

DESERET NEWS

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - APRIL 4, 1877.

THE SEASON.

The present spring is certainly an early one, much earlier than many we have had of late years, but somewhat similar to some that came in former years. This March has been a most auspicious month for plowing, digging, sowing, and planting. It could hardly have been better. It has been fine, dry, mild, and still, for the most part, after the snow was gone and the soil dry. No doubt a large breadth of seeding and planting has been done. The farmers and gardeners have been as busy as bees, and vegetation is pushing fast. The apricots are in full bloom, and peaches, cherries, plums, apples, and pears will soon be, unless checked by cold weather.

After such a term of fine dry weather at this time of the year a change is usual, and a stormy period is natural and common, often including not only wind and rain, but snow and frost, and lasting two or three weeks, during which time the progress of vegetation is very slow, in fact it seems to come to almost a standstill, and some of it is checked and driven back. It is not unlikely that we shall soon experience something of the kind, as the gathering clouds, and the howling wind, and the flying dust for some time past have indicated. It is one peculiarity of this climate that in certain seasons it takes several days of blustering threatening to produce a severe storm. Our Ogden neighbors had some rain yesterday, but nothing worth mention has fallen hereabout since the Spring weather fairly commenced. Rain is certainly needed, or soon will be, for without it the early grain and small seeds would have a hard time to germinate and get a fair start in growth. A little rain would help them greatly, and a soaking rain would help them much more. Rain would do good and no particular harm, unless very excessive in quantity. Snow might do good. But frost would be likely to damage the blossoms and mar the fruit prospects, unless the blossom cups were not open, or the fruit was set at the time, and the frost was not very severe. As it is, the prospect for fruit is very good, the apricots being especially brilliant in the virgin whiteness of their blooming apparel.

With some good soaking showers, there is every present prospect of a plentiful crop of small grains. Showers in the valleys would also prepare the soil for the later crops, and falls of snow on the mountains would increase the supply of water for summer irrigation.

PHRENOLOGY AND PREACHING.

It has been a favorite thing with the phrenologically inclined to think much of the phrenological developments of great criminals and some other notorious persons, or celebrated characters. But it certainly is not customary to have a phrenological examination of the craniums of preachers, in order to a determination of their fitness or unfitness to occupy the pulpit and fulfil pastoral duties generally. Such, however, was the method resorted to in Jersey City the other day.

It will be recollected that a short time ago the services of Mrs. Theobald A. Hanaford, as pastor, were dispensed with, by a small majority vote, by the congregation of the Church of the Good Shepherd, in that city. The minority, however, sustained her, and organized a new congregation, which meets in Library Hall, Bergen, for the present.

Her supporters went further, and were determined to demonstrate to the world her fitness for the position wherein they supported her, and accordingly employed Pro-

fessor Graham to scientifically examine her bumps before a large audience, and report thereon, which was done in the new church hall, Jersey City, March 19.

According to the New York Herald the phrenological gentleman determined the Rev. lady's phrenological character to be something like the following—

"He told the audience that she had two and three-fourths inches of brain, giving her great powers to reason on any subject in which she might take an interest. As a preacher she possessed all the mental, moral and spiritual powers that made her an excellent occupant of the pulpit. Her courage was such as to enable her to stand up with firmness in defence of the truth and opposition to wrong. She was honest in a high degree, and could not be a bigot. If the pulpits of Europe and America were filled with women like Mrs. Hanaford the world would be much better. She was a good, true, noble, grand lady of great mental power and eminently fitted to preach the gospel. The bump of veneration was largely developed."

It is stated that, on hearing this favorable report, her adherents were highly gratified, while some who had voted against her were seized with pangs of regret and wished they had not done it.

VILE PUBLICATIONS IN LARGE CITIES.

NEW YORK of late has carried on a stern crusade against the vendors and circulators of vile books and cognate articles, and now Philadelphia is being aroused to a similar crusade.

On the evening of March 20, leading citizens of the latter city, to the number of 1,500, assembled in Association Hall, invited by ticket and urged by a private and confidential circular, which commenced in this style—

"Startling revelations have been made concerning the circulation of indecent publications, and of other articles of the vilest nature and uses, among the boys and girls of Philadelphia. The organized plans to corrupt the youths of this city are not exceeded in extent and in vile ingenuity in America. They reach into our public and private schools and seminaries, and into our choicest Christian homes. Parents who count their children safe from such approaches would be astonished to learn how much has already been done to the injury of their sons and daughters. There is need of instant and vigorous action to stay this plague."

The meeting was addressed by the following gentlemen—

Anthony Comstock, United States detective, who horrified his audience with details that surprised them.

Rev. Dr. John Hall, of New York, who affected his audience to tears and declared that the private rooms in Herculaneum and Pompeii did not approach in indecency the vulgarity of the publications of modern Americans.

Rev. Mr. Currie, who vigorously attacked classic art and academical life studies.

