

# DESERET NEWS

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - FEB. 21, 1877.

## THE NEW SECRETARY.

OUR dispatches state that yesterday (Feb. 13) the Senate confirmed the appointment of L. P. Luckey as Secretary of Utah. This implies that Mr. Luckey accepts the appointment, and the inference may be reasonably drawn that ere long he will make his advent in the Territory in his official character.

When the appointment was made, a Washington paper remarked that President Grant had tendered the office to Mr. Luckey as a compliment to him. This is satisfactory so far. It is satisfactory that the offer of a federal office in Utah should be considered by the President as a compliment to one of his personal friends, as Mr. Luckey is understood to be, and it indicates that the views of the President have been somewhat modified of late, or say since his visit to Utah, nearly two years ago. It will be recollected that his messages to Congress the last two sessions were devoid of the usual strenuous appeal to that honorable body to do something toward straightening up the affairs of this Territory, his mind being formerly so much prejudiced against the larger part of the inhabitants, by means of misrepresentation, that it was customary for him to give Congress distinctly to understand that he would sign any bill having that end in view, no matter how strenuous the provisions of such bill might be. He was even in favor of what people here considered extra-judicial and unconstitutional measures. But, as we have said, the evidences of such a disposition in him have become much less manifest of late, and it will be remembered that he has removed more than one of his own appointees when he has become convinced of their unwise, extra-official, and illegal proceedings. There is no doubt that he still retains his opposition to things "Mormon," and to certain of the religious practices and domestic relations of the people of this Territory. All this he may honestly do. But there seems some reason to conclude that if he does so, and if he would to-day sign another act of Congress for the purpose of providing legal punishment for those practices and relations, he does not entertain the extreme view that the people of this Territory are necessarily rankly disloyal, as his radical advisers and persuaders hereabout formerly led him to believe. He probably thinks that the citizens of this Territory, all things considered, are on a par with citizens generally in the Territories and in the various States, and that there really exists no necessity for him to recommend or adopt any proscriptive measures towards them. The fact that he has not done so of late favors this inference. If we are correct in this, then this instance is additional proof that acquaintance serves with well meaning people to correct many false views and prevent the commission of many mistakes in action.

The appointment of Mr. Luckey may be the last President Grant will make for Utah, and, if so, let us hope that it will prove to be his best. As the appointment is reported to be of the nature of a compliment to the appointee, let us hope that it will also prove to be of the nature of a compliment to the people of the Territory at large, and then as regards Utah the latter part of President Grant's administration will be better than the former part.

## PARTISANSHIP OR FRAUD OR BOTH.

THE people of the United States are in an unfortunate condition, because the politics of the country are in a bad condition, and politics are in a bad condition because there is so much corruption among

the politicians, for verily iniquity with them does abound on every hand. Of this there can be no denial nor doubt. It is patent to everybody who has eyes to see, and even the blind are well conscious of these damaging facts. This is a hurtful condition which may give way to a better, but it must be acknowledged that the indications point decidedly the other way.

The whole Union has been agitated many months over the presidential election, and the agitation continues, in the main unabated, and with disastrous effects on the country's prosperity. For months the anxiety of uncertainty and suspense has distressed all those who take sufficient interest in the affairs of the republic to let a matter of grave national concern interest them deeply. The ultimate decision of the main point in doubt rests with partisans at best, and in large part with corrupt men, as is generally acknowledged.

As to the character of the two presidential candidates, one is perhaps about as good as the other, though they represent respectively very materially different sets of political principles. The great question which candidate shall sit in the presidential chair for the next four years, everybody is satisfied, will be determined from a strictly partisan standpoint, rather than on the real merits of the case, and most people fear that the next President will occupy the White House by virtue of undoubted fraud at the ballot box, or in counting the votes, or of some other disreputable resort. This is certainly a condition of things very unsatisfactory to the true patriot, very, though it may be satisfactory enough to many of the "loyal" people.

