

EDITORIALS.

OUR WINTER AMUSEMENTS.

It is of the greatest importance to the people of Utah that their public amusements shall be conducted with the strictest propriety without infringing upon proper freedom and hindering true enjoyment. Recreation is as necessary as food to the full health and well-being of humanity. If this is not provided for the young they will seek it for themselves. Innocent fun is one of the essentials. "Mormonism" sees no harm in any amusement in which law is not violated and prudence is not overstepped.

Music, dancing, the drama and other entertainments are encouraged rather than forbidden among the Latter-day Saints. But it is needful that all these amusements should be under proper regulations. This is particularly the case in reference to dancing parties. Therefore the views of the authorities of the Church and instructions from the Presidents of the Stakes and Bishops have been laid before the people at different times, that they may know what is considered harmful and be induced to avoid it.

"Round dancing" is objected to for many reasons that we need not here repeat, as we have explained them many times, and they are pretty well understood among our own people and recognized by respectable folks in the world. But there is a greater probable evil in what are known among us as "mixed dances," that is dancing parties to which all kinds of people are admitted on payment of the entrance fee. The opportunities thus afforded for the designing and licentious need not be pointed out, they must be obvious to all who have common perception. That these may not be made use of by evil minded persons for their own base ends, it has been thought wise not to have any dancing parties in the wards for the purpose of raising funds. The expenses of a ball can be met without throwing it open to every one who chooses to pay for admission.

In consequence of the advice given to make our dancing parties select, there are some persons who misrepresent the object in view, to foment discord among our young people, and to draw away the inexperienced into by and forbidden paths. This was only to be expected. People who advocate the whisky shop, the gambling den and the house of ill-fame as potent antidotes to "Mormonism," are sure to kick against the wholesome restraints interposed between our young folks and their influence.

Some of these people have gone so far as to claim the right to participate in the dances arranged for in the district school houses, on the ground that those buildings are public property. It should be understood that these schoolhouses are under the care and control of the School Trustees. If they choose to permit a ball to be given under direction of any responsible person or persons, they have a perfect right to do so. And when the house is thus rented it may be made just as exclusive as the person having temporary possession chooses to make it. If those who wish to force themselves where their presence is not desired, want to dance, let them apply for the schoolhouse, and if the Trustees see fit to let them have it, as in and dance to their own tune in their own way, and not attempt to intrude where their room is considered better than their company.

The impertinence and pigheadedness of some persons who style themselves "Liberal" is as amusing as it is amazing. We hope none of our country cousins will be brow-beaten into a wrong course by any threats or vaporings of those individuals who are so ready to appeal to the law and so apt to violate both law and common propriety when they stand in the way of their desires. Any man who attempts to force himself into a party to which he has not been invited and where his presence is unwelcome, is a brute, and if he persists may be treated as a hog rather than as a gentleman.

Efforts are made and will be made to induce our young people to attend parties conducted away from the rules and restraints of those gatherings conducted under Ward regulations. Whether as masquerade or plain-dress balls, they are to be avoided by the Latter-day Saints and their children. What is called liberty in connection with such affairs means license; it means opportunities for doing wrong; it means the despising of wholesome government. All the freedom that is consistent with right will be accorded in the well regulated parties arranged for by the ward authorities, and if they are conducted in order and are not too much crowded, all the pleasure that can be properly obtained in a dance will be enjoyed, while no one will be injured or placed in jeopardy or temptation.

The instructions given on these matters are for the Latter-day Saints. They are not intended for any one else. If other people don't like them they can let them alone. They are none of their business. The liberties of "outsiders" are not placed in jeopardy. They can take their own course in their own way, and the pretense that the Church authorities are trying to dictate to them is simply preposterous.

Every friend of good order and morality will sustain the efforts of the Church authorities to keep our Ward parties select and free from corrupting influences and persons; and our young people will find their true happiness to

be inseparably connected with the good counsel of their parents and the servants of God who seek their interest; while the over-confident and headstrong, in despising restraint and listening to the voice of the rebellious, will find that their expected pleasures will turn to regrets, and their anticipated liberty to bondage and remorse.

We trust that intellectual recreation will be encouraged in all the settlements, so that instruction and culture may be combined with amusement. Our dramatic entertainments are not always of the most refined character, and we think they need some supervision as much as other public enjoyments. Lectures, concerts, readings, and social gatherings other than free dancing are better than so much salutory exercise, and the ingenuity of our public-spirited citizens should be exercised in the production of original entertainments. Let all things be done in order, and let it never be forgotten that we are called to be Latter-day Saints.

THE BUSINESS PROSPECT.

The old year passes out leaving, so far as Utah is concerned, a great abundance of the substantial of life for the new to draw upon, pending another harvest. The unusual plenty of all kinds of provisions is probably caused by the lowered freight rates, tending to stem the outlets and even causing importations of some products.

