

SOMETHING OF OURSELVES.

Condensed History of the Desert News—Its Small Beginnings and Present Stage of Growth.

THE completion of which, which was set up in a small adobe building which adjoined on the east the present Desert News building, and is still standing in a tolerable state of preservation. On this press was printed under date of June 18th, 1850, the first number of the *Desert News*. The paper was a small sheet, having eight pages of



AN EARLY HOME OF THE DESERT NEWS

and freight that were more than human, raising the most important provisions of this character that were made, was the purchase of a printing plant designed to be conveyed by the pioneers on their westward journey, and to be used when they should make a permanent location.

During the winter of 1849-50 Judge W. W. Phelps was sent from Winter Quarters to Philadelphia charged with a commission to purchase a printing press, type, ink, etc. He discharged this duty and brought to Winter Quarters a small printing plant, such as in his judgment would serve the contemplated purpose. This printing outfit was conveyed across the plains by the Pioneer company, and was part of the freight



FIRST PRESS USED IN PRINTING THE DESERT NEWS

with which some of the wags of that company were laden. Such, at least, is the statement made to the writer. The press was a small wrought-iron affair, known as a Ramsay hand-press, and the quantity of type which accompanied it was but small.

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before the close of its second year, the *News* establishment had three presses and a good supply of job and body type. In the fall of 1852 the plant was removed to the second story of the present main building, now occupied by the paper, where it remained about eighteen months. In the spring of 1853 the *News* establishment was removed to the building which is now the northern part of the one occupied by the general printing office. About two years later it was again removed, this time to the second floor of the Council house. An accident in the spring of 1855 the plant was destroyed and some part was conveyed to Fillmore and another part to Payson, and the paper was printed first by one part in one town, then by the other part in the other town. This was done in part for strategic reasons, as it was desired to conceal from the approaching army the exact location of the *News* printing plant.

On the return of the inhabitants to Salt Lake City after the "move," the *Desert News* printing plant was again placed in the Council house, where it remained until 1857, when it was removed to the quarters now occupied by it. From year to



WILLARD RICHARDS

year, the plant has been enlarged in its various departments until it is now one of the largest and most complete printing establishments in the intermountain region.

The latest addition of the plant consists of five Mergenthaler Linotypes, which are now being set up. The management of the *News* was very reluctant to replace the compositors with machines, but the pressure to do so has become irresistible, and hereafter the type of this paper will be set by machinery principally. This will enable it to give to its readers a greatly increased service, and will be of advantage in many ways. With this new equipment the *News* will be put fully abreast in every respect that constitute a good modern and enterprising newspaper, with any of its rivals for the patronage of the people of the State.

A few words of reminiscence relative to different men who have filled the position of editor of the *News*, may not be uninteresting to its present readers. Willard Richards was the first editor, and he occupied the position from the date of the first issue, June 18th, 1850, until his death, March 11, 1851. He was a man of cultivated literary taste and no small amount of natural ability. He was succeeded by Albert Carrington, one of the few college-bred men among the Mormon leaders at that time, and he retained the position until 1853 when Judge Elias Smith took the editorship. Judge

Smith held the position until 1855, when Albert Carrington resumed it, assisted by T. B. H. Stenhouse. In 1857 George Q. Cannon succeeded Albert Carrington as editor. Up to 1895 the paper had appeared as a weekly, but in that year the semi-weekly edition was begun. On November 24th, 1895, something more than a year after George Q. Cannon became editor, the first number of the *Desert News* was issued, and ever since that date the paper has been continued in three editions, daily, semi-weekly and weekly.

In 1874 David O. Calder became manager of both the editorial and business departments of the paper, and he continued in control until 1877, when Charles W. Penrose became editor-in-chief. In 1884, owing to the religious persecution inaugurated about that time, Mr. Penrose was obliged to absent himself from home and was away from the city much of the time for several years. From 1884 until the beginning of 1890, John Nicholson was acting editor-in-chief, with the exception of a term of six months, when Mr. Nicholson served in the penitentiary for unlawful excommunication. In the spring of 1890 Mr. Penrose

JOURNALISM IN UTAH.

Many Ventures in the Field but Few Prove Successful—Prominent Papers and Their History.

THE NUMBER of publications of various kinds that have been established in Utah, first and last, is truly surprising. About two years ago a computation was made of the number and had been started in Salt Lake City, and the estimate of over three hundred was arrived at. This was an average of more than six each year since the first settlement of the State, or one for every sixty days. A gentleman now engaged in journalism in Ogden recently made a statement to the writer that there had been established in that city since its first settlement, no less than forty different publications. Of this number less than a half dozen have survived, and some of those that still exist have a very frail appearance.

The town of Beaver has shown considerable journalistic energy. As early as the spring of 1873, the *Enterprise* began publication there as a daily. It was published as such for about three months, only when it became a tri-weekly. After a feeble and flickering existence of some three years it disappeared from view, but in 1880 was resurrected and lived about one year, since which time it has not been heard of. There have been started in Beaver several other papers, but none survived the period of infancy, except the *Utahian*, which was established in 1877, and continued until 1895, when it was removed to Provo.

Logan has been more cautious in the way of journalistic ventures. The first publication of any kind started in that town was a manuscript amateur sheet called the *Northern Light*, which only a few numbers were issued. This was in 1878, or early in 1879. In September, 1879, was begun the publication of the *Logan Leader*, a weekly, which continued until 1884, when it was merged into the *Journal*, which is still published in that city. About the year 1893 the *Logan Nation* was established, and is still being published under that name, though for a time it went under the name of the *Logan Republican*.

