

DESERT EVENING NEWS

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EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Thursday, June 3, 1868

MASS MEETING.

INASMUCH as several of our prominent citizens and the strangers now in our midst wish to meet and express their views in reference to the railroad, we take the opportunity to notify them that the New Tabernacle is at their service for such meeting to-morrow evening, June 10th, at five p.m., and we cordially invite all to attend that can make it convenient.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

NOTICE.

MESSRS. Joseph A. Young, Brigham Young, Junr., and John W. Young, agents for President Brigham Young, left this city on the 8th inst., for the head of Echo Canon, to let contracts for grading on the Union Pacific Railroad, and will begin the lettings on Thursday, the 11th inst. Parties wishing contracts on that road can now start their men, provisions, tools, etc., as fast as they can get ready. As soon as the line is all located, about 10,000 men will be wanted.

THE "GRASSHOPPER" PLAGUE.

THE grasshopper, or locust, is so insignificant looking that if personal observation and chronicled facts did not tell how destructive it is, there would be difficulty in believing how serious a matter is its presence in any locality. Endowed with an almost incredible voracity; breeding with astonishing rapidity; and keeping together in innumerable myriads, they form one of the most terrible plagues of Asia Minor, Arabia, Egypt and adjacent countries. An authority on the subject says of the locust: "In Arabia and other countries that are infested by them, they come in vast numbers on their corn when ripe, and what they do not eat they infect with their touch and the moisture coming from them; and afterwards dying in great numbers they poison the air and cause a pestilence."

The insects which visited our Territory in such vast numbers last Summer and Fall, depositing their eggs as they passed along, which have hatched out this Spring, are undoubtedly of the locust species; and observations made relative to their peculiarities and habits here and elsewhere, reveal some very interesting particulars concerning them. Their movements indicate the guidance and direction of some intelligence. True to their instincts they will only move in masses; but they are not like bees which fly in swarms following the queen bee, for the movement among the locusts is apparently simultaneous over a surface of many square miles. They will rise, too, hover around on the wing for hours, and alight if the wind is not blowing in the direction in which they are traveling. And for days and weeks they will travel forward in almost a straight line, halting at night, during dull days, and while unfavorable winds continue; but never swerving from the course on which they started, when their flight is renewed.

For some years past it has seemed as if they were steadily working their way East; for though they are exceedingly numerous just now in this Territory, in Montana and Idaho, they are still more numerous, if we are to credit the published reports, in various portions of Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and Western Illinois, and away southward in Texas. On their flight in this region last Summer they traveled south-east and north-east, according to the best information we have been able to obtain.

This is confirmatory of the views expressed by a writer in the Council Bluffs Democrat, who says that "by some inscrutable Providence, the plague while having its birth in the extreme West, and although at periods alarmingly threatening, has not come upon the people like a thief in the night, but rather as a warning of Providence." Further on he says: "They seem to be the instruments of a dire divine visitation of wrath, yet held in store, and to be meted out in time upon some people and in some section eastward." He intimates that these now moving eastward are of two hatchings; and that both small and large are doing their best to make good progress; and thinks the second crop will reach the eastern States this season in time to deposit their eggs this Fall. However that may be, the great extent of country over which they are now spread, and their fecundity are ominous of heavy loss and consequent suffering through their ravages in coming seasons, unless they should be destroyed in some way, which does not seem likely judging from the tenacity with which they cling to life.

Of the habits and characteristics of the grasshopper or locust, the writer in the Democrat says:

"There are some things very remarkable about the hopper not generally known abroad, which we shall attempt to give as we have learned the facts. The grasshopper has heretofore only left its birth or hatch-place at maturity when its wings are fully developed, flying in

such dense clouds as to obscure the earth at times, and to obscure the sun and to reduce twilight. While on the wing, the period of incubation occurs and they are on the wing only during daylight, stopping like human travelers, to feed and rest at night. It is at these rests that vegetation suffers, and when, at the right season, they deposit their eggs in piles under the ground, hundreds and thousands in each grave. This, however, does not occur till about middle life, by grasshopper calendar, or about the second or third month after they take wing, and again in the fall, or grasshopper old age. Before taking wing the second time, and just after depositing their first larvae, the grasshoppers practice a right fast in order to reduce their bodies to high lightness and be able to bear themselves onward on their puny wings.

