

# THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

NO. 7.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1859.

VOL. IX.

[For the Deseret News.]

## THERE IS NOTHING NEW!

BY W. G. MILLS.

Oh! this is a wonderful age  
For invention, discovery and learning!  
The Press, and the Pulpit, and Stage  
Boast their wisdom, their light and discerning!

From the swains to the kings on the throne,  
From the "ragged school" up to the college,  
New discoveries they try to make known  
And add to the treasures of knowledge.

They affect the old times to despise,  
Its learning, its talents, profession;  
If olden truths upon truths now arise—  
Oh! this is the age of progression!

But "there's nothing new under the sun,"  
Was spoken as truth in that sad age;  
"What is, what will be, have been known;"  
And I doubt not the truth of the adage.

The astronomers rove through the sky,  
With their powerful telescopes scan it,  
Then prescribe, calculate, and descry  
The orbit of some unknown planet.

Its position, and bulk they unfold—  
Their discovery with news is prolific—  
But ten thousands of years it has rolled,  
Though unknown to the world scientific.

Their inventions with steam, and the rails  
And machinery excite men with wonder;  
Round the earth with the lightning tell tales;  
It is good, but 'tis old as the thunder.

The aerial machine may succeed—  
Their minds to the subject applying—  
At a tangent to others worlds' speed,  
Or "like doves to their windows be flying."

Can we think that unknown to our kind  
They remained till displayed in our nations?  
Oh, no! for 'tis mind upon mind  
That existed in former creations!

The new-water that flows in the streams  
Has dwelt long ago in the ocean;  
The fresh light from the stars' cheering beams  
Has millions of years been in motion!

The atoms combined to compose  
The universe always existed;  
The fresh tinted flower that grows,  
The cloud, soil, and sunbeam possess'd it!

Columbus the earth would explore,  
And he finds a "New World" o'er the ocean;  
But millions had dwelt here before  
His own nation had been put in motion.

A Cook the wide world circumscribes,  
Gathering facts as his country designed him;  
But he finds many nations and tribes  
As old as the world left behind him!

Of all the discoveries made known,  
In truth, nothing's new, good or evil,  
Save sectarian religion alone,  
And that is as old as the devil!

The stars in their orbits will shine,  
Eternal the laws that rule nature,  
Art and science their mysteries combine,  
Though man is the ignorant creature.

So "There's nothing new under the sun"  
Was told as a truth in that sad age,  
"What is, what will be, have been known,"  
And I doubt not the truth of the adage.

G.S.L. CITY, April, 1859.

## THE CHARACTER OF THE PURITANS.

Macaulay and Bancroft have each characterized the Puritans in a brilliant and descriptive passage—Macaulay in his youthful essay on Milton, and Bancroft in his "History of the United States." Macaulay's sketch is striking, but quite too gorgeous and rhetorical to be strictly true. Bancroft's sketch has less of forced antithesis, is more sober in color, and perhaps, juster in sentiment; but it did not exhaust the subject. And now Mr. Palfrey, in his "History of New England," has taken it up in a somewhat broader basis of historical research. He is also more careful in the selection and combination of touches; and, as he does not write from his imagination, but from the actual facts of history, no doubt he is more faithful in the reproduction of the original.—Mr. Palfrey writes:—[N. Y. Evening Post.

"In politics, the Puritan was the liberal of his day. If he construed his duties to God in the spirit of a narrow interpretation, that punctilious sense of religious responsibility impelled him to limit the assumptions of human government. In no stress, in no delirium of politics, could a Puritan have been brought to teach that, for either public or private conduct, there is some law of man above the law of God. Penetrated with the opposite conviction, he found himself enforced at last to overthrow the Stuart throne. Service which he believed the authority of God to claim, he saw himself forbidden by human authority to pay. That issue, presented to him, made him in politics a casuist, an innovator, the architect of a new system. From the time when the problem, with which for a while he struggled, was worked out, governments over the British race

were to rest on the public consent, and to be administered for the public benefit. Such was the brightness of the light to which he made his way through many scenes of darkness.

