

DESERET NEWS
WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - FEB. 7, 1877.

MORE PEACE PROSPECTS.

THE prospects for peace appear to be prevailing, in both the Old and New Worlds, considerably more so than was the case a few weeks ago. In Europe the war clouds grew heavy, thick and black, and it was generally apprehended, in the event of the failure of the peace conference of the European powers, that war would break out almost immediately, and soon assume mighty magnitude. These direful apprehensions, however, have not been realized. On the contrary, Turkey and its provinces apparently have a mind to endeavor to patch up by themselves that permanent peace which the European powers sought to establish, but failed in their endeavor.

In this country, too, the dark clouds that recently lowered over the political horizon seem to be dispersing and passing away. It was feared by many that over the counting of the electoral vote in Congress in a fortnight's time there would be a tremendous quarrel, with a probable serious division of that honorable body, and the probable acceptance by the two great political parties of two presidents of the republic, and the possible result of a bloody, terrible, and destructive civil war over the vexed question. But since the passage of the electoral bill by Congress and its signature by President Grant things have changed, the situation has become more satisfactory, an amicable adjustment of the election squabble is considered sure, and all the dreadful things in the way of extreme conflict are considered as thrust beyond the range of probability.

These renewed prospects of peace afford much gratification to those who wish for peace on earth. If people and nations were really sensible, they would have peace all the time, they would seek peace and preserve it as a jewel beyond price. They would seek to do each other good, to build each other up, to enhance each other's interests, and cultivate and seek to establish a spirit of peace and fraternity all over the earth, that life and property might be secure and might be multiplied upon the face of the earth, and happiness be enjoyed as far as possible by all created beings upon this planet. That is the object of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and if people knew it, and realized the blessings following in its train, they would accept it gladly and strive earnestly to live in accordance with its beneficent teachings.

DEBT, DEBT, DEBT.

ONE of the most salient points in local and national and international politics is the general sentiment of the necessity of getting deeply into debt, or rather the impossibility of getting along without going deeply into debt. Hence the principal nations on the earth have enormous public debts. States, territories, counties, and cities have public debts, and many of them great debts. Indeed it seems to be an accepted part of the prevailing political creed of nations, commonwealths, and municipalities, that public debt is a necessity, and many advocate the idea that public debt is a blessing. Perhaps it is in some instances, but the condition in which debt is a blessing is not a very high condition. On the contrary, it is necessarily a rather low condition. Just as the necessity of flogging a school boy, to cause him to properly attend to his scholastic duties, argues a rather low mental and moral condition on his part. The best horses need no spurring, the best boys need no flogging, and if nations, commonwealths, and municipalities were truly wise, they would strive earnestly to avoid public debt, and the interest-paying bondage which it invariably entails. Debt is a very dear spur, a very costly stimulant.

It may be said, "O we cannot make such quick progress, cannot so rapidly build up and develop the resources of the country, without going into debt to do it." Well, what necessity is there for building up the country and developing its resources faster than you can reasonably do it? Wherein is the necessity of a community going upon all sorts of crutches, etc., and paying dearly for such lame help, merely because it cannot walk so fast as it may wish, nor develop itself so rapidly as it may consider desirable, without that help? Is there any necessity whatever for a community making faster progress than it is reasonably able to make? Is it not a law of nature that inordinately rapid growth and development are invariably accompanied by corresponding weakness? Why is it necessary for one generation to do all the development? Can not something be left for coming generations to do, and with positive advantage to the present generation? Why cannot nations, provinces, states, territories, counties, and cities be content with building themselves up, making improvements, and developing their resources as fast as their current strength and current income will reasonably allow, without plunging into the bottomless depths of debt and its certain slavery, in order to accomplish some wild ambition of supposed extraordinary progress and development? Is not this debt-incurring policy for the purpose of rapid development, generally speaking, like pursuing a mere will-o'-the-wisp? Is not the idea of the progress and development obtained in this way very much of a delusion, resulting in the grinding serfdom of the debtor to the usurer which is hard and galling to bear? Would not communities be better off, as a general thing, without the meretricious progress and development attained at so costly a price, at so great a sacrifice?

