

EDITORIALS.

DO NOT BE ENTRAPPED.

WE observe by paragraphs in some of our local cotemporaries that there is shortly to be a mask carnival at the skating pavilion. We have before questioned the respectability and pointed out the dangers of this resort, owing to all classes of people having access to it on payment of the admission fee. Men who would consider young ladies of this community their proper prey, are liable to mix with the general throng and to have opportunities of forming associations that are fraught with peril to the innocent and unsuspecting. The proposed mask carnival adds strength and depth to our convictions on this subject.

That the good and pure may not withhold their presence on account of the absence of an air of respectability, an attempt is made to give it an atmosphere of that character. It is announced that a "committee" will see that no improper characters will be permitted to participate under cover of the mask. The names of this alleged committee are, however, a mystery, so far as the public are concerned. They are not given. Indeed, we have grave doubts about reputable citizens undertaking to act on a committee of that description, as the responsibility would be by no means small. It would be curious to know what process such a committee would adopt in excluding objectionable characters. If an individual suspected of being a libertine, a debauchee, or other moral monstrosity applied for admission would they put him through a course of questioning or take peremptory action in the premises?

The pretence of having a committee of safety practically admits the fact that bad characters are liable to seek admission. The fact that such a committee is only alleged to be employed to prevent debauchees, libertines, gamblers and prostitutes from participating "under cover of the mask," comes very near being a strong admission that they are at liberty to do so minus the face-covering.

It is evident that at a resort of this kind the respectable and pure cannot be protected from contact or association with the vilest of the vile, and the attempts that are made to give such a place for promiscuous gatherings a virtue which it does not possess, are of the flimsiest description. We repeat the proposition formerly advanced in regard to such places; that they cannot in their very nature, be intrinsically respectable, and cannot be separated from a strong taint of danger to young people. We advise the youth in the most friendly spirit to avoid amusements of that description and seek it in a clearer and more innocent atmosphere. They should be careful not to be entrapped by subterfuges so transparent that they can be penetrated at a glance by people of mature thought and experience.

A LAMENTABLE DEED.

This is a world of strange happenings. Among these may be classed the suicide of Thomas Morris. Those who were acquainted with the mild old man could scarcely credit the report as to the manner of his death. The doubters were influenced by the high opinion they entertained of the deceased. He was a very poor, but always believed to be a scrupulously exemplary man.

Many of our citizens will remember his broad-set figure, partially bent with the weight of years, as he toddled about carrying a basketful of bottled horse-radish, by peddling which he eked out the existence he has so mournfully terminated by his own hand.

The only reasonable theory that can be entertained as to the cause for the commission of the deed is that the old gentleman had temporarily lost his mental balance. Even if influenced by a strong desire to leave this mortal sphere, had reason held any degree of dominion it would have suggested that his departure by the usual process of natural decay was in any case a near event.

The mind of man in its normal state recoils with horror from an act such as that by which Thomas Morris terminated his life. With Latter-day Saints this proper sentiment is deepened and intensified. According to their faith a person who, while in a condition of mental responsibility, deprives himself of life by his own hand, will suffer serious loss in the sphere beyond. When the act is done under a mental cloud, the consequences will doubtless be more favorable to the perpetrator of the act.

OUR CHICAGO LETTER.

SPECIAL TOPICS INTELLIGENTLY TREATED BY OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

CHICAGO, Jan. 12, 1884.

ATTACKS ON MORMONISM.

Editor Deseret News:

As it moved toward the end of the week, and not having noticed a single

reference to Utah in any of the local papers, nor having heard a word spoken from rostrum or pulpit touching the same quarter, I began to think that one week would pass over without hearing or reading anything about Mormonism. This morning the illusion was dispelled, when I glanced over an account of Senator Cullom's thunder at Washington, and further on the account of the arrival of Governor Murray at Salt Lake City. And as if the fates would it to render the dispelling of my illusion entirely complete, to use a pleonasm, a friend of mine placed in my hand a local weekly which contained a remarkable production from the pen of some irate Hibernian of Cottonwood. Under other circumstances, this last production would evoke scarcely more than a passing glance, but to-day and coupled with present associations it made me feel really serious. It appears the Salt Lake Herald commented, humorously perhaps, on Mr. Ryan who voluntarily disfranchised himself in New York city. As to Mr. Ryan's folly or wisdom we have nothing to do, even if he committed suicide, physical as well as political. But the Cottonwood correspondent is even more foolish. The letter he writes to-day might be compared with the hundreds written twenty years ago against his own religion and his own people. And if Romanism were substituted for Mormonism, his letter would present a fine specimen of know-nothing literature. The clergymen of his church were treated just the same as the Mormon Elders are now: the practices of his religion were styled fanaticism and superstition; the monks, nuns and clergy were all classed as lecherous carnalists, and the convents were put down as hotbeds of prostitution, free love and general viciousness. It was in the State of Kentucky that this feeling raged wildest and most determined.

