

## DESERET NEWS.

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - DEC. 24, 1879.

## PEOPLE'S TICKET.

## SPECIAL ELECTION

SATURDAY DEC. 27th, 1879.

## SALT LAKE COUNTY.

For Representatives to the Legisla-  
tive Assembly:

CHARLES W. PENROSE.

FIRST EDITION OF THE BOOK  
OF MORMON.

We frequently receive offers of copies of the first edition of the Book of Mormon for which the owners ask extraordinary prices, under the impression that it is a very rare work and greatly different from the present edition. To-day we have the munificent offer of a copy for the moderate sum of \$600.

The story that the first edition of the Book essentially varies from later editions, was plausibly set afloat by some of our "Christian" traducers. It is, like most of such rumors, entirely false. There is a large number of the first edition in existence, many copies being in this Territory—and with the trifling exception of a few mere typographical errors, all the editions are substantially alike. Not a sentiment, doctrine or idea has been changed in any of the editions that have been published in the English language, nor, so far as we are aware, in any of the other languages into which the Book has been translated.

The Book, as published by the Prophet Joseph Smith, was translated by the gift and power of God, and it would be the height of folly—to say nothing of the presumption of such an act—for any man or men to attempt to alter that which was given by inspiration of the Almighty.

We wish to say once more, that the first edition of the Book of Mormon has no particular value over and above any subsequent edition, either from any peculiarity of diction or from scarcity of copies, for it is substantially identical with the others, and there are plenty of copies in good preservation.

A RICH PREY FOR "CHRIS-  
TIAN" CRUSADERS.

JOSEPH COOK, the gross and coarse-minded religious mountebank who counsels the repression of the "Mormon" creed and people by the force of arms, has been opening one of the acrid vials of his "Christian" wrath in the Modern Athens. At a lecture recently delivered in Boston, he gave a prelude on "Mormonism and State Rights," which is reproduced in the New York *Christian Advocate*. He read letters from Judge Boreman and Mrs. Paddock containing a number of deliberate falsehoods—as might be expected, and also sundry predictions as to the terrible consequences if Utah should be admitted into the Union as a State. In such an event it is declared that: "No Gentile school could continue to exist," "the election laws would be so framed and construed as practically to disfranchise Gentiles;" all non-Mormons would be "legislated out of the country in six months;" "it would be impossible for Gentiles to

receive justice, either at the polls or in the courts;" agencies would be used "to cripple and crush every Gentile enterprise, to destroy Gentile interests, and to drive out Gentile residents;" "an independent judiciary could not exist;" "the Mormons would have the Deseret Alphabet instead of the English used in their schools, and thus gradually shut out the light of English and American civilization," &c.

There is no need for us to reply to any of these absurd assertions and prognostications. There is not an intelligent "Gentile" in Utah who believes a word of them. They are nothing but the boilings over of hearts filled with bitterness and malice. They are sweet morsels for such men as Cook and the pure Boston churchgoers, who love scandal and are anxious to work for the reform of sinners—a long way off Cook, echoing the words of his precious pair of Utah correspondents, counsels the disfranchisement of all men and women living in polygamy, allowing them neither to vote nor serve on a jury, and the taking away of all political power from the "Mormons," giving the control of elections into the hands of persons appointed by the President, thus virtually placing the whole Territory in the hands of an unscrupulous and hostile minority.

And as an inducement for such anti-republican, anti-American and anti-Christian proceedings, here is the tempting bait which the sordid creature, judging his hearers by his own covetous desires, holds out for a religious crusade against the industrious "Mormons:"

"Do that one thing, and you strike at the root of the Upas tree which is now shedding down its poison on a Territory larger than New England, a Territory Asiatic in its richness when you irrigate it, and which is better and better watered every year; a Territory which already exports agricultural productions, in spite of the blistered look of its sands and the desolate appearance of its vast stretches of sage brush. Utah is one of the most important mining districts in the world. The tawny robe of this Basin State lion is sifted full of silver and gold, and its very bones are made up of coal and iron. Utah can supply the world with salt. She has mountains of pure gypsum, and immense beds of almost pure sulphur. There is scarcely any mineral used by man that is not found in abundance in her spiked and jagged mountains. The value of the export of silver, gold, lead and other ores and metals from Utah has averaged \$6,000,000 for each of the last three years. In the next 12 months it is likely to be \$10,000,000. Strike where President Hayes tells you to let the ax fall, and this Upas tree, which now is the curse of the whole Basin region, will drop as a compost heap, and give you there, ultimately, purity and wealth."

## A SINGULAR WILL CASE.

A CASE which we believe is without a parallel in the courts, has been argued before Judge Swayne, U. S. Circuit Judge, at Washington, D.C. About fifty years ago Ex-Governor McArthur died in Ohio, leaving a will which devised his estate, worth a very large amount, to his entire family, but not to be divided until the youngest grandchild should reach majority. The difficulty is that the will does not specify whether by "the youngest grandchild," is meant the youngest living when the will was made, or at the time of the decease of the testator, or any that might be born subsequently.

