

steps within his own door; smiles at his escape; writes until two o'clock, and then turns in, with the happy consciousness of having two duels to fight the next day.

ABSD THOUGHTS IN ABSURD BOOKS.—The inquiries with which men of intelligence have frequently occupied their thoughts, will often provoke a smile. Inquiries as to the burial-place of Adam, his height, the extent of his knowledge; to these, and other subjects of equal utility, men of zeal and learning have devoted great time and labor.

A shoemaker of Amiens published, in 1615, a tract, in which, tracing the history of boots, he asserted that Adam was the first to make them from the skins of beasts, and that he learned the art from God himself.

A member of the Academy, in a laborious dissertation on the weights and measures of the ancients, favors us with the following chronological scale of the various heights of men since the creation:—Adam, 123 feet, 9 inches; Eve, 118 feet, 9 3/4 inches; Noah, 103 feet; Abraham, 27 feet, 13 inches; Hercules, 10 feet; Alexander, 10 feet; Julius Cæsar, 5 feet. He sagely added that, if Providence had not been pleased to suspend this progressive decrease, men would be no bigger than the smallest insect.

Even in these days speculation is eccentric enough to be absurd, if not impious. The Retrospective Review—an English publication—for June, last year, contained a speculation, extending to seven pages, upon the occupation of God before the creation!

In 1740, a Swedish physician, whose name is given, maintained, in a natural history of the Bible, that the food with which the Hebrews were fed in the desert was neither quail nor locust, but herring—"good red herring." The father of this writer wrote a book to show that the locality of Paradise was Sweden.

Not many years before, an English clergyman had attempted to prove the sun to be no other than hell.

A Spanish Jesuit undertook, in a certain treatise, to describe the delights of Paradise, one of which will consist of playing on instruments like those in use on earth. He was outdone, however, by another Jesuit, who wrote 'Occupations de Saints dans le Ciel.' According to this worthy soul, the blessed shall delight in embracing one another, in bathing in delightful baths, in which they shall swim like fishes, they shall sing more melodiously than nightingales, and take delight in balls, masquerades and ballets.

CHARCOAL—ITS USES.—The following extracts from a letter of a clergyman, to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, presents a very simple and he says, effectual preventive of cholera, as well as a remedy of great power: "The preventive is simple: a teaspoonful of powdered charcoal taken three times a week, in a cup of coffee, or other vehicle, in the morning. When attacked with the cholera, a mixture of an ounce of charcoal, an ounce of laudanum, and an ounce of brandy or other spirits may be given as follows—after being well shaken—a teaspoonful every five minutes. In half an hour I have known this effectually relieve and stay the disease. As the patient becomes better, the mixture may be given at longer intervals. I have known a patient in the blue stage and collapsed, perfectly recovered in a few hours. The charcoal was tried as a preventive on a large plantation in the Mauritius, and not a single individual out of eight hundred was attacked with cholera. A London paper declares that powdered charcoal has been most successfully employed in several hospital gangrene and other putrid sores. "In case of hospital gangrene we have no only to deal with effluvia, but with real miasmata, as gangrene readily infects the healthy wounds of any person in the vicinity." Charcoal respirators, especially those which embrace both the nostrils and the mouth, purify the air by filtration, and thereby deprive it of the noxious miasmata which in unhealthy localities it not unfrequently contains. If the lower decks of ships were covered with a thin layer of freshly burned wood charcoal, there would be less liability to cholera, ship and yellow fevers.

I WAS ONCE YOUNG.—It is an excellent thing for all who are engaged in giving instruction to young people, frequently to call to mind what they were themselves when young. This practice is one of the most likely to impart patience and forbearance, and to correct unreasonable expectations.

At one period of my life, says a distinguished teacher, when instructing two or three young people to write, I found them, as I thought, unusually stupid. I happened about this time to look over the contents of an old copy-book, written by me when I was a boy. The thick up-strokes, the crooked down-strokes, the awkward joinings of the letters, and the blots in the book, made me completely ashamed of myself, and I could, at the moment, have burned the book in the fire. The worse, however, I thought of myself, the better I thought of my backward scholars; I was cured of my unreasonable expectations, and became in future doubly patient and forbearing.