"When, after the restoration of the Stewar line, an unbridled licentiousness of manner had succeeded to his austerity—when an orate beastliness was the fashion of the men and women in high places, and such writers as Wycherley and Mrs. Behn expressed and formed the morals of so many clamorous for Lord Clarendon's creed—the ribald wits of the time so grossly marred the record of the Puritan, that it is difficult even for those who sympathize with his views in religion and politics to recover a just conception of his dignified and manly character, as it existed in the days which must be referred to for a true delineation. Nor has this been wholly the result of injustice on the part of writers depicting what they wanted the moral capacity to estimate with justness. The character had itself degenerated, in reaching the time when it came under their observation. Puritanism, from the outbreak of the great rebellion, was subjected to the infelicities and abuses which necessarily attend a formidable and successful party. When it clothed itself with the associations of power and grandeur, vulgar men, without being sordid or ambitious, followed its modes, and by their vulgarity exaggerated and degraded them. When it came to have honors and fortunes to bestow, base men attached themselves to it for the promotion of their base ends; and the excesses of the dishonest pretender brought into discredit and ridicule the practices of the sincere devotee.

"But, whatever may have taken place later, the Puritanism of the first forty years of the seventeenth century was not tainted with degrading or ungraceful associations of any sort. The rank, the wealth, the chivalry, the genius, the learning, the accomplishments, the social refinements and elegance of the time, were largely represented in its ranks. Not to speak of Scotland, where soon Puritanism had few opponents in the class of the highborn and the educated, the severity of Elizabeth scarcely restrained, in her latter days, its predominance among the most exalted order of her subjects. The earls of Leicester, Bedford, Huntingdon and Warwick, Sir Nicholas Bacon, his greater son, Walsingham, Burleigh, Mildmay, Sadler, Knollys, were specimens of a host of eminent men more or less friendly to, or tolerant of it.

Throughout the reign of James the First, it controlled the House of Commons, composed chiefly of the landed gentry of the kingdom; and if it had less sway among the peers, this was partly because the number of lay nobles did not largely exceed that of the bishops, who were mostly creatures of the crown. The aggregate property of that Puritan House of Commons, whose dissolution has been just now related, was computed to be three times as great as that of the Lords. The statesmen of the first period of that Parliament, which by-and-by deposed Charles the First, had been bred in the luxury of the landed aristocracy of the realm; while of the nobility, Manchester, Essex, Warwick, Brooke, Fairfax and others, and of the gentry, a long roll of men of the scarcely inferior position of Hampden and Waller, commanded and officered its armies and fleets. A Puritan was the first Protestant founder of a college at an English University. Among the clergy, representing mainly the scholarship of the country, nothing is more incontrovertible, than that the permanent ascendancy of Puritanism was only prevented by the severities of the governments of Elizabeth and her Scottish kinsmen under the several administrations of Parker, Whitgift, Bancroft and Laud.

"It may be easily believed that none of the guests whom the Earl of Leicester placed at his table by the side of his nephew, Sir Philip Sydney, were clowns. But the supposition of any necessary connection between Puritanism and what is harsh and rude in taste and manners, will not even stand the test of an observation of the character of men who figured in its ranks, when the lines came to be most distinctly drawn. The parliamentary general, Devereux, Earl of Essex, was no straight faced gossip, but a man formed with every grace of person, mind and culture, to be the ornament of a splendid court, the model knight—the idol, as long as he was the comrade, of the royal soldiery—the Bayard of the times. The position of Manchester and Fairfax, of Hollis, Fiennes and Pierrepont, was by birth-right in the most polished circle of English society.

In the memoirs of the young regicide, Colonel Hutchinson, recorded by his beautiful and gentle wife, we may look at the interior of a Puritan household and see its graces, divine and human, as they shone with a naturally blended lustre in the most strenuous and most afflicted times.

