

## EDITORIALS.

## THEFT AND CORRUPTION.

"Woodbined," "Reached Bed-rock," "Skedaddled," "Indicted," "Convicted" and other kindred expressions form the head lines to the daily telegraphic reports that reach us concerning some embezzling, defaulting president, cashier, or other officer of some savings bank, insurance company or similar institution. Not a day passes but brings its transcript from the records of rascality, sometimes from the humbler walks of life, but more frequently from the so-called first circles of society. Public sentiment, while perhaps not countenancing dishonesty and knavery, fails to insist upon those fine distinctions held by our fathers, and the social, political and moral status of a man is directly in proportion to the measure of his success.

The dominant party, clinging to the old adage, "To the victors belong the spoils," and, like all political organizations, having become notoriously corrupt through the possession of power and patronage, have suppressed all proof of official malfeasance and misfeasance, what wonder is it that public opinion has become depraved, and that private defaulters vie with their rivals in public office, in perpetrating the most wholesale and dishonest steals imaginable?

Whenever the people shall once more realize that a thief is a thief, no matter whether he steals a loaf of bread, or millions of dollars, whether under the mask of the highwayman or the cloak of religion, and that the laws of the land are applicable to one class as to the other, then, and not till then, can we hope for a renewal and continuance of the private and public rectitude of days gone by. This discrimination in favor of wealth and political influence is productive of nothing but evil. Let a few of the more glaring instances with which all are familiar, suffice. A certain prominent U. S. official, removed for cause, even under Grant's administration, and against whom the gravest charges were preferred and proven, is now in Washington, endeavoring, and with good prospects of success, to secure an appropriation of some \$50,000 for his relief. Another, against whom similar charges are on file in the Department of Justice, (and by the way the truth of many of said charges has been incidentally substantiated before a committee of our present Legislature) is now reported to have a fresh lease of office for an "indefinite period," and why? Simply because his friends and backers are influential and inside the ring.

Again, not long since, the whole powerful machinery of the Interior Department was put in motion to crush out certain parties in Utah, engaged in the lumber business, on the ground of trespass on the public domain. Far different was the result when a citizen of Salt Lake confidentially called the attention of the Secretary of the Interior to the flagrant violations of law in that respect, along the line of the U. P. R. R., stating that not only were millions of dollars worth of timber stolen annually from the public domain and sold to said railroad company in the shape of snow-shed spars, bridge timbers, ties and the like, but also that the contractors had established a system of *peonage* for their employees similar to that in vogue in Mexico, and in direct violation of all our preconceived notions of personal liberty, guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States to the humblest law-abiding citizen in the land, and that in several instances the direct result of such practices had been murder. To what use did Government put this information? The next day after the receipt of said letter by the Department, the contents thereof, with name of writer, etc., was telegraphed all over the United States, thereby giving color to the general belief that the contracting ring and the Department are in collusion.

Instances might be multiplied "ad infinitum" et "ad nauseam," but we forbear. What is the remedy? Evidently we must adopt a purer and higher scale of private and public morality, and a more elevated standard of public sentiment, if we would avoid the heart-

rending scenes of the last days of the Roman republic and the frightful excesses of the Paris commune. It has been well and truly said that "history repeats itself." Is it not likely to prove true, in the history of this, the proudest republic that ever the sun shone on?

## TARGET PRACTICE, OR SILK CULTURE?

The riflemen of Utah want help from the Legislature to the amount of \$4,000. They ask the Legislative Assembly to appropriate this modest sum in aid of their favorite pastime.

We say pastime advisedly. The sharp-sighted and steady-nerved gentlemen who delight in centre shots and are enthusiastic over "bulls-eyes," engage in this sport for personal pleasure. There is no vital principle involved in the organization of rifle clubs and no special public necessity at present for target practice. We do not wish to deprecate this manly exercise nor throw cold water on the burning of gunpowder. But we merely submit that it is simply recreation, and therefore, in the present condition of our territorial finances, scarcely a subject for the expenditure of public money.

If target practice is to be encouraged by legislative appropriations, horse-racing might claim equal assistance from the public purse. Then the ladies might demand an appropriation in aid of archery, and thus Cupid's darts, which are very potent in this Territory, would be made still further effective by association with the literal bow and arrow. Then the base ball clubs would want an appropriation for dashing uniforms, implements of field warfare, and arnica and plasters for bruised shins and flattened noses. Then the girls would demand a croquet appropriation, and finally the little boys would petition for a portion of the public funds to purchase peg tops, marbles and pop-guns.

Seriously, we think there are too many demands on the treasury for the support of measures for the public benefit to leave anything in aid of private pleasures. If there is a dollar to spare after the appropriations already anticipated, we would respectfully suggest that the important enterprise of sericulture receive pecuniary assistance from the Assembly. This region is admirably adapted for the cultivation of the mulberry, the raising of silk-worms and the manufacture of silk. Boys and girls are growing up in large numbers with little prospect for remunerative employment, and the encouragement of the silk interest would help to find work for many "idle hands to do."

