

New York has been in a blaze of excitement since the whole country has been profoundly stirred by the assassination of "Jim" Flak, the "Prince of Erie." Flak was a man of ability and energy, of influence over other men, of comprehensive business views, of keen making talent, and of largeness and liberality of spirit in many respects, especially towards his friends. But, so far as is apparent, he was a man of the most audacious unscrupulousness in business and of impure private life, which fatal defects made his better qualifications appear but sounding brass and tinkling cymbals, which is ever the case where integrity and purity of deed and thought are not the basis upon which the superstructure of the character is built.

The extraordinary influence of Flak, and the regard in which he was held, came in large part of the prevalent worship of bold ability, which of itself is an excellent thing, yet when unconnected with purity of character, but combined with unscrupulousness, is an endowment dangerous not only to the possessor, but to the public also. As was well remarked by a New York paper, the violent death of this man gives to him an importance and interest to which by his own deeds he is not entitled. He cannot, in either public or private matters, be held up as an exemplar for youth, yet all New York pours out into the streets and throngs the avenues to pay respect to his remains. This does not speak very highly for New York appreciation of that which is really admirable and worthy of universal emulation.

As to the way of his death, it was as unscrupulous on the part of another as was the way of his life on the part of himself, a violent ending to a life not remarkable for probity or purity. There are a few cases of highly aggravated crime, for which the law does not adequately provide, in which the taking of the offender's life by the injured party is justified or at least excused by public opinion, but as a rule the wreaking of private vengeance is not and cannot be excused, it is the manifestation of the spirit of murder, and is treated accordingly by courts and the public at large. If the murderer of Flak could escape the legal penalty of the crime committed, of which there appears to be little chance, it will be through some nice technicality or very ingenious special pleading.

Under the indelicate exertions of our Bishop, Abraham Hatch, improvements of a permanent nature are being made. The tithing house, already finished, is being enlarged to a very few, if any, in durability and firmness of structure, as well as for convenience for the purpose erected. The co-operative store, also completed, is a superior addition to the material, in which co-operation in mercantile pursuits is carried on in a manner that cannot fail to give universal satisfaction and thus establish the fact that co-operation is one thing needful.

We are also about to erect a large building under the name of the "Social Hall," this season, which will enable us to meet together for public worship, and to hold our meetings. Our sessions are well attended, although there are not quite so many of them as the nature of the case demands.

When righteousness rules, the notorious facility in which such men as Flak frequently figure, will become rare, and such characters will not sway so much influence nor be so highly regarded as they now often are.

#### THE TERRITORIAL LEGISLATURE.

Tuesday, January 9th.  
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HOUSE.—House met at 1 p. m., as per adjournment, and adjourned to meet in joint session.

JOINT SESSION.—The legislative met in joint session in the representatives' hall, at 2 p. m., the president of the council presiding.

The committee who had been appointed to wait on his Excellency, the Governor, returned, accompanied by his Excellency, whose arrival was announced by the usual announcement of the speaker of the house. A motion was made by the speaker of the house that the committee be seated.

His Excellency then read his message. A motion was made by the speaker of the house that the committee be seated. The committee then reported on the message.

The secretary read the letter of instruction referred to, by which the committee was authorized to wait on his Excellency, the Governor, and to report on the message.

On motion seventy-five copies of the daily minutes, for the use of the assembly, were ordered, and the committee on the subject of the assembly, were appointed.

COUNCIL.—The council reassembled in the council chamber, and the committee appointed to examine the new Methodist church and to report on the subject of the assembly, were appointed.

JOINT COMMITTEE.—A joint committee, to whom was referred the subject of examining the halls for the assembly to meet in, beg leave to report: "That it is the opinion of the committee to occupy the building selected by the honorable secretary of the Territory; viz: the unfinished Methodist church."

They make the following conclusions for the following reasons: "First.—The walls of the building are wet from having been recently plastered, and their condition would endanger the health of any body of persons who may assemble therein."

"Second.—The rooms are exceedingly dark and ill ventilated, and they are too small for the use of the assembly, the larger room being 23 by 24 feet, and the smaller 12 by 21 feet, and the smaller room for speakers not for joint session."

"Third.—An act of the governor and legislative assembly, passed February 11, 1870, specifically provides that the present assembly shall hold its sessions in the city hall of Salt Lake City, without the right of which act your committee are advised that the removal would be illegal."

