

If our children knew no other characters by which to read than those of the *Deseret Alphabet*, they might later under some disadvantages; but these would not be wholly unmixed with benefits. They would be deprived of the privilege of reading very many excellent works; but they would also be kept free from the contagion of evil with which much of the popular literature of the day is filled. The whole country is flooded with books and periodicals which can not fail to produce the most pernicious results upon those who peruse them. A walk down Main Street, in this city, and a glance at the illustrated periodicals which are there displayed to tempt the gaze of young and old, must satisfy every properly constituted mind upon this point.

There is a class of books and papers, which find ready sale in the world, the circulation of which can not fail to promote vice, licentiousness and crime. They contaminate and corrupt those who peruse them. Probably the number that is sold in this community is very small when our population is considered. We have been informed that they are bought but very rarely by our citizens. But the question frequently arises, in witnessing the manner in which they are vended, why parade them so openly? Why display them in the broadest and most open style, to catch the eyes of the young of both sexes and cause them to collect in groups around them? Pictures are attractive, and to none more than to children. When they see them spread before them they are sure to look at them; but what parent who has seen the *Police Gazette*, the *Day's Doings*, the *Last Sensation*, or any of that class of illustrated papers, would be pleased if he knew his children had access to them? He would not have his home contaminated by their presence; he would not let his children visit a neighbor's if he knew he would put such papers in their hands; and why should his care go for naught, or be neutralized by the exposure of this class of publications on the public street in such a way that his children, in passing, can not fail to see them? If there is a class of so vile and prurient a taste that none but such papers will satisfy them, let them go elsewhere and obtain them. Such society is undesirable here. Decency, good morals and the well-being of society, alike forbid the circulation and displaying of these vile sheets in our midst.

There is another class of papers which is largely patronized in this Territory, that wisdom and a regard for the Kingdom of God would suggest as being altogether unsuitable for Latter-day Saints, and especially their children, to read. Many of them are illustrated also; but they are of an entirely different character to the others of which we speak. The illustrations are modest, and depict prominent incidents and scenes brought out in the story. But it is not to their style or make up that we object; it is to the character of their reading. Constant dropping, it is said, will wear away a stone; the constant repetition of incorrect ideas, especially when told in an attractive manner, will, if listened to, have their effect.

These papers have greater influence than many people imagine. They are noiseless, but they are effective. The influence of the press is not fully understood or recognized by us as a people; many do not understand its power. A book or a paper that contains false ideas and carries a pernicious influence is bought or subscribed for by parents, without the least suspicion, apparently, that it can do harm. They will let their families read these week after week, and never object to their doing so, while at the same time, if visitors were to go to their houses, and convey the same ideas orally, they would be indignant, and consider them very unsuitable associates for their families! Why this difference of feeling? Because men are careless and do not reflect; they know not the influence and power of literature; if they did, an improper book, or paper of any kind, would be expelled from the house as quickly as the authors would be in *propria persona* if they were to go there and talk the stuff they write.

One of the mightiest revolutions of which we have any knowledge has been accomplished in a single generation in the United States by the means of the press. Men who are still young can recollect when anti-slavery writers and lecturers were subjected to the grossest abuse. No longer ago than 1837, Elijah P. Lovejoy, the editor of the *Observer* and an advocate of anti-slavery, was killed by a mob at Alton, Illinois. But though persecuted and mobbed they were determined to persevere. They lectured and wrote and labored with indefatigable industry, despite every obstacle. But, above all, they appreciated the power of the press. They used it largely. Their ideas were disseminated broadcast over the land with unflinching zeal. They sowed the seed diligently, and waited patiently for it to germinate and yield a crop. And they were not disappointed. A

new generation arose which was fully imbued with their ideas, and anti-slavery became popular; even politicians, the most fickle, timorous and unreliable class in the world, whose goal is popularity, brought offerings to their shrine. The leading advocates of the doctrine of abolition are still alive. They have lived to see their ideas triumphant, and the negro emancipated. Who, after this, can doubt the power of the press when effectively used?

A judicious parent will not suffer his children to read a book or a paper which conveys ideas that he would object to hearing conversed about in their presence. Let each parent, before he buys a book or subscribes for a paper, ask himself whether he wishes the ideas it conveys to prevail in his family, and be the staple of their reading, week after week, so long as the book or subscription remains. If he does, then buy or subscribe for it. If not, have nothing to do with it.

