



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR.

Wednesday,.....June 7, 1865.

## CITY CREEK.

Having the third time, since '47, been unusually high, City Creek is now falling and its waters running clear. Bishop Sheets so controlled the rapid and turbid current, at a comparatively moderate expense, that but little damage has been done. Two small adobie houses were washed down, a few others were somewhat injured, and small portions of North Temple street were removed farther west than wanted; while, as an offset, some lowland lots have been enriched by a valuable deposit, and are now being planted.

When it was concluded best to close the natural channels of City Creek below the mouth of the canyon, and cause the surplus water to flow directly west in the center of North Temple street, we had experienced but one period of high water, and not then its effects in a newly dug ditch with a rapid descent. Its first action at high water in its new, raw channel, with its burden of long accumulated drift, washed-away dams, mud, sand, gravel, cobble stones and boulders, was considerably disfiguring to the street in question, and various were the feelings felt and expressed by the dwellers thereon.

Another rise has come and past, with its added experience, and, as an interested party on that street, in addition to our interest in the welfare of the whole city, we deem it opportune to give our opinion upon the subject. We have been present at and several times each day observant of the freaks and operations of City Creek during all its highs, and are settled in our convictions, with lots of the best reasons therefor, that North Temple Street is altogether the best and cheapest channel in which to control the surplus waters of that Creek, both in Summer and Winter. And not only that, but in so doing that street, at far less expense than any other channel, can be at the same time made safe and one of the handsomest in the city.

A reader may wish to know how this is to be done. Continue the pavement below City Creek bridge, as fast as practicable, to as far west as the current is rapid, setting out, on the margins, rose bushes, willows and locust trees, to arch over with the trees on either side walk. And each season, at some favorable time previous to the high water period, remove the slacker-water deposits from the channel to each side, until the sides are high and wide, and then west, from where the creek is turned south of the road, to Jordan bridge, then west on the Tooele road as far as necessary, and, when this is done, into the lowland streets and lots, whenever and wherever needed.

In this way, cheaper and better than in any other we can think or have heard of, can City Creek in its highs be made subservient to beautifying a handsome street and benefitting the lowlands and lowland streets.

To accomplish so desirable an object, inasmuch as so many public interests are blended therein, the Assembly, County and City will doubtless see proper to make, from time to time, liberal appropriations.

## INDIAN MASSACRE.

Through letters and verbal information we are enabled to present the fol-

lowing details of the recent tragic events in Sanpete and Thistle valleys:—

Thursday evening, May 25th, as br. Jens Larsen was gathering up the large flock of sheep in his charge, about 4 miles north of Fairview, Sanpete county, some Indians shot and killed him. He was an esteemed citizen, aged about 35, and left a wife and 2 children.

Friday morning, 26th, and about 12 miles north of Fairview, the same Indians, between daylight and sunrise, killed John Given, aged about 45, his wife Eliza, aged about 40, his son John, aged about 19, and his daughters Mary, Annie and Martha, respectively aged about 9, 5 and 3.

Balls, arrows and tomahawks or axes were used in the murdering, though none of the bodies were otherwise abused or scalped.

The Indians took all the flour, axes, guns, &c., of use to them, killed the calves, and drove off between 100 and 200 head of cattle and horses.

Monday, 29th, some 3 miles northwest from Fairview, the Indians killed br. David Hadlock Jones, said to have been one of the "Mormon Battalion."

Steps have been taken for recovering the stolen property, and administering justice to the murderers.

On the 5th inst., Col. O. H. Irish, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, left this city to have a talk with the Indians in that region.