Mr. Colgate, of New York, who endorsed the sentiments of the preceding speakers, and said the half had not been told.

Resolutions were adopted, declaring that "the traffic in obscene publications and articles of immoral use is not confined to any locality, but is of widespread and alarming prevalence throughout the land and is sapping the very foundations of society by poisoning the minds of the young, not only by personal contact with dealers in these publications and articles, but also through the secret and very wide use of the mails, reaching the sons and daughters of our best families in our schools and seminaries of learning;" and pledging the meeting to aid in suppressing the nefarious traffic.

A committee of twenty gentlemen was appointed to take such action as the exigency of the case demanded, and the Philadelphia County Medical Society was requested, by resolution, to appoint a committee of conference on the best means of checking the evil.

GRÆCO-ROMAN WRESTLING—AN ALL-NIGHT STRUGGLE BETWEEN GIANT ATHLETES.

THERE is a great amount of fascination in contests of strength and skill and endurance, whether physical or intellectual, artistic or scientific, or a combination of the same. What is termed the Græco-Roman style of wrestling is rather new to the people of the United States, but in several instances it has proved to be possessed of great interest to many of them.

The latest notable exhibition of the kind came off March 21 and 22, at the Metropolitan Riding Academy, Third Avenue, New York, between William Miller, of Australia, and Thiebaud Bauer, of France, and a very remarkable contest it was, each contestant exhibiting extraordinary strength, skill, "science," and endurance. There were about 4,000 people present, a score or two of them being ladies.

A New York paper describes the two men thus—

"Miller is 29 years old, height 5 feet 9½ inches, weight 195 pounds, chest 45 inches, forearm 13 inches, biceps 17 inches, calf 16½. He was born in Cheshire, England, but before his appearance in California had passed twenty years in Australia.

"Bauer is 31 years old, 5 feet ten inches in height, weighed last evening 172 pounds, 43 inches chest, 16½ inches biceps, and was born in Alsace, France."

Miller looked much the larger man. Bauer was as nimble as a cat. Each claimed to be "champion of the world," and the contest was to decide which was entitled to the honor, and also for a purse of \$500.

The contest commenced at about a quarter to nine o'clock in the evening of the 21st, and was continued, with short periods of rest, until about half-past five the next morning, ending then with a draw, through mutual exhaustion of the contestants, the advantage being slightly in favor of Bauer, who was credited with the first fall, and with exhibiting the greatest "science" throughout the six hours and a half struggle, which was of the severest character, and the longest on record. Both men were much bruised, strained, and exhausted.

LECTURING ON "MORMONISM."

THE Rev. John Searles, pastor of the Wilett Street Episcopal Church, New York, delivered "a very able lecture" to his congregation upon the subject of "Mormonism," on the evening of March 23, says the Herald of that city.

In the course of his lecture, the Rev. lecturer paid a tribute to the keen financial and executive ability of Brigham Young, and said many things partly true and partly very wide of the truth.

Among other things the Rev. lecturer is thus reported—

"The several degrees of Mormonism, he said, were shocking exhibitions of lust, the tenth and last being a perfect carnival of unrestrained debauchery."

If the Rev. lecturer said anything like that, then it is well known that he was either speaking of that concerning which he was densely ignorant, or he was knowingly and deliberately uttering a gross falsehood. He can take which horn of the dilemma he chooses, but he cannot escape both. If he was ignorant, then he is censurable for lecturing upon a matter of which he knew nothing. If he knew he was telling that which was absolutely false, then is he doubly censurable, and utterly unworthy of standing up to address an audience of people in the way of lecturing or preaching.

The Rev. lecturer is also reported as saying, of certain occurrences, that he believed them "to have been instigated by Brigham Young, as was everything that was done in the Territory, nothing being allowed except with his knowledge or consent." It is difficult to conceive how any person in his senses could

make such a baseless and idiotic assertion. There is not a person in the Territory of Utah to-day, Brigham Young himself excepted, who has not done hundreds of things without that gentleman's instigation, consent, or knowledge.

The Rev. lecturer is reported to have "closed with an appeal to the various churches to exert themselves more heartily in trying to convert that large population beyond the boundaries of our States." If "the various churches" were to come with falsehoods like the above, to convert the people of the Territories, and of this Territory in particular, a few ignoble instances excepted, they would find that they had before them such a stupendous piece of work that it would occupy all their time henceforth until the judgment day, and then with miserable prospects of anything like flattering success. Those few whom "the various churches" would thus convert, to adopt Scripture phraseology, would become two-fold more the children of hell than they were before.

GOING CRAZY CONCERNING "MORMONISM."

AMERICANS seem to be so constituted that excitement is a necessity to them. They evidently live upon it, and cannot live without it. As soon as they have got through with one "sensation," they are ill at ease until another arises. Nor do they, in Micawber's fashion, wait till one turns up, but they set to work to turn one up, and devote themselves to magnifying it to the utmost possible extent, as if it was a matter of life and death to them to have some sort of a sensation to feast upon continually, and the biggest kind of a sensation as often as possible.