The renown of English learning owes something to the sect which enrolled the names of Selden, Lightfoot, Gale, and Owen. Its seriousness and depth of thought had lent their inspiration to the delicate muse of Spencer.—Judging between their colleague preachers, Traversers and Hooker, the critical Templars awarded the palm of scholarly eloquence to the Puritan. When the Puritan lawyer Whitelock was ambassador to Queen Christina, he

kept a magnificent state, which was the admiration of her court, perplexed as they were by his persistent Puritanical testimony against the practice of drinking healths. For his Latin Secretary, the Puritan Protector employed a man at once equal to the foremost of mankind in genius and learning, and skilled in all many exercises, proficient in the lighter accomplishments beyond any other Englishman of his day, and carressed in his youth in France and Italy, for eminence in the studies of their fastidious scholars and artists.

The king's camp and court at Oxford had not a better swordsman or amateur musician than John Milton, and his portraits exhibit him with locks as flowing as Prince Rupert's. In such trifles as the fashion of apparel, the usage of the best modern society vindicates, in characteristic particulars, the Roundhead judgment and taste of the century before the last. The English gentleman now, as the Puritan gentleman then, dresses plainly in 'sad colors,' and puts his lace and embroidery on his servants."

## Great Britain.

The London Times of February gives an account of the opening of the third session of the fifth parliament of the present reign on the 3d of that month.

All the regal grandeur usual on such occasions was displayed.

The Queen read her speech on the convocation of the Lords and Commons, in the House of Lords, which she enunciated audibly and was listened to with profound attention by the members and all others present.

## THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

My Lords and Gentlemen:—In recurring at the usual season to the advice of my parliament, I am happy to think that in the internal state of the country there is nothing to excite disquietude, and much to call for satisfaction and thankfulness. Pauperism and crime have considerably diminished during the past year, and a spirit of general contentment prevails.

The blessing of the Almighty on the valor of my troops in India, and on the skill of their commanders, has enabled me to inflict signal chastisement on those who are still in arms against my authority whenever they have ventured to encounter my forces; and I trust that at no distant period I may be able to announce to you the complete pacification of that great empire, and devote my attention to the improvement of its condition and to the obliteration of all traces of the present unhappy conflict.

On assuming, by your advice, the direct government of that portion of my dominions, I deemed it proper to make known by proclamation the principles by which it was my intention to be guided in the clemency which I was disposed to show towards those who might have been seduced into revolt, and who might be willing to return to their allegiance. I have directed that a copy of that proclamation should be laid before you.

I receive from all foreign powers assurances of their friendly feelings. To cultivate and confirm those feelings, to maintain inviolate the faith of public treaties, and to contribute as far as my influence can extend to the preservation of the general peace, are the objects of my unceasing solicitude.

I have concluded with the governments who were parties to the treaty of Paris in 1856 a convention relative to the organization of the principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia. The Rouman provinces are now proceeding to establish under its provisions their new form of government.

A treaty of commerce which I have concluded with the Emperor of Russia, and which will be laid before you, is a satisfactory indication of the complete re-establishment of those amicable relations which, until their late unfortunate interruption, had long subsisted between us to the mutual advantage of our respective dominions.

The measures which, in concert with my ally the Emperor of the French, I thought it necessary to take upon the coast of China have resulted in a treaty by which further effusion of blood has been prevented, and which holds out the prospect of greatly increased intercourse with that extensive and densely peopled empire.

Another treaty into which I have entered with the Emperor of Japan opens a fresh field for commercial enterprise in a populous and highly civilized country which has hitherto been jealously guarded against the intrusion of foreigners.

As soon as the ratifications of these treaties shall have been exchanged, they will be laid before you.

I have great satisfaction in announcing to you that the Emperor of the French has abolished a system of negro emigration from the east coast of Africa, against which, as unavoidably tending, however guarded, to the encouragement of the slave trade, my government has never ceased so address to his imperial majesty its most earnest but friendly representations.