A little money in aid of this enterprise would be judiciously appropriated, and its expenditure would prove of far more benefit than if devoted to the encouragement of a pastime, which, however pleasant it may be to marksmen and profitable to gunsmiths and cartridge makers, is one that could be allowed to go alone without material detriment to the interests of the Territory. The petition is well aimed, but we think the mark will be missed this time.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

Theories that teach a man he had a mere animal origin and that he will die like a beast, is very apt to make him live and act like one.

The British fleet is bound to go to Constantinople whether Turkey is willing or not. In a day or two we shall learn what Russia is going to do about it.

Texas is a productive State. Newspapers spring up, but do not flourish there. Last year forty died and sixty new ones were born within its limits, and several of the latter are small and sickly.

Cincinnati is a progressive city, during the last six years its debt has increased \$18,000,000. That's the way Salt Lake City would progress if certain very "liberal" agitators could only get to run its civic machinery.

Is the Grand Duke going into Constantinople in the interest of the "Christian" subjects of Turkey? And what does England want in

the Bosphorus? Is she also interested in the welfare of Turkish "Christians?"

Not very long ago Mr. Gladstone was the most popular statesman in England. Now the people smash his windows. There is no dependence on the great public. Gratitude for past labors and services finds no place in the heart of a mob. The tyranny of the masses is far worse than the despotism of an autocrat.

A tree-felling machine has been invented which has been tried with great success. The machine is a saw driven by steam power and it cuts the lumber close to the ground. An elm two feet nine inches across was felled in less than four minutes and another, 22½ inches in diameter, in a minute and a half. It is not a Yankee notion, but was invented in "th'owd country" and patented by Ransome & Co., of Chelsea, London.

Clothing dealers who temporarily use articles from their stock should be careful to examine the pockets before replacing the goods upon the shelves. The maddest man in town a few days ago was one in that line of business who sold a suit he had worn to a party on the previous evening, and from which he had forgotten to take \$5 in greenbacks which he had carried with him for "change."

If the benefits of the homestead law were extended by Congress to the builders of irrigation canals, making a certain amount of expenditure on such canals equivalent to so much residence on lands to be irrigated therefrom, large stretches of soil now uncultivated would be redeemed from sterility, and justice be done to many hardworking people. The labor on canals of this kind is of more actual value to the country than the residence required by the homestead act.

The Grand Duke Nicholas is to enter Constantinople with a portion of his army, with the consent of the Sultan. This is to prevent England regarding the matter as a cause of war. The British fleet, at latest accounts, were at Prince's Islands, so that in case of necessity, they can be at Constantinople in a couple of hours. Those islands, nine in number, are in the Sea of Marmora, about 13 miles from the Turkish capital. This brings Russia and England into very near contact.

Home industry should be encouraged. Young folks will buy "Valentines." This being the case Mr. C. R. Savage's enterprise is worthy of support. His Art Gallery is floral with beautiful designs manufactured at home and prepared to meet the demand for Cupid's offerings on "St. Valentine's day." They are really artistic, just as good as the best imported and much better than some, and while furnishing employment for nimble fingers and tasteful minds, the production of the home made "Valentines" will keep money in the Territory. Therefore if you have cash to spend on these pretty trifles spend it at Savage's.

The editors of the *Woman's Journal* speaking in reference to the infamous attempts to injure the people of Utah by special Congressional legislation, says: "This new attempt to disfranchise the women of Utah must be defeated. Let our friends in Washington in and out of Congress organize without delay." Alluding to the onslaught against polygamy, the *Journal* says, it would "deprive the women of Utah of the protection of their husbands, make their children fatherless and themselves social outcasts, and substitute for the comparatively respectable polygamous life, the social evil in the Territory of Utah." People are beginning to reflect upon instead of denouncing the practice of plural marriage.

One of the latest Yankee inventions is a patent ballot box, which members of the Connecticut Legislature have been examining. It is designed to prevent fraudulent voting, for ballot stuffing goes on in spite of registration and other precautions. By an apparatus completely secured over the lid of the box, a lever worked by the box tender is made to ring a bell and register a number plainly visible every time a ballot is dropped in. As the lever is released this aperture through which the ballots pass is closed, so that there can be no voting without the knowledge of the tender. At the close of the voting the register shows just how

many votes have been inserted. In case of a dispute about a vote, the ballot can be numbered and thrown out if found fraudulent.

## SUMMIT STAKE CONFERENCE.

The regular quarterly conference of the Summit Stake, was held at Coalville, on the 9th and 10th inst. There were present of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Elder F. D. Richards, President W. W. Cluff and Councilors, and representatives from the twelve wards of the Stake.

The reports of the Bishops showed a general improvement in the local affairs of their respective wards. The meetings were addressed by President W. W. Cluff, Elder F. D. Richards and others. Elder Richards advised the people to make the resources by which they are surrounded more available for their benefit instead of depending entirely on farming, as from the reports of the Bishops he inferred that agricultural pursuits were uncertain, owing to untimely frosts. Spoke of the duties of the priesthood in its various orders, etc.

The General Church and Stake Authorities were unanimously sustained. A number of home missionaries were called to travel through the Stake.

The Conference adjourned for three months on Sunday afternoon, having held five meetings. The Conference was well attended by people from all parts of the Stake, and a general good feeling prevailed throughout.

