

EDITORIALS.

THE CRUSADE AGAINST THE "MORMONS."

THE New York *Journal of Commerce* appears to have some hope that the marriage system of the "Mormons" will be put down by persecutive prosecutions in the courts, but that hope is not a very strong one. The *Journal* says—

"The political ferment through which the country has lately been passing has withdrawn attention to a considerable extent from the long-delayed attempt which now at last appears to be on foot to compel the Utah theocracy to respect the sentiment of modern civilization, saying nothing about the decree of any higher power. The Utah polygamists profess to found their immoral practices upon the teachings of the Bible as well as the Book of Mormon, so that it is useless to fulminate against them with theological ammunition; and the mere force of opinion sets so much spent in crossing the long reaches of territory between Salt Lake and the civilized centers, that very little, if anything, has ever been accomplished by the employment of that generally irresistible engine.

The "Utah theocracy" do "respect the sentiment of modern civilization." The sober convictions of all rational beings are entitled to respect, but the convictions or sentiments of one man, or a number of men, should not be forced upon another. Every man is entitled to the enjoyment of his own convictions and sentiments. While the "Mormons" accord all due respect to the "sentiment of modern civilization," all they ask in return is that "modern civilization" pay equal respect to their sentiments. The sentiments of the "Mormons" are as sacred to them and as worthy to be respected by "modern civilization," as the sentiment of "modern civilization" is sacred to those who hold it and worthy to be respected by the "Mormons."

The *Journal* says it is useless to fulminate against the "Mormons" with theological ammunition, and the force of public opinion is too weak to accomplish anything material. True, the "Mormons" are masters in the field of theological warfare. The Bible sustains their creed and their domestic institutions, so that "modern civilization" has to war upon them unsupported by the Bible, and consequently has to rely upon nothing stronger than infidel argument.

The practices of the "Mormons," when they conduct themselves in accordance with the principles of the gospel, are not immoral, though those principles inculcate a plurality of wives. On the contrary, the highest morality, the most sinless purity, embraces that system of marriage, a morality and a purity which leave "modern civilization" wallowing hopelessly in the mire of everywhere prevalent adultery and illegitimacy.

General public opinion is at all times entitled to a due degree of respect, but it by no means follows that its universal acceptance shall be enforced on pain of penal punishment. That is unadulterated tyranny, which the pures and most heroic spirits of all ages have not sanctioned nor accepted, but rather have been made its victims. Public opinion is but the aggregate of private opinion, and is not necessarily true and right. There would and could be no reform if the enjoyment of private opinion were denied, or if the general opinion must perform be accepted.

The *Journal* says the attempts which the Federal Government has made since 1862, to crush out the remaining "twin relic," have been feeble and fitful, and it did begin "to look, even after the passage of the law of last session, intended to revive, strengthen, and facilitate the execution of the law of 1862, prohibiting and punishing polygamy as a crime, that the institution of 'plural marriage' would not only still survive, but have no serious encounter with the opposing powers of the law."

What "plural marriage" may have to encounter from the Poland bill, we shall not here discuss, but we

do not think that bill has done the institution much harm so far, nothing like so much as it has its authors and abettors, individual and party, for it has already decapitated numbers of them and the sword of Damocles hangs over the heads of many more. The Federal Government has had time, talent, power and unlimited means, and it is a fair question why its efforts should have been feeble and fitful. Once upon a time it sent an expedition of 3,000 soldiers here, on the errand under consideration, with as many campfollowers, embracing a great deal of the scum of both the East and the West, yet nothing but expense and corruption came of that effort, and it helped to break up the Union. The Poland bill, from which much was hoped, was quickly followed by most unexpected and most disastrous reverses to the party which passed it. Still, the *Journal* wants to know why the Federal government does not do something not so feeble and fitful, and echo answers, "Why?" We might ask, "Where are the funds to come from?" Every effort in the past, though feeble and fitful according to the *Journal*, has cost tremendously, and neither the Federal government nor the party can stand such efforts very often. They are too costly, and too unsatisfactory in results. Besides, persecution is a poor weapon, it helps too much the people it is wielded against, and it sinks often to irredeemable infamy the persons who wield it.

The *Journal* seems to think that if one sided juries could be insured, the "Mormons" could soon be convicted. Very likely. Try a man by his well known enemies, those who are prejudiced and embittered against him, before a judge of the same class, if you want to convict and sentence him, right or wrong. Have a jury, but in name and form only. That would be a short way with the "Mormons," almost if not quite equal to Defoe's "Shortest Way with the Dissenters."

Says the *Journal*—

"The language of the Mormon press on the subject of these indictments, though offensive, is not as defiant as might have been expected."

