

# DESERT NEWS.

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY  
THE DESERT NEWS COMPANY.

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WEDNESDAY, - NOV 2, 1881.

[From Tuesday's Daily Oct. 25.]

## FAREWELL.

THIS morning Bro. Orson F. Whitney left this city on his way to England, according to the call made upon him at the recent Conference. He goes with the confidence, faith and best wishes of many friends, among whom we desire to be counted. During his connection with the DESERT NEWS Bro. Whitney exhibited the qualities of a gentleman and the spirit and aspirations of a Latter-day Saint. Born and reared in this Church he has grown up under its influence and wherever he goes, we doubt not, will faithfully represent it by deed and word.

Of his abilities we have little need to speak, as they are very well known and recognized. A talented writer, a good public speaker, an actor of more than ordinary ability, a city councillor attentive and vigilant, and a Bishop over one of the wards of this city, in every position he has won the esteem of his associates and his private life has been above reproach.

Last evening the 18th Ward Meeting-house was filled to overflowing by friends anxious to hear his farewell discourse, which was very interesting and was listened to with wrapt attention. He is now on his way to the Old World, where we anticipate for him a sphere of usefulness in which he will gain invaluable experience and materially aid in disseminating the truths of the gospel. We extend to him our earnest desires for much success while abroad, and a safe return to his home in the mountains.

## IS THE ELECTRIC LIGHT DANGEROUS?

THE terrible fire at the Landenberger Mills, Philadelphia, in which so many persons lost their lives, is said to have been caused by the electric light. At the inquest held over the bodies burned in the catastrophe, evidence was given to the effect that something was wrong with the electric lights by which the premises were illuminated, that some of them "dropped sparks," that the carbon was burned off in one of them, and there was no other probable source of the conflagration.

The conclusions formed about this may be incorrect, but it ought to be known whether there is any real danger from the electric light, and if so, what it is, and how it may be prevented. One of the recommendations urged in its favor by the agent who introduced it in this city, was its absolute safety, and in this respect it was claimed to be far ahead of gas.

We notice that at the Paris electrical exposition quite a number of different "inventors" have exhibited their respective systems, and that Edison has gained the most prizes. The beauty of the light has been demonstrated and the subject of its danger has not been neglected. The following is from the London Observer:

"If the Paris Electrical Exhibition has practically illustrated the advantages of the various systems of electric lighting, it has given a practical example of their dangers. The exhibition building has been four times set on fire by the electric current. In none of these cases was the fire due to anything which can be described as an accident. The breaking of the wire, or the too close approach of the wires to each other, may cause a flash which might set surrounding woodwork in a blaze; but none of the four fires in the exhibition building have been due to either of these causes. They have arisen from the heating of the wire by the too great force of the current it is made to carry. The principle of the incandescent lamp is that where the elec-

tric current meets with resistance and is not able to pass, it turns into heat and so escapes. In the incandescent lamps the resistance is offered by a thin thread of carbon, which, becoming heated to intense whiteness in a vacuum where it cannot be consumed, gives off the light. Any piece of fine wire anywhere in the circuit will heat and glow in the same way, and will set fire to any inflammable substance with which it may come in contact.

"This is the origin of the fires in the Paris Exhibition. The electric light was introduced into the British Museum on the ground of its absolute safety. It was popularly believed that we had in it a means of illuminating libraries and museums and other valuable public buildings without any risk of fire. This confidence was a little shaken when it was reported that a portion of burning carbon had fallen from one of the lamps and had burned a hole in a book in the museum library; but it was even then thought that absolute security would be found in the incandescent system of lighting, in which the carbon is shut out from all contact with the air, which, if it were accidentally let in, would only cause the carbon to go off in an instant flash. But here is a danger to which all systems are alike exposed."

This is a subject worth looking into and where the light is brought into use the greatest precautions should be observed to guard against the accidents above enumerated.

