

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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WEDNESDAY - Jan. 17, 1883.

THE WORK IN SCANDINAVIA.

By letter from Elder C. D. Fjelsted to President Joseph F. Smith, it appears that there are now in the missionary fields of Scandinavia eighty-three missionaries from Utah, who are all working diligently and do not meet with very great opposition. There are now 4,956 members of the Church in Scandinavia. During the year 1882, 990 persons were added by baptism, and 1,130 souls emigrated to Utah, the largest emigration since 1866. During the past year no less than \$30,000 was sent by Scandinavians in this Territory to assist their friends in coming to this land. This speaks loudly of the prosperity of the people here, and of their liberality towards the poor of their native land.

There has been a famine in Iceland, and the brethren there have had a hard time in the midst of the prejudice that exists. Money and the printed word have been donated by the Scandinavian mission to assist the brethren in Iceland.

The Elders in Scandinavia appear to be full of faith and energy and performing an excellent work, in which they are aided by the people of the same nationality who have gathered to Zion. Their works are worthy of imitation.

THE MARCH STORM.

PROFESSOR WIGGINS, the Canadian astronomer, whose prediction of a terrible storm to take place on the 9th-11th of March next has been published in this paper, has not based his calculations on astrological theories or impressions from any supernatural source. He claims to have reached his conclusions from data and principles of which he has no doubt, but the correctness of which he has demonstrated many times, by successful forewarnings and their exact fulfillment. He says he knows of the March storm in the same way that he knows of the time of an eclipse.

In an interview with a correspondent of the New York Herald, Professor Wiggins stated that he had sent a warning to the Marquis of Lorne advising that the Princess Louise should not be at sea on the 9th of February, when a severe storm will strike the Atlantic. The March storm he declares will be felt all over the world from sea to sea and from pole to pole.

In addition to the generally accepted principles of meteorological science, Mr. Wiggins has acquired information of planetary influences on the earth's atmosphere, and it is on this, coupled with established theories, that he bases his calculations of storms, which he is satisfied he can fortell to the minute on the sea coast, where no mountain chains obstruct the atmospheric currents. The publicity which has been given to Professor Wiggins' prognostication will draw general attention to the weather in March next, and the ninth day will be approached with dread by many people who live in the line of the predicted aerial agitation.

THE STORAGE OF ELECTRICITY.

THE latest candidate for public patronage as a house illuminator is the electric storage system. Mr. C. F. Brush, after whose name the electric light used in this city is called, is the deviser of the apparatus now claiming attention in the United States for domestic use. M. Faure, the French electrician, figured for

some time before Mr. Brush took hold of the idea, as the inventor of a plan for the storage of electricity. But neither of them is the originator of the process. Many years ago Sir William Thompson took a small box from Paris to Edinburgh, in which it was stated there was "stored up more than one million foot pounds of energy." In 1859 Mr. Plante constructed in Paris a storage battery similar in its main respects to the systems of Faure and Brush.

The term used in connection with the apparatus, "storage of electricity," is not exactly correct. It misleads the public mind. The idea commonly entertained respecting this system is that a certain quantity of electricity is boxed up or "canned" like so much fish, meat or fruit to be used at pleasure. The storage which really takes place is one of chemical energy. It is pretty well known that if two lead plates are submerged in acidulated water, when an electric current is passed through the cell thus formed the plates become so coated as to act as if of different metals, one being covered with bubbles of hydrogen and the other of oxygen. A current of electricity then passes from one to the other. A coating of peroxide is formed on the lead, which becomes deoxidized when the storage battery is set to work, and by chemical energy an electric current is given out. M. Faure coated his plates with red lead. Mr. Brush says he found this impracticable and his method is an improvement upon it and the result of later discoveries.

