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DAVID O. CALDER,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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Correspondence.

SNOW, MIST, AND RAIN—DISTILLERIES—VARIOUS.

ST. GEORGE, Dec. 5, 1873.

Editor Deseret News:

On Thursday morning, Dixieites awoke to be astonished by beholding the earth again white with snow to the depth of five inches.

Great excitement, glee and merriment among the boys and girls, little and big, who sent up shouts of delight as sleigh and sled were hastily improvised for fun. In about twenty-four hours the mantle of white disappeared, and the rocks on the mountain side of red, gray and black again frowned under the dark cloud, the mist and rain. The weather has been wet, streets muddy, and a gloomy time since. The dry earth is now fairly permeated with moisture, making the matter very agreeable to those desiring to put in small grain or make orchards and vineyards.

There are many cases of whooping cough in town, which are generally getting along without apparent danger of fatal termination.

Deputy U. S. Marshal Duncan and Dr. Christian recently paid Dixie a visit, in the interest of the revenue laws, to look for illicit distillers. A number of persons, charged with that irregularity, gave bonds to appear at Beaver in June and answer.

Our normal school was started last week under the superintendence of J. B. Bleak, but a recess has occurred on account of his sickness.

There are schools, one or more, in each ward.

Building and improvement are going on lively, and there is a great demand for building material.

CATTI.

ACCIDENT—COAL AND LUMBERING OPERATIONS—BIG SNOW FALL—LABOR SCARCITY.

ST. GEORGE, Dec. 6th, 1873.

Editor Deseret News:

On Nov. 25th, Bro. Easton Kelsey, who runs the grist mill in this place, met with a serious accident while cleaning the belting. The water lodging in the pen stock caused the machinery to start, and his arm was caught between the belt and the pulley, breaking it above the wrist. Being an old man he is doing fully as well as could be expected under the circumstances.

The Co-operative Coal Company lately organized is progressing admirably, having had more capital subscribed than can at present be profitably used on account of the great scarcity of manual labor. Still a number of hands have been at work on the branch road under the direction of S. L. Adams, and considering the limited help come-at-able, they have made rapid progress. A load of coal brought in from the mine proves it to be in quality all that the most sanguine anticipated.

The Mount Trumbull Lumber Company have been successful in taking their steam engine and appurtenances to the pinery, and a sample of the lumber is expected to be delivered here in the course of a few weeks.

On the evening of the 3rd one of the most unprecedented snow falls took place here, in fact, the oldest inhabitant never witnessed such an occurrence so early in the season as on the morning of the 4th. The ground was covered to the depth of about six inches, which gave our city and surroundings quite a wintry and picturesque aspect, which brought into requisition by our inventive geniuses all manner of sleighs, these teams being adorned for the occasion with all the cow bells that were available, the jingling harmony being nobly kept up from early morning to late in the evening, it being seven years since the same opportunity has been afforded us here for sleigh riding.

There is a great scarcity here both of mechanical and common labor, which is a great detriment to the building up, improving and beautifying of our city and adjoining settlements, and if a few of our brethren who are masons, carpenters and joiners, painters, shoemakers, farmers and common laborers would make up their minds to cast their lots with us in our Dixie, in a few years, financially, they would find it greatly to their advantage, and in a moral point of view modern "civilization" has made very little inroads amongst us as yet. The inducements for this class is very limited and present prospects offer no encouragement for such society.

The home missionaries appointed at our last semi-annual conference are alive to the importance of their duties and calling. In this county twelve have been appointed. They are arranged in companies of threes and visit the different wards and settlements in this stake in connection with other missionaries from Kane county. Their labors are appreciated by the people and good will certainly result therefrom. We are glad to learn that our beloved President and a few of our brethren from the north are to spend the winter with us, and we anticipate a time of rejoicing under their teachings and instructions.

THISTLE.

MODERN INFIDELITY.

Editor Deseret News:

Is not the tendency to infidelity, so strikingly characteristic of the age, and so clearly foretold in "Holy Writ," one of the signs of the last days? For certainly no people ever declined in religious sentiment and devotion more rapidly than has the Christendom of the last quarter of a century. That devotional fervor and veneration formerly inspired by gothic churches and lofty cathedrals, accompanied with gorgeously stained windows, representing the birth and crucifixion of the Savior, and figures of the Virgin Mary, surrounded with flying cherubs, together with holy rituals and ceremonies which, from their very antiquity and dark, impenetrable mystery, seemed formerly to inspire religious awe and veneration, have now lost them forever, and the leading question of the late "Evangelical Alliance" was the awful decline in religious sentiment. Startle not, Mr. Editor, that, in a land of Bibles and societies devoted to the spread of religious knowledge, we should hear the declaration, from the orthodox expounders of theology of the various nations of Christendom, of a serious decline in religious sentiment, as this condition is simply a plain and literal fulfillment of the words of Jesus, "When the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth. I tell you nay, but rather division."

