DESERET EVENING NEWS.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LESSEES.

Wednesday, April 5, 1893.

OUR VISITORS.

There is an unusually large attendance at Conference, the dedication ceremonies to follow of course contributing largely to the gathering. From far and near, from the confines of our own Territory and many places beyond it, come all ages, sexes, and many of the conditions in life, nearly all bent upon the pleasurable duty of uniting again with their brethren and contributing by their presence to the solemnity of the ceremonies about to take place.

The DESERET NEWS has been a constant visitor in the homes of a great majority of these people from the time of their establishment of homes in the mountains. It has at all times and unceasingly had their spiritual and temporal welfare at heart, and never was it more greatly impressed with the profoundness of its calling as their representative and defender—never was it more entirely in earnest regarding the work it is to performed for them than it is now. It is on the watch tower for them and their cause as vigilantly as to the "days that try men's souls," and feels to rejoice that so many of them have been permitted to visit Zion at the present time.

As brethren and friends the NEWS greets one and all and bids each a hearty welcome, with the hope that joy unbounded and unalloyed may be his portion.

THE FIRST GUN.

Editor News:—The Granite Paper Mill should be rechristened for reasons too numerous to mention. If a bonus is necessary to induce the company to build, I hereby subscribe $50 to the same.

GEORGE J. TAYLOR.

That is a good starter, and if those who take a similar view of the case and are able will step to the front in like manner, the paper mill will not long slumber amid its ashes. The list being thus informally opened, the thing to be done now is to make it formal and then let it grow as fast as possible. We have none too many enterprises of that kind in our midst, and would rather encourage their erection by popular subscription than not have them at all, more particularly when, as in the case spoken of, it is a local industry which all are concerned and a few comparatively poor men have been the principal sufferers in a financial sense. They can not rebuild the mill alone, and it ought to be a pleasant duty to all who can afford it to aid them. Who comes next?

HOW MAN IS VANISHING.

That it is easy to "prove" nonsense by the employment of figures is illustrated by the following from the San Francisco *Morning Call*:

A French statistician, who has been studying the military and other records, has found that in 1726 the average height of man in Europe was 5 feet 8 inches; that in 1789 it was 5 feet 6 inches; in 1820 it was 5 feet 4 inches and a fraction. At the present time it is 5 feet 3½ inches. It is easy to deduce from these figures a rate of regular and gradual decline in human stature, and then apply this, working backward and forward, to the past and to the future. By this combination it is discovered that the stature of the first man attained the surprising average of 16 feet 9 inches, which was a giant degenerate offspring of the giants. Coming down to later time, we find that at the beginning of our era the average height of man was 8 feet, and in the time of Charlemagne it was 6 feet 3 inches, but the most astonishing result of this scientific study comes from the application of the same inexorable law of diminution to the future. The calculation shows that by the year 2000 A. D. the stature of the average man will be reduced to 18 inches.

One of the premises from which the statistician argues may be true; yet the conclusion is an absurdity. One might just as well argue that because the mean temperature in a given locality is in March 40 degrees, in April 50 degrees and in May 60 degrees, therefore in January it must have been 20 degrees and in December it will be 130 degrees above zero. And yet, much of this kind of reasoning is, on important questions, passed off as science.

A POLITICAL QUESTION.

In response to an inquiry an eastern paper says the United States Senate collapses at noon on the fourth of March in every odd numbered year, that when a President is to be inaugurated the outgoing incumbent usually calls an extra session in order that there may be an organization of that body and thus the incoming President's appointments be confirmed. A reader of the NEWS asks: "While this is partly correct, is it not also partly wrong?" To which we answer that it is almost wholly wrong, such portion of it as is right being only incidentally so.

The United States Senate is a continuing body that has known no dissolution or lapse, as is the case with the lower house of Congress, since it was first organized. It was so arranged for wise and sufficient reasons. Even when the new senators, who are chosen every other year to the number of about one-third of the whole body, have not been sworn into the places held by a corresponding number of outgoers, there is still of necessity two-thirds of the entire membership or thereabout left and these constitute the Senate whether the new men come in or stay out. Of course the latter take their places at the first convening of the body to which they are chosen, unless there should be a contest or some legal impediment; but the existence of the Senate remains intact under any circumstances. The House of Representatives perishes promptly at the hour named because the terms of all its members expire at that time; but, as shown, only a third of the upper house go out, leaving more than a mere quorum for the transaction of business.

