

OUR CHICAGO LETTER.

REPUBLICAN TACTICS — MODERN
GUTHS AND VANDALS — FAVORING
MONOPOLY — JOURNALISTIC DIS-
SENSION BOWERS — RASPING RELIG-
IONISTS.

CHICAGO, Dec. 15th, 1883.

Editor Desert News:

The selection of Chicago for the holding of the National Republican Convention has a kind of gambling melodramatic air about it. The superstition of the player when staking his last chip is proverbial. He remembers the time and place and circumstance, when where and how luck favored him previously; so it appears to be with the whilom great Republican party. That party is now playing its last chip, and it plays with the cautious idolatry of the despairing gambler. 'Tis possible as some papers assert that it may have some secret intrigue of its own in prospect, and that Chicago may be favorable as Cincinnati for ent-throat proceedings. The desperation of the party is also apparent, in its pursuit of some sensational issue. Its organs take such deep interest in the success of the Democrats, that they are actually tearing their hair because M. Carlisle tempers his reform principles with a mild conservatism. First they gloat over the prospect of a split between Mr. Dana and Mr. Waterson, and now when these chieftains begin to coalesce, they claim a sacrifice of principle on some side. It is strange how this party delights in destruction. They want an issue that will bear appealing to the emotions and prejudices of the people rather than one capable of calm and rational treatment. Of course the most urgent issue can be treated calmly, but they won't have that way. Sensationalism is their food, without it they expire of inanition.

See with what resolve they try to maintain the structure of sectionalism, and the Solid South bugaboo. See how they ring the changes on free trade and prohibition. See how persistently and industriously they are trying to make a question of Mormonism. All this agitation, all this indignant outcry about constructive iniquity, all this imaginary interviewing, are nothing more than a deep laid plan of the preachers and editors of this party to gull the public, before the public could get a chance to be educated on the Mormon question. But the general public and the calm, rational people should consider this matter and not allow themselves to be hood-winked by buncomb statesmanship. See the tactics of preventing polygamy first, then will come fanaticism, ignorance and spiritual control. Any impartial observer cannot fail to see that behind polygamy they have other hobbies. When one of these awful moralists is met with solid argument on the marriage topic, then he retreats and, under cover of other themes, tries to keep up his fire. He will say "slaves to a priesthood," "church despotism," and such non-sensical rubbish. The great Johnson once said "the man who hallooed polygamy now, would halloo fire in the Deluge." So it is with these miserable ranters, who try to keep alive, or rather to revive the spirit of the 17th century; they would actually cry fire in the Deluge. As if any religion or any form of belief or unbelief would destroy modern civilization, or make mankind more wretched or immoral.

The Guths and Vandals that are to destroy modern civilization are already among us, and it behoves us to guard well against them. Shyster politicians, scrub preachers, and females thirsting for notoriety, are the evils to be looked after. Destruction seems to be their watchword. Even when a number of them congregate to pray, they end in dog-fighting. If it is not a preacher who is on trial for looking softly on some aged spinster, or visiting some pious matron, it is one of themselves who danced a polka or swallowed surreptitious whiskey. Thus they go on destroying. There are observers, or properly speaking pessimists, who maintain this is a law of human nature. They will show how monks obliterated classic parchments to be used for scriptural incantations. They will show how Puritans turned the choice sculpture of another religion over to stonemasons to be mutilated. Sometimes it is a movement of a body, or the wearing of a certain garment, that causes religious ire to break out, they say. So on, will they recite the foibles and shortcomings of religious humanity,

to prove the total depravity theory. There need be a pessimism about these matters. We can buy for 25 cents a history of all these warring sects, and if, after a careful perusal of it we are not wiser and more competent to touch similar matters to-day, then indeed is education a failure, history a myth, and intelligence a ray of moonshine.

We have in Chicago to-day a case which will aptly illustrate the tergiversation and hollowness of the public educator. A new corporation is endeavoring to get a charter for a railroad into the city. A rival corporation already running into the city tries to stop this. The very papers which are harping on Pacific syndicates and monopolies take the part of the old firm. The common council are abused as only pick-pockets can be abused, for daring to entertain any idea of favoring the new corporation. One paper claims that the council receives \$50,000 from the new, while as if to cover itself with sublime absurdity, in the same breath states that \$55,000 are ready to be turned over by the old to keep the new out. Such logic as this may gull the public for a time, but in the end, the most obtuse mind must see the petty quibbling.

