

# DESERET NEWS.

## WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

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### THE TEXT BOOKS FOR DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

A CORRESPONDENT who signs himself "Free Thought" writes from Kayville on the subject of changes in school books, with a private request for comments. His letter will be found in another column. Some of our Kayville friends appear not to be posted in the law and the facts in relation to the change that has stirred up "Free Thought" to write for the papers. We are greatly in favor of free thought, providing it is not too free. Liberty of every kind is desirable, but has to be kept within certain limits or it loses its character and effects, and becomes as fruitful of evil as it is productive of good when restrained by the lines of law and prudence. The change in the school books has been beneficial in one thing at least, if it has stirred up the waters of indifference and set free thought into action.

For the information of those who do not fully understand this matter, we will say the Territorial Superintendent of District Schools has not "instructed the County Superintendents to make this" or any other change in the school books; neither did the Legislative Assembly order that gentleman to do anything in the premises, except what is included in the annexed section of the school law passed Feb. 20, 1880.

Sec. 18. The Territorial and County Superintendents, and the President of the Faculty of the University of Deseret, or a majority of them, shall, at a convention called by the Territorial Superintendent of District Schools, for that purpose, decide what text books shall be adopted in the district schools, and their use shall be mandatory in all the district schools of the Territory; *Provided*, That no text book so adopted shall be changed within a period of five years from its adoption, except for sufficient cause, to be decided at a special convention, and any teacher changing the text books, shall forfeit his eligibility as a teacher. The County Superintendents, with the Trustees, in their respective districts, shall regulate the school terms, allowing such holidays and vacations as may be advisable.

In accordance with the foregoing, the officials named therein met and fully and freely discussed the subject of books for the district schools. There was every opportunity given not only for free thought but for free speech, and as various views were expressed it took considerable time to arrive at satisfactory conclusions. At length a mutual understanding was reached, and the changes now being inaugurated were decided upon as the best that could be done, all things considered. We have no comments to make on the action of the convention, presuming from the character of the gentlemen who took part and who represented every section of the Territory, that its decision was made after proper deliberation and with a knowledge of general requirements. Through them the wishes of every school district found voice and by them a vote in the convention. So much for the law and the manner in which the change was adopted. Now for some of the reasons for the enactment of that part of the statute in relation to District Schools.

Uniformity in text books is admitted everywhere to be requisite to the proper conduct of any school system. It is well known that in consequence of that unregulated independence of action which "Free Thought" seems to think essential to school affairs as well as individuals, a large variety of text books came into use in Utah. In "readers" alone there were: McGuffey's, Wilson's, the National, Pacific Coast, Independent and several others. One school had one

kind, a second another, a third another, and so on, while in some schools, with little order and small progress, all kinds of books were admitted as parents might select, producing such confusion that it is a marvel how anything could be taught or learned there.

With such glorious "independence of action," in some places the trustees regulated the books, in others the teachers, and in others the scholars or their parents made the selection. If children removed from one school to another, new books were a necessity, a further change of place required an additional outfit, causing continual expense that few persons were able to bear, and expediting beyond measure those who had to furnish the money. Right here in Salt Lake City a school in one Ward would use the National series, and the next the Pacific Coast series. Or a new teacher in either Ward would insist upon discarding the National and substituting the Pacific Coast, or dropping the latter and taking up the former.

To avoid confusion, save expense and establish uniformity, the law was passed which we have quoted, and after it has had a fair opportunity to work, its results will be so good that free thought everywhere will be in favor of it. Five years of peace on this subject is worth something, and parents who are compelled to move from one Ward to another, will be relieved from the necessity on that account of buying a new set of school books for their children.

