

## DESERET NEWS

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - FEB. 28, 1877.

## WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

TO-MORROW will be a general holiday in commemoration of the anniversary of the birth of the first President of the United States, which occurred 145 years ago on the Virginia bank of the Potomac.

It is fitting that the memory of good and great men, who have wielded remarkable influence upon the destiny of the country, should be revered with feelings of patriotic enthusiasm. For such men are none too numerous. They may rightly be made much of, and their memory be kept fresh and green in the minds of their countrymen, that their virtues may be kept in view and emulated by those who come after them, to the end that the country may be and remain soundly prosperous.

It is fitting, too, at this particular time, when party spirit runs so high, and when political corruption prevails so extensively, that the example of those who are believed to have been pure patriots should be looked up to, and held up often before the whole republic, that peradventure many of the people may become at least copyists of the noble traits discoverable in the best representatives of American citizenship and manhood. All may not be Washingtons, but all may look upon the virtues of Washington, and strive, to the best of their ability, to rival him therein. For this reason and with this purpose, then, it is good to lay aside ordinary duties for a day now and then, and reflect upon men and things of high character, measure ourselves and our acts conscientiously by the standard thus recalled to mind, see how we stand, and whether the signs are of an advancing or of a retrograde character, and profit accordingly.

## DISGUSTED PEOPLE AND HASTY UTTERANCES.

Most people politically inclined get more or less excited over the current presidential electoral business. But too much excitement is not a paying investment. The New York Sun recently had a triple headed leader, vehemently urging that the electoral commission was utterly unconstitutional and that its decisions should be held void.

Rev. Petroleum V. Nashby, "ex-reformer," is disgusted over the situation and thus gives vent to his feelings—

"I wuz wunst in favor uv the Joint Commishn, and was eager to hev it. When it wuz ez good ez shoar that a majority uv the Judges wood be Democratic, givin us a majority ov one in the lot, I bleevd it to be constooshnel. When it lookt ez tho we cood get Tilden and Reform in that way and make me shoov uv my post-offis, I preferd it to blood. With Bradley on the commishun the Corners is clearly uv the opinyon that it is unconstooshnel. Such a thing wuz never contemplated by the fathers, it wuz never done afore, and ther aint no precedent for it."

Some very hard things have been said of the commission, both in and out of Congress. Of course all the disappointed are disgusted, and many of them have sensationally emphatic methods of expressing their disgust. One man appears to have put his foot into it rather deeply in this way, and that is Don Platt, editor of the Washington Capital. Always outspoken, that paper has long been at political enmity with President Grant and the party in power, and has said some bitter and personal things of them. Its recent utterances concerning the electoral commission have been so hot and hasty that the administration has taken huge offence, and our dispatches state that the President has determined to sue Mr. Platt for libel on him-

self. It is also further stated that the offending gentleman was to be arrested to-day (Feb. 20) on a charge of seditious writing, an act which is held to be punishable by both common and statute law.

Discretion before the offence is always the better part of valor. After the offence there is much less room for discretion, and it is generally of less beneficial effect. Judge Jere. Black manifested a little of this quality of early discretion when he remarked, though somewhat excitedly, as he is reported to have done, "When you've got your hand in a lion's mouth, it's exceedingly bad policy to be making faces at the fellow at the other end, twisting that lion's tail." Or at the lion either, for the matter of that. But discretion in time is not the commonest characteristic, even of politicians, who are supposed to study the diplomatic art in greater or less degree.

## GRACE GREENWOOD ON THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION.

GRACE GREENWOOD tells the following little story apropos of the electoral arbitration commission—

"An honest old Georgia negro on his way home from market, where he had been to sell chickens, and when he had sold all of his lot except one, encountered a shrewd white acquaintance, who, looking on the chicken, and finding it goodly, coolly proposed to the owner to put it up to be played for in a game of euchre. The owner being a guileless and pious African—'hoping all things, believing all things'—assented. They had a small game, and the black man lost. As he took the stake, a fine fat pullet, rather reluctantly from his basket and handed it over to the winner, the latter cheerily remarked, 'It was a fair game, you know, Uncle.' 'O yes, sar, I 'spect it was,' replied the bewildered loser, scratching his head, 'a fair game—but den, 'pears to me you didn't put nothin' up again dat dar chicken.'"

## WILL IT PAY?

THE question comes up whether the tripartite arbitration commission will pay. It is a question, like many others, concerning which much may be said on both sides.

It seems to be conceded that the commission was the only apparent available means of saving the Union from division and in all probability war and destruction, the only available means to preserve the unity and integrity of the government and advance the peace, progress, and prosperity of the country.

If the above were the fact, and the labors of the commission should result as thus anticipated, then so far the commission will pay, and the idea of its creation was a happy thought.

There are other ways, however, in which the commission will not pay. As things now look, the time and means expended by and over the commission will be a dead loss, for the reason that its decisions are not materially different to those expected from the President of the Senate. If Congress had trusted the count to him as usual, the expectation was that he would have counted Hayes and Wheeler in, which is precisely the thing that the commission have virtually done. Where then is the gain and advantage of having the commission? Whence comes the return for the means, time, energy, and anxiety expended upon it?