Whether Hayes or Tilden is the coming man, apparently depends upon one all-important vote in the electoral college. Whether the tripartite electoral commission shall give decisions that will favor Hayes or Tilden, apparently depends on one all-important vote in the commission. This is all unfortunate. It is unfortunate that the division of parties in the electoral college should be so close that one vote only will decide so grave a question as the presidential succession. It is unfortunate that the arbitrating electoral commission should be so equally divided upon grave national questions that one vote makes all the difference in ultimate decisions. It shows a very equal division of the people and their representatives into two conflicting parties, and a country so divided against itself on the most important national matters is certainly in imminent danger. It is very unfortunate that the close equality in the division of the electoral vote and in the vote of the electoral commission is strictly of a partisan character. Because it goes to show that party rather than principle and equity is the ruling motive. It is most unfortunate of all that there is too good ground to believe that corruption and fraud to a great extent prevailed in the elections, and consequently that whichever of the two candidates shall be elevated to the presidential chair, one half of the people, if not more, will believe he has been placed there by fraudulent means. If Hayes shall be counted in, the democratic half of the people will believe that it is because of fraudulent votes and fraudulent counting by the Republicans, and consequently that he is not the rightful President. If Tilden shall be counted in, the republican half of the people will believe that it is because of fraudulent votes or fraudulent counting by the Democrats, and consequently that he is not the rightful President. Whichever of these two men shall be placed in the presidential chair, one half of the country, instead of being forward to accord him all the respect and honor rightfully due to the federal executive who is the choice of the people through their representatives, will consider him as a stupendous fraud, so far as his right to the presidency is concerned, and consequently will regard his executive acts as really unconstitutional and illegal. This is very unfortunate, and may result in the most momentous consequences.

There is one thing that would have gone far to quiet and satisfy the country, but that does not appear likely to happen, indeed it is almost if not too late now for it to happen. That one thing is for the tripartite electoral commission, and especially the judicial members

thereof, to have been unanimous in their ruling decisions upon the disputed questions submitted to them, or, if not unanimous, to have rendered those decisions by a large majority, or, if not by a large majority, by a majority in which party lines were utterly ignored, and in which the shaping of partisanship had manifestly no influence. Unfortunately, in the important decision in the Florida case, the exact reverse was the case, or at least so it appears and so the public at large thinks, and the fair inference is that it will be the same in other decisions.

## THE GRASSHOPPER IN CONGRESS.

IN the House of Representatives Feb. 1—

Mr. STRAIT, by unanimous consent, introduced a bill (H. R. No. 4574) to appropriate the proceeds of the sales of the public lands in the several States and Territories afflicted with grasshoppers or their eggs, to be used in the payment of bounties, or otherwise, for the destruction of such grasshoppers or their eggs; which was read a first and second time, referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. STRAIT also presented a joint resolution of the Legislature of Minnesota, approved January 17, 1877, requesting the Senators and Representatives from Minnesota in the Congress of the United States to secure if possible such legislation as will appropriate the proceeds of the sales of public lands in the several States afflicted with grasshoppers to those States, to be used in the payment of bounties for the destruction of such grasshoppers; which was referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. STRAIT also presented a joint resolution of the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, approved January 23, 1877, requesting the United States Senators and Representatives from Minnesota to use their efforts to secure a bounty for the destruction of grasshoppers and their eggs; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and ordered to be printed.—*Congressional Record.*

## Local and Other Matters

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, FEB. 16.

Harper's New Monthly. — We have this periodical for March from Dwyer's, where it is for sale.

From the Other Side. — This morning Elders John Young and Charles Burton arrived from Australia, where they have been for some time on a mission.

Robbery. — Yesterday the house of Brother George Reynolds, Twentieth Ward, was entered by a sneak thief, who carried away a valuable gold watch. The thief has not yet been discovered.

Sinking. — Mrs. S. Turnbull, the old lady who was missing from her home in the 11th Ward, for over a week, and who was eventually found in an outhouse, with both feet frozen, is not expected to survive long, lockjaw having set in. She is sinking rapidly.

