



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR.

Wednesday....December 9, 1863.

TO OUR READERS.

Expecting to be furnished with President Lincoln's Message to Congress early on Tuesday, we concluded that by constant and night labor we could gratify our readers by publishing it in this issue on Wednesday morning. The Message was not delivered to Congress till after noon on Wednesday, and from other circumstances, the commencement of the telegraphic copy reached us here at a little before 8 p.m., on Wednesday evening. Our issue reaches the hands of subscribers later than usual; but we expect they will justify our efforts to gratify them with the Message in this manner.

A MURDER ON MAIN STREET.

We had but laid aside our pen on Monday from scribbling a paragraph in another column, on the particular quiet and sobriety of the city, when we heard of the stabbing of a stranger, in open day, upon the public street. We have fortunately had so little of this business to chronicle for two or three years, that we confess the first announcement of the occurrence was listened to with incredulity. Unfortunately, however, the statement was too true, and we are called upon to chronicle on the black page of history another revolting deed that makes the heart shudder and sicken at the contemplation of the terrible vengeance of man.

Going early to press on Tuesday, we have, at the present writing, no assistance from any statements made at the examination to enable us to make a full report of the contributing circumstances to the horrible deed; we learned sufficient, however, on Monday afternoon to write all we want to say on the subject now.

The name of the murdered man was entered on the Salt Lake hotel register on Monday about ten o'clock—Samuel Bunton, Oregon, and following it the name of W. F. Keplinger, from the same place: these parties were direct from Idaho. There, Jason Luce had met Bunton; and Luce, states that the deceased and some others had attacked him at Bannock City, maltreated, kicked, trampled upon him, and that Bunton cut at him with a knife and threatened to kill him. How true this may be we cannot say; but from a party disconnected with either Luce or Bunton we learn that some such affair had taken place at Bannock, arising from some difficulty about Bunton not paying his fare to the Express company with which Luce was connected as a driver.

Luce brought in the Bannock Express on Saturday morning last to this city and was aware of Bunton being on his way here, but whether he awaited his arrival, with the intent of bringing their difference to this conclusion or not we will not judge. From what we learn through parties connected with the Express, we rather favor the idea that civil action against Bunton was first contemplated; at all events, on seeing the deceased on Monday, Luce is reported to have approached him and enquired if his name was Bunton and in receiving an affirmative response cut at him with a knife and killed him. Luce was taken into custody and will no doubt be tried before the next regular term of the Probate Court.

THE THEATRE.—"Ireland as it Was" drew large audiences on Wednesday and Saturday evenings, and evidently gave universal satisfaction. The Management was very successful in the "get up" of the play. Mrs. Irwin—as Judy O' Trot, and Dunbar's Ragged Pat, were immense. Mr. Irwin played well Dan. O' Carolan, the Irish patriarch and Professor Thomas was as successful in his rendition of the Irish music, as he had been during the preceding week in the characteristics of Scotland in the Warlock of the Glen.

The Theatre closed on Saturday evening, for two weeks, and will re-open then with the company prepared to enter upon the winter season with a fine repertoire of popular plays—including, we understand, The Octoroon, Colleen Bawn, Green Bushes, Marble Heart, and, we hope, the Siege of Lucknow, Rob Roy and plays of that character interspersed.

The Theatre has become a public institution, and we are pleased to see the Management respond liberally to the call for first class plays. The company and Management are fully equal to anything elsewhere and we see no reason for concealing talent under a bushel.

THE LECTURES.—The first of the popular lectures in the Seventies' Council Hall, on Tuesday evening, the 1st. inst., was delivered by Elder E. L. T. Harrison—subject, modern lecturers and modern writers. The lecturer was very entertaining throughout, and exhibited a large amount of wit, sarcasm and ridicule. Lecturers, who spoke long and said nothing, sensational novel writers and the press in general, came in for a large share of burlesque. The lecturer was as liberal in his views as he was pungent in his criticisms, which contributed no doubt to the general good humor with which he was listened to.

On Friday evening, Elder Ed. W. Tullidge lectured on ancient and modern literature, designedly a continuation of the preceding lecture. A number of questions were asked from the auditory.

VERY SOBER.—It is exceedingly creditable to "transient resident," as well as to citizen, that we can report our local magistrates nearly bankrupt—officially; while at the same time, money has not been so plentifully circulated for quite a number of years. We heard a recently arrived "N. V." elocutionizing the other day to a comrade on our general dullness—he thought, at near noon, that the folks had forgotten to awake. He "never saw such a place." We are precisely of his opinion, and he might have added, like young Hamlet, "take it all in all, he will never see its like again."

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—We regret to be called upon to notice the death of Ira Jones Willis and of his son Cornelius John, a youth of nine years, on Saturday evening last. They were returning from the mountains with a load of wood, and in crossing the creek near Lehi, the wagon upset burying both underneath the load. This melancholy accident will be painful to a large number of our citizens, by whom the deceased was deservedly much respected. He leaves a wife and five helpless children.

