

DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - JULY 25, 1877.

RELIGION AND POLITICS.

The time is approaching when an election will be held in this Territory for Councilors to the Legislative Assembly, and some local officers in various counties. This suggests a few reflections upon our home politics.

It is to the interest of every community to choose good men for official positions. Politics in this country has come to be a profession. And it is generally acknowledged that the class of men who engage in it are not always the wisest, most virtuous, honorable, temperate or trustworthy to be found. But political influence is gained to a great extent by intrigue, party combinations, defamation of opponents, bragging and bribery. A modest man is of small use in modern politics; a strictly honest man is similarly insignificant. This is lamentable but it is true.

The people of Utah have no occasion to wallow in the mire nor dabble in the mud-puddles of political corruption. They have no need to descend to the popular methods of electing men to office. They should not follow in the common groove. They should move on a higher plane. Nobler motives should prompt men to accept office; higher principles should be involved in their election. The boasting candidate who sounds his own trumpet, and blazons forth his own deeds with his own paint brush and his own colors, and who is ready with pay and promises, is not the kind of man for the choice of a wise people.

At an early day, the Latter-day Saints were divinely cautioned and instructed on these points. For instance, take the following:

"When the wicked rule the people mourn. Wherefore, honest men, and wise men should be sought for diligently, and good men and wise men ye should observe to uphold; otherwise whatsoever is less than these cometh of evil." Doc. & Cov.

The entire separation of religion and politics is strongly advocated by many persons, and some of their arguments appear plausible. But those who make the greatest outcry when their opponents avail themselves of the support of religion, are not slow to adopt the same tactics when they have the opportunity. A religion which does not influence every act of life is of little value to mankind. A religion divinely revealed will be a guide to mortals in thought, word and deed. And a man's politics must be influenced by his religion if his religion has any real vitality.

Some persons claim that an ecclesiastical official should not be elected to civil office. This is a mistake, for the more a person possesses of the Holy Spirit of God and the more he is directed by the divine influence of our heavenly father, the better he is prepared to fill any office on the earth either political or ecclesiastical. Why should a man holding an office in the church be disqualified from holding a civil position? We know of no valid reason that can be advanced. We do not argue that a man should be chosen for civil office simply because of his ecclesiastical position, although the fact of his being trusted with Church responsibilities ought to be evidence of his worth and ability. But we urge that he should not be rejected on that account.

True, it is not wise to crowd offices upon any man. And in these advanced times there is not so much necessity as in the earlier days of our career for multiplying individual responsibilities. But who are more fit to represent the people in any important deliberative assembly, than the men who have become familiar with their condition, necessities, desires, and demands? than those who have lived among them, labored and planned for them, advised and directed them in their most vital concerns?

And if priesthood was considered a bar to civil office among us, considering its wide diffusion, who

that has any influence whatever would be an eligible candidate? We should have to seek among those who are not of us for men to fill offices that are of great moment to us.

In all our political movements we should keep in view the principles, institutions and interests which are incorporated in our religion, for which we have left our homes and kindred, which have made us an organized community, and which should be the Alpha and Omega of our lives and labors. Elect men to office who are qualified, worthy and willing, but not too eager for its honors and emoluments, and who will study the welfare of the people and the great objects which to us are of paramount importance. And if they happen to occupy prominent places in the Church, let that form no barrier to their selection for secular positions for which they are fitted, and in which they can honor their God while they serve their constituents.

Local and Other Matters.

FROM SATURDAY'S DAILY, JULY 21.

In Minnesota.—Elder B. P. Wulfsenstijn, writing from Isanti on the 13th inst., says, "The Saints here are all well, so is your humble servant; the work of the Lord is progressing in this State."

Returned.—On account of ill health, Elder August Swenson has been released from laboring in Minnesota. He reached the city last evening, and this afternoon proceeds to his home in Spanish Fork.

Ten Sunstrokes.—Ten cases of sunstroke occurred in this city yesterday, all of which terminated fatally. A gentleman was bringing a dozen chickens in from his place, in the suburbs, in an open wagon. Ten of them overcame with the heat, turned over upon their backs and expired.