Party spirit must have something to do with this, but it is poor policy. It used to be said that all was fair in love and war, but that theory is exploded. War and love both have their code, and any infraction of this code generally recoils in the breaker. So it is with party. Party is coeval with representative government and the assertion of parliamentary powers. Without it popular government would become an executive absolutism or chaotic anarchy. Faction, strife and individual ambition would soon call for a Dictator. The clamorous adventurer and the reckless intriguer, come to the surface when party demoralizes. To this condition has the Republican press brought its party to-day. It seeks rather to sow dissension among its opponents, than to educate its adherents. It seeks to quibble and distort an issue, rather than boldly avow it, or argumentatively impeach it.

Christianity seems in no happier condition than politics. We read of the Salvation Army being stoned in the Eastern cities. We read that the troubles in Egypt between Muslims and Christians are caused by American religionists. It is strange that people can't be religious without being blood thirsty and militant. If there is any road that common humanity ought to harmonize on, it surely ought to be the road to heaven. Yet this is the road, where we are so interested in our neighbor that we actually slay the body to save the soul. The old Puritans used to kill the bears, to put down cruelty to animals in bear baiting. Well, there was logic in this, though it was rather grim. President Arthur hurls a missile at Mormonism, though his father would have been rode on a rail out of Massachusetts a century ago. A Baptist preacher was the most un-Christian animal a puritan could look on in the dim past. JUNIUS.

LOGAN TEMPLE.

THE WIDOWS' MITE ASSISTS TO
BUILD IT.

Editor Desert News:

The subject of the Logan Temple is ever a pleasing one to the Saints, especially to those of this Temple District, who have so generously given of their means and labor towards its erection. As it approaches completion, the greatness of the undertaking appears more apparent, also the magnitude of its cost.

The total donations as reported at our last quarterly conference showed the interest taken by the Saints, and spoke loudly in their favor and of the devotion they possess in regard to the great latter-day work, manifesting an ardent desire for the redemption of their dead.

There is, however, a class of donors, whose donations are included in the total referred to, that I wish to draw attention to, who have aided to swell the amount of contributions—that of a number of widows, both in and out of the district, of our acquaintance, who have donated \$2,108.23, which is truly the "Widows' Mite."

We have undertaken to compile a list of this class of donors, and thinking there may be others whose names we have not got, we wish through the medium of the press to call the attention of the Bishops and

presidents of the Relief Societies, and ask them to aid us in ascertaining how many such individuals reside in their respective wards, and, if possible, the amounts each have donated, as we are unable in this office to determine these facts, on account of many donations being handed to us in bulk by these officers, for which we receipt to the ward thus contributing and not to individuals. More especially is this the case among the wards comprising the Temple district. An offering of the kind in question is peculiarly impressive from the fact that it is absolutely free from any affectation or desire on the part of the person donating to be seen of men for the purpose of obtaining their plaudits and approbation but proceeds from a pure desire to give to satisfy their consciences, superinduced by a strong feeling of duty to assist in such a laudable purpose. When taken in connection with the circumstances that ordinarily surround a person bearing the appellation of a widow, the act takes on the character of a sacrifice and makes it doubly sanctified. The many donations of this class are well worthy the admiration of the Saints and should arouse a spirit of zeal in their hearts to assist all in their power to complete the Temple, that while the widow gives her mite, sometimes all she hath, the Saints out of their abundance may give amply and have abundance left. Many visitors seem surprised at seeing the work so nearly finished and express themselves well paid for the interest they have taken in its erection, and look forward with anxiety to its completion and dedication which is in the near future.

Appreciating the generous acts of all who have contributed towards the erection of the House of the Lord, I remain

Yours respectfully,
C. O. CARD, Supt.
Logan, Dec. 20, 1883.

INTERESTING FROM THE SOUTH.

MINING DEVELOPMENTS—A BEAUTIFUL CAVE—INJURED HIS EYES
—A GOOD CONFERENCE—
FACTORY REVIVING.

ST. GEORGE, Dec. 20th, 1883.

Editor Desert News:

Since our conference here, I have visited the Tustageubet Mining district. The Black Warrior mining claim is opening up very extensively.

