

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - JULY 18, 1877.

QUACK MEDICAMENTS.

HUMAN folly is various and wonderful. The gullibility of human nature offers food for reflection, and vast opportunities for the "birds of prey" who fatten on others' folly and feather their nests by plucking silly "geese."

Among the many exhibitions of mortal weakness, scarcely anything is more conspicuous than the disposition of the masses to buy and swallow the pretensions and prescriptions of quack physicians.

Immense fortunes have been made by ignorant and impudent impostors from the sale of nostrums, for the cure of various ills that flesh is heir to, which have effected far more harm than good, and sowed the seeds of many more diseases than they have eradicated or relieved. People, of ordinary good sense on common matters, frequently act without reason on the most vital points. Where their bodily health is concerned they seem to lose the calm judgment brought to bear upon every-day affairs, and they will shut their eyes and open their mouths and take in compounds of the properties of which they know nothing, simply on the say-so of a charlatan whose cheek, tested by the gauge of truth, would mark the highest figure while his knowledge would stand at zero.

Quack medicines are advertised more extensively than any other goods offered to the public. And many people confound advertising with endorsement. But it should be understood that newspapers frequently admit into their advertising columns as a matter of business, announcements which they cannot endorse in their editorial columns as a matter of principle.

If invalids only knew the nature of the stuff they swallow because it has some high-sounding title, backed by yards of testimonials, they would set a seal upon their lips rather than open the door of their stomachs to such deadly decoctions. Relief is afforded by many of these patent medicines for the time being. But their after effects are generally baneful in the extreme, and more than counterbalance the benefits temporarily obtained.

In consequence of this, some of the most popular nostrums of a few years ago are now presented to a gullible public under entirely different names. Chemical analysis has demonstrated this, beyond cavil. The composition of most of those cure-alls that are advertised all over the world as possessing most mysterious properties, is well known to thorough physicians, and the actual virtues in them are derived from the commonest drugs in the pharmacopoeia.

Opium, cinchona, digitalis extract of lettuce and dilute alcohol are the principal constituents of many fluid remedies sold at from \$1 to \$2 per bottle. Wonderful pills, patented, puffed and purchased in enormous quantities, are principally made up of aloes, rhubarb, gamboge, colocynth, Castile soap, etc. Fever and ague remedies contain mostly cinchona and quinine, and the cheapest drugs are sold in these various forms at tremendous profits, enriching the quacks and impoverishing and injuring the people.

The so-called Soothing Syrups, administered indiscriminately to infants, have caused more mortality perhaps than all other patent preparations put together. Alcoholic tinctures of anise and caraway seed are mixed with morphine, and even chloral hydrate has been discovered in some of them. And these are the doses of death which fond mothers deal out by the spoonful to their innocent and helpless babes!

The people of Utah should know better than to patronize these humbugs. If common sense, quickened by travel and good counsel, is not enough to guide them, surely the voice of revelation should be potent enough to warn them against these deceptions, and point out the course to pursue.

"If any be sick among you? let

him call for the Elders of the Church; and let them pray over him anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up, &c." James 5 c 14 v.

"And whosoever among you are sick, and have not faith to be healed, but believe, shall be nourished with all tenderness with herbs and mild food and that not by the hand of an enemy." Doc. and Cov.

If "doctor's stuff" is considered necessary, it is far better to call in a skilled physician who has passed through a course of study, than to trust to the decoctions called patent medicines or to employ ignorant quacks who are great only in pretension.

If people were as careless or reckless in the treatment of a watch or any machinery out of order, as they are in the correction of disorders of the human system, how many timepieces would tell the correct hour, and how much mechanism would remain unspoiled. Yet the human body is the most delicate and complicated organism known to mortals, and happiness, aye life itself, depends upon the proper treatment of that system which is "so fearfully and wonderfully made."

We trust the above hints will tend to mitigate one of the great evils of the times, and help to stop the flood into this Territory of the vile stuff which is extending its deadly streams all over the world.

DO YOU SEE THE POINT?

THE Desert Land Law, which is said to have been passed in the interest of California land-grabbers and speculators, is likely to be overhauled and handled without gloves when Congress meets in October. Persons intending to avail themselves of its provisions, honestly, should "be sure they are right" before they "go ahead."

We have already published some communications from the General Land Office touching this matter, and now append a letter on the subject from the Commissioner at Washington to the Register at San Francisco:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
General Land Office,
Washington, D.C., June 1, 1877.
Register and Receiver, San Francisco, California, Gentlemen:

I have received your letter of the 16th inst. in which you desire instructions as to whether in cases of applications under the act to provide for the sale of desert land, approved March 31, 1877, you have the right, in order to satisfy yourselves of the good faith of applicants, to require proof that the land is capable of being irrigated, and that the applicant has made an appropriation of water that can be used for the purpose.

In reply you are advised that it is your right and duty to require full proof from applicants, showing in every particular, that they are in good faith endeavoring to acquire title in accordance with the provisions of said act.

Very respectfully,
J. A. WILLIAMSON,
Commissioner.

