

DEPARTED THIS LIFE.

ANOTHER of Salt Lake's newspaper ventures has gone into the journalistic limbo. *The Independent* has suspended. This will occasion little surprise and not much regret. It was a kind of double-faced affair. The articles on the inside were evidently written by a gentleman of culture and liberal views, and though we could not always endorse his sentiments they gave evidence of emanating from an unbigoted mind and a generous heart. But the outside was frequently disfigured with ribaldry, gross personalities, coarse jests and low attempts at vulgar wit.

There is no room in the field at present for other daily newspapers, and for some time to come all who attempt to establish them will find the experiment a splendid opening for the swallowing of cash. One more unfortunate has departed; gone to join a host of anti-Mormon meteors which have flashed and floundered and—fizzled. Next!

UTAH AFFAIRS.

THE following Washington dispatch which did not reach the Salt Lake press we clip from the *Omaha Bee* of the 8th inst., which we received to-day:

"WASHINGTON, March 7.—The House committee on territories yesterday continued the consideration of the Utah election bill, and took a vote upon the question of the propriety of the national government interposing. The result was a tie. Representative Morse, of Massachusetts, who was absent, and who will have the casting vote, says that he inclines to the opinion that the government should not interfere in election matters in the Territories any more than in the States. He says that the Gentiles claim that women usually vote against their husbands, but that Mormon testimony does not substantiate that point. At all events, in a non-partisan and non-sectarian view, he believes in non-interference. Judging from the present views of the committee, this will be the nature of their report."

AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD.

UNDER the English law the marriage of a man with his deceased wife's sister is void. For many years attempts have been made to legitimize such unions but in vain. However the thin end of the wedge of common sense has been inserted into the statutes, and it is possible that in a few years the stupid old restriction will be split wide open. The colonial marriage bill has been passed, by the provisions of which the offspring of such marriages, under colonial laws, are enabled to inherit property in the United Kingdom.

No one is able to offer any valid argument in favor of the absurd law which has been in force for centuries. The old provision of the Mosaic code, that a man should not take "a wife to her sister to vex her, during her lifetime," has been quoted in favor of the English statute. This is the famous text which, in the original, Parson Newman expected to use as a Hebrew root, or club, with which to demolish polygamy, when he came here to "beard the lion in his den," but went off badly demoralized and covered all over with Elder Orson Pratt's Biblical quotations. It has no application in either case. It cannot certainly have any bearing upon a widower, for the restriction is, during his wife's lifetime. And it is also evident that the law merely forbids the marriage of a man with his living wife's sister to "vex her," or in other words against her consent. But whatever disputes might arise in regard to this view of the text, it is clearly without reference to marriage with a deceased wife's sister, except sanctioning it by implication. For if he is forbidden to marry her during his wife's lifetime, permission is implied to marry her afterwards.

There is no natural heirship between a widower and the sister of his departed spouse. His former marriage only rendered them relatives in law. Blood relationship was not thereby established, and the principle of consanguinity could not thereby be affected in the least degree. The love that may, and often does, spring up in a man's heart for the sister of a wife to whom he was devoted in life, and whom he mourns in death, cannot be consistently considered unnatural. On the contrary it is natural in the extreme. The sister may remind him in a thousand ways of those traits in his departed wife's character which were particularly attractive to him, and he may be drawn to her by many sympathies akin to those which charmed him in the other.

We are pleased to see the cautious and ponderous Parliament of Great Britain taking this step, though it be small, in the right direction, and hope before long to note the total elimination from its laws of the present senseless restriction. And we have hope that the day is not far distant when all nations will obtain more liberal views of the marriage question in its entirety, and that the result will be the abolition of all laws that bar the way to honorable maternity, the greatest joy of women, of any of the daughters of God who live upon the face of the earth.

THE LATEST "LIBERAL" PLOT.

