

EDITORIALS.

A negro, John Thomas, was convicted at New York City of murdering Walter Johnson, another negro. His counsel has been exerting himself to obtain a respite; but failed. When the news of the failure was communicated to Thomas he "thanked God that he was fully prepared to meet Him," and added: "I want to watch and pray and sing, but I want to be done with the things of this world. Let me rise up; let me go to the heaven of heavens; pass through the region of the starry firmament like a sign and enter into all the joys that are there before me; I cannot speak upon anything else than the world to come."

How much blood will men, who call themselves ministers of religion, have to answer for through propagating views such as this wretch of a murderer entertains in regard to the bliss which awaits him after death? About the surest passport a villain of the deepest dye can obtain to heaven, according to their teachings, is to murder some innocent person. The more atrocious and appalling the crime, the more sympathy they have for the criminal, and the more hearty are their prayers in his behalf. Do they not, by taking such a course, increase the temptation of the evil disposed to commit cruel crimes? There are many men so constituted that they would readily risk their present lives for the sake of gratifying their revenge, if they could be assured that, afterwards, they would go to the "heaven of heavens," and dwell in the presence of God by having the aid of a religious teacher before execution. This assurance so-called Christian ministers give them. And who can tell how many there are who commit secret murder and other abominations under the influence of such teachings, thinking that if they only repent before death, and obtain what is called a change of heart, they are sure of future and eternal glory? It would be a very severe punishment for many of these ministers in the next world to have quarters assigned them where they would have as their only companions such murderers as this Thomas and others, to whom they have given assurances of future bliss. If they had the power, they would make heaven a pandemonium, and its society so offensive that no decent person would take any pleasure there. They would introduce to its courts the vilest of the vile, wretches who upon earth, before being condemned to death, they would shun as leprous. And yet they call themselves Christians! Out upon such folly.

THE thirst for money, the expensive habits, the terrible extravagance which are being indulged in by many of the business men of the country are such as to cause well-founded and justifiable alarm in the minds of the prudent and farseeing, as to what the future of the country will be. We live in an age of speculation, and but few are content to make money in the old-fashioned style. The prevalent feeling is to make it quickly on the high-pressure principle, or not at all. In Utah we have been comparatively free from this spirit of gambling and speculation; but now that the railroad is built, mines are being opened and our business is taking a wider range, opportunities for indulging in this spirit are far more numerous than ever before. We sincerely hope that our citizens will not allow themselves to be drawn into this style of doing business. Better, far better, for them to cling to their old-fashioned ways, even at the risk of being called old-fogies, than to be hurried along by a desire to speculate and make money quickly. The permanent residents of this Territory have the business of these mountains in their own hands if they only choose to manage it aright. In the proper use of their facilities and opportunities they have sure and definite prospects before them for the increase of substantial wealth; but to acquire this, they should neither speculate nor gamble. Let others who come here do as they may, they should control themselves in this respect. The anxiety to get rich is the dominant idea of our generation; but if any people can control themselves on this point, it should be those who have settled these valleys. In poverty and general destitution they came here, and when the excitement over the discovery of gold in California convulsed the nation, and prompted men to abandon home and friends and incur the most fearful risks to obtain gold, they were still

in want of many things to which they had been accustomed; but they did not get excited; they did not renounce sterile and forbidding Utah to go and gather the glittering treasures which their neighboring State spread out so invitingly before them. They remained here contentedly, and have lived long enough to prove to themselves and to those who did not resist the temptation as they did, that there were other ways of creating and of acquiring wealth besides digging gold or speculating in claims.

This experience should not be forgotten at the present juncture. There will doubtless be numerous temptations to speculate in mining claims, to gamble in other directions; but where one man will make money at this business fifty, at least, will lose. The risks are too many for any sensible man who has as good opportunities as our citizens generally have, to take them. A man who has a good farm, orchard or garden incurs but little risk in cultivating and attending to that. If he be a man capable of working as a mechanic or a laborer, he takes no risks in laboring for those who speculate, giving them an honest day's work for an honest day's wages. So if he have a team, one of the best and safest speculations in which he can engage is to get steady work for it and himself at well-secured, good wages.

A man who maintains calmness and self-possession, is in a far better position to make money in this country, under the present circumstances, than his neighbor who is carried away by excitement or the spirit of speculation. His judgment is better, and if a really good opportunity of making a bargain presents itself before him, he has no difficulty in perceiving and taking advantage of it.

