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THE DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER.

ALL the reports that have reached us concerning the meetings held on Sunday, the day of thanksgiving and prayer, are of the most encouraging character. The Latter-day Saints attended in great numbers. Overflowing congregations assembled fasting, the spirit of humility, forgiveness, praise and testimony was abundantly manifest, and the liberality displayed gave assurance that all the means needed for the completion of the Salt Lake Temple will be forthcoming in due season.

The hand of the Lord in bringing about present joyful conditions was duly recognized, and His answers to the prayers of His people, offered up at the former day of general fasting and humiliation, were gratefully acknowledged. A delightful spirit was everywhere experienced, and young and old were united in expressing their pleasure at participating in its enjoyment.

There was no ostentatious display of large gifts by the wealthy, but their handsome offerings were made quietly, so as not to disconcert their poorer brethren and sisters, and, in far as we can learn, the donations were, as a rule, suitable to the circumstances of the donors, though many of the comparatively indigent manifested a generosity that is highly commendable considering their limited means.

The result of the day's services will, we are sure, prove to be very gratifying. The disposition to aid in finishing the House of the Lord was pleasant to behold, and will bring forth blessing and prosperity. But more than that, the humility, devotion, faith and union manifested, foretell a rich increase in spiritual influence and progress that will redound to the strength and prosperity of the Church, the growth of the Saints toward the standard of perfection, and the praise and glory of God.

BEHIND THE TIMES.

A BOSTON paper has an alleged Salt Lake correspondent who signs his, her or its name "Mordanit." The letters of this writer are made up of anti-"Mormon" gossip—just such yarns as may be heard in the loafing-room of a third-rate hotel—and gleaned from the odds and ends with which a splenetic local publication fills up vacant spaces and pieces out unfinished columns. It is surprising that, at this late date in the century, any journal with pretensions to progress would publish such miserable stuff as "special correspondence."

We do not propose to reply to any of the stories told by "Mordanit," or to the misrepresentations of "Mormon" belief which are made in the letter. They are too absurd for serious treatment. The paper in which they appear makes some comments, however, which we will reproduce. It says:

"People who possess a tender regard for the Mormons of Utah which they do not want dispelled should not read 'Mordanit's' Utah letter which appears in another column. One-half of it is sufficient to cause cold chills to chase one another up and down the back of the most ardent eastern admirer of the sect. Taken in its entirety it is a regular course of anti-Mormon treatment with a six weeks' story in a convalescent hospital thrown in."

"People who possess a tender regard" for the truth, and who know anything of the "Mormons" people and their faith, would be likely to have "cold chills run up and down their back" at the falsehood and malice of "Mordanit," and the complicity in his turpitude of the Boston paper that publishes such an effusion. "Taken in its entirety it is a regular course of anti-Mormon treatment," which consists of one sired of fact in a large mass of fiction, compounded with bigotry, saturated in malice, steeped in concentrated bitterness and flavored with a faint touch of alleged humor.

The article is headed "Mormon Traitors," in allusion to a story in the letter, stolen from the local sheet referred to, about "Mormons" at the capstone ceremonies "wanting to get out of sight of the American flag." As the American flag was unfurled by the "Mormons" themselves at those ceremonies, and the platforms on which the Presidency, Apostles and Elders were seated were draped with the Stars and Stripes, the consistency of this plagiarism of "Mordanit" ought to be appreciated even by the sleepy paper that publishes it with "cold chills" comments.

That style of correspondence belongs to the bygone past. Too many people have visited Utah and had what they have seen to permit such dead and gone gossip as "Mordanit" to gull the reading and thinking public. Boston papers should seek for facts on the "Mormon" question if they want to meet the present public demand. Stale anti-"Mormon" slanders are away behind the times.

THE weather continues unprecedentally cold for the time of year. A sharp rainfall in this valley today (May 1st) was accompanied by thunder and lightning.

ESTRAY LAW DIFFICULTIES.

We have received the following letter of inquiry from a justice of the peace in the south:

"Will you please answer the following questions in regard to the new estray law, by the next issue of the DESERET NEWS for the benefit of myself and others who are similarly situated.

