

reading aloud to be considered slow and unproductive of pleasure. At least, the public may expect its lecturers and public speakers to pronounce words carefully and accurately, to place the accent in the proper position and "to chisel out" the consonants.

#### Death of Lewis C. Bidamon.

Elder Andrew Jenson has handed us for publication the following clipping from the *Nauvoo Rustler* of February 17, 1891:

"Nauvoo's most widely known and distinguished citizen, Major L. C. Bidamon has gone to 'that undiscovered world from whose bourne no traveler returns.' Though expected, the announcement of his death cast a gloom over the face of our beautiful city. He died of old age at his residence, in the First Ward, last Wednesday morning (February 11, 1891). At 8 o'clock, after an illness of nearly three years.

Deceased was a native of Virginia. He was born at Smithfield, that state, Jan. 18, 1806. He came to this city in 1846, and took part in the Mormon difficulties. He became widely known on account of his marriage to Emma Smith, the widow of Joseph Smith. They conducted the Mansion House, on the banks of the Mississippi, for a number of years, and it acquired quite a fame. His wife, Emma, whom he married December 23, 1847, died in 1879. A few years later he was married to Mrs. Abercrombie, whom he leaves with two children, Mrs. Gibson, of Chicago, and Chas. E. Bidamon, of this city, to mourn his death. He also leaves a sister and brother, Mrs. N. White, of Chicago, and John C. Bidamon of California.

Mr. Bidamon was so generally known in this city and county, where he has so long resided, and around whom cluster so much of the history of this section, and that everyone feels that in his death a near friend has departed. Whenever a stranger came to the city in search of Mormon history, he was sent to the major, and before he departed from the major's presence he acquired all the information necessary, and was undoubtedly sold on that little joke of his regarding the "red bat." Everybody will drop a tear of genuine sorrow over the demise of a good man. His genial face and familiar bearing will be missed, but their absence will be supplied in the memories cherished of his integrity and good name among his fellows.

The funeral services were held from the late residence Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Nearly the entire population gathered there to hear Rev. Jos. Smith, of Lamoni, Iowa, a son of the Mormon prophet Joseph, preach the funeral obsequies. The remains were laid to rest in the Smith burial grounds, opposite the Mansion house."

#### The Yuma Flood.

DENVER, March 1. — The *Rocky Mountain News* Yuma, Ariz., special: Over 250 houses are in ruins from the flood and 1400 people are homeless. Not a single business house remains standing and it is feared hundreds of lives were lost in the Gila Valley. The river above the town is seven miles wide, and below town in places the

water covers the country in one grand lake over fifty miles across. The town has provisions enough for eight days more, and the Southern Pacific Hotel is feeding thousands of people daily.

#### REPORTS FROM JAKUNEE,

fifteen miles above here, are to the effect that the flood drove the people into the tree tops and many became exhausted from cold and hunger, dropped into the water and drowned. Reports from reliable sources put the loss of life in the valley anywhere from thirty up to a hundred. All along the valley for 200 miles everything is desolation. Houses and barns, stock and fences have been carried away by the flood, leaving the country as bare as a desert. Eight miles south of here, where 50,000 Cocopah Indians live, the country is flooded eighty miles square. As there are no hills for refuge, it is reported over a hundred of them have been drowned. The great valley of the Colorado is one vast sea of water. The loss in this county foots up over \$2,000,000. Old Yuma will probably never be rebuilt. The town will go higher up on the hills.

YUMA, Ariz., March 1.—High water on Thursday was more disastrous than that of Sunday. The loss in Yuma is half a million. The cemeteries are on high ground, and many people are camping in them. It is reported a Mexican family were drowned. One body of a man floated past the town. The river here is fourteen miles wide. Many people are believed to be drowned in the country, but no particulars are received.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 1.—A special from Maricopa, Ariz., by mail from Phoenix, February 27th: A Mormon settlement on the south bank of the Salt river was nearly destroyed. The Gila river rose twenty-five feet in a few hours. The bridge at Florence was washed away and the town was supposed to be under water. The town was built of adobe, so the loss is not great. The Colorado river at Yuma is greatly swollen, and it is feared the town will be wiped out. Thirty miles of the Southern Pacific track west of Maricopa is under water.

TUCSON, Ariz., March 1.—Word received from Gila Bend reports that a small cabin floated down the Gila river last night past that place. The lamps were lit and the cries of women and children were heard.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 1.—General Manager Towne, of the Southern Pacific Railway, tonight discredited the rumor that hundreds of lives had been lost at Yuma and vicinity by floods. He stated to an Associated Press reporter that he had been in communication with Yuma up to 7:30, San Francisco time, tonight, and had received no such reports, as he surely would have had there been such a disaster. So far no lives were lost at Yuma except one Mexican who was drowned last week. In the Upper Gila valley, however, ranches have been flooded and some people drowned. Mr. Towne also stated that twenty-two miles of track west from Yuma is under water, but unless greater flood occurred the road would be open in ten days.

#### Edmunds Law Prosecutions.

The Yorgensen unlawful cohabitation case was taken up for trial and a

jury called. — The offense is said to have been committed between October 15, 1875, and September 15, 1888. King defended.

Christine Yorgensen testified—James Yorgensen is my husband. We live in Fountain Green. We have lived together up to the present time.

Francis Tilby testified to having lived in Moroni, Sanpete County, between 1885 and 1888; she had a family of three children. The father is J. Yorgensen. Have not lived with him since March, 1885. He then went on a mission. When he returned in 1889 I was among those who met him on his return. Did not kiss him. He never came to see me after that time. I am not known by the name of Yorgensen. Hannah, another wife, goes by the name of Neilson. Maria, a plural wife, lives in Fountain Green. She goes by the name of Peterson. We all changed our name when he went on his mission. I visited his legal wife's house, but never took a meal with Yorgensen. Six years ago our relations as man and wife entirely ceased.

Cross-examined by King—Hold my home and property in my own name. At the time he went to Europe we agreed to live apart.

To Varian—I do not repudiate him as my husband, but simply live apart from him.

Questions were propounded by the district attorney relative to marriages for eternity, which were objected to by King. Objections were overruled.

The Witness—We were married for time and eternity, but set aside our marriage.

Mr. Varian—Do you consider Yorgensen your husband in the eyes of God?

A.—I don't know.

Hannah Nelesen testified to having married the defendant seven years ago and separated from him a few months after by mutual agreement in order to obey the law. She had one child about six years ago. Since the separation she had had no marital association with him. Supported herself.

Maria Peterson—Was married to the defendant ten years ago. Have two children. The youngest is six years old. Have lived separate from my husband since 1885. Lived with him up to that date. When he came back from a mission, I was at the reception. Have not spoken to him since. Support myself. Do not recognize Yorgensen as my husband. I am free to marry again if I wish.

G. W. Ivery—Know Yorgensen and the ladies alleged to be his wives. Know of his going on a mission in 1885 and returning in 1887. Have seen him often since his return. Never saw him with either of the plural wives.

Miss Jorgensen—Am a daughter of the defendant. He lives at my mother's house. The other women named as his wives come to our house occasionally. Do not take meals there. They are not known as his wives now.

There was no evidence of the defendant having violated the law, and the jury was instructed to return a verdict of not guilty.

The first German edition of Ibsen's new drama "Hedda Gabler" was sold in less than twenty-four hours.