

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - JAN. 9, 1878.

WORK FOR THE NEW YEAR.

THE new year finds the masses of the people of Utah, generally; in the enjoyment of the necessities and comforts of life. We doubt if there is any community on earth in which the essentials to human existence, and those luxuries which custom has made requisite, are so widely dispensed and so commonly obtained. The number of persons in this Territory who are entirely dependent upon others for sustenance is very small, and, compared with the figures representing the self-supporting and comparatively independent, is only an insignificant minority. And the means adopted for the care of the indigent are of such a nature and extent that no person need to linger in want of food and shelter.

To a large number of those who now participate in these blessings this is a radical change of condition. While rejoicing in present plenty they should remember past distress, and reflect on the means which rescued them from penury and placed within their reach these opportunities the fruits of which they now enjoy. And at the same time their sympathies should reach out to their brethren and sisters in other lands, who have not yet obtained deliverance but still wait in hope, in the pinchings of poverty, for that help which was once extended to them.

Before us are the names of persons and sureties indebted to the Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company from 1850 to 1877 inclusive, and a circular signed by President John Taylor, Trustee in Trust, and Apostle Albert Carrington, President of the P. E. Fund Company, urging the collection of the means owing to the Fund, that the thousands of poor Saints—many of them aged, now in Europe begging and praying for deliverance, may be released and brought here where they can participate in the blessings which those enjoy who have received the benefits of the Fund and are owing the means needed for the gathering of others. From these documents we learn that the total amount of assistance rendered by the P. E. Fund since the year 1850, foots up a total of \$1,318,407.08. Of this sum one million of dollars is owing to the Fund, the balance having been repaid by those assisted.

This shows three points. First, that the Latter-day Saints cannot be accused of indifference to the poor, when so large a sum, from a people not generally wealthy but gathered from the working classes of society, has been advanced to emigrate their co-religionists. Second, that quite a number of those who have been helped have been true to their agreements and have returned the money advanced to them. Third, that if those who are still owing would pay up their indebtedness, none of the poor saints who are looking for help from Utah need be left to linger in want another year abroad.

There are some whose names appear on this list who may be under the impression that they are erroneously posted. A little explanation will set this matter right. In the year 1868 there was a large emigration from Europe, and the saints bound for Utah were booked either to Laramie or Benton, the Union Pacific Railroad being then in process of construction, and the former place being the terminus in the early part of the season and the latter at its close. From thence they were conveyed the remainder of the journey by teams and wagons. Those who paid for their passages at Liverpool settled only for the trip to the terminus; they are still owing for conveyance by team, unless they had wagons and animals of their own. The amount charged for fare across the plains, from the terminus to Salt Lake City, is \$29 for each adult. Those who emigrated in 1863, and who do not understand or have forgotten this arrangement, should bear this in mind, and cancel the debt as soon as possible.

This is a very important matter. We are under obligations to gather

the people of God from the four quarters of the earth. The spirit of this great work is resting mightily upon the Apostles and Elders specially appointed to manage the P. E. Fund. It should be upon all Israel, and especially should it stir up those who have received assistance and are now in comfortable circumstances, able without distress to pay their just debts, and thus aid others to come and participate in the blessings of Zion, temporal and spiritual.

With the opening of the New Year, let this duty stand up in clear relief before them. With the sentiments of gratitude which the memory of past deliverance must bring forth in honest hearts, and the resolutions of improvement, renewed faithfulness and increased diligence that future prospects inspire, let the determination be born to wipe off every debt from the slate of record and discharge every unfulfilled obligation. And let these dues to the P. E. Fund be regarded as sacred as well as binding. Let the wife join with the husband in measures of economy, that means may be saved to settle these accounts. Let stock be brought from the ranges, grain out of the bins, and all but absolute essentials be utilized and turned into means wherewith to pay what is owing to the Fund. Satisfy conscience, be free from the bondage of debt and help gather the scattered poor. Let this be one of the prominent duties of the opening year, and at its close the freedom of spirit which flows from duty discharged and the presence of the thousands of delivered Saints will well repay the effort involved in raising the funds required.