Since my last report they have drifted into the mountain seventy-five feet and struck the ledge, after which they ran a cut southerly and along the ledge for twenty-five feet, when they opened out into a large cave running along the ledge, three hundred feet in length, from ten to forty feet in width and two to fifteen in height, dipping from north to south about thirty degrees. It is presumed that the bottom or lower end of the cave is about two hundred feet from the surface. It is the most beautiful sight I ever beheld, the cave being covered all along the roof, sides and bottom with stalactites and land coral, in all imaginary shapes, spears hanging from the roof all sizes and pillars as large as six inches through, some being as long as fifteen feet. I brought samples to St. George that created quite an interest to many who visited the store to see them.

The cave has been formed by the sinking of the ledge, and thousands of tons of ore is in sight, the body of it extending from one end to the other, consisting of grey carbonate principally, with some red oxide of iron and copper. The last assays on the carbonate were 71 per cent. lead, and silver per ton \$69.

The company intend to commence operations immediately, either in shipping the ore, or putting up smelters in the vicinity of the mines. They have some eight claims, all of which show up from the croppings nearly as large as the Black Warrior.

In returning we crossed the mountain on foot, to where we had left our horses, and visited the "Apex" mine, located by Mr. Brigham Jarvis and others. As yet it has not been developed, but I uncovered for about 25 feet in length, showing quite a ledge of green copper ore, assaying about 35 per cent. copper. This undoubtedly will yet be one of the richest districts in Utah.

Mr. W. P. Stevens, one of the miners of the Mountain Chief Company, and the one who first discovered the cave, had the misfortune

to get his face and eyes badly injured last Monday. He was letting off a shot, when the tamping blew out into his face. It is hoped that he will not lose his sight, though the balls are badly hurt.

Our conference went off with a vim, and the people felt greatly blessed in having the society and instructions of four of the Twelve.

A meeting was held in Washington yesterday. Apostles E. Snow and F. M. Lyman; Pres. J. W. Crosby of Paiguitch, Pres. Thompson of Millard Stake, and Judge E. G. Wooley being the speakers.

The Washington Factory is once more in full blast, they having their new machinery all in operation and doing well. There are abundant supplies of wool, grain, flour, etc., on hand. The factory is apparently in better condition than ever before.

Yours truly,
WAB.

VOLCANIC PHENOMENA.

SIXTEEN ISLANDS APPEAR—A MOUNTAIN TOPPLES INTO THE SEA—TOWNS ANNIHILATED—40,000 SOULS WAVED INTO FUTURITY.

The world had hardly finished reading detailed accounts of the calamity that befell Ischia, when there occurred near here a catastrophe so appalling that the Cassamicciolo disaster sinks into insignificance. Here the dead are numbered by tens of thousands and the loss of property cannot be estimated. Nature has not for centuries shown such contempt for the lives of her subjects. Populous towns, centres of flourishing trade and immense districts of agricultural property were, without a moment's warning, completely annihilated, and not a vestige remains to mark their former sites. The volcano Krakatoe, in the straits of Sunda, which separate Java and Sumatra, having been dormant for 200 years, was supposed to be extinct, but, during the beginning of May last gave signs of renewed activity, and later in the same month, emitted huge volumes of smoke and an occasional shower of stones. No danger was, however, anticipated, for it was an uninhabited island, miles from either shore. On Sunday, the 28th August, heavy detonations were heard, which were at first thought to be thunder, but finally the sharpness peculiar to volcanic disturbances was noticed, and as the sound came from the direction of Krakatoe, it was considered probable that an eruption was in progress. At 7 o'clock p. m., unmistakable evidence came in a concussion so severe as to extinguish the gas and all lights, and the doors were burst open. The houses trembled and vibrated from the force of the shock, although unaccompanied by any shaking of the earth. At 9 o'clock, another, and at 1 a. m., Monday, another still more terrific than the two which had preceded it. The very air seemed to be exploding, and the noise was something never to be forgotten by those who heard it. Sleeping was not thought of. Groups of terrified people were gathered before the houses and in the streets, peering in vain into the darkness. Time never before seemed to pass so slowly, and when daylight appeared there were handshakings and congratulations, and rejoicings that the night had ended.

THE SUN HIDES HIS FACE.