"1. Is the owner of an animal obliged to receive animals from any one who takes them up for damages whether the animals will pay for expenses or not?

"2. What kind of a complaint shall be filed before the justice of the peace? He cannot allege that they have damaged his property when others have turned them over to him.

"3. In cases where the marks and brands on the animals cannot be found in the brand books and as a consequence no one knows whom the animals belong to, how are the officers going to proceed? the law is silent. Who shall be made defendant and how shall the summons be served, if by publication, who shall be summoned and what shall the summons contain and how long must it be published. Is there any general law providing for these things?

"4. In cases where animals certainly are and the owner is not known and cannot be found and the animals have to be kept a long time before they can be disposed of (while summons is being advertised), and the sum realized from the sale of them is not sufficient to pay the costs of the proceedings and not the expense of feeding, where is the balance of cost and expenses to come from?

"5. Can a justice of the peace require the pound keeper to give bonds or security for costs as in other civil cases?

"6. Is a justice of the peace compelled to entertain any and all of these charges?

"By answering the above and giving such other information as will tend to throw light on this subject you will greatly oblige."

First. We understand that the new estray law makes it obligatory on the poundkeeper, that is the constable of the precinct, to receive all animals taken up for damages.

Second. The poundkeeper is to make complaint as a public officer, alleging that the person—naming him—who has turned over the animals has been damaged in the amount he has assessed.

Third. In the case described, we suppose the animals will come under the class included in the "round up," and may be sold after fourteen days' notice in a paper having general circulation in the county.

Fourth. These are contingencies that may arise under any estray law, and we do not know of any means to make up the supposed deficiency.

Fifth. As the constable and poundkeeper is under official bonds for the proper performance of his duty, in our opinion the justice could not require such security as is described.

Sixth. Yes. The justice is required by law to perform these duties.

The new estray law is not perfect, by any means. We do not know of any, passed by a Utah Legislature that was or is perfect. The present law must be studied in all its parts and language to make it consistent. There appears to be a system in it by which estrays are placed under three classes: First, unbranded animals over eighteen months old and any hogs running at large. Second, animals taken in general "rounds up" or drives, and these we should judge include branded animals when the brands are not recorded and whose owners are unknown. Third, branded animals doing damage the owners of which may be learned from the Territorial brand sheets or otherwise. Separate provisions are made for each of these classes.

There is too much haste in forming laws of this kind. They should be carefully prepared by competent persons, with the aid of stock owners, farmers and land owners, before the meeting of the Legislature, and then explained and submitted to legislators who will take them in charge and be responsible for their fate in the Assembly. Our friends will have to do the best they can with the law as it stands at present.

LOOKING FOR LIGHT.

THE Tribune does not like our remarks on Captain Colman's patenting of Joseph Cook's gaming and the New York Advertiser's endorsement of the operation, for our expose of its own animus and shop logic. We expected as much. After wanting its ill-nature in a long article on Sunday, it "looks to the News for light" and for our "candid opinion" on one isolated paragraph in the Captain's communication. Well, here is the light, and our candid opinion combined:

The remark it has quoted is "a touch of color that smacks of the newspaper correspondent," and one of those points on which he "goes a little to extremes," as we stated in our criticism of the Captain's effort. If our unpretentious contributory had really wanted "light" on the matter, it need not have looked any further than in the article in our columns which has obtruded it so much, and from which we have taken the explanatory remarks given above in quotation marks. If it wants further "light" it should look again.

UNWARRANTABLE CENSURE.

THE motion in the City Council, last Tuesday, for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the feasibility of conducting the city sewage to the Great Salt Lake, has raised quite a storm, and reflections have been cast upon the mover that are unwarranted. The motion was all right and so was the action of the Council in adopting it and appointing a committee. The proceeding was merely one of inquiry, and did not necessarily signify that the sewage would be disposed of by being emptied into the lake. The disposition of the sewer refuse is an important question and one that must be satisfactorily settled—at least as satisfactorily as practicable. It is quite proper that the city authorities in their efforts to arrive at solution, should inquire into every method which reach that the merits of each may be compared. It is not the right thing to treat investigatory steps as if they meant an affirmative conclusion.

