

## DESERET NEWS

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - DEC. 13, 1876.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

PRESIDENT GRANT'S message is a lengthy document, yet not so lengthy as some former messages. All the country looked forward with eagerness to the delivery of the message, and now that it is spread before the public there seems to be a general feeling of disappointment in some sort regarding it. The present somewhat critical condition of national politics may have excited the general expectation to a high pitch concerning the message, and induced the anticipation of something more than ordinarily interesting and perhaps of determinate decision in regard to the crisis. If such anticipations were indulged in, they are not gratified in the message. There is nothing startling in it, for it is rather conservative than aggressive. Indeed it is uncommonly apologetic and self-defensive. It is indicative more of the end than of the beginning of a policy or a regime. In the first paragraph and in the last, as well as in some others, the burden of the theme is of a valedictory nature, as if President Grant were thoroughly imbued with the idea that the sands of his high official life were very nearly run out and the end was nigh at hand, even at the doors, and he was not sorry for it, so that, instead of mapping out the lines for a lengthy and vigorous administrative career, he felt it to be more appropriate to him to set his house in order, review his past administrative acts, post each in its proper place on the debit or credit side of the account, and have an eye to which side the balance was due.

The custom of a presidential message arises from the constitutional provision that the President "shall from time to time give to the Congress information of the state of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient." The opening of Congress would naturally suggest itself as one of the principal times for imparting such information and making such recommendations. Hence the established custom of a presidential message at the opening of Congress, and also the messages of governors of States and Territories on the opening of their respective legislatures.

President Grant, in his present message, gives such information and makes such recommendations briefly, to most of which we need not more particularly refer, as they are not of special interest to the people of this Territory.

There may have been an expectation that the President would dilate upon the southern election business, but this he has not done, and indeed it is perhaps just as well, seeing that Congress is about to investigate the matter, and things pertaining to it are so badly mixed at present. Besides, the President seems to be rather waiting for something to turn up, than to be disposed to go to work and turn up any more than is absolutely necessary during the last two or three months of his official career. Furthermore, Congress is no longer swayed by the party in power, and with a democratic House and a republican Senate, recommendations of the President, where they had, or could be tortured into having, a party leaning, would be held simply as so many bones of contention, over which the two houses would wrangle and see-saw indefinitely, and without accomplishing any beneficial result to the country. So the President contented himself for the present with briefly recommending some greater safeguard around the method of electing a president, and excluding the thoroughly illiterate from the franchise. We might add that he also notices the reference of the report of the Postmaster General to southern outrages in regard to that department.

In connection with the message, we may say that it does not appear to be kindly received by the press generally. For many of the public journals evidently feel disposed,

now that they see the President going down the hill of official life, and nearing the jumping off place, to give him a kick and a bad word, as an ungracious help and commend on his re-entering private life.

## THE BROOKLYN THEATRE HORROR.

Two dreadful accidents in public buildings have occurred lately in two widely distant parts of the Union. Within a week or two of each other, the news of two appalling theatre disasters has fallen horrifyingly upon the public ear. These terrible occurrences were not of the same kind, one being by fall and the other by fire, but the horrors of both may be traced to one class of causes—faulty construction. The first was the fall of the floor and galleries of the Sacramento theatre, when filled with people, the first night of its use, and the second the burning of the Brooklyn theatre with a fatal result to so many persons caught in the burning building.

The Sacramento building was exceedingly faulty, because the floor and galleries were not sufficiently supported to hold safely a large body of people. The Brooklyn theatre was faulty in not being provided with sufficient places of speedy exit in times of great emergency. Both teach the lesson that it is urgently advisable that stringent municipal or other adequate regulations be established and carried out regarding the construction of buildings in which great masses of people are wont to assemble. If the Sacramento theatre had been built sufficiently strong, the fatal fall of its floor and galleries would not have occurred. A stringent municipal or other law upon the subject, supplemented by careful official inspection, would have prevented that horrifying accident, and would have saved much suffering and woe to individuals and the community, as well as a number of lives, and harrowing reminiscences to the saved and the spectators.