Public debt means heavier taxes, and taxes are always heavy enough. You never heard a people complain that their taxes were too light. Yet will they, as communities, deliberately make their taxes heavier, by plunging into debt, and plunging deeper and deeper, in the delusive hope of some fancied improvement and advantage.

It is sufficient if a child develops itself into manhood as fast as it is reasonably able, without any unnatural strain upon its health and constitution. If communities and nations grow into adolescence and their resources are developed as fast as they reasonably can, is not that sufficient? Why should communities or nations subject themselves to an unnatural strain in the ambitious endeavor to accomplish something beyond their current strength, and with the certainty of thereby entailing upon themselves a condition of weakness that would have been unnatural to them if they had advanced more cautiously and more wisely? Better do without such brilliant progress than buy it on such ruinous terms.

Here is the neighboring Territory of Montana. It has adopted the fashionable policy of getting deeply into debt. According to the recent message of Governor Benjamin F. Potts to the Legislature, the total revenue from all sources of the Territory, for 1876, was \$50,589.08. The liabilities of the Territory up to Dec. 31, 1876, were \$134,560.03, reduced by assets to \$117,584.19. The debt was reduced last year \$8,100.87.

But this is not all. The total indebtedness of the various counties in the Territory, March 1, 1876, amounted to \$491,318.76. During the year ending at that date, the total increase of the debt of the counties amounted to \$40,569.57. Five of the counties had increased their indebtedness during the year then ending \$53,512.52, while four other counties had decreased theirs in the same time \$12,942.94. The debt of one county, that of Lewis and Clarke, at the date named was greater than the debt of the Territory, being \$136,774.54.

Of the municipal debt in the Territory, nothing is said. But concerning the alarming proportions and the rapid increase of county indebtedness, Governor Potts enlarges in these startling terms—

"It has always been within the power of the Legislature to prevent this increase, but it has allowed it to continue from year to year since the organization of the Territory. The attention of your pre-

decessors has been repeatedly called to this subject, but they refused to provide a remedy. The power of the several counties to contract debts beyond their annual revenues should be prohibited by law. Our local governments no more than private individuals can live beyond their means without fraud and swindling; somebody must pay the bills. The chief and growing evil of the present day is local indebtedness, and the disposition of the people to live beyond their means, ambitious to seem rather than to be; who never blush to contract a debt with no capacity to pay; who live on counterfeit rank, borrowed tinsel and splendor, won by false pretences. One of the early fathers wisely said, 'I have found the philosopher's stone, "Pay as you go," and the wisest of the many wise things uttered by the late Mr. Greeley was, "Avoid pecuniary obligations as you would a pestilence; hunger, cold, rags, hard work or contempt are disagreeable, but debt is infinitely worse than all." The spirit that underlies and pervades the whole decalogue was summed up in the utterance of Paul; "Owe no man anything." A disregard of this injunction is the bitter spring from which flow nearly all our public and domestic calamities. We should welcome the return of the day when the people will prefer honest poverty to the gilded shams of fashionable prodigality, when the plain, honest, republican simplicity of the early fathers will supplant the extravagance and gaudy show of to-day; when men shall be proud to eat no bread save that earned by the sweat of honest toil; when the people will live within their income and compel their local governments to do likewise.

