

who are happiest now are those who voted against the bill. The investigation into alleged election frauds have to some extent lost their interest since it has been decided that the commission will not go behind the returns; before that decision they had been prosecuted with great vigor by the committee of which Mr. Knott is chairman, and it was expected that the testimony of Littlefield and Maddox would be brought before the commission.

As the season of Lent approaches, social gaiety becomes more abandoned and reckless than ever, and it seems in strange contrast with the gloom and anxiety which pervades the country. Masked balls are attended by all classes. The masks are worn until about 12 o'clock at night, when the butterfly sheds her domino and comes forth resplendent in real diamonds and marvellous upholstery. The domino is the favorite, as it is the most effective disguise, for either sex, but there is no end to the variety, beauty or grotesqueness of the costumes.

**The Dollar-Dull Times-Co-operative Herd, Store, and Manufactures-Schools-Meetings-Little Snow, etc.**

FILLMORE CITY, Feb. 20, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

It appears to my judgment that the dollar is the main thing that is uppermost in most of our minds. With it a great many of our wants are supplied, and, in these dull times, it costs so much more labor and toil to get it to what it did a few years ago. Still some and most of us will spend three times the labor to get it in order to buy something that if we were united we could make, create at home. How long will it be before we get some good sense? I suppose not until we are compelled to. The Saviour once said that the children of this world were wiser in their generation than the children of light. I have seen some instances in this part of the world showing his words to be true.

Times are very dull with us. Last year, with the exception of at Kanosh, our fruit in the county was an entire failure, and our fruit is our main support. Stock raising was once, but that is "played out," and our farming facilities are very limited. Our corn crop helped us out fine. It was the best I ever knew.

Deseret, thirty miles northwest, if it continue to increase, will be our Egypt. There is plenty of room for settlers, and fine land.

Our sheep herd is doing better this year than in former years. We have some prospect of a dividend.

Our co-operative store is doing better. The ladies are helping us along. Sister Pratt is our superintendent.

Our tannery is doing us some good, seeing it employs some hands at home in making shoes, harness, etc., and it has the name of making a very good kind of leather. The grain will not break under the hammer.

Our efforts to answer the calls for the St. George Temple are much to our credit, we being not in the least behind. We have up to date seven carpenters from this county there, but they will soon return, the work being finished.

Our *Athenaeum* is quite a success, and otherwise our weekly paper is very good. Our people are busy in writing for it. The ladies are not a whit behind.

Our Sunday School is a success. If you could see the scholars coming out, you would say so with me. Our day schools in the several wards are in full operation, and with the Young Men's Improvement Society, the different quorums, and our Historical Class, our evenings during the week are all occupied to our improvement and culture. Our young men are improving, to all appearance. There is not so much time spent in dancing and playing, and there is more spirit to improve and learn. I have not seen a single case wherein the peace of this city has been broken this winter, and our justices of the peace do not make much in that line.

There is not much snow in the mountains. The boys who are logging say the snow roads are all worn out and they will have to get a new supply or quit work for a while.

I will close, praying for the welfare of Christ's Kingdom on the earth.

AN OBSERVER.

**Baptisms—Preaching Without Purse or Scrip—Lecturing—Condition of the People.**

HALIFAX, England, February 2, 1877.

Editor Deseret News:

Last evening I baptized four in Halifax, Yorkshire, and rebaptized one. They were baptized in the public swimming-baths of the town. Quite a number of spectators asked the privilege of witnessing the ceremony, which was of course granted.

The confirmation took place at the residence of Brother Jackson, where as many as the house would contain assembled to witness it.

There appears to be an anxious enquiry after the truth here, and I have felt from the first time I set foot in Halifax that God has a people here. As there is no meeting-house in the town I have adopted the plan of inviting all who will come to the houses of the Saints in the evenings, where I open the scriptures and converse with them on the principles of the gospel. In this way I am reaching many who are diligently investigating the truth, and thus have the privilege of dispelling any erroneous ideas they may have indulged in, of removing prejudices and setting before them clearly and understandingly the truths of the gospel. Among the number who presented themselves for baptism last evening was a young man, of prepossessing appearance, who has become thoroughly convinced of the truth from several conversations I have had with him. Obstacles, however, were thrown in his way by his relatives for the present.

I am travelling from place to place, on foot, and can endorse, from experience, the truth of what I heard President Young say years ago, viz: that if the Elders would adopt the plan of preaching without purse and scrip, trusting in the Lord, day by day, to open the way before them, the spirit of the Lord should rest upon them, and every step they took they should feel its power and their words should be the words of life and salvation to all who hear them. This I have fully proved. In some places we are hiring halls for lectures, and the lectures are paying all expenses. The masses of the people are bound in fetters of priestcraft and are afraid to investigate the truth. There is not a single element of progress in any of the churches since I was here twenty-two years ago, but, if possible, they are darker with regard to the truth than at that time. Infidelity is steadily gaining ground, and those who attend public worship of any kind do so more from the fact of its being popular than from religious incentive.