The present business outlook is not very bright in some respects, there being several causes upon which to base this conclusion. Among these is the uncertainty in relation to the question of special congressional legislation in regard to Utah. On account of the suspense created by the situation, quite a number who contemplated enterprises and work of various kinds, have dropped them for the time being, until matters shall assume a more settled aspect.

We scarcely apprehend, however, that the revolutionists will be successful in their scheme for the abolition of all local legislative power, and supplant a well-ordered and constitutional system by an absolutism under which the most despotic tyranny would obtain. If such a calamity as their success should occur, then farewell to the material prosperity of one of the fairest Territories in the United States.

Seeing that even Senator Edmunds has set his face against such a flagrant violation of republican principles, the revolutionary plotters are not so hopeful as they were a short time since. This will somewhat encourage the business men of Utah generally, who, although not appearing boldly on the surface as opponents of the proposed legislative commission conspiracy, are necessarily against it. They must be so, unless they are blind to their own interests and desire to see business the next thing to annihilation.

But come what may, it is a matter for congratulation that Utah has, under existing circumstances, plenty of the staff of life, with some extras as well, on which her people can subsist for some time. Doubtless it will ultimately develop that the comparative scarcity of outside markets for products, and the consequent glut at home, has been ordered by a kind Providence to result in a future benefit not yet so clearly seen as it probably will be. Farmers and others should be careful to husband their breadstuffs, and refuse to sell them "for a song."

ENTIRELY WRONG.

A MARK's nest has been discovered by the New York Mail and Express. It asserts that the claim made by the "Mormons" that plural marriage is a part of their religion is a delusion and a snare. The writer of the article in which this position is taken had before him a copy of the first edition of the Book of "Mormon," from which he exultantly quoted the following passage from the Book of Jacob:

Wherefore I, the Lord God, will not suffer that this people shall be like unto them of old. Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken unto the word of the Lord: for there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none. For I, the Lord God, delight in the chastity of women.

The Mail and Express then goes on to state, with an air of great innocence, that in consequence of that edition containing this condemnation under certain conditions, of plural marriage, directed to an ancient people, the "Mormons" gathered up all the copies, so far as practicable and destroyed them, so that it evidently tries to make out that the one from which the quotation is made was "a brand plucked from the burning."

Our New York cotemporary is expending its strength fighting with the wind, the latest edition of the Book of Mormon being precisely like the first, so far as the matter is concerned, including the passage which it takes comfort in throwing at the "Mormons." If the quotation had been honestly made, however, it would have included a qualifying passage in the same connection, which is as follows: "For if I will, saith the Lord of Hosts, raise up seed unto me, I will command my people; otherwise they shall hearken unto these things." It is noticeable also that the Mail and Express fails to

quote a sentence immediately following the passage it publishes, unmeasurably denouncing whoredom and other abominations so common in Gotham, and which practically have no existence among the Latter-day Saints.

The proposition advanced is that the "Mormons," in claiming that plural marriage is a portion of their faith placed themselves out of harmony with the doctrines of the Book of Mormon, and that they had eliminated the tell-tale passages in the later editions of that record. It would have been decidedly wrong for them to do so, but it happens that the lack of honesty lies at the door of the accuser, while those against whom the accusation is flung are entirely free from the charge preferred.

We have observed for some time that the Mail and Express is exceedingly sour against the "Mormons," but it does itself no credit in exhibiting unreasoning prejudice by giving expression to charges that are without the slightest foundation. We hope it will aim to be more truthful next time, and remember that there are certain amenities that should exist among men, independent of the widest differences of opinion. Only the narrow-minded fail to recognize that important fact.

SILK MANUFACTURE.

That Utah is adapted for the production of silk has been demonstrated in a small way in many parts of the Territory. But that the raw material can be profitably worked up here into marketable goods has not yet been proven by experience. We have no doubt, however, that when sufficient capital is invested in the silk interest, and juvenile and other cheap labor is made available that silk culture and manufacture will become one of Utah's permanent industries.

Three blocks north and one east from the Eagle Gate are situated the buildings known as the "Silk Factory," owned by the Silk Association of this city. The branch of silk manufacture for which they were erected was the reeling of silk from the cocoons and its manufacture of sewing thread of various grades. To accomplish this object a complete set of machinery was put in, reels were obtained, several hundred pounds of cocoons were bought, and business began and was carried on for some considerable time. Upon investigation it was found that it cost more to manufacture silk in this way than it was worth in value in the market, and the enterprise was for the time being given up.

The venture having cost an investment of between four and five thousand dollars, including machinery, a new turbine wheel, cocoons and partly manufactured silk on hand.