All that we counsel for on the subject is, that in this inquiry the committee shall give full weight to certain important considerations which the question involves, and which we have heretofore enumerated. We have taken the position from the time the proposition for a sewerage system for the city was agitated, that the disposition of the sewage would be the chief difficulty connected with it. It is still unsolved, and investigation on the subject should proceed actively until a definite conclusion is reached. We have no idea that the inquiry will result in the sewage being emptied into the lake.

THE LATE JOHN L. BLYTHE.

THE decease of Brother John L. Blythe brings to mind some recollections connected with his career. He was tall, large-framed and wealthy, somewhat slow in his movements, measured in his speech and, being of an intensely religious nature, sincere yet pleasant, in manner. He was just such a man as would carry an influence with a large proportion of the people of his native country—Scotland. He was in that land on a mission in 1876-8, and for some time labored in a mining district some distance from Glasgow, where he did a good work, being the means of bringing quite a large number of people into the Church. In one village, the name of which has escaped us, he was especially successful, the members of the Church there, at one time during his ministry, numbering more than those not connected with it. Several years later he filled another mission in his native country, and from thence he went to Australia, where he also performed missionary labor.

The last time Brother Blythe was in Scotland he made a special business of searching for genealogical information connected with his family, at the Register office in the city of Edinburgh, where the records of all the parishes to a certain date have been collected. He employed an expert to assist him who succeeded in finding out of the records a great amount of information. After the work was done Brother Blythe told the man he had employed the object he had in view in obtaining the information—to be performance of vicarious gospel work for the dead. The object was evidently a bigoted, prejudiced Highlander. He admitted that he had taken both interest and pleasure in searching the records and getting the data for Brother Blythe, but said that if he had known, to begin with, the use he intended to make of it, he would not have performed the labor for any consideration that could be named. He declined a copy of the "Voice of Warning" preferred him, and said that if he were to take it he would burn it.

Brother Blythe had secured a list of genealogical data probably as large as that obtained by any person in the Church, and had for a long time at late been engaged in performing temple work, at Logan, for his progenitors. His information was so extensive that he employed, at different times, a number of people to assist him in this labor. This was his latest mission work in life, and he has gone to the spirit world to await the resurrection of the just, and probably to receive expressions of gratitude from many who had preceded him, and in whose behalf he has diligently labored to secure for them the full benefits of the Gospel.

MAY DAY PASSES OVER QUIETLY.

Born in this country and in Europe May Day passed over quietly, notwithstanding the anticipated scenes of riot and disorder which some people supposed would characterize the day. With the exception of a few red flags captured by the chicago police, and some bomb explosions which did little damage, the day both at home and abroad was not productive of any serious event.

The labor agitation at present seems directed towards the adoption of an eight-hour labor day, and the abolition of the "company store" system. In Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois and several other States, laws were passed prohibiting employers from holding any interest financially in stores patronized by their workmen. Labor men claim that these laws are outrageously violated by mine owners and others. But in Illinois a terrible setback has been given to the movement. The anti-truck law passed by the legislature of that State, has been declared unconstitutional by the State Supreme Court, on the ground that it abridged the personal rights of the citizen, thus conflicting with the Constitutional law.

Though the "truck-store" system has been regulated long since in England by Parliament, yet cases still crop up which occasion litigation. There is one in progress at present in London. A miner who lived in a cottage rented from a gas company went on strike with his fellow workmen. When paid, the rent was deducted from his full wages. The case was brought up in the House of Commons. At first the attorney-general gave it as his opinion that the company in deducting rent as stated did not act contrary to the provisions of the truck law. On reconsideration, the official stated subsequently that since a written agreement existed between the company and the employes as to the method to be pursued, the truck act demanded the payment of wages in full, no matter what debts the laborer might owe to his employer. This shows that the question of "company stores" is effectually settled by the British workmen.