Those who have given their notes for the amount of their passage should remember that the interest thereon is accumulating with each succeeding year. Already the interest on some of the notes is equal to the principal. No one will be oppressed in this matter, but the necessity of speedy action is obvious. Delinquents need not wait until able to pay the whole amount, nor become disheartened on account of the interest accrued. They will find the managers of the Fund easy to deal with. And their best policy is to pay in part if they are not in a position to settle in full. The point at issue is to make a commencement. Begin now. Make no further delays. Let the work be done, or at least begun in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, and let this be to many of the scattered poor a veritable year of deliverance.

We are happy to learn that an interest greater than has been manifested for years has been aroused in this direction, and we have such faith in the honor, integrity and good feelings of the Latter-day Saints as to believe that interest will increase until the million of debt will dwindle to an insignificant figure, and the mountains of Ephraim will resound with songs of thanksgiving from the lips of thousands who now mourn in sorrow in distant lands, hoping and praying for deliverance to come out of Zion.

DIVIDING THE NECK.

THE project of running a canal across the Isthmus of Darien has been agitated at different periods for many years. The great saving in travel it would effect is easily perceived. The splitting of that narrow neck of land which joins the two wings of the American continent, would obviate the necessity of the long journey around Cape Horn and wonderfully shorten the distance of water transit from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, to the islands, to China and Japan. Freights would be greatly cheapened and commercial interests would be vastly enhanced. The railroad people, particularly those interested in trans-continental highways, would naturally be opposed to the canal, but the general public would hail its construction with pleasure and the whole world would measurably participate in its benefits.

The latest movement in connection with this project is of French origin. M. de Lesseps, the great engineer who triumphed over the gigantic obstacles in the way of the Suez Canal, advocates commencing on the Pacific coast, and points out a route in which only one tunnel, about 13 kilometres in length, would be necessary, pass-

ing through the ridge from which the streams on one side flow to the Atlantic and on the other to the Pacific. The total cost he estimates at 600,000,000 francs.

An expedition under Lieutenant Wyse is en route to perfect the survey of the isthmus, and whether the work is undertaken by French, American, or other national genius and enterprise, we hope to see this important undertaking soon commenced and speedily carried forward to a successful termination.

CHRISTIAN ISRAELITES.

A CONVENTION of Israelites who are willing to accept Jesus Christ as the Messiah of the world, is called for through the New York *Herald*, by Rev. David Rosenberg, M. D., of Columbus, Ohio, who desires correspondence with a view to fixing the time and place for the assembly. The object of the convention is stated to be:

"First, to form an alliance of all the converted Jews and of Israel throughout the world, and to appoint a set time to confess the sin of the nation in rejecting Jesus Christ the Son of God and crucifying Him, thereby bringing the wrath of God upon the nation. Therefore God has said the nation shall be dispersed throughout the world till the fulness of the Gentiles is come. God has promised that 'If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.' Second, to form a basis for a national existence upon the New Testament Scriptures as the statute and law of the nation. Third, to implore the Powers of the world to restore Palestine to the people of God; for this is the day of grace. The conflict in the East indicates that the day of the Lord is at hand."

We hope the call will not die out without effect. For, though the gentleman who makes it has not the key to the removal of that "blindness in part which has happened unto Israel," and which will remain until "the fulness of the Gentiles is come in," we would like to see an interest on this subject aroused in the Hebrew heart, and learn some facts and figures in relation to the extent of Jewish belief in the Messiahship of Jesus of Nazareth.

