



ELIAS SMITH.....EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Wednesday...February 27, 1861.

TO OUR PATRONS AND READERS.

As this number completes the tenth volume of the *Deseret News*, we deem it not improper to say to those of our patrons whose term of subscription herewith expires, that we expect a renewal of the same on or before the day on which the first number of volume eleven will be issued, yet we do not solicit a continuance of their patronage, unless they are thus inclined.

That we have given full satisfaction to all since we have occupied the editorial chair, we are not so vain as to believe, neither do we expect to do so in future. No apologies are made or intended, and we only wish to say that in the discharge of all the various duties we have had to perform, we have ever endeavored to do the best we could, as circumstanced at the time, and then abide the result.

During the past year many important events have transpired, both in the old and new world, in which the citizens of Deseret have had more than a passing interest; and to keep our readers posted up in the history of the times, the columns of the *News* have been chiefly devoted. Such may be expected to be the case hereafter, to a great extent, but in so doing, local matters, and the interests of the citizens of the Territory of Utah, must not be forgotten.

What at the immediate future may develop or bring forth, we are not prepared to state, but verily believe, that the events that will transpire during the year eighteen hundred and sixty-one will be fully as interesting and exciting as were those of eighteen hundred and sixty. The revolution in the United States has but just commenced, and as it progresses, whether it moves fast or slow, the people in these peaceful and secluded valleys will continue to be more and more interested in what may be transpiring from time to time, not only in North America, but in other parts of the earth; and it will continue to be our endeavor while occupying our present position, to keep them advised of what may be going on in the world, so far as time and space will permit.

By the pony express, we have for some weeks past been in the receipt of the latest intelligence from the east, which has generally been published as soon as received, knowing the anxiety of the community generally to hear the latest news from the States, since the work of dissolution has been progressing there so rapidly. How long the present facilities for the transmission of intelligence between the frontiers and this Territory may continue, is unknown. Changes may be made, the express may be discontinued and mail service suspended, but there will, in all probability, be some way of obtaining information concerning passing events, at no very distant day, after their transpiration, and when received it may be expected to be published as soon as circumstances may favor.

Those who may be in arrears for subscription, or are otherwise indebted to the office, will of course come forward shortly and adjust the same satisfactorily, as a better time than the present for attending to such matters, may not soon be expected.

We had intended, ere this, to have made out and forwarded to each of the agents, a statement of their several accounts, that they might be enabled to take the necessary steps for cancellation. Orders from many of them for the next volume have been received, and in most instances will be filled. To those who have made inquiries as to terms, we have to say, that under existing circumstances, we are unable to announce any change at present; but wish it distinctly understood, that no person wishing to subscribe, is obliged to do so to an agent, unless such be the subscriber's choice. The papers can be mailed direct to all who wish to receive them through the Post Office, on making the necessary arrangements, that is, complying with the terms of subscription, when thus ordered.

There are several settlements in the Territory, to which mail facilities have not been extended, and the prospects are not favorable for the establishment of new post routes in this or in any other Territory or State very soon. Subscribers in such localities will, as heretofore, have to make their own arrangements in relation to obtaining their papers, either from the office or from the nearest point to which they may be conveyed by mail.

Washington's Birthday.

On Friday last, 22d inst., there was a grand ball in commemoration of Washington's birthday, at the Social Hall, in this city. The company was composed of a goodly number of distinguished citizens and residents of the city and county, including Presidents Young, Kimball and Wells; Bishop Hunter, Governor Cumming, Secretary Wootton, Judges Kinney and Crosby, and other Governmental officers and *attachees*, all of whom, without exception, evidently enjoyed themselves in the highest degree; and, if the "small and the great were there," they mingled together in the dance without distinction. It has been a long time since we attended a more pleasant, agreeable, intellectual and highly interesting party. The Hall was appropriately decorated and fitted up for the occasion, and there was nothing wanting to render the entertainment of the evening complete.

Attachment of the Mail and Express Animals.

A few days since, there was a little excitement raised in this city, by the circulation of a report, that all the stock belonging to the Mail and Express Company in this Territory, had been attached at the suit of Livingston, Bell & Co.; in consequence of which, the Mail and Express would be stopped, and no further communications might be expected from the East very soon, which, in these exciting times would certainly be a great inconvenience, not to say calamity.

