

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

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VOLUME TWENTY-ONE.

This issue opens volume 21 of the Deseret Evening News, the first number of the daily edition having appeared on November 21st, 1887. The News is the pioneer paper of the Pacific slope, the publication of the weekly edition having begun on June 15th, 1850. The next journal in point of age west of the Missouri river is the *Alta California*, which was established in January, 1851. For a considerable time the *Alta* claimed precedence in point of age, but has long since succumbed to the fact that the assertion was an error.

The career of this journal is before the whole community, not even excluding the "oldest inhabitant." Its aim has been to vindicate truth and justice and counteract error and wrong. The measure of success it has attained in that most creditable direction must be left to the judgment of its numerous readers. It would be unbecoming on our part to make any assertion in the premises. In this age such a thing as journalistic modesty is almost an unknown or invisible quantity. The extraordinary assertions that are made in that regard by many newspapers are, in our view, exceedingly distasteful, on the same ground that personal egotism is a most objectionable quality. It is impossible to entirely separate a journal from the aspect of individualism. It will be found as a rule with journals as with men that those who indulge in hyperbolic self-commendation require that kind of material to make an impression in any quarter of the presence of intrinsic greatness. So far as the News is concerned, it proposes to struggle on in the face of an opposition with which few journals have had to contend, leaving the judgment as to how its mission has been performed in the hands of its friends, who will doubtless be considerate in passing it. In entering upon a new volume we simply express a hope that this journal will continue to receive the sentimental and substantial support of the lovers of justice and truth.

MOBOCRACY IN THE SOUTH.

In the *York World* of November 17th appears a dispatch of the previous day's date, from Calera, Alabama. As it relates to the persecution of the Elders in that State and on the Georgia border, it is of special interest to the people of Utah. It is as follows:

"For the past three months a party of six Mormon Elders have been proselyting in this section and also at several small towns across the Georgia border. Several converts were made at the latter places, and the indignation and wrath of the people could hardly be suppressed when on last Sunday four married women and two men left their homes and made public their intention of going to Utah. The people then all rose up at once and gave the Elders notice to move on instantly. They refused at first, but Monday night two of them were taken out and tarred and feathered, and the next night two others were chased into the woods by bounds and kept in the trees all night. The Elders left the next day, and the converts are missing also, leaving six forsaken homes. If the Elders ever return there they will be shot at sight.

The Mormons then moved into Alabama and began their work in the lower part of this county among the ignorant country people. They were more successful there and have already baptized a dozen or more. Yesterday while Elders Mower and Sea were conducting a meeting at a log school house, fifty armed men dragged them from the pulpit. They were carried into the woods, the mob threatening to hang them at every step, but on the intercession of friends they were released on their written promise to leave the county in twenty-four hours. Death was the alternative if they returned. Both left last night, but without their converts, escorted a portion of the way by an armed band of nearly one hundred men. Armed patrols are now on guard, and publicly announce their intention of killing the first Elder who returns there. A rumor was current that Elder Masters was killed this morning near the Georgia line by bloodhounds, but it cannot be substantiated.

The foregoing reads as if it might relate to an incident connected with the treatment of reformers in Europe in the dark ages. Press dispatches al-

most invariably palliate the conduct of those who abuse others that are unpopular. This peculiarity is evinced in the statement herewith presented, an attempt being made to show that the Elders were engaged in breaking up homes and make it appear that there has been a special effort to convert women. The plain and unvarnished fact in relation to the mission of the Elders is that they, from an overpowering sense of duty, go into the world and preach the Gospel of faith in the atonement of Christ, repentance of sin, baptism by immersion for the remission of sin and the laying on of hands for the imparting of the Holy Ghost and the gathering of the Saints with the main body of the Church. People hear their testimonies, believe and obey. They use no undue influence, simply explaining the principles they are commissioned to preach, those who hear being left to exercise their volition, by reception or rejection. The horrible treatment with which many of the missionaries are confronted and the fact of their labor being performed at a sacrifice and entirely without the incentive of an earthly reward, are an earnest of their sincerity and the purity of the motives by which they are actuated.

