

## DESERET EVENING NEWS.

LAWRENCE NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, LEXINGTON.

Wednesday, January 15, 1896.

The Deseret Evening News is a political daily. Sunday edition comes out at 10 A.M. Price 50 cents. This edition is \$1.00 per no. Regular Edition is \$1.00 per no. The增加新闻 is published on Sunday and Friday or such week.

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The News is now at the principal printing office and on all passenger lines running on the city after 10 p.m.

This Subsidy will kindly carry J. F. Dickey, publisher, of my newspaper in the delivery of this paper.

All correspondence should be addressed to Deseret News Publishing Co., Thompson Hill.

## A SORRY SPECTACLE.

The scene presented at the City Council meeting Tuesday evening was one of which every Salt Lake should be heartily ashamed. The proceedings on that occasion would reflect no credit upon a bear garden debating club. One redeeming feature was that the respective element kept to the background, evidently from a knowledge that they had not sufficient numerical strength to bring affairs within the bounds of decency.

It is to be expected in bodies composed of antagonistic political elements that discussion, sometimes partaking of a considerable degree of warmth, will take place; but to encounter therewith the citizens of this municipality also expect that a measure of dignity attend such a debate as to the extent that the participants conduct themselves as gentlemen.

If the majority of the present City Council is composed of men who desire to preserve the dignity and good name of the municipality, they should strive, regardless of party affiliation, to enforce at least the appearance of respectability in Council's sessions. We know there are good men in the Council, and hope there are enough to effect a radical reform in its procedure. Each member, whether presiding officer or otherwise, should learn that every other member has a right to be heard when he makes respectful appearance; that the mouths of members doing so cannot be arbitrarily closed; that a regular order of business should be followed; and that the body is uniformly controlled by a majority vote of its members. All this was ignored at the last session; and unless there is a change, the citizens may look for anything but a competent administration of municipal affairs. In that event the people may be able to recognize the few councilmen who are really desirous of and are seeking to serve the city's best interests.

## THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER.

In view of the addition of the new star to the national flag, made necessary by the admission of Utah, the history of the emblem itself is now constituted, is attended with timely and increased interest. The Times-Herald of Chicago, recently commenting upon the forty-fifth star, gives a sketch of the adoption of the present flag, which originally was composed of thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white, with a blue union and thirteen white stars. This was adopted by the Continental Congress June 14, 1777, and remained the national emblem until 1795. At that time two new states, Vermont and Kentucky, had been admitted in the Union, and a law was passed which provided that the flag should consist of fifteen alternate stripes and fifteen stars.

This remained the form of the flag throughout the war of 1812, though other new states had been admitted in the meantime. In 1819, after Mississippi came in, which made the twenty-third state, it was found that with the prospects of still more new states to come in an additional stripe could not be added for each state. The law was consequently revised, and it was provided that the flag should be composed of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, to represent the original thirteen states that formed the Union, while the union should consist of twenty stars, white in a blue field, one star to be added with the admission of every new state, such addition to take effect on the fourth day of July next ensuing.

Utah is now admitted as the forty-fifth state, but the forty-fifth star will not be placed upon the flag until next Fourth of July.

## CHICAGO RECORD AND THE TEMPLE.

With the several opportunities that have been given of late to learn of the condition and conduct of the Mormon people, there is no excuse for any newspaper of prominence publishing garbled or untrue accounts of what the Mormons believe and do. Yet the Chicago Record, in its issue of January 7, gives quite a series of most contemptible misstatements regarding people here. In a column article which purports to be a description of the Salt Lake Temple and the ceremonies therein,

the Record contains about as many inaccuracies regarding Church rites as is often found within the same space, even in the writings of anti-Mormons of scores of years or more ago. In some parts the description of the Temple ceremonies is correct, near the last, but in the main they are fanciful and incorrect. This certainly is unjustifiable in a well conducted newspaper, since a detailed official description of the interior is published and easily obtainable, and the completeness and accuracy can be tested by the hundreds of non-Mormons who pass through the Temple immediately prior to its dedication, notwithstanding the Record's assertion that "none of the Gentiles in Salt Lake are accountable" with its insertion statement.

Of course, if "none of the Gentiles" knew anything of the Temple interior, it would not be possible for the Record to publish anything that could be relied on; but, because many do know, our community should at least assure and furnish truthful information as far as it can be obtained without difficulty. This it has not done even in describing the building, much less in treating of topics in connection therewith.

As the Record article has been ministerial in tone, in describing the Temple, it has been vastly more so with regard to the rites and ceremonies thereof, and the new sentence descriptive of Temple arrangements to make the narrative partly all the more dangerous. With reference to the ceremonies, the Record assumes to tell of baptism and marriage, but in no particular case does it even approximate the truth, notwithstanding the fact that many branches of the subjects referred to are common items of instruction in Mormon public discourses and publications. In its eagerness to tell something sensational, stale and banal fabrications have been woven upon the whole suggesting great moral turpitude in the ritual that conjures up such stories.

Regrettably as the fact may be, the publication of the article referred to indicates an anxiety to injure the Mormons which is still prevalent among many who profess an inclination to do better. It is admitted that the Mormons have been very guarded in certain important industrial fields, but the principle that pure water comes only from a pure fountain is violated in an overwhelming desire to make the religion of the Mormons appear to be all that is bad. Perhaps the Record management has been imposed upon by one of its corps of writers, who most assuredly establishes a title to neutrality which no worthy public journal is proud of. We trust that on its next reference to the Mormons our sympathy will be much nearer than that on this occasion.

## THE OFFICE-HOLDING PASSION.

Now that the new State has been fairly inaugurated there may be anticipated, especially among young men, and perhaps (though it is to be hoped not) among young women, a considerable increase of knowledge as the office-holding passion. There are offices which individuals may hold, and individuals who may fill offices, where good results in both and also to the public; but in the midstream of politics the area of these is very limited. As a rule, office-holding is detrimental to the office. The reason for this is that when once a person becomes a member of the political party he is almost as much, if not quite, as completely under the control of the office-holding passion as is a drunkard under the control of his appetite, and will submit to sacrifices of money and manhood that are appalling.

A case of a well known local politician is in point. He got into office, and in order to get there again he paid more than half the salary for the entire term, leaving for the amount that will come in when his political bills are paid less than a living wage could ever prevail in the same time. Besides this, he abandoned the dignity of mankind in his ultimate gleaming for his friends to place him in office another term. It has the effect that but that it seems as if nothing but a position at the public office will satisfy him, although he has ability to earn much more outside, and is ready now getting insufficient to give him a comfortable living. This illustration may bring others to mind, other business men, for instance, will strain every nerve and spend lots of money to get into a job for a few weeks at \$15 a day, and when they are dismissed regard it as a serious and almost irreparable misfortune, while such men are not affected by the same passion in the least. It is a blessing that the disease makes them blind to every other consideration except getting into office.

It is often related of men who hold office, especially those of an aggressive character, or a number of years, that when they are dismissed they are helpless to live and entirely unable to do good work in other capacities. This is notably the case with those of this class at the smaller and larger state capitals. If we allow bodies that are organized to do a definite and irreparable misfortune, while such men are not affected by the same passion in the least. Old people find it just exactly what they need. Price 25 cents per bottle. Dr. G. M. L. drug department.

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