

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

An item for apiarists: There are two million bee hives in this country, owned by 7,000 bee keepers, and the revenue last year amounted to \$14,000,000.

A husband telegraphed to his wife: "What have you for breakfast, and how is the baby?" The answer was returned: "Buckwheat cakes and the measles."

Our dispatches from Mobile, Ga., to-day, report two deaths from yellow fever. The infected vessel is quarantined thirty-six miles out from the city, and it is hoped that the disease may be checked.

It is stated as a positive fact that those Englishmen who have been riding the bicycles longest have become bow-legged and stoop-shouldered as a consequence. Every rose, it would seem, has its thorns.

This year's wheat crop is said to be the largest and finest ever seen in America. Ohio will harvest the largest crop ever known, and good reports come from all parts of the western wheat-raising States.

The harbor of the Mare Island Navy Yard, San Francisco, is filling up with sediment. Secretary Thompson and Captain Eads are looking into the causes, with the intention of discovering a prevention.

Hancock and Garfield must both be wicked men, fit inmates for the penitentiary, if all is true that is said about them by the newspapers. This personal abuse of candidates by political enemies is one of the disgraces of American journalism.

A young woman alighted from a stage coach when a piece of ribbon from her bonnet fell into the coach. "You have left your bow behind," said a lady passenger. "Oh, no, I haven't, he's gone fishing," innocently rejoined the damsel, proceeding on her way.

A young man who held a loaded pistol to his head and threatened to blow his brains out unless the girl who had refused him would consent to have him, was coolly told by the young lady he would have to blow some brains into his head first. He didn't blow.

At last it looks as if something had been found for the ex-President to do. He is said to have accepted the office of manager of some valuable New Mexican mines, with a big salary, and a permanent residence in New York. He has no fortune, and like most other people in the same condition, must work for his living.

The peaceable inhabitants of New York are rising up in arms against the cat nuisance. Ornamental gardens, valuable plants, rare vines and shrubbery are all being ruthlessly destroyed by the night serenaders, who combine these proclivities with an unhallowed desire to keep people awake. The respectable portions of the species hereafter will be taxed by the city, and all the others will be made away with as soon as caught.

Sea bathing along the New Jersey coast has its unpleasant drawbacks. Recently a mammoth shark, weighing upwards of a thousand pounds, was captured at a favorite resort for pleasure seekers, and to quiet the alarm naturally aroused, the enterprising hotel keepers of the district state that the sharks there are of a very cowardly nature, and would on no account devour a bather, unless he should put himself completely into their jaws.

The Democratic disunion in Virginia, which exists to a considerable extent, is gloated over by Republican politicians and papers as guaranteeing the old Dominion for Garfield next November. We hear to-day that unless Merritt is removed from the New York collectorship, Conkling will do nothing to assist Garfield, and in the same dispatch that Merritt will not be removed. Conkling, the Apollo, the eloquent, has immense power in the Empire State, and if he is disaffected, its vote is without a doubt secured for the Democrats. Disunion is dangerous for either side.

Dr. Murphy was boasting recently that the climate of Minnesota beats the climate of California or any other State, and with a triumphant air of exultation, exclaimed: "Look at me! behold my beautifully rounded form. When I came here I weighed only 87 pounds, and now I weigh 275 pounds. What

do you think of that?" One of the sons of the late Bishop Willoughby, standing by, said: "Why doctor, that's nothing, look at me; I weigh 175 pounds and when I came to Minnesota, I weighed only six pounds." The doctor left.—*St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press.*

Has Edison ever invented anything? The quadruplex telegraph which he claims as his own, and is thought to be the most valuable thing to which his name has been attached, is now said to be the production of H. C. Nicholson, of Kentucky, and legal proceedings have been instituted to set Edison's patent aside.

The following are considered the sixteen great American inventions of world-wide adoption:—The cotton gin, the planing machine, the grass mower and reaper, the rotary printing press, navigating by steam, the hot air engine, the sewing machine, the India rubber industry, the machine manufacture of horse shoes, the sand blast for carving, the guage lathe, the grain elevator, artificial ice-making on a large scale, the electric magnet and its practical applications, the composing machine for printers, and the telephone. And to this list might be added hundreds of inventions, utilizing the elements and saving labor, all being nearly as important.

