

Deseret Evening News.

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NOVEL READING.

The power to read is in numberless instances, and if properly directed, might be in all, a source of almost infinite pleasure and profit to its possessors. There was a period in the history of our race when this power was possessed by few but as ecclesiastics; and in comparatively modern times, inability to read was the rule. But the application of steam to the printing press has so increased educational facilities that the opposite is now the rule.

He who has a taste for reading and the power to gratify that taste possesses a key to the intellectual treasures of the world. The wisdom of ages is at his feet, in which he may revel until his soul is satisfied.

In the young, for whose benefit we especially aim to write at present, a taste for reading is a sign that promises good. Where this taste develops itself among the members of a rising family and is properly directed, there is little room to fear that in after years they will swell the ranks of rowdism. This taste should always be fostered and encouraged by parents, by whom it should also be guided and correctly cultivated. Where this is wanting, reading—great as its power is for good—is capable of becoming as potent for evil.

Children and young folks lack judgment to make a wise selection of reading matter, and as, in youth, reading is generally a mere matter of pastime or amusement, if it be not properly directed and cultivated, it is apt to prove anything but a blessing to its possessor. If the young, generally, were of a studious, and strictly intellectual turn, the need for circumspection in the choice of books would be less urgent; but as such is not the case, if young folks are not looked after and good books procured for them, they will soon find pleasure in reading bad ones.

In youth the mind is plastic, and impressions made then, whether good or evil, are almost ineffaceable; hence the necessity for this watchfulness and care on the part of parents as to the kind of reading matter placed in the hands of their children. If parents wish their children to become virtuous and good, they must remember to keep bad books out of their reach.

We do not mean by this that the young must ever be poring over religious books, to the exclusion of all others; but we mean, do not allow them free access, or any access at all, to the filthy cheap literature now so common throughout the civilized world. We do not say, even, that they should never be allowed to read a novel, for there are many novels whose tone is healthy and pure, the perusal of which affords delightful recreation, but, of this, parents should be the judges.

Among the Latter-day Saints, whose mission is to overturn evil and to establish the kingdom of God, and who regard the rising generation as the future pillars of that kingdom,—even the very hope of Israel, this matter cannot receive too much attention. In Europe and in America the minds of hundreds of thousands have been contaminated, their passions inflamed, their morals corrupted and they inducted into a life of shame through reading the filthy literature that, like a moral leprosy, everywhere abounds there.

Many of the young folks among us are too eager for reading of this kind, and a considerable amount is annually spent in its purchase. The pecuniary loss thus incurred is the least of the

evils connected with it; for though indiscriminate novel reading may never be carried to the excess referred to above, nor even transcend its present bounds, yet it will still be productive of evil. When indulged in moderately by the adult it may do little positive evil; but it all cases, the young should shun it, for it will most assuredly weaken their thinking powers, and if indulged in to excess will render them corrupt in thought and feeling, diminish their happiness, decrease their usefulness and lessen their chances of becoming good and useful members of society.

The vital importance of this subject cannot be fully set forth within the limits of a short article like the present. Some may think that we are making a mountain out of a molehill, but knowing the importance of the subject, we feel to earnestly urge this matter upon the attention of our readers. To parents we say shun the habit yourselves and discountenance it in your children, and their increased usefulness, goodness and happiness will be your reward.

COMPLIMENTARY BENEFIT.

We are much gratified at witnessing the genuine heartedness which our leading citizens have manifested in tendering John T. Caine, Esq., the respected Manager of our Theatre, a Complimentary Benefit. The good feeling also with which the gentlemen and ladies of the Company have proffered their services is not the least gratifying feature connected with the transaction. Their proffer is a tribute of respect and esteem which Manager Caine cannot fail to appreciate. Aside from any pecuniary advantage a Complimentary Benefit may bestow, in the present case, it must be especially valuable and encouraging as a token of appreciation on the part of the community, of the manner in which the Theatre has been conducted under its Managers. That our Theatre has been well managed, all who know anything about it must admit. It is a credit to our city. The costumes, scenery and appointments are not excelled in any Theatre in the Republic. The selection of plays for its boards has been most judicious, and the Managers have spared no pains to make it worthy of the support and countenance of the entire community. Manager Caine, who has necessarily had to look after the details, in consequence of Manager Clawson's duties preventing him from spending much time at the Theatre, has been faithfully conscientious in his labors. He has spared no pains to maintain the character of the Theatre as a place where chaste and instructive amusement could be witnessed, and which all classes could visit with pleasure and profit.

