

# THE DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

## SMALL-POX IN THE WEST.

THE small-pox has been kept pretty well under control at Virginia City, Nevada, by the vigilance of the local authorities and the very general resort to vaccination by the people, so says the *Virginia Enterprise*; but notwithstanding every exertion, it has been spreading there, and at latest accounts there were many new cases of the disease. All the original cases of disease in that city had been traced directly to San Francisco. This latter city is accused of permitting itself to become the nursery or focus of the disease, from which it has spread into every locality in communication with it.

The *Enterprise* is strongly in favor of vaccination. It urges it upon the people as the only preventive known to science. But the *Gold Hill (Nevada) News* does not seem to be impressed with its advantages. The free and judicious use of proper disinfectants seems to stand high in favor with it as a preventive. It quotes the *Sacramento Daily Record* to prove that vaccination has been unavailing in arresting the disease in San Francisco. But it says: "All ean, of course, get vaccinated, who choose. If they consider it a sure preventive, that is their business, not ours, but by all means let it be with the purest of vaccine matter."

The Grass Valley (Cal.) *Union* does not rely so strongly upon disinfectants. "Disinfectants have their uses," it says, "though to depend upon them alone is, in our opinion, folly. Certain odors may pervade the atmosphere of a room, and still the germ of disease occupy that atmosphere. It may be that some of the disinfectants chemically unite with small-pox malarial, and change its poisonous character, but no chemist knows this to be a fact." Vaccination, it thinks, ought to be first, purification and the use of disinfectants afterwards.

The San Francisco *Call* asks: "When doctors disagree who shall decide?" It cites the various conflicting opinions which prevail among doctors in that city, and asks which of them are the people to be guided by. It seems to have no very clear idea of what ought to be done. Evidently it has no faith in vaccination as a preventive, for it says, vaccination has been almost universal, and yet the disease is rapidly on the increase. It is highly in favor of carbolic acid as a disinfectant, if a pure article can be obtained.

In a communication to the same paper under another date, a physician urges the people to be vaccinated. He says it is the only means they can now employ to prevent the small-pox. Where it does not entirely protect the subject, he says, it modifies the disease. He describes three causes for the deaths of those who have fallen by small-pox after vaccination—improper vaccination, feeble constitution, or bad treatment.

The statement that vaccination affords no security against the attacks of small-pox, is incorrect. It is a valuable prophylactic, and while it has never been claimed to be a *sure preventive*, there is no better as yet discovered. It is an admitted fact that the ravages of the small-pox have not been so widespread and deadly since the discovery of vaccination by Dr. Jenner as they were previous to his day. By its agency the disease has been greatly modified, and when a person who has been vaccinated is attacked by the disease, it assumes a mild form, and in medical parlance is called varioloid. All the papers which have contained articles upon this subject have urged the necessity of having pure vaccine matter. This is an important point. Probably the non-success of vaccination in many populations is attributable to the difficulty in obtaining such matter, and to the diseased condition of the systems of the persons vaccinated.

One of the great prejudices which exists against vaccination has its origin in the risk which is run of being inoculated by the process with other diseases. Many people choose to brave the danger of an attack of small pox rather than incur the risk of having some other disease infused into the system. We have had these fears of vaccination, and were we in any other place than Utah we would long hesitate before we would suffer our children to be vaccinated by the matter commonly used. But in this country there is not the same risk in vaccinating that there is elsewhere. There are no secret diseases among our population. Once obtain pure vaccine matter with which to commence, and there would not be the least danger

afterwards. When parents have any hereditary disease, such as scrofula or any other taint, it is known or can be ascertained, and with ordinary care our entire population could be vaccinated without the least risk.

We do not, in writing upon this subject, wish to create the least alarm. There is no necessity for it. But proper precautions should be taken against this loathsome disease. It prevails in California; it has reached Nevada, and with the amount of travel through our Territory from the West, and which is increasing, cases of the disease may reach here. Hotel keepers, city authorities and others should be vigilantly watchful to prevent its ingress, and general measures, applicable to the entire population, should be taken to prevent its spread, in case it should appear among us.

Our people are generally temperate and pure in their lives, and, in the most of instances, they pay attention to diet. These are so many safeguards against the spread of disease in our midst. If the community would universally obey and carry out in their lives the teachings which they have received upon these subjects, we feel confident that epidemics, such as the small-pox is at the present time in San Francisco, would not prevail among us. It may be that the people will perceive, after awhile, if they do not already, that the appeals which have been made to them to observe the Word of Wisdom have not been without cause.

