

DESERET NEWS

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - Nov. 29, 1876.

WHY BUY SO MUCH ON CREDIT?

SOMETIMES there is a degree of convenience in people generally purchasing things on credit, but there is always a great deal of inconvenience about it, and not unfrequently it entails much trouble and considerable injustice. The practice of numbers of people in the country and in the various towns and cities purchasing various things of pedlers and canvassers, and paying for them in notes, usually running on interest after a short time, does not seem to us to be commendable, but we believe it is conducive of much anxiety, privation, suffering, and injustice, and sometimes to very serious loss of property and confidence, as we will proceed to show.

1. It is a delusion to think that men who lend their capital, or in other words give credit, do not do it with the express view of being paid therefor, over and above the actual value of the goods on which they give credit. This consideration, for the use of the capital lent, the purchaser has to pay, either directly in the shape of interest, or indirectly in the shape of enhanced prices on the goods so purchased. Thus, in one way or other, the purchaser pays more for goods bought on credit than he would for goods bought for ready pay. In some instances the use of the goods on credit is a sufficient consideration to the purchaser to overbalance the enhanced prices given. But in very many instances this is not the case, or, if it is, the purchaser is not able to pay for the increased convenience so obtained, and therefore is not morally warranted in increasing the obligation, and he and his family, for their present gratification, suffer afterward in consequence.

2. It is a delusion to think that paying in the future is actually easier than paying in the present. As a rule, to pay as you go is the easiest way to pay, because, if you pay as you go, you will not purchase anything you cannot pay for, and if you purchase on credit you will be likely to buy things you really cannot afford, and when the time of payment does come, generally it is just as hard to find the pay as it was when you bought the goods, and the higher price and the interest on the price make it still harder.

3. When you feel tempted to purchase things on credit, before you do purchase, act upon the supposition that you have already purchased, and try a few weeks to save up means to make your payment. That will open your eyes a little as to the difficulty of paying your debts. For generally it will be as hard to pay for a thing months after you have bought it, as it is to save up means to pay for it when you buy it. The fact that there are so many unsettled debts of long standing in the country is ample proof that there is a great difficulty in paying them. It is just as hard to pay them as it is to collect them, and those who have had debts to collect know how hard that is.

4. Let us suppose a not unlikely case. A pushing firm has goods to sell, they may be machinery or fruit trees or anything else. The firm sends out oily-tongued canvassers all through the Territory, to sell the goods either for ready money or on credit. If on credit, then at enhanced prices, or at the same prices, with interest added, or perhaps at enhanced prices with interest added also. Many of the people purchase these goods, and pay their money for them, or give their notes for them. If they have not money, they may have wheat to pay with, or live stock at cash prices. If they have none of these, they can virtually mortgage their future crops. If they have not crops in view to mortgage, they can mortgage their real estate, as security for these notes. Thus in time these pushing and insinuating canvassers may have in their grasp much of the money, the grain, the live stock, the coming

crops, and the real estate of a district of country. What for? For debts for goods that might have been done without, far better done without than done with on such terms and at such an ultimate cost.

5. Here is another point to be considered, and that is that these note debts often prevent men from liquidating their more just liabilities to their neighbors and friends, and thus doing them a positive injustice. If you owe your neighbors honest debts, it is not right of you to put it out of your power to pay them with anything like promptness, and perhaps to pay them at all, by your purchasing these goods of canvassers for ready pay or on credit, secured by your note, and your note secured by your available property. There is no justice in that. Further, making these purchases on credit prevents you from properly supporting many laudable home enterprises, and from paying your neighbors in anything but the poorest pay, if any at all, and consequently your neighbors will be likely to have as little good pay to pay you for anything you may do for them as you have to pay them for anything they may do for you. Thus local enterprise suffers, and you and your neighbors grow poor together, much poorer than there is any necessity or just occasion for.

6. There are two great evils attending this unnecessary getting into debt—it induces much bondage, privation, and distress by creating or intensifying financial stringency, and it is a potent means of weakening the confidence of members of the community in each other. Either of these evils should be sufficient to make people stop and think before plunging rashly into debt of this kind, but both evils combined should make the matter one of more than ordinarily sober and thoughtful consideration, and absolutely deter people from going into debt, particularly debt of this kind, at least in the large majority of cases.

NOT REASSURING.

THINGS political do not look very reassuring yet. One thing after another of a compulsory nature turns up or is suggested, so that the election results look as much confused, or at least as uncertain, as they have done since the election. In addition to the uncertainty as to who is really elected President of the United States, now comes the excitement about the concentration of troops at Washington ready for the assembling of Congress, the count of the electoral votes, and the inauguration of the President next March. This assembling of troops appears to be done very slyly, in as secret a manner as possible. But this very secrecy causes the movement and the purpose to be regarded with all the more suspicion, and indeed to be viewed by many as almost bordering on treachery.

The administration appears to think that it will not do for it to be caught napping, and that it is best to be prepared for emergencies. This is a very good rule, in a general way, but it may or may not be good in this instance.

