

THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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TERMS IN ADVANCE.

DAVID O. CALDER,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

PRICE OF GOLD.

Corrected daily by DESERET NATIONAL
BANK. SALT LAKE CITY, March 10, 1876.
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TERRIBLE DISASTER.

Terrific Explosion of Forty Tons of
Giant, Hercules, Blasting and
other Powder.

Four Persons Instantly Killed and
Others Injured.

Great Damage to Property.

THE EXPLOSION.

At 12½ minutes to five o'clock yesterday afternoon the citizens of Salt Lake City, and probably the people of the surrounding country for many miles, were suddenly startled by a couple of reports of a most terrific and deafening character and so nearly simultaneous as to appear almost as one. These were followed by two others which were more distinctly apart. The writer, who was standing on the east side of City Creek, had a full view of Arsenal Hill, where the exploded powder magazines were situated. In connection with the reports, an immense mass of flame shot heavenward at each succeeding report, and, rising above the fire, then shot a great shower of debris, which seemed to vanish with lightning rapidity, when the air was filled with missiles which whistled and tore through the atmosphere, scattering all around within a radius of over two miles, and a vast cloud of smoke which had arisen floated to the southeast. The concussion was so powerful that all around in a circuit of the extent already named houses tottered and shook, roofs, walls and ceilings were rent, windows innumerable were smashed, and hundreds of people were suddenly prostrated upon the ground.

CONSTERNATION.

seized upon the people, some rushed out of the houses, while others ran into them. Women and children screamed and many men turned pale. Crowds ran towards the vicinity of the explosion, while others sped away, and in fact people were running in every direction. Some shouted, "A volcano," others "An earthquake," while some comprehended the real cause. The scene was one that will never be likely to be forgotten by those who witnessed it.

THE MAGAZINES.

that exploded were four in number, the Hazard Company's, Z. C. M. I. Agent, about ten tons of Sporting, Giant, Blast and Hercules powder, Santa Cruz and Oriental Company's, for both of which Walker Brothers are agents, something over ten tons; Dupont's, B. W. E. Jennings agent, about fifteen tons; G. M. Scott & Co., who used a portion of one of the buildings occupied by Walker Brothers, between three and four tons.

FATAL CASUALTIES.

Considering the nature of the catastrophe, the immense shower of missiles from the size of small boulders to rocks weighing a couple of hundred pounds, pieces of iron, concrete, &c., it is marvellous that there were not a larger number of persons killed, there being, according to what has been ascertained, but four. Their names are Charles Richardson, son of the late Dr. Darwin Richardson, and Frank Hill, son of Brother A. N. Hill, both youths of about eighteen

years of age. Those lads, being in the vicinity of the magazines when the explosion occurred, were literally blown to fragments, a sufficient portion of the remains, and parts of their clothing, only being picked up to enable the relatives to identify the parties.

Another of the victims was Mrs. Mary Jane Van Natta, of the 19th Ward, who, while in the act of obtaining water from A. W. Winberg's pump, was struck on the back by a rock and instantly killed. The fourth was a little son of James Raddon, resident of the north-west part of the 20th Ward bench. The little fellow, while at play, with half a dozen other children, was struck by a rock in the left breast, causing instantaneous death.

PERSONAL INJURIES AND GENERAL INCIDENTS.

Mrs. P. O. Thomassen, of the 18th Ward, on the bench east of City Creek, on hearing the report of the explosion, rushed out of the house to see to her children, when she was struck on the right arm, below the elbow, with a heavy piece of iron, about eighteen inches long, tearing the flesh away to the bone, making a horrible wound. Mr. Thomassen's house being wrecked in the upper part, by the concussion, the lady was taken to the house of a neighbor, where Dr. Anderson attended to her injuries.

At the Empire Mill, City Creek, Allan Hilton was loading a wagon, when the concussion caused a portion of the building to fall on him, the team ran away, he was thrown out of the wagon over the wheel, but, strange to say, escaped with a few bruises.

Mr. Sudbury and another miller also had a narrow escape from the mill, which is greatly injured. Mr. Sudbury's house is a wreck and his family were more or less cut and bruised by the falling material, but none seriously.

The covers of the tanks of the waterworks were wrecked, and the dwelling house connected with the works, in which there were, at the time, W. E. Hyde and wife, another son of Supervisor Hyde, and several men, was nearly destroyed, and the inmates more or less injured, but none seriously.

The house of Geo. Saville, 18th Ward, is badly damaged.

The greatest amount of damage from the explosion was done in the 13th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th Wards.

A rock weighing 115 pounds went clear through, from roof to ground, the Theatre saloon, First South St., and a large boulder struck the residence of Mayor Little, going through the roof and two floors.

A rock carried away the tip of the ear of a son of Mr. D. P. Kimball, and the latter's house suffered severely from falling rocks and from the concussion. A couple of rocks went through the residence of Col. H. P. Kimball, one landing in a bed, and the other smashing a table covered with dishes, from which the children had just arisen from dinner.

