

DAVID O. CALDER,  
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.Wednesday, May 2, 1877.  
**SPECIAL CONFERENCE.**

A SPECIAL CONFERENCE for this State of Zion will be held in the New Tabernacle in this City on Saturday and Sunday, May 12th and 13th. The Latter-day Saints from the surrounding districts who can make it convenient are invited to be present.

BRIGHAM YOUNG,  
JOHN W. YOUNG,  
DANIEL H. WELLS,  
First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

## NEWS OF THE DAY.

The Desert Land Act a job.  
Russian army movements.  
Bank suspension in Philadelphia.  
Republican officials in South Carolina accept the situation.  
Crop prospects in the north-west.  
Tobacco failure at Richmond.  
A roof falls in the New York Post-office, and several persons are killed.  
Tweed and Townsend.  
The Nicholls and Packard officials.  
Extraordinary base ball playing—fifteen innings and no run.  
Louisville celebration over the Louisiana deliverance.  
Democrats carry Jeffersonville.  
Cabinet meeting and an extra session.  
Philadelphia wool market.  
Mississippi Republicans excited.  
Assassinations in Mississippi.  
The Montreal fire—another victim, funerals.  
English ironclads.  
Fire at Cincinnati, \$50,000.  
Turks persecuting Christians.  
Crook with Sheridan in Chicago.  
Austro-Hungary displeased at Russia's breach of neutrality.  
A negro minstrel dead.  
Ignorant officials in New York.  
Work on altering naval guns suspended.  
Eastern war news.  
First engagement in Herzegovina.  
English steamer destroyed by a torpedo.  
Appointment.  
More land grabbing in California.  
Daily, the New York millionaire, missing.  
Crook on the Indian question.  
Indictment for false swearing in New York.  
More troops for Cuba.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

From her experience in Florida, Mrs. H. B. Stowe is convinced that the worst of Indians may be civilized, and that they readily learn commercial ways.

The New York Herald has the following:—"It is said that Turkish baths and the drinking of milk in which figs have been stewed will cure cancer. The mass of figs has been applied as a poultice in some cases."

The London Examiner says that the right to vote has made the English masses more manly and has caused a desire for general education. In this country the right to vote seems to have made many of the people more wicked.

The Washington Star says, "Poor little Mrs. Gaines is not out of the woods yet. The decision of Judge Billings is not final. An appeal will be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States, and the New Orleans Democrat thinks that, owing to the encumbered condition of the docket, it can hardly be reached before three years or more."

At the Walnut Street Theatre, Philadelphia, five actresses of Almee's troupe were assigned one dressing room, divided into five sections, and each lady was instructed not to encroach on the sections of her fellows. But encroachment ensued and Miles, Brinard and Omont quarrelled and fought, the latter being knocked down, kicked, and left minus her blouse. The courts were to settle the matter.

## THE DESERT LAND ACT.

ACCORDING to reports from California, the new Desert Land law has been used already for the purpose of making some enormous land grants in that State, and it is suggested that the passage of the bill was a job, which may have been the case, as many laws are pushed through Congress on the strength of the jobbery they may be made to cover.

The necessity for the passage of the new law is not very apparent. The ruling principle of the sale of government lands, excepting the railway grants, which are now regretted by many citizens, has been to provide citizens, who are not capitalists, with homes and farms. On this principle the pre-emption and homestead acts were distinctly founded, and in this view the amount of land that could be pre-empted or homesteaded by any one citizen was prudently limited to a maximum of a quarter section of 160 acres, or half a mile square. The Desert Land bill provides that lands requiring irrigation to produce a crop may be bought of the government in parcels of one section of 640 acres, or one mile square, any person entering such land being required to conduct water upon his claim for irrigation and reclamation within three years, and he must have the right to the water previously to the entering of the land. Before securing the title to the land, he must satisfy the register and receiver of the reclamation of the land claimed.

The bill was rather loosely put together. It is not stated what shall be considered a reclamation sufficient to entitle the enterer to a title. If sufficient water must be conducted upon the land to irrigate the whole section so as to produce an agricultural crop, and the whole section must be so irrigated and cultivated within three years, then it is a serious matter, involving a large amount of expense, and few persons would have spare capital that they could employ in that way. Hence this bill could be considered as of advantage to capitalists and speculators only, and would rather tend to operate to the disadvantage of poor citizens seeking homes and farms, as it is reported to be doing in California.

It would probably be a good thing, if that late law were repealed next session of Congress, or at least modified so as to be more definite in its provisions, and made more likely to benefit the hardy pioneer farmers, seeking homes, than capitalists and speculators. Meantime the General Land Office at Washington might perhaps do something towards checking the operations of the land speculators, by publishing the construction which the Land Office would put upon the law, so that the public might be better informed as to what would be held as the precise authoritative meaning of the new law.

