no reason to believe that the peasantry of France are in the least priest-ridden; on the contrary, they are exceedingly jealous of any trespass on the part of the priest upon matters which they regard as specially their own."

Revivalism does not seem to pay in New York. Moody and Sankey's Hippodrome expenses are said to be \$40,000 in arrears.

The present divorce law of California allows divorce for adultery, extreme cruelty, wilful desertion, wilful neglect, habitual intemperance, and conviction of felony. Pierson's divorce bill, which has passed the State Senate by a two-thirds vote, confines the ground for divorce to two--adultery and extreme cruelty, and a good many California people are considerably exercised about it.

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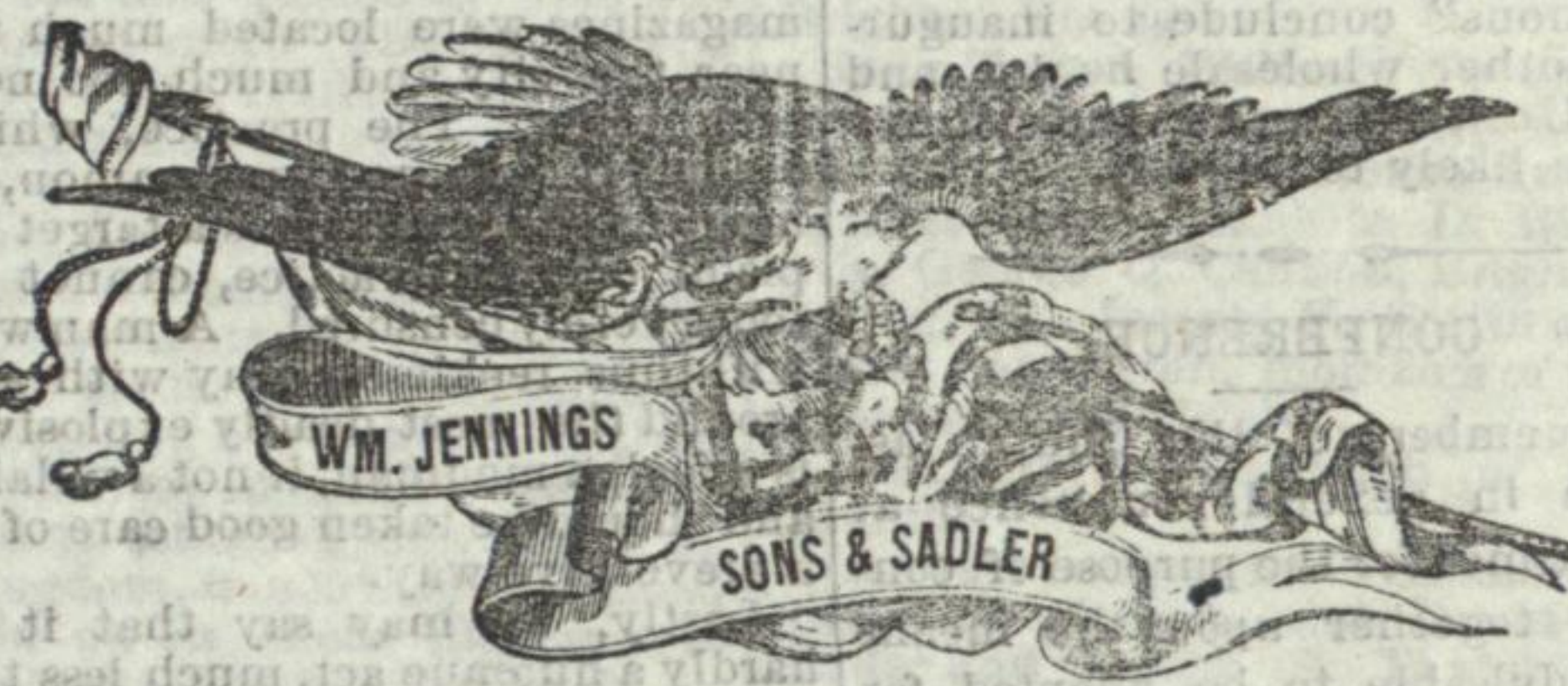
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