One of the worst features in this ready resort to the regular military, which seems to be getting very common in the United States, is that the people get familiarized with it, their early republican and democratic fears of a standing army and of its common use in civil affairs are gradually dispelled, and the way is thus opened for the sudden direction of the army against the liberties of the people when a ruler sufficiently ambitious, dictatorial, and unscrupulous shall sit in the presidential chair.

CORNERING.

A FAVORITE and common method of making money largely and suddenly, hasting to get rich, is by cornering an article of general consumption or use. This creating a corner in one species of merchandise or another appears to be much more extensively resorted to in this country than in Europe, though it prevails more or less in all countries.

When an article of general use is cornered with the idea of making an immense amount of money out of it, and corners are very seldom

created for any other purpose than that, it is really criminal, criminal in a very high degree, morally considered, though it may not be legally considered so, except when false reports are circulated for the purpose of bullying or bearing the market.

While as a general proposition there is nothing particularly wrong in a man buying any kind of goods in great quantity, if he desires, yet there is something seriously wrong in his buying them on purpose to prevent the community generally from getting them, except at greatly enhanced prices, prices which are not justified by the honest rules of business. A still greater wrong is committed, or rather the great wrong in this connection is committed when a person or a combination of persons purposely creates in the market a scarcity of an article of general consumption, and for the purpose of raising the price in order to make money rapidly and to a great amount.

There may be corners in grain and in flour, in bread and in butter, in meat and in cheese, in water and in whiskey and in wine, in fuel and in lighting material, or in any other article of merchandise, it does not matter much what to the unprincipled speculator, provided he can make a fortune out of his corner.

What crimes are these corner creating speculators guilty of, morally? They are guilty of swindling, of theft, of conspiring against the public peace, prosperity, and happiness. They are guilty of causing a vast amount of privation, of suffering, and of consequent sickness. They are guilty of forcing out of the pockets of their neighbors large sums of money without offering anything like a fair equivalent. They are guilty of building themselves up on the misfortunes of many others. They are guilty of creating those misfortunes. They are guilty of making themselves rich upon the poverty of their neighbors. They are guilty of causing that poverty. When an article of general necessity is cornered, the cornerers are guilty of all the privation, the suffering, the affliction, the sickness, and the death which that cornering causes. Thus these corner creators are actually guilty of murder, slow and painful and sure murder, the victims dying by inches, and whenever these cornerers come before a righteous tribunal such terrible crimes as these will be laid to their charge, and the charge must be met and justice satisfied thereon in some way, and that way will not be an easy one. All the time, these cornerers have the execration of the community upon them, and some time or other the avenging sword of justice will be unsheathed upon them, unless they repent and find mercy.

STREET THIEVES AND BURGLARS.

THINGS are coming to a pretty pass when it is not safe to walk the streets of this city at a night, and before bed-time too, without danger of being beset by armed robbers, with the request of "your money or your life." This is the kind of "civilization" of which our citizens are getting a great deal too much now-a-days, or rather now-a-nights, and some vigorous measures will have to be taken to check it, as it is getting near a point that is absolutely unbearable.

If things go on at the present rate, every citizen out at night will take no money with him, or put it where thieves will not be likely to look for it, and will feel compelled in self defence to go armed, and to act with determined decision when assaulted or suspiciously accosted. Hitherto, the residents generally of this city have been uncommonly unsuspicious and forbearing concerning and towards burglars and street robbers, but it is evident that a different spirit must be manifested by the citizens, and it would be well for those lawless characters to know that there are some persons in the community who will shoot when so attacked, and shoot with the intent to hit and to hurt, taking aim not at one end but at the middle of the target, asking no odds of their villainous assailants, a fact which some of the street pads may find out to their cost one of these eventful nights. These cases

are not things to be trifled with, and everybody will applaud the man who strikes down on the instant and utterly disables any street robber when assaulted by him. Sharp, short, and decisive should be the response these vile characters should meet every time when they ask a peaceable citizen to "throw up his hands."

These street robbers and burglars have no claim to compassionate consideration. They are not honest, industrious, hard-working men. They belong to another and a very different class. They are the kind of people who do not work for a living, but who set themselves to obtain a living, by hook or by crook, off better men, who do work for a living for themselves and their families.

These burglars and street robbers are beasts of prey. They prey upon the better portions of the community. They are worse than beasts of prey, because a beast of prey only acts out its natural instincts, and gets its living in the only way known or possible to it. But these lawless characters know how to obtain a living in a lawful way, yet they viciously choose to obtain it in an unlawful and violent way by doing wrong to others. Therefore such characters do not deserve the consideration that might be shown to the beast of prey, but should be struck down promptly and relentlessly when caught in the act, wiped out of existence as by a thunderbolt when practicable. Let them know that such is the determination of the community, and they will speedily become much scarcer hereabouts than they are. Their death under such circumstances would be a gain and not a loss to the community. Dead, they would enrich the soil.

