DESERET EVENING NEWS.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LESSEES.

New York, - - July 10, 1893.

THE DESERET EVENING NEWS is published daily (Sunday excepted) at eight pages and 56 columns, for $6.00 per year.

THE DESERET WEEKLY is published on Tuesday and Friday of each week. THE DESERET WEEKLY (in magazine form) is published every Saturday.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Daily 12 Months	$10.00
Daily 6 Months	5.00
Daily 3 Months	2.50
Daily 1 Month	90
Daily by the Week	20
Semi-Weekly Edition 12 Months	3.00
Semi-Weekly Edition 6 Months	1.50
Semi-Weekly 3 Months	1.00
Semi-Weekly 1 Month	50
Weekly 12 Months	2.00

Payments for Subscriptions always in advance.

Subscribers will kindly notify A. J. Simpson (Cashier) of any irregularity in the delivery of their papers.

Remittances should be made by postal note, express money order or by registered letter.

The News can be had at the principal Hotels, News Stands and on all passenger trains leaving the city after 5 p. m. daily.

For the benefit of Utah settlers and friends who wish the address of some agent in Chicago, the News will open special lines of the principal dailies and Book Stores of that city during the Fair season.

Headquarters for the News is at Waite's Newsy Book and Theatrical Store, 40 State Street.

All communications should be addressed to

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A CORRECT VIEW.

"Do you know any good news?" was asked an acquaintance this morning who was much to do with the temporal affairs of the Church, and is rated as one of the soundest and safest and most reliable business men in Utah.

"Do I know any good news? Yes, sir!" he replied with emphasis. "I know that Zion is all right, and that our part of the country and its interests are experiencing a steady financial improvement. Why, there is as much money here as ever there was. The number of idle men is little if any greater than usual. The sun shines as brightly, the waters flow as peacefully, the soil yields as bountifully as ever. There is plenty of bread and dinner, with prospects of abundance for the future. Is not all this good news? The fact that some silly people here and there get frightened—people with less or money as well as people who have less, but who are just as much scared over their little as the others are over their pile—the fact that there is an element of this kind in our community as well as in every other does not affect my security and confidence a particle. If there were a general, or any calamity of that kind, there might be more cause for anxiety. But all the prevailing talk is in the money business; our material resources are all right, and these cannot fly out of the country, neither will they consent to be locked up from sight and usefulness. No! the money business is easily off as some believe. I am amused when I hear of business men rushing off east or west to what are called the money centers to make arrangements for extensions of time on their obligations or to raise means with which to meet them. I have had occasion during a few days past to call by letter upon various parties in our valleys for such remittances as they might be able to make without cramping themselves. The responses have been in the highest degree gratifying; five hundred dollars from one, four hundred from another, three hundred from this source, two hundred from that, and so on and so forth from all directions. And when I paid over these sums, last week, amounting in all to several thousand dollars, the parties who received them looked as amazed as though the cash had actually dropped down from heaven—they said they hadn't thought it could be had. I mention the incident to show you that there is an absurdly erroneous idea as to the scarcity of money generally, and that there is no real reason for whining and fear."

THE OGDEN DEFALCATION.

The wrecking of the Commercial National bank of Ogden was no unlooked-for at any time during the tortuous hours of last week or at any previous time as lightning out of a clear sky, and it is as deplorable as it was unexpected. The cashier, Oscar E. Hill, is a man concerning whose probity, honesty and efficiency there was not the faintest suspicion. Everything seemed to be going on well as usual with the possible exception of some little shrinkage by reason of the prevailing state of affairs, when all at once the crash struck the unseen rock and went to the bottom, where it seems destined to remain. Two days out of $50,000 being withdrawn from its ready cash resources added to its other and regular liabilities constitutes such a burden that other citizens of the city of Ogden do not care to run the risk of carrying any part of it.

The crime of the cashier in abstracting if not appropriating the large aggregate the amount stated above is understood to have been systematically planned and artistically executed. It was not detected or even suspected till Saturday evening last. It loses everything in its company and everything in its employer, who with one stroke is transformed from an honored and respected member of the community to an unmeaning villain and hypocrite. The only words of comfort we can find for the situation are that it is the Territory's first defalcation of that kind of offense; it never before was disgraced with a defaulting bank cashier and we sincerely trust it never may be again.

REV. HILL'S ROMANCE.