The series of Benefits which have been lately given evince very plainly how highly the efforts of our company are valued and the respect in which they are held. We doubt not that Manager Caine's Benefit will be as successful as any that has preceded it. Being the last performance for some weeks, and the Bill that will be offered being unusually attractive, the house should be filled from pit to dome. Every person who invests in a ticket will get more than the worth of his money.

[Special to the Deseret Evening News.]

By Telegraph.

New Orleans.—A special to the Tribune states that Hancock has removed Mayor St. Martinsville, because the city charter required the election by the council in case of a vacancy, but here all the loyal members of the City Council have been dismissed because under the city charter they elected a recorder to fill a vacancy. The report is current that General Grant orders the restoration of the councilmen, and that General Hancock asks to be relieved.

The Herald's London dispatch states that at the meeting on Tuesday evening, John Bright spoke strongly in favor of the government, policy and power of the American people, and England's duty to cultivate friendly relations with them. A resolution was proposed that the meeting expresses most its hearty good will towards America, and pledges itself to support any movement at home in the efforts to effect a prompt, righteous and pacific settlement of all international differences, especially those connected with the Alabama claim question. The resolution was adopted unanimously with loud cheers, every person in the hall standing.

The Herald's special gives details of the alleged attempt to assassinate Juarez. Several foreigners have been arrested.

Washington, 27.—House.—The Committee on impeachment will not report

articles till to-morrow. It is now stated there will be ten in all.

Marshall Gooding has formally handed Stanton a writ notifying him that a suit is entered against him.

London.—The royal assent is given to a bill for the suspension of the *habeas corpus*. G. W. Hunt, under Secretary of the Treasury is appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer. Lord Stanley, in the House of Commons, today, said the adjournment until Thursday was desirable to afford Government an opportunity to complete the Cabinet. Gladstone said such a delay in the proceedings of Parliament was unprecedented, though in the present case it might be justifiable. Lord Wensleydale is dead.

Cork.—The parsonage of the Rev. Mr. Leslie, near this city, was attacked last night and the assistants driven off.

Dublin.—Gen. Nagle and his fellow-prisoners were indicted for treason at Sligo, to-day. Heron, counsel for the defense moved to delay the trial. The Court reserved the decision.

Senate, 28.—Williams, from the committee on retrenchment, reported a joint resolution abolishing the Bureau of statistics and transferring the duties of special Commissioner of Revenue.

Howard, from the select committee of seven reported a series of rules, twenty-five in all, for the proceedings in the high court of impeachment, which they submitted and asked to be printed.

The bill granting a portion of Goat Island to the Western Pacific Railroad, was considered till the expiration of the morning hour, when a joint resolution to convey into the Treasury the proceeds of captured and abandoned property came up in committee of the whole, and an amendment was adopted, after a warm debate, placing \$100,000 of the sum so conveyed into the Treasury, at the disposal of the Secretary, for the payment of the necessary expenses for the collection of the property, also for the defense of any suits that may be brought against the Secretary. The bill passed the Senate as amended.

House.—Blaine, from the committee on appropriations, reported the Post Office appropriation bill; which was made the special order for Monday; it appropriated twenty million two hundred and sixty-nine thousand dollars. Several private bills passed. Fifteen adverse reports on private claims were adopted. Butler, from the committee on appropriations, reported a bill regulating the custody and expenditures of public moneys. The bill passed.

The House went into committee of the whole on the consideration of sundry civil expenses of the appropriation bill; after some time the committee rose and reported a bill to the House for its consideration, which was postponed till Wednesday.

The Speaker said he was informed that articles of impeachment would probably be reported to-morrow.

Schenck, from committee on ways and means, reported a bill for the relief of certain exporters of distilled spirits; after explaining the bill Schenck went on to give the House information as to the business before the committee on ways and means, stating that the present laws were prolix and contradictory, full of repetition, and in fact such a mass of crude legislation, that it had been thought advisable to report an entire revision of the whole system with all its provisions. The committee are at work preparing a bill of that kind and hope to report in a week or two. The committee proposed to impose no tax whatever on home manufactures, except perhaps five or six articles, and those purely articles of luxury.