It has generally been supposed that in modern military surgery, France has taken the lead of the nations; but a comparison of the mortality after surgical operations in the armies of France and England during the Crimean war, and in the armies of America during the rebellion, shows an extraordinary preponderance of failure on the French side. The number of capital operations performed in the three armies, is set down at 12,291, of which 721 occurred in the English, 4,703 in the French, and 6,867 in the American service. Out of these the English and American lost 64 per cent., the French lost nearly 92 per cent. In amputations of the leg, whilst the English lost 35, and the American only 26 per cent., the French lost nearly 72 per cent.

This information is gleaned from a paper published in the *Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal*, by Dr. H. Gibbons, which he has compiled from a series of essays by Dr. Leon de Fort, an editor of a French surgical journal. After making this startling statement, Dr. de Fort attempts to search for the causes which produce these unlooked for results. He will not admit that French surgery is inferior to that of the English; but he says, the misery, filth, want of attendants and general mismanagement, which characterized the French hospitals, all of which the French commanders kept from the public in France, were the principal causes of the preponderance of deaths after operations among the French. He is of the opinion, however, that the Anglo-Saxon and Germanic races bear pain better than the French, and he has frequently had occasion to remark in his own experience the great energy of character displayed by English patients and surgeons.

In this connection he says: "Does our want of resistance to injuries, wounds, and operations, result from that degeneracy of race which is suspected rather than affirmed? It is quite possible a people, which since the commencement of the century, has witnessed the reproduction of its most robust children die on countless battlefields; which, in the same period—thanks to conscription—has imposed, during the age of greatest procreative energy, temporary infirmity at least, on the healthiest portion of its virile population, while continuing the reproduction of the species to the diseased, acrofolous, and rickety—to all who suffer from physical defects—such a people is sure to reach, by slow degrees, numerical diminution and physical degeneracy of its population. Our numerical development, it is true, is not yet retarded so as to excite serious anxiety. But our physical degeneracy at present so far perceptible as to warrant suspicion and fear for the future? The question is one that I dare not answer."

This question is a most important one, and though Dr. de Fort dares not answer it, the answer is already to be found in the statistics which are given. Should his statements be correct, and we presume they are, France must, ere long, lose her position as one of the leading powers of Europe. No nation can continue to maintain its supremacy which pursues a policy that is productive of physical degeneracy.

(Special to the *Deseret Evening News*.)

By Telegraph.

CONGRESSIONAL SENATE.

Conkling has made a personal explanation respecting a published statement of his remarks in the caucus on the Tenu of Office Bill.

Trumbull reported a substitute for the bill to repeal the Tenu of Office act. Bard moved to table the report; lost. Davis moved a substitute to the House bill; ruled out of order. Grimes said he could not vote for the substitute. Morton said the substitute presented a shadow rather than the substance of the Tenu of Office act; it was merely a bad photograph of the dead body.

The Senate, to-day, confirmed one nomination, only, that of Henry D. Moore, as collector of customs at Philadelphia. Fowler made a general argument against the Tenu of Office act, and was followed by Ross with a similar argument. Sprague made a long speech of a general character, after which the report of the committee was adopted thirty seven to fifteen. Trumbull briefly explained the bill. Morton criticised it. The bill passed, when the Senate went into executive session and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE.

Garfield reported a bill for taking the census. He gave notice that he would call it up for action next Tuesday. The bill establishes a census bureau in the Department of the Interior, the head of which to be appointed by the President and an assistant superintendent, to be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, for each congressional district. The District Superintendent to appoint all necessary subordinates. The whole work to be done in two months and the bureau to be closed by May 1st, 1872. The population of each State to be divided by a hundred and fifty thousand quotient, to give the number of representatives to which each State will be entitled. This is expected to give 270 to the House. The basis of Representation will hereafter be fixed at one member to every one hundred and seventy thousand of population. Butler from the reconstruction com-

mittee reported a bill for the State of Mississippi. Beck moved an amendment making a provisional Governor, appointed by the President of the United States, instead of by the President of the Constitutional Convention. Farnsworth gave notice that he would move to postpone the bill till next session. Butler proceeded to explain and advocate the various provisions of the bill. Beck favored his amendment and denounced the last Mississippi convention which this bill proposed to re-convene. Other members participated in the debate. Wood obtained the floor but yielded to a motion to adjourn.