A few days ago we published a dispatch from Findlay, Ohio, giving a story accredited to Rev. J. Wesley Hill, recently of Ogden, as to a vast Mormon scheme of wholesale bribery of Congress. With suitable apologies to our readers for ordering so insignificant an assertion and object, we now pay yield some slight editorial attention to the story and its author. The eastern papers containing the item are now beginning to come to hand, and some of their comments upon it are interesting. We quote today from the St. Paul *Globe-Press*, which we are ever amused of moving our business for the Mormons or of going out of its way to defend them. It says, under the heading "A Moaning Exhibitionist:"

> A benighted public may never have heard of the Rev. J. Wesley Hill before, but it knows him now. It has not only been informed that he is visiting Toledo in Ohio, but it is sharply saluted with the startling information which he has startled to keep on longer in his exclusive possession. The Rev. J. Wesley has discovered himself of his secret, and revealed the outlines of a gigantic and terrible plot that no one had even suspected of. A nation awoke with horror at thought of its narrow escape is now put on its guard against the desperate plan of the Mormon Church, which has decided to buy up the entire United States government, including both Houses of Congress, the President and the courts, and has selected for the purpose the unpolished and uncouth-headed country-boy Jared of Gentoo. With this the Mormon power will purchase statehood and its made secure forever against the statutes of the land.
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> We have heard something of the sort about the great Roman Catholic conspiracy, it was remarked rightly, by whom the control of these United States was to be turned over universally to the Jesuits, to the complete destruction of civil and religious liberty. But that was a less startling performance in one respect, since it was to be accomplished by induction and silence. This is far more liberal in conception. The idea of the outright purchase of the powers that be at Washington, by the despised and reputed Mormon church, be begun and also consummated, and particularly the manner of personal circle contained in the presentation of this colossal bribe of $50,000 to embrace the cities of the administration, and the courts, all these things beyond the ariel. The Rev. J. Wesley Hill, hitherto unknown to fame, has done things up brown while he was about it. This act or thing is calculated to better for but another than blow of the unsuspected conspirator.

Another honest anti-Mormon paper, the Boston *Transcript*, has this to say:

> The report that the Mormon Church has raised a fund of $50,000 in order to bribe Congress to give Utah statehood is hardly to be credited. It implies that the Mormon leaders look to worldliness and worldly wisdom and their interest upon have never charged them with this. Utah is certain to be admitted as a state in the not distant future, but his admission is not a question of the size of a contribution fund. It is rather the attitude of the Church authorities on the question of polygamy. When there is no doubt that polygamy is abandoned, and abandoned forever, Utah will get her statehood without money and without price.

THE CITY'S CONDITION.

The explanation is made that the city has available taxes with which to tide over its present condition of complete depletion, and that by reason of this there is no real cause for alarm, that everybody will get a hundred cents on the dollar and more too if he has to wait any length of time for it, and so on—all of which neither extenuates nor gratifies the loyal taxpayer. It is not understood that there has been at any time any real danger, and such a thing as a collapse never entered anybody's head, or would not if it had not been spoken of and even then it most likely entered at one ear and departed by the other. A city with as many resources as this one, with as elastic a general condition, with so many public-spirited citizens and so much solid wealth does not need to contemplate bankruptcy; we are not there nor at the verge of it nor have we ever been. What the municipality owes it will pay, to sure of that. It is these explanations that do not explain, these suggestions of what we can fall back upon in a desperate emergency, that create the very state of mind which admittedly they are given out to allay.

It is poor statesmanship and worse financiering to talk so or making available as "material increment." Any man as well as any city can discharge an obligation by incurring another, and obtain what he wants with or without money by drawing against what he expects to get at some future time. But this does not account to his family and friends or the cause which requires him to do this if there be one. To merely present an effect and lay back the cause—to draw on what one has or thinks he is looking for, and all in the reason for doing so nothing better than that it can be done, is even less than we have rated it; it is not only not satisfying, it is upsetting.

Three years and five months ago the control of public affairs in Salt Lake City changed hands. At that time there were no wars of war on hand in sufficient quantity, it seemed, to constitute a steady load which, conducted economically and intelligently as war well admits, ought to have carried the city in more the same capacity that the Fourteenth or three gold reserve in the Federal treasury uses the government—that is, to keep its finances recovery at the high water mark. Depreciation and values were steadily increasing and as a consequence more and more loans were coming among us about the necessity of raising the rate one farthing. Investors were answering the fact to growing specific, and so an increase of the rate of interest through the contracts of the police cause became larger, at least the cause were more numerous. Took through stocks gold and really in the year of special levies made for improvements and so on it had yet other and continuous income. And to these the fact that the bonding power of the corporation—manifested either as a municipality or a school district—had never been used and was equal in an emergency to all the exigencies that any of us could then possibly foresee, and we can understand how comfortable were the circumstances under which the "new deal" took hold of affairs here.

What is the upshot? There is no money in the treasury, although taxation has been steadily increased through additional and enhanced values and through raising the rate, and all this is gone; everything available from all sources has been brought to and spent; the city has been bonded nearly to the limit and the cash thus obtained is all and the $200,000 lump which the newcomers were entrusted with and which it was hoped would to some much ballast to the craft—the means or enabling them to keep out of debt, disappeared with the rapidity and completeness of a snowball in a hot oven. Last week workingmen could not get their pay in full—a grievous thing of itself and when the people ask why this is, they are met with the cool statement that our resources are not yet exhausted!