Belgium has made great progress since the establishment of the kingdom in 1830. The population has increased from about 3,500,000 to 5,500,000, the rate of increase being exactly one per cent per annum. The land in Belgium, as in France, is well divided among the people, there being about 1,140,000 freehold proprietors who possess about 2,419,799 hectares of land, out of a total of 2,945,516. The land is constantly being divided, and, as a consequence, where there is no entail or other hindrance to ownership, the number of landed proprietors is evidently on the increase. In 1876 there were 21 land owners to every 100 inhabitants. This is a healthful state of things, and is one of the secrets of the prosperity of the little kingdom.

The *Millennial Star* of July 5th has the following notice, to which the attention of persons in this Territory seeking for information from the Liverpool Office is respectfully directed: "A great many letters are received at this Office, from various parts of Utah, from private individuals. Most of these communications are written with the expectation of a reply from us by mail. In most cases the writers forget to enclose sufficient currency to cover the expense for postage. In consequence of this omission we have necessarily been put to considerable expense. We cheerfully supply legitimate information to those making application for it, but, in future, we would be pleased to have it understood that letters of inquiry from private persons should enclose a sufficient amount to defray the postage of a reply."

## Correspondence.

**Insanity—Disturbers of the Dead—Superstition—Mobocracy—Murder.**  
VERNON, Ala.,  
July 19, 1880.

*Editors Deseret News:*

Something over a year ago, a Mr. Hawkins, near this place, died and was buried. He left a wife, who has since lived with his mother and two brothers. It appears that some time ago, the wife and mother of the deceased had some peculiar manifestations, in which they were told that if they would take said Hawkins up one year from the date of his burial, and speak to him, he would receive life, resurrect and live again. This they firmly believed, and with much eagerness looked forward to the day when they would again enjoy his company. Accordingly, when the day arrived for them to resurrect the body, they waited until late in the evening, and then the brother's wife and mother stole secretly to the cemetery, taking their spades and shovels, also the hat of the departed for him to wear home. After their arrival, the dirt was speedily thrown out of the grave, the coffin taken up and opened, but all the speaking and praying they could do would not restore life to the dead body. The corpse was in a good state of preservation; the hair and beard had grown to be long and beautiful. This seemed to give them new faith, and putting the corpse across two sticks,

they carried it home, and put it in an old well within a few feet of the door, where they could see it whenever they felt so disposed. They then received more revelations to the effect that the body would rise upon another date. This failing to be accomplished, the authorities interfered and the remains were again buried.

Another cause of disturbing the dead has resulted in the death of six "freedmen" if not more. The particulars have been gleaned by your correspondent as follows: In the latter part of last year a negro came from Columbus, Miss., into this region, and gambled with those of his own color. He proved to be expert at playing cards, and the winner of every game. On being asked by his defeated opponents why he was so successful, he refused to tell, unless they gave him \$5.00 for a receipt which he said would enable them to accomplish any trick they desired to perform. Several of them, how many of them I cannot ascertain, some say six and others say as high as 30, procured receipts. The receipts required them to go to a grave yard in the middle of some dark night and hold prayer. Then dig down to a coffin and play three games of "seven up" on the lid. Then open the coffin and twist off the finger bones and string them on a string and carry them in their pocket. They followed the directions, but they first opened the grave of an old gentleman who had been buried over 40 years. On finding no bones they opened the grave of one Mrs. Poe, who had been buried something over a year. In twisting off her fingers they twisted her arm off at the shoulder, but they returned the arm to the coffin, keeping the fingers. Several more graves were disturbed, but the number is not known. This was all kept a secret until about two weeks ago, when one of the perpetrators of the deed was taken sick, and, about to die, he made a "death-bed confession," and divulged the secret of the whole matter. A company of men immediately captured three of the guilty ones and hung them until they told all they knew about it and gave up the string of bones in their possession, in which was found the bones of snakes, rabbits, squirrels, human fingers, etc., also scorpion heads. The prisoners were then brought into this place and lodged in the county jail. Another of these negroes was followed into the northern part of the State and killed. These men then went to Columbus, Mississippi, and put to death the salesman of the receipts last Friday night. Saturday night, at 1 o'clock, Sheriff Lacy was awakened by a mob of between 20 and 30 men, who told him to come out. He declined. They then demanded the jail key but he refused it and gave his reasons for so doing. They then demanded a lamp and succeeded in obtaining it. After placing a guard around both the jail and Mr. Lacy's house, they went and broke open a blacksmith shop and brought out hammers and chisels and begun work. The locks soon gave way, but they found it impossible to bring the negroes out of the cage, therefore they shot them down like so many hogs in a pen. The mobocrats stayed in the jail one hour until the victims breathed their last, and then proceeded to the dwelling of the sick betrayer to end his misery. The names of those killed in the jail at this place were Dudley Brothers, Lindsey Portwood and Westley Richardson. The former wore some of the jewelry taken from the graves. The latter was a minister of the Methodist Church. Two of the bodies received four balls each, the other only two. They lay in the jail until Sunday afternoon. Your correspondents saw them and pronounced it the worst sight he ever saw. The white citizens washed, dressed and buried them, all in one grave, in decent order. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of murder, but it will be impossible to get a jury in this part of the State to convict one of the mobocrats, even if they are ever caught. C. H. BLISS.