Washington, 28.—McCreery, the new Kentucky Senator, appeared and took oath. After a warm debate, the Senate passed the military academy appropriation bill, the remaining Senate proceedings were unimportant.

Viviers.—Baron Brudbery has resigned as Ambassador to Paris. While passing through this city on his return from a visit to St. Petersburg, he was violently assaulted by a son of the late Baron Demyendorf, the well known Russian diplomatist; the assailant threw a hand grenade at the Baron, but it failed to take effect.

Paris.—Prince Napoleon has gone on a visit to Germany. The *Liberte* publishes a report that the King of Prussia was recently thrown from his horse and badly injured. Officers of the French army now absent on furlough are ordered to report at their headquarters on or before the 31st of March, all existing furloughs to terminate on that day.

New York.—An immense mass meeting was held to-night at Cooper's Institute, James Tallatin presiding. Resolutions were adopted affirming the right of the President to re-

move members of the Cabinet and declaring any attempt to deprive him of this right a monstrous perversion of power. It deprecated impeachment as a last resort for the protection of the republic from disgrace or grievous wrongs, expressing confidence in the moderation of the Senate, and trusting to the ballot box for a redress of wrongs.

Washington.—There seems but little doubt that Congress will abolish the bureau of statistics. The Senate rejected the nomination of Col. Wisewell as Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Under the law relative to the summons served on Secretary Stanton, he is allowed twenty days to respond before the next term of the District Court; therefore, his case cannot come up till April. The Georgia case came up before the Supreme Court to-day; David Dudley Field, for the petitioners, moved leave to file a bill for injunction upon Generals Grant, Meade, Rutger and Carpenter, for the defence. He said the whole question of the legality of the reconstruction laws would come up on motion and asked for the argument to be fixed for next Friday, which the Court so ordered and filed the briefs.

New Orleans.—The Convention has adopted substitute article 98 which restores suffrage to all except those who have held office under the confederacy and editors or proprietors of newspapers advocating secession and all who preached secession sermons.

Albany.—Constitution finally adopted, yeas 84, nays 31, the convention adjourned, sine die.

Boston, 29.—The House of Representatives yesterday refused the third reading of the liquor license bill, 152 to 56.

Chicago.—Specials state that in executive session of the Senate, yesterday, Sumner introduced a resolution which was discussed, it proposed the Senate should hold no intercourse with the President in view of the fact that the House had declared in favor of impeachment. The resolution was voted down.

The amount to be paid into the treasury under the bill passed yesterday from sales of confiscated and captured cotton is nearly \$30,000,000. This bill will prove a severe check upon claimants, who hereafter must pass a very strict ordeal to prove their claims.

The World's special of yesterday noon, says a double guard is placed at the entrances of the war department, two commissioned officers stationed inside the building, last night, and a double line of troops encircled the building.

Specials say the report is that Stanton is considering the propriety of setting aside military proceedings in the McCord case, and ordering his release, he being constructively a prisoner.

All the cabinet officers were present at the cabinet meeting to-day including General Thomas.

From intelligence received from the freedmen's bureau in Kentucky which was abolished by order of Gen. Grant, has been quietly restored by Stanton without orders from the President. The contemplated charge against the President of attempting to change military districts without consulting Congress has been abandoned. A writ of *quo warranto* will certainly be applied for by government, perhaps to-morrow, in the proper tribunal, with a view to compel Stanton to show cause why he retains possession of the war department.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN BIRMINGHAM.

We clip the following from the Birmingham Daily Post, of January 27th, a paper that has repeatedly reported the proceedings of Conferences of the Saints in a spirit of fairness. The Birmingham Gazette, of the same date, has also a very honest, though a brief report of the proceedings and remarks:—

A Conference of Latter-day Saints, belonging to Birmingham and district, was held during the day, yesterday, at the Odd Fellow's Hall, Upper Temple Street.

The Birmingham congregations meeting in Oxford Street and Farm Street, Hookley, were represented; and deputations from the surrounding districts were present. Among other places represented were Walsall, Darlaston, Wollenhall, Wolverhampton, Cannock Chase, and Stourbridge. Of the higher officers of the body, there were on the platform Franklin D. Richards, President of the European Mission, and one of the "Twelve Apostles," Elders Chas. W. Penrose and Wm. B. Preston, from the Liverpool office. The following Presidents of English districts were also present:—Elders John Parry, Welsh District; Aurelius Miner, Manchester District; James McGaw, Nottingham