Dragging men from the pulpit, tarring and feathering them, pursuing them with bloodhounds and thus compelling them to resort to tree-climbing to avoid being torn to pieces, constitute a species of violence that almost curdles the blood with horror. It takes the mind backward to the methods employed 1800 years ago to stamp out the early Christians, who were engaged in a similar cause to that in which our missionaries are employed. The cowardice of those who resort to such enormities is a striking evidence of the wickedness of that manner of dealing with inoffensive people. Two unarmed and unaggressive men escorted by from fifty to a hundred armed mobocrats, threatening at every step to hang their victims is not an attractive spectacle; it shows to what degraded depths men may fall when they set reason aside and are governed by their baser passions. It is a redeeming feature, however, that amid such scenes are found persons who have not laid aside every spark of manhood and who dare intercede in behalf of the weak as against the assaults of the strong. Such comparatively noble individuals convince us that the old-time bravery and the grand, chivalrous spirit for which Southerners were formerly noted, have not completely died out. When we learn of the good offices of such in times of extremity and peril, we feel like blessing them forever, and have only pity for those who are their antipodes, and wish they could be brought to a sense of the wrong they inflict, which will ultimately redound upon themselves.

Although there is doubtless some foundation in fact connected with the statement regarding the mobocracy directed against the Elders in Alabama and on the Georgia border, it is probably incorrect in some particulars. As there is no confirmation of the horrible rumor that one of the brethren had been killed by bloodhounds, there is evidently nothing in that part of the dispatch. Elder Mower is from Fairview, Sanpete County, and only recently arrived in the South, having left Utah for that part of the country as late as the early part of last month. There is no Elder named Sea in the Southern States Mission, but there is one named Richard Lee, of Oakley, Idaho, and another named Arthur O. Lee, of Panaca, Lincoln County, Nevada. There is no missionary in that field by the name of Masters, but it might have been mistaken for that of Ammon Mercer, of American Fork. Had the life of any one of the brethren been taken, the telegraph would doubtless have brought us the intelligence direct before this time.

"THE WRITER."

WITH a view to aiding in the cultivation of home literary talent, we direct attention to a modest magazine called *The Writer*, published in Boston by W. H. Hills and Robert Luce, who are practical journalists. This publication is issued on the first of each month, and the subscription price is only one dollar per year. To individuals who aspire to authorship, *The Writer* offers information and advice of great value. The thoroughly practical character of its suggestions adds greatly to their worth. It takes hold of the hand, so to speak, of the youthful and unsophisticated aspirant to the field of letters, teaches him how to perform both the mental and mechanical portions of his work, how to arrange and furnish his desk and library, what books to read, how to discover and develop his talents, etc.

In respect to style, it points out errors to be avoided, and excellencies to be admired. It treats of matters relating to grammar, rhetoric, orthography, etc., in a manner that is well calculated to be of practical aid to the literary worker. The advice given to newspaper correspondents in several of the numbers we have seen is sound and useful, and any person who acts in that capacity will find *The Writer* a practical aid.

In connection with their magazine, the publishers have established a literary bureau, designed mainly to assist

authors in finding the best market for their productions. This is an admirable move, being calculated to bring obscure talent into notice, and aid it in securing its just reward. Utah has produced several sculptors, and a still greater number of artists, of whom she has reason to be proud. In respect to histrionic talent she has cause for self-congratulation, and the same may be said with emphasis of the musical talent which is fast unfolding in this Territory. Why should she not enter more largely the field of letters, as well as of the fine arts? It would be gratifying to see this community produce at least a few men and women of mark in the literary world, known and honored in that capacity abroad as well as at home.

CONTROLLING CORPORATIONS.

"CORPORATIONS, the creatures of the State, should be controlled by the State," is a proposition in favor of which a great deal has been said during recent years, in the United States. So glaring have the evils of monopoly become, especially on the part of railroads, that the legislatures of some of the states have enacted measures to put in practical operation the above quoted proposition.

The State of Nebraska has what is called the board of transportation, and the Supreme Court of that State has lately made a decision of a highly important nature. According to this decision, if its purport is correctly given by an eastern exchange, the board of transportation actually has the power to fix freight and passenger rates for all railroads in the State.

That is to say, this board of transportation can, on complaint of any shipper or passenger, investigate the freight or passenger rates of any railroad in the State between Nebraska points. In this investigation it can compel the railroad to produce books and papers. It is in the opinion of the board, the complaint is just, the board can order the railroad to change its rate. Nor is this all. It can fix the rate and it can order the railroad to comply. If the road refuses or fails to comply the board can bring a mandamus case against it in the supreme or district court. Once in court the only question is whether the rate fixed by the board of transportation is reasonable and fair. If it is so decided to be the railroad has no alternative. It has to obey the order of the board of transportation.