In teaching youth, remember that you once were young, and in reproving their youthful errors, endeavor to call to mind your own.

WEST COAST OF AFRICA.—News from the West Coast of Africa informs us that a very sanguinary affair occurred on the 17th of July at Gambia; the natives having broken out in open rebellion in consequence of a man named Fodey having gone to a native village and seized and carried away a man and his wife for slaves. Fodey, being supported by Marabouts, refused to surrender to the police, who were supported by Lieutenants Davies and Armstrong, and a small military force. Lieutenant Armstrong was wounded, and two soldiers made prisoners.

The Marabouts then burned three English villages, on which Gov. O'Connor proceeded, with 260 men, to take St. Mary's, but was waylaid by the natives, who drove him back with a loss of thirty killed and forty-three wounded. Gov. O'Connor then obtained the assistance of a French man-of-war, the *Entrepreante*, and 150 white troops, who carried the town at the point of the bayonet, and on the third totally destroyed it. The French had two killed and one wounded British none killed.

THE DESERET NEWS.



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY:

Wednesday---January 2, 1856.

WANTED AT THIS OFFICE IMMEDIATELY—10 or 15 cords of wood. The weather has been so extremely cold that we have been disposed to be lenient with those who have promised to furnish fuel in payment of their dues, but necessity now compels us to remind them of their promises, and we hope they will bring the wood without further delay.

To our Readers.

The year 1855 has passed away, and the year 1856 has succeeded it, according to the Catholic and Protestant mode of reckoning time, commonly called "new style." The Greek portion of the Christian world still tenaciously adhere to the "old style" of reckoning, according to which the year 1856 will not commence its existence till the 13th day of January N.S., 11 days hence.

This difference in the computation of time by the two grand divisions of Christians, both of which religiously observe a countless number of holidays, has occasionally been somewhat inconvenient to the parties, who have never as yet been very liberal in their feelings towards each other, and have been disposed to trespass on each other's rights whenever opportunity has offered. The attack on Odessa by the forces of Catholic France and Protestant England, assisted by the infidel Turk, during the present war with Greek Russia, was made when the inhabitants of the city were celebrating the most important day in their calendar, unquestionably for the purpose of interrupting the Greek in his religious devotions on that occasion.

Being neither Catholic nor Greek, and but a small part of a Christian, we have not for some years entered very warmly into the observance of any of their holidays, and do not expect to, till we have more positive knowledge of the precise time of the occurrence of the events they are intended to commemorate than we have now. In the absence of knowledge there is no real happiness nor enjoyment to be derived from the observance of days as times of rejoicing, but as to the division of time, we had as soon commence the year with the first day of January as at any other period, and as that time meets with the universal sanction of the people of Deseret, we wish them all individually and collectively a "Happy New Year."—E.S.

Fillmore City.

We received several letters from members of the Legislative Assembly from this and other counties, by the last mail and by the politeness of Mr. Pugh, who arrived from Fillmore about the same time.

The communication from the Editor in to-day's paper contains all of interest of a public nature that we have seen. There seems to have been little done excepting the passage of the acts referred to in that communication, and a few bills granting rights to herd grounds, to individuals, &c.

Judging from what we have seen and heard, the attractions at the capital have a most happy effect upon our friends there, and some of those who have heretofore been considered very sober and reserved in their demeanor, seem quite mirthful from some cause which we do not understand. One of the members of the House exhibits quite a taste for mathematics—a very necessary qualification for legislators to possess, we readily admit, and without which, with the mere nominal pay they receive in this Territory, they would be liable to have the cash in pocket at the close of the Session represented thus, \$0.00.

Our ideas of the capital have most unquestionably been too contracted. It never entered into our thoughts that a city so young could boast of so many splendid Halls and mansions as seem to have been built there in the short space of four years; and if the true state of things is not misrepresented, it is certainly no "mean city." Nearly

every communication we have seen that was not written in the Council Chamber or Representatives' Hall, has had the name of some "house" or "hall" prefixed to the date, conveying ideas of grandeur and magnificence that we did not suppose existed there, though apprised of the industrious and enterprising spirit of the inhabitants.