There is at present another branch of this industry in operation at the same place, designed for the manufacture of silk dress goods, handkerchiefs, etc. This enterprise was started last April, with one hand loom, from which a very excellent sample of satin and Grenadine stripe was produced that was acknowledged by all our city dry goods merchants who saw it to be quite equal to anything of that kind they had handled. Owing to delays in getting everything into operation, the season was gone for the sale of such goods and only a few dress patterns were sold privately.

In the meantime two power looms, with all the appurtenances for making figured goods, were bought and forwarded from New York to this city, and a start was made to produce dress goods and handkerchiefs upon a scale to compete in price and quality with any manufactory in the United States. These looms are now in operation and producing goods equal in every particular to anything now in the market. They can be seen any week day, from early morning till late at night.

The capital necessary for this enterprise has been furnished by Brother Thomas Miller of New York, and the entire management of the concern placed in the hands of Brother James L. Chambers of this city, with the assistance of Brother A. M. Musser, of the Silk Association, who have kindly lent their buildings and water-power to help on this branch of industry.

Progress has necessarily been slow owing to the building and fitting up of the looms, the making preparing and entering of warps, etc. The water-power is also another great drawback, being very uncertain. Up to the present time there has not been opportunity to run one half of the time, owing to this difficulty. A small steam engine is wanted badly, and would in the end prove to be most economical.

There is at present over \$2,000 invested in this enterprise, in money, besides many months of incessant labor, and there are still many obstacles to be fought and overcome, but by persistent effort these will no doubt be conquered and the business will achieve permanent success.

The reeling of native silk from the cocoons, and its manufacture, is the point aimed at by the present management, and means are now in operation that, it is believed, will effectually remove the difficulties which have hindered the accomplishment of this desirable object, and it is intended early in the spring to obtain machinery to reel, spin and throw, and prepare material suitable for manufacturing purposes, in sufficient quantity and at such a cost as will preclude the necessity of importing silks in any shape or form, and that will at some future time

enable us to export, thereby bringing means into the Territory instead of draining it annually of thousands of dollars.

If this industry receives proper encouragement and support it will assuredly furnish silk goods at reasonable figures, keep much money at home instead of paying it to commission merchants, brokers, etc., and will furnish clean and healthy employment to many of our sons and daughters. Silk handkerchiefs and dress goods are kept for sale and may be inspected by all who desire at the factory in City Creek Cañon.

MINERAL PRODUCT OF UTAH FOR 1883.

THE annual statement of the mineral product of Utah prepared by Wells, Fargo & Co., shows a decrease for 1883 as compared with the previous year. The total bullion shipment for the year just expired was as follows:

3,230,547 lbs. Refined Lead, at 5 cents per lb.	\$ 161,527
63,431,964 lbs. Unrefined Lead, at \$50 per ton	1,585,799
4,531,763 ozs. Silver, at 1.10 per oz.	4,984,939
6,901 ozs. Gold at \$20 per oz.	138,020
Total Export value	\$6,870,085

Computing the gold and silver at the mint valuation and other metals at their value at the seaboard, it would increase the value of the product to \$8,000,000.

The mint and seaboard value of our mineral product for 1882 was \$10,312,402, showing a decrease for the present year of \$2,312,402.

It will be seen from these statistics that in the manufacture of lead bullion large yields of gold and silver are obtained. Should the duty on lead be removed in the reductions that will take place in the tariff, the mining industry of Utah and of the surrounding metal producing districts would be greatly injured, and the decrease in the production of native lead would necessarily decrease the production of the more valuable metals in the market—gold and silver.

GOES BY THE WRONG NAME.

A LONDON paper called *Truth*, which has on many occasions proven its title to be very inappropriate, recently published an article on "Mormon" missionaries and their successful work in several English counties. The account was supplemented with the remark that:

It is lamentable to think that after the repeated exposures of the Mormonite creed, there still remain in this country people capable of being ensnared by the outrageous fictions of the plausible vagabonds who are regularly dispatched to Europe from Utah in search of recruits. In America the humbug of Mormonism has long been so thoroughly exploded that converts are rarely forthcoming except in the persons of individuals whose room would usually be considered to be preferable to their company.

There are two mistakes in the remarks of *Truth*; we will not designate them by a harsher term. The first is in regard to "exposures" of the Mormonite creed. There have been no such exposures except those made by the "Mormon" missionaries themselves. Preachers and journalists have made many pretended "exposures" which turned out to be nothing but exposures of their own ignorance and mendacity. "Mormonism" on acquaintance is so different to the thing exposed by its opponents, that the misrepresentations intended to prevent people from investigating and believing, have the very opposite effect. There is not one editor or preacher in a thousand who has any distinct idea of what the "Mormons" or Latter-day Saints believe. *Truth*, for instance, could not tell the truth on this subject without first instituting diligent inquiry as to the facts. There has never been a book or article written, nor a lecture or sermon delivered, prompted by a bitter spirit against "Mormonism" that has fairly presented the subject to the public.