In Europe there appears to be a peremptory demand for the eight-hour day. In this country, though the eight-hour day is talked about a great deal, there seems a disposition among labor men to make it a demand for a three-hour day. A trade convention representing eight members held in Chicago recently adopted resolutions favoring nine hours, and steps were taken to accomplish this object universally among blacksmiths, machinists, boiler makers, and in fact all branches of skilled mechanics.

It must be admitted that the labor situation in the United States looks more hopeful just at present than it does in Europe, yet it is true that large bodies of idle men are reported in cities, and the arrivals at New York average 10,000 a week. In Europe in addition to the general stagnation of trade, new labor saving machines are being successfully put in operation. In London a machine for unloading vessels has been introduced which will throw thousands of dock men on the streets, and thus add to the mass of the unemployed and discontented. In the continental cities the unfortunate workmen are looking to Louise Michel and other notorious Communists and Anarchists as their social reformers. They despair of relief by agitation surrounded as they are by armed military and police.

A MODICUM OF JUSTICE.

THE New York Advertiser, in summing up some reflections and arguments on the "Mormon" question, thus gives expression to what is now becoming a very common public sentiment:

"The time is not ripe for the admission of Utah as a State, but her present demand for a large measure of local self-government is certainly a just one, and should be conceded. Ultimately Utah must be admitted as a State, and she should now be accorded such measure of home rule as shall admit her upon probation and fit her for full membership in the American Union."

THE SPEAKER IN LEGISLATION.

IN the April Forum Henry George, Jr., has an article on the "Speaker in England and America." It is somewhat amusing to him that the official denominated "Speaker" in our legislative bodies is the only member who does not speak on any question before the assembly, and should he desire to speak he must alongside his functions as Speaker for the time and call some other member to take the chair.

The term "Speaker" as applied to the presiding officer of an American legislature is borrowed from England. In the British Parliament the Speaker is the representative of the Commons, who speaks to the Crown. As early as Edward III the House spokesman was known as "Mr. Speaker." At the present time when a new Parliament meets, the Queen, through the Lords Commissioners, commands the Commons to be far of the Lords, and signifies her pleasure that the former choose a representative to speak for them. The Commons return to their House, elect or choose a Speaker, whose name is submitted to her Majesty, who generally ratifies the appointment. The gentleman then becomes "Mr. Speaker" and is also presiding officer of the House of Commons.

Except in the matter of speaking for the House to the Crown, the English official has little more to do than act as chairman of the body. He has no power over committee appointments, he cannot advance or retard bills he cannot affect legislation in any way. His duty his strictly to interpret forms, orders and rules. He must recognize a new member, and must give the floor to a member who has risen to speak in the House in preference to other members rising at the same time. In case of a tie he gives casting vote, but his vote is subject to subsequent revision by the House. The intention is to deprive the office entirely of political partisanship, and it has succeeded.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives at Washington is a much more important functionary than his English brother. He appoints all the committees, which direct and shape legislation. He can retard or promote bills, through these committees of course. The manner of procedure in the House is largely of his creation, inasmuch as he is the supposed fount of inspiration for the committee on rules. He can recognize or ignore any member at discretion. He is a party man to every sense, and his great aim is usually to promote party policy.

The English Speaker receives a salary of $50,000, annually, paid from the consolidated fund. He is provided with a magnificent official residence, and on retirement is eligible to a pension of $50,000 a year.

The American Speaker receives $8000 a year, only $3000 more than the ordinary member. He must find his own lodgings and bear all his expenses. There is not even an official corner of any kind provided for him, except his desk and room in the House, and when outside the House he carries his office in his hat. He is not a "Speaker" in the English sense, and really there is little sense in calling him anything but Mr. Chairman.

SUBMARINE NAVIGATION SUCCESSFULLY DEMONSTRATED.

