



ELIAS SMITH...EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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## TO THE PUBLIC.

I hereby inform the public that the *Deseret News* is not and has not been an organ of mine, for, except matter accompanied with my name, I have only occasionally, and that too some time ago, known any more of the contents of the *News* until after it is published, than I have of the copy furnished to the compositors of the *New York Ledger*.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

G. S. L. City, Jan. 28, 1863.

## WAR ITEMS.

There was, according to southern reports, a fleet of over one hundred and twenty vessels of all kinds at Port Royal, the last of February, many of them iron-clads of the most formidable character. It was generally understood that all the Ericson batteries were either there and in that vicinity, or on their way thither, indicating that some aggressive movement was soon to be inaugurated, but where the blow would be struck was not known. Various reports have since been in circulation concerning an attack on Fort McAllister by several iron-clads on the 3d of March, some of which represent that the attack was successful, and others that it was not. The latest information deemed reliable, which was obtained from an engineer who was on one of the boats in the engagement, represents that the bombardment lasted twenty hours, but the boats could not get near enough to the Fort to silence its batteries.

From the published statements relative to the running of the blockade within the last two months, it is evident that greater efforts have been made than before to supply the Confederates with arms, ammunition, clothing and other things, of which they have been in want, and that the running in and out of southern ports by English vessels has been of frequent occurrence, notwithstanding the vigilance of the blockaders, which have captured many valuable prizes, but have not been able to convince those engaged in supplying the seceders with merchandise and munitions of war in exchange for cotton, that it was an unprofitable business.

The destruction of the *Nashville* is again reported. She is represented to have got aground while attempting to run the blockade of the Savannah river, near Fort McAllister, in which condition she was attacked and blown up by the *Montauk*, which, after having annihilated that celebrated Confederate craft, on returning to her former position ran over a torpedo, which exploded and hoisted the iron-clad two feet out of the water, but did not injure her further than to disarrange some of her machinery.

An unusual number of suspicious looking fast sailing steamers are reported to have made their appearance at Nassau, N. P., recently. It was confidently believed that they were intended for the Confederate naval service.

By Confederate papers, rumors have been put in circulation that Gen. Banks' movements unmistakably indicate immediate active operations, the but latest New Orleans advices made no mention of any intended advance towards Port Hudson. There were thirty thousand men at New Orleans and large detachments of troops at other points. A large fleet of mortar and gun-boats with other vessels of war had assembled at Baton Rouge. Gen. Granger, in command there, had refused to recognize the negro regiments, whereupon Gen. Banks issued peremptory orders for the squeamish General to make no distinction between soldiers of European and African descent.

At Vicksburg and vicinity everything was

progressing favorably at latest dates. The canals, it was believed, would be a success, although there had been some interruptions and hindrances caused by Confederate shells, the caving in of some of the works, and other unavoidable occurrences. Many bayous and passes had been made navigable for gun-boats of the largest size, several of which had found their way into the Yazoo river above Haynes' Bluffs, where a large number of transports had been found and destroyed, and one report states that Yazoo city had been taken, which was not generally believed. The possession of the Yazoo above the fortifications at Haynes' Bluffs, it was believed, would enable Gen. Grant to attack Vicksburg in the rear and compel the Confederates to evacuate Grenada and fall back to Chattanooga. The capture of Vicksburg was confidently expected at an early day, at all events before the first of April. By the opening of canals and the cutting of the levees along the Mississippi above Vicksburg, by both Federals and Confederates, the whole country for hundreds of miles had been submerged—the high water in the river favoring their operations. The camping ground of the division of Gen. McClelland had been overflowed, and he had been compelled to remove his command to Milliken's Bend, sixteen miles above Vicksburg. The condition of the troops under Gen. Grant is represented as most favorable.

Gen. Rosecrans has not, so far as reported, made any forward movement. A great flood had occurred in that region, and large tracts of country were entirely submerged, inhibiting military operations on any very extended scale. Bragg's forces, according to rumor, have been largely increased in numbers by troops from the east, and when circumstances may favor, some bloody battles are anticipated, not far from the present location of the main body of the Federal troops.

The army of the Potomac had its headquarters still at Falmouth a few days since. A forward movement, however, would soon take place, should nothing prevent. Everything was favorable.

## INDIAN DEPREDACTIONS IN TOOELE COUNTY.

On Friday morning last, as we have been informed by letter from Mr. William Empey, a company of eight Indians made their appearance at Garr's herd ground, in Skull valley, Tooele county, on a depredatory visit, soon after day-light. The first intimation given of their presence was a discharge of fire-arms at the tent, in which there were at the time only two persons, John Garr and Empey. They continued to fire at the tent till the men thought it best to retire for safety, when Garr ran to the corral, which was not far distant, to loosen their horses, and Empey proceeded to the rear of the yard and let down the fence, the Indians firing at them the while without doing any injury further than the wounding of one of their horses. As soon as possible they mounted each a horse and fled.

