

EDITORIALS.

A COMPETENT OFFICIAL.

IN our local columns will be found an account of one of the improvements now being made in this city under the direction of Supervisor William Hyde. We allude to it here, in order to express briefly our appreciation of the labors of a very efficient public servant. He has for some time occupied the positions of street supervisor, watermaster and jailor, and though it is generally unadvisable to crowd several offices upon one man, we believe the public, with but very few exceptions, will agree that the duties of these several callings have been performed as satisfactorily as any one person could discharge them.

The work on the streets has been done thoroughly and in splendid shape. Judgment and justice have been exhibited in the distribution of the water. And the jail and its surroundings exhibit order, cleanliness and the effects of a watchful eye in a very marked degree. His accounts, sharply criticized and closely inspected, have been proven correct and square beyond cavil, and his management of working-prisoners and general oversight of affairs entrusted to his care, have been conducted with commendable regard for economy coupled with thoroughness.

We think that our public men ought to receive the encomiums they merit, particularly when carping faultfinders are so ready to pick flaws in the acts of officials. And we are pleased to be able in this case to say something, conscientiously, in commendation of a hard-working civil officer, whose ability to direct, as well as physical force to "take hold" are plainly observable to all who wish to see things as they are. A little judicious praise is not likely to injure any one who faithfully discharges his duty, whether he serves the public or a private firm or individual. But it is the fashion to find fault with public officers, and we are no doubt out of style in telling favorable truth about the Supervisor. Our only apology is that he has been unfairly criticized, and we think he ought to be fairly encouraged.

A CHRISTIAN EX-STATESMAN'S REVENGE.

THAT extinguished "Christian statesman," Schuyler Colfax, is literally fulfilling the promise, or threat, which he made on his last visit to Utah, that he would "get even" with the "Mormon" papers for assailing him. At every available opportunity he endeavors to arouse the hostility of the populace against the citizens of this Territory, and to induce his hearers to demand of their representatives in Congress determined and active hostility upon the "Mormon" question.

The pious lecturer treats his audience to partial and garbled quotations from the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants, for the purpose of impressing his hearers with the idea that polygamy is not part of the "Mormon" religion. He also cites James Buchanan, the President of the United States, who played into the hands of secession, by sending the flower of the United States army to quell a "Mormon" rebellion that had no existence, as proof that the "great mass of the settlers in Utah were hostile to the lawful government of the country." And he endeavors to prejudice the country against the "Mormons" on the position of plural wives as voters and pre-emptors of public lands. He charges that every plural wife, if only of a month's arrival from Europe, is compelled to go to the polls and vote at her husband's command, and to the land office to obtain land to increase her husband's possessions; and, says he: "She dare not revolt against her husband's mandate, for the Mormon Legislature have guarded effectually against that with consummate skill. By abolishing her right to dower as a wife, which exists everywhere else in our land,

she is made absolutely dependent on her husband's will for any share of his property after his death."

The objective point towards which all this mass of misrepresentation is directed is congressional legislation—the enacting of a jury law putting the "Mormons" at the mercy of their avowed enemies.

We have on former occasions proven the incorrectness of Mr. Colfax' statements in regard to the polygamy question, but we admit that plural marriage was not part of what he calls our "original religion." In other words it was not taught or practiced in the early rise of this Church. But this is not the point at issue when the question of national law and the "Mormon" faith is discussed. It is, rather, was polygamy an essential part of the "Mormon" religion when Congress passed the Act prohibiting it in the territories. The answer must be in the affirmative; Mr. Colfax cannot dispute this. His argument, therefore, falls to the ground.