*School Trustees, Etc.*

SALT LAKE CITY,  
July 28th, 1880.

*Editors Deseret News:*

Sirs:—Since the publication by you of my letter of the 12th inst., the following questions relating to trustees of district schools have been asked me:

First—If a school trustee goes to England on a mission to preach the gospel is his office as trustee vacant?

Answer—There is nothing in the law which requires a trustee of a district school to go from home nor to remain in the school district. This is submitted to his discretion, but if he goes out of the school district to be absent during his whole term, in my opinion a vacancy occurs. Trustees must act for and within the school district, and not elsewhere.

Second—Can the other two trustees do business lawfully without filling the vacancy?

Answer—I find by section thirteen of the school law, page 31, that a majority of the trustees shall have power to transact business, and in case of a vacancy in any school district by death, resignation or otherwise, the remaining trustees shall immediately appoint a suitable person to fill such vacancy until the next election for trustees.

It is better to comply with this act but any urgent business may be done by the two remaining trustees. See also my letter of the 7th inst., published in the News.

Third—If three trustees are elected and only two qualify, can these two appoint an assessor and collector?

Answer. Yes. The act says a majority may do business, but if one refuses to qualify there is a vacancy and the two who qualify may fill the vacancy.

Fourth—If an assessor and collector has no certificate of office from the court where he files his bonds, are his acts valid in law?

Answer. Section six of the act (see page 28) says the trustees shall have power to appoint an assessor and collector and prescribe his qualifications. It is the appointment and the complying with the order of the trustees which confers the authority on the assessor and collector. This should be recorded by the trustees. As a wise measure I will suggest that he be required to take an oath of office and give a bond to the school district in double the amount of the taxes to be collected by him conditioned for the faithful compliance with his duties prescribed by the law.

In a former letter I remarked in substance that in the efficient exercise of the duties of the superintendents of schools—Territorial and County—of the school examiners and trustees, depends the success of our educational system.

Yours truly,  
Z. SNOW.

**Terrible Rain and Hail Storm in Alpine.**

ALPINE CITY, July 29, 1880.

*Editors Deseret News:*

This city and vicinity was visited on Tuesday, the 27th, with the most violent hail and rain storm that has ever been witnessed in this locality.

About noon on Tuesday, a thick dark cloud was seen traveling over the mountains a little Northwest of this city, accompanied with occasional thundering. In a short time hail and rain were pouring down, in torrents, the hail continued about 30 minutes, and the rain about one hour longer, during which time the streets and creeks almost resembled rivers.

After the storm was over everybody wanted to know to what extent the crops were injured. A visit to the North field showed little damage done; to the East there was considerable damage to crops. The field known as the West field, and the bench under the North hills was beyond description, some men losing all they had in the shape of grain.

Oats were thrashed out and then washed away, the wheat that was not ripe sufficient to thrash, was beaten down and cut off. Corn is stripped of almost all its leaves, the stalks are yet standing, but are badly cut up as if rabbits had been eating them. Peas are beaten down and the shells look as if an army of chickens had been devouring them, and the peas are bruised very bad. The apples that are left upon the trees are bruised very much.

Some may gather from two to five bushels per acre by sickleing, others will save half, and two-thirds, whilst many will lose all. On one tract of grain, over 50 acres, much would have been compared very favorably with any in the county before the storm; it is now impossible to find even a bundle of straw, the hail beat it down, loosened up the roots, and the flood of water was so great that it washed all entirely away. There is also a large amount of grain belonging to residents of Lehi City, who

have been farming on this same bench, which is all destroyed.

A large amount of this water ran into the canal leading to Lehi City, and must have done considerable damage to them. American Fork also shared a little in this storm, but to what extent I do not know. The damage done to residents of Alpine will amount to about \$6,000.

Yours very respectfully,  
J. DEVEY.

