

AN OBNOXIOUS LAW.

In a letter, recently written from Washington, by Hon. W. H. Hooper to Hon. D. H. Wells, he states that he has introduced a Bill into Congress, repealing the obnoxious provisions in the postal laws, whereby pre-paid letter postage is chargeable on printed matter. This law was passed March 25, 1864; and the section which contains the provisions alluded to is as follows:

"All mailable matter which may be conveyed by mail westward beyond the western boundary of Kansas, and eastward from the eastern boundary of California, shall be subject to prepaid letter-postage rates: *Provided, however,* That this section shall not be held to extend to the transmission by mail of newspapers, [periodicals, magazines, and exchanges,] from a known office of publication to bona fide subscribers, not exceeding one copy to each subscriber, nor to franked matter to and from the immediate points between the boundaries above named, at the usual rates: *Provided, further,* That such franked matter shall be subject to such regulations as to its transmission and delivery as the Postmaster General shall prescribe."

Among the reasons assigned for the passage of this objectionable and unfair law were that the Overland Mail was loaded down with articles which properly ought to have been sent by Parcel Express or freight train. Books sent by mail under the old law cost sixteen cents per pound. Other miscellaneous mailable matter, was transmitted at the rate of two cents each four ounces. It is asserted that these low rates induced numerous parties to make heavy importations through the United States' Mails, loading them down with extraneous matter. We have heard it stated also that parties in the East who were interested in the Isthmus route, anxious to break down the overland mail, sent old books in large quantities from the East to California. Whether all these reasons were correct or not, we can not say; there probably was some foundation for them, and there may have been some exaggeration about them; but it is sufficient for our purpose to say that a Bill was crowded through Congress, and became a law, which cut off all the Territory lying to the westward of the western boundary of Kansas and eastward of the eastern boundary of California from all the benefits of the law regulating the postage on books as enjoyed by the citizens of the other portions of the Union. By the provisions of this new law the people of this Territory have been subjected to great inconvenience and loss. For a considerable period even magazines were stopped at the frontiers, they being viewed as coming within the provisions of this law.

A gentleman of our acquaintance in this city had to send to the East for a small quantity of books which he needed in a great hurry. He wished them to be sent to him by mail. The house to which he sent does an extensive publishing business. The head of the firm wrote to him, in reply: "It seems a terrible imposition on the part of the Government to charge seven dollars and eighty-nine cents for conveying to you books for which I charge you only seven dollars and sixty-five cents. If you lived in California or Oregon, half as far again, the postage on those books would be less than one dollar." This brief extract shows up the glaring inconsistency of the law in a few words. No person who examines it can take any other view than this of it. It is unfair and oppressive, and granting that there were wrongs practiced under it (of which

however, we know nothing) it perpetrates greater evils and injustice than those which it assumes to correct. Those evils can be corrected in some other way, than by precluding hundreds of thousands from privileges to which they are clearly entitled, and of which they should not be deprived, because there are some who have abused the liberality of the Government. We have groaned under this law sufficiently long. It is now time that it be repealed, and we sincerely hope that our Delegation may be successful in obtaining its repeal.

THE TOWN SITE LAW.

We would urge upon the Municipal Authorities in corporate cities, — Mayors and City Councils — and upon County Judges for towns not incorporated, to take immediate advantage of the Town Site Law, the provisions of which are given in No. 82 of the News Semi-weekly, Nov. 19th, and in No. 41 of the News Weekly Nov. 20th, and on which we then wrote fully. There is culpable neglect and indifference manifested by many of the officers on this subject. They should not, by their apathy stand in the way of the people obtaining their rights. They should either act themselves or resign in favor of men who will attend to this and other duties promptly.

[Special to the DESERET EVENING NEWS.]

By Telegraph.

THE ENGLISH CABINET WISH THE HABEAS CORPUS SUSPENDED!

THE U. S. IS LIKELY TO GET CUBA!

Immense Nugget Found in Australia!

TERRIBLE PRIVATION AT TORTELLA!

LABELS FILED AGAINST A NUMBER OF EUROPEAN STEAMERS!

St. Domingo sends an Envoy to Washington!

FORTY MEN BURIED BY A BANK CAVING!

FREEDMEN'S BUREAU OFFICERS TARRIED AND VARNISHED BY NEGROES!

Large Distilleries seized in Philadelphia!

STARVING CONDITION OF FREEDMEN!

Berlin, 20.