A Verdict. — At two o'clock this afternoon the jury in the case of Cora Conway vs. Jeter Clinton et al came into Court and rendered a verdict in favor of the plaintiff for \$3,700.

The jury were out from ten o'clock yesterday morning.

Belligerent. — Last night J. C. Reynolds struck Alexander Wallace, in Alt's saloon, and caused his head to go through a glass door. To-day Justice Pyper fined Reynolds \$20, and instructed him to make good the damage sustained by Mr. Alt, amounting to \$6.

Picture Sold. — Mr. George M. Ottinger has sold to William Jennings, Esq., his picture of "Montezuma Receiving the News of the Landing of Cortes." The purchaser has been a fostering patron of home art productions. This picture has arrived from Philadelphia, and is, in our opinion, the best ever painted in Utah.

Woman's Exponent for Feb. 15 contains "Temple Songs," "My Purpose," "R. S. Reports," "No Surplus Women," "Courage Under Difficulties," "Home Affairs," "About Storing Grain," "Decline

of the Drama," "Woman's Voice," "Indictment of the Preachers," "Women's Work," "Robert Fulton," Pictures, etc.

Fined. — The fellow Le Baron, charged with lascivious conduct, was tried before Justice Pyper today. It was a clear case against him, and he was fined \$50, in default of which he was sent to jail. Through his attorney he gave notice of an appeal to the district Court. The case was tried by a jury of six citizens, who returned a verdict of "guilty as charged."

Excommunicated. — Jos. J. Hawkins and his wife Mary Ann, of this city, were, according to their written request, cut off from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, on Dec. 1, 1876, by Bishop Alexander McRae and council, which action was sustained by the High Council on the 3rd inst.

Also, James M. Smith, of this city, was cut off from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, by Bishop Alexander McRae and council, for unchristianlike conduct, which action was sustained by the High Council on the 7th inst.

GEO. F. GIBBS,  
Clerk of High Council.

A Variety Entertainment. — A grand variety entertainment will be given by residents of the Fifth and Sixth Wards, at the Sixth Ward School-house, on Monday evening, Feb. 19, for benevolent purposes. The programme is an attractive one, consisting of the comedietta of "The Goose with the Golden Eggs," the Ethiopian sketch of "Deaf as a Post," and the farce of "I'm not Meself at All." Characters by Messrs. Brimley, Britton, Thompson, and Burton, and by Messrs. Davies, Poulton, Riser, Anderson, Condie, and Wetzel. Several of the above-named gentlemen, also Messrs. Flashman and Priestley, will sing comic and sentimental songs in the intervals between the plays. Commence at 8 o'clock.

Weather—Matrimony—Sickness. — Our Kanab correspondent writes under date of February 3d—

"In my last I wrote concerning the fire we had in this place. There was an error in the name and amount; it was the house of Elijah Potter; loss \$500 instead of \$1,500, as it read in the NEWS.

"Our weather is still delightful, like a mild and beautiful spring. Some of our people have gone to plowing. The only snow we have had fell on the 12th ult., and lasted only a week or ten days. It was six inches deep on the level.

"Many of our young folks of Kanab are availing themselves of the privileges of the Temple; five couples have just returned, each couple having gone down to become 'one.' On the 15th ult. I had the pleasure of being invited to a wedding dinner and party on the occasion of the marriage of Brother Levi Stewart's daughter Sarah to Mr. L. C. Marigen, of this place. Mr. J. I. Eage and Miss Eliza Bunting were also united in the bonds of matrimony at the same time. The wedding reception of these happy four was a success and many were the kind wishes for their happiness. The dance in the evening was well attended and all went merry as a marriage bell.

"A good many children of this place are afflicted with sore throat, that has caused many anxious hours for parents. As yet no case has proved fatal."