But what shall be said of the Brooklyn horror? That terrible holocaust to human fright and human negligence as to the proper construction of buildings of common and extensive public resort was of a nature to shock the whole country, and ought to prove a sufficient warning to constructors of such places to amend their designs. In the first place it may be said that in cases of fire, or of sudden and great alarm from any cause, people should not lose their senses, but should keep cool, and then there would not be such terrible eventualities as that of the Brooklyn theatre, wherein above three hundred people were trampled, crushed, suffocated, and burned, cooked to death. But this is begging the question a good deal. On imminent occasions, sometimes with real cause, and sometimes on a false alarm, people have always been subject to be panic-stricken, and in all probability always will be. Soldiers on the battle field, and even veteran troops, inured to war's alarms, are sometimes panic-stricken. There were some excellent Union soldiers at Bull Run, yet there was a tremendous Bull Run race back to Washington notwithstanding. Individuals of undoubted courage and bravery, who were a host in themselves and who could meet a host undismayed, have at times manifested unaccountable fear and even cowardice. Much more are the common people, gathered indiscriminately as to age, sex, condition and character, liable to panics, and especially in the face of real and terrible danger, such as that at the Brooklyn theatre.

Such is nature in the human being, and seeing that it is useless to expect the course of nature to be reversed on such occasions, it is consequently useless to expect that masses of human beings will not become panic-stricken and act without reason or sense, in moments of great alarm, either false or with good cause.

In the next place, then, the only preventive means that can be taken advantage of in cases of this kind, is the more favorable construction of public buildings, with particular regard to facilities for egress to masses of people, that is, to large audiences. In this respect many public buildings are extreme-

ly faulty. There are theatres, for instance, the entrances to portions of which for the audience are through long, narrow, circuitous or serpentine passages. In a case of alarm, how long would it take for one of these narrow, winding passages to be blocked up, from floor to ceiling, by the bodies of the affrighted audience, packed together like sardines? Not a quarter of a minute. Then would come, in these contracted, sinuous passages, darkness, suffocation, and death, horrors upon horrors, to which the Black Hole of Calcutta even could not furnish a parallel. That catastrophes of this kind, each involving the lives of from one to two thousand people, do not occur much oftener than they do is owing much more to good fortune than to good management, or sagacious prevention.

There are a few fundamental rules which should always be held in controlling regard, in this connection, in the construction of buildings where people are wont to assemble in great numbers. The places of egress should be ample in number and size. There should be no constriction of passage way, no concentration of the whole or very large portions of the audience at one or two places of egress. There should be no long, devious passage entrances and exits to any part of the building, at least for the audiences. All the places of egress should bring the various departments of the auditorium into communication with the open street with all practicable immediateness. At all the places of egress the doors should open outwards, and when there is an audience in the building, should always be in a condition to open easily and instantly.

These and similar rules for the prevention of terrible disasters deserve the serious consideration of all projectors, architects, builders, owners, and lessees of structures for the assembling of people in large numbers, and also the attention of municipal and other legislative bodies. Otherwise such horrible occasional occurrences as this at the Brooklyn theatre cannot be avoided.

## Local and Other Matters.

FROM WEDNESDAY'S DAILY, DEC. 6.

**City Council.**—The Council met last evening, Mayor Little presiding.

On petition, the license of Geo. H. Knowlden was transferred to W. B. Folsom.

The committee on improvements, to whom was referred the petition of Joseph Warburton and others, concerning parties tapping the Emigration ditch and endangering property in the 1st, 10th and other wards, reported that they had examined into the matter, and recommended that the city water-master be instructed to enforce the law on the subject; recommendation was adopted.

The committee on streets and alleys recommended that the supervisor be instructed to repair South Temple and Third West Streets in the vicinity of the railroad depot; adopted.