A rock went through a window of Mr. Fred. Anderson's house, 12th Ward, doing some damage.

The walls of the 20th Ward school-house are badly rent and torn out about six inches, and the 19th and 17th Ward schoolhouses were more or less damaged.

A couple of big rocks going through the roof of the residence of Mr. H. Grow, made it lively for the folks there, and besides those already mentioned and numbers of others, the residences of parties below named were more or less damaged—Hon. W. H. Hooper, A. H. Raleigh, Major Hempstead, R. N. Baskin, Wm. Tucker, Enoch Reese, J. T. Cane, H. B. Clawson, E. H. Parsons, B. M. Du Rell and Judge Hoge.

of the sash, and pieces of dirt, probably carried all the way from the location of the magazines, were thrown into one of the rooms, and left sticking on the walls. The baby had just been taken out of the cradle in that room a moment before, and was thus saved from injury by the flying debris. The stove in the kitchen was knocked down and came near setting the place on fire. A young man, named Peter Lautenstock, who was in the lot, had a narrow escape, four rocks struck into the ground within a foot or two from him.

The cause of the explosion remains to some extent a mystery, although circumstances point to the fact of the lads Richardson and Hill, who had been out with cattle, near the magazine buildings, with a gun, and a boy who was near by, at the time, avers to having seen one of them fire at a flock of cranes that were on the wing overhead, a moment before the explosion, the latter being supposed to be produced by the concussion of the shot. It has been a matter of remark that parties have been in the habit of making targets of the iron doors of the magazines and that one of them had been actually perforated by a bullet, which lodged in a keg of powder inside the building. We understand that, as a prevention of the disaster that has occurred, Mr. Jennings was having some doors made of great resisting power.

We are informed that a gentleman who understands the powder business remarked a short time since that the magazines on Arsenal Hill were not properly built, because instead of being constructed with sides or ends facing each other, the corners or angles of the buildings should have been in that relation. The explosion was heard and the shock felt as far as Farmington, seventeen miles, and even at Kaysville, several miles further, buildings vibrated.

Several were so frightened by the explosion that they became unconscious, and there is a report in circulation that a woman in the 9th Ward has died from the effects of nervous prostration, superinduced in that way.

There are people who are so far lost to a sense of that which is good, noble and magnanimous as to seek to make money out of a public calamity, which this explosion decidedly is, and if the public discovers an attempt on the part of anybody to make a "corner" in window glass, and, failing in that, charging over double the usual price for the article, that is the precise individual who is taking that kind of an advantage, and the public are at liberty to judge whether such a person is worthy of execration.

An attempt to give anything like a precise statement of the amount of damage, it being so extensive and scattered as to be beyond present computation, would be impossible. Nearly every building of any size, for a mile and a half or two miles around has been damaged to a greater or less extent.

Besides the incidents narrated above there are several persons who received minor injuries in their persons. The excitement occasioned by the catastrophe has continued throughout the day, and it has been almost the sole topic of conversation.

Local and Other Matters.

FROM TUESDAY'S DAILY, APRIL 4.

A Branch.—At Canton, Fulton County, Ill., as stated in the Ogden Junction, Elder David M. Stuart recently organized a branch of the church, of seven members.

Admitted to Bail.—Yesterday Mrs. Johnson, who shot and killed Swenson, in Bear Lake Valley, was admitted to bail, the bonds being placed at \$5,000.

Fat Cattle.—Yesterday afternoon Mr. George Chandler exhibited, in front of his butcher shop, a couple of fat beaves, that were pictures to look at, especially for the season. He purchased them from Mr. Thomas S. Smith, of Kaysville, by whom they were raised. They were to be slaughtered to-day, and would probably weigh, dressed, about 900 pounds apiece.

Federal Court House.—There is a probability of the Federal Court Room being located in the building owned by Mr. Wm. Jennings, and recently vacated by Z. C. M. I., or in the Wasatch Hotel building, before long. Either of these would have the advantage of being more central than the present Federal Court House.

Paper-making Material.—We have been frequently asked of late whether we take rags suitable for making paper from on account of subscriptions, to which inquiry we answer in the affirmative, the price being, for clean, colored rags, four cents a pound, and for clean white rags, five cents a pound, delivered at this office. We will also take rags in exchange for any of the Church publications.

Centennial Contrast.—A gentleman hands us the following "Centennial Contrast," according to the ideas of "Poor Richard," as published in the *Golden Era*—

1776.
Farmer at the plow,
Wife milking the cow,
Daughter spinning yarn,
Son thrashing in the barn,
All happy to a charm.

1876.
Farmer gone to see a show,
Daughter at the piano,
Madam gaily dressed in satin,
All the boys learning Latin,
With a mortgage on the farm.

The South.—Elder D. H. Cannon writes from St. George, March 26—

"It would seem that spring is upon us, as the trees are in bloom and the cottonwoods are beginning to look green. Judging from appearances the present season's crops will be good. The snow in the mountains is abundant.