## NEWSPAPERS AND NEWSPAPER WRITERS.

As the freshly issued broadsheet is taken up and perused, or merely glanced over to note the most important of the multitudinous news items it contains, gathered from various parts of the globe, how many think of the forces at work to produce it, of the labor of mind and body, the machinery and material necessary, to place it there in a readable form? How many think of the power it wields, the influence it exercises for good or evil? Seated in his sanctum, the editor, by himself or his associates, talks with thousands of people. He is continually preaching sermons, on ever varying topics, religious, scientific, political, social and moral, to immense congregations. He possesses advantages that the lecturer cannot avail himself of. He addresses himself to each individual, and can remain with him that his words may be conned over, weighed and referred to. And he speaks with an authority that would seem egotistic assumption, if his personal identity and peculiarities were better known. Steam and electricity help him to place before his readers intelligence of what has happened in distant parts of the earth, often almost simultaneously with the occurrence.

As human beings are all anxious to know what their fellow beings are doing, and ardently desire "the news," whether the selections, contributions, locals and leaders of a paper be valuable or valueless, whether they have a beneficial or injurious tendency, people will still read the paper, because they wish the news; and if the morals, tastes or proclivities of a party or community are vitiated and incorrect, the paper that circulates among them, and will pander to their tastes, will have the largest number of readers.

This is a fast age. Everybody admits that. People are already beginning to think the ordinary modes of traveling slow. They would like to journey with telegraphic speed. And the editor who could furnish his readers with spicy and detailed accounts of events, just a little time before they took place, and could do so exclusively, would make a fortune in a short time. To obtain and furnish early information leads to all sorts of shifts, dodges and schemes, on the part of editors and their aids, to be ahead of others in point of time in fur-

nishing news. There must be no waiting to arrive at the truth. "It is reported," and must be published. Readers will have it. If one does not furnish the news, true or false, another will, and his paper will be bought up, while the later, more careful and truthful, and more conscientious one, is voted a "slow coach." Hence the feverish race amongst reporters, "locals," correspondents, etc., each trying to give as correct statements as he can, but giving them, whether correct or incorrect. Take up the accounts published by contemporary papers of some great calamity, notable event, or circumstance of absorbing interest, lay them side by side and compare them, and it would take weeks to arrive at a correct idea of the truth, if it could be ever done by such means. The man who reads one paper only, gathers his information from its statements and fondly hugs to himself the belief that he knows all about it, while the chances are that he could not rake the truth out of the mass of error printed, in a month if he were to try.

Yet with all this the newspaper wields a mighty influence. It is a power felt and recognized in the cabinet, the field and the forum. Therefore editors should be men of high-toned honor—men who could not be bought by paltry presents, the application of soft-soap, present or prospective offices for selves or friends, or an extra column of advertisements. Yet, unfortunately, the opposite is the rule. An invitation to a banquet or to a place of amusement, an extended advertisement paid for, a little "tickling" judiciously done, and too many editorial bosoms so overflow with the milk of human kindness, that the veriest nincompoop, jack-pudding, or dishonest scoundrel becomes a gentleman, an artist, or a man of the strictest honor and integrity.

Papers devoted to party interests must, or rather do, malign and slander the opposite party or parties, and report all the evils, editorially magnified, of their opponents, extenuating and glossing over, of course, the faults of their friends. However venal they may be, they often think themselves justified, because they do all in defence of certain principles which they believe in and of which they consider themselves the exponents. The doctrine of Machiavel is very generally acted upon, however much it may be decried.—"The end justifies the means."

Some papers, again, start out on an independent basis,—that is, the proprietors and conductors desire to become independent as soon as possible, in a monetary point of view. With them, the dollar is the be all and the end all. The speculation may be successful, but if it is, in too many instances that success is dependent on other and less honorable causes than editorial ability. One great error under which projectors and conductors of newspapers seem to rest is, that they are and ought to be merely mediums for enunciating certain political or sectional views, or a source of making money. Those who indulge in the latter view are often apt to be hugely deceived. Those who indulge in the former commit a serious mistake. That they are recognized as vehicles for more than the simple dissemination of news, is at once evident from the fact that readers demand and editors find it imperative on them to furnish leaders, articles on numerous topics, and other written matter calculated to awaken interest. These indicate the tone and aim of a paper. They are the true criteria by which to judge it. They should be of a character to elevate, not to degrade the reader. Their object should be to teach the masses. If this were done, and men possessed of sufficient intelligence and integrity only were employed to wield the pens devoted to such work,

the world would not be flooded to-day with the perfect deluge of washy, trashy, matter, papers and periodicals that are poured forth like an ever-increasing river from the great cities of the earth, or the miserable, silly and venal productions that vegetate and flourish in smaller towns and cities.