That the capital has, this winter, the appearance of a lively business place, there can be no doubt, and that its population has materially increased since the District Court commenced its session there some two months since, there is ample proof. Merchants, grocers, barbers and other shavers, have gone there to pick up the few dimes that may be paid out by the government agents in payment of the expenses of the Legislature and the courts, and if they do not succeed in pocketing most of the money that may thus be put in circulation, they will fail in their calculations for once.

How it will be, we do not know. From last accounts trade there was rather dull, but after the Supreme Court commences its session, which will be on Monday next, and the District Court resumes its sitting on the Monday next following, it is more than probable that trade will be more brisk in some branches at least.

Should the same feelings continue to exist among the members of both branches of the Legislative Assembly that have thus far animated them in the r associations and deliberations, there certainly will be no wrangling or strife among them, and if they should at times be a little jovial, we know of no law that will punish them for it, and the only danger to be apprehended will be the ruling of some court claiming jurisdiction.—E.S.

We have been called upon by a scientific gentleman of this city, since the publication of the letter from Judge Peacock, for information relative to the existence of saltpetre and sulphur in San Pete county. He is particularly anxious, if there is any saltpetre there, or in any part of the Territory, if the quantity is ever so small, to know where it can be obtained. Will some one acquainted with the facts communicate them as soon as practicable?—and also send a specimen of it in the state in which it exists, if it can be obtained at this season of the year, for inspection.—E.S.

ARRIVAL.—On the 27th ult., Thomas Butterfield, William Batchelder and Ira Ames, jun., arrived in this city from the settlement on Salmon river, Oregon Territory, which they left on the 5th of that month, in company with six others, viz., J. Parry, G. W. Hills, W. Burch, I. Shepherd, A. Zandell and B. Watts. They came in with two ox wagons intending to return early in the spring.

When they left the settlement, there was very little snow on the ground, but they encountered any amount of it on the way. From the neighborhood of Fort Hall till they reached Bear river the snow was in general about two feet eight inches deep. On the Malade it was in places two feet deep, and there was some talk among the herdsmen there, of moving their herds to the south side of Bear river, where there was little snow, till they arrived in the vicinity of Ogden city.

They met with no accident on the way and left all well and prospering at the settlement.—E. S.

Elders C. C. Rich and R. R. Hopkins, of San Bernardino, will please accept our thanks for the package of papers sent to this office, and also the Pacific Express Company, though the latest dates we have seen came by the mail.

SAD ACCIDENT.—We have been informed that as Mr. Joel Rix, of Davis county, was taking a herd of sheep across the Weber river one day last week, the ice suddenly gave way, and over 100 of the sheep were lost. A young man, a son of Mr. Rix, as reported, who was with the herd, came near being taken under the ice and drowned while endeavoring to save part of the sheep, only 80 of which were got out alive.—E.S.

Latest News---Arrival of the Mail.

The California mail, due on the 28th, arrived on the 30th ult., having been detained in consequence of the extreme cold weather and bad roads. The carrier, Mr. David Savage, informs us that it was with great exertion that he kept from freezing between Parowan and Fillmore, and between the capital and Nephi, and reports plenty of snow the entire distance.

The mail, as usual of late on that route, was very light, and most of the exchanges bear date previous to Nov. 10. The letter mail was unusually small, and most of the way bills were dated in October, and should have been received here in November, but from some cause the mail from

San Francisco to San Pedro does not arrive at the right time to intersect the route from this city, which leaves there the 1st day of every month, and consequently there has been no late news received from Upper California for several months by that route.

The latest eastern dates we have seen are up to the 24th of October. The New York Herald of Oct. 20, announces the safe arrival, on the 18th, of the expedition, under the command of Lieut. Hartstein, U.S.N., consisting of the Arctic and Release, that left that port on the 4th of June last, in search of Dr. Kane, with the doctor and all his gallant crew on board, with the exception of three who had died, having found him at Leavely, Isle of Disco, Greenland, on the 13th of September, on his way to England.

We have not room to publish the doctor's official report of the Arctic Expedition under his command in this number, as the composers, wishing to participate in the festivities of the New Year's holiday, had, by working early and late, nearly got it ready for the press before the arrival of the mail, but we will endeavor to publish it next week with such other items relating to the exploration of the arctic regions by Dr. Kane and others, together with what news of general interest to the citizens of this Territory, may be deemed worth publishing.