The action of the commission has proved, what the people did not believe previously, that partisanship rules all the departments of the government—the executive, the legislative, and the judicial. It was well known to be so as regards the two first long since, but as regards the last it was fondly believed to be otherwise, the hope was hugged that there was one last high resort which partisanship had failed to badly bias—the supreme court of judicature of the Union. That hope has proved to be vain. Judges are but human, and what official human in this great republic is not swayed by partisanship? In this respect the commission evidently will not pay.

The decisions of the commission so far have confirmed the prevailing opinion that the next President of the United States will acquire his

high position on the strength of glaring and undeniable fraud, inciting and fostering the idea of impunity in election frauds in the future. In this respect, it can hardly be said that the commission will pay.

Lastly, what must be the influence on the public mind and the public morals in general, as the conviction spreads that the high places of the nation are at best but partisan prizes, and that things have so far degenerated beyond that point that those high places have become also the prizes of unblushing partisan fraud? Can any possible good result flow from such a conviction? Hardly. In this respect it may be said that the commission is a blank failure, and will not pay in the least degree.

## THE LAST WEEK.

THE present week is the last of the administration of U. S. Grant as President of the United States, and it is the last week of the present and last session of the Forty-fourth Congress, the fourth of March being the lawful day for the inauguration of the next President and for the close of the present Congress.

During his eight years of office as Chief Magistrate of the United States, the subject of Utah has many times come up before him. In the former part of his administration, being prejudiced by those who took a delight in misrepresenting the condition of things in this Territory, in order to further their own nefarious purposes, he was inclined to advocate and push severe measures towards the people of this region, with what exact intent it is difficult to tell, it being usually disguised under the general expression of enforcing the execution of the laws. This policy of undue severity, however, proved a failure, and brought discredit rather than credit to the government.

In the last part of his administration, President Grant, having probably come to think better of the people hereabout, partly from observation on his own visit here, he has not manifested any desire, so far as publicly known, to urge or adopt the extreme measures to which he was inclined previously, and which he recommended in several of his messages. Consequently, though the citizens of this Territory during the earlier and greater portion of his administration had just cause to be dissatisfied with his attitude and measures towards them, they have had nothing material to complain of in that respect during the last two or three years of his occupancy of the White House.

Neither has the present Congress manifested any special inhilical feeling towards Utah, so far as we just now recollect, as some Congresses have. This may have arisen from a more rational and sensible way of looking at things connected with this region or because Congress had abundance of other subjects to claim its attention. Either way, our citizens have not been annoyed with special proscriptive legislation, and no doubt they feel correspondingly thankful, and hope that such will continue to be the case.

## Local and Other Matters

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, FEB. 23.

**After the Linen.**—Joseph Frieze took a notion to steal a tablecloth, for which Justice Pyper fined him \$15, yesterday.

**Identified.**—A saddle and blanket, found at the Stockfish den, Emigration Canon, were the property of Dr. Williamson, of this city.

**Portentous.**—Last night the lunar orb was surrounded by an immense ring, a sign which the weatherwise say is portentous of the near approach of a storm. Should it come it is to be hoped it will bring some snow.

**Literature.**—We have received from Dwyer's, where they are for sale, the ever welcome "Popular Science Monthly," for March, and the "Tribune Almanac and Political Register" for 1877, Edward McPherson editor. Both those publications are useful and instructive.

**Remanded.**—Dr. Gerron was taken before Chief Justice Schaeffer yesterday, on a writ of *habeas corpus*. He was remanded to the custody of the Sheriff, to await the action of the grand jury.

He had been previously committed by Justice Pyper, whose action the Chief Justice sustained.

**To all Presiding Bishops throughout the Territory:**

Whatever changes take place in the Bishopric or Presidency over each ward or settlement, occasioned by missions, death, or removal from any other cause, you are respectfully requested to forward the same to the General Tithing Store, whenever such changes occur, and oblige

EDWD. HUNTER.

General Tithing Store,

Salt Lake City,

February 23, 1877.

Georgia.—Elder J. Morgan writes from Dirt Town, Ga., Feb. 13—

"I have just returned from a trip to Floyd County, where I have been preaching and baptizing. It is the adjoining county to Chattooga, Rome being the county town. I have baptized in all about forty persons, and have baptizing again next Tuesday. Our numbers are increasing rapidly, and the prospect is good for a goodly number more to be baptized. The people appear to be honest of heart generally, but prejudice and falsehood lead them astray, and cause much bitter opposition; yet God works on the hearts of many and causes them to examine the principles of the gospel and come unto the knowledge of the truth."

**St. George.**—We have been permitted to peruse a letter from Brother J. D. T. McAllister, now at St. George, to Brother Edward Brain. We learn from it that the Temple only needs a little more paint and a few more seats to finish it. The work for the dead in the house of the Lord is going steadily on. Elder Woodruff presides in the Temple, and occasionally President B. Young visits it and gives instructions.