The police court report of Alderman Pyper, for November, was presented and filed. It showed that 64 cases had been tried and that \$537 had been collected in cash fines, and \$400 in labor.

City Marshal's expense account for November, \$365.32; approved.

Expense bill of Chief Engineer of the Fire Department for November, \$155.15; allowed.

Bill of W. Hyde for boarding city prisoners in November, \$1,443 meals, at 15 cents, \$216.45; allowed. Gas Company's bill for November, \$1,148.20; allowed.

Bill of Dr. Young for boarding insane patients in November, \$68.60; allowed.

Bill of Dr. Young for professional services, as quarantine and city physician, in November, \$21; referred to the committee on claims.

The following sums for services in November were allowed: P. A. Schettler, City Treasurer, \$200; Andrew Burt, City Marshal, \$150; seven policemen, \$84; W. Hyde, Street Supervisor, etc., \$150; J. W. Burt, Janitor at City Hall, \$52; W. R. Atkins, gardener on Union Square, \$45; W. G. Goforth, collecting dog tax, \$26; C. M. Donelson, carpenter work, \$28; W. E. Hyde, guard at water-tanks, etc., \$60.

Bill for cedar posts, \$9; allowed.

Five thousand dollars was appropriated to take up a corporation note.

The following sums were appropriated—to be drawn on the order of the supervisor, \$1,000; to be drawn by the superintendent of the water-works, \$1,000.

Council adjourned till next Tuesday evening, at 7 o'clock.

**That Fatal Explosion.**—The remains of Archibald T. Gardner, son of Bishop Gardner of West Jordan, were brought to the city today and interred at the Cemetery. They were followed to the grave by twenty-two carriages and wagons filled with the relatives and friends of the deceased, who, when suddenly bereft of life on the 4th inst., was aged 18 years, 5 months, and seven days, and was a well-disposed, promising young man. The sympathy felt for his parents in their sudden bereavement is universal.

The mill where the boiler exploded is situated about two miles above Tannersville, Little Cottonwood, and young Gardner and Heber Clark, the latter of Pleasant Grove, being engaged in hauling lumber from the mill to the railroad tramway, had just arrived and were engaged in warming their hands and feet, at the fire, when the boiler exploded. Young Gardner was blown through the roof of the mill and through the branches of a pine tree, alighting at a distance of about 500 feet to the northward, his body being, as may well be imagined, terribly mangled. The other youth, Heber Clark, had his left leg broken in two places, below the knee, the right knee joint dislocated and the bone broken below it. The engineer, Morgan James, of Salt Lake City, was wounded, and the sawyer, William Haws, of Pond Town, was slightly hurt, and several others who were in the vicinity were stunned.

Mr. Robert H. Smith, of West Jordan, informs us that a report that the two young men, Gardner and Clark, were tampering or "playing" with the safety valve when the explosion took place is entirely incorrect, they being in no way connected with the cause of the accident.

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY, DEC. 7.

**Departure.**—This morning John W. Young, Esq., left on a short business trip to the east.

**Home Upholstery.**—To-day we took a ramble through the upholstery rooms of Mr. H. Dinwoodey, First South Street, and were pleased to note among the numerous elegant and handsome sets a considerable number of home manufacture, the appearance of which was as delightful to the eye as the imported of that class of furniture. The home upholstered goods appeared, to say the least, to be equal to the imported, and so far as the workmanship is concerned, probably a little surpassing in point of substantiality.

**"Juvenile Instructor."**—Number 23, Vol. II, of the *Juvenile Instructor* is before us, and its contents are, as usual, interesting, instructive and entertaining. It opens with "Spiders at Home," which paper is followed by the "Strait of Magellan," "Biography of Joseph Smith," "Suggestions for Sunday Schools," "Editorial Thoughts," "A Storm at Sea," "Entomology, No. 14," "Reading Well," "Leaves from a Log Book," "The Principle of Gathering," "Present Aspect of Babylon," "Questions and Answers" (on the Book of Mormon and Bible), a hymn on "Faith," words by W. Willes and music by "Tucker," "Sunday Lessons for Little Learners," and other instructive matter. The *Instructor* should be in every household.

