

and carry our mails without exposing man or beast upon these broad prairies.

"The little stir at Fort Macleod over this matter I am confident was a misapprehension although it was termed by one paper as "The first gun." I wish you to note that we (the Mormons) did not fire the first gun. It was our neighbors trying to extricate the mote from our eye. We have no use for guns. We leave them to the Northwest police who bear them with greater honors and have always done their duty towards all the settlers in our neighborhood whether Mormon or non-Mormon. If there is anyone to blame for committing so great a sin as to try to convert the surrounding elements into a company for the development of our resources, it is your humble servant. My home is in Cardston, Alberta, and I was the first Mormon to settle there and have not quarreled with my neighbors so far and I propose to be a man of peace. I do not believe in altercation. When I went to Lee's Creek I found only one ranch upon the stream, that of Messrs. Parker & Donovan, who gave me a hearty welcome, and I left there less than thirty days ago, and so far as I know there was no other than a kind, neighborly feeling existing between us. I have the most profound respect for all of my non-Mormon neighbors, and as yet we have found the country large enough for all and yet there are many "blocks of land" inviting the hand of industry, to convert them into sources of income to our Dominion.

"Do you not think it is a little far fetched to find fault with the people for purchasing blocks of land for ranching and farming purposes? Is it not a kind of a dog in the manger principle to try and abridge our rights without cause or provocation? Some fault is found with us for settling or colonizing together (referring to our little village). We have as much right to a village, I believe, as others, and we have great confidence in the just administration of the law by the Dominion and Territorial governments, and fear not the consequences of those who berate us or seek to curtail our privileges through those who are seeking fame by tearing down the principles of good government. The man who seeks to ensconce himself behind the walls of a house made from the fragments of his neighbors', has not a very strong bulwark and exhibits a coat of many colors. When he is brought to the test you know not whether you can depend upon him on the side of justice and equity in consequence of his profound selfishness. As to our people, we are not half so numerous as our neighboring towns, the nearest of which is forty miles distant. The total number of souls in our colony does not far exceed three hundred, and I believe, with you, if necessary we can get along without incorporation." We know how to conduct our own business, and propose to continue to do it from this time forward upon sound business principles, whether under an incorporate name or as private individuals."

THE "MORMONS."

THE following article on this perennial subject is taken from the *Rocky Mountain News*, one of the few leading journals of the day which aims to do justice to the people who pioneered the way to this inter-mountain region:

"The life of the first Mormon prophet being ended, his followers soon after took up the line of march for the unknown West and finally settled in Utah, which was then a part of Mexico. There they laid out and built Salt Lake City, entered upon and cultivated the vacant lands, and by their foresight, skill, knowledge, temperate habits and industry soon became a powerful people. The men who were at the head of this movement, of whom Brigham Young was chief, were great organizers. Under the statesmanlike direction of Young a government was organized, of which he was the controlling spirit. Soon after these people had settled in that country it was ceded to the United States, and in 1850 Congress organized it into a Territory. As originally formed, the Territory embraced the present State of Nevada, north of the 37th parallel, the present Territory of Utah, that part of the State of Wyoming south of the 42nd parallel and west of the Rocky Mountains, and the present State of Colorado west of the mountains. Brigham Young was made the first governor of this immense Territory by President Fillmore, and under his intelligent direction the Church grew and flourished and the inhabitants became a prosperous people. Young held the position of governor until 1854. Afterwards new territories were formed out of portions of Utah until it was pared down to its present proportions.

"It was under Brigham Young's Presidency of the Mormon Church that it spread into portions of the present States of Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho and Nevada, and the Territories of Arizona and New Mexico. They are industrious, hardworking, intelligent and prosperous citizens. They are a people more sinned against than sinning. The reason the Mormon people called down on themselves the sentiment of the general public was the recognition of plural marriages. For this reason Joseph and Hyrum Smith were killed, and their followers driven out of Illinois. Against this practice the United States Congress has legislated, providing severe penalties for polygamous practices. These practices, in a large degree, have been abandoned, and it is but just to say that the West contains no more worthy citizens, as a rule, than the followers of Joseph Smith, who was shot down by the indignant citizens of Carthage, Ill., forty-six years ago."

IDAHO, WYOMING AND THE "MORMONS."

PRESS comments on the election in Wyoming have illustrated once more the ignorance of the editors of this country concerning the "Mormon" people. Also their manner of jumping at conclusions is exposed. Here is what the *New York World* says on this subject:

"The first election in the new State of Wyoming resulted in a reduction of the Republican majority from 2894 to 1000 or 1200, and the election of a Republican Legislature.

"This will carry out the purpose for which the State was admitted—of butressing the Republican majority in the Senate against any popular revolt, which may take place in the House and the Presidency from the control of the party now in power.

"The counties on the Utah border which contain the Mormon popula-

tion, gave large Republican majorities. This will no doubt lead the faithful organs of that party in the East to regard this peculiar people as 'Latter-day Saints.' Their supposed predilection for the Democratic party has caused them to be spoken of as sons of Belial."

Now contrast this with the following from the *New York Press*:

"After two or three days of doubt, caused by baseless Democratic claims, it turns out that the Republicans have carried the first State election in Wyoming by a good majority. The Legislature is largely Republican, and a Republican Representative in Congress was returned. The Republican campaign in Wyoming was made under serious disadvantages. F. E. Warren, the former Territorial Governor, was seriously ill almost from the day of his nomination until the election, while his opponent made a vigorous and earnest canvass. The Mormon element is strong in two counties in the State, and the Mormon authorities at Salt Lake contributed a large fund to help the Democrats carry the State. Considering these things, the Wyoming election is another decisive Republican victory."

Which is right, the *World* or the *Press*? We venture the assertion that neither of them knows anything about "the Mormon vote in Wyoming." And from what we can learn it is sure that there was no "solid Mormon vote" for either party. The idea that money was furnished from this city to help the Democratic fight in Wyoming, when it is claimed both in the State and out of it that the Republican victory was due to the "Mormon" vote in Sweetwater and Uintah counties, is very amusing if it does not argue much intelligence on the part of the metropolitan journal that conceived and uttered it.

The *Alta California* has the annexed well considered editorial on the Idaho and Wyoming elections:

It will not do to dismiss with a word the Republican treatment of the Mormon question in Wyoming and Idaho. That party has deftly used prohibition in Maine to its political advantage for many years, until the politics of that State has become as void of the quality of conscience as a potato is of grape-juice. In Portland there are 400 drinking places, all running by sufferance of Republican judges and prosecuting attorneys, and all paying for immunity to violate the law by standing in for the grand old party. Rum and the Canadian Pacific railroad keep that extreme wing of the party in good trim. In Idaho and Wyoming something else had to be tried to make sure of four United States Senators. In Idaho the Mormons have long been voting the Democratic ticket. The members of that church in Idaho are mostly Americans. They are of the original Mormon community and its descendants, who were New Yorkers and western men. The Wyoming Mormons are English and Scandinavian. They have always voted the Republican ticket, and their vote made Wyoming Republican, as the American Mormon vote made Idaho Demo-