FOR THE LEGISLATURE.—The Hon. Orson Pratt arrived in the city last Wednesday, and the Hon. Geo. A. Smith arrived on Monday evening, to attend the Legislature. The latter traveled upwards of six hundred miles, and addressed his constituents thirty times during an absence from the city of thirty-one days.

DARK NIGHTS.—The persons who are in the habit of leaving wood and lumber projecting over their fences on to the side-walks should be reminded that in these dark evenings and nights the passers by are subject to run against them and suffer injury. Keep the side-walks clear.

SCHOOL EXAMINATION.—The quarterly examination of the classes of Dr. Doremus was held last Friday at the Union Academy. The progress of the primary and senior classes was very satisfactory to the parents of the children, and to the patrons of education who were present.

THE SEVENTIES.—We are requested to state that the meetings of the Seventies' Council will hereafter be held on Monday evening of each week at six o'clock, at the Seventies' Council Hall.

THE LECTURES.—After the present week, the lectures will be delivered every Thursday evening instead of Tuesdays and Fridays as heretofore announced.

MORE SNOW.—During Saturday night and Sunday morning, there was another snow fall in the valley. It came mildly and lies well—very pleasant for sleighing.

THE LEGISLATURE.—On Monday next, the Utah Legislature convenes in the State House, at 10 A. M.

A JUVENILE CONCERT.—We draw attention to Mr. Calder's advertisement of a Concert to be given next Wednesday evening in the Theatre. We had the pleasure of attending a rehearsal of the scholar's a few evenings since and were much gratified with the performances of the juveniles, and shall be disappointed if our citizens are not highly entertained with the progress of the children.

CORRECTION.—In Number 19 of the current volume, "14 degrees below zero" should have read 14 degrees above.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CEDAR CITY, Nov. 24, 1863.

EDITOR DESERET NEWS:

The weather is very cold, but pleasant. The season has been dry, no fall rains, rendering feed scarce for stock on the range, which is doing but moderately. There has been no such mortality in this county, among the stock, as in Beaver, though Beaver is the best supplied with feed the present year.

The average crop of grain in this city has been eleven bushels per acre. The surplus in Iron County is small, owing to the drouth, the streams now being so low as hardly to afford power to run the mills. People from the cotton country are gathering their bread; notwithstanding the scarcity, few go away empty, but they generally declare they will raise their wheat next year, instead of raising cotton.

The new saw mill in Coal Creek Canyon is standing still for want of a sawyer, which shows the scarcity of laborers. The road has been repaired to the coal mine, and the mine re-opened. Coal is being brought out to supply mechanics.

Mr. Hanks is doing an excellent business in spinning cotton at Parowan; his new cotton carding machine is about ready for service, which will prove a desirable addition. Several plantation spinners have been brought into the county, which gin, card and spin six threads of cotton by hand, or about four pounds a day.

Geo. A. Smith.

MURDER OF A PI-UTE CHIEF—A CONFLICT ANTICIPATED.

The Carson Independent of 14th November states that a "reliable correspondent," writing to that journal from Fort Churchill, says:

On Wednesday of last week, the body of an Indian was found floating in the Carson river, near the ford behind the Quartermaster's corral, at Fort Churchill. It was soon recognized as the body of an Indian, known as "Capt. George" among the soldiers. He was the real, legitimate Chief of the Pi-Utes, but his long residence among the whites had brought his chieftainship claims in contempt with the savage portion of his tribe. Still he was acknowledged as the head by over 100 of his people, and was greatly beloved by all of them. He was also greatly esteemed by the whites on Walker's River and on the Carson. It was ascertained that he had been murdered. A man by the name of John Hale—long in the employ of Mason & Wright, at Mason's Ranch on Walker's river—confessed to Mason that he wantonly shot "George," and then killed his horse, and threw the body of George into the river near Fort Churchill ford. This news came into the Fort accompanied by rumors of preparations for hostilities on the part of the Indians. They were engaged in removing their women and children to the mountains, and the women were in tears.

On Monday, Major McDermitt and Capt. Summer proceeded from the Fort to Mason's Ranch, a messenger (an Indian interpreter) having been sent forward to the mountains to try and induce the chiefs to come down and effect a compromise. The messenger was to return on the evening of the 5th. Major McDermitt and Capt Summer waited for him until the evening of the 10th; but he did not return. They proceeded some distance up the river, but saw no signs of Indians.

The entire settlement on Walker's river is greatly alarmed, and an attack upon Mason's ranch is nightly expected. The people along the river are not in a fit state to meet the Indians; but some of them are barricading their cabins or "camps," and posting sentinels. There should be an Indian war, our military companies will have to turn out. There are only 150 men at Fort Churchill—50 at least of whom must remain to garrison the post. The Pi-Utes are 300 strong at least, poorly mounted but well armed. There are plenty of arms at the fort—Whitney rifles, good for 300 yards, and Minie muskets that "spot" at 1,000 yards. The Indians have lately been greatly exasperated on many accounts; and the next wind from the east may bring to our ears the clash of tomakawks.

