

itary science;" Lieut. R. W. Young, "commercial law."

It is hardly necessary for the NEWS to add a word by way of commendation of the excellent institution above named. Its record is before the people and its admirable work during its short career constitutes a monument to its honor more enduring and more effective than any compliments we could utter. The Latter-day Saints know the purpose of the Church authorities in establishing this school and others similar to it in various States of Zion; they also know the obligations resting upon them with reference to the instruction and mental nurture of their children. They will scarcely need a reminder from us, therefore, of the duty devolving upon them to place within reach of their offspring opportunities not only for the education which comes from books, lectures, experiments and observation, but also for that higher moral, spiritual and religious training which renders them steadfast in the truths of the Gospel and strong to resist the delusions of the adversary.

THE NATIONAL DEBT.

Three or four weeks ago the NEWS gave in answer to a correspondent's question the public debt of the United States at the close of business December 31, 1892. The government fiscal year ended on the 30th of June, just past, and the statements for that month from the financial department accordingly complete the record of the year's operations and the country's present status. Condensed from the report in *Bradstreet's*, it appears that the nation's interest-bearing debt amounted at the close of June to \$585,037,100, a slight decrease for the year—not quite \$60,000. The debt on which interest has ceased since maturity amounted to \$2,094,060, a decrease of nearly \$700,000 for the year. The debt bearing no interest amounted to \$374,300,605, a decrease of over \$6,100,000 as compared with one year ago. The aggregate of interest and non-interest-bearing debt amounted to \$961,431,766, a decrease of nearly \$6,800,000 for the year. The certificates and treasury notes offset by an equal amount of cash in the treasury amounted to \$534,553,920, a decrease of nearly \$35,700,000 as compared with one year ago. The aggregate debt, including certificates and treasury notes offset by cash in the treasury, amounted to \$1,545,985,686, a decrease of nearly \$42,500,000 as compared with the end of the last fiscal year. The interest-bearing debt at the close of the year consisted of \$25,364,500 of 4½ per cents of the loan of 1891 continued at 2 per cent; \$559,604,150 of 4 per cents of the loan of 1907, and \$68,450 of 4 per cent refunding certificates.

THE VIKINGS.

A morning cotemporary volunteers the following statement:

The "Viking" ship must have felt at home when it got into New York harbor. It must have felt that it had met a brother when it reached Chicago, because Viking literally translated means a pirate.

Viking "literally" translated does not mean any such thing. The word is derived from *vik*, which means a bay, and was used to denote the ancient Scandinavian sea rovers, either because their homes were on the shores of bays or because they, on their expeditions, generally sought the bays for shelter during the night. They were "bay-ers" if the term be allowable.

The vikings were hardly pirates, if by a pirate is meant a robber who confines his operations to the high seas. In their strange craft they crossed the seas to foreign coasts and there they went ashore, made war upon the inhabitants and carried off whatever booty they were able to take. Several causes led them to adopt this practice. According to their religion it was a disgrace to die a natural death. Their heaven or *Wathalla*, that is the hall of the fallen, was only open to heroes. Its chief joy consisted in fighting and receiving wounds, which, however, were healed every day, previous to partaking of the sumptuous feasts prepared by goddesses for the brave. From views of this kind arose a natural desire to lead a life of war and to engage in contests with neighboring nations, the more hazardous the better. There was not only booty in it, but, according to their views, eternal glory, particularly if they met death without fear. No doubt their exploits from a modern point of view must be considered unjustifiable, but for a correct estimation of them the sentiments of their own age will have to be understood. For thereby the fact is intelligible that some of the vikings, Hjalmar and Orvar Old for instance, were among the noblest characters in ancient Scandinavian history.

We ventured yesterday to say that viking, literally translated, means a pirate.

Our evening cotemporary springs to the rescue, and says "it does not mean any such thing." It says, further, that the word is derived from *vik*, which means a bay, "and was used to denote the ancient Scandinavian sea rovers," and, further, that "the vikings were hardly pirates."—*This morning's Tribune*.

Then our cotemporary turns to Webster's dictionary, quotes Longfellow, and concludes by suggesting that the NEWS try again.

It is not often that the *Tribune* gives good advice; but in this instance we are disposed to think it does so unwittingly. While examining Webster as to the definition of "viking"—not the literal translation be it noted—our cotemporary should also have turned to him for the word "pirate." It would then have found that it not only errs, as we have stated, in assuming the word "viking" to mean "pirate," but that it further gives proof of its ignorance of the meaning of the words "literally translated." Until it can be logical, if not philological, our neighbor should not try again.

MAN AT HIS WORST AND HIS BEST

It is not many days since, in two widely separate places in the United States, two object lessons occurred, one showing how high our race has ad-

vanced in the human scale, the other the depth to which man can descend, and both evoked by impulsive appeals to the passions.

A mulatto who had presumably outraged two little girls and then killed them, was followed, surrendered without resistance by the officers who had him in charge, taken to the scene of the crime, hanged, mangled and then burned. As his body swung in the air a bullet was sent through it and various citizens gratified themselves by cutting off the negro's fingers, ears, and otherwise imitating the Dahomeyan plan of exquisite revenge. It was as dastardly, cowardly, cruel and unmanly a performance as was ever engaged in by even our savage Indians after their contamination by the greedy and unprincipled practices of the early white settlers. It was a disgrace to the community in which it occurred and the men who did it ought to be disowned by the whole country and banished from it forever; they are not fit to live in a land consecrated to the onward and upward march of our race through the broad avenues of law, order, intelligence and religion. They fully justified all that was ever said about man's falling and his proneness, even desire occasionally, to fall when by so doing he can with safety to himself gratify a savage revenge by putting his race to shame and himself outside the pale of civilization; this was as well illustrated by the event named as it is possible for anything to be. We will not insult the reader by saying if the negro was guilty he deserved death, speedy and painful death, for that is understood; and the father of the children had a right conferred by that mysterious agency which we all at times have to recognize as being superior to written laws to take the monster's life; but neither he nor any one else had a right to cover himself with infamy by acting the part of an ungovernable savage as all of that mob did, and it would have mitigated the case but very little had their victim's guilt been established, which was not the case by a great deal.

We turn with a degree of pleasure from the foregoing relation to depict the height from which the actors in the ghastly drama fell, since if they had been impressed as those of whom we are now to speak had been, doubtless the action taken would have been just as gentle and humane. While the crackling flames were doing their demonic work in one place, in another nature had lashed itself into a fury and like a den of escaped wild beasts ravenous for prey had sprung upon several little communities and destroyed and injured more than a hundred people. Many were left homeless and the general suffering was awful. Those who were able to go for assistance did so and the promptness and volume of the relief contributed was only diminished by the ability to transport it to the scenes of desolation. Even the railroads partook of the humane feeling and set about doing what they could without arranging for payment or holding anybody responsible therefor. Altogether the flow of spontaneous and genuine charity was such as must have made the angels weep for