

## EDITORIALS.

## SOME COMMON ERRORS.

THE Lancaster (Pa.) *Examiner* and *Express* of Jan. 13 says—

"Eastern Civilization and Christianity have no quarrel with the citizens of Utah in anything which is calculated to promote their material, intellectual or moral welfare. Polygamy, which Brigham Young has made the distinctive feature of the Mormon system, is repugnant to every sense of Christian refinement, and its open practice an infamous violation of the laws of God and man, which ought to be wiped from off the face of this fair land."

It seems to us that our Pennsylvania contemporary is in error in several particulars in the above extract.

We are not aware that "Eastern Civilization and Christianity" have any quarrel with the citizens of Utah on any point. True Christianity and true civilization sprang from the East, from Palestine, Jesus Christ being the author and grand exemplar thereof. Neither he nor the Christianity and civilization which he established and propagated has any quarrel with what the *Examiner* terms "the distinctive feature of the Mormon system," so far as we have been able to learn. Jesus himself was of polygamous lineage and nationality, and there is no authentic record of his ever uttering the first word of condemnation of that form of marriage. When, therefore, the *Examiner* speaks of "Eastern Christianity and Civilization" in this connection, it really means western "improvements" and "refinements" upon the pure "Eastern" article instituted by the Saviour, which "improvements" and "refinements" there is every reason to believe he would uncompromisingly condemn if he were here to-day in person, ministering to men upon the earth as in the days of his sojourn in the flesh near two thousand years ago. St. Paul said, "Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

We are not aware that Brigham Young has made the institution named "the distinctive feature of the Mormon system." We are not aware that it is the distinctive feature. There are many distinctive features in the "Mormon system," just as many as there are in the Christianity of Jesus Christ. In fact both systems are identical, so far as we have been able to discover.

We have never known any person who has proved that the marriage system named is in violation of the laws of God. If a person exists who is able to so prove, we should very much like to see him and to hear him do it.

Therefore the *Examiner* must be in error, and must have come to an illogical, unfair and unjust conclusion when it says the "Mormon system ought to be swept from off the face of this fair land."

## THE WASHINGTON LOBBY NOT DEAD.

NOTWITHSTANDING the general hard times and the economic temper of Congress, the Washington *Star* observes that the lobby is still active and hopeful at the Capitol. That journal of January 18th says—

"The most superficial observer of affairs about the Capitol can see plenty of evidence that there is a pretty strong lobby force organized and now present in Washington to further the various schemes on foot to draw funds from the national treasury as soon as the favorable moment may be considered to have arrived. The common belief that on account of political complications and depression in business affairs little or nothing can be done in that line is an erroneous one. In fact, the contrary is the true state of the case. Hard times affect Congressmen just as they do other people; and, between the needy ones who were defeated at the last election and therefore have little hope of future preferment, and those who were re-elected and are consequently somewhat independent of their constituents for nearly two

years, it is thought that quite a formidable party can be organized which would not be averse to seeing more money put in circulation under the guise of benefiting the public. Then again, the all-engrossing interest in public affairs is rather favorable than otherwise to the plans and hopes of the third house. While the eyes and minds of the public are engaged on the presidential question to the exclusion of almost all others, little bills for the benefit of corporations and private individuals, with the most innocent titles and whereases in the world, have a chance for getting through the two houses without attracting much notice or at least without severe criticism. On the whole, the boys consider the prospect decidedly good for picking up a few very rich nuggets before the session closes."

## A WILD IRISHMAN.

T. G. O'HARA is evidently a "wild Irishman." He called a meeting in New York, for Jan. 6, in this style—"A Special Meeting.—A call like this we have not had since we lost Ireland. I invite Irishmen of all creeds to come to this meeting, by order of T. G. O'Hara, second cousin of Daniel O'Connell, next Saturday evening, 7 o'clock, in Hibernian Hall, 28 Prince street." At the meeting Mr. O'Hara had an audience of four, two of them being reporters, says the New York *Herald*. Mr. O'Hara mounted the platform and stated that his plan for "regenerating the Irish generation" was to get 4,000,000 acres of land from the United States government, on which to locate all the Irish in America, giving to each individual a ten acre lot. He also intends to rent 100 halls for next St. Patrick's day in the morning, in which oath-bound meetings are to be held by the 500,000 Irishmen whom he is to have out on parade that day. He further says he has spent \$4000 of his own hard earnings in "giving vent to his soul's desire." Mr. O'Hara is said to be one of the recent Irish escapees from British convict duress in Australia. Pity he escaped.

## SEVEN THOUSAND SURPLUS WOMEN IN WASHINGTON.

"A BACHELOR" writes to the Washington *Star*, stating that Mrs. Spencer, in a recent published speech in that city, had declared that "there are seven thousand more women than men" in the District of Columbia. "Bachelor" avers that in Oregon there are 12,000 more males than females, and that many of the same 12,000 are noble-hearted bachelors who want wives, and would make good husbands, and get a good living with some one to help them; and that some of those surplus Washington ladies, if transported to the Pacific Coast, could soon be further transported by getting married. Also that he himself would like one, if she came well recommended.