Suppose two or three men were to try the experiment of going along the streets, heavily armed and lightly shod, say with a double barreled shot-gun and one or two good seven shooters each, one of the party going a little ahead of the others, and the latter keeping within active supporting distance, would it be a healthy thing for two or three brigands to assault either of those men? Not very. It would do the brigands good to ask one of those men to "throw up his hands," wouldn't it? If there must be encounters with street thieves, that is the kind of encounter that everybody would like to hear of every time. Street thieves would not last long under that treatment, and burglaries would soon become few and far between.

THE LAWS OF UTAH.

THE compilation or the revision of the laws of a commonwealth at stated periods is a matter, if not of necessity, at least of very great convenience and consequence to those who have to do with the law, which most residents have in one way or another, and to a greater or less extent. It is in no wise convenient to have to refer to a dozen or a score or more pamphlets of the statutes, published as they were passed. For some one or more of the pamphlets may be missing when wanted, and missing books, somehow or other, seem to be generally the very books particularly wanted. Besides, the pamphlets of laws of each session of the Legislature are not in general distribution throughout the community, and some of them are often missing or inaccessible when wanted.

The last compilation of the laws of Utah comprised the laws of the nineteenth session of the Legislature, the session of 1869-70. Of that compilation copies are very scarce, and of the laws passed since then copies are also very scarce. Since 1869-70 there have been three biennial sessions, the last, the twenty-second, having sat last winter. During these three sessions a number of important and some lengthy laws were passed, which it is very desirable that the people should be familiar with, as it is presumed that every citizen knows when he transgresses the law, and thus ignorance is held to be no bar to punishment, although it is difficult not to be ignorant of the law under some circumstances.

In the last session a committee was appointed to make another compilation of the laws of the Territory up to date, that is, including the laws of that session. Accordingly, the committee appointed went to work and the re-

sult is that the compilation is in the press and is well under way. It is expected that it will be ready for the public in a few weeks. It is well printed in clear type on good paper, and will make a volume of about nine hundred pages.

Of the utility of this compilation we need say nothing. It is a thing which many have desired, and is greatly needed, not only by lawyers, but by law makers, law administrators, and the public at large. Everybody that has much to do with the law will need it and should have it, and all who have anything to do with the law will be glad to see it for reference sometimes. In legal matters nothing is more convenient than to have the laws all in a volume which you can pick up at once at any time when desired, instead of hunting here or there for a part of them which you particularly want, and finding any others of them than the identical ones that immediately affect you at the time.

Local and Other Matters.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, NOV. 21.

Anonymous.—The communication of "Santiago" is not according to our rule of requiring the name of the sender, and is moreover otherwise objectionable in being too personal.

Information Wanted.—Will Mrs. Sarah Cumberland, of Salt Lake City, communicate at once with her anxious sister, Elizabeth Fidler, 4 Norfolk Street, Liverpool?—*Milennial Star*, Nov. 6.

Third District Court.—The time of the Third District Court was occupied this morning with the case of John Tiernan vs. Nicholas Treweek. This is a mining case, the bone of contention being the St. John's mine, Bingham. It is likely to be a protracted hearing.

The 11th Ward Robbery.—One of the parties arrested for participation in the 11th Ward Co-operative store robbery, recently perpetrated, had a hearing before Justice Pyper this morning, and was unconditionally discharged, the evidence pointing in any other direction than that of his guilt.

Stage for Toquerville.—Gilmer & Salisbury are now making arrangements to change the route of their Salt Lake stage line, so that it will run direct from Pioche to Toquerville, thence to Salt Lake City, returning the same way. The alteration will be made very shortly to accommodate the increased travel to that place.—*Pioche Record*.

Home Manufacture.—Mr. James, tinner and iron plate worker, of this city, has been the first to successfully galvanize block iron for home consumption. A specimen deposited at the Deseret Museum some months ago has been seen by competent judges and pronounced equal to Eastern work. It appears that Mr. Charles F. Williams, who is in the employ of Mr. James, is the practical operator in this department of industry, and his success enables it to be recorded as another addition to our home manufactures.

The Coal Question.—The supply of coal on sale in this city fluctuates constantly and seems to increase very slowly, if at all. It seems almost preposterous that with a bare chain of mountains separating us from what will yet, probably, prove to be one of the greatest coal deposits in America, and with all kinds of facilities for transporting it the few intervening miles, there should ever be a deficiency in the market; yet this condition is more frequent than any other, and those who wish to purchase, on finding that there is none on sale, can only say, "Why is it?"

Still Harping.—Notwithstanding the fact that the presidential election has almost ceased to be a subject of interest, pending the final action of the boards of canvassers in the disputed Southern States, Salt Lake is not deficient in the matter of individuals who group together upon the street corners and elsewhere, discussing the question with as much intensity of feeling and earnestness of diction as though their action might possibly have some little effect. To those who are so swallowed up in matters political as to be unable or unwilling to attend to business or discuss other subjects, we would suggest the propriety of keeping cool and awaiting events which they