The executors appointed would not act, and a trustee was selected by the County Court to take charge of the property. Grandchildren have increased in numbers greatly since the Ex-Governor's death, and now some of the heirs are very anxious for the distribution of the estate. But some of the posthumous grandchildren who are yet in their minority, protest against the settlement until they are of age. So a law suit is the consequence, and the case has been fought, with some of the ablest lawyers in Ohio on either side, going up from court to court, and will finally land in the Supreme Court of the United States.

When any one makes a will, care should be taken to express the exact wishes of the testator. But perhaps it is impossible to dictate a legal document which lawyers,

whose living depends on strife, litigation and word-wresting, could not construe in various ways and invest with at least a double meaning.

The office of executor is always an unthankful one, and no matter how he may strive to carry out the instructions of the testator, he is almost sure to meet with dissatisfaction, ingratitude and the opposition of some one interested in the estate. This is the lawyers' opportunity, and fat fees wait for legal fingers in almost every last will and testament that is penned. Happy and wise are those heirs, legatees, devisees and beneficiaries, who settle their own differences among themselves.

## NO AUTHORITY.

THE Cincinnati *Times* says Joseph Cook has received a letter on Utah affairs from Judge Boreman, who is quoted as an authority. The *Times* is very much mistaken. Boreman is not an "authority" on anything. He is a poor lawyer, a contemptible Judge and a bigoted, unreliable partisan. He has frequently promulgated from the judicial bench statements that were opposed to the facts in the papers filed in his court, and rulings that were contrary to precedent and common sense. His opinion is not worth a straw among the members of the bar of this Territory, who far outrank him in legal ability and intellectual acquirements. He might have made a thin mark as a fourth rate Methodist preacher with anti-"Mormonism" as a specialty, but he is not the kind of stuff out of which "authorities" are made.

## CHRISTMAS ON THURSDAY.

As Christmas comes on Thursday this year, it may be interesting to note the following lines found in an old manuscript in the British Museum. We do not copy it on account of any merit, either of rhyme or reason, but simply as an old curiosity:

"If Xmas day on Thursday be,  
A windy winter ye shall see;  
Windy weather in each week,  
And hard tempest, strong and thick.  
The summer shall be good and dry,  
Corn and beasts shall multiply;  
That year is good for lands to till;  
Kings and princes shall die by skill,  
If a child born on that day shall be,  
It shall happen right well for he,  
Of deeds he shall be good and stable,  
Wise of speech and reasonable?  
Whoso that day goes thieving about  
He shall be punished without doubt,  
And if sickness that day betide  
It shall quickly from thee glide."

TAKE TIME BY THE FORE-  
LOOK.

ON the second Monday in January next, the representatives of the people elected to the Legislative Assembly will meet for the transaction of business. Only forty days time is allowed for the labor required of them. And as it takes several days to organize, arrange committees, and get into working order, the period allotted is extremely short, in view of the interests to be considered.

Everything should be done that can be done lawfully to facilitate business. Some have thought that an informal sitting previous to the regular session would be attended with many advantages. But it is not very likely that many members would attend, and there is nothing in the law to compel or require their presence. We believe, however, that a preliminary committee of experienced legislators to prepare bills for presentation to the Assembly, would be a wise provision, and would smooth the way to the enactment of many good laws.

But there is one thing that can be done. The people, or at least the thinking portion of them, can communicate the wants and wishes of the community, as they understand them, to the men chosen to be their representatives. Suggestions in writing can be made, which will materially aid the legislators to arrive at a proper understanding of the popular needs. And this should not be left until the Assembly is fully

occupied with legislative business, but attention should be drawn to those changes in the law, or new measures to suit new conditions, which the growth of the Territory and the mutations of time and circumstances may require.

One of the important subjects for legislative consideration will be that of irrigation. A law adapted to the wants of various sections cannot be framed in a day, nor in the hurry of the regular business of the session. Those who are fully posted on the necessities of the Territory, or the different localities therein, should make their members thoroughly familiar therewith before they leave for the Legislature. It is a poor time to instruct them when they are crowded with committee work and have to attend the regular sittings of the Assembly.

There are many other important matters besides irrigation that need special attention, and we refer to that subject merely as one out of a great number, points on all of which should be given to the members by those who are familiar with them, in advance of the period prescribed for legislative business. Now is the time or never, for the coming session. Only about three weeks remains. Make good use of it.