As to the preference for the Wilson series which our correspondent expresses, that may prevail in Kayville but it is not the sentiment in many other places. And one person or locality cannot reasonably expect to be consulted at the expense of others. Each person and district must be willing to yield for the general good. Where freedom of thought and independence of action are demanded without regard to the public welfare, on matters that affect the public, it is destructive of true liberty and must be disregarded or restrained. If the Kayville desire for the Wilson's series be gratified, then the Salt Lake preference for the Independents must be regarded, and the Ogden choice of the Nationals, and some other city's wish for the Pacific Coast must be consulted, and so on, until the result would be the same old chaos. Now, it is to be expected, with some degree of confidence, that order will prevail and remain at least five years, and it is not unreasonable to expect that once established it may be continued and maintained.

It is quite likely that some book firms will eventually make a good deal of money out of the sale of school books in Utah, if not while the change is in progress as the discarded books are received in part payment for the new; but what of that? Their profit is not Utah's injury. Books must be had, and if we cannot make them ourselves, or will not regard advice by following which we might grow into the home production of our school literature, what difference is it to us which firm gains the profits? The cost is no more to us—indeed it will not be so much—if one house furnishes the "readers" than if four or five or half a dozen firms supplied them.

Now, we trust that "Free Thought" will turn this matter over and over in his mind, and that he and his friends will perceive that every question has at least two sides if not more, and will come to the conclusion that the Legislature was right in passing the law, the Territorial Superintendent was right in calling the Convention, and the members of that body were right in settling upon the series that were chosen; and that the Kayville and other folks will do right by falling into line and being one with the people of other districts, in relation to the much needed definite policy of uniform text books for the District schools of Utah.

### OUR MOUNTAIN OFFICERS.

THE capture of the train robbers by officers most of whom are Utah men, has given the public to understand that we have in this Territory material for first-class detectives and efficient thief-catchers. It has also developed the fact that with proper support from the local authorities, the Sheriffs and their deputies in the various counties could clear the country of desperadoes, highwaymen, and horse and cattle stealers.

The officers who went after the train robbers displayed good judgment in selecting Sheriff Turner, of Utah County, as chief of the expedition. He is quick in thought and action, yet cool and determined and knows how to direct as well as to plan and execute. Sheriff Brown, of Weber County, is a natural detective, shrewd, prompt, untiring and undaunted. Other officers who might be named, possess similar qualifications, and they all have the will as well as the way to hunt out malefactors and bring them to justice. All the men engaged in this good piece of work are excellent officers.

But the men of this class whom we have conversed with deplore the lack of local backing in their operations against criminals. They say that usually the capture of one law-breaker gives the clue to the crimes and whereabouts of others, and if they were only supported by the necessary funds to follow up the trail, engage the men and employ the means that are necessary, they could often make a clean sweep of the villains who raid upon the property of our citizens. Sometimes they are actually out of pocket when the work is done and the scanty fees are paid.

The Act of Congress called the Poland bill took away from Utah its Territorial Marshal and Attorney General, and empowered United States officers to perform the duties formerly discharged by our own officials. Persons appointed by the United States are and ought to be paid by the United States. If the Territory were permitted to elect its own criminal officers, the Territory would provide means for their payment. Congress has no right to appoint officers and then require the people who have no voice in their appointment to pay them for their services, and the Legislature acts upon right and republican principles in omitting to appropriate the funds of the Territory for the payment of officials who are not responsible to the Territory, and are imposed upon its citizens.

In the absence of funds from the Territorial Treasury, to be used for the capture of notorious criminals, what ought to be done? It appears to us that when the United States Marshal and Attorney fall in the work which formerly devolved upon the Territorial officers, the Sheriffs in the various counties, who are elected by the people, should be well sustained by the County Courts, in their efforts to make Utah a poor field of labor for road agents, cattle thieves and robbers of any kind. Those courts have the control of the county finances. They determine the rate of local taxation—within the limits defined by law—they regulate the expenditure of the county funds and the disposition of its property, and they fix the compensation of county officers, apart from the fees prescribed by territorial statute.