The country had but just got through with the electoral sensation, and that was not an ordinary one, when the insatiable appetite for that kind of mental aliment cried out for another, which has been found, once more, in "Mormonism," "Utah and the Mormons," one of the most fertile of sensational subjects, and worth considerable to this republic on that account alone. Just now the newspapers throughout the Union are all directed towards Utah for their leading sensation, and many of them strike wildly in the matter, as is the custom with many American newspapers when they think they have struck a rich lead. In fact not a few of the journals that reach the Territory just now seem as if their conductors had gone crazy, perfectly daft, on the subject. They are so overcome with delight at having picked up so promising a new sensation. They are calling for all sorts of extreme things to be done, and urging their points with the senseless fervor and fury of enraged lunatics. It is not at all unlikely that an attempt will be made to inaugurate another crusade against the people of this Territory, for what adequate reason it would be difficult to tell, the only apparent one being the working up of the public mind until it is "exceedingly mad against them," forgetting that passion and principle are two very different things, and very seldom found in each other's company.

Raving is not righteousness, nor is jugulating necessarily justice. Neither is the fanning of the flames of ungovernable passion in the multitude likely to advance the interests of justice. It is therefore unwise in the extreme for the press throughout the country to talk in a wild, passionate, and utterly unreasonable manner concerning any important subject or any community in the country. If there is any serious cause of complaint towards the people of this Territory, let that cause be calmly and temperately stated, and there is no doubt of a satisfactory adjustment. But insensate ravings, unsubstantial charges, unjustifiable threats and insatiable demands will never result in satisfaction to any rational people.

THE "MORMONS" AND THEIR ENEMIES.

THERE are a few honorable and sensible exceptions to the rule that the newspapers ever and anon are calling upon the powers that be and everybody else to join hands in an exterminating crusade against

the "Mormons." The Omaha Herald commentingly says that the New York Sun "speaks manfully for the Mormons when it says it is well to remember that, but for the verdict of the Mermon jury, Lee would never have been brought to the punishment which he had so long evaded."

The Sun goes on further to uncover the secret motives of many in their oft-repeated hue-and-cry against the people of this Territory, thus—

"West of the Rocky Mountains many longing eyes are cast on the Mormon possessions, by men who are themselves too lazy to go in and build up a flourishing land as the Mormons have done, and who would like to see these Mormons abandon their cities, farms and mines to take refuge in Arizona or Mexico. At every revelation of Mormon wrong-doing a cry is raised for the suppression of Mormonism, which means the expulsion of Mormons from Utah. While all violators of law should be punished, innocent persons, whether Mormons, or of any other creed, should not be wrongfully deprived of their property which they have accumulated, or driven from their homesteads."

Local and Other Matters.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, MARCH 30.

Alleged Beating.—To-day a man named Ryan was arrested on a charge of assaulting and beating a young woman.

Stray Cows.—Several stray cow cases were before Justice Poyer this morning, a small fine being imposed on each of the owners of the animals.

Rain.—The long looked for rain did actually come last night, and the surface of the soil was seasonably moist this morning, with prospects of more.

Missionaries.—In a few days Elders M. W. Dalton and John Hubbard, of Willard, Box Elder County, and Robert Lake, purpose leaving for the east on a mission, upon which they were recently appointed.

Returning.—James Armitstead and Edwin Standing, elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, have been for some time traveling and preaching with good success in Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa and now, on their return to Utah, have been stopping for a few days at the Pacific House in this city.—*Omaha Herald, March 27.*

Another Branch.—To-day Brother I. A. Evensen, of this city, exhibited to us a specimen sausage machine, of his manufacture. In several particulars it is superior to the imported article in that line, the edges of the grooves on the revolving cylinders being finer, the funnel, or receptacle, is of a more handy size and shape, and the machine stands higher when placed in position. A specimen can be seen at the Woman's Commission Store.

To Benefit the Poor.—Last night a concert was given in the 17th District School-house, for the benefit of the poor of the Ward. The programme consisted of songs, duets, tries, glees and recitations. Mr. J. S. Lewis, leader of the choir, was conductor, and Prof. A. C. Smythe the accompanist, and the choir took an active part in the performances, which were excellently rendered, everything passing off to the satisfaction of the audience, which was of goodly proportions. The object of the entertainment was a worthy one.

In Its New Dress.—We have before us number one of Vol. 2, of the *Utah Musical Times*, in a new dress. The success which this periodical has met has encouraged the publishers to make some decided improvements in it. The contents of the number under consideration are both varied and interesting, opening with a fine, inspiring poetical selection, "Press On," followed by a sketch of the great composer, "Handel;" "The Highland Bagpipe," "Our Youth," by R. W. Young; "Editorial Notes;" Musical Composition, "The Lord Will Comfort Zion," by George Careless; "Musical Education;" "Their Benefits" (meaning the benefits of mutual improvement associations), "Our Craft,"