FROM SALT LAKE CITY.

Summing them up—The Motives to Mormonism--One Mark on the Credit Side--A Quotation from Wooley--How Wives are Governed—Sealed and Delivered—Who is Who? Incidental.

EDITOR POST: A stranger in a strange land finds much to wonder at, and so does the Gentile on his first visit to the City of the Saints. We wonder what kind of looking people constitute the masses; we can fancy how most of their leaders look, with a very limited knowledge of human nature, and upon our first advent into Zion every face is carefully scrutinized and conjectures are naturally formed as to what induced them to become Mormons. Any one, by a glance at the organization of 'President Young," his round, thick neck, full, plump countenance, showing the animal propensities largely developed, can readily imagine what converted him to the faith. A desire to enjoy life, live in ease and affluence, and that too by the toil and industry of his fellow-man, was a sufficient inducement for a man of his temperament to launch out in a scheme that promised all this, and wherein there was everything to gain and nothing to lose. To him it proved a success, social and pecuniary, and he is now daily reaping the fruits his decided perseverance and tenacity of will has won for him. We see the small featured, dapper little Welshman, a grocer by profession, that is prospering in business, and so long as he succeeds in that he does not care at what shrine he offers up his prayers; and another, by his Yankee appearance, probably "to the manor born," engaged in the dry-goods, drugs, or boot and shoe business, doing well, and his being a nominal Saint, does not interfere with his interests—on the contrary, advances them—we fancy in these men we recognize "policy" Saints, that will follow their religion only so far as their interests extend. A meek, sanctimonious looking individual, "sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought," with large reverence for religion and sacred things, we fancy one of the few that are "Saints" upon conviction; while another, sparely built, thin lipped, saffron colored, small headed Missourian, is a Mormon "because his father was before him." We have heard of a man who remained a bachelor all his life for the same reason. There are others of a round, healthy, pleasant look, hailing from England, Wales, Denmark, Hesse Cassel, or some other six by ten European principality, where their minds are contracted in proportion to the size of the country, and who by nature were never designed to have a thought of a very exalted character, and are Saints either by education or because they are bettered in their condition in life, or through sheer indifference, like the Spanish donkey, as to what becomes of them. This is the material, about 100,000 strong, that the Mormon Prophet operates upon. Of course they are an ignorant people, taken collectively, although there are a few exceptions. Orson Pratt, one of the Twelve Disciples, and more generally known as the Mormon Philosopher, probably their most brilliant scholar, reprimanded them very severely for their stupidity and ignorance, in his remarks a few Sunday's since in the Tabernacle. "Why," said he, "last year I attempted to get up a class for the study of mathematics, and, after advertising for very nearly six months in our papers, out of a population of over 20,000 in this city, I got one that promised to attend and three more that said they thought they would!" They may be regarded as a moral people, aside from the peculiar branch of their creed, as they do not encourage drinking or gambling saloons, and the habit of swearing among the men is less frequent than in any other place we were ever in, and this should be placed to their credit. As to their relations with one another, we will quote from "Bishop Wooley's" remarks, delivered, recently, at the old Tabernacle: "Some of us don't act like Saints towards each other," said he, "and we are getting a pernicious habit among us, called, in the East, 'caste,' that is, one grade of society above an other, which didn't exist when I came from Nauvoo into Zion. Oh, no, then we were all in sympathy with each other, and now some must think themselves above others, own fine carriages, good horses and other fixins', and I will bet you a picayune that I know merchants in this city that are ruined, yes, ruined, by the failure of some of the Saints to pay them when they promised to. We must change our ways, be kind to one another, pay our tithing regularly and help get poor Saints from Europe to our mountain homes, and by so doing we will be laying up treasures in heaven, where the moth does not *corrode* nor thieves bust in the winders at night and steal!" Yes! these pointed, pungent and practical remarks, *verbatim et literatim*, were delivered by "the leading Bishop of the 13th Ward," to quite a large number of the Saints, all of whom relieved themselves of a heartfelt "Amen" upon his taking his seat

They are sympathetic and clannish, and some are very fanatical in their belief, predicting that the Gospel, "as dispensed with" by Brigham, will spread all over the world, that no armies can ever be brought to bear against them, as the Lord of Hosts will scatter them as he did Sennacherib's of old, and one even assured us that he knew (because his father had told him so) about seventy of God's chosen who were being persecuted by the Gentiles in Missouri, when 500,000 well armed and equipped soldiers rose up on every side, like Roderic Dhu's men, and ground them to the dust! We asked another how he managed to keep peace in his household with his half dozen wives. "Oh," said he, "it would be wholly impossible unless I had the spirit of the Lord to help me!" We suppressed a strong desire we had just then to laugh long and loud, but simply observed that we always thought that it required some superhuman agency.