We are not in favor of keeping any men in idleness half their time or of extravagant expenditure of public funds for any purpose. But we think that the County Courts would be fully justified by law and by the people, in using some of the money entrusted to their care in aiding trusty officers to hunt up and lawfully dispose of criminals who prey upon the flocks and herds of honest people, and defy pursuit and detection because of the expense entailed in tracking and capturing them. An officer like the men we have named often needs to be left to some discretion in the selection of deputies, the devising of plans and the cost of an expedition, and the disclosure of his schemes and assistants might spoil his purpose and defeat his object. When a Sheriff is known to be skillful, honest and trustworthy, we think he should be treated with confidence and liberality, and that his hands should not be tied up because of a dread of expense.

Parimony is not economy. It is cheaper for tax-payers to pay out of the county revenue something towards ridding their region of robbers who prey upon their stock and other property, than to close up the treasury, or pinch it too tight, and be in continual jeopardy. The influence and example, too, of one bold, bad man who is allowed to run at large and commit depredations at will, are very evil and costly. The case which is now exciting so much attention illustrates this. Three men, two of them quite young, have been led into crime and dishonor by a couple of old hands at villainy. The earlier capture of the latter

might have saved at least some of the former from their present fate. For the sake, then, of our youth as well as the protection of our property, prompt and active measures should be taken whenever depredations are commenced, and county lines should form no barrier to a Sheriff's vigilance or sphere of operations when necessity requires pursuit to a distance. A mutual understanding between the respective county authorities and a willingness to share in the expense, ought to prevail when there is work of this character to be accomplished.

We have no disposition to find fault. We are only offering suggestions. This is an important subject. Much of our Territory is open to the incursions of villains like the train robbers now in durance vile. A little more confidence in our local officers and liberality towards them—governed of course by prudence and justice—would take this evil by the throat in the start and squeeze the life out of it. Means to follow up a trail when struck would often enable a wise officer to strike straight for fellows who are "wanted," and the certainty of capture and the risk that would attend deeds of lawlessness in this Territory, would make Utah a sorry place for the western desperado and he would hunt for fairer fields and pastures new, where property is less closely guarded and officers are not made of the true and genuine stuff which enters into the composition of our mountain Sheriffs, of whose hardihood, capability, promptness, bravery and official zeal we have good reason to be proud. Will the county authorities take a gentle and respectful hint?

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

Coal oil is a good remedy for frost-bitten ears, fingers, toes and noses.

The Providence Star says: "If Congress would strike all general legislation from appropriation bills and leave nothing but the necessary grants of money, the public business would progress much more rapidly." Right. General legislation in appropriation bills is inappropriate.

Boarding house keepers will now find Indiana a paradise. The Legislature has a pending bill, which will pass, making it a felony to impose on hotel and boarding house keepers trunks filled with bricks, stovewood or other invaluable articles under the pretense that it is valuable baggage.

A man named Adam Welber, living in Utica, N. Y., dislocated his neck. Surgeons pronounced his case a dislocation of the third cervical vertebra. The head was bent to the right. Ether was administered and the dislocation was successfully reduced. The case is peculiar and the recovery rare.

The Church of England has an income of £4,525,000. Of this, episcopal and cathedral officials receive £343,571. The patronage of 4,362 benefices, with an income of £1,513,092 is ecclesiastical and collegiate; that of 845, with an income of £297,845 belongs to the Executive; and that of 8,521, with an income of £2,719,958, to private patrons.

A central bureau for astronomical intelligence is being established at Kiel, in Germany, whither telegrams announcing discoveries in this field of science will be sent from all the chief observatories in the world, for instance, Greenwich, Paris, Milan, Vienna, Utrecht, Copenhagen, Pulkova in Russia, etc., and thence be re-telegraphed to all who choose to pay an annual subscription of about 100 marks.

The French Bureau Veritas report for 1882 states that the total number of registered sailing vessels of the world is 48,487, with an aggregate tonnage of nearly 14,000,000 tons. Naturally, Great Britain heads the list, after which, in order, come America, Norway, Germany, Italy, Russia and France. England appears with 4,317 steamers, carrying 5,500,000 tons, America second, with 591 steamers, and France with 414.