A vast amount of money has been expended by the Society for the Promulgation of Christianity Among the Jews, but while the cost figures up in the hundreds of thousands, the actual converts may be easily counted on the fingers of the president of the institution. A few unprincipled sons of Judah have made pretence of belief in Christianity, but in nearly every case time has proven them to be mercenary impostors. The season has not arrived for the veil to be taken away from the Jewish mind. And when it is removed spurious Christianity will have little more effect upon it than at present. When the way begins to open for the redemption of their ancient inheritance and they gather in force to rebuild Jerusalem, many Jews will "begin to believe" in the crucified Jesus, and to realize that their fathers were under the curse of shedding innocent blood. But the great influx of Jews to Palestine and the fulfilment of the predictions of their ancient prophets concerning the restoration, will take place mainly without conversion to Christian doctrine; and not till the Messiah appears in their midst as a Deliverer from the grasp of the Gentiles greedy for blood and spoil, will they accept them, nationally, as the son of David who is to rule over Israel for ever.

This is according to the prophetic declarations of the Hebrew seers and the word of the Lord through the great prophet of the nineteenth century. To attempt to proselyte the Jewish people is labor in vain for the "Christian" sects. And to the "sons of Ephraim" who held the keys of the priesthood will the power be given, after they have finished the work among the Gentiles, to carry the truth to Israel and Judah. But we shall look for tidings of the Jewish convention, and note with pleasure any signs of the coming day of glory and redemption for the race which has been preserved, through the oppression and suffering of centuries, for a brilliant destiny and a vast dominion.

UTAH AND THE MINERAL WEALTH OF THE WEST.

ACCORDING to the annual statement of Wells, Fargo & Co., prepared by Supt. J. J. Valentine, a gentleman of great ability, the yield of the precious metals in the country west of the Missouri river for the year 1877, exceeds by \$7,546,581 the yield of 1876, which was the largest previously known in the history of the nation. The total product for the past year foots up the sum of \$98,421,754. Of this total the gold proportion is \$46,129,547, the silver \$47,206,957 and the balance \$5,085,250 is in lead. This estimate includes Mexico and British Columbia, the former giving a total of \$1,432,992, and the latter \$1,777,190, leaving a balance for the Western States and Territories of \$95,811,572. Nevada is the largest contributor, furnishing \$51,580,290, principally in silver bullion. California comes next with the sum of \$18,174,716, and Utah stands third on the list with \$8,113,755, Colorado following up closely with \$7,913,549.

Utah, Nevada and California produce more lead than all the rest of the United States and Territories combined. Utah and Nevada run pretty close in their lead yield, but Utah stands at the head, and either produce much more than California. The weight of Utah's lead shipped out of the Territory, according to the report of Mr. J. E. Dooly, the very capable agent of Wells, Fargo, & Co., in this city, amounts to 54,936,080 pounds for 1877, against 50,401,893 pounds for 1876. The total increase of Utah's metallic product over that of the previous year is \$1,757,085.60. There is a difference between the Utah totals given by Mr. Dooly and those of Mr. Valentine, the whole yield for Utah reported by the former gentleman being \$7,236,620.60. There is evidently a mistake in the estimate of the latter, as the silver yield of the Ontario mine alone is greater than the total given for the Territory. It is possible that the amount from the Ontario has been placed in the list of the base bullion. But this does not account for the discrepancy in the total value of Utah's minerals as given by the two gentlemen. We therefore conclude that Mr. Valentine has computed the lead at the New York price and Mr. Dooly at its value in Utah. The report made by Mr. Dooly is given in detail and we believe is correct, being taken from data collated on the spot.

The gross product of the United States in gold, silver and lead is a little over \$100,000,000.

When it is considered that thirty years ago this vast western country was viewed as a worthless wilderness, and that it was practically outside of the dominion of the United States, the mineral development exhibited in the above figures is truly wonderful and the benefits of the change to the Government are immense. And it should be borne in mind that the settlement of this Territory by the "Mormons" was the principal means by which this vast and valuable region was opened to the energy, enterprise and industry of the citizens of this republic. They made the path through the desert, they opened the gold of California, they demonstrated the possibilities of these mountain valleys for human sustenance, they made a base of supplies for the settlement of the surrounding regions. And now Utah herself is pouring out the treasures of her rocky heights, to swell the aggregate wealth of the nation, and is pushing up to the front rank as a silver and lead bearing section.