In consequence of the building being so near completion, many of the workmen are leaving for their homes, in different parts of the Territory.

The people of St. George are having excellent meetings, well attended, on Sunday and almost every evening of the week. They are looking forward with pleasant anticipations to Conference time, when they will be visited by so many of their friends from the north.

**Missionary Labor.**—We are enabled to extract the following passage from a letter from Elder John Druce, now laboring in the New York District. The communication is dated Feb. 14th, and is addressed to the 21st quorum of Seventies, to which he belongs—

"I visited Troy and preached to a number of merchants of that place in a fine drawing room; was well received, and one gentleman called to congratulate me and wished me every success. I there came in contact with Baptists, Spiritualists and other professors. They concluded to purchase some of our works and judge for themselves; gave me an invitation to call again, which I promised to do as soon as the river opened. I have been well received and kindly treated throughout the mission so far. Much seed has been sown, some of which will bring forth fruit to the honor and glory of God."

FROM SATURDAY'S DAILY, FEB. 24.

**Rain.**—A slight drizzling rain last night. Weather mild and pleasant now—a days.

**Music.**—We have received from Daynes & Son a specimen of music printing, published by themselves, they having purchased a press and quantity of music type, recently in use at Camp Douglas.

**Tried.**—The boy Thomas Brunker was tried and found guilty yesterday, in the District Court, of robbing the post office. There is still another charge of a similar kind against him on which he will also be tried. He will probably be sent to the Detroit House of Correction.

**Found Guilty.**—Yesterday Richard J. Flice was tried in the Third District Court, on a charge of rape, the jury, after a few minutes' con-

sideration, returning a verdict of guilty. The smallest punishment within the discretion of the court for the crime is imprisonment for five years.

**Examination.**—The Seventh Ward day school had an examination yesterday, in the different studies, under the direction of the teacher, H. J. Thurston, which was very satisfactory to all who attended. In the evening the elder scholars gave recitations, interposed with songs, the exercises concluding with dancing, in which all who attended participated.

**St. Nicholas for March** is a superb number of this superior magazine for children. The principal contents have been previously noted. There is a full page frontispiece engraving on tinted paper of "Little Karen's Friends." The whole number is full of interesting articles and is numerously illustrated.

**Helen's Babies.** With some Account of their Ways, Innocent, Crafty, Angelic, Impish, Witching, and Repulsive. Also a Partial Record of their actions during Ten Days of their Existence. By Their Latest Victim. For sale at Dwyer's. This little book has proved one of the greatest successes of the day. It is a most interesting narrative of the curious ways, speeches, notions, words and deeds of the little children of the sister of the author, and would highly amuse every parent in the land, as well as a good many other people.

**Y.M.M.I.A.**—W. C. writes from Santaquin, Feb. 23—

"I send you a brief communication, partly by way of an acknowledgment of a much appreciated visit, from Brothers C. Hardy and Royal B. Young in the interest of the Y. M. M. I. A. Their discourses were made doubly interesting, by the adaptability of their remarks, the correctness and extensiveness of the principles set forth, and those proceeding from young men of the same age as many of those whose interests they advocated. Their precepts and example cannot fail to produce a great deal of good amongst 'The Hope of Israel.'"

"Our young men are steadily improving in their morals and Christian virtues, through the labors of the officers of the Y. M. M. I. A., combined with the untiring efforts of our beloved Bishop, George Halladay. We hope that Santaquin will, ere long, raise her quota of reliable veterans to battle for the truth, and herald the plan of salvation to the remotest parts of the earth."

**Another Picture.**—Mr. Ottinger has been for a considerable time at work on another historical picture. Like the "Montezuma" one, it is Mexican in subject, and is intended as a companion to it. The conception of the proposed picture has been in the mind of the artist for several years, having, as a celebrated British artist was wont to say, "painted it many times mentally." It is entitled "The Gladiatorial Stone," and although the leading figures will be few compared with those in the "Montezuma" picture, the subject gives no less opportunity for the display of power and expression. Mr. Ottinger is a most indefatigable worker, his profession being with him a passion, and as excellence is only attainable by labor, in any branch, he is perceptibly working up the ladder of progress step by step. He made good use of his visit to the great Exhibition, at Philadelphia, making the picture galleries his centre of attraction, noting what he considered the defects and merits of the various works of art there displayed, and studying the different styles. The closeness of the observations were shown in the able treatise, from his pen, on the "styles of art," as shown in the pictures exhibited at the Fair, which was published in the News, shortly after his return from Philadelphia.

**Small Pox "Pitting" Avoidable.**—There having been an unusually large number of small-pox cases in some portions of the Territory recently, the following from the pen of Isaac Gregory, of Merchant's College, Blackpool, England, will probably be interesting—

"May I be permitted to say, and give my reason for saying, that 'pitting,' the sad and permanent result of small-pox, ought rarely to be seen in any civilized country; or, at least, in any country possessing