The peculiar ingenuity displayed in Connecticut in the manufacture of wooden hams and wooden nutmegs has been excelled at Zanzibar. Several bags of cloves recently shipped from that place to London, were found to contain a heavy percentage of artificial cloves, neatly manufactured by machinery. They were made of pine, stained a dark color, and had been soaked in the essence of the spice to give them the required odor.

### LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY, FEB. 1.

**A Savage Prediction.**—In accordance with a savage prediction uttered yesterday, this valley was visited by a heavy snow-storm to-day.

**Sociable.**—Upon invitation of Bishop Robert T. Burton, the Bishop and Counselors of the 15th Ward, together with many other residents of that locality, besides Brother Burton's own immediate family, assembled at his residence, last evening, and spent a very pleasant and sociable time together.

**Family Growth.**—A short time ago J. T. Packer had a family gathering at the house of A. H. Packer, of Brigham City, at which there was a goodly assemblage, making him appear genuinely patriarchal. When he arrived in Salt Lake Valley in 1848, his family numbered but five persons, now his relatives are scattered all over this region, from Idaho to New Mexico.

**Calico Ball.**—The ladies of the Unity Club have prepared another entertainment for the benefit of the Deseret Hospital. This time it will take the form of a Grand Calico Ball, to be given at the Salt Lake Theatre on the evening of St. Valentine's Day. The grand march will begin at eight o'clock. Olsen's full quadrille band will supply the music, with Jas. Currie as prompter. It will doubtless be a fine affair.

**Had His Head Hurt.**—Yesterday afternoon, while William Barnes, aged about 33 years, of the Nineteenth Ward, was at work at Packer's limestone quarry, a large piece of rock fell from a considerable height, striking him on the head, hurting him very badly, cutting the scalp and breaking the skull. He was attended to by Dr. White, and we learned to-day he was doing as well as could be expected from the nature of the hurt.

**Partially Recovered.**—Anthony Blackburn, the young man who was so seriously injured at the Cave Mine some months ago by a premature explosion of a blast of giant powder, has so far recovered as to get married at Minersville, on Wednesday last, to an estimable young lady named Mary Ellen Stoddard. The bridegroom has lost the sight of one of his eyes entirely, and the remaining one is very badly injured; but he has otherwise fully recovered from the effects of his unfortunate accident.—Beaver Usonian.

**Boring for Water.**—The Usonian says that some parties at Parowan, Iron County, have organized a company for the purpose of sinking an artesian well at some point in their valley, for agricultural purposes. The requisite machinery for sinking a hole to the depth, if necessary, of 1,500 feet, has been ordered and is said to be in transit. The principal men in connection with this commendable enterprise are Wm. Holyoak, Niels Mortensen and Jos. P. Dalton. The result of their operations will be looked forward to with great interest by the farmers and cattle raisers of Southern Utah.

**A Dark Deed.**—The Halley Times of January 27th, states that the House of Lewis Newton, of Bellevue, was burned to the ground at that place early on the morning of that date. Mrs. Newton, who had been an invalid for some time, was burned to a crisp. Some people who were at a dance a short distance away heard a couple of shots just before the fire broke out, but paid no attention to the circumstance. When Mrs. Newton's body was found, a couple of pistols were discovered near it, one being empty and the other with two charges out of it. This leads to the suspicion that the unfortunate woman was murdered and the place set on fire to cover up the dark deed.

**"Travels in India."**—Elder Wm. Fotheringham delivered his excellent lecture on the above subject last evening, in the 21st Ward meeting House, under the auspices of M. I. A. of that Ward. Notwithstanding the inclement state of the weather, there was a full house, including quite a number of people from other wards. The lecturer described the manners and customs of the natives of India, and gave an elaborate account of the city of Delhi. At the close a hearty vote of thanks was tendered the speaker, who occupied about one hour and a half. Those who have not yet heard Elder Fotheringham will be well repaid by going to listen to