"The rapid increase of County indebtedness and the decline of County credits should demand the exercise of the strictest economy on the part of county officers. Some of the counties now stand on the very threshold of bankruptcy, and others are rapidly approaching it. Unless an immediate remedy is provided, it will be beyond the power of the Legislature to afford them any assistance. If county affairs continue to be conducted as heretofore, the time cannot be far distant when some of the counties must surrender their organizations for the want of revenue or credit to defray current expenses. Soon the warrants of some of the counties will be so low in the market that no citizen can afford to discharge the duties of a county office and receive warrants as a compensation. I regret that the legislative power of the territory has not long since been invoked to arrest the steady increase of county indebtedness, but, in my judgment, the time has arrived when the responsibility must be met and discharged, and I trust all other legislation will be deferred until you provide for the early removal of the burden of county indebtedness that hangs like a millstone about the necks of the people. The remedy is plain: REDUCTION OF EXPENSES AND INCREASE OF REVENUES."

At this time, when the Territory and the counties owe considerably more than half a million dollars, the Legislature is considering the proposition to issue bonds to the extent of a million and a half of dollars, for the purpose of building a railroad, which would make the public indebtedness of Montana more than two millions of dollars.

For our part, we can see much reason to rejoice in the policy that has prevailed with the local officers in this Territory generally, of not going into debt, so far as could reasonably be avoided.

Cure for Diphtheria.—The following has been handed to us, for publication, by Bishop Harrison Sperry, of the Fourth Ward—

"Dissolve a teaspoonful of saltpetre in four table-spoonsful of water. Give to a full grown person afflicted with diphtheria one teaspoonful of turpentine (one dose is sufficient) and a teaspoonful of the saltpetre solution, repeating the latter dose at the end of three hours, after the first administration, and again at the end of another three hours.

"For children the doses should be moderated according to age, &c.

"Try this remedy and save life. I have applied it in my own family repeatedly, and it has never failed once."

Local and Other Matters

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, FEB. 1.

Removed.—The Doctors Benedict have removed to the Jennings Building, over the grocery department.

Dug Out.—Last night a man, named Blodgett, was brought from Little Cottonwood and taken to St. Mark's Hospital. He had been exhumed from a snow bank, under which he had been buried several days. He may recover.

Foggy.—The City and surrounding country has been enveloped in a light fog to-day, with a little while sufficiently clear for the bear to come out and see his shadow, according to the old weather proverb, go back to his lair and spend a few weeks longer in listless semitorpidity.

Work on the Temple.—The work on the Temple in this city progresses without abatement. There are now about eighty stonecutters employed on the Temple Block. There is a good prospect for the building being considerably forwarded during the approaching season, judging by the amount of rock already dressed and prepared, and the work in that line is still going on.

Novel Home Manufacture.—Now we have home manufacture in another and new department of industry, proving that the spirit of home production continues active and aggressive, and in this instance invades a department of art and industry which few would have thought of in this connection.

Our well known citizen, photographer, and friend, Mr. C. R. Savage, exhibits to us several samples of valentines, with envelopes for the same, of a very attractive kind. The material of the valentines is obtained from the States, etc., but they are made up here, and arranged in very neat and beautiful combinations, fully equal to the imported articles, and in some respects superior to them. For instance, the mottoes, sentiments, etc., on those imported are oftentimes objectionable and trashy, while the inscriptions on those made here under Mr. Savage's direction are entirely unobjectionable, and bespeak taste and judgment. While young people are young people, they probably will continue to send valentines to each other, and so long as they do, those tender missives may as well be made here as purchased from a distance.

Fire.—At an early hour this morning a fire broke out in a large tenement house on the south-east corner of Franklin Avenue, 18th Ward. It was near half-past one when the alarm was communicated to the City Hall, and by that time the devouring element had gained great headway on the building. The members of the Fire Brigade, with apparatus, were on the spot soon after the bell commenced ringing, and did all that could be done under the circumstances, working with much vigor to extinguish the flames, and finally succeeded, but not before the greater portion of the structure was destroyed. The building was two and a half stories high, and built of frame in the front portion and adobe in the rear. The Chief Engineer of the Fire Brigade, Mr. Ottinger, had a narrow escape from being dangerously hurt, a falling chimney barely missing him while he was directing the movements of the men.

