

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - JUNE 8, 1880.

"EXTINCTION OF THE MORMONS."

LAST week the Methodists, at their General Conference, formulated a series of resolutions against the "Mormons," and decided to furnish copies to the President and the Members of Congress. Now the Presbyterians are doing the same thing. The Presbyterians in their movements on "Mormonism" are always copyists of their more vigorous rivals, the Methodists. As the Sanpete Presbyterian hypocrite, McMillan, plagiarized the pistol story of the Provo Methodist charlatan, Lyford, so the Presbyterian General Assembly has imitated the Methodist General Conference.

As will be seen from our dispatches, a copy of resolutions "favoring the extinction of Mormons," was decided by the Presbyterian Assembly to be sent to President Hayes, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House and the Governor of Utah. Now what have the officials here designated to do with "the extinction of Mormons," or indeed of any other portion of the population of the United States? "Mormons" are just as much entitled to the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as Presbyterians or Methodists; the humblest among them equally with Governors, Congressmen or Presidents.

"The extinction of Mormons" was attempted years ago, on several occasions, by very pious Presbyterians and Methodist preachers, who, rifle in hand, led the mobs in Missouri, massacred old men and young boys, ravished defenceless women, burned "Mormon" houses and standing crops, and drove the "Mormons" en masse from the State. But the result was not "extinction." On the contrary, it was increase and expansion. United States authorities attempted the extinction of the "Mormons," and sent an army out to do the work. But the soldiers, after suffering from cold toes and short, saltless rations in the winter on Ham's Fork, and sojourning at Camp Floyd for awhile, left the "Mormons" stronger and better off than ever. Extinction didn't work well. But the measure they tried to mete out to us was measured to them again in reality, pressed down and running over with blood and agony, in the great war of the rebellion which soon followed, and "extinction" came much nearer to the nation than to the "Mormons."

Just think of it! A pious "Christian" assembly of professed ministers of Jesus, attempting to stir up the civil authorities for the "extinction of another body of religious worshippers! How much Christ is there in such a movement or in its supporters?

But it is possible that the word "Mormons" in the dispatch should read "Mormonism," and that the extinction of the people is not asked for but the extinction of their religious system. Supposing that to be the case, the work desired does not belong to the Government nor to any of its representatives. If "Mormonism" is error, it is the duty of Christian preachers to point it out, and show by fair argument the superiority of their truth. Neither Governors nor Congressmen nor Presidents, as such, have any business with the controversy. True, some officials imagine that it is their special mission to engage in a crusade against "Mormonism," especially when their office is new upon them. But if they have any good sense they soon discover their mistake and learn to mind their own business, which is one tenet of the "Mormon" creed. For under this "government of the people, for the people and by the people," there is no special patent in favor of Presbyterianism or any other ism, nor special power against "Mormonism" or any other religion. The civil has no right to encroach upon the religious; any more than the religious has to invade the civil.

But why is it that these prominent and numerically strong religious bodies are all the time

anxious to invoke the aid of secular force, legislative, judicial, executive and military, against the little society miscalled "Mormons?" Is it not because all their learning, money, eloquence, sophistry, cunning, institutions, books and moral and immoral influence, fail before the system and people which they desire to extirpate? If those agencies were effective, would they not be used without seeking the aid of material force? It is evident that they resort to lies and infamous misrepresentations of the "Mormons" because the truth cannot prevail; for truth does not destroy truth. And it is plain that they recognize their utter inability to cope with "Mormonism" by moral force, and therefore resort to physical.

But they will not succeed. The extinction of either "Mormonism" or the "Mormons" is beyond the power of man. God is in the system and with the people. And while we respect his laws and hold firm to our faith, we need not concern ourselves about the wrath of sectaries, the plots of conventions or assemblies, the power of governments or the anger of demons. Combined they may appear mighty, but before the breath of the Eternal One they are but as a bundle of dry twigs in the blast of the furnace. Let them resolve, and threaten, and vapor, and perish!

FAITH AND SPECULATION.

TRUTH will force its way through the clouds of error which often cover it from the gaze of men, and faith will discern its light when reason fails to pierce the gloom. The scientist, by the use of a few facts and much vain philosophy, may puzzle the reverent mind, trouble the doubting heart, and give added arrogance to the sneering skeptic. But out of all the mystery and darkness of the mental chaos of modern theories, the light of truth will emerge, dearer and more beautiful by contrast with the surrounding gloom and disorder. And faith, strengthened by reason, having not only the power to "sense" but the gift to explain, will rise to loftier heights and grasp the things which are immortal and eternal.

It is a notable fact that even the closest reasoners of the modern school of materialistic evolution, while insisting upon the reception of nothing that cannot be proved, are compelled to depart from the strict domain of science and step into the field of so-called philosophy, and to imagine and assume a great deal in order to present their theories in plausible shape. Also that while ignoring faith, they exhibit and require far greater credulity than is needed by the worshipful soul that recognizes a God in the universe.

