

THE LIQUOR BUSINESS.

The constitution of Texas has been amended by a large majority vote of the citizens, so as to forbid forever the manufacture and sale of liquor except for medicinal, mechanical and scientific purposes. Legislation is now required to make the provision effective. Numerous petitions have been presented to the Indiana Legislature for a similar constitutional amendment, to be submitted to the popular vote, and the celebrated Neal Dow is at the head of a movement in Maine looking to the amendment of the Constitution of that State for the same purpose.

The liquor traffic is one of the most difficult subjects for legislation. Of course if the manufacture of intoxicating drinks is prevented, the drinking of such liquors is stopped. But can this be accomplished? We fear not. There is always a loophole in the law through which the maker and the seller of intoxicants find room to creep. The proviso, "for medicinal, mechanical and scientific purposes," which is always incorporated in the laws regulating this business, is sufficient for the purpose of those who live by the traffic which results in so much evil to the world.

It appears to be impossible to establish prohibition effectually. The desire for strong drink, which seems to be increasing with each generation, cannot be legislated out of existence, and human ingenuity will be exercised to evade the law while the craving for intoxicants remains in so large a proportion of human beings. The best that can be done by the law at present is to restrain and regulate the business, while moral, religious and benevolent influences are brought to bear by the lovers of their race, to reclaim the drunkard and help the weak-willed to abstain from a body-and-soul-destroying practice.

In Utah the work of legal restriction has been rendered measurably abortive by the acts of those officials who have proclaimed themselves as "Utah's regenerators." Municipal ordinances have been ruled against by Federal Judges in times past in favor of the liquor traffic. And territorial statutes have been vetoed by the Federal Executive in the same interest. The legislators and city authorities are therefore not responsible for the spread of the liquor traffic in this Territory, but those who have been sent here from the parent government to rule on and execute the law. In this remark we do not refer to our present Federal officials, but to some of their predecessors.

The subject of the traffic in liquor is attracting attention among the thoughtful and temperate in all parts of the country, and it is one that needs careful handling at home. We hope to see judicious measures adopted by our city fathers and territorial legislators for the restriction and regulation of this business, but look for the most potent influence to restrain the erring and reclaim the fallen, among those who are strong enough to resist temptation, and who have wisdom and charity enough to labor in private for the good of the public.

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, JAN. 28

Mayor Little has been unwell for several days.

Savage comes to the front with home-made valentines; not to be beat in town.

Associate Justice S. P. Twiss, lately assigned to the Second District, has gone to Beaver to begin his duties.

The net proceeds from the Alta benefit, last Wednesday night, were \$752.25, which amount was turned over to the Relief Committee yesterday afternoon, swelling the general fund to over \$1,700.

Death of a Pioneer.—Peter B. Johnston, of Snowville, Box Elder County, one of the pioneers of that valley, died of lung disease, at his home, on the 19th inst. He left three children and his aged mother to mourn his loss, and died in full faith. We sympathize with the sorrowers. Bro. A. Goodliffe, who informs us of the above, also states that the winter is rather severe up there, but the health of the people is generally good.

More Opium.—The police raided a Chinese opium den yesterday, and arrested the keeper, another Chinaman, a white man and two white women, all of whom, excepting the first mentioned, were fined \$10 each. The keeper is being examined this afternoon. At the time of the arrest, he admitted to the officers that he was the proprietor of the den. Since then he has consulted with his lawyer, and now strenuously denies what he before confessed.

Academy Examination.—We have received from Miss Sadie Shepherd, secretary, a report of the class examination which closed the second term of the fifth academic year at the B. Y. Academy, on Friday, the 21st inst. Also a synopsis of the Principal K. G. Maeser's report, containing many interesting statistics, too lengthy for publication, but which show the institution to be in a very prosperous condition, under his efficient management. The examination was well attended by patrons and friends, and the exercises were very interesting, and reflected much credit upon the Principal, his assistants and the pupils generally.