Bound Over.—We understand that Charles Wells, the person who was alleged to have been guilty of making improper advances to Leonard I. Smith's wife Sarah, and who shot and killed Mr. Smith, was held to answer to the grand jury, yesterday, after preliminary examination, at Tooele, on the charge of murder.

The Heated Term.—In the north the thermometer rose to 102° in the shade at Logan yesterday, and in the south to 110° in the shade at St. George and 102° at Tokerville. In the central portion of the Territory it does not appear to have been so warm, as 94° was the highest marked at Fillmore during the day.

Less Numerous.—The Corinne Record is becoming less numerous. It is changed from a daily to a semi-weekly. Probably the Salt Lake monster swallowed most of the subscribers and advertisers of the Record, they being unable to swallow the monster even with the aid of Barnes & Co's salt.

Small Fruit.—Brother Thomas E. Jeremy, of the 16th Ward, has a reputation for raising splendid vegetables and small fruits. To-day he exhibited to us some very fine gooseberries, large and well flavored. They were the "Roaring Lion," "Crown Bob" and "Rough Red" varieties. He also raises excellent, large red currants.

Mutual Improvement.—On Thursday evening, a meeting of ladies was held, at the Council House, to take into consideration the advisability of organizing a Central Committee for young ladies' improvement societies. About fifty ladies attended and President John W. Young and Elder George Q. Cannon were present. After remarks on the subject under consideration, meeting adjourned for two weeks, at the same hour and place, when it is expected the proposed committee will be formed.

Deseret Museum.—To-day we were shown some fine fossils, found at a place forty-five miles north of Evanston. They were presented by William Beal, Esq., and are now on exhibition at the Museum. There are specimens of herring, in fine preservation, leaves of flags and trees, a specimen of fruit, and a small winged insect, in which the antennae and wings are well seen. One fossil leaf of a lanceolate shape is as perfect in its venation as it was when it fell into the lake to help form the shales and sandstones of the Green River region.

Eastward Bound.—Elder Orson Pratt and accompanying missionaries passed Council Bluffs yesterday afternoon, all well.

Winchester's Concordance.—A copy of this work is wanted as soon as possible. Any person having one will confer a favor by forwarding it to the DESERET NEWS Office.

Missionary.—This afternoon we received a call from Elder John Peter Mortensen, of this city, who returned on Thursday evening, from a mission to the Eastern States, on which he was absent five months. He labored in Nebraska the whole of that time, with the exception of a little while he spent in Iowa. He and Elder F. Hentze, of Cottonwood, labored together and they baptized fifteen persons into the Church, and ordained two elders and three priests. They organized a branch of the Church at Fremont City, Nebraska. There is a good prospect for many additions to the Church in that part of the country.

Good Meetings.—Brother W. C. McGregor writes from Parowan, July 16th—

"Meetings of a most instructive and interesting nature were held here yesterday (Sunday) by Elders Willford Woodruff and David H. Cannon, of St. George. In the forenoon Elder Cannon addressed the meeting on the subject of infidelity. Elder Woodruff followed on the same subject and on other matters of vital importance to the Latter-day Saints.

The brethren enjoyed much of the Holy Spirit, spoke in plainness, and with great force and power. Their remarks showed the weakness and folly of infidelity, and its withering and blighting results.

In the afternoon Elder Woodruff called on Elder Cannon to read from the Book of Doctrine and Covenants the vision of Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon. After the reading Elder Woodruff preached on the subject of the vision, baptism for the dead, and the necessity of a closer union among the Latter-day Saints. His words were most emphatic and powerful, showing, in a most clear manner, the grandeur, the glory, and the great comprehensiveness of the principles which God had revealed, through the Grapel, in these last days."

Dr. Clinton in Irons.—The arrest of Dr. Jeter Clinton has occasioned considerably inquiry. The indictment against him is for the murder of John Banks. Dr. Clinton was arrested by deputy Marshal Crowe. On his arrival in this city he was taken into custody by U. S. Marshal Nelson, and conveyed to the penitentiary. A blacksmith was sent for who riveted shackles upon him, and he is now unable to put on his boots or pull off his pants!