We are not saying that the city government has been or is dishonest or incompetent, nor do we for a moment deny the improvements which have been made and which have added to the comfort and healthfulness of the citizen and raised his property to advance in value. On the contrary, we believe the heads of the departments to most cases and a majority of the others to be thoroughly honest and efficient, and what has been done for the building up of the city meets with our most cordial approval. But has all this been done with an eye single to economy? Not by a great deal. There has been extravagance, boneheadedness and we fear at a loss position in the management of affairs while salaries have grown up in places and payments greatly disproportionate to the service rendered have prevailed in others. There has been too much of a disposition manifested to make of the better places under the city a free-academy sort of thing, and too much has too often been loosely in the hands of the driver when it should have been tightened. Carelessness in the disposal of matters to which the greatest care should have been taken has been exhibited quite frequently, and public benefits which should have inured to the citizens' welfare have been disposed of with the most prodigal recklessness. As between such a condition and one of niggardliness and retrogression there is a broad field which we should like to see the city's exchequer enter and occupy.

DISAPPOINTED IMMIGRANTS.

A local paper reproduced yesterday morning a document alleged to have been written June 25, 1893, to Governor Stone of Mississippi, and printed in the Clarion *Ledger* of Jackson, Miss., its signers being J. Q. Stephens, Adam Glover and Dodd Glover, all recently residents of Lawrence county, Miss., but later converts to Mormonism and now unhappy residents of Snow City, Apache. The writers ask the governor for free transportation back to Mississippi, if not that, at least reduced rates, and above all they beg that a warning be given to all to stay in their homes in Mississippi, "as they are better off there in this country," etc.

We do not know whether the petition is authentic or not, or whether indeed there are any such persons as the alleged signers of it. We do know, however, that there is no truth whatever in some of the statements contained in it of such character is the assertion that "polygamy is not only preached but is practiced by the Mormons." The petition says: "They (the Mormon Elders) said we would not hear profanity of any kind in Arizona as in Mississippi," but, it continues: "The people are very profane and saloons and gambling are carried on every day in the year." Now, to charge these conditions to the Mormons, as is here done at least by implication, is unfairly unjust. Mormons are not and never were addicted to such practices; and though they may have to live in communities where they prevail, their most bitter enemy has never accused them of being the friends or detractors in patrons of the evils named.

Again: "These Elders told us we could enter 160 acres in Arizona if we would go there; that the people would help us, that building material was cheap, and that water was on the land," say the writers, that they were in all this painfully deceived and that the very picture has not material set in any respect. Yet it will not be denied we presume that the land laws of the United States extend to Arizona, and under them, bona fide settlers can take an unlimited land at the specified price and the usual restrictions, and even in Mississippi are settlers allowed to take up land belonging to others if they target to expect that the water will be brought right to their doors or farms for nothing. As to the help that they say was promised them from their neighbors, we have yet to learn of a single instance where an honest, thrifty, willing and respectable person ever asked it in vain in any of our communities. So that if appears the land is there, the water is there, the building material is there, and prosperous, friendly neighbors are there. If the disembodied Mississippians haven't found all they expected, we venture to say much of it is their own fault. There are those who doubtless would prefer Mississippi to Arizona as a place of residence; all such, especially if they have no other motive in changing than to promote their own pleasure and add to their comfort, ought to have stayed where they were.

On the other hand, if the Elders of the Church are indulging in undue pressure to make proselytes to immigration and colonization, they are going beyond the duty laid upon them. They are not sent for any such thing. They go out to preach the Gospel, to call men to repentance. The spirit of gathering comes to the believer unbidden and without forcing, and to the true believer there is less thought of temporal advantage than of the trials and temptations incident to life among the body of the saints, for Zion is the very throbbing core of the world. We are sorry if any one has been led into a thunder-mark as this petition sets forth. But it seems fair as much that is manifestly untrue that we are forced to think the disorder, if any there was, has resulted from the conduct of the complainants themselves.

SALT LAKE'S COMET.

The Associated Press announces that a Salt Lake has discovered a new comet in the constellation Lyra, the position being imperfectly described as "ascension 7 hours 45 minutes north 50 degrees." Information of the "find" was at once communicated by telegraph to Professor Swift of the Warner observatory at Rochester, New York, and it wasn't him located and observed. The new visitor within our sphere of celestial movement has a tail two degrees in length which is increasing gradually. It is already discernible with the naked eye and might soon be a conspicuous object in the evening sky. It is quite welcome, the more so because of the disappointment of last year, when what is supposed to have been Biela's comet ventured slyly within our confines only long enough to be shivered into atoms and disseminated throughout interplanetary space.

The name of the discoverer is Alfred R. Burnham, a musician residing at 135 east, Fourth South street. If his discovery "stands" it will add quite an item to the prestige of the city and will obtain for him recognition among scientific circles where at present his name may not be known.

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Congress Meets

ON THE POTOMAC IN AUGUST.

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