

THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH & LIBERTY.



ALBERT CARRINGTON, EDITOR.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, JULY 16.

Obedience.

Obedience is better than sacrifice.—[Bible.]

There is a law irrevocably decreed in heaven, before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated; and when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by OBEDIENCE to that law upon which it is predicated.—[Joseph Smith.]

Obedience, that Heaven's blessings may surely follow, is a principle that all have been taught from their youth, if taught at all. Still it would seem, from what we observe and hear, that even in Utah there are some, of the many who have forsaken houses and lands, fathers and mothers, companions and children, for the gospel's sake, who are indulging in sayings and doings diametrically opposed to the promotion of their best interests.

True, provisions have been scarce, and new flour as yet comes scantily to the supply of the late and present dearth of bread-stuff. But do these facts require, or in the least sanction, the unwarrantable proceedings of some in our midst? Ignorance cannot be plead as license for entering wheat fields, without the consent or knowledge of the owners, and cutting, pulling, and carrying off grain not their own; nor for gleanings without the proper permission, nor for taking from the shocks and standing grain, where a permit to glean has been kindly granted.

The actual, high-handed evil of such a lawless course is too obvious for argument. That such conduct is practised at all proves that some are determined, at least for the present, not to profit by the lessons of past privations, not to observe the precepts of the Bible, nor the teachings and example of the Prophet Joseph, of Pres. Brigham Young and his Counselors, of the Twelve, and of every Saint. Insects, drouth, severe alternations of cold and heat, hard labor and want were presumed to be sufficient to have driven away all who are not intending and striving to walk worthy of their high calling. But this does not appear to be the case, and perhaps it will not be fully accomplished until the tares are bound in bundles.

We frankly admit that we are somewhat faithless in the benefit of advancing correct ideas for the temporal and spiritual welfare of those who will persist in trespassing upon their neighbors' rights and property, who drive their animals to pasture in others' hay and grain fields, and instruct and encourage their children in following their pernicious examples, training them up to lying, indolence, and their attendant evils. At the same time we desire the few outrageously wicked and worthless, who have deemed it politic to take up an abode among us, to understand that they are known. And we could wish that they may at once realize that their present conduct tends to destruction, and, if they are determined to continue in ill-doing, that prudence suggests their departure to more genial climes, ere the chastening hand of the Almighty visits them still more sorely.

Among a people so industrious, intelligent and liberal as the inhabitants of Utah are known to be, there is no reason why each one should not strive to do good and eschew evil.

In a country so newly settled there are a few hardships to encounter, a few privations to be endured. But there are no mobs to strike terror and curtail rights, no numerous classes of corrupt men to vitiate the purity of our wives and daughters, and practise and disseminate hosts of abominations; in short, there is no outside hindrance to each one's doing good, and thereby insuring the blessings flowing from obedience to the commands of the Almighty, and the counsels of the Living Oracles who are constantly teaching us the way of life and salvation.

Whether the few who persist in wicked conduct will prefer to reform, or to take themselves to other localities, they have not reported. But for their benefit we commend to their careful perusal the discourse by Pres. Brigham Young, published in this number, and call their particular attention to the study of the following quotation therefrom:—

"What shall we do? We will cut off every avenue of evil, as fast and as far as may lay in our power. You can stop those evil communications that corrupt good manners in yourselves first, and then keep your children as strictly from evil as possible, and not many

generations will pass away ere the heavens will acknowledge that there is a reformation among the Latter Day Saints."

Who will fail to hearken to and practice such sound instruction? No one who desires an exaltation in the kingdom of our God, and wishes for that constant flow of blessings coming through obedience.

More of the Drowned Mail.

It will be remembered that the carriers lost a portion of the May 1st mail in Weber river on the 30th of May; that they brought in several sacks on the 4th of June, the contents of many of them being much damaged; and that one sack was recovered from the water and brought in on the 7th of June, all of its contents being thoroughly soaked.

We are informed that the carriers of that mail reported that they delivered all they had started with, together with what they had taken in on the route. Be that as it may, since then still another sack is found by Indians, only 3 or 4 miles below where the mail crossed Weber river. How many are still in and near that stream the Indians will probably inform us, as fast as they may casually discover them while roaming in quest of berries, roots, and game. At any rate it will take at least one sack to contain the letters which a P. O. clerk at Independence informed Mr. L. I. Smith, a passenger with that mail, had then been mailed for Utah, aside from other sacks still somewhere on the route.

Official report of the discovery:—

OGDEN CITY POST OFFICE, July 10, 1856.

POSTMASTER AT G. S. L. CITY:—

Sir:—I send you a portion of the mail which was lost in Weber river on the 30th of May. The circumstances connected therewith are as follows: On Tuesday last, Little Soldier, an Indian, sent for me to come to his camp, with word that he had found a sack of papers, some three or four miles below the emigrant crossing of Weber, and had brought in some few printed documents and the mail lock; also that he had fixed them good, until I could send for them. I immediately sent two of my sons, E. Thos. and Isaac, and an Indian guide, who found a mail bag cut open, letters and packages torn apart, and some way-bills missing. I have packed up the letters as well as I could, also a part of the papers, both of which are herewith forwarded. I cannot send all the papers at this time, they are too wet, but I will send the balance by next mail.