As to our "original religion," it should be understood that our creed is progressive. It comes from the fountain of all intelligence; it is inspired by the Spirit which guides into all truth; and just as fast as its members are prepared for new doctrines and advanced principles, they will be revealed for their guidance. Baptism for the dead was not part of our "original religion;" neither were other doctrines which have been developed with the growth of the Church. But each principle, when revealed through the head and accepted by the body, becomes an essential part of its creed, just as much as the living material added in the growth of man from childhood to maturity becomes an integral part of his corporeal system. Mr. Colfax, to be consistent with his argument ought to object to the increase of adipose matter as not being a part of the original human structure.

The errors into which Buchanan fell in regard to the "Mormon" question were clearly shown after he had sent the army into Utah on a fruitless expedition, at the cost of millions to the country. The statements of renegade judges, which he accepted without evidence, were demonstrated to be absolutely false and malicious. And yet these refuted statements are revamped by the "Christian statesman" to use for the purpose of creating trouble and injuring an industrious, law-abiding and industrious community!

His statement about plural wives is inconsistent on its face, as every person will see who looks at it steadily for a moment. The idea of any man compelling women to vote as he pleases and to get land and deed over to him against their will. Could Colfax do this with one wife? Could the majority of his hearers or those who read the report of his nonsense? And then the idea of the "right of dower" of plural wives. Who ever heard of such a thing, until Mr. Colfax talked about the "Mormon" legislature having abolished it? The "right of dower" inures in some parts of the world to a wife under the law, but plural wives cannot occupy this status. The Utah legislature abolished it for the very purpose of doing justice to those plural wives whom Mr. Colfax says it was designed to injure. And they are not left to the caprice of their husbands by will, either; for the law gives the estate at death, if intestate, to his children equally, whether they be the offspring of the first or any subsequent wife. If the first wife could claim her dower, it would be at the expense of the other wives, and therefore what Mr. Colfax condemns as injurious to plural wives is done for their actual benefit.

Apart from the untruths which disfigure the fallen statesman's tirade, his motives spring from the basest instincts of human nature. Revenge for an assumed attack upon him through the press, prompt his endeavors to arouse prejudice and provoke wrath against the whole "Mormon" people. One paper, and that not strictly a "Mormon" organ, said some things about him that were unkind, but not untrue, on his recent visit to this city. And for this he announced in his poorly attended lecture here that he would wreak vengeance upon the whole community. How truly Christian! What a bright and lovely example to set before the Young Men's Christian Association, which the defunct politician affects so greatly to patronize! Does this angry and revenge-

ful person think that calling the "Mormons" black will rub the soot off his past official doings? or that the public will forget in the cry of polygamy the sound of Credit Mobilier? We think not. And we advise the deposed politician to take a different course or the cloud which now covers his name will deepen, and he will go down to the grave, to which he is fast hastening, clothed with ignominy and covered with everlasting shame.

POLITICS IN SOUTHERN IDAHO.

"The best laid schemes of mice and men oft gang a-glee," so sang the Scottish bard, and his lines have passed into a proverb. The truth of the adage has received an additional illustration in the recent plot of a few paltry politicians of Oneida County, Idaho, to defeat the wishes of the body of the people at the Democratic Territorial Convention.

The Democrats of Southern Idaho are largely in the majority, because their ranks are chiefly recruited from among the "Mormon" people of Oneida and Bear Lake Counties. But Oneida has been for some time under the control of men who claim to be Democrats, but either vote the Republican ticket or attempt to divide the Democratic body by pretending that they alone form the party in that county.

A Territorial Convention being called for the 14th instant, at Boise, Jas. H. Hart, J. C. Rich and George Osmond were elected delegates at the Bear Lake County Convention, and at the Oneida County Convention, Hadley D. Johnson, R. Morse, R. H. Williams, Alex. Allen and W. F. Fisher, were chosen Delegates. These gentlemen of both counties gave their proxies to the first named, who, having been a representative to the Legislature, and being member-elect for the Council, was well qualified to bear this responsibility, at a great saving of expense, as the journey to Boise is no trifling trip. But the bogus Democrats, really Anti-"Mormons," got up a bogus convention and attempted, by affidavits and letters forwarded by W. Crawford, carrying their proxies, to oust the regularly chosen Delegates, on the ground that they were under "Mormon" direction and not really Democratic representatives.