In these caricatures of the "Mormon" creed and attacks upon its believers, great assistance is rendered to the missionaries from Utah; and those who circulate the falsehoods that are commonly told about the Elders and their doctrines, aid materially in bringing about the results which to *Truth* appear so lamentable. Perhaps a change of policy would produce a change of effects. And if anti-"Mormons" would learn what "Mormonism" really is, before they attempt to expose it, they might desist from creating an excitement about it, and so withdraw their help in keeping the subject before the public.

The other error in *Truth's* statement is that "Mormonism" has been "exploded" in America, and that its converts are few except of undesirable individuals. The American pulpit and press are, if anything, less informed on the subject than their European counterparts; and in the various States of the Union people are quietly investigating and becoming believers in the doctrines taught by our Elders. Some of the papers in the Southern States have been bewailing the fact that many of the "Mormon" converts are well-to-do, intelligent citizens, generally esteemed and respected before their acceptance of the "Mormon" faith became known. These journals and *Truth* do not look at this matter through the same spectacles. Would

it not be better for *Truth* to find out something about these matters before diluting upon them further, or else to make a thorough change in its title?

THE ROCK RAILROAD.

THE City Council have declined to grant the right of way to the projectors of the incorporation now popularly known as the Rock Railroad Co. We think the action taken is proper. A very strong opposition to the concern has been developed since its application for the right of way, particularly among the people whose private property and rights in relation to the public streets would be affected by the proposed railroad; and we believe it is generally considered that the monopolizing of public property for private benefit would be improper and unwise on the part of the Council to permit.

We have heard it hinted that the applicants intend to go ahead with their project, right of way or no right of way. We do not think this is correct. The gentlemen engaged in the speculation are clear-headed and shrewd, and are not revolutionary or violent in their character. We think they have too much good sense and business tact to engage in a conflict with the City and the public, which, in our opinion, must end disastrously for those who commence it or make it necessary.

We understand, pretty well, the extensive powers bestowed on railroad corporations by the laws of this Territory. At the same time we give full weight to the chartered powers of the City Council and their rights and authority under other acts of the Legislature, and have not the slightest doubt of the lawful power of the City to control in this matter, and to grant or refuse the right of way through the public streets, and to prevent their occupation or obstruction by any individual or company. The Rock Railroad agitation will subside—at least for the present.

A POLITICAL INFAMY.

THE St. Paul *Pioneer Press* has taken a consistent attitude from the beginning, on the subject of the proposed Legislative Commission for Utah. In a recent editorial commenting on President Taylor's article and Governor Murray's communication in the *North American Review*, the *Press* takes up the pretended parallel which the Governor attempts to draw between the destruction of local self-government in Utah and the course pursued with the District of Columbia, and says:

Argument to the effect that Congress has the power to abolish self-government in Utah, and turn the Territory over to a clique who hate Mormonism a great deal worse than they do polygamy, is aside from the point. Nobody denies that such power inheres in Congress. But power is not right, and the extreme use of power is seldom expedient. And Gov. Murray follows the example of all who have preceded him, in omitting to state the grounds on which it is rational to expect that a legislative commission can deal more successfully than can the Government of the United States. His only effort in that direction is to cite the instance of the District of Columbia, where there was no such feeling as exists in Utah, where the commissioners were not selected by law from a minority faction bitterly hostile to the majority, and where the end to be accomplished was the overthrow of public corruption and extravagance—not the eradication of a social disease of half a century's standing. The parallel is irrational and incomplete.

If the *Pioneer Press* will continue to watch the scheme against Utah, it will discover that the movement to revolutionize this Territory is not directed against the practice of polygamy. Most of the people who have been excited over the "Mormon" question in the East are opposing polygamy; but those who have stirred up the tumult have no such object in view. That is why none of them attempt to show how a Legislative Commission will accomplish more than Congress can do in that direction. They are not after polygamy. They don't care a cent about it. They have said so, many times in conversation, and close readers can see this admission in their present arguments for extreme legislation. What do they want, then? Nothing more nor less than the control of Utah for their own greedy and ambitious ends. That is a prize for which they are willing to work and risk a great deal. And we need not point out to the *Press* or any paper acquainted with what has been done under such absolute powers as are now called for over Utah, how a small ring of adventurers could effect their base purposes when clothed with such authority as they are striving to obtain.

We take issue with the *Press* on one proposition. We are not alone in denying that power inheres in Congress to abolish all self-government in Utah. Able lawyers and statesmen take the same ground. We deny that Congress has any powers not bestowed by the Constitution. We deny that that body has inherent powers to deprive THE PEOPLE, in or out of a State, of any of their natural or acquired political rights. We affirm that in dealing with the Territories, organized with respect to certain admitted principles, Congress must be governed by republican rules, and must regard the rights of citizens enumerated in the Declaration