It is really amusing to read the various reasons assigned for this religious indifference, and I will not weary the readers of the News with them; suffice it to say, that none of them ascribed it to the rejection of the gospel as revealed through Joseph Smith. As a result of this rejection of the true and only plan of redemption, the Lord, as he informed his servant Joseph he

would do, has opened other channels of communication than that which he has divinely inspired; in other words, he has "sent them strong delusion in order that they may believe a lie, because they have pleasure in unrighteousness." This delusion, having developed itself in the form of Spiritualism, has become, perhaps, the most formidable foe modern sectarianism ever had to cope with, for the reason that truths which before its appearance were universally acknowledged as orthodox, beyond question, are now repudiated in toto, and indeed ascribed to the ignorance and superstition of an age far inferior intellectually to the present. Even the cardinal doctrines of the atonement, and of the holy resurrection are ignored as "nonsense" and set down as "incompatible with true learning and intelligence;" indeed, the latter of these doctrines is declared to be at variance with the known laws of chemistry. This reminds me of a conversation with a spiritualist, a short time ago on the subject of the resurrection, who ignored the doctrine on the ground that we have no transpiring example of a resurrection before us, such as we have of the powers and forces of steam and electricity, of growth and decay, of life and death. Imponderable lore, this! Because we have no immediately transpiring example of an eclipse that occurred two thousand years ago, the logic of such reasoning would prove that no such eclipse ever existed.

But enough on the religious aspect. Permit me to add a few words on the moral and social condition. The police reports show an alarming increase of crime, so much so that eastern papers say, "Crime is literally stalking abroad." The social evil, too, assumes the form of a fearful fact, and the enormous returns of legalized prostitution indicate foul stains on the country's escutcheon that Christian churches and Christian societies have proved powerless to remove. Here is a field for missionary enterprise—here is an evil for evangelical alliances to grapple with, that is silently, but certainly, corrupting and eating out the vitals of the nation. Physicians in some States say the evil is becoming so widespread as even to induce feelings of alarm. Who can read the history of prostitution, in our land, without feelings of deep sorrow, sorrow that woman should become victimized by men's brutal and hellish lusts, the inheritor of loathsome disease, deprived of the privilege of offspring, cut off ere she has lived out half her days, and thrust foully into a premature grave. In view of the above facts would it not be conferring a lasting benefit upon the nation and vastly improve the social condition for Congress, during its present session, to adopt some measures to punish polygamy in the territories?

C. D. EVANS,

Springville.

MORE RAILROAD ROBBERIES—CALICO BALL—PROBATE COURT.

OGDEN CITY, Dec. 16, 1873.

Editor Deseret News:

This morning I had an interview with another victim of the light fingered fraternity, who had been fleeced while traveling on the railroad. James Eddy, a young man about twenty-two years of age, as I should judge, was raised at San Jose, Cal. He had never seen the great world outside of his own State, so he took a trip to New York City. After "seeing the elephant" to his satisfaction, he started on his return trip for his home in the Golden State. When he commenced his homeward journey he had plenty of cash to purchase all that he required, or desired, and also a railroad ticket through from this point to California. All went smoothly with him until he left Cheyenne; when a short distance out he discovered himself minus his through ticket and every cent of money. He said he did not know how nor by whom he was dispossessed but "somebody went through him."

Said I, "Did you gamble while on the train?" He answered, "No, sir, I did not." "Were there any gamblers on the train?" "Yes, a great many, and one of them was fleeced of about two thousand dollars." He has been here about four days, waiting for assistance from his friends. This morning he received some aid from his brother in San Jose; to-morrow he expects to obtain more means from the same source, when he will continue his pilgrimage homeward.

The emigrant travel, both east and west, has been on the increase for several days past, but there are few, comparatively, first-class passengers on the trains which arrive at and depart from this point.

The merry jingle of the sleigh bells is again heard in our streets throughout the day and evening, which, with the hearty laugh and the innocent jokes of the beaux and sweethearts as they glide gaily over the frigid crystal, makes the air vocal with mirth and music. The days are pleasant, the nights frosty, so there is a prospect of more sleighing for some time to come yet.

Last night a calico ball came off in Woodmansee's Hall, which was participated in by between forty and fifty couples. At midnight an excellent supper was served up at the restaurant of C. H. O'Harnett, to which the guests did ample justice. They then returned to exhibit their calicoes until the "wee sma hours," and then retired to their wick-i-ups, satisfied with their evening's entertainment. The Ogden quadrille band furnished the music, which gave perfect satisfaction to all interested.