This wise act on the part of his imperial majesty induces me to hope that negotiations

now in progress at Paris may tend to the total abandonment of the system, and to the substitution of a duly regulated supply of substantially free labor.

The state of the republic of Mexico, distracted by civil wars, has induced me to carry forbearance to its utmost limits in regard to wrongs and indignities to which British residents have been subjected at the hands of the two contending parties. They have at length been carried to such an extent that I have been compelled to give instructions to the commander of my naval forces in those seas to demand and, if necessary, to enforce due reparation.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—I have directed that the estimates for the ensuing year shall be submitted to you. They have been framed with a due regard to economy and to the efficiency of the public service.

The universal introduction of steam power into naval warfare will render necessary a temporary increase of expenditure in providing for the reconstruction of the British navy; but I am persuaded that you will cheerfully vote whatever sums you may find to be requisite for an object of such vital importance as the maintenance of the maritime power of the country.

My Lords and Gentlemen:—Your labors have in recent sessions been usefully directed to various measures of legal and social improvement. In the belief that further measures of a similar character may be wisely and beneficially introduced, I have desired that bills may be submitted to you without delay for assimilating and amending the laws relating to bankruptcy and insolvency; for bringing together in one set of statutes, in a classified form, and with such modifications as experience may suggest to you, the laws relating to crimes and offences in England and Ireland; for enabling the owners of land in England to obtain for themselves an indefeasible title to their estates and interests, and for registering such titles with simplicity and security.

Your attention will be called to the state of the laws which regulate the representation of the people in parliament; and I cannot doubt it will give to this great subject a degree of calm and impartial consideration proportioned to the magnitude of the interests involved in the result of your discussions.

These and other propositions for the amendment of the laws, which will be brought under your notice as the progress of public business may permit, I commend to the exercise of your deliberate judgment; and I earnestly pray that your counsels may be so guided as to insure the stability of the throne, the maintenance and improvement of our institutions, and the general welfare and happiness of the people.

## France.

At the opening of the French Legislature on Monday, the 7th of February, the Emperor delivered the following speech:—

"MESSIEURS LES SENATEURS, MESSIEURS LES DEPUTES.—France, you are aware, has seen, for six years, her welfare advance, its riches increase, her internal dissensions extinguished, its prestige raised; yet there arises, at intervals, in the midst of the general calm and prosperity, a vague inquietude, an agitation which, without any well-defined cause, carries away certain spirits and affects public confidence. I deplore these periodical discouragements without being astonished at them. In a society which has been convulsed by so many revolutions as ours has been, time alone can strengthen convictions, invigorate character, and create political faith. The emotion which has been produced, without any appearance of imminent dangers, might naturally cause surprise, for it testifies at once to too much mistrust and too much fear.

Doubts would seem to have been entertained not only of the moderation of which I have given so much proof, but also of the real power of France. Happily the mass of the people is far from submitting to such impressions.

To-day it is my duty to show to you again that which seems to have been forgotten.—What has constantly been my policy? To reassure Europe—to give France its true rank—to cement closely our alliance with England—and to regulate the degree of my friendship with the continental powers, in conformity with our own views, and the nature of their proceedings towards France. It is thus that, on the eve of my third election, I made at Bordeaux this declaration, 'L'Empire c'est la Paix,' wishing to prove thereby that if the heir of the Emperor Napoleon ascended the throne, he did not commence an era of conquests; but inaugurated a system of peace, which would not be disturbed but for the defence of great national interests.

As to the alliance of France and England, I exerted all my perseverance to consolidate it, and I have found on the other side of the Channel a happy reciprocity of sentiment on the part of the Queen of Great Britain as well as on the part of statesmen of all opinions.—Moreover, to attain this object, so favorable to the peace of the world, I put under my feet on every occasion the irritating recollections of the past, the attacks of calumny, even the national prejudices of my country.

This alliance has borne its fruits—not only

[Concluded on page 59.]