The payment of 25 cents an acre now, and a dollar per acre in three years, without residence on the land, may seem an easy way to procure a farm. But those who are about to make their entry and deposit had better be careful about the certainty of procuring water for irrigation. If the land is capable of producing crops without water, it is not "desert land" within the meaning of the Act. And if water cannot be obtained to irrigate all that is entered, within three years, that 25 cents an acre may help the Government a little, but will be totally lost to the depositors. Do you see the point?

MOSLEM AND MUSCOVITE.

THE Russo-Turkish war drags its slow length along, and the fast people of this fast age are greatly disappointed at the absence of anything sufficiently horrifying in the conflict to curdle their blood or thrill their over-electrified nerve-centres.

The Russian reverses in Asia and their apparent successes in Europe,

cause some astonishment to many who are watching the progress of the war. That Turkey, while able to resist the march upon her borders from the East, should have permitted the passage of the Danube, surprises them. But it appears to us that the Porte had no great anxiety to keep the enemy on the other side of the famous stream.

In the first place, the Russians, after crossing the Danube, found themselves in a country from which they could draw no supplies. The troops sent to reinforce them must bring along provisions for themselves and the army over the river. And the Russian commissariat is in a miserable condition. In the second place, if a successful stand can be made in the Balkan mountains, the enemy is kept upon unhealthy soil where disease is likely to decimate his ranks, and sickness with scanty supplies will quell the spirit of the invading hosts. In the third place, we believe that the wily Turk saw that with the increased probabilities of a Muscovite march upon Constantinople, England's anxiety to bar the way would increase, and that the aid from Great Britain anticipated from the commencement of hostilities would be the immediate consequence.

The signs of the times seem to indicate that the end of Moslem rule is approaching. Great changes must transpire within the dominions of the Sultan, that the events predetermined by Jehovah and predicted by His prophets may be fulfilled, concerning the land of His ancient covenant people. But we must confess to a feeling of satisfaction at the difficulties encountered by the invader, and the vigorous resistance offered by the Turk. For conquest alone inspired the attack, while hypocrisy assumed the garb of Christian intentions. The deep desire of the Czar to rescue Christians from Mohammedan bondage, so feelingly announced in the declaration of war, was forcibly displayed (?) at the siege of Rostchuk, when Christian public buildings and private dwellings were levelled by the shells of the Russian "rescuers," and the mangled bodies of the Christians they were fighting to deliver were strewn in the streets as evidence of their eminently benevolent intentions.

"The Sick Man" may be doomed to death. The Crescent may wane and disappear beneath the shadow of the uplifted cross. But we hope that other nations than Russia will dictate the final disposition of the coveted territory, because the schemes of the hypocrite ought not to triumph and the greed of the invader ought not in justice to be gratified. There is a Divine Hand over all, shaping events to dovetail with His purposes, and the out-come will assuredly be but another step towards the great consummation of all things.

NEEDLESS EXPENDITURE.

THE folly of unreflecting humanity is exhibited in few instances more than in the purchase of high-priced, non-essential articles on credit. There are now enough sewing machines in this Territory, apart from those stored in the premises of Agents, to suffice for a community of double our present population. Yet the sale of these machines still goes on. The reduction in price may favor further sales, although the higher the cost the greater the desire of some people to purchase, particularly if the article can be obtained on a promissory note.

The same may be said in regard to expensive agricultural implements. Farmers seem to think anything cheap and easy to get if they are not required to plank down the cash when they purchase.

There are hundreds of families in actual bondage to-day through this reckless rushing into debt. Money is worth money. Anything bargained for by note is dear. Impatience is exceedingly costly, and "I want," which is often mistaken for "I need," cries so loud that the voice of prudence cannot be heard. How much trouble, sorrow, and lingering poverty would be averted, if people would only wait for what they want until they can pay for it!

But there is much folly manifested even by those who can purchase with cash. They certainly get their goods cheaper than those who buy on credit, and they are exempt from

the continual wearying annoyance of the weight of debt and the fearful looking for the dreaded day of payment. But in the matter of machinery there is great waste among them also. Two-thirds of the machinery already purchased by our people is idle half the time. This shows a lamentable lack of economy. What nonsense it is to have several sewing machines in one family, when one is amply sufficient for every requirement of the kind!

The advantages of combination of labor are nowhere more apparent than in the use of machinery. One mower and reaper would amply suffice for a number of farmers, if they would combine and agree in relation to its use. So with many other agricultural machines, one of which every farmer now thinks he ought to own in his own right and which, from the force of circumstances and the shortness of the season for its use, remains idle most of the year; and so with sewing machines, of which every woman thinks she ought to own one, while it would suffice for a dozen families in her neighborhood.

An old saying is, "There is wisdom in all things, even in the roasting of eggs." There may be wisdom in the purchase of machines, but it appears to us that it is not very manifest among the masses in this Territory. If you want to be well off, don't buy anything needless, and when you do buy, pay as you go!

THE EMIGRANTS AND THE "HERALD."

THE New York *Herald* of the 8th inst. has this to say of the company of emigrants expected to arrive in this city this evening:

The steamship *Wisconsin*, Capt. Forsyth, which arrived at this port yesterday morning from Liverpool, brought 750 recruits for Brigham Young. It is but just to say, however, that a better looking, sturdier or more substantial body of emigrants has rarely passed through the portals of Castle Garden en route to the west.