The bill regulating the manner of applying to Congress for the removal of political disability, and the bill amending the third section of the 14th amendment, were referred to the Reconstruction Committee.

A Committee on the Civil Service bill was ordered to be continued. A number of bills were introduced and referred.

GENERAL.

Washington.—The President nominated Giles A. Smith, of Illinois, Second Assistant Postmaster-General; Moses G. Grinnell, Collector of Customs at New York; and several collectors of Internal Revenue and Postmasters.

Amos Walker has written a long letter to Garfield, chairman of the House Banking Committee, submitting another plan for the resumption of specie payments. He proposes to effect this by means of compound interest notes to the amount of greenbacks in circulation, convertible into ten-forties at five per cent.

New York.—The case of Flisk against the U. P. R. R. directors has been transferred to the United States Circuit Court by order of Judge Blatchford.

Memphis.—A Little Rock special says that the new registration law has passed the House. The Senate has appointed a special committee to investigate the outrages by the militia in eastern Arkansas. The Republican calls on the Legislature to pass a militia indemnity bill to protect Upman and Catterson from persecutions.

Providence, 24.—The Democratic State Convention has nominated Lyman Pierce, of Providence, Governor; Lt.-Gov. Wm. H. Allen; Secretary of State, Wm. J. Miller; Attorney-General, Geo. W. Bliss; Treasurer, Caleb Ryder. The Senate has postponed the consideration of the 15th amendment till the May session.

Chicago.—A statement is published denouncing as false, the recent communication published in the Chicago papers describing the alleged maltreatment of passengers on the Union Pacific Road. The statement says the letter was written in the interest of a rival enterprise, and was signed by many ignorant of its contents. The allegations regarding the sufferings of the passengers and the inhumanity of the railroad employees are characterized as a baseless fabrication.

Washington, 27.—The case of Francis P. Blair, Jr., against John S. Thompson et al., was argued in the Supreme Court to-day by Montgomery Blair for the plaintiff, Senator Drake for the defendant. The case involves the constitutionality of the test oath in Missouri.

Trenton, N. J.—The Governor sent the 15th amendment to the Legislature to-day with a message, giving his reasons why it should not be ratified by New Jersey.

New York.—A man who had been in the sewers twenty-four hours, emerged to-day, having found a quantity of watches, jewelry and other valuables. Judge Ingraham, of the Supreme Court, has affirmed the validity of the will of Jas. T. Roosevelt, who left the bulk of his property to the founding hospital.

Kansas City.—Colonel Williams, editor of the *Bulletin*, and Major Whelan of the *Times*, went to a point near Wyandotte yesterday, to fight a duel with double barreled shot guns, at thirty paces. The Sheriff headed of the affair and arrested both parties. The affair originated in mutual personal strictures published in their respective journals.

Indianapolis.—All the Democratic members of the legislature who resigned to prevent the ratification of the fifteenth amendment yesterday, the Republicans making no opposition. The Governor has called the Legislature for April 8th.

Saratoga.—The St. Nicholas Hall was burned this morning; loss \$20,000. Insured.

Washington.—The Republican caucus, this morning, agreed on a report to the Judiciary Committee on the Tenu of Office question. The main features of the report are as follows: The President is to have power to remove cabinet or other civil officers during the session of the Senate, without giving any reason for doing so, providing the Senate fill the vacancies; and during the recess the President may suspend and appoint to office until the end of the next session, but within thirty days after the commencement of the session he shall report these suspensions to the Senate, and if that body, by a direct affirmative vote refuse to concur, the suspended officers shall be reinstated; if the matter be simply passed over the officer shall not be reinstated.

San Francisco, 24.—The Indians in Humboldt county, California, who lately committed outrages on the settlers, attacked a government transportation train and killed ten men and wounded a number more; the loss is about twelve thousand dollars.

From all parts there are encouraging accounts regarding the prospects of crops; the yield of wheat and barley promises to be largely in excess of any former year.

Chicago.—The *Times* special says the preliminary report of C. H. Snow, special commissioner appointed by President Johnson to inspect the Union Pacific Railroad, has been submitted by President Grant to the Secretary of the Interior. From the beginning to the end it is an attack upon the road.