## A FEARFUL FLOOD.

WHILE the Mayor of the City of New York is calling upon the inhabitants to husband the small supply of water now available, and announcing that unless there is rain the supply will be exhausted in sixteen days, the people in the Mississippi Valley are almost drowned out. The river is said to be higher than ever before and the water is still rising. To give some idea of the position of things along the banks of the Father of Waters, we clip from the Philadelphia News the following statement of the situation in the neighborhood of Quincy, Illinois:

"The railroad freight houses and other buildings along the levee front are entirely surrounded by water, and many of the floors are covered. From some of them everything has been removed. The island between the bay and the river is completely submerged, with the exception of a small piece of ground in the rear of the Marine Ways. People on this island have all been compelled to leave, as the water rose so rapidly that it covered the floors of all the buildings situated there. Across the river all the lowlands are inundated to the bluffs seven miles from the river. Almost all the inhabitants have moved to the bluffs. Numbers of cattle and hogs have been drowned and many more killed by the railroad trains, the animals having climbed to embankments, which were the only ground above water. The Lone Tree prairie, commencing about five miles north of the river, is under water for a distance of 12 miles, the water in some places reaching the second story of the houses."

The Warsaw levee above Quincy, which reclaims 17,000 acres of land, broke last night. An immense volume of water is pouring through the crevice and rapidly spreading over the most productive land in the State, a large portion of which was sown with winter wheat. This has all been destroyed.

Word has been sent to all the inhabitants of the valley to prepare for the worst. The flood at this time will prove more disastrous than the great flood of last spring. The large crop on the bottom lands had not yet been secured, and hundreds of thousands of bushels will be lost, and to add to the general destruction, the rise in the river has come on the people so suddenly and so unexpectedly that the bottoms are still full of cattle, horses and other live stock. It will be impossible to save either grain or live stock, and in many cases farmers will lose their household effects."

[From Thursday's Daily, Oct. 27.]

## THE CZAR OF RUSSIA.

It appears from telegrams received to-day that the report of the Czar's assassination was not altogether without some basis. A plot had been

concocted for killing the Emperor, and it was considered so complete that the news of its accomplishment was telegraphed as an actual fact. But it seems that the Czar received intelligence of the scheme in time to escape. He did not attend the meeting at which it was intended the deed should be done, and so the assassins were foiled. Further particulars may be seen in the dispatches. The Nihilists have failed this time. They will no doubt continue their diabolical efforts until they succeed. Alexander had better inaugurate the reforms which it appears to Americans are demanded in reason by the moderate portion of the revolutionists, and thus save his own life and benefit his people and country.

## THE GEORGIAN ANTI-"MORMON" BILL.

We learn from a letter written by Elder John Morgan, in charge of the Southern States Mission, that the anti-"Mormon" bill, introduced in the Georgia Senate and which was reported by the papers to have passed the Legislature, failed to become a law. The vote of 35 to 4 with which it was said to have passed was only the vote on its first reading. It was never called up again.

The anti-"Mormon" fanatics may now moderate their exultation a little. The measure was too extreme for a body of sane legislators to enact. It was also in strong antagonism to the Constitutional guarantee of free speech, and was altogether anti-republican and unreasonable. But then these are the characteristics of all the plans devised by the "cranks" who want "Mormonism" suppressed by law or violence.

We are gratified to learn that the Georgian lawmakers had better sense and more tolerance than to lend themselves to an irrational and intolerant scheme in aid of sectarianism which finds itself unable to meet "Mormonism" on fair grounds in the South.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

There is in the Paris electrical exhibition an induction coil capable of giving a spark 42 inches long and piercing a block of glass six inches thick.

A striking instance of the uses of electricity is the discovery of the sunken schooner *Vermillion*, lost with a valuable load of copper in Lake Erie, about fifty years ago. The electric drag located the wreck exactly, after every other means had failed.

The total population of India by the new census—in round numbers 252,000,000 souls—shows an increase since the last census of 12,788,555, and it is estimated that within the last thirty-five years 10,000,000 persons have died in India from famine.

