

Deseret Evening News.

GEORGE C. CANNON, Editor.

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CONGRESSIONAL PRIVILEGES.

There must have been some amusement in the House of Representatives the other day over the remarks of Mr. Stevens, during the discussion of the Deficiency Appropriation Bill. He said that some of the members procured under the name of stationery—pantaloons, shirts, and shaving soap sufficient to last for years; and some of them had run up a stationery account to nearly a thousand dollars! This is a damaging statement to come from the leader of the House, and the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, whose opportunities for obtaining a knowledge of this subject, enable him to talk by the book.

Mr. Julian also offered a resolution, instructing the Post Office Committee to inquire into the expediency of totally abolishing the franking privilege.

It seems that some of the leading members of the House are looking closely after the abuses that prevail; but whether their statements and action will have any effect in checking them, or not, remains to be proved. It would be something very wonderful if they did. Some rather tough stories are told about the abuse of the franking privilege by members of Congress, which many affirm to be true. We once heard of a member sending a side-saddle through the Post Office under his frank, and it is asserted that it is not unfrequent for members to send their dirty linen home to be washed in some way!

It is exceedingly difficult for a legislative body to correct the abuses of which its members themselves are guilty. They may be stern and severe in dealing with the mal-practices of others, on the principle that it is much easier to point out and correct the faults of others than it is to see our own; but they will fail to see the propriety of being very rigid with themselves. Efforts to correct existing evils of this kind are spasmodic, and are generally made to prevent the opposing party from taking advantage of those evils to raise popular party cries and watch-words. The country will soon be entering upon another Presidential campaign, and politicians are on the alert to seize every advantage that will aid their own party and injure the prospects of their opponents.

There are, without doubt, some men in Congress who would willingly do all they could to retrench and cut down the expenses in which they share; but they are sadly in the minority. We understand that, just at present, Congress is very close-fisted and is uncommonly zealous in scrutinizing every claim on the Treasury. The stagnation of business in the East probably contributes to produce this feeling. But the days of republican simplicity, when country stood first and self and party as a minor consideration in the minds of our public men, have gone by; and under the present order of things never to return.

For the Deseret Evening News.
"AS A MAN THINKETH IN HIS HEART, SO IS HE."

It is said that the vast beds or reefs of coral, which are found beneath the surface of the ocean—and which have, in some instances, grown into islands upon which farms have been made and cities built—have been formed by the almost imperceptibly gradual deposits of millions of animalcules that inhabit the briny deep. These infinitesimal atoms, so small that the naked eye cannot perceive them, and so pliable that the gentlest ripple will leave its

impress upon their newly formed surface, eventually become so firm and unyielding that the storm-lashed waves, in their wildest fury, can make no impression upon them.

So it is with living intelligences. The little momentary thoughts that no eye can see, so trifling that we scarcely deem them worthy of our own attention, are, nevertheless, though silently and slowly, yet steadily, surely, hourly, nay momentarily, forming our characters for good or evil. Words and actions are but the reflex of our thoughts—the outward fruit that springs from the seed planted and cherished in the hidden soil of the mind. If we would become pure, wise and noble in character and conduct we must cherish and cultivate thoughts of a kindred character. If we desire to see our offspring grow up men and women of virtue, integrity, faith and wisdom, we must give a proper direction to their thoughts; then, as they advance in years, they will become firm and strong in the cause of truth and right, the storms of temptation and the waves of malice will spend their fury upon them in vain and fall in impotent rage at their feet, while they will stand erect in all the majesty of conscious dignity and unshaken virtue.

How shall this be done? By presenting before the mind images of the pure and true; by feeding it with its proper and healthful aliment—Truth. The mind will think upon what the eyes see or the ear listens to. If we look upon, hear or read that which is vicious and corrupting, our thoughts will be vitiated and our character, to a greater or less extent, degraded. But if we read and listen to that which is good, our thoughts cannot but partake of goodness and our characters will be proportionately purified and elevated. How little do we realize to what a great extent our characters, prosperity and happiness depend on the nature of the books and papers we peruse, and on the apparently insignificant portions of time we occupy in reading. Let us read that which is good and truthful and we shall find less difficulty in controlling our thoughts and moulding our characters according to our highest desires.

W. H. S.

By Telegraph.

San Francisco, 23.—The Senate, today, adopted a resolution to appoint a Joint Committee to investigate the charges of corruption in connection with the Senatorial election.

Acapulco advices of January 7, state that the people of the State of Guerrero are obtaining confidence in the political affairs of the Republic, and that business is improving. The mail route between the city of Mexico and Acapulco is opened. The first mail carried arrived in five days. Robberies in the interior are increasing; no stage passes un-molested. The villages and small cities are being plundered and the people assassinated since the unfortunate expedition of Colonel Barrera. General Alvarez obtained a victory without firing a shot. A hundred and thirty-four Puéblas recognize his authority, and the whole coast is now defenceless. Zirunenes could easily take possession of the estate of Alvarez in the neighborhood of Acapulco. A coasting vessel from Manzanillo has brought the news that General Corona was on the point of embarking for Mazatlan, where serious disturbances had taken place on account of the election of Rubi as Governor. Business at Colonia was dull, no conduct could leave for the want of the necessary funds to pay an escort.