JAS. G. BROWNING, P. M.

The recovered sack contained 253 letters mailed at Independence April 29, as learned by carefully comparing loose letters with a loose way-bill; 9 letters probably mailed at Independence, no way-bill; and a few presumed to have been mailed at Council Bluffs, also having no bill; in all about 300, together with quite a number of newspapers, all in a very damaged condition, and some entirely spoiled.

Reflecting upon the present and some-time past, we can but rejoice that the 16th of August next will probably terminate one W. M. F. Magraw's connection with route No. 8911, for Congress has appropriated large sums of money to him, for which he has rendered next to no service! And though numerous other harpies have their foul claws in the money chests of the nation, reckless of consequences so they but pocket the gold, still it is to be hoped that Postmaster General Campbell will arouse from his lethargy, and use a little effort to free the mail facilities of a thriving Territory, petitioning for admission as a State, from the abominations which have so long beset them. And this too, not alone for justice, right, and mutual advantage, but that the rising generation may not laugh to scorn the present wanton squandering of the people's means, for which there is no adequate return.

Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society.

Those who have carefully read the News are already acquainted with the 'Act' organizing the above-named society, with its object, with the lists of articles for which premiums are offered, with the minutes of proceedings, price of membership, and the letter to the Bishops, which was printed in No. 18 of the current volume.

Agriculture occupies the attention and energies of so large a portion of our population, and its necessity and advantages are so well understood, that it is not necessary to comment upon its importance. At the same time there are yet many debatable questions, even in the oldest settled localities. It is not entirely agreed whether potatoes should be planted whole, be halved, quartered, or cut into still smaller pieces, in order to insure the most desirable yield. The quantity per acre of different kinds of seeds, the relative advantages of the hill, broadcast, and drill modes of depositing seed, the kind of wheat best adapted

to give the greatest return in this dry climate, the comparative value of shallow, deep, and sub-soil plowing, and a host of other important subjects, pertaining to our temporal well-being and advancement, require a careful observance until they are thoroughly comprehended.

Dependence upon our past experience in other climes, and the studious perusal of agricultural publications of other regions will not be sufficient to make a thoroughly practical farmer in Utah. A soil and climate so different to all that we have heretofore been familiar with, will be found to tax our skill and judgment for a long time to come.

A porous subsoil may not require deep stirring to enable roots to penetrate, as do the tenacious clays of some regions, at the same time sub-soil plowing may prove highly beneficial even here, except in very sandy places and in those whose surface is but a short distance above water level. It is well known that a hard surface sheds water almost equal to a rubber blanket, and that the small quantity which penetrates soon evaporates. For this reason it is presumable, with the exceptions above mentioned, that stirring the soil to a depth of from one to two feet may prove highly useful, enabling it to receive, retain, and slowly impart a much greater amount of moisture.

This point can be satisfactorily determined only by careful experiment, and at first by spading a small portion of a plot plowed in the customary manner, for probably there is not a sub-soil plow in Utah, and perhaps no smith who knows how to make one.

Aside from a thorough knowledge of soils, seeds, plants and their habits, times, seasons, modes of tith, and irrigation, there are now numerous machines in successful operation in many places, lending material aid to the arduous labors of the agriculturist. A few thrashing machines have been introduced here, but whether any of them are of the most approved pattern is unknown to us, not being familiar with the points of difference in the various patents. It is certain, however, that our farmers should avail themselves, as speedily as possible, of all the advantages to be derived from the best labor-saving machines, since they not only relieve the burden of severe toil, but also afford leisure for cultivating the mind, for attending to the mental wants and welfare of families, and for greater general usefulness and enjoyment.

Where insects, drouth, irrigation and fickle seasons render the farmer's occupation so laborious and its results so uncertain, every method and machine of the most approved descriptions should be brought to bear in aiding the production of the choicest varieties of grains, fruits, vegetables and stock. The D. A. and M. Society, notwithstanding we have an organized Pomological Society, very properly construe the word agriculture in its broadest sense, and have included fruits in their premium lists. It is anticipated that the effects of both Societies will soon indicate an increased interest, and a marked improvement in the production of the numerous kinds of fruit adapted to a climate embracing over five degrees of latitude.

This Society has also taken a still wider range and included the encouragement of home manufacture, a branch so essential to the independence and well-being of any community, and more especially of one so situated as are we. What we do not produce we must import, or do without. And importation is here attended with peculiar disadvantages, aside from the lengthy, tedious and expensive land transportation, for no products of our labor can be exported in kind for exchange, thus leaving imported articles to be paid for in cash to the great detriment of our trade and rapid temporal advancement.