The report that the animals had been attached, was correct, but we are credibly informed that there was no intention on the part of the Plaintiffs in the case, to interfere with the transmission of the mail, nor to prevent the "pony" from making its regular trips, for the present, at least, and not at all, if the matter of indebtedness shall be otherwise satisfactorily adjusted. If we rightly understand the matter, the transaction may be considered more favorable than otherwise, to the continuance of existing mail and express arrangements.

MARCH SESSION OF THE PROBATE COURT.—The regular Sessions of the Probate Courts in the Territory are, by law, appointed to be held on the second Mondays of March, June, September and December; but when the District Court, is to sit in a county on either of said days, the Probate Court for said county is required to be held on the first Monday.

The District court for the Third District, having been appointed to be held in this city, for Territorial business, on the second Monday in March, the next session of the Probate Court for Great Salt Lake county, will be held on Monday next, March 4th, in accordance with the statutes in such case made and provided.

SUPPLEMENTARY WINTER.—For some days previous to Thursday last, the weather had been quite warm and spring-like, and the snow had very generally disappeared from the uplands in this valley. During that day it was very evident to the weatherwise, that a storm was impending. At about nine in the evening there was a slight shower of rain, followed by snow, and between that time, and four o'clock next morning, it fell to the depth of about six inches. The weather, during Friday and Saturday, was decidedly wintry. Since Sunday morning, it has been thawing slowly, with a fine prospect that this, to some, unexpected *addenda* to winter, will soon pass away.

NORTH TEMPLE STREET.—Extensive improvements are being made on North Temple street, which, when completed according to the plan that has been proposed, will make it a very pleasant street, much more so than it has been since it was so seriously damaged by the surplus waters of City creek.

The expense of the proposed improvement will amount to several thousand dollars.

Escape from, and Uselessness of, the Penitentiary.

A few nights since, six convicts escaped from the Utah Penitentiary and have not as yet been found and secured. They unquestionably went north, as several horses were stolen soon after between this city and Ogden.

The particulars of their escape we have not definitely learned, but report says that one of the prisoners managed to get out of his cell and then, with wooden keys, let out the others, when, by means of a rope made of blankets torn up for the purpose, they succeeded in scaling the walls and put out. The Warden had but recently entered upon the duties of his office, and not anticipating a movement of the kind, had only one guard on duty at the time.

There was but one convict—Clark—who did not escape; and he was let out of his cell by the others, but would not go with them; he however gave no alarm, and the prisoners having all things in readiness, effected their escape so quickly and quietly that they were off before the guard was apprized of their movements.

The Penitentiary, at best, is but a poor, miserable, unfinished concern, and not at all suitable for the purpose for which it was intended. We have ever considered it an expensive nuisance, and the confining of prisoners in it but a mockery, as there has never been any certainty of the officers in charge being able to keep those sentenced to confinement within its walls till their term of imprisonment should expire, and to the best of our knowledge and belief, but very few convicts have remained there till they had a right to say, let me go hence.

It is of but little use to arrest men for the commission of crimes, put them upon trial and, when found guilty, to sentence them to confinement in a prison from which they can easily escape, unless guarded at an enormous expense. A punishment of that kind is no terror to those who do not respect the laws of their country, nor the rights of their fellow beings, and has no tendency whatever to deter them from the commission of offences punishable with imprisonment, not as much as the certainty of having the penalty inflicted to the latter, even if it was but light—five or ten days imprisonment or to wear a ball and chain and, when thus adorned, be required to work on the highways or streets—the observed of all passers-by. Persons having predilections for the commission of unlawful deeds, have been benefited and improved in, by gone days, by having been compelled to toe the mark when found guilty of transgressions of law the punishment for which was not confinement, with or without labor, in a prison from which they could escape at will; but, if a reformation has ever been effected in an erring human being, by shutting him up in any modern prison or penitentiary, we do not know when, where nor who he was.