Late Arizona advices say that General Palmer of the Southern Pacific Railroad survey expresses the opinion that the road will be built in the thirty-fifth parallel. It is reported that the parties surveying the Gila route, may possibly change the road to the thirty-second parallel, but that is thought to be doubtful. Palmer has placed a corps of surveyors on the line from Teachachapi to San Francisco, and has sent back a party of engineers from the Colorado river to correct the survey from the thirty-fifth parallel to the Rio Grande. It is the intention of Palmer to proceed immediately to Washington via San Francisco, to make the report in time to secure some Congressional assistance for the Southern Company if granted a central road. The Territory has been visited with heavy rains; the low country is flooded, rendering the roads impassable. The San Gabriel river has overflowed its banks and has inundated the finest farming country in Southern California, flooding the town of El Monte. The Indians are quiet in the vicinity of Williams' fork. Work in the copper

mines is being carried on vigorously. The great Central Company have struck a large body of rich ore, known as gray sulphure, in the lower tunnel. The Janet and Springfield Companies continue to work with satisfactory results. George W. Dent, Territorial Superintendent of Indian affairs, is a candidate for Congress. He is brother-in-law of Gen. Grant.

Correspondence.

By the kindness of Bro. N. H. Felt we have been favored with the following letter from his son, Joseph, one of the missionaries to the South.

St. Thomas, Pah-Ute Co., A. T., Sunday, Jan. 5th, 1883.

Dear Folks at Home.—We received your letter of Nov. 19th last week, it being forwarded from Harmony to St. George, and from there here. We have not had any mails for two weeks previous, on account of high water. The "Beaver Dam," a small creek fifty-five miles from here, towards St. George, rose so high that it swept away eight or ten houses and all their farms and vineyards. At Millersville, on the Santa Clara, the flood tore up their farms and drowned some of their stock. The Muddy was very high. It flooded nearly all the land at St. Joseph, making it very bad for the boys putting in their crops. The water rose so suddenly that the boys who were out in the fields had to swim home. It has done little or no damage here, as our farming land is higher up from the creek.

My lot of five acres, down on the banks of the Virgen, is as good a piece of land as I wish for, it having been cultivated, and is now ready for the plough. Our lots face east and west. Mine is first to the north, S. H. Hill's next, H. P. Folsom's next and John Sharp, Jr., next. We are about three-quarters of a mile from the fort. Hyrum, John and I are in partnership. We have about eight acres plowed now, and shall plow another to-morrow, so we will have three acres apiece, which we shall plant in wheat this week. Then we will have two acres for corn and potatoes, which grow well, if planted in the right season—potatoes in February, and corn as soon as we get our wheat harvested, in June. We plant our cotton in May. I think we can raise anything we want here as soon as we learn the best seasons for planting. We can plant our wheat in October, harvest it in June and plant corn on the same ground. As soon as that is off, we can put in another crop of wheat. We intend to sow, harrow, water and harvest our own grain. We will likely have thirty or forty bushels of wheat to the acre. My lucerne I shall plant in my 2½ acre vineyard, also melons, cucumbers, cane, etc. We have lots of work to do besides our farm work. We have adobies to make and houses to build. I think of building back on my city lot so that I can use the house for a stable when I get able to build a better one. Then we have lots of public work—making ditches, draining the swamp, building a corral, etc., etc.

I hope I shall succeed in exchanging my wheat for some here, and get my things brought down from St. George, for although it is only 150 miles from here to Harmony, it is more like 300, the roads being so sandy and bad. Then our horses are hardly fit for such a trip, for I have no grain to feed them, yet they keep up first rate. The old settlers are very kind to us, giving us chaff and straw to feed our animals.

Perhaps you would like to know how we spent our Christmas and New Year. Well, on Christmas we were hunting our horses till noon, got a load of wood in the afternoon and went to a dance in the evening. The next day we commenced plowing. New Year's day we plowed till 3 o'clock, only think of plowing January 1st, when I suppose they were sleighing where you are. Then we came home, had fresh beef roasted, (ribs cost 18 cents per pound here) apple pudding, sauce, pie and bread. Don't we live! Then we all went to a party in our school house. While there the news was received of the death of Lucy Spencer Grant, which took us by surprise and cast a gloom over our pleasures.