"I was at the Temple to-day, and it really presents a beautiful appearance. The plasterers are slowly but steadily creeping to the bottom with the plastering, and the woodwork on the inside is progressing favorably.

"The health of the people is good, and in fact the Lord seems to be favoring us in a special manner in our 'Dixie' land. The cattle have wintered well on our ranges and come out in fine condition this spring."

Fire.—About one o'clock this morning fire was discovered in the residence of Mr. D. C. Butterfield, a block and a half west of the County Court House, Second South Street. The flames had caught in the wall timbers of the upper story, burning a portion of them and the outside boarding to the roof, a portion of the latter being also injured. A number of firemen and others were soon on the spot and, by cutting away a portion of the wall, tearing some of the tin from the roof, and the application of a number of bucketsful of water, the fire was extinguished in its incipency, after a little rising of \$100 worth of damage was done. The fire originated, as is frequently the case, from a defective flue.

FROM WEDNESDAY'S DAILY, APRIL 5.

A Test of Endurance.—Mr. Allen, the professional pedestrian, is now going through the feat of walking a hundred miles in a hundred hours, at the Wasatch Hall. He commenced on Monday evening, at 5 o'clock.

Arrested.—Yesterday C. R. Tyler, cashier for the Union Pacific Railroad Company at Ogden, was arrested at that place, by a deputy U. S. Marshal, on a charge of embezzlement, and brought to this city. The discrepancy in the accounts is said to amount to within a trifle of \$24,000.

Returned from South.—Elders M. H. Hardy and B. M. Young, who have been on a trip South, organizing improvement associations in the settlements, have returned to the City, to attend Conference. They anticipate soon taking another trip on the same business, when they will go as far as St. George.

Conference Visitors.—We notice among the arrivals of visitors to attend Conference, General C. C. Rich and his son William, and Justice W. P. Nebeker, all from the Bear Lake Valley country; and

from Cache Valley, Elder Brigham Young, Jr., and Elder A. F. McDonald, from St. George.

Eighteenth Ward Concert.—The concert last evening, in the Social Hall, for the benefit of the 18th Ward Sunday School, was quite a success, being well attended and each performer rendering his or her part in a highly creditable manner, eliciting well merited applause, several responding to demonstrative solicitations for encores. Where all acquitted themselves so pleasingly and well, it would be invidious to mention special performances, although some were specially or conspicuously good. It is in place, however, to note the splendid reading of Mrs. A. B. Dunford, that lady giving so vivid a picture of a battle scene, with appropriate feeling, tone, inflection and gesture, that she fairly carried the audience.

Route to Arizona.—Robert A. Smith writes from Pahrea, Kane county, March 12—

"Seeing that there is quite an emigration for Arizona, I will say that I think the route might be materially bettered by coming from Panguitch down the Pahrea, thence across to House Rock. It would shorten the distance at least 20 miles, and some think from 20 to 50 miles, avoid crossing the Buckskin Mountain, and be better on account of water in summer and snow in winter. The road has been traveled to the Pahrea settlement, and we will open the road through to the House Rock Springs in a few days."

Z. C. M. I.—The regular semi-annual meeting of the stockholders of Zion's Co-operative Mercantile Institution was held this afternoon, commencing at two o'clock, in the Old Tabernacle, when the President presented his report, which embodied a report of a special committee appointed by him to examine and investigate as to the condition of the stock of goods on hand, and as to the condition of the accounts. The reports of the superintendent and secretary were also presented to the meeting, all of which were accepted.

Forty-Sixth Annual Conference.—The Forty-Sixth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will convene at ten o'clock to-morrow morning, at the New Tabernacle, in this city. Although the atmospheric conditions have been exceedingly uncertain of late, there does seem a fair prospect at present for fine weather during the ensuing few days, and it will be most agreeable to the people who attend Conference if those indications hold out. Notwithstanding the favorableness of the weather at present, there does not seem such a large number of people here from the country districts as is usual about these times, although to-morrow may bring a large showing in that direction.

Conference times are naturally times of refreshing, in many senses, friends who have not seen each other for a season meet on such occasions and renew their acquaintanceship, and then, in meeting assembled, the people receive such instruction as they need to build them up in the faith of the gospel, enabling them to go forth with renewed determination to sustain and establish the kingdom of God.

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY, APRIL 6.

Plastering Finished.—The plastering on the walls of the St. George Temple was finished yesterday.

U. C. R. R. Bridge.—Yesterday President Brigham Young, the officers of the Utah Southern and Utah Central railroads and a number of invited guests visited Ogden for the purpose of viewing the new iron bridge, in course of construction, over the Weber river. While they were there one of the four corner supports of the structure was placed in position. The work of constructing or putting the bridge together was commenced last Friday, and is expected to be completed in a few days. It will be a handsome, substantial structure, 155½ feet long, and 11 feet in the clear.