There was then no premonition of the intensified darkness which was shortly again to fall upon the earth. The sun rose as usual, but a little later became overcast, giving less and less light, until at 11 o'clock Egyptian darkness enveloped the city, and positively nothing could be seen. The fright of the natives was pitiful; although it could not much exceed that of the Europeans, they had a more forcible manner of expressing it. Falling prostrate on the ground, their cries to Allah were loud and long, and deep walls of anguish resounded through the gloom. At 4 p. m., daylight was again welcomed with demonstrations of great joy, the crowing of chanticleers and the shrieking oriel of doorknocking. Still there was no news from the scene of action, as telegraphic communication had been destroyed while the operator was "wiring" the fact of an awful eruption of Krakatoe going on. "Must stop, building a—." Vague surmises of the probable wreck and ruin were made and discussed, but none thought that they could be very disastrous, owing to the location of its volcano in the sea. When information reached here, however,

it was of the most horrifying description and told a tale of death and destruction which has seldom been equalled. The island of Krakatoe, 2,600 feet high, had given forth a series of extensive belchings of smoke and ashes, fires and stones, and then sunk into the sea, disappearing altogether; 18 new islands had arisen from the depths of the sea, all active volcanoes; and an island near had been divided into three. The immense disturbance caused a displacement of water, which, in the form of a tidal wave, 100 feet high, desolated the north-west coast of Java and the southern part of Sumatra. With a speed exceeding the swiftest race horse and a force incalculable, it rolled upon the land a mighty ocean, making muddy waters of fertile areas, and cemeteries of towns and villages. Of the 10,000 people residing in the city of Anjer, not a single one escaped an instantaneous death and a watery burial. There is no survivor of Telakbelong, and its 3,000 residents are floating corpses, putrefying beneath an equatorial sun. Many other towns and villages were almost entirely destroyed, but in all these were some people who escaped with their lives. The exact number of the slain can only be estimated from the size of the Kampong or village. The most moderate estimates place it at 40,000, which number it may exceed or possibly fall short of.

A DESOLATE WASTE.

The Dutch Government immediately despatched steamers to aid the survivors, and stationed a gun-boat at each entrance of the Straits to warn approaching vessels of the complete change in the passage. The water was in some parts so thickened with ashes as to prevent the steamer passing through, and large blocks of pumice-stone were floating about—some of them three or four feet square—being sustained by the consistency of the ashed water. On the land at a distance of thirty miles, ashes fell to the depth of three feet, and even here, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles, they fell two inches deep. The wave had extended far inland destroying everything in its track, except upon the higher levels where the force was broken. The water receded from the higher areas, leaving a thick deposit of mud, and making the land as valueless as those portions which are still submerged. Property owners were thus stripped of everything, and many thousands are now dependent on the government and charities for even the small quantity of rice that suffices for their daily wants. Fortunately the climate and the customs of the country are not such as to make the loss of clothing a serious matter, so that food and some sarongs (loin cloths) are the only prime necessities of present relief. Government is doing its duty and all in its power to alleviate the sufferings. Private benevolence and public subscriptions are rapidly swelling the amount at the disposal of the committee of disbursement, and soon all will have their immediate wants supplied. The distance at which the detonations were heard is almost incredible, being no less than 500 miles north and 600 miles south. It has only been exceeded once in the world's history, and that was in 1815 when the eruption of Tambora, in Sumbana was heard at a distance of 1,000 miles each way.

AN AWFULLY SUBLIME SPECTACLE.

The eruption, as seen by those on the high coast of Sumatra, was one of magnificent grandeur. Huge and dense volumes of smoke, which ascended high into the heavens, were followed by immense columns of fire thrown up from two ridges. These joining together a fiery arch was formed of great height and splendor. Rocks, at a red heat, were thrown like projectiles from a cannon, and meeting the air, exploded with great noise. The whole heavens seemed to be on fire from the illumination of the burning mountain, and it could well be imagined that the end of all things had come, when the earth was to melt away in the heat of the internal kingdom. A terrific and deafening explosion rent the mountain in twain, and molten matter ran from the crevice which extended from the top of the elevation to the water's edge, and probably far below. After a grand commotion, one-half the mountain seemed to raise up, and falling outward into the sea, disappeared altogether.

Several gunboats are cruising about the Straits, and when their