Notwithstanding our aversion to the penitentiary system, so universally in use among the nations professing civilization and christianity, for the punishment of crimes, we sincerely regret the escape of the prisoners to which we have referred, as we fear it will have a very injurious effect in more than one particular; but as there is but one poor fellow now retained in the Penitentiary, and that one unquestionably illegally confined, we trust His Excellency will extend to him the benefit of his pardoning power, and then, if the prison shall be blown down by the force of a wind, its strength cannot resist, inasmuch as the Government of the States will not be very likely to rebuild it, in such an event, the next Legislature will unquestionably devise some other and more certain and effectual way of punishing violations of the criminal laws of the Territory than now exists. After that shall have been done, property will be more secure, and violations of law will be less frequent than they now are.

Since writing the foregoing, we have been informed, that Clark has been set at liberty, having been the recipient of Executive clemency. If so, the Territorial prison has now no convicts within its walls and, if those who recently escaped shall not be retaken, of which there is no probability, as they have unquestionably fled the country, the Warden, to whom no blame is attached for what has transpired, can attend to other business matters till the courts sit, when his services as prison keeper will doubtless be again required.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH

AND PONY EXPRESS.

FROM THE ATLANTIC STATES.

The pony express, with eastern dates up to the 16th inst., arrived in this city between 2 and 3 o'clock on Sunday morning.

Captain Morrison, of the revenue cutter, *Lewis Cass*, had sent in his resignation to the Treasury department at Washington, and acknowledged that he had surrendered his vessel to the State authorities of Alabama. The government have concluded to accept no such resignations from secessionists. The following order had been issued:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, }
Feb. 11th, 1861. }

J. J. Morrison, of Georgia, a Captain in the revenue cutter service of the United States, late in command of the *Lewis Cass*, having in violation of his official oath, and of his duty to the government, surrendered his vessel to the State of Alabama, it is hereby directed that his name be stricken off the rolls of the said service.

By order of the President of the United States.

Signed, JOHN A. DIX,
Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT ASKS IMMEDIATE RELIEF.

In the House, on the 12th, Mr. Sherman, chairman of the committee of ways and means, sent up a letter from the secretary of the Treasury, showing the deplorable condition of his department, and suggesting a mode of relief. Mr. Sherman asked leave to introduce a bill requiring the Secretary to accept from any State a guarantee of any stock which may be issued by the United States, to the amount of the public money deposited with such state, under the Distribution Act. Mr. Sherman said that if relief was to be given, the bill should be passed that day. Mr. Garrett, of Virginia, said that if unanimous consent was required it should not be given while he was a member of the House. Mr. Sherman said that he had reported the bill reluctantly. Mr. Barr, of New York, attacked Mr. Garrett, and said that the latter gentleman would break up the government and leave it without money. Mr. G. succeeded in preventing the bill from being introduced.

ABSTRACTION OF THE INDIAN BONDS.

Mr. Morris made a report from the special committee on the Indian Bond abstraction case, which he reported to be unanimous. Mr. Haskin wished the report read, as it would explain why the treasury was empty. After debate and confusion, it was read. Mr. Pryor contended that it was not unanimous. Ordered printed.

THE FLOYD—RUSSELL—BAILEY OPERATIONS.

The report of the select committee gives detailed facts relative to the abstraction of the Indian bonds. Thirty to forty witnesses had been examined, including ex-Secretaries Floyd and Thompson. The latter is exonerated from any complicity in the theft; but he, as well as the former Secretaries of the Interior, is censured for the inefficient manner in which the bonds had been held in that Department, there being no adequate responsibility attached to the custodian. According to Russell's own evidence, he did not know where the bonds, of which he obtained possession, came from. Birely was an agent in the negotiation for the sale of the bonds, and Case was an intermediate party between Russell and Bailey. It was also ascertained that Floyd gave acceptances to the amount of nearly seven millions, or, from two to three millions more than Majors, Russell & Co. ever earned. While these contractors had received all the money that ever was due them, acceptances had been given on the strength of their contract.

Senator Benjamin was an important witness. About a year ago, he had received a letter from Duncan, Sherman & Co., asking him to ascertain whether Mr. Floyd's acceptances were good. Mr. Benjamin called on the President, who said that he knew nothing about them, or any law authorizing their issue. Mr. Benjamin then called on Floyd who said that the acceptances were in accordance with the usages of the Department, and were done conditionally as to the arrival of trains from one point to another. Mr. Benjamin reminded him of the impropriety of such a course of procedure, and Floyd said