LAST evening we touched briefly on the attempt to procure the removal from office of Governor Emery. We have little more to say on this subject. It is not a matter of very great moment to the "Mormons" who is or may be appointed to the position of Chief Executive of the Territory, while the policy of the Government is to send strangers here and persons who are not in accord with the great majority of the people. If we had any voice in the appointment, directly or indirectly, or if there was any probability of the advent of a gentleman who would be sustained in taking a fair and impartial stand, without reference to the religion or politics of any section of the community, it would be a different thing, and we might cease to be indifferent about it. But now it makes small difference to us who is appointed or who is removed.

But it is a matter of great regret that the national "powers that be" are so easily influenced by unprincipled schemers, and will give heed to the fabrications of impudent and malignant slanderers. If the "Mormons" were to be continually agitating for the removal or ruin of officials who do not harmonize with their views of what is requisite and proper, the cry of "disloyalty," "treason" or "rebellion" would ring through the land. But the persistent plotting of a small clique of adventurers, most of them without character or reputation, for the injury of decent men, simply because they will not fully fraternize with them, seems to be considered all right and natural and to meet with favor rather than reprobation and scorn.

Governor Thayer, of Wyoming, and Governor Brayman, of Idaho, are each the object of the wrath of such persons, just as Governors Axtell and Emery of Utah have been. A new appointment has been made for the Governorship of Wyoming which, however, has not been confirmed by the Senate; efforts will be made to oust Governor Brayman; and Governor Emery is likely to be officially decapitated, unless facts are promptly presented in sufficient force to stamp out the falsehoods that have been pushed forward with the boldness of habitual mendacity.

It is claimed that the Governor is "the object of suspicion and dislike of every non-Mormon in the Territory." We are of the opinion that this is utterly untrue of at least seven-tenths of the non-Mormon population. The Governor was blamed for signing two bills—the revenue bill and the election bill. It was represented that the former taxed mines and their products so heavily that the mining interests of Utah were paralyzed, and that the latter disfranchised nearly every Gentile in the Territory. But examination of these laws proved that those statements were impudent falsehoods, designed to injure the Governor and

aid the rascals who were working for his removal. The very reverse was found to be the truth in both instances. The revenue law turned out to be more favorable to the mining interest than any other (an unfair discrimination, as we view it), and the election law was proven to be a fair and impartial measure, designed to secure a secret ballot, justice to all classes of citizens, and full protection to the ballot box. And those who started the outcry have been compelled to acknowledge their misrepresentation of the revenue law, while they fail to bring forth a solitary argument to sustain their clamor against the election law.

New it appears to us that the non-Mormons of Utah should represent themselves in this matter. If they are willing to permit the falsehood to live, to the injury of the Governor and the triumph of those who malign him and them alike, it does not affect us at all; this is not our fight nor our funeral. But if the non-Mormons who have supported the Governor and endorsed his action on these bills allow the few scoundrels to triumph, run out officials who will not cringe beneath the "Liberal" lash, and trip up those who do not join in the chorus to their obscene refrains, we shall think those pretended friends of conservatism and the Executive a set of milk-sops, without backbone or vitality, who can do nothing but talk.

Whether Governor Emery goes or stays it matters not to us; we can move steadily along, all the same, towards the high destiny that awaits a people who live for principle. But we are always sorry to see falsehood prevail, and therefore would rejoice in the failure of those who are trying to steal the official shoes of a fair man, for the feet of some fellow of their own kidney.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The late strike of the masons in London was a terrible failure; they lost \$150,000 by "kicking against the bricks."

The House committee on ways and means, in regulating the tariff have reached the wool question, making some reductions. Read the dispatch.

Oleomargarine, or butter made out of refuse grease has become a big business. Over \$2,000,000 is invested in its manufacture, and the investors are making a fat thing out of it.

Coal has been discovered of good quality on a farm near Sutton, Fillmore County, Nebraska. It was found, in the process of boring with a well augur for water, at a depth of 141 feet.