For her services in bringing the rich and growing West into close communion with the old-settled States of the Union, and her part in the development of the great products partly exhibited in the above figures, we think she is entitled to something more than the niggard benefits of a Territorial government, and the cold shoulder which is generally turned to her appeals when she asks simply for equal rights with others under the Constitution of our common country.

The cent is expunged from the currency of these western regions. But the addition of one cent per bushel in the price of corn makes a difference of \$10,000,000 in one year to the United States.

FELO DE SE.

THE year 1877 was very prolific in suicides. France and the United States seem to have furnished for the other world the greatest number of persons who cut the thread of life by their own acts. The male suicides greatly outnumber the female, the proportion being about four to one. Mental aberration, family troubles and reverses of fortune are the chief alleged causes of suicide.

San Francisco stands first on the *felo de se* list of American cities; the number for last year was 84. The quick, volatile disposition of the sons of France accounts somewhat for the large number of suicides in that country, and the spirit of speculation which leads to extravagance, excess and sudden fluctuations of fortune, no doubt tends to that self-destruction which distinguishes San Francisco.

There are many views as to the primary cause of a disposition to self-destruction. The latest theory is propounded by an English physician at Calcutta, India, who states that in opening the skulls of deceased insane persons he has invariably found worms in the brain. They attack the spine and eat their way up to the head, attacking one lobe of the brain at a time. They are most active in excessively electrical seasons and can be destroyed, especially in the first stages of the attack, by proper medical treatment. This is a peculiar theory and may be correct in cases of insanity, but does not account for the suicide of those who plunge into the dark valley of the shadow of death on sudden impulses born of despair and begotten by misfortune.

Suicide is an evidence of cowardice. There is no real bravery in avoiding the conflict of life. He who shuffles off this mortal coil with his own hands, confesses himself unable to face the difficulties which through our pathway through this world, and to overcome which develops the powers of the soul, and makes the victor worthy of a crown of eternal honor.

And is it likely that they who force themselves into the spheres behind the veil, will receive a cordial welcome? Can anybody be assured of a more pleasant condition of being in the world upon which they thrust their presence unbidden than the life which they have forsaken by means of a heinous crime? No man has the right to take life except by lawful authority. He did not create, and therefore has no right to destroy himself. Self-murder is a sin against a man's own being and against the Author thereof, and it is far better to bear the frowns of misfortune and the burthens of mortality until the course of nature relieves us of the struggle than to plunge unbidden into a condition of existence about which we know so little, but in which reason warns us there is punishment for wilful wickedness.

Local and Other Matters

FROM SATURDAY'S DAILY, JANUARY 5.

Departure. — Brother Thomas Miller, of New York City, after a visit of five months' duration in Utah, left for the east on Thursday evening. He purposes returning as soon as practicable. He is a genial gentleman and made many new friends and acquaintances during his stay here.

An Interesting Address. — Last night Hon. Geo. Q. Cannon delivered an address under the auspices of the Central Committee of the Y. M. M. I. A., at the Council House. He took for his subject the organization of the Congress of the United States. He described the organization of both branches of the National Legislature, and the system and methods of doing business in each. The address was clear, comprehensive and instructive.

Temperance Lodge. — We are requested to announce that the first general meeting of the Temple of Honor will be held in Cislser's Hall, on Wednesday, January 9, 1878. Anyone wishing to become a member can obtain all information from Mr. Gordon, corner Second South and First East Streets, or of Mr. Buckle, Main Street.

Deseret Silk Association. — The Deseret Silk Association met in the Fireman's Hall yesterday, Mrs. Zina D. Young presiding.