Money will, probably, be made in mining, but money will also be spent in mining; this latter will go into circulation and the people generally get the benefit of it. Strict attention to business and economy will, if persevered in, bring wealth. If others choose to gamble and speculate, let them do so; but it will, eventually, bring ruin upon any people who encourage it. This is proved in the communities where this disposition prevails. Merchants are failing daily, and the bankrupt courts are full of business. There is a plain cause for this. Where men speculate and make money without earning it by honest endeavor, they do not value it properly. It has cost them no toil, and why should they be careful in spending it? They and their families (if they have them) enter upon a career of extravagance that speedily ends in ruin. If a man earns a dollar by square, honest labor, he is apt to know it worth and to put it to a right use.

This community will remain a happy and prosperous one, if they earn their means by well-directed, legitimate industry, and expend it economically and prudently.

NEWBURYPORT, Mass., has been visited at intervals for the past twelve years and upwards with destructive and mysterious conflagrations. They were in nearly every instance caused by an ingeniously constructed infernal machine, or "fire box," and were generally attended by anonymous, threatening letters. Beyond this nothing could be traced. It was evident that the incendiary must be a man well acquainted with the vicinity, but no one could even suspect who might be the guilty party. About two years ago it was claimed for the first time that the letters were in the handwriting of a man named Leonard Choate. Yet the belief that he was the criminal gained ground slowly. He was a man well known, and it was almost unanimously considered that he was one of the last men in the world who would have been likely to have committed so great an outrage. It was evident that he could not be the gainer of a dollar by any of the fires; in fact, he has been a loser rather than a gainer by them. He appears to have been a genial, kindhearted person, yet his fathers, brothers and nearest friends are among the chief sufferers from these conflagrations. When arrested the chain of circumstantial evidence was so strong and so conclusive as to his guilt, that he withdrew the plea of not guilty which he had made and pleaded guilty. A church had been set on fire; he acknowledged that he was the incendiary, and after a trial before the Supreme Judicial Court at Salem, he was convicted and sentenced to confinement in the State Prison for life. Every one is puzzled to understand the motive which prompted him to commit these great crimes. The question of insanity has been suggested,

but the theory hardly seems a tenable one. No one ever suspected the accused to be other than perfectly rational, and his entire walk and conversation have ever been consistent with the hypothesis of his sanity. Viewed in all lights, the case is a truly remarkable one, and in all probability no satisfactory explanation can be offered until the convict elects to make a full and free confession.

In an article, headed "The Time for Retrenchment," in the *American Builder*, the editor says that the time has at last arrived when the Life Insurance Companies are called upon to commence vigorously the work of cutting down their expenses; and to abandon their former dependence on the profits of lapsed policies, surrendered agencies and an extra class of lives. As things have been going on for a year past, the business has not been worth what it has cost; and how much it has cost, he says, we regret to say, does not always appear in a company's annual statement. He continues:

"Our largest companies are conducted on the mutual plan. Ostensibly they are managed in the interests of the insured, and surplus premiums are to be distributed among them annually. But how easy a matter it is to use a large portion of this surplus in purchasing new business. If a mutual company has succeeded in freeing a large portion of its annual receipts from the commissions usually claimed by agents, it certainly belongs to the old members. And right here is found the cause of diminished dividends. The new business has cost too much. Peter has been robbed to pay Paul. Anyone who knows anything about the business knows very well that the old companies paid brokerage commissions last year and the year before that they never dreamed of paying from 1860 to 1865. So far as the old companies are concerned, the evil of high commissions does not in the least affect this solvency. It is simply a robbery of the old policy-holders. That is all. And if the old members like it, why then the public have no right to complain. But then they don't like it. They are discontented, and they express their discontent by demanding a surrender value of their policies. They were promised by zealous agents the largest of dividends, and they don't get them, and so they abandon the company. Now there is no sense nor reason in this mad scramble for business; and if it is continued the noble institution of Life Insurance will come to be looked upon as a system of misrepresentation, robbery and wrong."