Our meditations are partly attributable to some extracts from a paper a little over a century old,—published in England, 22d July, 1763. We were struck by the startling account of some "terrible doings of the Indians," in the "back settlements of Pittsburg and Detroit." We thought that Indians then were much the same as Indians now; but newspapers were very different institutions. And viewing the vast field in which they operate, we could not help thinking how their influence was wielded and their powers applied, and have given our readers the benefit of a few of our thoughts.

## HOME ITEMS.

SABBATH MEETINGS.—Elder W. Woodruff addressed the congregation on various points. He treated on the principle that men receive blessings from God in proportion to their faithfulness in keeping His commandments, reasoning analogically that people are required to be subject to the laws of the nation in which they reside and the government under which they live, if they would enjoy the benefits flowing therefrom and the protection of that government; so with the kingdom of God. If governments enact laws compelling men to subscribe to and embrace a particular religion to the exclusion of all others, they are responsible for so doing. Man is a free agent, with the right to receive or reject the Gospel, but held responsible for the course he takes and the decision he acts upon.

Prest. Joseph Young exhorted the Saints to cultivate the softening and purifying influences of the Gospel. God teaches man a lesson, that when He reveals one principle to him by which his knowledge and happiness are increased, he should teach it to others so that their knowledge and happiness may be increased. He bore testimony to the mission of Joseph and his being called as a Prophet, testifying to the same knowledge with regard to President Young. He exhorted the people to constant and continual acts of faithfulness and righteousness.

Afternoon.

Prest. Joseph Young referred to the church being overcome in former days; the Saints were overcome but not the Priesthood, which was pure and remained so, and was taken from earth to heaven when men became unworthy of it. That Priesthood is now restored; and men have received it, with power to administer in the ordinances of salvation. Quoted the words of the Prophet Joseph,—"Get the Holy Ghost and keep it," urging the Saints to live so as to keep the Spirit of the Lord with them.

President Brigham Young touched upon the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, showing that the doctrine of transubstantiation is neither scriptural nor reasonable. He instructed the Saints to live so that all might have the spirit of revelation with them and not be dependent on others for a knowledge of the truth; pointed out the course to be pursued to avoid litigation, and reproved lawyers for seeking to pervert justice and encouraging litigation.

He spoke for some time on the principle of sufferings, showing that the wicked suffer more in this life even than the righteous do; and that with those who have made covenant with God, when they transgress His laws they incur punishment as the penalty of disobedience.

Prest. Kimball followed with some interesting remarks on the nature of the ties that connect us with the eternal world when our children or other kindred are taken from us by death. He reasoned on sin and its atonement, and bore testimony to the truth of the work.

THE FRUIT CROP, so unusually promising in blossom, has been severely blighted by east winds, cutting off many flattering expectations we had hoped to see realized.

WEBER AND BEAR RIVERS.—The bridge recently built across the Weber river, in Summit county, has been washed away, but we understand that efforts are being made to erect a ferry for the convenience of the traveling public.

By letter from J. W. Myers, we learn that Bear river is so high that the whole of the bottom lands in that neighborhood are flooded. The bridge is reported safe, but it is difficult to get to it with wagons that are heavily laden.

ACCIDENT.—On Friday last brother Alfred Clift, who was in the employ of Capt. Hooper, was kicked by a mule, one of his ribs broken, and otherwise injured. Up to Sunday night his case was considered precarious, but since that time his physician has considered him out of danger.

DAVID HEAPS, care of John P. Beck, 100 Park Road, Preston, Lancashire, England, wants to learn the whereabouts of his son David, who emigrated in 1864, in the ship Gen. McClellan.