The Convention met at Boise as per appointment. After the preliminary organization a committee on credentials was appointed, and Hon. Jas. H. Hart was chosen as one of its number. In the report the full delegation from both counties represented by that gentleman were admitted, and the bogus delegation, with their bogus County Central Committee, refused recognition, as will be seen from the following extract:

"There have been no notices of contests of seats in this convention regularly served on the Territorial Central Committee, but from affidavits and statements furnished us by different parties, we find that two bodies, each styling itself the Democratic Central Committee of Oneida county, called primary elections in said county, and elected delegates to this Convention, but we are satisfied that the delegation headed by H. D. Johnson, and represented here by proxies in the hands of Hon. J. H. Hart, represent the majority of the Democratic voters of Oneida, and we recommend their admittance to seats in this Convention, and the recognition by this convention of the Central committee of Oneida County that called the primaries at which these gentlemen were elected, as the regular and legally constituted Democratic Central Committee of Oneida."

B. F. MORRIS,
Chairman.

In the permanent organization M. G. Luney was chosen chairman, and Jas. H. Hart, secretary. Hons. S. S. Fenn, T. D. Calahan and George Ainslee and Mr. Wm. H. Dewey were placed in nomination for Delegate to Congress. Mr. Fenn was the favorite, and received the greatest number of votes during several ballottings, as well as the following endorsement in the platform adopted:

Resolved, That our present Delegate in Congress, Hon. S. S. Fenn, deserves the thanks of the entire people of this Territory for the zeal and energy he has displayed in his efforts to advance the interests of our Territory at the national capital; and by his course since occupying his seat as Delegate he has proved himself a zealous and efficient public servant.

But the principle of rotation in office, and hostility to a third term policy prevailed, and on the 86th ballot Hon. George Ainslee of Idaho City, formerly editor of the *Idaho World*, a clever and intelligent gentleman, received the nomination, which was finally made unanimous. Hon. Hadley D. Johnson received very favorable mention, being highly respected by the Democrats in the north, and he would have stood an excellent chance for the nomination for Delegate if he had re-ided long enough in the Territory.

James W. Poe was nominated for District Attorney, for the First Judicial District, James H. Hawley for the Second, and Willard Crawford for the Third. W. F. Fisher, of Cache Valley, was elected one of the Territorial Central Committee.

The resolutions adopted endorse the platform of the National Convention at St. Louis; denounce republican frauds at the last presidential election; favor a modification of the treaty between the United States and China, so as to check Mongolian immigration; require economy in public expenditures and a reduction of local taxation; condemn the peace policy of the government towards the Indians and call for transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department; demand a change in the laws so that the Territories may elect their own officers and have a voice in the election of President and Vice President of the United States; and ask for the survey and sale of non-mineral timber lands to actual settlers, at moderate prices.

The convention lasted seven days, closing on the 21st inst. Mr. Hart arrived here yesterday. We consider that gentleman has done a good work for the democrats of the counties he represented at the convention, and particularly for Oneida. They are fully recognized, and their crafty and unprincipled opponents entirely defeated. But the real struggle is yet to come. The approaching election will decide whether the great majority of the citizens of Oneida County are to be lorded over by an unscrupulous and greedy minority, or to achieve their emancipation. They have learned bitter lessons in the past. We hope they will profit by them. The same evidence of fraud by which Mr. Fenn proved his right to a seat in Congress, would, if used in Oneida County have seated the county candidates of the majority, and the proofs which ousted Bennett would have turned out the ring of conspirators who cheated the people and stole the offices in Oneida.