At the opening of the Probate Court this morning, a jury was empanelled, and the case of Julius Keisel, charged with rape, was called. The prisoner had a preliminary examination in September last, when all that transpired in relation to the case was published. Mr. F. D. Richards, is retained for the prosecution, and Hyndman and Johnson for the defence. The time was mostly occupied in the examination of the complaining witness, Ellen Cunningham. A rigid cross examination was instituted, but nothing new was elicited. Everything of interest, which has transpired on the subject, so far, was brought out on the examination before the justice of the peace. The trial is likely to engross the time for several days yet. Other cases are on the docket to come up in their order. Since writing the above, about two inches more snow has gravitated to the earth, and more is falling vigorously. L. P.

SCHOOL MATTERS.

CENTERVILLE, Dec. 17, 1873.

Editor Deseret News:

Both Sabbath and day schools in this place are in a flourishing condition, well attended, and much interest is manifested both by teachers and scholars. On Friday last I attended an examination at the schoolhouse of the South District day school, which numbers sixty-seven scholars, which are taught by Mr. I. Witherel, who has taught two sessions. I was astonished at the progress the pupils had made. Their exercises consisted of reading, geography, grammar and arithmetic, and the dignified manner in which questions were put and answered was truly gratifying, proving the capabilities of the teacher. On Saturday evening they gave an exhibition, consisting of songs, recitations, charades, &c., in which remarkable ability was displayed. A dialogue between six children, six or seven years of age, created loud applause. Indeed all the pieces were rendered in a very able manner by persons of so short experience. The house was crowded to excess and all left highly delighted with the evening's entertainment. The teacher, Mr. Witherel, is a man of fine literary attainments and his chief study is the advancement of his scholars. I need not add that he is engaged for another session. W. R.

In passing through a dark tunnel on a Pennsylvania railroad, a woman's voice was heard exclaiming, "Don't you fool around! I carry a pistol in my panier."

COLD WEATHER—A FAIR-MINDED JUDGE—TAXATION.

FRANKLIN, Oneida Co., I. T.,
December 15th, 1873.

Editor Deseret News:

The weather has been the most severe for several days that I have witnessed for the last ten years. Thermometer stood eighteen below zero on the 13th. Snow is about ten inches on the level; in the canyons about three feet. The health of the people is generally good, except a few cases of measles. Our meetings are well attended and a good spirit prevails with a majority.

A part of the land in this County has been surveyed and plots of the same returned to the land office at Boise City.

M. E. Hollister, Judge of the Third Judicial District, whose place of holding court is at Malad City, County Seat of Oneida County, has manifested a great deal of liberality and kindness to all classes of citizens, irrespective of their religious creeds, in granting them their naturalization papers. I became acquainted with his Honor while at Boise during the session of the Legislature of 1872 and 1873, and formed a high opinion of his capability and fairness in trying to advance the interests of the people of this Territory. He is a man of extensive experience, one of the old school, being about sixty years of age, I should think, whose knowledge and judgment have ripened with his years. If the Federal government would always send us men of this class, we should have no reason to complain.

The taxes, county and Territorial, are two per cent., with an additional tax, called a poll tax, of four dollars. If not paid shortly after the assessment an additional dollar is added. This is upon all over twenty-one and under fifty years of age. A portion of this tax goes to the school fund. There is also another tax of six dollars or two day's work for road purposes.

I resided in Utah twenty-one years previous to living in this Territory. I have been surprised at the complaint of the people of Utah about heavy taxation, when it is nothing in comparison to what we pay in Idaho, and at the promptness which has characterized the people, since they found themselves just over the line in this Territory, in the way of hunting up the money and paying up agreeable to law, thereby saving from five to fifteen per cent., beside an expense for the Sheriff of fifty cents per mile for collecting all delinquent taxes. These taxes are paid generally with but little complaining in comparison to what there was when our taxes were light and our officers lenient. I think it would be a good thing if some of our neighbors in Utah were to come and live with us a few years. They could certainly then appreciate the wise policy and forbearance and consideration of the Legislature of Utah.

This county is near 200 miles in length, running from the Utah line to the summit of the Rocky Mountains, beyond Pleasant Valley. The major part of the inhabitants of Oneida county reside in Malad, Cache, and Bear Lake Valleys. The total vote of Nov. 5, 1872, for county and territorial officers in this Territory was 4,353. I fail to see the consistency of keeping up a Territorial organization at such an enormous expense upon the people, in the way of taxation, and the distance that has to be traveled to reach the capital (from 400 to 800 miles) to attend the legislature. This Territory should be disorganized and be attached partly to Washington Territory, partly to Oregon, and partly to Utah Territory. I am sure it would please the majority of the people of the south part of Oneida Co. to be attached to Utah, as they formerly supposed they were, and as they rightly always should have been.

L. H. HATCH.

George Campbell and Joseph Edson, while out hunting near the Edson Brothers' ranch in Shasta Valley, California, lately killed a large panther on Willow Creek which measured thirteen feet from tip of nose to the end of his tail.