In the Brush method, it is claimed, the disadvantages of the direct system are overcome, and "it is immaterial with it whether one lamp is used at a time or all that a given battery is capable of supplying; they all burn with perfect steadiness and uniform power. Each lamp takes its exact proportion of the power, and no more, and there is no waste, however slowly or rapidly the current is used." Where a dynamo machine is employed to supply incandescent lamps directly, it is found that it requires ten-horse power to supply sixty lamps, it will require more than five-horse power to supply thirty lamps, and much more than two-horse power to supply twelve lamps with the same machine. Where a machine is not run constantly with its complement of lamps it cannot be operated so economically, as the smaller the number of lights in use, the larger amount of power each one takes, and this is true notwithstanding the use of current governors and similar devices.

It is further argued that "with the storage system, where each user of light has his own reservoir of electricity on his premises, he is independent, to a great extent, of every other customer, or of the station, and a stopping of the machinery at the station for several hours would not stop his lights. Each storage battery is provided with an automatic switch, so arranged that when the battery needs charging, it is automatically switched into the circuit of the dynamo machine, kept in circuit until it is fully charged, and then cut out of circuit again." Attached to this switch is a meter which registers the amount of current used.

Of course this, like other storage systems is yet but an experiment. Its safety and its cost are questions to be determined by experience. The Faure system, of which great things were expected, turned out to be but a toy, and it has now no commercial existence. A writer on this subject in *Bradstreet's* says:

"Experiment has shown that the secondary battery is not trustworthy except in the most experienced hands, and even with great care it is likely to go to pieces when most wanted. * * * The as yet unsurmounted difficulties are mentioned, some of them being the likelihood of cells to crack from obscure causes, excessive and uncontrollable leakage, disintegration of plates, and difficulty of preserving the insulation. The inference is, that while the promise held out by successes already achieved are sufficient to warrant a liberal expenditure of time and money in perfecting the invention, it is still too early in the day to talk about finding perfected secondary batteries for sale, charged for use and guaranteed. The data at hand concerning cost alone are decidedly against the economical use of the storage battery in its present form, the quantity of current given off being very disproportionate to that required to charge it."

It is quite probable that the costly experiments which are being made in this direction will one day result in a system of safe, reliable, cheap and tractable house illumination by electricity, but that day has not yet arrived. Companies will be formed, stock will be issued and gambled on, fortunes will be made and lost, and during this time of speculation and experiment, gas will continue to be used where distribution is required and control of the light is essential, and will retain its present assured and substantial position for many years.

RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION.

THE *Railway Age*, in its last issue, publishes a summary of railway construction for the year 1882. From this it appears that the total number of miles of track laid was 10,821, distributed as follows: Alabama, 37.5; Arizona, 192.5; Arkansas, 529.1; California, 285.8; Colorado, 500.7; Connecticut, 2.6; Dakota, 480.2; Delaware, 0; Florida, 204.6; Georgia, 305; Idaho, 301; Illinois, 385.2; Indian Territory, 67; Indiana, 523.8; Iowa, 953.97; Kansas, 217.8; Kentucky, 86; Louisiana, 52.7; Maine, 28; Maryland, 41.7; Massachusetts, 5; Michigan, 223; Minnesota, 441.4; Mississippi, 87.2; Missouri, 308.6; Montana, 309.5; Nebraska, 210.7; Nevada, 44; New Hampshire, 17.3; New Jersey, 85.1; New Mexico, 21.6; New York, 732.3; North Carolina, 154.2; Ohio, 554.9; Oregon, 198; Pennsylvania, 464.1; Rhode Island, 0; South Carolina, 57; Tennessee, 133; Texas, 817; Utah, 175; Vermont, 8; Virginia, 228.3; Washington Territory, 0; West Virginia, 20; Wisconsin, 397.7; Wyoming, 25. The mileage for 1882 is sixteen per cent. greater than in 1881, or about 1,500 miles. The comparative railway mileage for the past ten years is shown in the following table:

Year.	Miles built.	Total mileage.
1873.....	4,107	70,278
1874.....	2,105	72,383
1875.....	1,712	74,095
1876.....	2,712	76,807
1877.....	2,281	79,088
1878.....	2,637	81,725
1879.....	4,721	86,446
1880.....	7,174	93,620
1881.....	9,386	104,006
1882.....	10,821	114,827

The estimated cost of the roads constructed during the past year, at an average of \$25,000 per mile, is \$270,000,000. This is a good showing for one year's work.

