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A "CHURCH AND STATE QUESTION"

WE LEARNED from the press dispatches, several days ago, that President Harrison had appointed Mr. Thomas James as postmaster at Independence, Jackson County, Missouri. There is nothing very remarkable in the mere appointment of a postmaster nor in the name of the appointee. But it appears that he is member of the sect commonly called "Josephites" or, as they claim to be, Latter-day Saints. This has raised a rumour in Independence, and the noise thereof has gone forth reaching New York city and the papers published there, with reverberations in Washington and rumblings in the White House.

A dispatch to the New York *World* gives particulars of the fray. From this it appears that the "Josephites" have 320 voting members in Independence, of whom 312 are Republicans. With this influence, backed by Col. A. W. Jones, now a prominent Republican but formerly a Confederate Soldier, Mr. James succeeded in obtaining the place, over the other applicant, Mr. T. C. Bullene, son of the former incumbent. This has aroused the old prejudice against the "Mormons," and the Independence *Sentinel*, the only daily in the town, has come out openly in opposition. It says that "whether the people should permit themselves to be so prejudiced is not the question at issue. They are prejudiced and always will be, and under the circumstances Mr. James should never have been appointed."

The disgruntled Republicans of Independence have appealed to the Democrats to help them, a remonstrance has been circulated for signature, and a special protest has been prepared for the ladies to sign, as follows:

"We, resident ladies of Independence, Mo., feeling a deep interest in the Post-Office, and believing we ought to be heard, do most earnestly protest against the appointment of Thomas James as Postmaster."

This, it is expected, will work

well at Washington, as the ladies are supposed to be particularly interested when the "Mormon" question is agitated. But as the body to which Mr. James belongs has always repudiated the polygamous features of the "Mormon" faith, we fail to see the relevance of this particular movement. It is admitted that, "Not one word has been heard against his character, honesty or business integrity during the whole fight, the only objection being to his church membership."

That this should not figure in an appointment of this kind, must be clear to every fair-minded American citizen. No religious test for office should be permitted in this free Republic. The Constitution forbids it, and the very genius of our institutions is opposed to it. The *World* dispatch says:

"The old residents of Independence are beginning to recount their experience with the old Mormons under Joseph Smith, whom they drove out of Independence years and years ago. They are beginning to discuss the proposition as to whether the Mormons really do intend to return to Independence, as they declared when forced to leave it, and establish their temple."

"The old residents of Independence" ought to understand, for it has been dinned into their ears by the "Josephites" often enough, that there is no connection between that body and the Church which now has its headquarters in Utah. Also that the sect which has gathered a number of its members to Independence, has no right or title in, or possession of, the grounds which originally belonged to the Church and were dedicated for the site of a Temple. The residence of a few hundreds of the sect, then, in the city of Independence, has no special significance in relation to the re-occupation of those grounds and the rebuilding of the Temple by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

It will be interesting to see what course President Harrison will pursue in regard to this appointment. If he removes Mr. James, it will be solely on religious grounds, for the "Mormon" question, as it has been agitated in Congress and before the country, is totally disconnected with this issue, except that the body to which Mr. James belongs assumes the title of "Latter-day Saints," and its members are commonly known as "Josephite Mormons." It is a clear case of religious prejudice. We shall see how much, in national politics and the Federal administration, the Church succeeds in controlling the State.

THE UNION DEPOT

THE people in the western portion of the city are considerably disturbed over the project to divert the Old Fort block to the purposes of a Union depot. We do not think they need be much alarmed. The City Council will not surely do such an impolitic thing. With the general public feeling in favor of removing the railroads further west, so as to leave the streets now encumbered with rails free from the noise and obstruction and general discomfort occasioned by the location of the present depots and their approaches, it would not be a wise movement to take a step that would cause still further inconvenience and public complaint. We favor a Union Depot. But we do not want to see so valuable a piece of public property in such a locality as the upper part of the Sixth Ward, sacrificed to this purpose. Land can no doubt be obtained further west that will be suitable for the object and better adapted to the requirements of the different roads.

Ten acres is not sufficient. Three times that area would be little enough for all the needful ends. And the spot should, in our opinion, be chosen so as to facilitate the removal of the lines running north and south away from the populated streets, and thus dispose of a cause of complaint, which may seem frivolous to the railroad companies and people who live in the eastern parts of town, but is a real grievance to a great many residents in the western districts.

DR. CONDON AND "MORAL IDEAS."

ON Saturday evening we published a letter from Dr. A. S. Condon, the poet-surgeon and physician of Ogden City. Dr. Condon always writes in good style, whether in poetry or prose, and this communication was couched in forcible yet respectful terms. It was designed as a defense of the Weber County Republicans, but drifted into a vigorous eulogy of the Republican Party.

The Doctor claims that the signers of a petition for the removal of the officer who attempted to enforce the laws against gambling and the social evil, are not the representatives of the Weber County Republicans. Yet the petition sets forth that it was framed by order of the committee of the Republican Party of Weber County, at a regular meeting held for the purpose, and it was signed by the chairman and the secretary o