SALT LAKE CITY,  
Dec. 6th, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

In answer to the inquiry of "Teacher" in regard to the first Latter-day Saint Sunday school, I have to say that, at the time Elder Haywood was bishop of the 17th Ward of this city, in 1856, a Sunday school was in existence in that Ward, under the superintendence of the late Samuel Neslen, Jun., son of Elder Samuel Neslen, of the 18th Ward. The deceased Elder Neslen was also, I understand, one of the suggesters and organizers of the same school, which may have existed previous to 1856, but which was, at any rate, in operation in that year.

SABATH.

**Religion and Science.**—Since the introduction of the popular sciences

in the courses of study pursued in the University, and best common schools of the Territory an interest has been awakened in the history of the earth's formation, and its relative importance to the other spheres of the planetary system, and in other natural phenomena which these sciences reveal, that is widespread among the intelligent young people of the Territory. Through the brief courses of scientific study referred to, a taste has been created for such works of literature as treat upon these subjects, also for the lectures and dissertations of scientists, who have come into our midst. The bookstores have done a splendid business in scientific works, and lecturers such as Denton and others have been listened to by hundreds of young men, who were absorbed in their attention to the beautiful theories advanced by them.

Generally these lectures, and in many instances the books referred to, exhibit a conflict in their entertaining and plausible teachings to what is called religion. And as the appetite for science has been cultivated and regard for religion in many instances ignored, the delighted hearers and readers of science accept its antagonistic position to religion, and flatter themselves they are the conquering heroes of the church-going, Bible-believing populace, arrayed against them.

That it is reasonable in the scientists of the World to discover an open conflict with the religionists of the world, is quite probable. There can be no doubt that between true science and the accepted dogmas of immaterialism called religion believed and practised so generally in the Christian world, there is a deadly conflict, in which true science will come off conqueror every time. Now the danger to the youth of this community in accepting this position of antagonism to religion the scientists would have us occupy is this—what is called among us religion is as much opposed to the religions of the world, with which these scientists are accustomed to contend, as any true science can be. And on the other hand the revealed religion enjoyed by our community, fosters and sustains every scientific truth as it is developed and established. Hence, to suppose a conflict to exist is absurd. If the youth of Utah do not know that there is no conflict, but that perfect accord exists between the established and true principles of science, and true revealed religion, it is because they are ignorant of that religion. The author of all natural science is the author of the science of theology, which the "Mormon" people hold as their religion and which treats of the laws of life, revealing the principles by which life is produced in its various forms, by which it is sustained and perpetuated forever.

It is no compliment to the great body of this community which has gathered out from the traditional and science-dreading religions of the world, because of a higher knowledge and the attractions of a truer religion, for their children, in embracing science, to class them as religionists among the opponents of science. Of course wherever this is done is displayed great ignorance of the wholesome principles of religion that all in this community are privileged to understand. That those who have fallen into rank with worldly scientists against worldly religion and have classed the revealed religion of the Saints with the latter, have done so thoughtlessly and ignorantly, is most probable. How many young men in this city who suppose science, which they admire, is opposed to religion, know anything about the principles of the Saints' religion.

While contemplating this condition of ignorance on so important a subject as true religious science, and dreading the awful effects such ignorance will produce among the youth of our Territory, if it is not dispelled, we note with pleasure the efforts of some of the young men to organize for mutual instruction on such subjects. The understanding of this and kindred other matters of equal importance in the education of our youth, comes under their own surveillance as subjects to be discussed in their associations. And with the opportunities they have, with abundance of revealed truth from which they can draw, we look to see the foundations of character laid in the lives of many, upon which the noblest superstructures of the human race will be built.