The emigrants, one and all, described the voyage as unexceptionably pleasant, and the attentions of the officers and men as all that could be desired. In fact, before landing a formal expression of grateful feeling for the courtesies received was made to Capt. Forsyth and his crew. Religious services were held every day on shipboard, under the leadership of the several Elders. The officers of the *Wisconsin* speak in equally high terms of the excellent behavior of the Mormons and the unusually fraternal and kindly feeling displayed throughout the trip.

The *Herald* regrets very much that these healthy intelligent emigrants will not be distributed among the Territories instead of swelling the population of Utah. It is a marvel to rabid anti-Mormon journalists why people will cast in their lot with the Latter-day Saints after all the horrible tales they publish. The secret is this. The yarns spun by such romancers as the *Herald* correspondents are dyed in too glaring colors. The falsehoods are cut too fat, and the streaks of fact therein are so fine that disgust is induced instead of credence. Nobody with any brains believes the stuff published by the *Herald* about the "Mormons." To have any effect the stories of the great unreliable should be toned down a little. These Mormon-eaters always overdo the thing.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

—Omaha is excited over the matter of waterworks.

—There is to be a convention of Governors of all the States at Greenbriar White Sulphur Springs some time in August. Nothing political.

—In Alto county, Iowa, a few nights ago, lightning struck the house of E. A. Thayer, Mr. and Mrs. Thayer were both made blind and their baby was killed instantly.

—Judge Briggs, of Pennsylvania, has fined a lawyer for abusing a witness. This is a good precedent. We hope it will be followed. A bullying lawyer is no *rara avis*, but a very common bird of prey, that ought to be caged.

Local and Other Matters.

FROM WEDNESDAY'S DAILY, JULY 11.

A Good Chance.—The people of Panguitch, in the south, have had a co-operative tannery running for two years, and have an abundance of leather on hand, but are comparatively without shoes, because they are without shoemakers. The authorities have sent teams to this City to convey three of the sons of St. Crispin to that place, if the willing ones can be found. It presents a splendid opportunity to three good, steady shoemakers. Latter-day Saints, who want good homes, plenty of work, and abundance to eat, drink and wear, all of which are promised. Apply to Brother George Goddard, at the General Tithing Store.

Twenty-Fourth at Logan.—Logan will celebrate "Pioneer Day." There will be a cheap excursion from here to that beautiful city, the train leaving Salt Lake at 7 a. m. on the 23rd. The excursionists will have the option of getting off at Logan, or passing on to Franklin and coming down to the first named of the two places the following morning. The sports of the day at Logan will be varied, according to taste, including trout fishing, horse racing, and, at the grove, there will be the usual games generally indulged in at resorts of that kind.

The tickets will be \$2.50 for the round trip, returning on July 26th. Those desiring to remain over until August 6th, will have the privilege, on payment of half the regular fare.

City Council.—The Council met last evening, Alderman Dinwoodey in the chair.

Petition of John Evans and others, for the privilege of cutting a ditch from the canal, on Fourth West Street, along Ninth West street; granted.

The committee on fire department were instructed to inquire into the advisability of constructing water tanks, for fire extinguishing purposes, in the less central portions of the city, and report thereon.

The committee to whom was referred the petition of Philip Pugsley and others, asking that the canal on Seventh West Street be cleaned out to prevent overflowing, reported that the granting of the prayer was at present impracticable, but recommended that, in the meantime a ditch be cut on Second North Street, to convey the surplus water to the County Canal; adopted.

Bill of the City Surveyor, for professional services, \$316.18; referred to the committee on claims.

Council adjourned till next Tuesday evening, at seven o'clock.

Mr. Schettler's Cocoonery.—To a person curious regarding the mysteries of silk raising, the cocoonery of Mr. Paul A. Schettler, at his residence, in the 12th Ward, is a most interesting spectacle. The gentleman is a zealous and we might say enthusiastic silk raiser, and is meeting with excellent success.

This season he has raised 200,000 fine, healthy silkworms, of four different kinds—French Annuals, Tuscan, Var and Perpignan. The great majority of these have finished spinning, and the result is a large crop of splendid cocoons, among which the Tuscans take the lead, as producing silk as good as raised on the globe.

To provide food for his worms Mr. Schettler had about four thousand mulberry trees, on his farm, on the bench east of the city, but unfortunately the grasshoppers made a raid on the little forest recently, and completely denuded the branches of their foliage. In consequence he has since been obtaining his feed, or the crude silk material for the little spinners, from President Young's farm.

Mr. Schettler has been fortunate in securing, for the management of his cocoonery, Mrs. Cardon, of Logan, an adept at silk raising, and everything on and about the establishment shows the effects of the skillful hand and the experienced eye. She is not only an expert at the general management of the cocoonery, but is also an excellent reeler. We saw specimens of her handiwork in that line, and also of Mrs. Schettler's, who has learned to reel in fine style. The specimens of reeled silk, of which Mr. Schettler has a large quantity are very beautiful.