## THE OUTCRY AGAINST UTAH.

It is amusing to notice the fright into which the Republicans have fallen through the bare possibility of the admission of Utah as a State in the Union. One would think, to read the numerous newspaper articles on the subject, that Utah was making strenuous and special exertions in this direction; while the fact is that no particular efforts are being attempted with that object. There have been times when the people of this Territory have made urgent appeals to Congress for their rights, have framed their Constitution—liberal as the most liberal statesman could desire—and have sent special delegates to Washington to present their claims and press their application upon the attention of those in power. But at the present time no such movement is in progress.

True, our request for admission is perpetually on hand. We demand Statehood as an act of common justice and equity. We consider that our Territory has all the claims upon the consideration of Congress that any Territory has had which has ever been admitted into the Union. But we are not now making any active exertions towards a prominent advocacy of our qualifications for Statehood, nor to draw any particular attention thereto.

The agitation of the subject of the marriage relations of a portion of the people of this Territory, and the pretended spasms of virtuous indignation into which some Republican papers and persons are throwing themselves, over the supposed practices of a few individuals in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, is the baldest kind of humbug and the most transparent species of hypocrisy. It is also prompted by an imaginary danger. The object of their fears is a new Democratic State, which they suppose Deseret would be if admitted, and they imagine that a plan is in operation to establish it. If Utah was exerting herself in this direction there might be some ground for their terror, but as it is, they are scaring themselves at a bugaboo of their own disordered fancy.

The new outcry against polygamy is prompted by these fears. The popular mind has been worked up by falsehood and exaggeration till this Territory is looked upon as a hotbed of sedition and crime, and the politicians take advantage of this public deception to warn the country against supposed Democratic coquetting with Utah, Statehood to be offered as a reward for her alliance with the Democratic party. That is the whole matter in brief. To hear the debauchees and libertines, the rakes and rones talk of "Mormon" marriage, one might naturally think that they were the champions of chastity and the embodiment of purity. Men who keep mistresses on the sly, and whose spare nights are spent in scenes of dissipation and unhalloved indulgence, will prate of the awful consequences that

would ensue if a Territory of not more than two hundred thousand persons, a fraction of whom practise plural marriage under religious regulations, should be admitted into political union with a nation of forty-five millions. Out upon such damnable hypocrisy—such paltry and pharisaical pretence! And to give color to their railings and aid in diverting the attention of the people from their real designs, they would advocate any measure, however contrary to justice and the institutions of our country, and sacrifice the lives and liberties of thousands of men and women who would die sooner than stoop to the infamies practised by their accusers.

The social relations of the "Mormons" has no more to do with the admission of Utah as a State, than the gambling practices of Colorado had to do with her admission. Who says anything of the lawless doings in the mining camps of Dakota, when the subject of its Statehood is broached? What Congressman ever works himself up into pious wrath over the gay guilt and leprous licentiousness of Washington City, in the District of Columbia, which is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the National Legislature? Granting for argument's sake only—for we do not admit it in fact by any means—that all which is said against our marriage system is correct, it does not properly bear on the question of statehood in the least degree. It is not a part of Utah's Territorial polity. It would not be a portion of her political system if she were a State. Those who believe in or practise it regard it strictly and solely as a religious matter, with which the State has nothing to do. It would not be recognized in the statutes of the State nor provided for in any way by secular regulations. It is a matter separate and apart from political considerations, and belongs to the sphere of moral argument and religious disquisition. Deseret would not be a polygamous State any more than Nevada is a gambling State; nor yet so much, for in Nevada gambling is permitted and provided for in the local laws, while Utah's statute book is silent on polygamy.

If the falling Republicans want to prevent the Democrats from capturing the political influence of a new State, let the honorable men of the party fight the supposed enemy on fair grounds and with fair weapons. But let them cease to make a peaceable people, who if in the wrong are only working injury to themselves, the objects of their anger and the victims of their animosity, from a mistaken idea as to a political bargain and an unstatesmanlike mingling together of religion and morality with politics and the rights of States.

GOVERNOR EMERY AND THE  
PENAL CODE.

THE enemies of the people of Utah expose the weakness of their cause and virtually acknowledge the strength of ours, by invariably resorting to gross falsehood or glaring misrepresentation in their attacks upon us. The same rule prevails when they assail any one who is supposed to favor us in the slightest degree, or who is guilty of not joining and actively assisting them in their malicious schemes and endeavors.

There is one report which they have industriously circulated, that we have hitherto taken no notice of. But it is now being used for the purpose of injuring Governor Emery, whose term of office has expired, and who has some grounds for expecting re-appointment. We therefore have something to say on the subject. His sin, in their eyes, is in occupying a conservative position. No one can truthfully accuse the Governor of favoring the "Mormon" cause. We have no axe to grind in his case. We put up no petition for his continuance in office, we have no request to make for his removal. He has done nothing that we are aware of to merit "Mormon" gratitude, neither has he done anything to arouse "Gentile" hostility. He has held himself aloof from factions and has not taken the course of a violent partisan. In that he has incurred the displeasure of the rabid, unprin-