It is stated that Col. Elk Parker has been decided to be a citizen, although an Indian. He will be appointed an Indian commissioner.

It is stated that Ashby of Ohio, will be appointed Governor of Montana. The accredited minister of the Cuban revolutionary government has arrived to ask recognition for the insurgent government. It seems certain that the recognition feeling is gaining ground in Congress.

The Republican special says the House Appropriation Committee has agreed to postpone several deficiency bills until next session. The government of Massachusetts has tendered

Hoar's place on the Supreme bench to Congressman Dawes.

The Quaker delegation had an interview with the President to-day, one of their best men will be made superintendent of some Indian agency, with Quaker subordinates. If this plan work well a large number of Quaker appointments will be made next fall.

St. Louis.—The *Times* advocates the total repeal of the Tenu of Office act, because it is not a good law. It deprives the Executive power of all vigor, and renders needed reforms in the administration of the government impossible. The *World* says if a substitute is adopted, Grant will be outwitted and circumvented. The *Tribune* says the substitute is not what it could wish, but well comes it as relief to the administration. The *Herald* says the law should be repealed; let us leave it to the people and the House of Representatives. The President and the people are compelled to bow, cap in hand, to the supremacy of the Senate.

The Republicans voting negatively to the substitute for the Tenu of Office bill were Fessenden, Grimes, McDonald, Morton, Ross, Sprague and Warner. The following were absent: Nye, Root, Sherman and Thayer. Present, but not voting; Fenton, Howe, Pomeroy, Robinson. Better informed Congressmen think the House will accept the substitute.

FOREIGN.

Halifax.—The report that a delegation was in Washington to negotiate for annexation is without foundation. A late snow storm was followed by a heavy rain causing an immense destruction of property in some parts of Nova Scotia.

London, 24.—The Fenian, Halpine, will probably be liberated on giving a guarantee as to his future conduct.

Rio de Janeiro.—The Emperor, in the Council yesterday, proposed the abolition of the workmen's register, as he was satisfied with their recent progress. He cited former laws favoring the workmen, and said the present step would place them in their proper position, and would disarm hatred and cause force to give way to right. The Council adopted the project, which shortly goes before the Corps Legislatif.

Havana.—Dulce has issued a proclamation declaring that all vessels captured in Spanish waters with men and munitions of war aboard will be treated as pirates and adjudged according to the articles of war, irrespective of their points of departure or destination. The brig *Mary Lowell*, captured by the Spanish man-of-war *Andalusia*, has been brought to this port; the *Andalusia* is now cruising among the islands. The value of the cargo of the *Mary Lowell* is estimated at \$200,000, and consists of cannon, small arms, ammunition, etc.

A detachment of troops, under Escalante, has gone to Genoa to assist in the capture of the *Andalusia*. Additional troops have been sent to Cardenas, Sagua, and Remedios. A meeting of planters will be held at the palace to-night to request Dulce to discuss the establishment of rural police throughout the island for the protection of the plantations.

News has been received of a heavy battle between the insurgents and troops in the central department on the road to Remedios and Moran. The report of the battle is not yet made public, not even the result; the Spaniards claim 500 rebels were killed.

London.—Northcote, a member of the House, urges the Hudson Bay Company to accept Granville's proposition to cede their territorial rights for \$30,000, as the best offer to be obtained.

New York, 24.—A Buenos Ayres letter states, that it is reported Lopez has ceded Paraguay to the United States.

The *Herald*'s Madrid, says the draft of the new constitution was laid before the Cortes to-day. Its leading features are as follows: The Government is to be monarchical, with Senate and Congress; the senatorial term is limited to thirteen years. The Senators are to be elected by provincial courts, four for each province. The deputies to Congress are to be elected every 3 years by universal suffrage. The reign of the king is to be limited to the term of eighteen years.

The majority of the committee which reported the Constitution are favorable to the separation of State and Church; the minority propose that the Roman Catholic shall be retained as the religion of the State, with toleration for other creeds. Liberty of the press and the right of public meeting are fully guaranteed by the new Constitution.

The Cortes have passed the conscription law.

Washington.—Secretary Boutwell assures Sargent that he will soon personally give mature consideration to the proposition for abolishing the treasury regulations requiring the sealing and wording of domestic goods, transported between New York and San Francisco, via the Isthmus; he says, "In the meantime the action by your chamber of commerce is anxiously awaited."