We do not wish to be offensive, but truth is offensive to many people. Neither is it any of our business to be defiant. But it is our business and our highest and most sacred duty to abide by our sober and sincere convictions. If that offends any persons, so be it, and all the worse for them. We accord to them the same privilege, of abiding by their convictions, which we claim for ourselves and which we mean to enjoy, whatever public opinion may be.

The *Journal* says—

"The NEWS also pretends to believe that even if convictions are had and punishment administered, it will not extinguish polygamy, the curious if not correct reason being that 'in matters of conscience, men and women, and particularly religious men and women, are the most perverse beings on the earth,' and so 'when you have punished one man for doing what he believes to be right, it will by no means follow that another man will not go and do what he believes to be right notwithstanding.' The Mormon organ here shows that it has read history to some purpose, and we should have very much less faith in the result of a resolute undertaking to enforce the law against polygamy if we did not believe that the religious sanction which the Mormon leaders have tried to throw around it is merely a thin veil assumed as a mask for the passions, instead of being in anywise the fruit of a real religious conviction."

Yes, there is good reason to believe that persecution, even by the forms of law, will not extinguish truth nor exterminate those who accept it. The saying is as true as ever, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." Every important movement against the "Mormons" so far has helped to build them up and magnify their name and fame. The same effects may still be expected to flow from the same causes, and therefore we are sanguine in the belief that persecution, though flimsily disguised as prosecution, will be a help rather than a hindrance to the progress of that which is pure and true, either in theological or social matters.

We try to read all that we do read to some purpose, and our ex-

perience verifies history to the effect that, no matter what the opposition may be, the truth is not to be left without witnesses, believers, and practitioners in this or any other age, and therefore that the petty, feeble, and fitful obstructive efforts of antagonists, whether legislative, judicial, or executive, individual, party or national, are destined, in the nature of things, to fail to accomplish what the enemies of truth design and hope.

To our view the *Journal* has no sufficient reason to hope for the "results" it desires, because it may rest assured that the "religious sanction" thrown around plural marriage by the "Mormon" leaders is by no means "a thin veil assumed as a mask for the passions," but is the genuine, sound, and perfect "fruit of a real religious conviction," and the sooner the Federal Government and the people at large awake to a full conviction of this fact the better for them.

If the gratification of the passions was the only object in view, "modern civilization" furnishes abundant facilities for that, without the expense and care of raising up families. But one object of "Mormonism" is to destroy those facilities by drying them up, and creating a purer and nobler sentiment, which shall grow until it becomes universally respected, to the effect that if a man takes a woman to his bosom it must be done honorably and divinely, and with the full acceptance of all the naturally consequent responsibilities.

FUNCTIONS OF JUDGES AND JURIES.

A CORRESPONDENT of a London paper has the following concerning the functions of judges and jurors—

"There cannot be a greater fallacy than to suppose that a jury is bound by the private views of the judge, in a trial for murder, or, indeed for any other offence. The judge is, in fact, the servant of the jury, to explain and sum up the evidence, and give his views of the law of the case, but most assuredly the jury are not bound by that view, or by anything save their oath, which is to give a true verdict according to the evidence alone. The jury are omnipotent, and the judge has merely a right to carry out their verdict, whatever it may be, by his sentence.

"If it were otherwise, the glory of trial by jury would be but a sorry glory indeed, for, as Sir Mathew Hale observes, 'it would be a most unhappy case for the judge himself if the prisoner's fate depended upon his directions—unhappy, also, for the prisoner; for, if the judge's opinion must rule the verdict, the trial by jury would be useless.' These observations of Hale are quoted in the fourth volume of Blackstone.

"Another argument against the opinion of a judge being binding on jurors may be gathered from the fact that scarcely any two judges, or indeed lawyers, will be found to coincide in their views on any abstract, or obscure, or nice point of law. As Blackstone says, 'As all judges enjoy the highest office in the state, their decisions, in spite of their own integrity, will have frequently an involuntary bias towards those of their own rank, and it is not to be expected from human nature that the few should be always attentive to the interests of the many.'"

ADVANCE IN THE RATE OF DISCOUNT.—Our readers will have noticed recently in our dispatches, statements that the Bank of England has been raising its minimum rate of discount. This is the policy of that bank when gold is leaving its vaults too freely, and when the quantity is large and increasing, the rule is to lower the rate of discount. The *New York Tribune* thus presents the reasons for the recent advances in the rate—

"The causes of the advance of the rate of discount at London are connected with the substitution of gold for silver in the coinage of Germany and the accumulation of specie by the Bank of France. The latter movement, which has been in progress for nearly a year, took away the surplus specie and bullion from England and Germany and concentrated it at Paris, where, since the bank does not pay in

specie, it is not accessible. The German government and the Bank of Prussia, finding that their new coin was being exported and melted down, advanced their rates of interest some weeks ago with the object of stopping the exports to France. The Bank of England's reserve, previously somewhat reduced, has lately been drawn upon for coin to export to Egypt to pay for cotton, and the directors have now advanced their rate from four percent. to five, in accordance with long established custom."