THE OLD FOLKS.

THE VETERANS OF BRIGHAM CITY HAVE A GOOD TIME.

E. H. P. of Brigham City, furnishes the following racy account of an interesting occasion at that place:

While fathers and mothers are at their wits end during the holidays, fixing up for the children, and while Christmas trees are being decorated to please the eye and gladden the heart of the young, who is there to look after the welfare of the old? If first childhood claims our undivided attention will second childhood be neglected or entirely forgotten?

This thought seems to have suggested itself to Bishop Adolphus Madison, together with the maxim, "The first shall be last and the last first,"—so he resolved to feast the fathers first and entertain the children afterwards; accordingly preparations were made, and this resolve carried into execution on yesterday, when the honorable to the number of fifty or more were gathered together from all parts of the Third Ward, at the residence of Elder B. M. Young, where tables were invitingly spread with all the substantial and delicacies that room could be found for.

None were permitted to eat at the first table who had not passed their 65th birthday; there were 28.

A few young people were invited to help entertain the old, and all were prepared with something pleasing and appropriate when called upon. Patriarch Wm. Box and Brother H. E. Bowring were notably funny.

Towards evening Santa Claus (B. M. Young, in character), appeared and distributed cake and wine. Apostle Lorenzo Snow was called on for a toast. He responded in a happy vein, and at the same time treated the company to a brief lecture admirably suited to the occasion. Subject—The Redeemer.

Santa Claus was merry, as usual, at this time of year, and perpetrated a joke in the shape of a monster "Jack in the box" fruit cake.

The funniest feature of the day, however, and one too good to keep, was that of an old lady who, it was evident had not been accustomed to looking into mirrors as large as a doorway. She was sitting in the parlor just opposite one of these and fancied she was looking into another room similar to the one she and companions occupied, and said she would go in there and chat awhile with the rest of the company. She suited the action to the word and ran her nose bump up against the plate-glass, before she discovered her mistake.

The old people were all conveyed to and from the place of feasting with teams. One of the aged brethren was heard to remark that "he would never forget this day."

Bishop Madison and council were congratulated. A vote of thanks was given Brother and Sister Young, for the active part performed and for the use of their home.

Resolved, That a report of the proceedings be sent to the NEWS for publication.

All the good things that remained will be distributed amongst the poor of the ward.

Closed by singing "The Spirit of God."

Prayer by Preet. L. Snow.

"Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head and honor the face of the old man, and fear thy God—I am the Lord."—Lev. 19-32.

THE "PRESS" AND THE UTAH REVOLUTIONISTS.

WE publish to-day an article from *The Pioneer Press*, published at St. Paul, Minnesota, a journal of good reputation. The views it expresses on the Utah question we have reason to believe are held by the majority of people who desire the suppression of polygamy.

The *Press* has hit the situation exactly. Mr. Van Zile and the small clique which he represents are afraid that time will be given to let the Edmunds Act work. Deliberation, rational measures and lawful influence would be death to their hopes. Their only chances, lie in precipitate and hasty action brute force and unprecedented severity toward the whole "Mormon" people. The extinction of polygamy would be the worst disappointment that could come to them. The plural marriage of the "Mormons" gives them their greatest plea for rash legislation and the support of religious fanatics who help to influence the popular mind. A political revolution in which they are to come on top while the "Mormons," monogamic or otherwise, are to be trampled in the mire, is the object they have in view.

The *Press* perceives this clearly and has no disposition to play into the hands of these political tricksters. It would be well if editors generally would wake up to the proper comprehension of this subject, and to understand it as the St. Paul paper does. In echoing the cries that are raised by those anti-"Mormons" in Utah whom Mr. Van Zile speaks for, they are not really attacking polygamy, but aiding a handful of political adventurers, scheming for the possession of a Territory rich in resources, free from debt and in a thoroughly prosperous condition. That is the whole story briefly told.