Royalty encourages the telephone. It is now introduced into Persia, the Shah is patronizing it. Queen Victoria has recently ordered the apparatus for Osborne House, which is the country seat of Her Majesty in the Isle of Wight.

The Ogden *Amateur* for March 6 is a very interesting number, and the name of Mr. John P. Smith appears as its editor. His introductory and other articles are well written, and the *Amateur* continues to improve with age.

Seven suicides are reported in the Chicago papers for Sunday, the 24th ult. The adage of "the better the day the better the deed" will not apply in these cases. Self murder is a dreadful crime and is becoming very common in the great cities of the United States.

It is estimated that the California and Nevada specimens of minerals for the Paris Exhibition will weigh five hundred tons. Life underground is to be represented by diagrams of the Comstock lode, and the Sutro tunnel will be clearly exhibited.

The general direction of underground currents of electricity is to the north-west. So says Dr. Richard Owen, professor of geology in the Indiana State University, who has been conducting a series of experiments for the purpose of ascertaining that point.

The Hoosac tunnel is not a favorite with the traveling public. It takes ten minutes for a passenger train to pass through it, and it is very dark and full of smoke. Only three equi-distant lights for the guidance of engineers serves to vary the gloom, and they make the general darkness more hideous.

The Diamond R Company have secured the contract with the Utah and Northern and Union Pacific companies, for the transportation of the freight from the terminus of the former road to Montana. This company used to carry the freight from Fort Benton. But the extension of the U. N. will do away with most of the river traffic to Montana as well as freighting from Corinne.

A farmer in Ohio, whose wood pile had been depleted by thieves, determined to punish the culprit and detect him at the same time, so loaded a good stick of wood with gunpowder. The explosion occurred in the Congregational Church at Bellevue, on the following Sunday. And now the question is, which pious deacon supplied the fuel for that Sabbath day?

Chicago talks of introducing the bell-punch system into saloons. Virginia made \$500,000 by it last year. It is estimated that 427,000 drinks per diem are swallowed by the dram-imbibers of the phoenix city, which, at one cent tax per drink would yield about \$1,500,000 a year. It is certainly a more equitable mode of taxing the liquor traffic than the license system, which imposes the same tax on the small dealers as on the large.

Washington Territory wants to be admitted as a State. A constitutional convention will be held on the 11th of June; the election for delegates to the convention will take place on the 9th of April. With half the qualifications of Utah, and less than half its population, Washington is more likely to obtain its desires in this respect. If Congress can afford to be unjust, Utah can afford to wait and be patient.

Russia and Turkey appear to be fixing up their peace treaty without any regard to the other Powers, and do not seem to care a "continental" for the congress. Read the synopsis of the peace provisions in our dispatches. Russia is more reasonable in her demands than before the British Lion showed its teeth, and Turkey, considering its helpless condition, may congratulate itself upon the terms of the treaty.

Petroleum is one of the great exports of the country. The income from this source has decreased, however, while the volume has increased. From 1866 to 1871, the quantity exported was 550,000,000, and the amount netted \$187,000,000. From 1871 to 1875 twice as much oil was shipped, but the income was only \$165,000,000. The decrease in price from 34 cents to 15 cents per gallon accounts for the great falling off in the receipts.

The late Sioux war cost the country, according to the statement of the Quarter-master General, \$2,312,531. The casualties were 267 enlisted men killed, two officers and 123 enlisted men wounded. The war was waged to support an utter violation of treaties with the red men, and is offered in proof of the boast that one trained soldier is equal in battle to a dozen wild Indians. What has the country to show for this waste of blood and treasure?

The California Legislature has under consideration another measure for the protection of the public from the libels of a licentious and unprincipled press. It is called the Retraction Bill. Of course it is denounced by papers which gain their livelihood by personal attacks, but it makes no restrictions on the liberty of the press other than compelling papers to confine themselves to facts, and abstain from libel and abuse upon pain of having to "take it all back." "Personal journalism," requires a setback all over the Union.