As religious and social light dawns upon them, many will undoubtedly see the error of their way, and reform. The emigration consequent upon the completion of the railroad, will expedite this very much, for anything that has a tendency to degrade woman will never be tolerated by Americans. No account is ever made of the marriages, other than the first one, by which tergiversation many predict that they can escape indictment for polygamy by a grand jury. The wives are "sealed" with considerable ceremony, and they are classed as temporal and spiritual. For instance, a young man living in this city has been married to a young lady, the daughter and only child of a widow. His taking the only support from the widow, the "President" notified him that the mother must be "sealed" to him as his "temporal" wife, as she would become after death the "spiritual" wife of her deceased husband. He has children now by both of his wives, and we should like some Philadelphia lawyer to explain us the relation these children bear to one another. Many of the young ladies who have become refined by education, refuse to marry within the Church, and the beautiful Miss Alexander, their boasted actress, has preferred a life of celibacy to one of misery and degredation; while Miss Carmichael, the talented poetess over whom all the beauties of the English language was expended in the columns of their papers, has followed the dictates of her own honest judgment, absolved herself from the Church forever by marrying a Gentile, and is now living somewhere in the East, and occasionally pours hot shot into the institution with her eloquent and elegant pen.

In gratifying our own curiosity to get a peep behind the curtains in this City of Zion, of course we have had many incidents happen that we cannot contribute for obvious reasons, but we shall have to tell one before closing. A little Mormon woman of our acquaintance, perceiving this weakness in us, said that if we wanted to get "a real, thorough knowledge of the beauties and happiness of Mormon life we ought to get President Young to seal three or four wives to us." We thanked her kindly for the suggestion, had no doubt about the efficacy of her plan since we were aware that this was the way Californians learned Spanish, but we were (like Artemas Ward) an "onconfisticated" young man, born of humble parents in a poor but respectable town in Illinois, far away from home, that our curiosity extended very far, but *not* ["here the wire broke."]

CHIEL.

Salt Lake, Dec. —, 1867.

FROM PHILLIPSBURG.

No Ambuscade---Webfoot Weather---New Mines--Is it Tin?—Leads Lively--Masonic Ball.

EDITOR POST: My last seems to have stirred up the bile in the official's stomach, considerably. I believe I stated amongst other truths—the *Independent* to the contrary, notwithstanding—that I sought no newspaper controversy. However easily controverted any position accepted or taken by the publisher of a newspaper, it must needs be a one-sided affair, as they are, of course, at any time at liberty to suppress or entirely refrain from further inserting what may be written to controvert such position or argument, or charge therefor to such an extent as to make it impractical for the writer; while in the legitimate pursuit of their business, it costs but little. The assumption that the writer is known to him and is the same party who wrote letters appearing in his paper upon the same subject is a little amusing and the remarks not very complimentary to "our correspondent."

Your paper has just reached me, and a hasty glance over my former epistle in print, warrants me in saying that the arguments based upon the misquotation of said letter are base, baser, basest. The "flings" thrown out are unworthy of notice. Go on with your abuse, it is cheap to you, but I shall hardly be drawn into a controversy at last through the columns of the *Independent*.

Two weeks ago, we had supposed winter here in earnest. Since that time, however, the weather has assumed a mild aspect and as the "Webfeet" say, has reminded them more of their "Willamite" homes than any country they ever visited. Warm wind and rain has been the order of each day and night for several days past, nor does the sky at present promise any pleasant interlude to this continuous round. One and a half inches of snow is the most that has fallen at one storm, and that on but one occasion. So far we rejoice in what may properly be termed mild "Webfoot" weather. Quartz mining is being vigorously prosecuted throughout the camp. The mill at the cable is expected to be in full operation by New Year's. I made a slight mistake in my last, in connecting the name of Mr. Hendry, the well known foundry man, with it. It should have read: "Mr. Nowlan of Helena and Captain Plaisted." Business is said to be lively at the Cable, and in the vicinity.

Mr. James Richardson arrived in town last evening from a three months prospecting tour, and reports several small gulches, heading in the same range of mountains, that prospect well. In one, he states, as high as seventy five cents to the pan was obtained in the gravel. Also, Mr. Richardson informs me that he discovered a succession of bar diggings that he thinks will average thirty feet of gravel, and pay to hydraulic, forty dollars to the hand, with an abundance of water handy. He contemplates sinking on his silver ledges this winter, and returning to the placer diggings as early as the weather will permit in the spring. Mr. R. also produced several specimens of metal which is supposed to be platina and assures us that the metal was panned out in prospecting for gold, in large quantities. Strange stories are afloat that in the vicinity of the trail leading from the Deer Lodge Basin to Helena, there has been found a "Tin mine." The discoverer or pretended discoverer, at present in Phillipsburg, claims to be versed in a knowledge of metals in a crude state, and is confident, but seems careless about the matter. Coupled with the fact of Mr. Richardson's finding something resembling platina, may there not be other metals precious beside gold and silver in Montana? I will watch the development—if any—of this rumor, and inform your readers at the earliest moment.