Ryan says that the average adjuster awards \$270,000 insurance in the *Aquila* and cargo, of which \$71,000 in gold belongs to the city of San Francisco. Ryan adds that the policies, though assigned to the city, will not be considered valid unless sanctioned by the underwriters, consequently they must be sent to New York to ensure prompt collection.

Correspondence.

NEPHI, March 22, 1899.

Ed. *Deseret News*.—Dear Bro.—The heavy rains which have fallen during the last two weeks have delayed the spring planting, but they have been good for the fall grain, of which a large amount was sown last fall. From the appearance of the mountains, there is every prospect of a very abundant harvest on the coming season, and the people are preparing to put in crops on an abundant scale. We have been blessed with a mild and pleasant winter and our fruit trees appear promising, many are intending to plant out fruit trees, grape vines and mulberry cuttings, on quite a large scale, silk culture, co-operation, wine making, etc., seem to be looking up and the spirit of improvement is abroad among the Saints.

The Juab Co-operative and Commercial Association is flourishing, and the establishment is doing a good cash business. It has purchased an extensive stock of the Neph Branch of the Eagle Emporium. The institution is offering goods at reasonable rates. The following gentlemen are the officers of the Association: President, Jacob A. Elder; Directors, John Vidkers, David Udall, Henry M. Snow, and John Hogue; Treasurer, Timothy H. Foot; Secretary, Samuel Pitchforth.

The Ladies Relief Society, under the

management of Sister A. Goldsborough, is doing much good.

Our Sunday schools are in a prosperous condition, the north district school, on the 7th inst., had an interesting exhibition which was a decided success, and reflected much credit on the teachers of the school. A number of prizes were given to the children.

We have four day schools, which are well attended. The two principal ones are taught by bro. A. Love and W. Rellay. I am sorry to have to report that there is a great deal of sickness among our children. The scarlet fever, of a very malignant type, has been raging for some time in this place. Bro. Udall, Love, Webb, and Tranter, have lost children of great promise, and many children are still afflicted with this disease.

Peace and union prevail throughout the country and our officers of the law have to farm for a living, there being no cases on the docket. Industry and sobriety characterize the people, who are prospering under the direction of President Bigler. The *Deseret News* is ever welcome, but when the Weekly does not arrive until Saturday we are much disappointed.

Respectfully,
SAMUEL PITCHFORTH.

Special Notices.

Having lately received extensive additions to our already large and varied stock, in the shape of type, presses, &c., &c., our facilities for executing all kinds of Job Work in the best and most improved styles have been greatly increased. Co-operative and other establishments can be supplied with plain or tinted Order and Receipt Books, Certificates of Stock, and every kind of work. Orders from the city and the country are promptly and respectfully solicited. We have received one of the latest improved ruling machines; and are, therefore, prepared to do all kinds of ruling, according to order, on the shortest notice.

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Lessee & Manager—H. B. Clawson & J. T. Calne.

Engagement of the Distinguished Artist,

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And the popular Comedian,

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A GREAT CAST OF THE COMPANY.

FIRST NIGHT OF

LUCILLE WESTERN,

In her impressive and pathetic role of

The Jewish Maiden,

In the Romantic Play of

LEAH, THE FORSAKEN.

This Evening,

THURSDAY, MAR. 25, 1899.

The performance will consist of the Romantic Drama, in 5 Acts, adapted and arranged from the German of Mosenthal by Augustin Daly, Esq., entitled

LEAH

THE FORSAKEN.

LEAH, a Jewish Maiden.

RUDOLF, a young German Farmer.

For Synopsis see Posters and Programmes.

es. DOORS OPEN AT 7 o'clock. Performance commences punctually at 7 1/2.

TO-MORROW EVENING,

OUR AMERICAN COUSIN

AND

PADDY MILES' BOY.

NOTICE.

ELDRIDGE & CLAWSON

HAVING CLOSED BUSINESS,

Herby notify ALL parties indebted to them, either by Note or Book Account, that the same must be settled

IMMEDIATELY, or

Their account will be placed in the hands of an Attorney for collection.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

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CO-OPERATIVE

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THIS INSTITUTION, having for its objects the consolidation of the Mercantile Interests of this Territory, and the distribution of General Merchandise to the people

At a Small Margin of Profit.

takes pleasure in announcing that its business is fully organized and

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