The foregoing unsettles the other proposition, or a part of it. Having already a definite legal existence the Senate does not have to organize in order to acquire one or to confirm the President's appointments. These do not of necessity have to be confirmed at so early a stage of the proceedings; the Constitution provides that he can appoint without the advice and consent of the senate when that body is not in session and such appointees are legitimate officeholders until the Senate is again convened and acts upon their cases. The convening or rather retaining of the Senate by the outgoing President is simply an act of courtesy to his successor, who may have business with that body of more consequence than appointments only, as is generally the case.

NO GERRYMANDER.

When Elbridge Gerry conceived the idea of so arranging communities in voting districts as to give the greatest possible benefits to the party doing it while preserving the semblance of fairness and equal representation, he little thought he was creating a legacy for posterity down perhaps to the end of time. There is some excuse to be found for him, in that the country then had but just emerged from British control and the parties were more nearly American and anti-American than they have since been, and it was necessary at times, perhaps, to make secure by strategy what had been gained by the force of arms and the shedding of blood.

It is altogether different now—has been different for a century nearly. Yet the seed planted by Gerry and which grew up and served its purpose, had acquired an existence and, like the Canadian thistle, it was able thereafter to grow and spread without assistance. It now pervades every depart ment of our political system, high and low. It is only necessary that a party have sway on earth in any state or part thereof to set it at work gerrymandering to perpetuate its power, whether the people want it or not. To this end, districts, divisions and precincts are sometimes thrown together in the most irregular, inconvenient and grotesque fashion—some of them resembling, when mapped, a whiplash, others a river bottom after the subsidence of a freshet, others still a calf pasture with numerous outlets, and few if any possessing the symmetry and compactness which the founders contemplated, and which ought to be required by the charter itself. It is everything for the party of the first part, every consideration for the state or community being secondary and incidental.

This kind of thing has become so nearly the rule that the people have almost entirely ceased to oppose it, although in plain and unmistakable tendency equally convenient if not to completely nullify the popular will in places. But the recognition which the system has obtained does not make it one what the less mischievous or vicious. This is particularly so in cities or crowded commonwealths where everybody is in touch to a some extent with everybody else and where something like comity and business principles should prevail. It is a bad citizen that tries to accomplish the unjustified discomfiture of a neighbor or to take a mean advantage of him, and in a city, while we may properly enough confine as partisans, there is no call for the party holding the reins to seek to obliterate the representation of those who worked and voted against it.

The NEWS does not charge our City Council with the social crime of suppressing representation in this municipality or, with the intention of doing so, because there is an evidence except what is circumstantial to that effect. We do say, however, that the record so far made by the solons is far from assuring; that there has been too much of a tendency to do things on a strict partisan basis; that there is a great array of precedents which they could point to in support of such a proceeding; and that with all these taken into consideration and the opportunity which they have of doing the thing mentioned and at the same time taking shelter behind the presently unequal and irregular population of the precincts, it would not be altogether a baseless charge if made. Still, we prefer to believe that no such thing will be attempted.

NATIONAL SCANDALS.

France should be pretty well purged of her great scandal by this time. Certainly she has not sought by devious methods or at all to modify the shame which she undoubtedly felt in the presence of the nations, nor to screen the actors in the rascally business. The appeal taken by Charles de Lesseps, M. Baihaut and M. Blondin and them no good whatever, unless postponing the operation of their sentences for the time being can be so considered, for the judgment of the trial court was affirmed, that of the six other participants being reversed.

There is still, however, as shows by an eastern contemporary, much left undone in that connection that it thinks should have been looked after. For instance the deputies to the number of 104, who were bribed, are untouched; Messrs. Floquet, Rouvier and De Freycinet, accused of complicity with the Panama directors in using Panama money for political purposes and in other ways, have resigned their respective portfolios, but have not been brought to trial. Arton, the agent employed in tribing the deputies, was suffered to escape and has not been found. The deputies who were corrupted still retain their seats and vote solidly for the government in the hope of retaining it in power until the next general election, which takes place some months hence, by which time, with the close of the trials, it is thought that the excitement over Panama will have subsided. We can see no good reason why it should not subside. The nation has gone about as far as practicable in the matter. It would be an exceedingly difficult if not impossible task to follow up and prosecute every person connected with the Panama job and after making full exposures of all and prosecutions of the ringleaders, to go further in that direction would seem to be vindictiveness as well as a wanton waste of the people's money and public officers' time.