A considerable speculation in claims is going on in the Georgetown district, several entire leads have changed hands of late. From every indication we are led to believe an immense amount of capital will be invested in this vicinity during the next twelve months, in quartz and other property connected therewith. As the season advances, groceries and provisions advance steadily in price, and should the weather suddenly change to "winter drear," we anticipate a concerted movement with traders to raise at least twenty-five per cent. on goods of this character—in fact they are compelled, in order to pay over the taxes set opposite their names in the Assessor's list. The poor man and daily laborer pays nothing(?) not he—his name does not appear with hundreds—underscored—in the margin. Well, "God bless the rich, the poor can beg," and so we glide along.

On Christmas Eve the first grand ball of the season will take place, and huge are the preparations already made for a most *recherche* affair. Mine host of the Dana House furnishes the supper at five dollars per head, and I am warranted in promising a most delightful and refreshing time. Blackfoot and other camps promise their quota of fair ones which added to those already located here, will increase the amount of crinoline hereabouts for a day or two considerably. Expect a report when the meeting transpires.

JEEMS.

Phillipsburg, Dec. 20, 1867.

CURIOUS STATISTICS.—Professor A. B. Gould, from statistics derived from the register of two and a half millions of men in the United States army, has brought out the fact that men attain their maximum stature much later than is generally supposed. This takes place commonly at twenty-nine or thirty years of age, but there are frequent instances of growth at thirty-five, not very noticeable, a yearly growth of a tenth of an inch, perhaps, still a growth. After thirty-five the stature subsides in similar proportions, partly perhaps from the condensation of the cartileges, partly because of the great changes in the angle of the hip bone. The age for maximum stature comes earliest to the tallest men, as if it were the necessity of unusual development. Foreigners are shorter than men of native birth. The hights of men seem to depend on the place of enlistment. A Massachusetts man enlisted in Iowa was an inch taller than if he had staid at home. As we go west men grow taller. One man measured more than six feet ten inches. Out of 1,000,000, there were 500,000 who measured more than six feet four inches; (?) but the men of such stature do not wear well. In Maine, men reached their greatest hight at 27; in New Hampshire, at 35; in Massachusetts, at 29; in New Jesrey, at 31. The tallest men, of 69 inches, come from, Iowa, Maine, Vermont, Ohio, Indiana Minnesota and Missouri, give us men a little over 68 inches, and the average of all shows the Americans to be "a very tall people."

OUR PLANET.—There is always an anxiety among a considerable portion of the population of the world about the doom of the planet in which they live. They anticipate the end of the world, and whilst a few prepare for it, the vast majority satisfy themselves with dreading it. A writer in the North British *Review*, among others, has lately joined the ranks of these anticipators of the end of the world, and declares that some change is soon to take place in the planet. He writes in rather a frightened vein, and says: "What this change is to be we dare not even conjecture; but we see in the heavens themselves some traces of destructive elements and some indications of their power. The fragments of broken planets, the descent of meteoric stones npon our globe, the wheeling comets wielding their loose materials in our own satellite, the appearance of new stars and disappearance of others, are as the solar furnace, the volcanic eruptions, foreshadows of that impending convulsion to which the system of the world is doomed. Thus placed on a planet which is to be burned up, and under heavens which are to pass away; thus treading, as it were, on the cemeteries, and dwelling upon the mausoleums of former worlds, let us learn the lesson of humility and wisdom, if we have not already been taught in the school of revelation."

NAPOLEON'S NEEDLE-GUN.—The Emperor, author and architect, has again appeared as an inventor. In his ostensible desire to prepare his nation for the maintainance of a vigorous peace, he has contrived a new gun, concerning which nothing is really known, but reports affirm it the most terrible weapon yet invented, a single discharge being expected to destroy a battalion. The workmen who are engaged in manufacturing this arm are never allowed to leave the premises, being locked up day and night the Emperor himself keeping the key. In the trials, the cannon, carriages and ammunition are brought in leather valises, and the firing takes place behind a screen of boards. It is known that at 8,200 feet the balls pierce an iron plate eight-tenth inches thick. Each cannon fires twenty shots in a minute and two men suffice for the transportation of the field piece, with its carriage, ammunition, etc. Says a French notice of a late trial, "a clump of trees 5,000 feet distant, were mowed down in a few minutes, like a field by a steam mower. It was positively frightful."

Gov. Blasdel, of Nevada, on behalf of the State, has offered a reward of $1,000 for the arrest of Thomas Riley, the murderer of T. G. Smith, to which the county Commissioners of Ormsby county have added $500, making $1,500 for Riley's apprehension. Smith was the Sheriff whose shooting we noted last week. He died on Tuesday, Dec. 17th. Riley is described as a man about 5 feet 6 inches; hair gray, formerly brown; blue eyes, or gray; weight about 140 pounds; quick and sharp in his movements and talk; by birth an Irishman.

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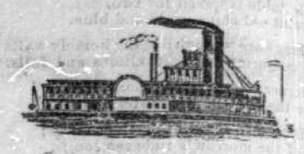

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