A report is current that the Grand Duke of Baden is about to abdicate, and leave the Duchy free to join the North German Confederation.

London, 20.

In view of the recent Fenian outrages, the Cabinet has determined to ask Parliament to suspend the *habeas corpus*.

Washington, 20.

From information obtained by the State Department, it appears that the Ministry has been some time in negotiation with the Spanish Government for the purchase of Cuba, with fair prospects of success.

Buffalo, 20.

The funeral services of the unrecognized victims of the recent disaster is to be held on Sunday. A number of additional bodies have been recognized.

New York, 21.

The *Herald's* Havana special says, the losses by the earthquake at Antiqua reach £10,000.

Advices from Melbourne to November 1st, say a gold nugget weighing 500 ounces, has been found at Sandhurst. Miners are flocking to the new diggings near Neeraborough.

Advices from Panama to the 12th say Prado gained a victory at Araquipa. The city was completely surrounded, and Prado demanded its surrender in three days; and said if refused he would take decisive measures.

The revolution in the north is checked. The Supreme Judges at Bogata are suspected of complicity with the Mosquera treason.

Congress has refused to accept Acosta's resignation.

Mosquera's sentence is commuted to banishment for three years. His ministers are acquitted.

The revolution in Yucatan is bloodlessly through. President Cephada was obliged to flee. The rebels proclaimed that they obeyed Juarez, but objected to Cephada. Colonel Peves is the new Governor, and Villifens the new Commandant. Augustine Iturbide denies all connection with the empire.

Intelligence from Tortella to the 13th says the people are suffering great privations; the dead lie unburied; and pestilence which threatened has been only avoided by burning the corpses.

New York, 23.

Labels have been filed in the District Court against the steamers Saxonia, Hibernia, Siberia City, Washington City, Baltimore, Nebraska and Britannia, of the European lines, for alleged violation of the passenger act in the improper construction of berths.

Havana, 22.

A special says the Dominican authorities have sent an envoy to Washington, probably in relation to the sale or lease of Sanama.

It is reported that the Capital of Hayti has surrendered to Cabral.

The finances of Jamaica are much depressed, and a deficiency of £50,000 has to be made up in additional duties.

Lersundi, the new Captain General of Cuba, has arrived and received most cordial demonstrations of welcome.

A bank caved in, at Shaftsbury, Vermont, on Tuesday, falling forty feet and burying a number of men. Three dead bodies have been recovered.

Montgomery, 22.

A dispatch says the Freedmen's Bureau officers who were trying to swindle the negroes of Alabama, have been tarred and varnished by negroes.

An entire negro family was recently murdered in Baldwin Co.

The *Times'* Panama letter, learns by private advices from Carthage that Seward has demanded in positive terms the persons engaged in the massacre of Confederate officers in the streets of Carthage, to be punished. Several military officers concerned have voluntarily surrendered to the civil authorities, and are now nominally prisoners. There is no doubt but the civil and military authorities connived at the massacre.

Quito correspondence says, for the approaching election for the Presidency, Lopez De Erpingas seemed the favorite candidate.

Philadelphia, 22.

Four large distilleries were seized yesterday on the charge of false returns.

Memphis, 22.

General Ord has dispatched an officer of the Freedmen's Bureau to Washington, to represent to Government the starving condition of the freedmen. A large number of counties are in absolute necessity of some provision being made by Government to feed the armed freedmen and prevent a war of races, which would occur in such sections without they are fed. Ord also instructed the commandants of posts to request the leading colored men to give general notice that all the freedmen who are able will be required to earn their own living during the coming year, and they must go to work on the best terms that can be procured. Freedmen refusing to work for a livelihood, when employment can be procured, will be punished as vagrants, and sheriffs and police officers are requested to co-operate in the enforcement of this order.

Toledo, 22.

The Michigan Southern Railroad elevator, with eighty thousand bushels of wheat, was burned last night. Loss \$300,000.

WE have been at some pains to procure the facts regarding the performance of the Cesarean operation which took place in the western part of the city, about two weeks ago. This operation gave the surname to the first Roman Emperor, who is said to have been brought into the world in this manner. It may be rendered necessary by a variety of reasons; in the late case, a badly deformed pelvis imperatively demanded it to save the mother's life. The operation consists in making an incision of about six inches in length into the abdominal cavity, then into the cavity of the uterus, and extracting the child through this aperture. The case in question occurred in the person of a young woman aged 16 years. Dr. Dibble was called after the patient had been in labor 48 hours, the serious deformity was soon discovered, and the counsel and assistance of Dr. Lindsley was requested, who advised the Cesarean operation.