It is well known that Banks was shot while in company with others, resisting, by force of arms, the process of a U. S. District Court. Apart from the ridiculous charge, which we do not wish to present to discuss, we think this treatment of the prisoner, who is well known to be a peaceable, inoffensive man, approaching the years of three score and ten, both exceedingly cruel and entirely unnecessary.

Let the law take its course, and if there is any valid evidence against the prisoner let it be produced in the proper place and at the proper time. But there is no need to use such harshness and severity as that now resorted to, and the immediate friends of Dr. Clinton would be justified in the institution of investigations into this matter immediately.

Drowning — Grasshoppers.—The following is a special to the NEWS—

LOGAN, July 21st.

Editor Deseret News:

After immense labor, many people searching the river eleven miles, moving hundreds of saw logs, the body of Orson Gillet Beach, which was missing eleven days, was found at four p. m., yesterday, by a boy who was fishing. It was in three feet of water, ten feet from shore, half a mile above Thomas X. Smith's saw mill, seven miles up the cañon, and three miles below where he got in. His feet were on the bottom, up stream, his leg having caught in a bush. His head was floating below the surface. His shirt had washed over his head. The body was in a good state of preservation. The head was bruised a little. He was buried early this morning at Logan.

There was an inquest late last night. The verdict was that he came to his death by drowning, while attempting to cross Logan river. The jury were Enoch Lewis, Edwin M. Curtis and Wm. Palmer, junior.

The grasshoppers have gone north-east.

The mercury is among the nines.

Everybody is preparing for the 24th. A big time is expected.

A Troublous Outlook.—The following extract of a letter from Elder T. G. Webber, now in Bern, Switzerland, June 29th, to a friend in this city, draws a graphic picture of the condition and outlook in Europe. Elder Webber is naturally a keen observer of men and things, and his views are therefore entitled to a good deal of consideration—

"If I have a correct idea of the situation of Europe, and I believe I am pretty well posted, it is almost certain that this war will assume very large proportions, and other nations than the Russians and Turks will be drawn into the vortex."

"The French Deputies have been sent home by Marshal McMahon, and the feeling is intense. The election to be held in September will be a stormy one, and may lead to a revolution. So far the Extreme Left—radicals—have been cool, and have kept within the constitution; but I can readily believe that events may take place that will goad them to some act which McMahon will interpret to mean treason, the troops will be called out, and the people will side with the Liberals. Then will be fighting in the streets of Paris again, and then Germany will have the pretext she is so anxious for, and we shall hear of another German invasion of France."

"Austria is upon the eve of occupying Servia. In short, the whole of Europe is stirred to the bed-rock. Germany, Italy and England are fully prepared for any emergency that may arise. They each have an immense armament, and it is so arranged that railway traffic can be stopped at an hour's notice; the railways taken possession of by the Governments for transporting troops and munitions of war. To sum it all up in a few words, there never was a more critical time in Europe than now. No one knows what a day may bring about."

"Wheat in America must go up and up, and trade must revive and even in distant Salt Lake you will feel the flow of prosperous times again."

FROM MONDAY'S DAILY, JULY 23.

The Strike.—Superintendent Sharp received a dispatch, to-day, to the effect that baggage should not be checked here for any point further east than Chicago.

For Cache.—A happy company of excursionists left the depot this morning, to spend the Twenty-Fourth at Logan and other portions of the pleasant and fruitful valley of Cache.

At Ogden.—Ogden is to have for the 24th a Sunday School Jubilee in the Ogden Tabernacle in the morning and Sunday School party in the evening, at First Ward Assembly Rooms; and the Fire Brigade will have dancing and various sports in Jones's Grove.

Appointments.—Elder Joseph Bull, jun., is appointed to labor in the Birmingham Conference.

Elder John E. Metcalf is appointed to labor in the Leeds Conference.

Elder Samuel Claridge is appointed to labor in the London Conference.—*Millennial Star*, July 2.