A formidable opposition to the Texas Pacific Railroad scheme is said to have been organized, and Tom Scott will have to keep wide awake or it will supplant his project. It designs the building of a railroad from San Antonio to the City of Mexico, with New Orleans as the connecting seaport. It is considered that this would be of immense advantage to the Gulf States and for the material prosperity of the whole country; therefore the Government is to be asked to pledge its credit for an amount not to exceed \$50,000,000 to assist the enterprise, and the aid of Mexico is to be invoked and a commercial treaty negotiated to effect the desired object. Several Senators are said to be interested in the scheme.

Parson Newman, *alias* Leviticus XVIII, 18, U. S. Consul for the Garden of Eden has turned his back on Washington. Since President Hayes snubbed the church with the chimes, Newman has declined and he is going to make a new opening in the city of Baltimore. Here he can nourish his oiliness with oysters, and teach the lovers of earthly luxuries how to wash down the bivalves with his celebrated "hot scotch."

You who buy milk and want to know whether it is genuine cow juice or a watered article, try the German test. Here it is: A well polished knitting-needle is dipped into a clean vessel of milk and immediately withdrawn in an upright position. If the sample is pure, some of the fluid will hang to the needle; but if water has been added to the milk, even in small proportions, the fluid will not adhere to the needle.

A man died last week through the effects of inhaling the fumes of nitric acid. A carboy of the acid exploded in a freight car and several of the employees were sent into the car to empty it. They were cautioned about breathing while in the car, but one of them, named John Welch, took a deep breath, was taken sick immediately and died a few days after in great agony. This should serve as a caution.

The rapid diffusion of intelligence in our own times is illustrated by a report of the time it took to telegraph the speech of the Queen of England in opening Parliament. It consisted of 800 words. Seven minutes after its delivery it was forwarded, and in 23 minutes and 10 seconds it was in the hands of the Czar of Russia. The Sultan of Turkey had it in 40 minutes, it was read in New York in 54 minutes, while it reached Paris and Berlin in 14 minutes. In an hour 300 newspapers in Great Britain had the speech ready to set up in type and publish to the world.

A gay and festive widower of Brunswick, New Jersey, named Oliver P. Dunn, aged 94 years, wants to wed a willing widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Way, aged 80 years. Both are good-looking and in good health, and are members of the First Baptist Church. But the hard-hearted pastor thinks their years are too many and will not unite them in matrimony, and none of the ministers of the vicinity will tie the nuptial knot. So their young affections are doomed to be blighted, and they sigh in single-veiation, Oliver, in the absence of a clergyman, vainly seeking for the Way, and Elizabeth wondering how it can be Dunn.

The statement that the image of the last object seen before death remains impressed on the retina of the eye, has received support from scientific experiments in Germany. It has been discovered that light falling on the retina causes changes in the pigment contained therein, and hence the retention of the image reflected. The pigment is determined to be identical with luteine, a substance detected in the serum of the blood and the yolks of eggs. Prof. Kuhne, of Heidelberg succeeded in photographing from a dead rabbit's eye the image of a window sash, in front of which the animal had been exposed before being killed. There is evidently something more in the idea than mere superstition.

The exposure of the treatment of prisoners in the Trenton, New Jersey, penitentiary has aroused the whole country, and great indignation is everywhere expressed against the "Christian" officials of that institution. They treated prisoners in the same spirit which prompted the Utah penitentiary "sweatbox." One keeper testified in an off-hand way that "he saw as many as five or six convicts at one time with gags in their mouths; saw men chained down to the floor, at the same time gagged so tightly that they could hardly breathe; men bound to that modern adaptation of the rack—the stretcher, their hands fastened to the ceiling and their toes touching the floor; convicts chained to the floor with their handcuffs on; often heard screams coming from the dungeon; had seen a woman with black and blue marks on her wrists, who told him that she had been strung up." Hanging up is too good for the monsters who inflict such tortures upon the helpless persons placed in their charge.