Our entemporary, however, refuses to be comforted. "It has been demonstrated," it says, "that over two millions of francs were distributed among the deputies and the Paris and provincial newspapers for their concurrence in and support of the lottery bill. The journals so subsidized number some hundreds, those supporting the government receiving three hundred thousand francs of Panama money during the Boulangist excitement as secret service money, besides the vast amount paid to opposition journals by the agents of the Panama directors in the shape of costly advertising for the influence of their editorial columns. These journals steeped themselves in corruption, but, alleging that their transactions with Panama were simply matters of business, have never ceased to denounce the government for consenting to the Panama trials—which it certainly did most reluctantly—and have sought in every way to minimize the result. The attacks on it, nevertheless, have been incessant, and in every way the Panama directors have been defended for their sake."

Except for the innuendo contained in the foregoing lines there can be no successful denial of them. The directors were defended, of course; it would have been a very uncivilized performance if they had not been. There must be a defense as well as a prosecution in order to have a fair trial. It is admitted that their principal if not their only guilt was an ardent faith in the ultimate success of the work they had undertaken and too generous a weakness in subsidizing to the "crowd of blackmailers that surrounded and strangled them." Very well; the important element of interest to defraud is thus weakened if not destroyed, and it is a very indifferent sort of offense in which that element is not conspicuous. When we think of our own national scandals, of some of them—the Credit Mobilier, the Pacific Mail subsidy and the Star Route matter, for instance—and compare the prompt, energetic and determined manner which characterized the procedure of our early ally with our puny and half-hearted efforts, it does seem as though the less we said on the subject the better off we would be.

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

SECOND DAY.

Wednesday Morning, April 5th.

The choir and congregation sang:

Now let us rejoice in the day of salvation;
No longer as strangers on earth need we roam;
Good tidings are sounding to us and each nation,
And shortly the hour of redemption will come.

Prayer by Elder John W. Taylor.

Singing by the choir and congregation:

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in the excellent word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To who under Jesus for refuge have fled?

ELDER FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS

was the first speaker. He said all Israel was aroused today by a feeling of inquiry into their spiritual condition. He thought the present a suitable occasion for the exhibition of such a spirit, that the people might judge themselves, and thus need not be judged of others. If they could see themselves as the Lord saw them, they would appear sufficiently unworthy to pass a judgment which the Spirit would justify. Those who would build up Zion must do it in the spirit of Zion—the pure in heart.

When the speaker heard others expressing their contrition yesterday for any wrong they may have committed, he felt that he wanted to be also accounted a sinner. Not that any of the capital crimes had been committed; but all unrighteousness is sin, and through the frailties of humanity all are prone to commit sin. This was what he had reference to. The people are called to be perfect in their sphere, as the Lord is in His, and he wished to be harmony with them in this regard. He desired to be forgiven if in any way he had caused offense. The Lord would forgive us as we forgave others. When we forgive others willingly, the measure we mete will be measured to us again. The feeling among the Saints today is to observe this principle of forgiving offenses against them, and of making restitution wherein they have wronged anybody.

Elder Richards said he did know of a person toward whom he harbored an ill feeling. It was sometimes difficult to love our enemies but he wished to do that, and place himself fully in accord with the commands of the Almighty. He closed by fully sustaining the calling as an Apostle of the Lord.

It is meet in the sight of the Lord for scenes to transpire that are suited to certain events in our lives. This is one of those occasions when, coupled with a time of rejoicing—one of those good times when we should let things up and tear out every root of bitterness, that we may have the favor of our Heavenly Father. The Lord requires us to forgive all men, and if any refuse to forgive, he has made the greater sin. This latter position is one we wish to avoid. At the present time there seems nothing so desirable to the Saints as that of having the Temple appropriately dedicated. The offering of the people today is that of settling their hearts right before the Lord, and what blessings might they not expect under such circumstances?

The speaker referred to the time when the foundations of the earth were laid, and the joy that filled the hearts of the sons and daughters of God, and said that a measure of the same spirit of rejoicing filled the hearts of the Saints regarding the completion and dedication of the Temple here. Men came to earth that they might have joy, and if they comply with the laws of God they will, after the trials and tribulations of this life, enter into that joy. This will sweep away all sorrow. This is that is brought by the Gospel of Christ. The work of the last dispensation was begun by the coming to earth of the Lord himself, and the restoration of His Gospel. The Saints have been abundantly blessed with testimonies that this is the work of the Lord. Now that the Temple here is completed, they want to wake up to the salvation of their dead, and perform the work that rests upon them in this regard. He prayed that the Lord might bless the people, and expressed his desire to be united with his brethren and sisters in working for the establishment of righteousness.