Do you want to know how I feel about my mission? First rate! We found everything here much better than we expected. Good land, good water, plenty of grass for grazing and hay, plenty of wood—mesquite or mesquite six inches through, and driftwood on the Virgen, a pleasant climate—working at present in our shirt sleeves, very little rain and the wind some strong at times.

pected. Our only trouble is want of lumber which is 150 miles distant now, but will be only 80 miles distant when they get a steam saw mill in our nearest timber. We have two encampments of Indians here; they are all willing to work, the women to wash, the men to herd, often taking our horses off at night and bringing them back in the morning. They will cut wood, grub, or do anything, some of them working as well as any white man. They will work three days for a shirt, and five days for a pair of denim overhauls, costing 40 qts. at auction in S. L. City, Col. Reese hired one to work 9 days for 3 yards of factory. Of course we must board them. I have nothing to hire them with. I often wish I had a few auction shirts or pants or beads, for I could get my adobies made, but then we get along first rate. We have health and strength, and above all, the satisfaction of knowing we are doing our duty. We have a good bishop—br. James Leif-head—bros. Warren Foote and Andrew Gibbon are his councilors.

Monday evening. All well. I have just got home from the field. I have been plowing on my land to-day.

I must close as the mail starts in the morning. It arrives from, and leaves for the north, or should do, every Tuesday and Friday. You could send letters via Pahranagat, which is 100 miles north-west of here.

LOCAL ITEMS.

THEATRICAL.—Mr. McKenzie's benefit last night was a success in attendance and in playing. The "Huguenot Captain" is a stirring, exciting piece, full of dangers and escapes, in which Rene De Pardillan, the Huguenot Captain, Annibal Locust, a drunken sergeant, the Duchess Jeanne, Gabrielle her niece, Ismael a Bohemian, and his band, are the principle characters. Mr. McKenzie played with much vigor, and the characters intrusted to Messrs. Margetts, Lindsay, Hardie, Graham, Miss Adams, Miss Colebrook and Miss Alexander, were admirably rendered. Mr. Margetts' Locust kept the house in boisterous laughter. The exciting love scene between Pardillan and Gabrielle, in the last act, reminded us strongly of Artemus Ward's sensational and affecting story, of the "Mormon Bishop" and his twenty four wives at a performance of the Lady of Lyons. When the Bishop—so Artemus said—saw Melnotte snivelling about Pauline, he arose indignant, and preceding the long line of his feminine partners, marched out of the Theatre, muttering that he "wasn't going to sit there and see a man make such a chuffed fool of himself over one woman!" Such rhapsodies might be "cut" considerably without injury to the effect of the piece, and with advantage in its effects. The costumes and appointments in the play were equal to anything we have seen; the dancing of the young ladies, Misses Alexander, Clive, Louise and Susie, was very good; the scenery was excellent; and the repeated applause throughout testified the approbation of the audience.

The play was followed by Miss Nunn in a character song, which was encored. Then Mr. McKenzie gave a recitation, and tendered his thanks to the public. The farce of "Nature and Philosophy" followed, and was well played by Messrs. McKenzie and Lindsay, Miss Adams, Miss Alexander and Mrs. Henrie.

To-morrow night the beautiful comedy of "Extremes" will be presented. This is one of the finest comedies in the language, and our company plays it in most excellent style. The full strength of the company appears in it. A very laughable farce "The Two Poles" will follow; Miss Nunn singing a character song between.

THE WEATHER, to-day, is dull and cloudy. The following is by Deseret Telegraph Line:—

Logan; a little cloudy and cold.
Brigham City; snowed all night, but clear at present.
Payson; warm and pleasant; a few clouds.
Nephi; a few scattering clouds; warm and pleasant; eight inches of snow.
Mount Pleasant; fine; a little cloudy.
Chicken Creek; sun shining very brightly; snow five inches deep.
Round Valley; a little cloudy; rather pleasant; two inches of snow.
Tukerville; very cloudy, but not quite so cold as it has been.
St. George; very pleasant, and mud drying very fast; rather cloudy. Thermometer 60.

SEND IT ON.—The Idaho Statesman says: "Mr. Barney and Mr. Welch, brother of the man murdered near Malad station three weeks ago, returned to this city last night with the body of the murdered man, en route for Oregon City, the home of the family. Very little doubt was obtained by the men concerning the highwaymen, but it is believed they are in Utah Territory."

We have officers in this Territory who are of acknowledged capability. Send on the reasons why those highwaymen are believed to be in this Territory, and let them be hunted out if they are here, that justice may take its course.

INFORMATION WANTED.—There is a letter in this Office, from JOHN SMITH, of Bannock Chase, near Walsall, Staffordshire, England, making inquiries concerning JOSEPH WARD and wife, and WILLIAM WARD, and containing information which they might wish to have. When the writer last heard from them, they were living at West Jordan.

CAN AFFORD.—The following paragraph from the Cleveland Herald shows that the writer can appreciate good, sensible advice.

His comments are sound: "Brigham Young, in one of his late sermons to Mormon disciples, said 'work less, wear less, eat less, and we shall be a great deal wiser, healthier and wealthier people than by taking the course we now do.' I follow his advice. I who can say that is not good advice. We labor until nature is exhausted to indulge our appetites for dress and food, and then we finish up the week that is left by suicide at the hands of the drunkard or the cook."