Drowned.—The Milford Sentinel of the 26th, has the following on a fatal accident which occurred there recently:

"On Saturday morning, at about 9 o'clock, as a teamster was watering his horses at the old well of Donald McKay, his bucket caught on to something in the well, and it being very icy in and around the vicinity and no curbing around the same, he reached out his hand and placed it upon the windlass, and gazing down in the bottom of the well he beheld the form of a man. He at once gave the alarm and in a short time a large crowd of citizens had gathered around to see and ascertain his name.

Upon inquiry the following particulars were gathered: The man's name was August Peterson, and hails from Grantsville, Tooele Co. He had been loafing about Frisco for some time, and was under the influence of liquor almost all the time. The last seen of him was the night before, at about 10 o'clock, at which time he was somewhat intoxicated. It is supposed he had started to turn the corner, and not being aware that the well was there and without a curbing had walked headlong into it.

There was at least 10 feet of water in the well, but a board had by chance slipped into it, and the unfortunate man had fallen across it, thereby supporting the body and keeping it from sinking to the bottom."

A verdict of accidental death was rendered in the case, and the body was buried in Milford, Monday evening.

Home Again.—President A. O. Smoot, of Utah Stake, arrived home from the States last evening. Our readers are pretty well acquainted with his movements while away, through the medium of the News, which, from time to time, has published interesting excerpts of his private correspondence. The main object of his visit to Kentucky, his native State, was to obtain his family genealogy, which he has succeeded in doing to a considerable and gratifying extent. He visited many of his relatives and heard of many more, of whose existence until then, he was quite unaware. He learned that the Smoots were scattered all through the South, from Kentucky down as far as Alabama and Georgia. Some also are in Illinois. He has hitherto supposed his ancestors to be German, but from facts ascertained by his visit, he now knows himself to be of Scotch descent. On his mother's side, he is connected with the family of the late General Stonewall Jackson. Brother Smoot is in very good health and spirits, a fact which is clearly evidenced by his marked improvement in appearance. He is accompanied home by a second cousin, Mason Smoot, a young man about 21 years of age, who has come from Gratz, Owen County, Kentucky, with the intention of making Utah his abiding place. We extend to both a hearty welcome. They leave for Provo in the morning.

FROM SATURDAY'S DAILY, JAN. 29

Sister Zina Y. Hyde, of Hyde Park, Cache County, died on the 24th inst.

A narrow escape is reported from the Fifth Ward. Thursday night a little boy started to cross the U. S. R. R. track, just in front of the ap-

proaching train. He paid no attention to the shouts of the engineer, and was only rescued by the prompt action of the latter, who partially stopped the train, and jumping to the ground pulled the urchin out of the way.

Joint Session.—Bro. A. L. Rogers, of Sunset, Apache County, Arizona, writes of a joint session of the Y. L. and Y. M. M. I. A. of that place, which took place on the 19th inst. The exercises consisted of lectures, songs, recitations, dialogues, speeches, etc., and the reading of the Sunset Enterprise, a paper by the members of the association, its leading features being original articles from their pens. President Lot Smith addressed the assembly in an encouraging manner. All who attended were well repaid for the time occupied by the meeting.

Judge Drummond.—While President Smoot, whose return from the States was noticed yesterday, was in St. Louis on the 5th of last December, he was called upon by a reporter of the St. Louis Republican who entered the former's room at the hotel, accompanied by a man between 60 and 70 years of age, stoop shouldered, seedy looking and wearing an air of general dejection. The reporter, after interviewing Brother Smoot for some time, (the results of which appeared, with numerous errors, in the columns of the Republican shortly afterward) indicated his companion, and said: "Mr. Smoot, I presume you know this gentleman." "Not that I am aware of," answered the one addressed. "Why," exclaimed the reporter, "he was a United States Judge in your Territory many years ago." Just here the aged and seedy looking personage came forward and said his name was Drummond. "Is it possible," said Brother Smoot, "that this is Judge Drummond, of Utah notoriety?" The person thus designated, blushed deeply, and visibly covered beneath the piercing glance of him whom he had once known as the Mayor of Salt Lake City, but recovering himself, said, "Yes, I believe I am the person." He expressed great pleasure at seeing the ex-Mayor, asked about Gen. Wells, Brother George A. Smith and other prominent "Mormons," and on leaving, repeatedly urged President Smoot to call upon him during his stay in St. Louis. The latter declined the courtesy, on the plea of a lack of time. Shortly afterward, on asking the hotel clerk what Drummond's avocation was, he received the reply, "He's not very well known here; I think he is a sewing machine agent."