In view of these brief suggestions, may not the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society rely upon the energetic co-operation, not only of the Bishops, but of every dweller in the mountains who loves the onward march of human improvement?

In addition to such appropriate selections as we may be able to make, and such remarks as we may see fit and have time to offer, there will, as heretofore, be a reasonable space allotted to such useful communications, whether selected or original, as the friends of Utah's prosperity may deem beneficial for the promotion of her agricultural and manufacturing prosperity. Will all take an interest, and help, or shall the burden, as is apt to be the case, rest upon the enterprising few, while the majority look on with indifference, or take a course to discourage?

ATTENTION is called to the notice of the sixth session of the 'American Pomological Society,' and to Mr. Wilder's courteous letter to Bishop Hunter, both to be found on the last page of No. 18. By a careful perusal of those articles the reader will become familiar with some of the objects of that society, and with the interest manifested by its president, Marshall P. Wilder, in our labors and success in raising fruit. Such information may stir up some who are now supine, and tend to further spur the skill and energies of those who are already awake to the subject.

A REAPER AND MOWER IN UTAH.—We have not been more gratified, for some time, than we were upon reading the communication from 'Davis County Farmer,' printed in this News under the head 'McCormick's Reaper and Mower.' We also confess that we were somewhat surprised to learn that it performed the heavy labor of grain cutting, with so much economy and dispatch. We trust that this is a forerunner to the introduction of every applicable description of labor-saving machinery, and that too as speedily as circumstances may warrant.

A Precedent for the Free State Convention of Kansas.

In the course of a debate in the Senate the other day on the proposition to receive the memorial of a number of the Free State men of Kansas asking admission into the Union under the Constitution adopted by the Topeka Convention, Mr. Douglas characterized the action of that Convention as "revolutionary and rebellious," and declared that he "could not recognize Kansas as a State, either in or out of the Union, in consequence of what they had done without authority of law." His new born zeal for law is now pretty well understood; but precedent counts for something in law, and Mr. Waldron, a new Representative from Michigan in the House, had shown only two days before in a brilliant and powerful speech, that the history of that State previous to its admission into the Union furnished a case almost exactly parallel to that of the Free State Convention of Kansas. Mr. Waldron is a miller by profession, and his maiden speech is a convincing proof that he knows how to work on the floor of Congress. Mr. Greeley, in the N. Y. Tribune, thus summarizes his argument:—[Alb. Eve. Jour.]

In 1835-6, Michigan had outgrown her territorial swaddling-clothes, and was ripe for transformation into a State. But she had an unsettled boundary dispute with Ohio, involving a strip of land on which the city of Toledo has since grown up; there had been serious collisions of jurisdiction, threatening others still more serious; and Congress resolved not to admit Michigan unless she would consent to quit-claim this disputed territory. On this condition being made known, a new Constitutional Convention was held, under the auspices of the territorial government, which Convention decided not to accept admission on the condition imposed by Congress. So the question seemed to be at rest.

But not so: A movement was directly set on foot by voluntary popular agitation, outside of, and in defiance of the territorial authorities, for another convention, which was accordingly chosen and held, though none but the friends of the movement recognized it in any way, and two of the most populous counties were not at all represented. This volunteer, spontaneous convention resolved to accept admission on the terms exacted by Congress and rejected by the regular convention; and sent on the requisite documents to Gen. Jackson, then President. Gen. Jackson sent the proceedings of both conventions to Congress, without indicating any preference on his own part. They came before the House, where the following proceedings were had:—

HOUSE, Jan. 11, 1836.—Memorial of the Legislature of the State of Michigan presented. Mr. Hannegan, of Ind., moved that it be rejected.—Motion defeated: Franklin Pierce voting in the majority. Mr. Hannegan then moved that it be received "as the voluntary act of private individuals." This was adopted, but Franklin Pierce voted in the negative. On the question as to which of the two conventions should be recognized as representing the people of Michigan, the Democratic House decided in favor of the irregular or spontaneous convention, Franklin Pierce voting in the majority.

When the question came in due course before the Senate, (Democratic) it was referred to the Judiciary Committee, whereof Felix Grundy of Tennessee, was chairman. The committee sent out circulars to Michigan, to ascertain which of the rival Conventions most truly represented the people of that State, and which had received most of the people's votes. After awaiting and receiving answers to these circulars, the committee reported that the spontaneous Convention was entitled to be accredited rather than the regular; and that Michigan should be admitted on its motion. This motion prevailed:—Yeas—Silas Wright, Benton, Buchanan, Wm. R. King, &c. Nays only 10.

The subject thereupon went to the House, where the action of the Senate was affirmed, and the admission of the State completed:—Yeas, 143. Nays, 58.—Franklin Pierce and Isaac Toucey among the yeas.

So Michigan came into the Union, on the application of a volunteer, anti-regular Convention, just like that of free Kansas, and voted for Van Buren for President in 1846.

Several Southern members emphatically expressed the opinion that this was the strongest speech for free Kansas that has been made at this session.