The President of the council appointed the special standing committee on the subject of the assembly to meet in, beg leave to report: "That it is the opinion of the committee to occupy the building selected by the honorable secretary of the Territory; viz: the unfinished Methodist church."

#### Correspondence.

BIRMINGHAM CITY, Jan. 1, 1872.

Editorial Department:

Dear Sir:—Last evening the stockholders of our co-operative mercantile and manufacturing institution, held their annual meeting at the Cornhill Hotel, on which occasion Elder A. M. Mueser was present. President L. Snow was re-elected president, J. G. Wright, E. Smith, A. Nichols, E. J. F. Smith, J. R. Bates and J. T. Packer, directors. The capital stock of the association consists of a store, a tannery, woolen factory, butcher shop, large farm and dairy and other property, valued at \$75,000. The institution is over seven years old. The interest drawn by the shareholders has never been below fifteen nor above thirty per cent. It is a most successful illustration that, while money has been scarce and loans abundant, which has caused a stagnation in actual commerce with imported goods, the manufacturing department has been able to maintain its position, and to sustain co-operation, trade has only been nominal to compare with it, and our population have had easy access to good cloth, leather, boots and shoes, which the poor much appreciate.

If the weather will permit, work will soon be resumed on the U. N. R. R. line, the cars being prepared now. The county court has appropriated a sum of money for the purpose of grading a road from here to the point of the station marked out. The locomotive and construction cars are being sent from the factory track. The county jail is about finished.

Respectfully, A. G.

HERBIE CITY, January 1st, 1872.

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Dear Sir:—Our location is a somewhat isolated one, yet I believe our privileges are not far short of many other counties in our mountain home. We have wood for fuel and timber for building, and a good supply of water, and easily obtained, and our water privileges, I will venture to say, are not surpassed in any other part of the State. Range of the good and land for agricultural purposes is plentiful and of a superior quality. Although the grasshoppers have at different times visited us in untold numbers, and have frequently made clean work of our crops and saved the husbandman the trouble and labor of harvest, yet faith and perseverance have rewarded us with a successful season. Our granaries are overflowing with plenty, the progressive spirit of our brethren is on the increase, and a general thankfulness appears to pervade the heart of the people.

Under the indelicate exertions of our Bishop, Abraham Hatch, improvements of a permanent nature are being made. The tithing house, already finished, is being enlarged to a very few, if any, in durability and firmness of structure, as well as for convenience for the purpose erected. The co-operative store, also completed, is a superior addition to the material, in which co-operation in mercantile pursuits is carried on in a manner that cannot fail to give universal satisfaction and thus establish the fact that co-operation is one thing needful.

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"Fourth.—The City Hall is a much more convenient place for holding the sessions than the unfinished Methodist church, and the removal would be illegal."

The report was accepted and acted upon.

built of red sandstone, and finished with considerable taste. There are besides these many well built with much taste and style. During the course of work on a new building, the city of Salt Lake, whose dimensions are round nearly 100 by 150 feet, and whose walls, if we forget not, are to be ninety feet high, to be built of rock and reared with all dispatch. Numbers of masons are ready here and waiting to begin work, and a ready-made force of 100 masons around St. George, who have in possession in fact several rich mining camps, where all can produce finds a ready market at a good price. Our climate and soil are adapted to the growing of a great variety of the finest fruits, nuts, vegetables and grain, and raising and growing delicious shades of Spain and France. Our vines are so mild that we enjoy great advantages for stock in the vicinity, when little snow or frost falls in the winter.

Today the workers on the new Tabernacle placed the last stone upon the tower of the building amid great rejoicing, singing, firing of cannon, etc. The stone was set in place by a given A. M. Mason, and the ceremony was conducted, various mangled stocks, wallflowers, and other novelties, and that incense in warm situations was growing out of the ground.

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After the concert, the company returned to the hotel, and enjoyed themselves until the small hours of the morning.

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Respectfully, B. B. LEWELLYN.

St. George, Utah, Dec. 29, 1871.

Editorial Department:

If you can spare a corner of your most interesting paper to an old friend of your territorial corps, for news items from Southern Utah, I shall endeavor to keep you suitably posted in events transpiring in "Our Dixie," and these items will not appear merely in the local press, but will be published in the "Evening News," which promises to be a most valuable addition to the Rocky Mountain news.

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