The Indians, after the men effected their escape, plundered the tent of everything there was in it, including clothing, blankets, provisions, buffalo robes, saddles, etc., killed a fine cow and calf that were in the corral, packed up what they could carry away, set fire to and divided up the balance, including a good wagon, and then put off, driving away about one hundred and fifty head of cattle.

As soon as the men were out of danger, Garr rode in haste to the herding camp of Hooper & Knowlton, some miles distant, and gave the alarm. J. Q. Knowlton, with eight mounted men, started soon after having been informed of what had transpired for the scene of the savage depredations, but the marauders had decamped with their booty, and were about eight miles away when Knowlton and his men arrived at Garr's camping place. Pursuit was commenced instantly, the result of which has not yet transpired. Empey was left to extinguish the fires which the Indians had set, and to arrange things as well as possible, that no further damage might accrue, after accomplishing which, he started for Grantsville, where he arrived at dark that evening. The next morning ten men were sent out from Grantsville to render whatever assistance might be required, in protecting the stock in Skull valley, which had not been driven off, and aid, if possible, in the recovery of that which had been taken away.

To what band or tribe the Indians, who made the successful sally, belonged, Mr. Em-

pey does not state, and probably he did not know. He reports as the reason why he and Garr did not return the fire of the red skins, instead of running, that they had no suitable arms, and but two charges of powder. He admits if they had had good guns and plenty of ammunition, they could have defended themselves successfully against the attack of the savages, and could have either killed or drove them off. They certainly would not have been considered good Indian fighters, if they had not vanquished the assailants under the circumstances, with but ordinary means of defense.

Why men who have been in these mountain valleys for many years have not learned the use and value of fire-arms, and that without them, (and those, too, of a superior quality) no one can be really considered safe in person or property when in an exposed location, we are at a loss to determine. Had each of these men been provided with one or two good rifles, the presumption is, they would not have been troubled by the Indians.

## THEATRICAL CRITIQUE.

Rumor—a very uncertain authority in all matters, led us to expect that the play of William Tell was to have appeared on Saturday the 14th, and we restrained in last week's paper, speaking of the splendid presentation of "Pizarro or the Death of Rolla." Lest, however, it should be thought that Alpha's admiration has been lagging behind the crowning performance of the season, the Swiss hero must be left for the future, that the noble Peruvian may be paid the critic's homage, in addition to the already uttered voices of public praise.

The performance of the play of Pizarro will not readily be forgotten by those who witnessed its success, for it was decidedly the richest treat that has been yet afforded in Utah to the lovers of the drama. The altarscene amid the rocks, of the Peruvian sacrifice, presented a magnificent display of scenic effect, and we think the public owe much to the proprietor, managers and all engaged in making our theatre a temple of art and dramatic illustration.

Mr. Lyne as Rolla, gave another proof of his high histrionic abilities in the representation of classical parts. In the *City of the Saints*, he has added one more laurel of triumph to his crown of fame; and we believe that in no place in his professional career has the tribute been offered more gratefully by the public hand. Here it should be observed, that the reference in our last article to his thirty years experience upon the stage, must not be understood to imply that he has but just reached the "top of the tree;" for great actors find their most splendid triumphs at that period of manhood, when the inspiration and ambition of youth give fire and impetuosity to the soul of genius.

Pizarro was not Mr. Caine's best part. There are characters in which he can take a leading sphere and shine as the star of the night; but, for the grand constellation of the whole, favor to luminaries have often to revolve in orbits of secondary glory. The part of Las Casas was a fine piece of acting. Indeed, Mr. D. McKenzie is an artist by nature, and in most of his characters shows much talent. Messrs. Ottinger, J. R. Clawson and the rest of the gentlemen as a whole, sustained the play with credit.

Mrs. Bowring as Elvira, made an excellent appearance and played well. Cora was admirable in some scenes, but where strong passion and pathos are required, she is not so effective as would be an experienced actress. As yet, however, she is young in the profession and well deserves praise.

To close a notice of Pizarro without speaking of the splendid display made by the "powerful chorus of priests and virgins of the Sun," would be to leave out much of the grand ensemble of the whole. Nor should the musical accompaniment be forgotten. Mr. George Teasdale suited the part of the High Priest, and his singing and pantomimic action were effective; while the chorus of Priests and Virgins of the Sun, executed the musical service with taste and a volume of harmony, adding an imposing solemnity to the scene. The beautiful characteristic music was arranged, and all the marches and the dirge at the death of Rolla composed expressly for the play by Professor Thomas the leader of the Orchestra. The talent and usefulness of this gentleman are constantly enhanced by his original musical compositions.