The fire is supposed to have been incendiary, as the particular rooms where it originated were unoccupied.

The building was owned by Mr. Samuel Johnson, a carpenter, and was covered by an insurance of \$2,500, in the Home, California, Company. The property destroyed, in the building, will reach in the vicinity of that amount. There are other losses, of a minor character, sustained by some of the tenants, whose household goods were injured or destroyed.

Tannery and Shoe Factory.—To-day we met with a representative of the Davis County tannery and shoe factory, located at Farmington. He had specimens of the productions of those home industrial institutions with him, in the shape of shoes, of apparently excellent quality, in their line, and was hunting for wholesale orders.

We learned from him that it was very difficult for him to get any sale for these productions, notwithstanding their acknowledged su-

periority over goods in that line imported, and yet the shelves of the stores are filled with inferior goods from a distance, that find a ready sale. Merchants generally refuse to give any advance on the prices of the imported goods, although they are inferior to the home produced, no allowance being made for the difference in quality, and we presume their reason for this is that purchasers generally prefer the cheaper article, independent of quality, although the higher priced article is almost invariably the cheapest in reality.

It may be said, why don't the producers of home-made goods bring the quality down to the generality of importations, that they may be able to sell at the same figures, or a little under? Such a policy, however, would, in our estimation, be ruinous to our home interests, being much better for goods to have a name for respectability in point of quality than for lowness of price. Both these qualities should, however, be, so far as possible, combined.

It appears to us to be something of a moral obligation on the members of this community to sustain home industry, the welfare of the people demanding that kind of a policy, and in taking that course the matter of a small monetary consideration should be made subservient to a correct principle.

Allen City.—We extract from a letter, from John A. Blythe, a young man of the Little Colorado Mission. The communication, which is addressed to Brother George Goddard, was written at Allen City, January 21st—

"I am pleased with the interest that is now being awakened in the hearts of the rising generation to inquire into the gospel and to prepare themselves for the duties that will devolve upon them. As for myself, I did not half realize the importance of the latter-day work until I came on this mission. Since then my eyes have more clearly opened to the light of the gospel and the necessity of improving the little time allotted me in serving God and trying to keep his commandments.

"I sincerely desire you will see your hopes as concerns this mission fully realized, and that you will have the privilege of greeting many a shining little face in the Sabbath schools on this river, for I think that before many years this country will be the prosperous home of thousands of the Saints. Very true, this country is not a Garden of Eden, but here are the elements that, with the industry of the Saints and the blessing of the Lord, will be all that is needed for the blessing of those who may live in this part of the vineyard.

"The Winter so far has been more like Spring than the cold blasting weather at home. We have neither had mud nor snow to trudge through, but a continuous sunshine during the day, and scarcely ever so cold that a person would need to put on their winter clothing, and you can see, at all hours of the day, persons in their shirt sleeves.

"President Wm. C. Allen has been in camp for about two weeks. Since the expiration of the old year this camp has been increased about one half, which now gives it quite a lively appearance. Health, peace, and unity dwell in all the companies."

FROM SATURDAY'S DAILY, FEB. 3.

Flour.—A load of flour was sold in town yesterday for \$2.50 per hundred.—Beaver Enterprise, Jan. 30.

More and More.—More fog again last night and this morning. Also a smart hailstorm early, followed by snow falling gently much of the day.

District Court.—The February term of the Third District Court will open on Monday morning at 10 o'clock, when the grand and petit jurors are required to be present. The Court will then be opened for all kinds of legal business, including naturalization.

Seed Catalogue.—D. M. Ferry & Co's Illustrated and Descriptive Catalogue of Garden, Flower, and Agricultural Seeds for 1877. This is a profusely illustrated catalogue of 250 pages, with descriptions and concise directions for the cultivation of the various flowers and vegetables. Well printed on good, tinted paper. D. M. Ferry & Co., Detroit, Michigan.

Information Wanted.—Attention is requested to the following—