The people of Utah remember Judge Drummond as the individual who fabricated the untruth of the "Mormons" burning the U. S. Court records about the year 1857, which vile falsehood served as a pretext for sending General Johnston with the flower of the U. S. Army out to Utah, to exterminate all the inhabitants. What followed is well known. The "Mormons" were not exterminated any more than the "court records" were annihilated. The papers and books which the "Mormons" had "burned" were discovered by Governor Cummings safe and sound, and W. W. Drummond was forevermore branded as one of that class of characters "who love and make a lie."

FROM MONDAY'S DAILY, JAN. 31

Dr. Ellen B. Ferguson is still quite low.

Diphtheria is said to be prevalent in St. George.

Utah Lake is furnishing Salt Lake with ice for storage.

George Morrison has been appointed postmaster at Leamington, Millard County, Utah.

Apostle Orson Pratt, who has been very low for several weeks, took a turn for the better yesterday.

Mr. Joseph Field, founder of the Milford Sentinel and other papers in Beaver County, has retired from the journalistic field, Mr. C. Hughes is his successor.

Judge Twiss, the new Judge of the 2nd district, attended a ball on last Wednesday night, at Fort Cameron. Parties who have met the gentlemen proclaim him to be an excellent fellow and the best of company. So says the Sentinel.

The following octave from the Washington Republican is a hint worth taking:

There is a man in our town,
And he is wondrous wise;
Whenever he has goods to sell,
He straight doth advertise;
And when he finds his goods are gone,
With all his might and main
He hurries in another lot,
To advertise again.

Birthday Party.—On Saturday evening last, a happy gathering took place at the residence of Counselor D. H. Wells, 13th Ward, the occasion being the 77th anniversary of Sister Betsy Free, the aged wife of Father Absalom Free, who was also present. Sister Louisa Wells their daughter, gave the party, which was a very pleasant little affair attended by quite a company of the family relatives.

An Unexplained Disappearance.—We take the following from the Logan Leader of Friday:

Last July there came to Logan a man of about 35 years of age who gave his name as J. H. Hughes. He represented that he had been for 14 years a Baptist preacher, and had been providentially led to Utah, and that the religious views of the Latter-day Saints, so far as he was acquainted with them, accorded with his own. He claimed to be a native of Georgia, and to have traveled a great deal. He seemed to take a deep interest in the gospel, and was baptized soon after coming here. He was a man of education, a good penman, and had some knowledge of bookkeeping, at which he was employed at the U. O. Foundry. He quickly gained the confidence of the community, was made a Sunday school secretary, and other positions of usefulness and respectability. On the evening of Jan. 19th a Sunday school exhibition was held in Logan theatre. During the performance the money taken at the door, about thirty dollars, was handed to Hughes, and that was the last seen of him. Besides the \$30 of Sunday school funds, he is known to have had a handful of gold coin which he had tried to exchange for greenbacks. He took with him, from his boarding house, all his personal effects of any value. He held the position of book-keeper at the Foundry at the time of his flight, and we understand that there is due him there some \$30 for services. It is believed that he did not embezzle any funds of the Foundry. What direction he took is unknown."

The Jordan Dam.—The adjourned meeting of the Utah County farmers was held in Provo on Tuesday last, for the purpose of further discussing the question of the Jordan dam. The Enquirer says:

"Hon. A. Gardner, president of the Utah and Salt Lake Canal Company, being present, the formal business of the meeting was laid over, and he addressed the meeting. After presenting his credentials as delegate from said company to the meeting, he stated that the company desired to establish permanent marks of the present height of the waters of Utah Lake at different points before taking out the gates of the Jordan Dam, and requested the meeting not to take any action against them until they had the opportunity. He invited a delegation from the meeting to accompany the company's engineer at an early date for the purpose of establishing such marks, pledging the company that as soon as the marks were established the gates should be taken out and the water allowed to flow naturally until the whole matter was satisfactorily settled.