Of journalism in Salt Lake City an interesting volume might be written. In its history have been exemplified partisan feeling, religious intolerance, and political rancor of an extreme character. It has seemed difficult a great portion of the time for a public journal to refrain from exceeding the bounds of conservatism. From 1870 to 1890 the people of the Territory were divided on local and political issues which engendered animosities of a pronounced character, but happily for the community this feeling of conservatism was rapidly obliterated immediately after the adoption by the Mormon Church, in October, 1890, of the resolution abolishing plural marriage. Ever since the year 1891 the entire press in the State has been remarkably united in upholding and fostering the best interests of the State, regardless of political parties, although at times political feeling has run very high and found violent expression in the columns of some of the political journals.

The number of small papers that have been established in various parts of the State within the last ten years is remarkably large. Many of these publications have had too little support to enable them to survive more than a few months, but many others have shown a good deal of vitality and energy, and give promise of a long life.

The most interesting feature in the history of journalism in this State have occurred in this city.

During the years from 1850 to 1861 the *Desert News* was the only publication that survived for any length of time. Among the few others that were begun during this period was the *Mountaineer*, which was edited by James Ferguson, but it lived only a year or two. Judging from simple copies it was a sheet of a good deal of ability for those days.



ELIAS SMITH

and merited a longer lease of life than was given it.

In October, 1861, a telegraph line was completed across the continent as far as Salt Lake City. About a year later the *Daily Telegraph* was established in this city by T. B. H. Stenhouse. The paper displayed great deal of energy and ability, but it survived only a few years.

In 1865 the officers and enlisted men of the California Volunteers, located at Camp Douglas, began the

ceders from the Mormon Church, and went under the name of *Globe*, William S. Goddard being a leading figure in it. In the year 1870 this paper was started to meet political needs of non-Mormon residents of the Territory and adopted the name of the *Liberal Party*. Since that time its organ, the *Mormon Tribune*, has been to appear in a daily and its name changed to the *Salt Lake Tribune*. The best edited and



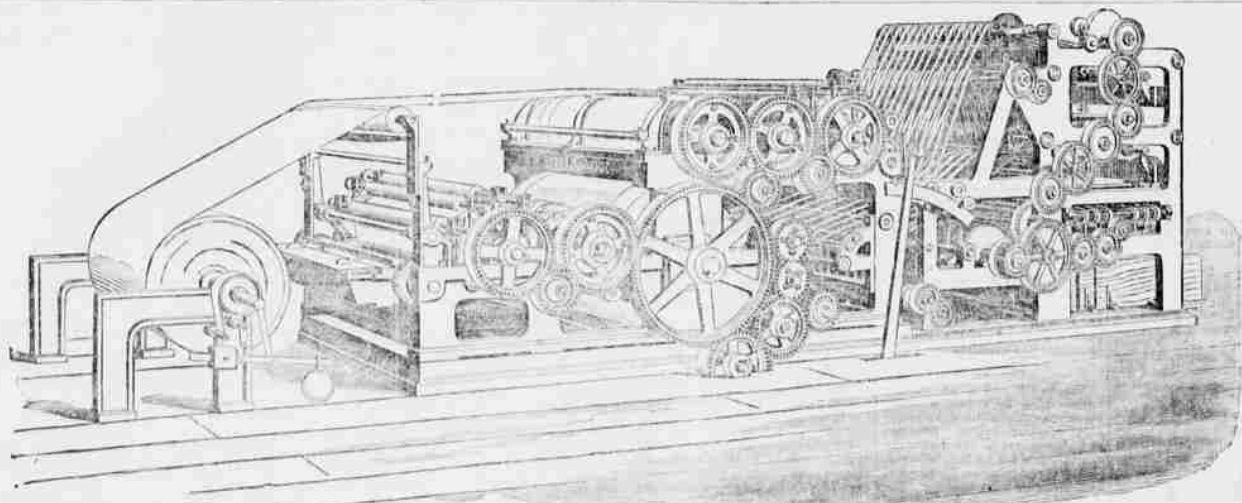
C. L. ELDON

publication of the *Union Vidette*, a weekly, which adopted a policy strongly anti-Mormon, but the paper continued only a year or two. In 1867, or thereabouts, was begun the publication of the *Utah Magazine*, which was at first a strictly literary monthly, but it soon adopted a poli-

tics talent available was employed on this paper. For many years a leading feature of its policy was to oppose the Mormon Church and people, but during later years its chief aim has grown out of its effectiveness with which it denounced the cause of war.

On June 23d, 1850 appeared the first number of the *Salt Lake Tribune*, a lively, energetic and vigorous paper, which was established at the time the Liberal party had effected a strong and permanent organization. Its promoters evidently expected that it should support the party and its policy, which was already the leading motive in its establishment. W. C. Thayer, one of the founders of the paper, was a man of able, vigorous and energetic character and policy that, with a generous support from the Mormon and conservative Gentile, politics it defended the cause of the People's or Mormon party, and great vigor. Since its creation it has been a strong *Desert* organ.

At the present time the newspapers published in the State cover the field very thoroughly, leaving absolutely no room for the amount of money expended in the columns, the newspapers of the State are entirely out of proportion to the population, and none of them are proving profitable as an investment. It is a fact, however, that no newspaper in the State has as good newspaper as is found in any city in the United States having double its population.



HIGH SPEED PERFECTING PRESS NOW USED IN PRINTING AND FOLDING THE DESERT NEWS