We have heard it positively asserted that on the lines of railway, the grasshoppers will cling to the warm rails in such masses as to check the progress of the driving wheels of locomotives by greasing the iron and clogging the wheels. However remarkable this may appear, it is fully established by unimpeachable authority as true."

When it is considered that they sometimes fly in clouds so dense as to obscure the sun and produce an appearance of twilight, the last statement made does not appear so incredible. In all times, and in all countries visited by them, they have been looked upon as a plague. Famine and pestilence have often followed them. They devour and poison, and everything green of which they eat is blighted. And where they invade a land in sufficient numbers, their presence may well be viewed as a national calamity.

EDITORIAL SUMMARY.

Intemperance is one of the most, if not the most prolific source of evil in the world. It is the bane of tens of thousands of homes, transforming them from abodes of peace and love into abodes of wretchedness and misery, in fact into perfect pandemoniums. So widespread is this evil among the people of Great Britain that much of the pauperism in that country is the result of intemperance. To this same cause can very many of the rising generation who drag out a miserable existence, not absolute paupers, in the conventional sense of the term, scribe their equal and misery, their want and wretchedness and ignorance. Bad as is the condition of the laboring classes in that country, through the low price paid for their labor, the great majority of them were it not for the habit of tipping, might give their children a tolerable education, and feed and clothe them decently.

Many a man has been brought to a premature and disgraceful end through slavery to habits of intemperance. Workhouses and prisons are ever receiving additions to their inmates from the ranks of the drunkard, and the inebriating cup is a source of fearful evil to many of the nations of Europe. It is a lamentable fact that in our own country this evil is spreading at a fearful rate. Government statistics show that America, whose progress in all the arts of peace and war is unprecedented in the history of nations, is also progressing fast in the habit of intoxication.

On the 30th June, 1867, there were 180,000 places reported as licensed for the sale of liquor. The number it is said, might with propriety have been increased to 150,000 or 170,000 if the places had been added where it was sold without a license. For the year ending 30th June, 1867, the liquor sold at retail throughout the Union was valued at \$1,000,491,865—enough to feed nearly four and a half millions of people for a year at \$300 each, or to feed, clothe and educate nearly six millions of children for a year, reckoning to each \$180.

This shows the fearful headway that intoxication is making in our own country. It is true that American artisans are far better paid, than the operatives of overcrowded Europe, and consequently can better afford to waste more in extravagance and folly; but to suppose that the people of America can afford to waste an amount like the above—said to be over one-third the aggregate amount of the earnings of the whole—and still do justice to themselves and their families is simply preposterous.

The facilities and opportunities for educating the young are very great in nearly every State of the Union, and in this respect, the children of America enjoy privileges vastly superior to those enjoyed by the children of Europe, with the exception perhaps of some of the smaller German States; but much more in this direction might be done and is necessary even in America. If instead of the 180,000 places licensed for the sale of liquor the means were used to erect buildings for educational purposes, there might, in one year, be thousands of such institutions erected and well endowed, and what a source of blessing to the country! whereas now the amount spent in liquor is not only an absolute loss in all that is good, but results in an incalculable amount of moral, social, mental and physical evil to the people.

Intemperance is becoming one of the crying evils of our country; it has permeated every class of society, and is stamping its fearful tide, moralists, philanthropists and social and moral reformers of every grade may find the widest scope for their labors.

Cork, if sunk two hundred feet in the ocean, will not rise on account of the pressure of the water.

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