

a continuance of the disagreement some smart, blood-breathing reporter shall see massacre, devastation and ruin in the heated air, and persuade the *World* to put the calamity in cold type. Tintio may not have suffered much as yet from lies of that kind, but Utah as a whole has had enough of it to satisfy her modest wants for sixteen generations.

TURKISH MAIL SERVICE.

According to dispatches this morning, the Turkish minister in Washington has been instructed by his government to deny the charges made by American missionaries in Asia Minor, that mail matter had been tampered with by Turkish officials. But notwithstanding all denials, the charges will no doubt be proven in time, should they lead to a thorough investigation.

Anyone who has traveled in Asiatic Turkey knows something about the trials to be endured in connection with the mail service. The Turkish postoffice employees, although well educated men, are so wretchedly paid for their service that they are almost forced to be dishonest. A traveler can seldom feel sure that his letter will be dispatched until he has seen the official mark put on the stamp, rendering it worthless. For even if he buys the stamp and attaches it to the envelope himself, the temptation to the clerk to lick it off and keep it may prove too great, although the value of it may be only a cent and a half. The irregularities in the Turkish mail service have therefore led foreign powers to establish independent postoffices. At present, in nearly all the leading cities of Asia Minor, at least along the coast, will be found French, Austrian, Russian or English mail service, and the only wonder is that the missionaries, if their letters were of great importance, did not entrust them to the care of some reliable agency instead of to Turkish hands.

FICTITIOUS LAW-MAKING.

One would think Congress the last place in the world to engage in fiction, at least so far as relates to the enactment of laws. The fact is, though, that of all places having similar powers it engages in such business the most. It was surely bad enough in the way of riskiness for the "old-timers" to now and then borrow a little time from the future and add it to the present in order that some needed measure might be got through at the end of a session or term; but what is the excuse for continuing the custom? The legislators of half a century ago and beyond that were not surrounded with such facilities for having things exact and on time as those who have risen, reigned and fallen since that period; and at this stage of the proceedings to imitate the grandfathers seems absurd at least.

The *Washington Post* recently brought up anew a question which has been discussed and thought over a good many times. It is as to the efficacy of turning back the hands of the clock when the time for Congress to expire has arrived. By law the session of the Fifty-second Congress expired at 12 o'clock on

March 4. When 12 o'clock came the Senate was in session with some unfinished business before it, and Captain Bassett, as he has often done before under such circumstances, turned the hands back an hour or more, so that the Senate really remained in session an hour or an hour and a half after it had ceased to have a legal existence as a part of the Fifty-second Congress. There were several senators also voting and enacting laws after their terms, which expired at 12 o'clock on March 4, had ended. The question is an important one, in one way of looking at it, because if prolonging the Senate session by turning back the clock is not permissible, all business done after noon on March 4 is void.

It is argued also that if it is permissible to prolong the session one hour beyond the legal limit by grace of Captain Bassett's jugglery with the clock hands, why cannot the session be prolonged twenty-four hours, or as much longer as the Senate desire? And if it is proper to doctor the Senate's clock and regard the reading of its hands as the official time by which the session ends, why is it not just as proper to fix the Senate's calendar so that the 4th of March will not come till the Senate is ready for it?

Numerous legislatures do that kind of thing right along, our own being no exception. It is held in such cases, however, that the term being defined by the number of days instead of expiring at some fixed time, the last day holds on as long as the sitting is continuous, no matter if it should be several days and nights, and the members and officers receive no pay after the last day has expired according to the calendar. There may be some force in such justification, but if there be any in the other case it has not yet been made plain. What right a man or several men who are not members of Congress have to make or participate in making laws we should like to find out, if there be any such right; and surely those spoken of are not members one minute after noon on the 4th of March whether the clock is running right or wrong or not running at all. This matter will be tested by some one some time, and it will require all the ingenuity the legal fraternity can command to make even an appearance in court.

INCIDENTS IN TEMPLE HISTORM.

A reliable correspondent writes us this morning as follows:

Editor Desert News:

When Bishop Driggs called on Henry Standish the other day for the purpose of obtaining the names of those who wished to attend the dedication of the Temple, he told him that he had in his possession a remnant of the pick that was used in the hands of President Brigham Young in striking the first blow that broke the ground for the foundation of the Temple. It seemed to please Brother Standish very much to think that he had lived to see the Temple completed and to be privileged to give in his name to attend the dedication.

The News is of opinion that the collection of relics such as the one above spoken of, and certainly the collection of information concerning them, would be a fruitful, interesting

and timely labor at the present time. As men measure time and make history, forty years is only a brief span. Yet among those who assisted in the breaking of the ground and the laying of the cornerstones of the Salt Lake Temple, there are comparatively few left, even of those who witnessed these ceremonies there remain not many; and if all were gathered together who labored upon the structure in its earlier stages or who personally know of incidents connected therewith, they would not constitute so very large an assembly.

The contemplation of the joyous event which the Salats will celebrate on the 6th of next month ought to cause them to think lovingly of the veterans who are now so rare. In the interest of history these should be asked and encouraged to impart and indite bits of experience in connection with the Temple that would otherwise be lost. All that pertains to it at any stage of its construction is sure to find a welcome in the hearts and memories of the people. The News will gladly open its columns to the publication of any and all authentic information of this character and invites contributions from every person who is in possession of facts, especially such as have never before been printed, that ought to be preserved.

OUR ROYAL VISITORS.

Before leaving for England March 22, "Princess" Kalulani issued one more of those rose-tinted addresses to the American people. She, or perhaps we ought to say her manager, evidently understands how true it is that sweetness captures more insects than sourness does; and some day no doubt she or he or both will add it to their store of information that Americans as a rule are not in the entomological class. We are a very practical race, with a proclivity to legality or at least to legal forms in adjusting titles; and for the line of us we are so far unable to see upon what the fair and pleasing girl bases her claim to the Hawaiian throne. In the absence of the necessary hereditary qualifications—slender enough when perfect—we would be unable to render a verdict in her favor even if called upon to do so; so that while the dainty missives with which she has favored us are received as what they really are—expressions of cordiality, they deceive no one.

This reminds us that we had another scion of Hawaiian royalty in our midst yesterday. He travels unnumbered even by the name of David Kawana, aka, and is accompanied by Liliuokalani's diplomatic representative, Mr. Paul Newman. They passed through on the Rio Grande Western, and we didn't know they were here till they had gone, if we may so state it. Mr. Newman expressed great satisfaction at the turn affairs had taken, and doubtless feels as pleased with his work in Washington as does a young lawyer who gets a verdict, not through his efforts but in spite of them; it couldn't go any other way. Mr. Newman is no doubt a capable and experienced gentleman, but the amount which this trip figures up for himself and his protegee is just so much thrown to Davy Jones' locker, for nothing else