RATHER GO TO PRISON THAN STARVE.—The *Detroit Post* thus portrays some things in that city, these hard times, in a strong light, and says that at the municipal court in that city, Saturday, November 14, eight able-bodied men, the youngest eighteen and the oldest but thirty-two years of age, voluntarily pleaded guilty to charges of vagrancy, and asked to be sent up. They were all sober, honest looking fellows, and stated that they had striven earnestly and in good faith to find employment of any kind, but had failed. They were homeless and penniless, and rather than steal would prefer to go to the House of Correction for the winter. The police justice, while regretting the necessity which compelled honest men to eat of prison fare and associate with criminals to keep from starving, complied with their request, and each of the applicants was sent up for four months.

This is a rather strange state of things in this land of plenty.

AMERICA A PENAL COLONY.—America, since the days of Columbus, has ever been virtually, and to a greater or less extent, a penal colony. Many of the criminals of the Old World have ever looked upon this as the country of refuge from the severities of the law in their own land, and the goal to be reached by them before trial, if possible, as well as after, if possible. It is now stated that the Austrian government proposes to pardon its criminals if they will come to the United States. This is an old European policy, but it is to be hoped that the United States will not permit this country always remain "an asylum for the oppressed of all nations" in that fashion. An exchange, with a great probability of truth, says, "The fact that this country is made a drain for carrying off the dregs and refuse of other nations, may in a great degree explain the discouraging increase of crime noticeable from year to year in the criminal records of the United States."

NO VETO.—The Governor of Oregon is said to have signed all the bills passed by the Legislature of that State at its late session. He must be a sensible governor. But he is not the Governor that the Oregonians were glad to get rid of and send here, and who, though it is his plainly specified duty to "approve all laws passed by the Legislative Assembly," nevertheless takes it upon himself to veto "most everything." No wonder the web-footers were glad when he was gone from their gaze.

Our Country Contemporaries.

Ogden Junction, Nov. 30—

Saturday evening a handsome U. P. drawing room car came in on the evening train, and was taken West to receive King Kalakaua, and convey His Majesty and suite to the East. He may be expected here some day this week.

Saturday afternoon a switchman on the U. P. was coupling cars at the depot, when two of his fingers were caught and crushed. He answers to the name of "Calico Jack," and Dr. T. E. Brown helped Jack considerably; he dressed his fingers in a trice, and Jack stood the operation manfully.

Beaver Enterprise, Nov. 28—

We learned this morning that Mr. J. H. Brown, attorney-at-law, lies in a very critical condition, and that his recovery is considered quite doubtful. He has been suffering for some time past with neuralgia, but it was not considered dangerous until very recently.

At a caucus held last Tuesday evening, at Beaver city, the following nominations were made for municipal officers: For Mayor, W. Fotheringham; Councilors, Willis Coplan, P. T. Farnsworth, Sidney Tanner, Wm. Ashworth and Daniel Tyler; for Justice of the Peace, W. P. Jones and A. M. Farnsworth.

Important

TO

Sunday Schools.

THE UTAH

EDUCATIONAL BUREAU,

WHICH HAS SUPERIOR FACILITIES for supplying the Sunday Schools of our Territory with

Library Books, Cards, Catechisms,

And every other requisite for instruction, would call the attention of Sunday School Officers and Teachers to the following

Letter of Transfer and Recommendation from the Officers of the "Deseret Sunday School Union" of this Territory:

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah,
November 8th, 1874.

By arrangements entered into this day, "The Deseret Sunday School Union" of this Territory has transferred its business of supplying Sunday Schools with Library Books, Catechisms, and other appliances, to the Educational Bureau of this City; and the Officers of the Union cordially commend to our citizens the varied and extended facilities thus offered for supplying themselves with the best and most suitable publications which England and America can furnish. No books will be offered to our Sunday Schools through this channel except those approved by the Executive Committee of the "Union."

All foreign publications can be obtained through the Bureau free of duty.

GEO. Q. CANNON, General Supt.
GEORGE GODDARD, Ass't Supt.
JOHN B. MAIBEN, Secretary.
WM. MCLACHLIN, Treasurer.

The BUREAU will make out Lists of appropriate Books, Cards, etc., for Sunday Schools, and give prompt attention to all orders for Sunday School material.

John R. Park, James Dwyer,
Actuary. Business Manager.

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