The Democratic party of Idaho are in duty bound to help their friends in Oneida County, in securing a fair election. Mutual support is only equitable and to be expected. The Territorial Democratic ticket cannot be elected without the votes of Oneida and Bear Lake Counties. The Democrats of those places can therefore reasonably demand aid from the party in the approaching campaign. Every polling place must be watched, repeating prevented, voting Indians and transients noted, the tricks of election officers exposed, and tally kept of the votes so that tampering with the returns may be detected. By union, vigilance and determination, Oneida County may be rescued from the hands of the ring, and the offices be filled by the candidates of the majority. Let it be done.

MORE ABOUT THE MUSIC TRADE.

A FEW days ago we published some extracts from the *American Art Journal*, refuting the statement which had been circulated concerning the falling off of the Mason, Hamlin & Co. organ business. At the same time we quoted from the *Art Journal* to the effect that Woods & Co. were about to suspend the manufacture of their organs, and devote their entire attention to the piano trade. Now that firm issues the following circular,

which we publish with a desire to do equal justice to all parties concerned:

CAMBRIDGE PORT,
Sept. 2, 1878.

The statement lately made in a Boston paper, and from thence copied to other journals, to the effect that we proposed to temporarily suspend the Organ business and confine ourselves to the Piano branch of our business, and had discharged some 70 workmen, is incorrect and wholly without foundation, any more than in the fact that owing to the rapidly increasing demand for our Pianos, we suspended a few Organ workmen for a short time, in order to facilitate the Piano branch of our business.

We need not assure you that despite the unprecedented demand for the Pianos, calculated to tax our facilities to the utmost, we shall be prepared to fill all orders for Organs promptly, and that our instruments will be found in the future as in the past, to excel all others for beauty, and variety of tone, and thoroughness of workmanship.

Our Pianos are being taken up by appreciative musicians as fast as we can produce them, and we can commend them to all interested, as being the finest upright Piano America has as yet produced.

Very truly yours,
GEO. WOODS & Co.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

American manufacturers are still taking the lead. A single firm of Sheffield, England, has this year ordered 50,000 dozen of American hay rakers.

The common nettle is being utilized in Germany. Its fibres are found to be as fine as silk and tough as hemp, and they are being worked up to answer all the purposes for which the latter article is used. Nettles are being planted instead of extirpated in that country.

The Hodgdon case, in which one of the jurors was detected in attempting to obtain a bribe from the friends of the defendants, will come up again in San Francisco, in October. A new trial has been granted, but the motion to set aside the verdict was denied. The trial of Husselman, the offending juror, on the charge of "embarras," is in progress.

The Ogden Junction has entered upon its seventh volume as a daily newspaper, with good prospects of continued success. The people of Northern Utah are to be congratulated upon having a paper of so much ability and vitality to represent their interests as the Ogden Junction. We wish the paper increased usefulness and support, and its edito and proprietor much pleasure and satisfaction in their labors for the good of the public.

A singular phenomena has occurred in Italy. At Ortali, in the province of Arezza, the earth has gradually sunk until it is fifteen feet below the general level, so that the houses are tottering and liable to fall asunder. But about two hundred yards distant the earth has risen, and its elevation has sometimes been visible. This rising may be one of the "compensations of nature," but we do not suppose the owners of the sinking houses recognize it in that light.

A Pennsylvania chemist has discovered a process by which sugar can be manufactured and crystallized from sorghum and corn stalks. The method is inexpensive, and if it proves what it claims to be, will be of immense value to farmers, who will be able to combine and manufacture their own sugar. The inventor is F. L. Stewart, and the National Republican newspaper company, of Washington, D. C., has issued a book of one hundred pages, which describes the manufacture and the necessary machinery.

The electric light has been utilized on ship-board. Recently it was used on a vessel when in a dense fog off the banks of Newfoundland, and was the means of preventing a collision. The brilliant light penetrated the gloom and disclosed another vessel right under her bows. The engines were immediately reversed, and when the steamers passed each other they almost touched. Electricity is the coming illuminator and the coming motive power. Its development and subjugation to man's will are close at hand.