This is very nicely shown in a review in *Scribner's Monthly*, for June, of Huxley's book on the Crayfish, in which the following paragraph appears defining the position of the Evolutionists:

"It is somewhat remarkable that a man so keen and clear-headed as Professor Huxley can think to settle the origin of all things by merely pushing the difficulty of transformation from the non-living elements to living organisms back a few millions of years. A miracle differs from ordinary phenomena, not in degree, but in kind. *Granted a force able to transform one atom of inorganic matter into a living germ, and we have a God capable of creating a universe.* With all his brilliancy of intellect and power of logical thought, Professor Huxley can believe that somehow, in some infinite distance of time, by a fortuitous combination of force and matter, some fragment of inorganic matter became endowed with life, which was, by the action of blind force, developed into the well-ordered system of the organic world, and yet he scoffs at the absurdity of the belief that Will, the one uncorrelated force of which we know, should have anything to do with that or any other transformation. Truly, the faith that science demands puts to shame the faith of religion."

LET IN THE SUNSHINE.

WE notice with pleasure the large number of houses that have been erected lately with bay windows. We approve of them, not only because they add to the pleasant ap-

pearance of a neat dwelling, but because they admit of the entrance of pure air and bright sunshine into the rooms which are favored with their presence.

There is too much dread of the sun among many people. Its rays are necessary to health and good spirits. Yet people use all kinds of contrivances to shut out the life-giving beams, and, as a consequence, suffer from depression, languor and various nervous and other disorders. Sunshine is full of vitality to man and the higher order of animals and plants, but is destructive to many of the lower forms of life, those which bring destruction and woe to mankind.

Many diseases, such as spread like the plague, are fostered by darkness and fetid air. Let in the sunshine, friends! Open your doors and windows and give all your rooms and their contents a daily sun-bath. If you can't boast a bay window, use to advantage such as you have, and don't be afraid of the effects on the furniture. A stuffy, dim, unaired and sunless room is a deadly hole if it contains ever so costly and tastefully arranged appointments. Let the light of heaven in and the golden beams of the royal sun, and if the colors of curtains and covers should fade a little, you will lose the blues yourselves and gain in the bloom of your cheeks and the joy in your hearts. Welcome the merry, merry sunshine!

A SUMMER DRINK FOR LABORERS.

WARM weather is rapidly approaching and summer drinks will soon be demanded by the public. Alcoholic beverages are neither wholesome nor thirst-quenching. To the farm laborer or other toiler in the sunshine, cold water is often insufficient to supply the wants of the body, because it increases the perspiration, passing through the pores in a hurry and leaving a sense of exhaustion, and supplying no stimulant such as the system often craves during active physical exertion. The sudden action of cold water when taken during extreme heat, is to some people very injurious. A drink that will impart some nutrition and stimulus while quenching the thirst, will be a great boon to the harvest hand, the railroad builder, and other out door laborer.

Such a beverage has lately come into use in England, and we believe it can be adopted to advantage here. It is simply oatmeal and water, mixed in the proportion of three or four ounces of meal to a gallon of water. It is said to satisfy the thirst, act as a slight stimulant to the skin, have a comforting effect upon the stomach, and be beneficial to the whole system. It is "vegetuals and drink" combined, and is perfectly harmless.

We bring this to notice here for the special benefit of workers in the heat of the summer sun, not expecting that those who indulge in fancy drinks will pay any attention to it. But in the harvest field and other places where men toil in intense heat, we think it will fill the bill of the required thirst-quenching, body-strengthening and non-injurious beverage. Try it!

THE SITE FOR THE ASYLUM.

THE action of the Board of Directors of the Territorial Insane Asylum, in selecting a site in Davis County as the spot for the institution, has met with very general dissatisfaction. It is felt, with how much justice we are not prepared to state, that county influences and prejudices ruled in the decision of the Board, rather than the motives which should have governed to carry out the spirit as well as the letter of the law.

The report of the balloting gave rise to this feeling. It seemed that each Director acted as though he was the special representative of the claim of his own county for the "prize," as it was called by many persons. And there also appeared to be a determination on the part of some that Salt Lake County should not be the favored spot. We do not presume to say that these were the facts; we merely express the public opinion.

Now the law says, the directors "shall decide upon said site solely upon the grounds of healthfulness, adaptability to the purposes of the institution, cost of material for construction, and convenience of access from the different portions of the Territory." If these qualifications are possessed by the site at the mouth of Shepherd's Canyon, in Davis County, more than any other place within the limits of Salt Lake, Davis, Utah, and Weber, the counties designated by law, we have no objection whatever to offer. But if that is the case we must confess, with the bulk of the people who have discussed the matter, to a lack of understanding of the geography, surroundings and general features of that division of the Territory comprehended by the counties named.

If we were to refer to the general healthfulness of the bench east of this city, citing the present asylum and Fort Douglas for proof, and to the many advantages it possesses, completely filling the requirements of the statute, we might be accused of advocating the claims of this county in the very spirit that we have deprecated. But we have no ax to grind in this affair, and only desire that the most favorable site shall be decided upon as the Act directs, and therefore will urge nothing further, except that the gentlemen who are entrusted with this important matter, will waive all other considerations than those laid down in the law. In this event, we think a change of location will yet be effected.