Such is the information, full and verbatim, that we receive from our correspondent. If a conflict ensues, it will necessarily be a short one—the result of which is beyond a doubt.

A SIGHT AT WASHOE.—On Saturday night last we saw around the stove at the theatre, warming themselves, no less than five men who had each killed a man within the past two months.—Virginia City Bulletin.

—The miners on the Chaudiere River, Canada East, are, it is said, finding gold in considerable quantities.

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Secretary of the Navy. The school is now more full and complete than at any previous period, and in every respect entitled to the favorable consideration of Congress.

During the past fiscal year, the financial condition of the Post Office Department has been one of increasing prosperity, and I am gratified in being able to state that the receipts of the postal revenue have nearly equalled the entire expenditures, the latter amounting to \$1,131,400,084, and the former to 1,146,441,809, leaving a deficiency of but 15,011,725. In 1860, the year immediately preceding the rebellion, the deficiency amounts to 565,670,549, the Postal receipts of that year being 204,572,211 less than that of 1863. The decrease since 1860 in the annual amount of transportation has been only about 25 per cent.; but the annual expenditure on account of the same has been reduced 35 per cent; it is manifest therefore, that the Post Office Department may become self sustaining in a few years, even with the restoration of the whole service. The international conference of postal delegates from the principal countries of Europe and America, which was called at the suggestion of the Postmaster General, met at Paris, on the 11th of May last, and concluded its deliberations on the 8th of June; the principles established by the conference are best adapted to facilitate postal intercourse between nations and, as the basis of future conventions, inaugurate a general system of uniform international charges at reduced rates of postage, and cannot fail to produce beneficial results.

I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Interior, which is herewith laid before you, for useful and varied information in relation to the public lands, Indian affairs, patents, pensions and other matters of public concern pertaining to his department. The quantity of land disposed of during the last and the first quarter of the present fiscal year is 3,841,549 acres, of which 161,911 acres were sold for cash; 1,456,511 acres were taken up under the homestead law, and the residue disposed of under the laws granting lands for military bounties, for railroad and other purposes; it also appears that the sale of the public lands is largely on the increase. It has long been a cherished opinion of some of our wisest statesmen that the people of the United States had a higher and more enduring interest in the early settlement and substantial cultivation of the public lands, than in the amount of direct revenue to be derived from the sale of them. This opinion has had a controlling influence in shaping legislation on the subject of our national domain. I may cite, as evidence of this, the liberal measures adopted in reference to active settlers, and the grant to the States of the overflowed lands within their limits, in order to their being reclaimed and rendered fit for cultivation. The grant to railroad companies of alternate sections of land upon the contemplated lines of their roads, when completed, will also largely multiply the facilities for reaching our distant possessions. This policy has received its most signal and beneficent illustration in the recent enactment granting homesteads to active settlers since the first day of January last.

The before mentioned quantity of one million four hundred and fifty six thousand five hundred and fourteen acres of land has been taken up under its provisions this fall. The amount of sales furnishes gratifying evidence of increasing settlement upon the public lands, notwithstanding the great struggle in which the enemies of the nation have been engaged, which has required so large a withdrawal of our citizens from their accustomed pursuits. I cordially concur in the recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior, suggesting a modification of the act in favor of those engaged in the military and naval service of the United States. I doubt not that Congress will cheerfully adopt such means as will, without essentially changing the general features of the system, preserve to the greatest practicable extent its benefits to those who have left their homes in defence of the country in this arduous crisis.

I invite your attention to the views of the Secretary of War as to the propriety of raising, by appropriation or legislation, a revenue from the mineral lands of the United States. The measures provided at your last session for the removal of certain Indian tribes have been carried into effect. Sundry treaties have been negotiated which will in due time be submitted for the constitutional action of the Senate. They contain stipulations for extinguishing the possessory rights of the Indians to large and valuable tracts of lands. It is probable that the effects of these treaties will result in the establishment of a permanent friendly relation with such of those tribes as have been brought into frequent and bloody collisions with our outlying settlements and emigrants.

Sound policy and our imperative duties to these wards of the government demand our anxious and constant attention for their material well-being—their progress in the arts of civilization, and, above all, to that moral training, which, under the blessing of Divine Providence will confer upon them an elevated and sanctifying influence of the hopes and consolations of the Christian faith.

I suggested, in my last annual message, the propriety of remedying our Indian system. Subsequent events have satisfied me of its necessity. The details set forth in the report of the Secretary will evince the urgent need for immediate legislative action. I commend the benevolence of the institutions established or patronized by the Government in this District to your generous fostering care.