The comic drama "Nan the Good for Nothing" followed "Pizarro" as an afterpiece on the first evening. Miss M. Thomas appeared as this very characteristic young lady, and made Nan quite a character. She was good for nothing in her appearance and conduct, until she brought out the moral of the piece and proved a negative to the name given her. Miss Thomas has from her first appearance, won the favor of the public, and in such characters as Madam La Trappe in "Simpson & Co.," Barbara Jones in the "Charcoal Burner" and "Nan the Good for Nothing," she is generally pronounced professional.

Pizarro ran a course of three nights, and nothing fresh of consequence was brought out until March 14th, when the public was given a series of light pieces. The substantial English comedy, entitled "Naval Engagements," opened the evening's performance; and,

we think, it was decidedly the best light piece of the season, and the best executed. As Mrs. Pontifex, Mrs. Bowring showed the versatility of her parts, suggesting that nature evidently fitted her for the profession. Mrs. A. Clawson made an interesting Miss Mortimer; and although Mrs. Pontifex won from her the old Admiral, her powers of attraction gave the Roland for the Oliver, by charming from the widow her young Lieutenant. In such parts as this and the wife of Robert in the "Secret Agent," Mrs. A. Clawson is happy, and she is at all times fairy-like upon the stage.

Mr. H. K. Whitney's Admiral Kingston was an excellent performance. This is his proper line of characters, and we are pleased to find the opportunity of speaking in unqualified praise of a scholar and gentleman highly respected. Mr. J. M. Simmons as Lieutenant Kingston gave another proof of his general usefulness. Mr. Dunbar as Dennis showed his peculiar line as an Irish comedian, and Mr. Bowring was not short as the landlord of the Fountain, and in the next piece was a good John Blunt, the faithful servant of Toogood.

Then followed a new serio-comic drama, in one act, just received from London, entitled "The Lear of Cripple Gate." Mr. H. B. Clawson, as Simon Toogood, made another assertion of what we consider his best line. The part was not so important or lengthy as that of Old Phil, nor as that of Samson Burr in the "Porter's Knot," still it was played with effect, and again sharpened our desire to see Mr. Clawson's powers put to a greater test. Of the authorship of the piece, we cannot speak so highly as that of "Old Phil's Birthday." It is too much of a parody, and when the actor was most powerful, King Lear was most suggested, and thus the very faithfulness of its personation brings it to the tribunal of criticism. Had the piece been formed in an original mould, it could have been pronounced first class of its kind; but, while ext avaganzas and burlesques are readily understood, parodies, even when good, cannot be considered strictly legitimate specimens of composition. The piece, however, appeared to take with the public; for it was played remarkably well by some of the best of our actors, which was also the case with the finale of the evening—"The Valet-D-Sham." ALPHA.

## COMPLAINTS ABOUT BAD ROADS.

Frequent complaints have been made, since the return of warm weather, concerning the existence of certain mud holes in the public streets and highways leading into and through the city, particularly the State road, north between Snyder's mill and the old Bath house, which is represented as being very bad. To the complainants there is only one answer to be made, and that is, neither the city nor the county have the means at command to repair the thoroughfares or remove the obstacles to travel complained of. The county and corporation officers have many onerous duties to perform for the public, gratuitously, because the law-makers have so provided, but, inasmuch as there is no statutory provision requiring them to keep the streets, roads and bridges within their respective jurisdictions in repair for the benefit of the traveling community at their individual expense, there are not many of those "distinguished citizens" who are public spirited enough to do so, to the full extent desired by many who seem to be interested in such matters.

There are places in the roads near the city, north and south, which have always been muddy at this season of the year, and will be so long as they remain ungraveled, but if proper care was taken to keep the water courses unobstructed, there would be less cause for complaints about mud holes than there is, under existing circumstances, and there is not any law in force in Deseret prohibiting private individuals repairing a bridge or filling up a hole in the roads and streets occasionally, particularly when their interests would be enhanced thereby.

DEDICATION OF THE MEETING HOUSE AT BOUNTIFUL.—The meeting house which has been in building at Bountiful, Davis county, for several years, having been completed, the dedication thereof, according to arrangement, took place on the 14th instant (Saturday last). A large concourse of people, as per report, were in attendance. Presidents Young, Kimball and Wells, and several others who went from this city, started early in the morning in order to be in season, as the services were to commence at 10 a. m. Having been favored with a special invitation to be present on the occasion, we should have been pleased, if circumstances had permitted, but as they did not, and having no reporter there, we can neither give the particulars of the dedicatory ceremonies nor allude to the preaching and teaching which followed. President Young and those accompanying him from Great Salt Lake City, returned on Sunday evening.