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**DR. E. L. PLANT,**  
**HERBALIST,**  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

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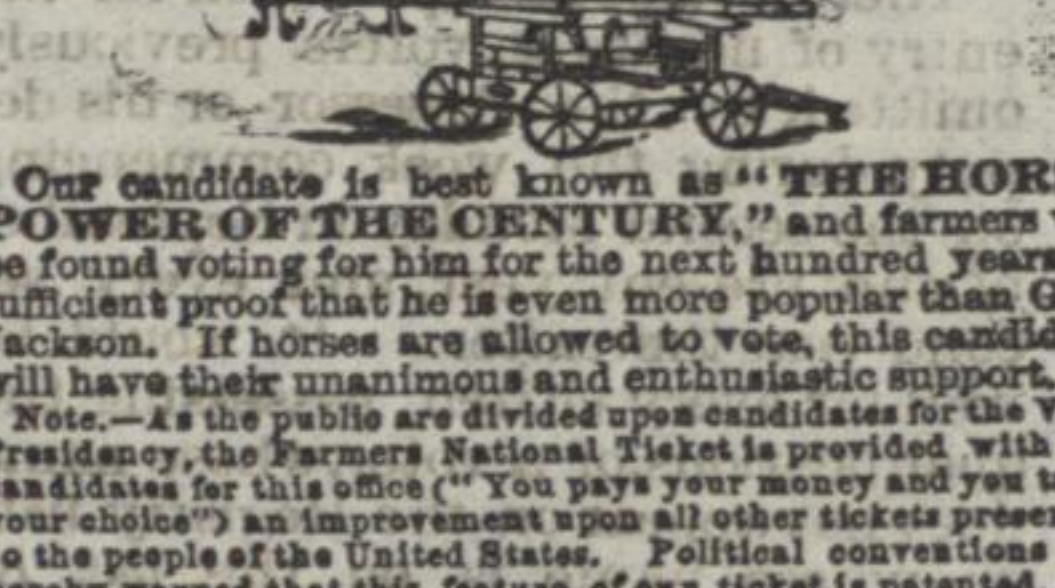
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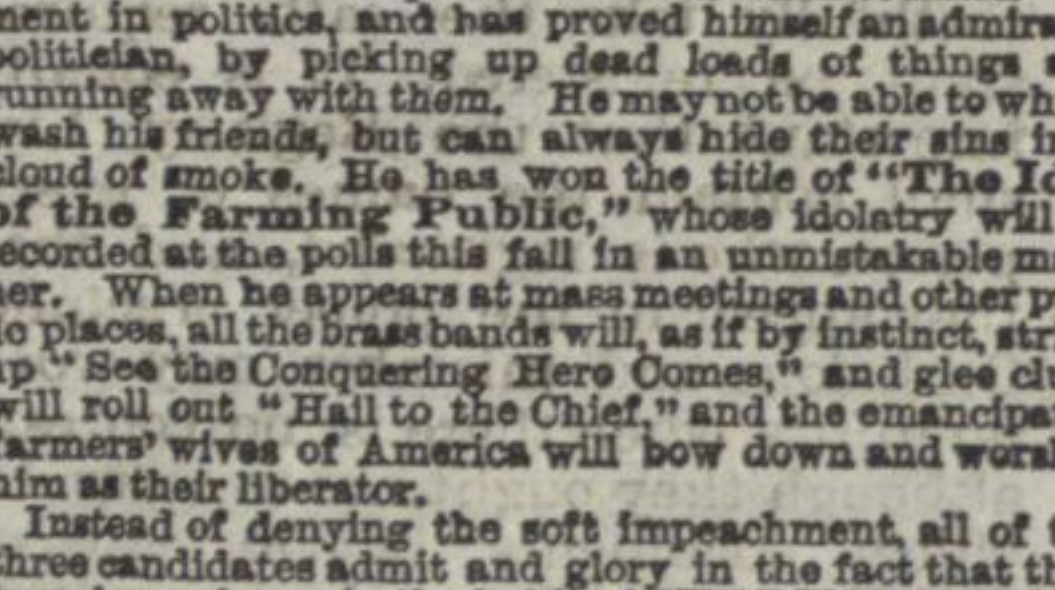
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Note.—As the public are divided upon candidates for the Vice Presidency, the Farmers National Ticket is provided with two candidates for this office. ("You pay your money and you take your choice") an improvement upon all other tickets presented to the people of the United States. Political conventions are hereby warned that this feature of our ticket is patented, and infringers will be prosecuted.

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