The proposition which "Bachelor" presents is a sensible and happy one, and it is to be hoped that some of the noble 7,000 mateless ladies at the federal capital will take advantage of the same, or at least signify their willingness to do so. If they do not relish going so far as Oregon, they might stay in Utah, for though there is here no special lack of ladies, still there is no surplus of them; so far from it, indeed, that were thousands more to come, the large heartedness of the people of this community would continue to say there is yet room for more, "if they come well recommended."

## MONTANA PROGRESS.

OUR Montana neighbors must be a go-ahead people, notwithstanding the comparative decadence of that Territory of late years. The Bozeman *Avant Courier* of January 15 says—

"The town of Pony is growing fast. Five months ago the first houses were erected, and now there are two stores, two boarding-houses, two livery stables, one blacksmith shop, a large public hall, three saloons, twenty private residences and several others in course of construction. It is ex-

pected that several mills will be erected in Pony early in the spring."

One store to ten houses, one boarding house to ten houses, one livery stable to ten houses, one blacksmith shop to twenty houses, one large public hall to twenty houses, and one drinking saloon to six and two-thirds houses, certainly surpasses anything in the line of "business" in this vicinity.

## CORRUPT PUBLIC SERVANTS.

WHAT a number of official thieves there are in this country! The Charleston (S. C.) grand jury have investigated the county officials extensively, and presented for indictment for malfeasance in office, the county commissioners, county treasurer, school commissioners, coroners, and trial justices. The *Courier* of that city says—

"The grand jury have shown infinite patience in their explorations of the dark recesses of the county offices. They have made a crushing indictment. It will not surprise the public, for they have long known that the affairs of the county were horribly mismanaged, and they have had good reason to believe that there was fraud as well as extravagance in the local administration. The single regret is that Sheriff Bowen and Solicitor Buttz are not on the black list."

## "SHAKING THEM OVER HELL."

THE New York *Herald* of Jan. 21 says that the Rev. Wm. Taylor, formerly known as the "California Street Preacher," now a member of the Indiana Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, has been lately leading revival services at the Seventh Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church in that city. The following are given by a correspondent of the *Herald* as samples of Mr. Taylor's fervid style of exhortation—

"You're damned! You're damned! You're damned! Your soul is doomed to hell! Hell is waiting for you! Some day you will feel yourself falling down, down, and find yourself a mass of flames! But one chance is left to you. Come up here (to the altar rail) and let me pray for you! The gate is still open, and I can save you. This is the last chance; this is the last night—to-morrow will be too late! Come up here now, or remain forever damned! Prepare for hell!"

On that particular evening only one sinner felt the danger so near and so great as to induce him to go forward to the altar. We do not know whence Mr. Taylor obtained his religion, or his ministerial authority, but certainly we do not recollect seeing anything of that kind in the recorded teachings of Jesus Christ or his apostles.

## LOWERING THE PAY OF FEDERAL OFFICERS FOR THE TERRITORIES.

THE legislative, judicial, and executive appropriation bill, before the House of Representatives, as stated in the dispatches the other day, reduces the salaries of the governors and United States judges of the Territories to \$2,500 each, and of the secretaries to \$1,800.

These reductions hardly appear wise. Governors, judges, and secretaries of the Territories should be men of ability and acknowledged high character and standing, but it is difficult to think that a man of any elevated order of ability and character would be willing to leave his home and go to one of the Territories for a salary of from \$1,800 to \$2,500 a year, for four years or less, breaking up his own home and business where the appointment might find him.

It rather seems that such small salaries would have a tendency to lower the standard of official ability and character for the highest offices in the Territory, and have those offices filled with broken down politicians who could make a

living nowhere else than in some position of the kind. This kind of policy is not by any means needed, as there have been already more than enough of such characters appointed to office in the Territories. No more of that sort are wanted.

## THE SIXTEENTH AMENDMENT.

A WASHINGTON letter of Jan. 19 says—

"This day has been remarkable for an avalanche of petitions demanding a sixteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, prohibiting any State from disfranchising United States citizens on account of sex. No less than twenty-five members arose from their seats and presented petitions from their respective States, to the above effect. The petitions were signed by nearly seven thousand names and the amendment has many friends in Congress, and is urged by a powerful though impetuous lobby, consisting of the National Woman's Rights Convention, which has for the last week held session in Lincoln Hall."

## THE COMPROMISE ELECTORAL VOTE COUNT BILL.

THE passage of the compromise electoral vote count bill by both houses of Congress by heavy majorities is considered one of the most important acts of that honorable body for many years. The necessity for such a bill arose out of the closeness of the present electoral vote, the disputes concerning alleged vital frauds in that vote in some of the States, and the dispute about the powers of the President of the Senate in regard to counting the vote and accepting or rejecting the returns from some of the States.