ELDER BRIGHAM YOUNG

was the next speaker. Following is a brief summary of his remarks. He stood where he did to the fear of God. He owed Him all he possessed, and ought to be used in His service. He had a testimony from God of the truth of His work. He had been absent from the headquarters of the Church for several years, but his heart had been with the Saints in the gathering place. We were feeble creatures and could not carry on the work of the Lord without assistance from Him. He recalled the many remarkable vicissitudes through which the Saints had passed. These showed that the Almighty had been with them from the beginning, until now. The speaker had been with the Church from Missouri until now. Many incidents of the days of Nauvoo were riveted upon his mind. He remembered well the face and form of the Prophet Joseph Smith and he cherished the recollection. In the days of the expulsion from Illinois his father's house had been left with the furniture in it. When he crossed the Mississippi river in February, 1846, the ice was broken up, and the trip was one of great peril. It was a stormy period, and many of the people died from exposure to the inclemency of the weather. Their sufferings were terrible to behold. He had never seen a people suffer as they did. He had thought of those circumstances while listening to men speak in this Conference who had passed through those days of trouble and had performed a great labor to produce the present era of prosperity and peace in this western land. When we had been persecuted we had declared the fact that we were subjected to it. Yet this opposition was a blessing in disguise. It developed us to self-reliance and impelled us to be united for purposes of protection. This work is advancing and those who abide in the Gospel were becoming better citizens, better fathers, mothers, husbands, wives and children. This progress was delightful to behold.

The speaker referred to the time in the history of the community when the people suffered for want of proper and sufficient food. The beneficent change that had occurred in every respect was due to the blessing and kind providence of the Almighty. We had been chosen of the Lord to fulfill the prophecies of inspired men of ancient times, and which by the inspiration of God, beheld our day. The speaker knew that the leaders of the Church are men of God, chosen by Him to accomplish His purposes in the building up of the latter-day Zion. They had been inspired to lead this work through the difficulties which had beset it during the last few years. He remembered what it had cost to establish the principles of the Gospel of Christ, revealed anew in this age. The turmoil and opposition which had confronted the leaders of the Church from the beginning had been remarkable for continuance and determination. We were here in this land to stay, and no power could remove us except it might be through our own transgression. New experiences would be met in the progress of this work, but power to overcome obstacles would increase as necessity should arise. He regarded a political training to be as necessary to the advancement of the people as education in any other direction. It could, however, be obtained without any of the people becoming intemperate and impatient in connection with that subject. The Church had been admonished from the beginning to seek wisdom from all good books and every other proper and available source. The political organization which would be ultimately established by Christ and under His reign would protect all men and women in their rights and liberties. If the Saints should go into the Temple worthily they would be strengthened and blessed, but those who should enter it in a condition opposite to this would be under condemnation.

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF

said: I have a request I wish to make to this assembly or Latter-day Saints, as all may not be here this afternoon, who are here now. There are many of you from a distance as well as many who dwell here in the city. You are expecting to go into the Temple to attend to dedication. I have a desire in my heart that every one of you, the night before you go into the Temple, before retiring to rest, will go by yourselves to secret prayer. Offer your petitions to the Lord, and pray that your sins may not only be forgiven, but that you may all have the spirit of God and the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ; that the spirit of God may be with those who are assembled in that Temple.

The inhabitants of the earth do not realize the effect and benefit of prayer.

(Continued on page 5.)

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NOTICE.

BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CALEdonian Society of Salt Lake City, a convention is hereby called to convene in the society's hall, Templeton Building, at 7 p. m. April 10, of the current year, for the purpose of the formation of Clubs for the purpose of taking suitable action in regard to a proper representation of the Scottish residents of Utah at the Columbian Exposition for the week sacred to Scottish anniversaries and commemorations. Judging from prior data, this movement is timely and important, and it is hoped that every Scottish Club will be represented by one or more delegates, and that all others who may be present, if not a Scottish representative themselves, will lend an energetic assistance to the formation of a Club. Let the Scottish Clubs, which are your sons, and not a few elsewhere, unite, and let every Caledonian, and far beyond, have been the pioneers of the Scottish Clubs.

DAVID NEILSON,

Chairman of Committee in charge.

F. S. RICHARDS, Pres. G. WEBBER, Treasurer. Vice President.

G. H. BACHMAN, Sec'y and Treas.

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