A remarkable disease has appeared in Platte County, Missouri, which is described by some as smallpox and by others as the original black scourge. Its victims rot before death, and instances are given of their bodies falling to pieces while being prepared for burial.

The next Methodist Ecumenical Conference is to be held in America in 1887. There will be a struggle to secure it by the Methodist Church North, and the Methodist Church South. If the latter gets it, it will likely be held at Louisville, Ky., if the former, in the city of New York.

The way that those Confederate bonds roll in for sale at the rate of \$2.50 for \$1,000, is pretty good evidence that all the talk about future redemption of those bonds is futile, and that the holders in disposing of them at waste paper prices never expect to realize anything more on them.

The transit of Mercury will take place on the 7th of November. It will be a notable event among astronomers on the Pacific coast, inasmuch as the transit will happen at an hour favorable for observation. The 12-inch telescope in Lick Observatory on the summit of Mount Hamilton will be ready for use at that time. Its first work of any importance, will be the observation of this interesting event. This 12-inch telescope, while a very small affair compared with that which has been contracted for by the trustees, is the largest equatorial on the Pacific coast.

## LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY, OCT. 27.

**Guilty.**—We stated yesterday that the trial of W. W. Forbes, a former employe of the Denver and Rio Grande R. R. Company, was being tried in the District Court, for embezzling the funds of his employers. Last evening the jury returned a verdict of guilty in the case.

**Grand Larceny.**—In the District Court, to-day, Andrew Pettit was tried on an indictment for grand larceny. The offense consisted in the stealing, by the accused, of a steer belonging to Mr. Newell H. Clayton. The jury found the prisoner guilty. Sentence was deferred till Nov. 7th.

**Case Continued.**—To-day the case of Edward Bird, indicted for embezzlement, was called and continued. The accused was deputy county assessor in the reign of the defunct "republic" of Tooele, when there was so much county crookedness. Bird is alleged to have liberally helped himself to the public funds while acting in his official capacity.

**President Taylor and Party.**—The following party went South on the afternoon train to-day: President Taylor, wife and daughter and teamster; President George Q. Cannon, wife and daughter, and teamster; Apostle Wilford Woodruff and wife, Apostle Franklin D. Richards, Elders L. John Nuttall and George F. Gibbs, Mrs. Barratt and son, Mrs. Ellen C. Clawson, Mr. Selden Clawson, and Mrs. Aurelia Rogers.

The company purpose visiting St. George before returning home.

**Narrow Escape.**—We learn from the *Provo Enquirer* that on Sunday evening last, an accident that might have terminated seriously befel the Pleasant Valley train while returning from the canyon mouth to the depot. The train consisted of an engine and a coach, in a reversed position. Cattle were noticed upon the track, but before the speed could be checked, the caboose came in contact with an animal and was thrown from the track. The brakeman was hurled from the carriage, but miraculously escaped serious injury, as indeed did all that were aboard the train.

**Rather Rough.**—Yesterday, Bro. Henry Rollap, returned from Arizona, whither he went to work for John W. Young, Esq., on the Atlantic and Pacific R. R. He expresses himself to the effect that he has had enough of frontier railroad building life to last him for the remainder of his days. That kind of existence is, according to his account, and we can well believe him, not notable for features of refinement.

He informs us that just previous to his leaving, a fearful affair occurred at a point called Flagstaff, four miles from Mr. Young's camp. A man named Bishop kept a saloon there. Two men entered the establishment who were already the worse for liquor and demanded drinks, which he refused. They became enraged, drew their pistols and shot him. Bishop fell forward over the counter, and in that position said: "Boys, I'm a dying man, but I'll shoot while I can," and he did, putting a bullet into the stomach of one and another through the arm of the second. This occurred in the latter part of last month. Both the men who shot Bishop belonged to Mr. Young's camp.

Directly after Bishop was killed a couple of cowboys entered his saloon, collected together all the cash there was on the premises and walked off with it. Besides this the same parties robbed the owner of a sheep-herd, who did not endorse the robbery of Bishop's place, of eight hundred dollars.