A CRAZY CONVENTION.

PERSONS accustomed to the noise and turmoil of political conventions, and the angry and acrimonious debates of legislative bodies in this country, have expressed surprise and sometimes disappointment at the quietness, order and comparative unanimity of Utah assemblies of this character. This difference does not arise from any lack of interest, energy or intensity of purpose in our local law makers and representative men, but from a sense of the dignity of their position, and the power of self-restraint which they have been accustomed to exercise.

A body of men selected to represent the mass of the citizens, should be something more than a mob animated by passion and subject to tempests of excitement. The scenes at the Chicago convention are unworthy of sane and sober persons, and in our opinion are simply disgraceful. After midnight on Friday, the convention lost its reason for a time, and the noise, yelling, shouting, singing, cheers, were so vociferous, while hats, flags, shawls, parasols, handkerchiefs and other movable things were swung to and fro, that no effort was made by the chairman for half an hour to call the meeting to order. And this was so senseless that half of the assembly were ignorant of what they were shouting about. The delegates acted more like a set of rampant lunatics than representative American citizens.

Some people may call this enthusiasm; we call it craziness. "God is not the author of confusion, but of peace," and this kind of wisdom (?), as the Apostle of old said, "descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish." In such scenes of madness and mobocracy, how can that judgment be exercised which is necessary in so grave a matter as the choice of a chief for this great republic? We think that the leading politicians and legislators of the land might learn a good lesson from the humble representatives of the people in the little Territory of Utah.

THE POLITICAL FIGHT.

THE National Republican Convention got down to real work to-day. As predicted, the contest is close and severe. An account of the balloting will be found in our dispatches. But slight changes occurred during the process. Grant and Blaine remained nearly the same on the eighteenth ballot as on the first, the former scoring 305 at the adjournment and Blaine 283. Sherman's number was 96 and Washburne, who gained at every ballot but one, 35. From present appearances it looks as though neither Grant nor Blaine will be nominated, and the chances are in favor of a coalition between the Blaine and Sherman's forces in

favor of the latter, or of Grant and Washburne's for the nomination of Washburne. The last result would suit us exactly. It is doubtful, unless some such coalition takes place, that the battle will be over to-night.

EARLY CLOSING.

WE notice with pleasure a movement towards the establishment of a rule for the early closing of business houses in this city. Few people take into consideration the fatigue endured by the weary waiter behind the store counter, standing hour after hour through the live-long day, in the heat of summer as well as the cold of winter, attending on the different kinds of customers, who tax his patience in their critical inspections or depend upon his judgment in their purchases. He must always be courteous and good-natured, no matter how many hours he has worked, how many times he has exhibited goods, or how often he has answered questions, many of them to him senseless and unnecessary. A clerk is thought to have an easy time of it, while few manual laborers work so long and continuously.

The early closing movement should be sustained by those who have any sympathy for a hard-worked and little appreciated class. Not only to lighten their burthen a little, but for other and more important purposes. Many of those active clerks are husbands and fathers. Their families need their presence and care. How much time is left for home duties and home pleasures, after a long and weary day in the store, prolonged away into the time of gaslight even in these long and sunny evenings? What opportunities are afforded to such of these workers as are members of quorums, or other associations, to attend their meetings and take an active part in the business? How can they act as teachers or in other positions for the good of their co-religionists? What time have they to improve their minds and acquire information so as to progress with the times?

If people would do their shopping at reasonable hours, there would be no need to confine these clerks—some of them delicate girls—so long a time, penned up behind the counter from the fresh air of the open, or the rest and comfort and duties of home.

The importance of this subject has been recognized and acted upon in other places. In the large cities of the Old World and some parts of the New, early closing has fought the good fight and prevailed. And the claims of clerks and shop-girls to a portion of the public consideration have been acknowledged and accorded. We cannot see why in this land of liberty and larger equality, the consideration shown in other lands to this class of workers should be withheld.

We hope that those who have started in the early closing work will continue till they are successful. They must expect some difficulties and obstructions. But by perseverance they will prevail. For their cause is just and it only needs to be properly and persistently presented to win its way among a people like that which composes this community.

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, JUNE 4.

Suit for Recovery.—The case of Z. C. M. I. vs. O. J. Hollister, for the recovery of the tax assessed by the Collector on the scrip of the Institution, and paid by the latter under protest, came up in the Third District Court yesterday. The demurrer of the defendant to the complaint was overruled, an exception taken and 20 days allowed defendant to answer.

The Davis County Site.—Messrs. John R. Winder, W. N. Dusenberry and W. W. Burton, the committee chosen from the Asylum Commission to further inspect the site selected in Davis County, will leave for Farmington on Monday morning to perform the duties assigned them. It was understood, when Davis County secured the majority of the votes, that the location of the building within her borders would depend upon the condition that the title to the land (40 acres) and water at the mouth of Shepherd's cañon proved perfectly good and unquestionable.