Senator Cullom is a native of Kentucky, and at the time of the religious hatred above mentioned, he must have been a young man impressionable and plastic. This goes to show that his antipathy to Mormonism is not the result of pure conviction as to its sinfulness, nor of calm deliberation as to its falsity. His feeling is the result of early teaching and training. He was educated in religious strife, and he will continue in this to the end of the chapter. If the cry to-day were the same as 25 years ago, he would be found on the destroying side. An old Celtic resident of Paducah, Ky., told me one time, that for the killing of one of his race, a fine of five dollars would be imposed, but if the fined person would bring the head of some noxious animal that infested the State, the fine would be remitted. If it were not for the democratic party at the time, the freedom of religion in the United States was sealed forever. And it is significant now that Senator Brown, of Georgia, an ardent democrat, is the first to raise his voice for the preservation of personal rights and constitutional equity. There is not a religion to-day, in existence, that something objectionable in it cannot be pointed out by some party or faction. Aye, even all religion is vigorously assailed, and by a strong following too.

PROGRESSIVE FORCES OF "MORMONISM."

Any person who understands the condition of the American continent, and the advantages to humanity, and modern civilization that would arise from a proper colonization of it, will deplore the fact that Mormonism is handicapped in its usefulness this way. The future outgrowth of that religion will naturally move southward, and in due time would extend into the high plains of Central and South America. The discipline and culture of that religion are admirably adapted for fitting semi-barbarous, aye, even the savages, for self-government. Take a colony of these people, of even the humblest ranks, and they will organize a better municipality than a colony taken from the higher educational establishments of the east. The proper remedy for Mormonism is, give them a State Government, give them the whole American Continent from Salt Lake City to Patagonia and before a half-a-century, the American tourist can ride in his Pullman car from New York City to the most Southern point of the American Continent. This religion can never become an oligarchy from the fact that all its offices are representative and elective, and its priesthood so extensive and so admirably organized that mostly all the people, in some way partake in it.

THE PROPER TREATMENT.

It will be interesting to study the course this question will take in Washington. Though it is hardly possible that any intelligent man can admit in his heart that the course to be pursued is justifiable. If polygamy is a sin or a crime, meet it with criminal jurisprudence, the same as any other crime. Chicago has to-day hundreds of undetected thieves, and who thinks of framing a law to harass the whole community on this account. The case reminds me of a debate I once heard of the shooting of Irish landlords. One speaker asserted that a landlord was shot, and no clue could be found to his murderer. Among the numerous remedies, he dwelt on one in particular, and that was to hang the first dozen Irishmen that appeared in the vicinity of the murder. Senator Cullom's bill is something after the manner of the embryo statesman of school-debating society. If one man in Utah marries two or more women, he wants the whole

community sacrificed. This would be a bad precedent in dealing with any question, even the really criminal.

WHAT THE GOVERNOR HAS DONE.

Governor Murray is not such an extraordinary man that there should be such jubilation on his return to Utah. He did not excite any great attention in the East, in fact he was considered a very small potato indeed here. What has he done? Any man can get on top of a barrel and shout, down with Mormonism, and that is all the Governor of Utah has done.

CABLE CAR SYSTEM.

Our city is fast becoming a metropolitan centre. We have here at present a party of gentlemen from New York City investigating the cable car system. This branch of street railroading has been brought to a very successful standard in Chicago, and that is the reason the Gothamites came to learn of us. They adopted our public patrol system a short time ago. This has revolutionized all police routine duty, instead of dragging a drunken brute through the streets, followed by a gaping crowd, he is now whisked off as fast as a first-class team can travel.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

We have had so many fires recently and some under such suspicious circumstances that the fire marshal has issued an order calling attention to legislation on the matter. The number of bankruptcies seems to be on the increase, though there is nothing like a panic apparent. We are likely to have an improvement in this city, which will be not alone an embellishment but a very useful structure.

The railroad companies have offered \$800,000 for a plot of land on the lake front for depot purposes. It is to be hoped they will succeed in getting it, as they propose to put up a depot that will be the first of its kind on this side of the Atlantic. The aldermen talk of pulling down the Exposition building, because of some rent complications. This would be a shame, and it is an act that would not be at all relished by the citizens. This building has become so identified, with fat stock shows, concerts, political conventions, fairs and exhibitions, that its commercial importance alone to the city is a large consideration. We are also having some new ideas promulgated on the license question, and it is likely we will have a lively year all around in Chicago.

BODY SNATCHING DENOUNCED.