Considerable discussion ensued. Finally, a motion prevailed to the effect that no action be taken until the said company have a reasonable time to establish said marks, provided that the meeting do not concede that the marks will prove or tend to prove anything.

A vote of thanks was then tendered to Mr. Gardner for the gentlemanly and conciliatory manner in which he had made known the wishes of his company, to which that gentleman responded in a brief speech, in which he expressed the hope that the difficulty would be amicably adjusted, and at the same time acknowledged the courtesy of the meeting.

On motion, Messrs. J. B. Milner and Geo. T. Peay were elected to go with the engineer to establish the water marks."

The pending motion was withdrawn, and after some deliberation, it was decided, as the sense of the meeting, that it favored the settlement of all disputes in this matter

by arbitration, when the obstructions in the Jordan River should be taken out and the waters of the Lake allowed to flow naturally.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Secretary of the Interior has decided that a married woman whose husband is still living, but who has exhausted his right under the laws, can make an entry and acquire title in her own right under the Desert Land Act.

The intelligent press dispatcher informs a country eager for important news that Senator Wade Hampton has a new wooden leg! Wonderful! Would it not be as well for the transmitter of this exciting intelligence to get a new wooden head?

Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, in presenting a petition for woman suffrage in the Territories, said it was signed by ladies of the highest attainments and occupying places of the highest respectability in society, and contained arguments that to his mind had never received any answer worthy the name of respectable argument.

Col. Glukofsky, who has surveyed the ancient bed of the Oxus, is of opinion that the diversion of the river to the Caspian Sea from its present course is quite practicable, and a sum of 600,000 roubles has been set apart for the work. Ten Russian engineers, five companies of infantry, and three *sotnias* of Cossacks are engaged in the operations.

Dr. Wild is the latest theological speculator in the field, of whom there are already far too many. Reaching his conclusions from what he claims to be exact historic and scientific data, he affirms that there will be a fifty-three years' war after 1882, and points to the fact that the nations are arming even now. He predicts the advent of the millennium in 1935.

The election to the Senate of Howell E. Jackson, by the Tennessee Legislature, on Wednesday, turns the tide in favor of the Democrats, who will now have a majority in the Upper House without counting Mahone of Virginia, who is on the fence with a leaning towards the Democratic pasture. Leaving him out, the United States Senate stands 88 Democrats to 37 Republicans.

The coercion bill of the English Government, introduced by Mr. Forster, enables the Lord Lieutenant to issue a warrant for the arrest of any one suspected of connection with agrarian outrages or of treasonable designs. It practically places afflicted Ireland at the mercy of the Lord Lieutenant until September 30. It is likely to pass though it will be violently opposed.

The Indiana Legislature has elected a lady as librarian. This is an office, under the laws of the State. Now let the opponents of feminine political rights shriek about being "ruled over by women." The lady's name is Wisnor, and she has a sick husband and several children to support. Of course the supporting would be all right if the woman did it operating on a washboard; but "elect her to fill an office, never!"

The Afghan war cost Great Britain \$100,000,000; the Zulu war cost \$25,000,000; and it is estimated that the suppression of the Dutch Boers will cost about \$20,000,000 more, making a total of \$145,000,000 outlay; which the Liberals claim is due entirely to the foreign policy of the late Beaconsfield government. The costly Afghan war ended in substantial defeat for Great Britain, and if justice prevails, the same result will follow the attempt to crush the Dutch colonists in South Africa.

THE BIBLE WORK AT PLEASANT GROVE.

Editor Deseret News.

On Wednesday, the 26th inst., Dr. Fisher visited Pleasant Grove and gave an address in his usual happy style, to a full congregation gathered in the meeting-house. After the address a society was organized as a branch to the American Fork Bible Society, and the following officers were elected:

Bishop John Brown, president; Thomas Woolley, vice-president; Canute Swenson, treasurer; Jos. W. Ash, secretary. Hyrum Winters was appointed to form an executive committee of five.

JOSEPH FOREMAN.

Pleasant Grove, Jan. 29, 1881.