The Western Magazine is a new venture, designed to contain choice original and eclectic literature, but chiefly to be a medium for western literature. John H. Pierce, "Ranger," editor and publisher, Omaha. The original matter contains "Alvin Saunders (with portrait)," "Early U. P. R. R. Explorations in the Rocky Mountains," "Public Opinion," "A Publisher's Story," "Ad Feminam Adolescentem," "Salutary," "Editorial Chit-chat," and "Current Events." The eclectic portion contains "When the Ship Comes Home," by Thomas Carlyle, "What is Civilization," by The Duke of Argyle, and "Knowledge is Power," by Miss Thackeray.

This magazine contains thirty-two double-column pages, in bold clear type. One dollar a year, or 15 cents a number. A commendable enterprise.

The Gerron Case. — Dr. Gerron, charged with deceiving and seducing S. E. Butterfield, of Corn Creek, had an examination last

evening, before Justice Pyper, the evidence, together with his own admissions, showing that the facts are as alleged in the complaint. The case was concluded yesterday, with the exception of a point that counsel for the defendant wished to argue, which he was to do at four o'clock this afternoon.

There can be no room for doubt that Dr. Gerron, as he styles himself, is a most unmitigated fraud, who has been palming himself upon the people in different places for what he is not. He has lectured in a number of places throughout the Territory, and, by this means, has been enabled to advertise his quack nostrums, and make the unwary believe that he is able to perform wonderful curative feats. The consequence has been that not a few have applied to him for the medicinal relief he pretended to give, and he has thus fraudulently obtained possession of their money, giving no equivalent return therefor.

This arrant impostor is but one of a class, and it does seem a little peculiar that people who, it might be supposed, should know better, should be duped by such characters. When a fellow like this one is allowed the freedom of a public building to lecture in, not a few of the people take such action as at least a semi-endorsement of him, rendering them the more liable to be deceived by his ungrounded assumptions. This being the case it would seem necessary to be exceedingly careful about allowing any lee-way to such itinerant characters as occasionally ramble through Utah. Something more should be required to establish confidence in the genuine character of their pretensions than their own unsupported representations.

FROM SATURDAY'S DAILY, FEB. 17.

Did Not Get In. — Charles Burton, missionary returning from Australia, did not reach home with Elder John Young yesterday, as stated, he having stopped over on the way, to visit friends.

Committed to Jail. — The examination of Dr. Gerron, on the charge of seduction, was concluded last evening, and Justice Pyper decided that he be held, in \$500 bonds to await the action of the grand jury, in default of which he was committed to jail.

A Northern Trip. — Bishop E. F. Sheets has just returned from a visit to the Bear Lake and Bear River Valley country, for which parts he left here two weeks ago to-day. He was met at Almy, near Evanston, by President C. C. Rich and Bishop William Budge, with whom he visited Randolph and Woodruff settlements, on Bear River, holding meetings at those places, and subsequently also meeting with the residents of Laketown, Fishhaven, Ovid, Liberty, Paris and St. Charles, and found everywhere a good feeling prevailing among the people, who have been rejoicing in the mildest winter ever experienced in that region since its settlement. Bishop Sheets examined the church stock, under his charge, and found the animals doing well, the winter thus far having been so favorable as to necessitate but little feeding comparatively.

From Indian Territory. — We were pleased to receive a call to-day from Mr. Robert Lake, from Indian Territory. He is a young man, grandson of the Chief of the Kiowa tribe, is nearly white, being only part Indian, and speaks good English. The circumstances which led to his coming to this Territory are of a peculiarly interesting and rather remarkable character, as showing the inclination and direction of the minds of the aborigines of America to inquire after the gospel of Christ, as it existed among their forefathers, in precise fulfillment of the inspired utterances of the "Book of Mormon." Mr. Lake is dressed in Indian fashion. He is stopping at the residence of Brother D. Huntington, and came from Ogden to-day, accompanied by Brother George W. Hill.

A Murderous Contrivance. — Complaint has been entered with Justice Pyper against a person named M. Edwards, resident of the 15th Ward, for setting a trap for the purpose of inflicting serious injury, it might be death, upon parties upon whom it might be sprung. The trap in question is alleged to have consisted of a loaded pistol placed in the newspaper box of the accused, adja-