Even the bones of the dead are not permitted to rest in peace. The vile hands of the body-snatcher invade the sanctity of the grave, and the remains of the loved one which were so fondly and tenderly and tearfully lowered into the silent clay, are ruthlessly resurrected. It is conceded on all sides that we have among us the meanest specimen of humanity to be found to-day on this planet, in the shape of a medical student, who followed the remains of his sweetheart to the grave, and the same night resurrected her body for use on the dissecting table. Though the State law amply provides for the supply of subjects to the schools of medicine, yet somehow its provisions are defeated. It is an easy matter to trace the cause of this. It is only a few months since an awful cry was raised about the dispute of the pauper dead. Speeches and editorials denounced the heartless disposition made of the unfriended and unburied pauper. The county undertaker was charged with trading in deceased humanity, and with cheating the grave. Now a different cry is raised, and one paper says: "In the case of deceased criminals and paupers, who have been a charge upon the public in life, and whose bodies after death are not claimed for interment, it is in the interest of society that the cadavers should be turned over to the medical colleges; it is the only recompense which the outcasts can make for the wrong or burden they have inflicted upon society in life, and even from a sentimental point of view, the remains of such, can with more propriety be turned over to the colleges than to the grave as food for worms."

THE MASTERLY ARGUMENT OF SENATOR BROWN.

The speech of Senator Brown, of Georgia, printed in full in our last issue, is an irrefutable argument on the unconstitutionality of the Edmunds Act as administered by the Commissioners, and of the proposed legislation embodied in the Cullom bill.

If Senator Cullom, of Illinois, had advanced anything new or worthy of consideration, we would have published his arraignment of the "Mormon" Church. But it is little more than the old falsehoods that have been repeated many times told over again in language very unsuitable to a legislative body, and the greater part of it is admitted to be but hearsay. And logically it had no bearing upon the question of the necessity for the total abolition of republican government in a Territory of the United States, and of the lawfulness or expediency of a Legislative Commission. The few attempts made by Mr. Cullom to show precedents for such a Commission are completely refuted and shattered by the arguments and authorities brought forward by Mr. Brown.

Senator Brown has shown conclusively that the eighth section of the

Edmunds act, as administered by the Utah Commission, violates at least half a dozen provisions of the Constitution of the United States, and is therefore a nullity. He proves that it deprives citizens of property without due process of law. The right to vote and hold office is "property," as he demonstrates by quotations from accepted authorities, and many citizens of Utah have been deprived of that right, summarily. They have not been indicted by a grand jury, nor tried by a petit jury, have not been confronted with witnesses against them, nor allowed to have witnesses in their favor nor counsel to defend them. They have been compelled by the test-oath presented, to be in effect witnesses against themselves.

The Act he shows is in its nature a bill of attainder, because it assumes to deprive citizens of their property without due process of law, and thus the legislature assumes judicial functions, and the Commission acting under it becomes judge, jury and executioner; and the test oath, neglect or refusal to subscribe to which deprives citizens of the right to vote and hold office, is of the same nature. The law is also *ex post facto* because it provides a punishment for a certain offence greater than was provided at the time the offence was committed.

For all these reasons and others advanced, it is argued with a clearness and force that cannot be overcome, that the law is in direct violation of specific clauses in the Constitution, and is therefore a nullity. And Senator Brown declares that it cannot be sustained by the Supreme Court of the United States, by any good lawyer, by any competent court, by Congress, or by the country.

He further dilates upon the constitutional powers of Congress over the Territories, defines its limitations and, taking the broadest view claimed by the advocates of extended authority for the national government, he proves that Congress is bound by the Constitution in its treatment of the Territories as in its treatment of the States, that the citizens of the Territories are under the protection of the Constitution, and have inalienable rights which Congress cannot destroy, and that the proposed Legislative Commission would be unlawful and contrary to the fundamental principles of our system of government.

The position taken by the DESERET NEWS on these important questions is taken by Senator Brown, but is maintained with consummate ability and fortified by copious citations of authorities which cannot be disputed. The subjects treated of are taken up in legal style and presented with admirable force and perspicuity, and not only the injustice but the absolute nullity of the eighth section of the Edmunds Act is made fully apparent.

Towards the close the Senator becomes sarcastic, and his recommendation that Senator Edmunds improve the morals of Utah by importing a number of people from his own part of the country, so that the New England style be substituted for the "Mormon" method, and that in the place of our polygamy we have the divorce-and-marry-again fashion, with feticide, infanticide, the social evil and other modern improvements, is cutting and suggestive in the extreme. We think Senator Brown's effort the ablest and completest which has yet appeared on the question that has occupied so much of the time of our national legislators, and hope it will be widely read and thoroughly considered.

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST THE GOVERNOR.

It will be observed by the dispatches that, during a discussion in the House of Representatives Congressman White made a flat-footed statement regarding the Governor of Utah. It was to the effect that an investigation in a certain direction would reveal the fact that thousands of dollars belonging to the U. S. treasury had been stolen, and that if our Governor had his just due, his stalwart form would be clothed in striped habiliments and he be reclining within the walls of a penitentiary.