Around Again.—We are pleased to note that Mr. John Acomb, who received a very severe injury in one of his legs, on the Utah Southern Railroad, some time since, is able to be around again. He has so far recovered as to bear a slight pressure of the foot upon the ground. It is an extraordinary case of recovery, the rule being, we understand, to amputate in instances of such injury.

Logan Tabernacle.—This creditable building is still progressing, though not so fast as some time back, as some of the hands have been taken off to work on the Temple. The basement story is finished, lighted, comfortably seated, etc., and the carpenters are now busy over the woodwork of the main room, which has galleries on three sides, and when completed will be a noble room for holding meetings.

From North.—General Charles C. Rich is on a visit to the City, from his home in the Bear Lake country. He arrived last night.

Logan Temple.—The workmen engaged on the Temple at Logan have begun to lay the rock for the foundation of the walls.

"Uprising."—A short time ago the country was flooded with lying reports that there was an "uprising" among the people of Utah. Governor Hartranft came to Utah on Saturday and at once started back from this peaceful Territory to Pennsylvania, to aid in quelling an actual "uprising" there. No sham about the Pennsylvania affair.

In Nebraska.—Elder Ferdinand Hintze, of Cottonwood, writes from Nebraska, where he is laboring as a missionary. He, together with other Elders, laboring in company with him, baptized fifteen lately, and others are enquiring and will probably soon join the Church. In addition to the branch of eleven members, organized at Fremont City, they expected to establish another, in Sanders County, before long.

A New Pretext.—Sometime since, it was not uncommon, when storekeepers were asked for some article not in stock, for them to say, "Just out of it, Madam; expect a supply soon; lost a whole car load of it in the Ashtabula disaster."

Now it will probably be that their supplies were used up by the railroad rioters.

We understand that among the freight destroyed by the strikers was some destined for Salt Lake.

Tabernacle Services.—Yesterday afternoon the congregation was addressed by Elders Henry Grow, William McLachlan, and John G. Midgley, the first and third of whom recently returned from missions to the eastern States, and the second to New Zealand. They gave interesting accounts of their ministry and experience while laboring abroad.

Elder George Q. Cannon made a few interesting closing remarks.

Organization.—Yesterday Sugar House Ward was divided on the line, running north and south, between the 29th and 40th School Districts. The western part will be known hereafter as Farmer's Ward.

Bishop of Sugar House Ward, Apolis G. Driggs; First Counselor, James Johnson; Second Counselor, Elnathan Eldredge.

Bishop of Farmer's Ward, Lewis H. Mousley; First Counselor, John Wagstaff; Second Counselor, John Gabbott.

Busy.—The Logan Co-operative Machine and Blacksmith shops are doing a brisk business, even to working over-time. They recently made a complete steam saw-mill, the saw excepted, in twenty-one days, for Alexander Hill, of Wells-ville, for use in Blacksmith's Fork Cañon; have also contracted to make a water power saw-mill in forty days for the Logan Temple; and have consequently been unable to take some other saw-mill contracts which were offered to them.

Called Back.—Governor Hartranft, of Pennsylvania, and party, arrived in the City on Saturday, on the way to California. On reaching here he found dispatches awaiting him and summoning him home, in consequence of the troubles in the State ensuing from the great railroad strikes. He started at once for Ogden on a special, at which point another was in readiness to carry him over the Union Pacific. He will probably arrive at his destination in three days from Saturday.

The party which accompanied Governor Hartranft to this City were to resume their journey to California to-day.

Unwelcome Visitor.—William Thomas Pope, aged sixty-four years, is engaged herding sheep for Brother S. Bennion, between Wagner's Brewery and Little Mountain. On Sunday morning he awoke from his peaceful slumbers, in a little tent, when he beheld a most unwelcome sight—a large rattlesnake, three and a half feet long, lay across his feet. For a moment he knew not what to do, fully realizing his danger. A sudden idea struck him, upon which he acted like a flash. Quickly throwing the upper part of the blanket over the reptile he imprisoned and soon dispatched it. It had nine rattles, which Brother Pope has shown us, and which he keeps as a memento of his escape.