## TURKEY AND GREECE.

OUR telegrams for the last few days, have brought rather exciting news from Europe. The peace of that Continent seems to be again jeopardized, notwithstanding the oft-repeated assurances, given of late, by Napoleon, King William of Prussia, and the leading statesmen of Europe, that all was peace. The Eastern Question, as it is called, again looms up, and the war feeling in Greece and Turkey seems to be so strong that hostilities between the two nations are very probable. The Turks and Greeks are the prominent actors in the scene, but there is doubtless a greater power than either working silently, and doing its best to foment discord between them,—that power is Russia. The present rupture is owing to the violation of the law of nations on the part of Greece in extending aid and encouragement to the rebellious subjects of The Porte,—the Cretans, who like their Grecian brethren, are professing Christians.

Since the present struggle for Cretan independence commenced, frequent remonstrances have been made by the Sultan against the course pursued by the Greeks; but these remonstrances have been so little regarded, that the Porte recently issued an ultimatum imperatively demanding of the Greeks respect to international law, which demands were as imperatively rejected by the Greek government, and already the first boom of war has been sounded in the firing upon a Turkish man-of-war, by the Greek steamer *Erosis*.

The Greeks seem bent upon a war with the Turks, and according to some reports the war fever in Athens has reached such a pitch that their forces were being marshaled and legions formed; while others say the Greek government has taken no steps of a defensive character. In Constantinople the feeling for war is said to be about as strong, the French flag having been outraged and burned because of the French Admiral's eagerness to preserve the peace.

The great powers of Europe, with the exception of Russia, have remonstrated with the Grecian government on the folly of its course, but seemingly with little effect. The father and brother-in-law of King George of Greece,—the King of Denmark, and the Prince of Wales,—have written to him urging upon him the necessity of respecting the law of nations; and the London press recommends the Great Powers to make one effort more to induce Greece to abandon her present course, and if she is still deaf to their remonstrances, to leave her to her fate.

Our telegrams to-day are more warlike than ever. The Turkish Minister has left Athens; the Grecian government is making active preparations for war; the Turkish fleet is blockading the port of Syra, and the Emperor of Russia has authorized Grecian men-of-war to hoist the Russian flag. This last statement, if true, is little less than a declaration of war on the part of Russia; and here most likely, lies the cause of the failure of the Western

Powers to amicably settle the difficulties between Turkey and Greece.

The Great Powers of Europe regard Greece as the aggressor, and as altogether to blame in the present rupture; Greece, in and of herself, is an insignificant power, much inferior even to Turkey, and unaided, unable to cope with her.

It has long been the ambition of the Czars to annex the domains of the Sultan, and they have made repeated attempts to accomplish this pet scheme. Russia's growth in power and extent of territory is looked upon by the other powers of Europe with jealousy and suspicion, and especially is this the case with Great Britain. The designs of the Czars with regard to Turkey, once accomplished, and their march to power in the East would be greatly facilitated, and the death blow probably given to British supremacy in the East Indies. To prevent this, and to preserve what is called the "balance of power" in Europe has heretofore led to coalitions between Britain and some one or more of the continental powers. The Crimean war was the last instance of the kind. But Russia, though thwarted heretofore in her design on Turkey, has never relinquished it, and never will. Its accomplishment is but a matter of time. As a nation she is still very youthful. She is the rising power of Europe, and backed by such a power, even little Greece might hope to successfully cope with Turkey, if the latter were unaided by her former allies.

The present aspect of affairs in Europe is, to say the least, very ominous. of Russia can succeed in forming and maintaining an alliance with France or Austria, rumors of which have been circulated of late, and thus succeed in dividing what are called the Great Powers, she may be able to carry out her designs on Turkey, and in her attempt so to do, the present rupture between Greece and Turkey, may lead to a general European war.

## VIGILANCE COMMITTEE IN INDIANA.

A MIDNIGHT raid has lately been made upon a jail in New Albany, Indiana, and four persons were seized and hung in the jail by the mob. Three of the victims were brothers by the name of Frank, Simeon and William Reno, and the other prisoner was named Charles Anderson. These men were notorious as express robbers; they robbed an express last Spring of \$100,000, and nearly murdered the express messenger. The whole country was thrown into a great excitement about this robbery, it only being one of a series of robberies which had been committed in that vicinity. A vigilance committee was organized at Seymour, which has been in existence some time. This committee has not made any particular secret of its intentions to take the law into its own hands, as the editor of the *New Albany Daily Commercial* seems to have been aware of them, and warned the citizens of that place, some weeks before the raid was made, that the Seymour Vigilance Committee contemplated an early visit to the jail.