Many preachers of the church of England are returning to the old ritualistic ideas, and scarcely a paper is issued from the press which does not contain accounts of some contest between the parson and some portion of his flock, through the introduction of the ritual. I have become fully satisfied that the majority of the people are inclining more and more to the Roman Catholic Church. I have had the pleasure of an introduction to several of the most wealthy and influential men of Leeds, with whom I have conversed freely on the persecutions of the Saints and of the affairs of Utah, of our co-operative system, our union, and the energies we have shown in redeeming the desert and making it blossom as the rose.

Your Brother in the gospel,

C. D. EVANS.

Dogs and duellists seem to be in favor in the State of Virginia. An exchange says, "The dog tax bill, which ex-Gov. Letcher has introduced in the Legislature of Virginia, and supported by a speech showing a strong array of facts and figures the damage worked by dogs to the sheep growing interest of the State, has met so little favor among the law-givers of that commonwealth that he is said in despair to have postponed its further consideration until the next centennial of American independence. At the same time the House of Delegates of the same Legislature has thrown the mantle of its protection over duellists by ordering to its engrossment a bill, which will probably pass, removing the disabilities incurred under the anti-dueling provisions of the constitution, of nearly all the persons who have been since connected in any way with duels."

**BIG B**

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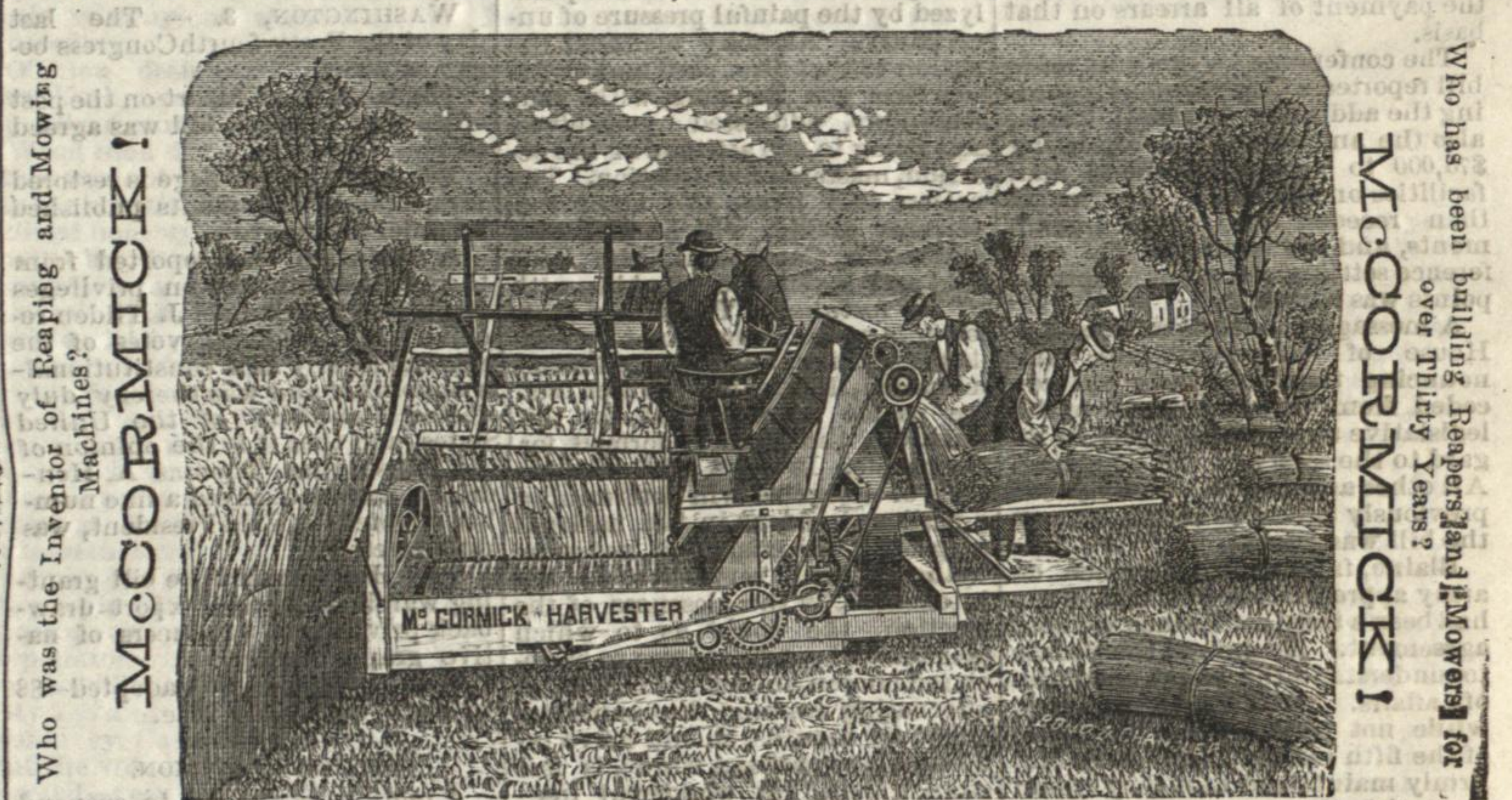
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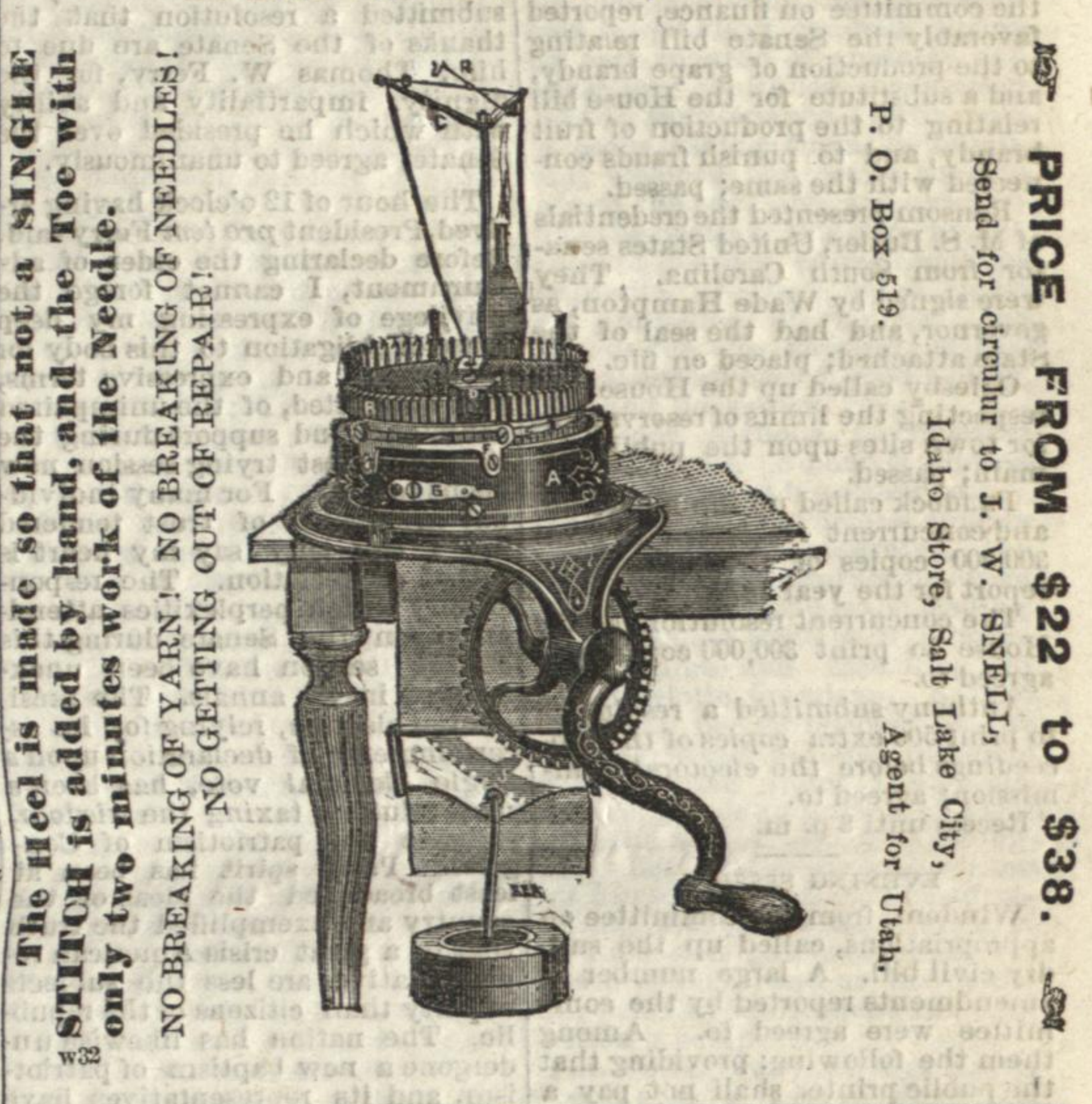
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