If there had been an honest vote and an honest count in the several States, this bill would have been altogether unnecessary. But the law is made for transgressors, and because there were apparently so many transgressors both as regards voting and counting in the various States, hence the necessity for more law in the matter, and further safeguards to the actual lawful ballot for the candidates for the presidential chair.

The bill provides for the reference of cases where there are two sets of returns from any State to a joint commission, composed of five members of each house of Congress, and five judges of the Supreme Court of the United States. The decision of the commission is final, unless reversed by a concurring vote of both houses.

Political Checker Board. — The political checker board continues considerably mixed. Although Utah has no hand in the presidential game, her people look with no small degree of interest on its manipulations. The Senate has passed the famous compromise bill, providing for the counting of the electoral vote, and the House is likely to pass it also, and, if so, the President has already signified his intention of signing it, thus completing the process of making it a law.

According to the nature of our republican institutions the Chief Magistrate is chosen by the will and voice of the majority of the people, indirectly, and this compromise plan appears to be a very doubtful method of ascertaining what that will and voice really is, as the decision is really likely to be centered upon the judgment of one man, the committee of fourteen being almost sure to disagree on the subject. There has undoubtedly been a great deal of corruption perpetrated by both parties, which should the committee go behind the returns of the canvassing boards, is likely to come to light. Still there will very likely be a very large amount of unfairness that will never be brought out in the investigations, preponderating on one side or the other, and the judgment of the committee will have to be based only on the amount of corruption and illegality in election matters brought before them, as, in the exercise of their judicial functions, they will be unable to take cognizance of facts not

presented before them. This being the case the decision might fall in favor of the party that has been sufficiently subtle to hide up its tracks in the mire of political jugglery, especially in a contest of such apparently equalized proportions. And besides there can be but little doubt that most of the committee will be likely to be more or less influenced in their action from partizan considerations, independent of the facts.

Whichever way the decision shall go, should the bill become law, it will undoubtedly result in most intense dissatisfaction among millions of the people, to whose political predilections it will be adverse.

Seeing that the late election has been one of acknowledgedly great venality and corruption, it does appear that the most equitable and fair method of ascertaining who the majority of the American people want for President and Vice President would be to have a new election, the conduct of which so surrounded with anti-corruption safeguards that the voice of the people would be distinctly heard, instead of their wishes being made a matter of compromise, and the occupancy of the Presidential Chair the next thing to a game of chance, a sort of "odds and evens," "pitch and toss," or "draw cuts" arrangement.

Although Utah has no part in the performance, her people are generally anxious to see fair play in matters that involve the most vital interests of the Republic.

Decadence of Sandwich Islanders. — We learn that, a short time since, King Kalakua, of the Hawaiian Islands, paid a visit to the settlement, in his dominion, of the Latter-day Saints, attended one of their meetings and addressed the people at considerable length, expressing his unqualified gratification at the manner in which they conducted affairs on the plantation. He was especially pleased with the care taken for the preservation of health and life. The King is greatly exercised over the rapid decadence of his people generally, and is endeavoring to establish methods for arresting its progress. On November 28th, at a meeting held in Honolulu, for forming a Female Benevolent Society, for the purpose of aiding the sick and destitute and looking after the welfare of orphan children, His Majesty spoke as follows—

"MY FRIENDS: I have invited you here on this anniversary of the recognition of our national independence, to say a few words on this subject of our independence, to enquire into the causes of the decrease of the people, and to consider the means of arresting that decrease. On the 28th of November, 1843, now over thirty years ago, the governments of Great Britain and France formally recognized our independence, whereby we were admitted into the family of nations of the earth. We came in as a child—a ward of the great nations. To their liberality and generosity we owe our independence and the blessings flowing therefrom, which we may to-day congratulate ourselves on possessing."

"On previous anniversaries of this day, we have been accustomed to devote the time to rejoicings, but now let us for a moment seriously consider the state of our nation."

"In the year 1843, the nation numbered not far from 100,000 souls. How many do we number to-day? When the census shall be taken in 1878, it will probably be found, after the lapse of thirty-five years, that we are less than 60,000, showing that during these few years there have been 40,000 more deaths than births. That is at the rate of over 1,000 a year decrease. These figures do not lie. They show very plainly that we as a nation are on the path to extinction, and that at the present rate of decrease but sixty more years will be required to see the end. Where then will be our race, and what becomes of the Independence Day of which we are now so proud?"

He continued at some length, exhorting his people to take steps to arrest the dwindling of their race, in the course of his remarks alluding to the fact, without bitterness, however, that the chief diseases that were depopulating the Islands had been imported there by the inhabitants of other portions of the globe.