We agree with the *Press* in the belief that the proposed policy will not meet with public favor nor congressional endorsement, because it would really do nothing against polygamy, but would only destroy all likeness to a republican form of government in the most promising Territory of the United States. The Edmunds law, whatever may be its defects, has had no time to demonstrate its effectiveness or its weakness, and, mark it, there is no disposition on the part of the official now working for his own private ends at Washington to make it effective. He would like to worry some of the leading men here, and put them to trouble and expense, but he would be very sorry to see any measure prevail which did not put the control of the Territory into the hands of his fellow plotters. The *Press* is right on this question, and while we do not agree with its strictures on plural marriage, we commend its thoughtful and dis-

passionate utterances to the attention of all public writers and speakers in the United States.

ROOM FOR SETTLERS.

WARM CREEK, Oneida Co., Idaho, Jan. 9th, 1883.

Editor Deseret News:

We have a very good place for about thirty families here. We have plenty of water for our land, a splendid range for stock and very extensive. The land is quite productive; we can grow all kinds of vines and tender plants that can be grown in the northern part of Utah. I have grown two thousand bushels of potatoes this last season, which I am selling for one dollar and ten cents per hundred pounds. Our wheat and oats have also done well. I have grown two crops, the rest of my brethren having grown one. We have a school and meeting house in course of erection, and also a saw mill.

The DESERET NEWS is a very welcome visitor in our place, when it comes. It is very irregular in reaching us, but we are in hopes it will be more regular soon, as arrangements are being made for a permanent postoffice at American Falls. The present one will move on to Wood River.

We hope some of our brethren will remember to come and organize us.

Respectfully,

WM. NEELEY.

A ME OF DISASTER.

THE good wishes so commonly expressed at the opening of the new year do not appear to have had much effect upon the tide of disaster which seems to have set in with the advent of 1883. Fire, flood, collision, shipwreck and other sources of affliction have been prolific of trouble and death during the few days of a year that commenced with so many pleasant portents and benedictions. Inundations on the European continent have spread desolation and misery. The collision at the mouth of the Mersey, in which the *City of Brussels* was crushed and sunk, sent ten human beings to an awful death. Railroad accidents have maimed and mutilated the bodies of men and women and battered the lives out of others. Fires have destroyed millions worth of property, and the Newhall Hotel horror caps the climax of the sickening sorrows of a dozen days in 1883. If the record continues in anything like the same strain, the prognostications of the actions and effects of malefic planetary influences upon this globe will find some correspondence in the actual events of the year. Let us hope that a turn will come in the tide of its experience, that the worst period in its history may prove to be in its commencement, and that to the vast majority of the earth's inhabitants the New Year may prove after all to be a happy one. At the same time we cannot close our eyes to the fact that we are entering upon the time of "the great tribulation," and that every word of the inspired writers on this momentous period must certainly be fulfilled.

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, JAN. 12

A Change.—Bishop Fisher, of Oxford, Idaho, has resigned and Robt. N. Lewis, of Richmond, has been ordained in his stead.

More Appointments.—George Edgington has been appointed by the commission, presiding judge of the Coalville Municipal election, vice C. C. Rhoades, absent from that city. Mr. John H. Worthington has been appointed judge, in place of Mr. Edgington, designated presiding judge.

Accidentally Shot.—Last evening John Bearregard was brought in from Bingham and placed in St. Mark's Hospital. During the forepart of the day, while riding on horseback, a pistol in his hip pocket was accidentally discharged. The bullet entered the hip and ranged downward, lodging in the lower part of the thigh, inflicting a serious wound.

Mill Creek Relief Society.—To-day Sisters E. R. Snow Smith, Zina D. H. Young, and other leading ladies of this city have been attending a special gathering of the Mill