This is going far towards taking the control of railroads out of the hands of the men who constructed them. But anti-monopoly writers and speakers have so long urged the necessity of having the state assume control of corporations created by it, i. e., under its laws, and have cited so many instances in which the public have been oppressed by and held at the mercy of organized capital, that a sentiment is fast gaining strength among legislators, favoring a more direct governmental supervision of railroads and like corporations. This Nebraska decision is, however, one of the most radical expressions of this sentiment, of an authoritative nature, that has yet been made.

DISASTER'S DAY.

YESTERDAY (Sunday, November 20) is entitled to take rank as the most prominent among the days of disaster in recent times. Certainly no greater number of serious cases was ever crowded into the same space in a time of peace. Beginning with the wreck of the Dutch steamer *Scholten* off Dover, England, and the loss of 132 lives, the chain grows link by link till it reaches the inevitable railway disaster, this time in Mexico, near the Texas line. The former was, however, more terrible than all the others combined, than anything of its kind in a great many years, the horrors of the situation being heightened by the fact that there was so little apparent cause for it. The ordinary precautions taken on such occasions, when vessels are befogged and belated, would have obviated the terrible tragedy altogether; but it seems the ship with which the *Scholten* collided was at anchor in a haze so thick that ordinary lights could not be seen at any distance and that instead of blowing her whistles occasionally and keeping strong side lights out continually, she did neither and the ill-fated steamer ran squarely against her, stoving in both bows but receiving so much greater injury than was inflicted that she filled rapidly and sank in twenty minutes. The scenes that followed the collision are poorly described, and yet the presentation of them is awful. Men shouting, women shrieking and children crying must have made up a tumult like of which is fortunately seldom heard. The heroism of two or three of the passengers, the cowardice and selfishness of most of the Dutch sailors, the general excitement, the floundering in the water, the inky blackness of the night and the icy coldness of the waves were circumstances which any one of the eighty survivors will doubtless be able to bring up before him as vividly on the last day of his life as now. It was truly a terrible tragedy.

THE JEWS AND PALESTINE.

IT is claimed that the Jews are beginning to return to Jerusalem in considerable numbers. A gentleman who recently remained about a month in that city gives some interesting data in regard to the present situation in the Holy City. Among other things he says that "Christianity is seen at its worst there and Mohammedanism at its best." The Mohammedan in the early morning hears the cry, "God is great, prayer is better than sleep," arises, prepares himself, puts on his white outer garment and goes up into the mosque grounds where Solomon's temple formerly stood, and there goes through his devotions, bowing down before God and asking that he may be guided through the day, which means that he must be strictly temperate, truthful in every statement, kind to all, and that he will never bow down to an idol, idols, images and pictures in all Mohammedan lands being strictly excluded.

The Christians, as they term themselves, of Jerusalem, are apparently in a state of bitter sectarian conflict. The gentleman alluded to says:

"They are not agreed among themselves as to the sacred sites, and they have more than once come to bloodshed in acting together in the celebration of some of the Christian festivals. In the Cave of the Nativity at Bethlehem, where a silver star in the pavement marks the place where our Lord is believed to have been born, a Mohammedan soldier of the Turkish army stands always with loaded musket to keep the Christian worshippers from slaying each other. In the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, in Jerusalem, the traveler notices at once a group of Turkish officials who have no interest in the place and spend their time smoking and drinking coffee and chatting with each other, but whose presence is needed to keep the monks from actual warfare. At the time of Easter, the Turkish guards are increased to a whole regiment, so that it is difficult to make one's way through them to reach the interior of the church."

Not long since an interesting migration arrived from Arabia. About 300 Jews—called Temanites, and believed by themselves to be a remnant of the tribe of Gad—had moved from the desert, in which the tribe had long had its home, and had come to the Holy Land. They are small in stature, delicate in features, wholly free from the money changing disposition, grateful for every kindness, and eminently childlike in their characters. At the present time the Temanites have established themselves in a prosperous colony south of the village of Siloam. The gathering in progress is thus spoken of:

"They are not coming, as heretofore, merely in old age to obtain a grave in the land, but they are coming with means and intelligence sufficient to change the face of the country. A school is now taught in Jerusalem in which the young Jews learn to make shoes, to make clothes, to work in wood and iron, to draw, to make models in clay, and in every way to make themselves useful and independent citizens. It is believed that in the near future the Jew of Palestine will not only be permitted to land at Jaffa, which is now closed to him, and to remain in the land as long as he chooses, but that he will also be found tilling the soil and practicing the various mechanical arts."

THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION.