REFERENCE was made in these columns a few weeks ago to a submarine torpedo boat constructed at Detroit, Michigan, by a Chicago man named Baker. On the 1st inst. Mr. Baker made a successful test of his boat and demonstrated that water can be navigated below the surface. The trial was made in Rouge river, five miles from Detroit, where the water is sixteen feet deep. The boat was run up and down and afterwards the stream, and made to sink, second and turn around at the will of the pilot. The boat is cigar-shaped, 11 feet high, 8 feet wide amidships, and constructed of seven-ince oak. It is propelled by means of side wheels, and also lighted by electricity. It can be steered at any depth beneath the surface that the water will admit of.

This boat is "light like unto a disk," and the "sinks thereof are peaked," and when those on board are "buried in the deep," "the water can hurt them." This is rather an antiquated description of a similar vessel and there have been a great many jesting expressions concerning it because it appears in abridged form, in the form of Mormon. But Baker's modern "invention," like many other discoveries of the latter times, are but representations of ancient manufactures, and illustrations of the adage that "there is nothing new under the sun."

IRRIGATION IN OREGON.

CROPS were raised in Oregon on 119,000 acres by irrigation, in the census year ending May 31, 1890. In addition to this, 72,000 acres were irrigated for grazing purposes. Irrigation is confined exclusively to the counties east of the Cascade range, with the exception of two counties in southern Oregon where it has been recently introduced west of the range. The irrigated area extends over sixteen counties, comprising in the aggregate 10,512 farms of which 3,150 are irrigated.

The average size of irrigated farms, or, rather, of irrigated portions of farms on which crops were raised, were 38 acres. The average first cost of water is $8.64 per acre, ranging by counties from $1.25 to $19 per acre. The average selling value placed by the irrigators upon their water rights is $15.46 per acre. This is the price which the water right, if transferable without the land, might be expected to bring.

The average annual expense of maintaining ditches, repairing breaks, and of cleaning out sediment is 94 cents per acre, the average for the different counties range from 35 cents to $2.50 per acre.

The cost of preparing land for cultivation is estimated at $12.59 per acre, government price $1.25, and cost of bringing water $8.64, making a total cost of tilled land to the irrigator of $18.48 per acre. In comparison with this the estimated average value of land upon which crops were raised by irrigation is placed at $37 per acre, in Idaho it is $45.50, and in Nevada $47 per acre.

The average annual value of products per acre irrigated, in Oregon is $13.93; in Idaho $20.55 and in Nevada $22.02.

MARRYING FOR PROFIT.

HERE is an object lesson for men who only think of a wife as a household drudge, and for others who in the struggle for a living forget the cares and duties of the woman of the house and have their minds set upon saving. This is a story told in the Topeka, Kansas, Capital, and which may have some application even in Utah:

"A certain farmer, so runs the tale, imagining that he could make money out of it, married him a wife. Then he required her to do the cooking and the washing for a half-dozen hired hands, he also referred to her the small jobs, like milking wood, milking the cow, feeding the hogs and herding the poultry. This farmer made money. But one of his boys went to Texas and one went to the penitentiary, and the girl ran away with a man who peddled groceries. His mental side had a dark room in the insane asylum, and there is a place prepared for the farmer to which he will shortly go. This story plainly teaches that a farmer should be careful whom he gets married."

HISTORY OF THE BANNOCK STAKE

The History of the Bannock Stake, compiled by Andrew Jenson, and late ly published in the DESERET WEEKLY, has been issued in pamphlet form, and can now be had at the DESERET NEWS office at 25 cents per copy. 18d

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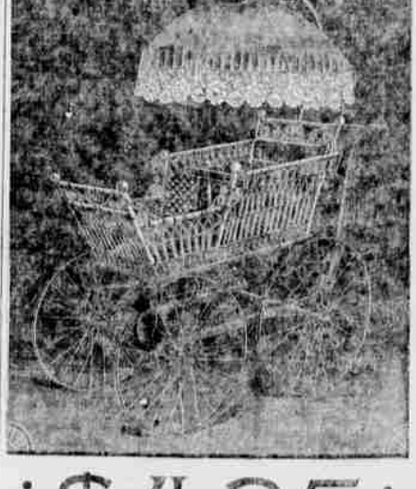

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