The Committee numbered from seventy to seventy-five men, all well dressed, and they wore red flannel masks which completely concealed their features. Each man was armed with one or more revolvers, a heavy club about thirty inches long and a slung shot. They came on a railroad train, which they had under their control, and seemed to have taken every measure to carry out their deadly purpose without interruption.

After reaching New Albany they placed patrols along the street from the railroad to the jail, and a strong guard was also placed around the jail. They succeeded in effecting an entrance into the Sheriff's premises, and demanded of the Sheriff the keys of the jail, and told him that if he made any noise they would shoot him, at the same time pointing their revolvers at him. He would not give them the keys, and escaped from them and attempted to raise an alarm, in doing which he was shot in the arm, and knocked down with the butt end of a pistol. His wife, when she saw the blood on her husband's clothes, commenced crying; the mob told her to stop crying and keep perfectly quiet, or she would be killed. A friend of the Sheriff's who was at his house begged the privilege of going for a surgeon to dress his wound, but the vigilants would not permit it, he was told to wait. When they left they took this man with them to the train, to prevent his giving the alarm, and told him as soon as the train started he could go for

a surgeon. They had everything ready for the hanging, and did not occupy more than five minutes in executing their vengeance on the prisoners. When they seized William Reno he protested that he had nothing to do with the robbery; but they paid no attention to him. He has always, it is said, declared his innocence of the charge against him, and his brothers have reiterated and endorsed his declaration as true.

It is strange that the police of New Albany knew nothing about the mob being there until it had performed its work and departed.

The *Commercial*, in commenting upon this dreadful deed, says there is little doubt that the mob is the creature that has grown up from the utter impossibility of securing a conviction in criminal cases, particularly where the defendants have money. There is law enough, it says, to convict and properly punish offenders; but justice is smothered in a multitude of cunningly devised enactments known as the rules of the courts.

There has seemed to be, for some time a growing belief throughout the country that the officers of the law are not equal to the demands of justice. This is at least the excuse which is given for the organization of vigilance committees in various places. There can be no permanent prosperity, or security for life and property in any community where an illegal organization usurps the functions of the officers of justice and becomes prosecutor, jury, judge and executioner. Such organizations commit greater crimes, as a rule, than those they endeavor to correct or punish. They have never been productive of any good; but in almost every instance they have been used by wicked men and arch-scoundrels, who have contrived to join them to cloak their own crimes, to carry out private schemes of vengeance and to gratify their worst passions. Every honest and patriotic man should oppose such organizations; they are fraught with evil to all concerned—themselves and the community in which they exist. A mob does not think, reason, or feel any responsibility, and is utterly incapable of executing justice with impartiality. It can wreak revenge, and it is as liable to execute it upon the innocent as upon the guilty, if appearances and prejudice should be against the former.

The law should be strictly and severely enforced against all such proceedings as these which have taken place at New Albany. However criminal the victims may have been, mobs should be taught that they cannot take the law into their own hands without being punishable as law-breakers. The supremacy of the law should be maintained at all hazards, and where it can not be, and mobs can organize and operate unpunished, anarchy must sooner or later prevail. The condition of such a people is woeful.

## Correspondence.

SALT LAKE CITY,  
December 20th, 1868.

*Editor Deseret News:*—On Sunday morning, 13th inst., Elder W. Woodruff and myself, accompanied by Elder Geo. Dunford, who kindly volunteered the services of his team and carriage, left this city on a tour to the north. We held a meeting at Bountiful at 11 a. m., at which Elder F. D. Richards was present. Elders Woodruff and Smith addressed the meeting, enjoying a rich flow of the good Spirit, and great freedom in their remarks. After meeting, at which an appointment was given out for Brother Richards to preach in the evening, we proceeded to Centerville, where the people were assembled awaiting our arrival, which had been delayed a short time on account of breaking a bolt, which connected the whipple-tree to the double-tree, while passing thro' a stream. Here Elders Woodruff and Smith again addressed the people for an hour and a half, enjoying a good time, after which we rolled out for Farmington, where we held another meeting in the evening, a large and attentive congregation being present; Elders Woodruff, Dunford and Smith each delivered short but spirited addresses, evidently to the satisfaction and pleasure of the majority present.

While passing through Kaysville the cross-bar upon which the carriage box rests, over the front spring, snapped in two, as the forward wheels dropped into a chuck-hole, which was concealed by a thin crust of ice; this detained us about three hours, but by the kind exertion of Brother Joseph Egbert and Bishop Layton we were enabled to fill