The affairs in the Crimea are generally in a state of glorious uncertainty, and although the allies were at latest dates in possession of the south side of Sebastopol, it was a question whether they were the conquerors or the conquered. The Emperor Alexander was at Odessa, and it was believed that he would visit the Crimea and inspect the troops, and give a fresh impetus to their determined courage and bravery in resisting the advance of the allies.—E.S.

AFFAIRS AT THE CAPITAL.

NATIONAL HALL, Fillmore, }
Dec. 23, 1855. }

HON. ELIAS SMITH:—

Dear Sir:—The members of the Assembly are diligently prosecuting the business which calls them here, and are undisturbed by the sights, sounds, amusements, customs and practices common to most large cities, hence their deliberations are calm and mature, and unlike every other Legislative Body we have no acrimonious strife.

Several petitions have been presented for large tracts of land to be used for herding and other purposes, and that portion of Cache valley within this Territory has been granted to the 'Trustee in Trust' and Kamas prairie to Brigham Young and Thomas Rhoades. Bills granting to yourself and associates the north part of Junab valley, and to the Hon. J. W. Cummings and associates Rush valley, (except the Government Reserve) together with several others of like character are now in progress.

The 'Acts' for taking a census and holding a convention for the purpose of forming and adopting a constitution, with a view to the admission of Utah into the Union as a State, were passed and approved on the 17th inst. They were ordered to be printed in the Deseret News, and 500 copies have been struck off, by the Public Printer in this city, for the use of the Assembly and for distribution. I forwarded you a copy for the 'News' by Mr. Edmund Pugh, but for the sake of certainty shall send another by this mail, and trust that you will publish them on an early date, since it is highly desirable that the people receive timely notice of the election to be held for choosing Delegates.

The absence of the Secretary prevented appending the certificate usually accompanying the few laws he heretofore published in the 'News,' but that will not effect their validity; though should the Hon. A. W. Babbitt still be in G. S. L. City, at the time you receive the enclosed copy, he will no doubt readily furnish such certificate.

However, he may be obliged to vary or omit the words, 'on file in my office,' for I am not aware that he has either office or clerk at the Capital, hence the bills thus far approved are in the hands of the Secretary of the Council, notwithstanding the U. S. laws make it his duty to publish each Territorial law within ten days after its approval by the Governor.

The unanimity in voting, the absence of all angry debate, the brevity and small number of speeches for Buncombe, the plain and pertinent remarks to elucidate a point not fully understood by all, and the constant effort of each to prepare and forward the purposes before them are characteristics of Utah's Legislatures, and of none more so than this, affording a highly praiseworthy contrast with the acts and doings of like bodies in other regions.

Again, the self-government and highly moral character of the people, and our isolated position preclude the necessity of enacting such numerous and lengthy laws as are found in the annual legislative proceedings of most of our sister States and Territories, tending to confuse and trap the honorable and upright, to assist rogues and rascality and to fatten lawyers, courts and law officers.

For these reasons it is not probable that the Assembly will find it necessary to enact any very lengthy laws during this session, notwithstanding learned lawyers and other dignitaries are disposed to find some fault with our criminal law, the laws regulating the mode of procedure in civil and criminal cases, &c.

Our laws answer our present purposes and wants, and when altered should be less rather than more voluminous, be easy of comprehension and applicable as rules of action founded in justice. Those fancifully learned persons who carp so much at the brevity of our style, are so anxious for the enactment of verbosity and thousands of technical forms, and are ambitious of a kingship, even though crowned at as low an elevation and on as humble a throne as a pine bench, remind one of the mouse at the mouth of the bear's den, and are working zealously only to meet with the mouse's fate. (Our readers are doubtless familiar with the fable.)

Capt. L. W. Hardy was unanimously elected census agent on the 21st inst., by a joint vote of the Council and House, and will no doubt energetically perform the duties of that office.

It snowed quite rapidly during the night and forenoon of the 22nd; the weather is now cool, and there is over six inches of snow on the ground.

The health of the Governor, of Prests. Grant and Kimball and of all the members is good.

Yours truly,
ALBERT CARRINGTON.