T. L. ALLEN, Clerk.

## THE EDUCATION QUESTION.

SALT LAKE CITY,  
February 16th, 1878.

Editors Deseret News:

Will you please indulge me with room for a few words on the question of free education? To come to the point at once I do not believe in it, only in a very limited degree. In my estimation it is a popular institution of politicians, another pool of offices for office-seekers and office givers, where one can favor the other; another lump of the heaven of corruption. If our Legislators will listen to a few hangers on, we shall have laws made very soon to take all the power out of the hands of the people who pay the taxes. And as trustees have built the school houses, and done all the work for nothing for the past 30 years, they will be asked to put the power in the hands of a few paid officials who are desirous of handling the funds to suit themselves. I do not believe the school funds have been misused; if they have, let it be proven and the erring dealt with. I think the present law is good enough for the present.

If our Legislature would immortalize itself, let it make an appropriation to encourage some industry suitable to children, where they could earn something, and be paid for it in an order on some good school teacher of their own choice, who had made himself popular by proper competition as a teacher. For why should not teachers compete for their success, as well as any other business people, instead of being put into a district school on the appointment of some paid official, and kept there whether the people who pay him like him or not? The greatest benefit of all would be our Legislature to encourage and create some profitable employment for the poor, so that that they could obtain means to educate their own children and make them independent-spirited citizens. We came to these mountains to learn the ways of the Lord, that we might walk in his paths, and not to rope in all the ways of the world. Let us lay the foundation for a nation of industrious, intelligent, freemen. I could say more, but I forbear.

Yours truly,  
A TAXPAYER.

[For the DESERET NEWS.]

## A STRANGER'S VIEWS OF UTAH.

As a stranger in the Territory and to "Mormonism," but one who has made a business trip through a portion of the north-eastern section of Utah, permit me to briefly state the impressions produced by my intercourse with the saints (or as they are more familiarly known abroad,

the Mormons) especially those that I met with in Bear Lake Valley.

The thrift and industry of the people is everywhere conspicuous, and the women folks seem to be model housekeepers. Believing cleanliness to be next to godliness the writer was everywhere charmed with the neatness and cleanliness of the houses. The people have learned the important lesson of living within their means, and still manage to be surrounded with plenty of the necessities and comforts of life, and are ever ready to extend a helping hand to such of the brethren as may be in need of assistance.

The education of the children is duly appreciated, as is evidenced by the establishment of schools in every settlement. The elementary branches of learning are thus placed within the reach of every one; and the children grow up intelligent without being crammed with studies that are of little or no avail to them in after years, but which in numerous instances turn out to be a positive injury, unfitting them physically and mentally for the industrial pursuits of life.

There has been a great deal of nonsense written about the women being dejected and unhappy. A more bright, cheerful and contented race of women so far as I have had opportunity of judging is nowhere to be found, and a more healthy, robust offspring than their children could not be desired.

It was the supposition of many outsiders that the death of President Young would lead to the downfall of the church. On the contrary the church seems stronger to-day than ever. While his memory is revered throughout this Territory, the doctrines he expounded and inculcated are deeply cherished in the hearts of the people. So self-reliant too and prompt in the discharge of the various duties incumbent on them, they make a nearer approach to the golden rule than can be found among all the other denominations. To say there are no exceptions would of course be absurd, as there are good and bad to be found in all communities, but so elevating is the tendency of the doctrines of this church, that the exceptions to the rule of exemplary conduct are certainly rare. A religion so vital as to shed a genial, refining, and sympathetic influence over the everyday actions of its people, cannot be bad, but rather should commend itself to the favorable consideration of every unprejudiced mind. Flippant and thoughtless writers may delight to fling arrows barbed with coarse ribaldry against this people, but such weapons strike as against a coat of mail.

JUSTICE.

Ogden, Feb. 15th, 1878.

## THE NO FENCE LAW.

PINE CANYON,

TOOELE Co., Feb. 11, 1878.

Editors Deseret News:

We have always raised our crops surrounded by a fence, but now the "no fence law" being in force in Tooele, Pine Cañon and Bates Ranch, we must submit to the law, and avail ourselves of its benefits or else be deprived of having animals at large, except at a risk of being put into the pound, and therefore we must obey the no fence law because we cannot help ourselves.

It is evident that the Legislature favor the no-fence law. The law gives the no-fence question the advantage of one half of one third of the votes to commence with; it requires a two-thirds vote to establish the fence law, and a good fence must be four and a half feet high, passed by fence viewers.

If the Pine Cañon people had to vote for a fence, and Tooele and Batesville no fence, we at Pine Cañon would have to fence against the stock which would be driven to this locality, greatly to our disadvantage and loss, and any animals getting into our fields through or over an unlawful fence, no damages would be obtained; therefore vexation would be the result of disappointment. The question may be asked, Is there any lawful fence in this locality? The answer would be doubtful. Since there is a division of interest concerning the fence and no fence questions, the majority have a right to rule, the two-thirds vote being in harmony with national law; therefore the one-third must comply or else raise an agitation to persuade one-third to become in favor of the fence question.