A quarter section of land that needs irrigation seems to be a tract large enough of government land to be sold to one person for a farm and homestead. If instead of enlarging the extent of government land purchasable by a citizen on reclamation, the terms of obtaining a title had been made easier where such land was desert land needing irrigation, the bill would have been a more sensible one and would have been far more conducive to the public good than the present one. Either the ultimate purchasing price might have been lowered, on evidence of reclamation of the whole 160 acres, or title might have been conveyed to the claimant for the whole quarter section, on his actually conveying upon the quarter section, within a certain time, water to irrigate, and on his using it upon and cultivating a portion of the quarter section, say ten, twenty, or forty acres of it, according to circumstances.

This would have been an encouragement to many people to pre-empt, homestead, and reclaim desert lands, who cannot take advantage of the present law allowing 640 acres to be entered in one body and purchased by one person on his conducting water on it and reclaiming it. Besides, on vast quantities of desert lands there is not water available at any expense, so far as is known, to irrigate and reclaim more than a small portion thereof. The late law therefore, if not repealed, might be modified considerably to the advantage of a great number of pioneering citizens in the various States and Territories to which the law applies.

## BY TELEGRAPH.

PER WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE.

## TO-DAY'S DISPATCHES

## EASTERN.

About the Desert Land Act.

NEW YORK, 2.—The World's Washington dispatch from San Francisco, announcing that a party of capitalists had secured large tracts of land in that State under act of Congress passed last session, providing for the sale of desert lands in certain States and Territories, and intimating that the act itself was a "job," has caused inquiries into the act itself and the manner of its passage. It was approved by the President on March 3rd, and came out of the conference committee and passed both houses on that day. Senators Sargent, Schuyler, Kelly were members of the conference on the part of the Senate, and Messrs. Luntrell, Lane, and Crounse for the House. The act only applies in California, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and Dakota. It provides that it shall be lawful for any citizen of the United States, on payment of twenty-five cents per acre, to file a declaration in the United States land district, that he intends to reclaim a tract of desert land, not exceeding 640 acres, by conducting water upon the same, within a period of three years thereafter; provided, however, that the right to use the water shall depend upon a bona fide prior appropriation, and all surplus water shall go to the public use at any time within the period of three years after filing the declaration, and upon making satisfactory proof, the register and receiver of the reclamation of said tract of land, and upon payment to the receiver of an additional sum of one dollar per acre for a tract of land not exceeding 640 acres, which shall be in the form of a declaration, exclusive of timber lands and mineral lands, which will not, without irrigation, produce some agricultural crop, are deemed desert land within the meaning of this act, which fact shall be substantiated by the proof of two or more credible witnesses, under oath, whose affidavits shall be filed in the land office in which the land may be situated. If it is very evident that a combination of persons could secure lands which could be made valuable under this act, and there is no doubt that this was smuggled through Congress without its real purpose being known. At the time it was said, "Morison denounced it as a 'job,' though the Record fails to record it."

Movements of the Russian Army.  
The Herald's Kischeneff special says the Russians crossed the Pruth in ordinary river boats, which occasioned a delay of three hours. Forcible encounters have been thrown up at Vastouch, which command the Danube. The whole army is in motion. In the Caucasus the army crossed the Caucasus at three different points. In all cases the Russians have been successful in taking their positions without serious loss.

Wood Market.

PHILADELPHIA, 2.—Wool firm, supply light, demand improving. Colorado, washed 18 @ 20, unwashed 14 @ 17, extra and superfine 12 @ 15, Texas, fine and medium 18 @ 20, coarse 15 @ 18, California, fine and medium, 19 @ 25, coarse 15 @ 22.

Gen. Crook and Indian Affairs.

CHICAGO, 2.—Gen. Crook arrived here last night, and will hold a consultation with Gen. Sheridan on matters relating to Indian affairs.

\$50,000 FINE.

CINCINNATI, O. 2.—Emerson & Fisher's carriage factory was burned by fire, last night; loss about \$50,000, insurance \$30,000.

## WESTERN.

More Land Grabbing.

SAN FRANCISCO, 2.—In connection with the recent expense of the manner in which advantage has been taken of the construction of the desert land law by speculators, it is ascertained that steps are being taken, and will soon be consummated, to acquire a large and valuable tract in Gila Valley, Gen. Phineas Banning is reported as being the proprietor of the enterprise. The land lies in the river bottom, and is of the richest quality, as has been proved on the occasion of an overflow of the river, when a rank growth of vegetation at once sprang up. A ditch nearly fifteen miles long is already nearly completed, and will furnish water for irrigation.

## FOREIGN.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

Eastern War News.

LONDON, 2.—The British ironclad *Alexander, Monarch, Swiftsure, Devastation, and Hotspur* have arrived at Corfu.

The navigation of the Baltic is now open.

It is reported that the Russian advance guard reached Buzovo on the railway between Bucharest and Galatz. The Russians advance leisurely.

It is reported that the Russian forces have taken the fortress of Bayazid in Armenia.

An official Russian dispatch says the Turkish garrison, numbering 1,700, abandoned Bayazid, on Monday, leaving large quantities of ammunition. The Russians occupied the town.