While Brother Rollap was at a place called Gallup, another bloody scene was enacted, the first portion of which he witnessed. A couple of men were partners in a saloon. The one wanted to get rid of the other, and accused him of robbing him of \$200. He collected about fifty roughs, who gathered around the unfortunate victim of the plot, who made a desperate effort to escape, and eluded the rope three different times. He was finally beaten over the head with the pistols of his brutal assailants, and killed. His body was subsequently found lying across the rails of the track.

Brigham City, since the advent of the railroad, has been vacated by the first settlers from Utah, who have removed to the banks of the Gila River, a better location, where

they are prospering. Brother Rollap was twenty-two days in coming from there, having traveled to Milford by team, and from the latter point by rail to this city.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, OCT. 28.

**University of Deseret.**—The first term of the present academic year of the University of Deseret closed to-day. The second will open Monday, the 31st inst. The attendance is larger than for several years. The institution is prospering.

**District Court.**—The case of the People, etc., vs. Joseph Biddlecome, indicted for the murder of young Jensen, in Tooele County, was called for trial to-day. In consequence of a difficulty of the prosecution to obtain witnesses, the case was continued for the term.

**A Branch Line.**—There is a report to the effect that the Union Pacific road has made a survey for a branch of the Utah and Northern from Dillon to the Yellowstone National Park, by way of Virginia City, Montana. The road will be a narrow gauge, the maximum grade about 160, feet and 180 miles in length. Construction will not begin until next year.

**Releases and Arrivals.**—From the *Millennial Star* of Oct. 10:

Lorenzo Farr, Traveling Elder in the Leeds Conference, and D. J. Evans, Traveling Elder in the Welsh Conference, are released to return home with the October 22nd company.

On Wednesday last, the 5th inst., by S. S. Arizona, of the Guion line, Elders P. F. Goss and Isaac Walzner arrived in Liverpool, having left Salt Lake City on the 20th day of September. The passage across the ocean was accomplished in 7 days, 7 hours, and 45 minutes. Both brethren were appointed missionaries to Switzerland, and, on their arrival, at once proceeded to their destination. They were in excellent health and spirits.

## MYSTERIOUS MURDER.

JOEL HINCKLEY KILLED BY TWO MASKED MEN.

The following special dispatch to the NEWS, from Mr. R. G. Lambert, sent from Logan, was received to-day:

"Joel Hinckley, agent for the Utah & Northern Railroad, at Franklin, was shot by two masked men, last night, about 10 o'clock. The murderers escaped. No clue has been obtained. The town is out searching for the perpetrators of the crime. No cause for the deed is learned."

The following additional dispatch was subsequently received from Franklin:

"Joel Hinckley, railroad agent and telegraph operator here, was shot dead by unknown parties, in the office, about 10 o'clock last night. A young man who carries the mail from the depot to the postoffice was in bed in another part of the railroad office and saw the whole affair. Hinckley had just come into the railroad office and was washing his hands in one corner, when two masked men stepped in at the door. They told him to throw up his hands, one of them presenting a pistol. He turned his head and looked up at them and the man fired. The ball struck him in the chin, passing through his throat and breaking his neck. He died almost instantly."

It is supposed that it was the intention of the desperadoes to make Hinckley open the safe, and that the pistol went off prematurely. The men turned around immediately and made off, without taking anything from the office. Parties are out in different directions, hunting them, and are in hopes of soon finding the guilty parties.

Deceased was a fine young man, about twenty years old, son of Alza Hinckley, at Corn Creek, Utah.

FROM SATURDAY'S DAILY, OCT. 29.

**Priesthood Meeting.**—The regular monthly meeting of the priesthood of this Stake will be held in the Salt Lake Assembly Hall, on Saturday, November 5th, 1881, commencing at 11 a.m.

WM. W. TAYLOR,  
Clerk of Stake.

**A Bad Hurt.**—Yesterday a young man named John D. Quin was brought to this city from the Park. He had been working at the saw mill of the Ontario mine. While