A counsel of physicians was called, consisting of Drs. N. B. Ives, L. Ives, Blake, Dagget, Hubbard, Lindsley, C. L. Ives, Bulkley, Townsend, Dibble, and R. S. Ives, which was very nearly unanimous that the Cesarean section afforded the best chance for the mother's life, and Dr. Townsend was requested to perform the operation, which he did in a brilliant and satisfactory manner. The patient is considered as nearly out of danger, and the child is perfectly healthy. A good deal of interest attaches to this operation on

account of the great mortality attending it, which is variously estimated at from 40 to 80 per cent.

Probably the operation was never performed in the United States with entire success until about 40 years since, when, in Philadelphia, it was twice submitted to by the same patient — the interval between the two operations being about two-and-a-half years. Mother and child ren survived.

It was never before performed in this city, though there is a tradition that it occurred somewhere in Litchfield Co., about 50 years ago. — [Weekly Register.]

STRANGE RESULT OF A FALL.

The Dayton (O.) Journal, of the 9th ult., relates an incident, which, though very curious, is by no means incredible. It appears that eighteen years ago, Miss Margaret Conover, daughter of Mr. Ralph Conover, of that city, was suddenly afflicted with a swelling at the knee-joint, which was so painful that she was confined to her room, and was unable to walk. A number of physicians tried their skill upon the afflicted member, but to no purpose. Indeed, Miss Conover seemed to get worse under all treatment, until at length she became not only permanently lame, but her general health was very much impaired. And for about eighteen years she could not touch her feet to the floor — indeed, she could scarcely bear anyone to touch it — and she was not able to walk at all without the aid of crutches.

One day last week, Miss Martha was alone in her room up stairs, engaged in sewing, when she had occasion to walk a short distance to procure an article which she needed, and when in the act of sitting down again, she missed the chair, and her weight coming down on the crooked knee, the muscles snapped, and the leg straightened for the first time in many years. This astonishing result was attended with some pain, yet, after resting a few moments, Miss Conover found that she could bear a portion of her weight on the afflicted member. Procuring an old shoe, to give additional length to the leg, she found that she could walk a little.

Then she formed the determination of giving her family a joyful surprise. For several days she practiced walking without aid of crutches, in the absence of her friends, until she felt that she could trust herself to walk alone; and then on Thursday evening of last week, Miss Martha overjoyed her family by walking across the room without any aid whatever!

She is yet a little lame, but it is believed that she will gradually entirely regain her strength; and have the perfect use of her limb. This is certainly one of the most astonishing and gratifying instances of the recovery of a deformed limb that we have ever heard of.

BLUNDERS. — Tintoret, in a picture representing the Israelites gathering manna in the desert, has armed the Hebrews with guns; and a modern Neapolitan artist has represented the holy family, during their journey to Egypt, as passing the Nile in a barge as richly ornamented as that of Cleopatra. Breughel, a Dutch painter, in a picture of eastern magi, has, according to the grotesque fashion of his country, drawn the Indian king in a large white surplice, with boots and spurs, and bearing in his hand, as a present to the holy child, the model of a Dutch seventy-four. Raffrae has thrown churchmen in their robes at the feet of our Savior when an infant; and Aligarotti relates that Paul Veronese introduced several Benedictines among the guests at Cana. An altar-piece in a church at Capua, painted by Chella delle Puera, representing the Annunciation, is a curious collection of absurdities. The Virgin is seated in a rich arm-chair of crimson velvet, with gold flowers; a cat and parrot placed near her, seem extremely attentive to the whole scene; and on a table are a silver coffee pot and cup. A modern Italian has painted the same subject in a way equally absurd. The Virgin is on her knees near the toilet; on a chair are thrown a variety of fashionable dresses, which show that, in the painter's opinion, at least, she must have been a practiced coquette; and at a little distance appears a cat, with its head lifted up towards the angel, and its ears on end to catch what he has got to say. Paulo Mitzochi painted a piece representing the four elements, in which fishes marked the sea, moles the earth, and a salamander the fire. He wished to represent the air by a chameleon; but not knowing how to draw that scarce animal, he contented himself, from a similarity of sounds, to introduce a camel, who, extending his long neck, snuffs up the breeze around him.