A READER of the News, desiring information on an important subject, submits the following:

"After the absurd rumor of the shooting of President Cleveland at Kansas City, Missouri, the question was asked by a great many as to what the effect of his death would be, whether there was any one to step directly into the place, whether some one would have to be chosen, and whether or not there would be an interregnum in any event. I, and doubtless the others, would be pleased to have an opinion from the News on the matter."

The situation would, in the event of the sudden demise or resignation of the present Executive, be very undesirable for several reasons apart from the misfortune itself, but none of those suggested above would figure. The process of changing from one chief magistrate to another is always a matter of great importance and for that reason is invested with considerable ceremony and solemnity, even when the change occurs under the forms and circumstances duly provided by law and well understood by the average citizen. We are in a peculiar, not to say paradoxical, situation on this subject, for we present to the world the spectacle of an interregnum every now and then and the exciting fact of there being no such thing in the language or meaning of our charter. An interregnum has reference to monarchies ("between kings"), where it happens only by violence,

since, while things are in their normal state, the sovereign never dies; the personality, like commoner clay, goes hence, but the kingship lives and passes to the successor previously provided for and always in readiness for it upon the breath forsaking the incumbent's body—and of course we have nothing of that kind in the United States. We recognize, and the law recognizes no man at the head of the nation who has not taken the prescribed oath, and thus we see that there is always in emergencies a void between the outgoing of one man and the incoming of another. It may be, generally is, of only a few minutes' or at the most hours' duration, but during that space the country is without a President. This is not an interregnum; it is a blank, absolute vacancy, a time in which so far from partaking of monarchical methods even in name, we exhibit our republicanism, or rather democracy, more strongly than at ordinary times, since we are without a leader and are moving along in the current of our destiny with no other mortal guidance than our patriotism, the lesson of the past and the sound judgment of the present.

This is a sublime picture, but it would not last long. It is the fact that the void is of such brief duration and is so easily filled that makes us regard it so lightly. Almost before we are conscious of the fact that we are moving along by the force of our political momentum without a leader, we have a new one and the wonder of an hour ago relapses into the matter-of-course of now. Suppose, though, that such a critical period could be prolonged even twenty-four hours! That might make a vast difference; one week of it might disrupt the nation, after a brief experience like that which poor France is now undergoing.

There would be a person ready to take up the leadership of the people if President Cleveland should from any cause lay it down. That man is the President of the United States Senate, John J. Ingalls, of Kansas. As the Vice-President *de jure* is *ex officio* President of the Senate, so is the latter *de jure* the *ex officio* Vice-President when that officer is from any cause out of the place. Upon receiving authentic news that President Cleveland was dead or had resigned, it would be Mr. Ingalls' duty to go at once before the most accessible judge of a court of record and be sworn in as President of the United States, from which time he would be the President. If there were no such judge, he could go before a justice of the peace, and if none of that class could be found in a few minutes' walk, a notary public would do. The emergency would not admit of delay, while the dignity and importance of the proceeding demand that the highest judicial functionary within reach be called in to administer the oath. Here arises the most important point of all: Suppose Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Ingalls should die simultaneously, who would then be President till Congress meets? Nobody. We would surely be "in for it" in such an emergency, and while such a thing is utterly improbable it is not impossible, and no provisions have been made to meet it. Two weeks later it would make no difference, for then there would be a Speaker of the House (which is not the case now) and upon the death or other disqualification of the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker would become the National President.

THE COMING CONGRESS.

THE Congress whose practical life begins a week from Monday will have important work to attend to and a great deal of it, but then it is what is known as the "long session," its term being circumscribed only by the time for commencing the second session a year following, so that it need not adjourn until it gets ready, an event which may not happen before the latter part of June or early in July. The most important work in the direction of popular legislation is of course tariff revision, and herein exists enough material to keep the machinery in motion for months. It would be different if the dominant party in the House, where it must originate, were united on any plan or had an understanding as to a preferred schedule; but it has not. It is as much divided against itself on this subject, almost, as unitedly it is divided against the members on the other side of the floor.

The Democrats have a clear majority over all of only eleven; there are four Independents who must act with the Republicans to make up that footing, for if they act by themselves, the Democratic plurality would be fifteen, and if they were to cast their votes with the majority it would be nineteen. This is perhaps much better than if any of the parties had so overwhelming a majority that its will would be absolute, carrying out party measures by means of superior strength alone, thus rendering all opposition and even consideration if it saw fit, of no practical avail whatever. Besides, a small majority, which ever so slight a revolt among a few of the more independent-minded might completely upset, puts it upon its "best behavior," and better results are likely to follow.

In the Senate the Republicans have