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school a mighty impetus, such as will carry it on and on, and it may work wonders for a time, but sooner or later it must come to rest and will be able to do nothing more of itself; no more than the cannon ball, which, impelled forward with terrible violence, works havoc for a time, but is finally overcome by opposing forces, and ceases to act forever, unless new impulses are given it. Waking up the mind is the first step; these mental forces are still to be trained, and this is the hardest as well as the most essential part of education. Teaching and training are by no means alike. Many can teach, but few can train; and hence many are taught, but few are trained, and only the latter are educated.

In Holy Writ we find, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and immediately follows the promise, 'When he is old he will not depart from it.'" Observe that it is *train*, not *teach*. A child may be taught ever so well, and he may not depart from it, but it is rare indeed that he will depart from those things to which he has been effectually trained; for the continued sowing of the seed in the confirmed habit of using. Here lies the great secret of education; it is the hope and peril of the same, for the law of habit applies to wrong training as well as to right training. If the channels of feeling, thinking and acting, be cut in the rock of habit, nothing less than the Creator can change their course. Train a child in the way he should go, until these habits of right thinking and doing are established, and then we may be certain that he will not depart from them, but go on in the same way, steadily, firmly, and surely.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

## Correspondence.

T. H. M. I. A.—Thistle Valley Indians.

Scholes.

FAIRVIEW, Utah,

April 25, 1877.

Editor Desert News.

Sir—Our Y. M. M. I. Association was organized on the 10th of November, 1875. Our present officers are John A. Mower, President; L. A. Wilson and R. Graham, Vice-Presidents; James Sanderson and P. Hunt, Secretary and Assistant Secretary; and L. A. Wilson, Corresponding Secretary. Debates were our principal exercises until we learned that there was a better way, since when we have devoted our time to asking and answering questions on the principles of the gospel. At present we have an enrollment of seventy-three names. We intend soon to follow the example of our brethren at Richfield, in abstaining from intemperance and other bad habits. During the coming summer we hope to be the possessors of a cyclopedia as a foundation of a library.

Our President is much pleased that the authorities take so much interest in these associations, and think the calling of missionaries from the same an excellent practice.

Our neighbors, the Indians, in Thistle Valley, are doing well. Under the directions of Bro. John Spencer, they have made great improvements and hope soon to be self-sustaining as regards breadstuffs. They claim to receive, in dreams, repeated instructions and promises from the Lord.

They have great respect for the words and counsel of our bishops and their "father," President B. Young.

We have two schools with an attendance of one hundred and thirty pupils. In regard to the school-book change, the people and trustees here feel that they have been wronged.

Our crops are doing well, and there is a good prospect for an abundant harvest.

Submitting this,  
I am, yours, etc.,  
L. A. WILSON.

## NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

## WHITWASHING.

PLASTERING, AND KALOMINING.

Done on Short Notice and in good style and clean. Orders at residence, 11th Ward, or at shop on Commercial Street, with McDuff Bros., lime dealers.

JAMES COULT.

## NOTICE.

A FIRST-CLASS

HOTEL &amp; BOARDING HOUSE

(On cor. opposite St. George Co-op. Store.)

If people visiting Southern Utah will please call, they will find things at their convenience.

We have in addition to this, Hay, Grain, and Stabling for teams, all at reasonable prices.

SNOW &amp; MACDONALD, Proprietors.

St. George, April 24, 1877.

## NOTICE!

THE ADJOURNED SEMI-ANNUAL

Meeting of the Stockholders of Zion's

Co-operative Mercantile Institution will be

held at the Old Tabernacle, in this city, on

Saturday, May 12th, 1877, at 2 o'clock p. m.;

for the transaction of such business as may

be brought before it.

DAVID O. CALDER,

Secretary.

Salt Lake City, April 12, 1877.

## DR. PRICE'S

SPECIAL FLAVORINGS.

VANILLA, LEMON, ETC.

For Flavoring Ice Cream, Cakes and Pastry.

With great care, by a new process, we extract from the true, select, aromatic, and produce flavorings of rare quality. Of great strength and perfect purity. No poisonous oils. Every flavoring is guaranteed to hold its own against the most potent and costly imitations. We have no equal in the world. Send for our circular, and you will be convinced. Ask for Dr. Price's Special Flavorings. Many secured only by

S. H. HARRIS &amp; SONS,

Sole Agents, 10 and 12, LEWIS,

Main-street, of St. Louis, Mo.

EAGLE EMPORIUM COLUMN.

GROCERIES

HATS &amp; CAPS

CROCKERY

IMPORTERS, JOBBERS, AND RETAIL DEALERS IN

GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

CLOTHING

CROCKERY

HATS &amp; CAPS

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ANOTHER TRAIN OF NEW GOODS.

Fresh Novelties! Rare Bargains!

Z. C. M. I.

Are offering

Ladies' Dolmans, Ladies' Dolman Cloths,

the Danicheffs Parasol, Ladies' and Misses

Hats, comprising the Sundown, the Pekin,

the Shadow, the Marine, the Pert, the Maud,

the Highland, the Paragon, the Reckless, the

Victor, the St. Carlos, Etc., Etc.

New Spring Styles of Gents' English and Scotch

Suits, and Home Manufactured Cassimeres in varied

assortment.

A large line of English, French and American Car-

pets of all grades and styles, in Cotton, Wool and Velvet.