Either Congressman White knows of what he speaks or has, on the floor of the popular branch of the National Legislature, perpetrated one of the grossest slanders. Considering where the statement was made, it could scarcely be rendered more conspicuous. If the Governor is innocent he will repudiate the charge, and ask for the investigation which Mr. White asserts would make his title clear to incarceration in a penitentiary. We believe we have an idea of the matter to which Mr. White refers, and a searching scrutiny should, we consider, be instituted at once. It is due to himself and the people of Utah. If he is innocent an investigation should make it clear, that the people may not be rendered liable to the suspicion that a person such as described by Congressman White is foisted upon them to continue to occupy the chief executive office in Utah.

The people of this Territory have sufficient occasion against the Governor, already, for what he has done during his tenure of office thus far. When he gave a certificate of election to a minority candidate for the delegateship he certified to a direct falsehood, and so far as his will was concerned, committed as serious, or a more serious, robbery than

he did providing the charge of Congressman White be true. The rights of the people are their property, and of these he virtually robbed them. It is a notorious fact also, that he has been agitating a measure throughout the country to create a pressure upon Congress to have Utah governed by a commission with himself at its head, thus standing in the position not only of an office-seeker but an agitator for the creation of a place he wishes to fill.

But whatever may be his ambitions and his failings, or his virtues and worthiness, this charge which is not new ought not now to be kept covered up as in the past, but all the facts should be unearthed and the truth be made plain before the administration and the country.

GOVERNOR MURRAY ON SLIPPERY GROUND.

The remarks of Mr. J. D. White, of Kentucky, in the U. S. House of Representatives, in reference to Governor Murray, which have appeared in the regular Washington dispatches, do not seem to be relished by the Governor or his supporters. But it is not wise on their part, to say the least, to attract further attention to the matter by pouring out torrents of abuse upon Mr. White and those who, like him, know something of the facts in this very unsavory case.

Is it not a fact that the Department of Justice declared that it had "no further use" for Eli H. Murray, Marshal of Kentucky, and that his resignation was a matter of necessity? Is it not a fact that but for the influence of Mrs. Hayes he would not have succeeded in securing the appointment to the Governorship of Utah? Is it not a fact that the official who held certain damaging documents which, if placed on file in a certain place, would have barred the official career of Eli H. Murray, forever, was prevailed upon to withhold them so that the Senate might not refuse to sustain his nomination? Is it not a fact that those papers are still in existence and that copies thereof may find their way into print, if there is too much denial of the truth and too much abuse of those who have the inside track in this business?

We can understand the wrath and excitement which any allusion, however brief, to the previous official career of the gentleman from Kentucky who now figures as Utah's Executive and would-be autocrat, evokes in the ranks of the clique who are represented by the Governor. But we think they are extremely foolish to take a course to provoke a full ventilation of this matter, especially at the present juncture.

We do not know that a change in the Governorship would be of any great benefit to this Territory, and we have made no movement with the view of bringing it about. We know Governor Murray as the tool of a handful of conspirators, and the mouthpiece for an attorney or two who have worked up cunning falsehoods in shapes to prejudice the public, to further their own schemes; we know him also as ambitious to stand at the head of a Commission exercising extraordinary and anti-republican powers over the citizens of this Territory. But we do not know what kind of a person his successor might be. So we are not very anxious as to his removal.

But he is standing on slippery ground, and his associates will not help his cause by protesting too much. That he will go down sooner or later, is as certain as his unscrupulous and untruthful attacks on a people whose cause God Almighty will vindicate. No official who has taken a similar course has ever prospered. Time and Providence inevitably convey all such persons to shame or oblivion. So we can afford to let the wicked do wickedly and leave them to their own fate.

However, there are indications that the course of our ambitious Governor is not all plain sailing, and as one of them we clip the following from the Omaha Bee:

"When Governor Murray fired his broadside at the Mormons, he no doubt thought that he would get his reward by being reappointed, but he may find that republicans are sometimes ungrateful. His term will soon expire, and numerous politicians who are anxious to distinguish themselves by extinguishing polygamy, are now pressing their claims upon the President for Governor Murray's shoes. Every candidate for the place thinks he knows just how the Mormon problem ought to be solved. Reliable advices from Washington indicate that Mr. J. J. Lansing, a lawyer of New York State, stands a good show of succeeding Governor Murray. His claims are being urged by a large number of influential friends, among whom are two or three western Senators and several Congressmen. Mr. Lansing is also reported to have the influence of several prominent friends of President Arthur from New York City and State, and he is quite confident that he will be the next governor of Utah."

A UNIFORM MARRIAGE LAW.

In the House of Representatives, January 8, 1884, Mr. John W. Ray introduced the following joint resolution, proposing an amendment to the Con-