MAIL IRREGULARITIES, still continue, and several times of late, accounts of delay, which savor strongly of wilful neglect, have been received from Sanpete. Reese R. Llewellyn, Esq., writes from Fountain Green, a few days since:

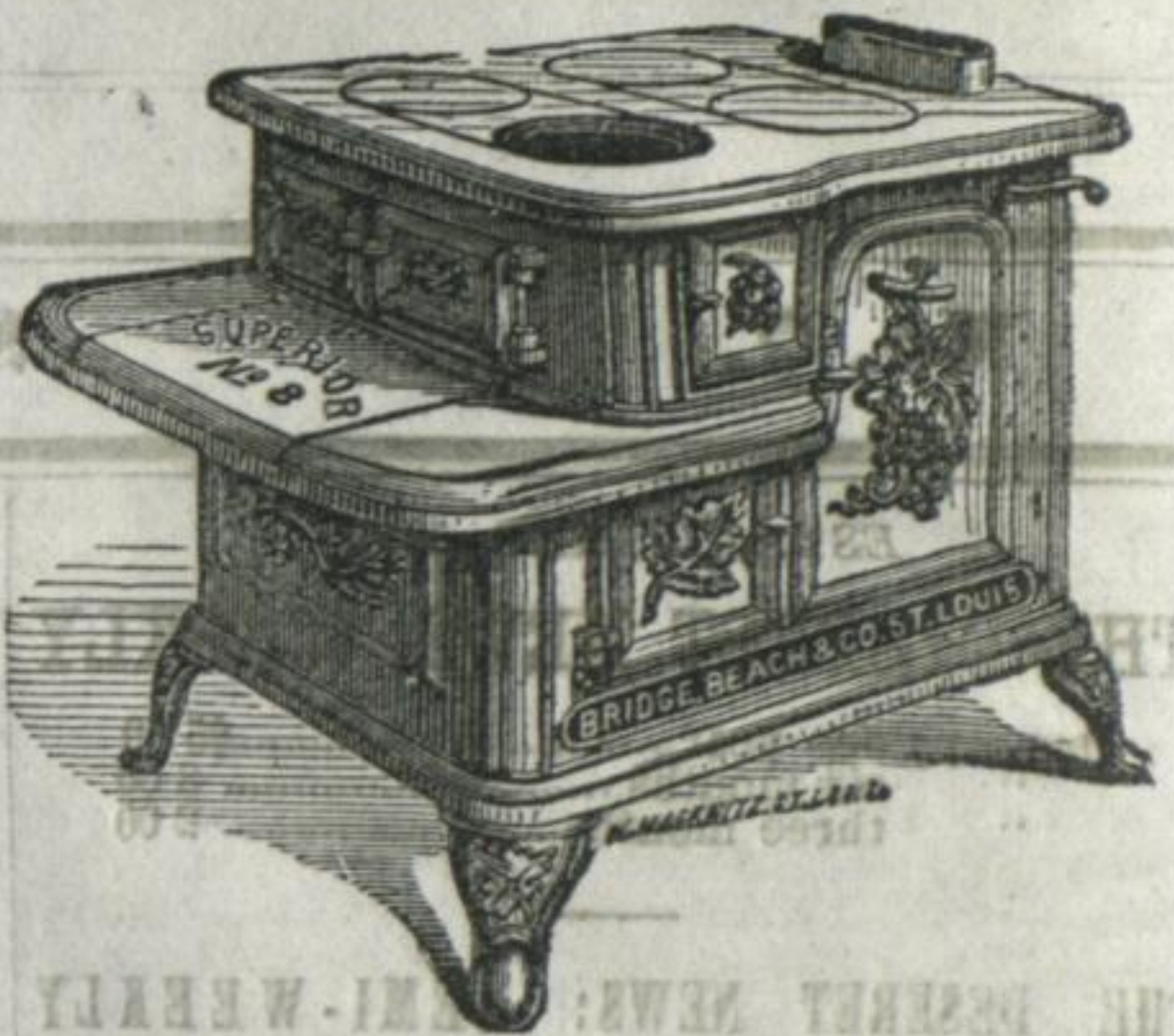
"We believe that we have been imposed upon in our mail arrangements. On Wednesday, Feb. 1st, and Saturday March 4th, and Saturday, March 11th, 1871, the mail carrier of Sanpete, after waiting at Salt Creek six or seven hours beyond his scheduled time, for the arrival of the Salt Lake City mail, was informed that there was no mail sack for Sanpete. I am confident that the sack for Sanpete leaves the office of Salt Lake City, regularly according to schedule time.

I do not see any advantage to the contractor, mail driver, nor even the mail horses, to drag our mail matter 'away down South' towards 'Dixie,' and have to haul it back again. We are aware that bad and muddy roads are the cause of delay; but after waiting until the northern mail comes in to be told, no mail sack for Sanpete, it is very annoying, indeed. We are in hopes that some one will persuade the mail drivers on the route, and show them the advantage to themselves and teams to deposit our mail matter at the Post office at Salt Creek, Jusb Co. By so doing they will accommodate the good, earnest people of Sanpete, and discharge their duty.

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