

A GENTILE IN UTAH.

BY H. CROUSE.

Written for the Sparta Herald.

I have of late received several articles clipped from the Sparta (Wisconsin) Herald, which evince such a disparaging estimate of the moral integrity of the Mormon residents of Utah, as to induce me to believe you are very erroneously informed in regard to their character or imbued with an innate unfriendliness towards them. But as my nephew who sent me your articles, requests me to not blame you for the unfriendly criticism, I am encouraged to send you a few lines giving the experience and observation of a non-sectarian resident of Utah since August 12, 1874.

As a former resident of Monroe County, Wisconsin, I am especially desirous that the truth only be promulgated among my former friends. I am forced to confess that upon the arrival of myself and family in Utah our minds were equally biased by the popular prejudices which so enslaved the minds of the people in the States. Hence I am rather disposed to excuse than to blame strangers for misunderstanding the Mormon character. Crossing the extensive desert wastes between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains, in a wagon drawn by three horses, with a family of nine persons, and with a very slender pocket book, we were well fitted to appreciate the disinterested kindnesses of the much-evil-spoken-of followers of Joe Smith. Upon passing the territorial line between Wyoming and Utah, my wife observed: "Well, now we are in Utah; if we get out of Utah with whole bodies then we can go anywhere." But we were very agreeably disappointed in our preconceived estimate of Utah character.

One of your articles states that "the Saints, in 1845, determined to emigrate beyond the rocky Mountains," and that "the 'Mormons' since then have had only a nominal regard for the supreme authority of the United States."

Now the plain truth is the Mormons emigrated because compelled by the force of mob violence to sign a treaty to vacate the soil of the United States; they were necessitated to go, compelled to abandon their houses and farms, their gardens and orchards, and their magnificent temple, even before it was fully completed.

On the 4th of February, 1846, the first emigrants crossed the ice-bound Mississippi, and that night nine children were born in the Mormon camps in sight of their beautiful city of Nauvoo. Now is it consistent with reason to infer that a civilized people, as native born American citizens are admitted to be, would voluntarily isolate themselves from all the endearments of comfortable homes in mid-winter, under such circumstances?

Leaving their persecutors for a while behind, they journeyed on westward until they reached the eastern shore of the Missouri River, now known as Council Bluffs, Iowa. It was here, surrounded by all those cruel trials incident to their expulsion into that frontier wilderness, with the treacherous savages annoying them, that the tyrannical demand was made by the national Government for 500 able bodied men to perform military duty in the Mexican war. This stroke of shrewd policy, or vindictive malice, was set in motion by the late Hon. United States Senator of Mo., Thos. Hart Benton, who conspired thereby to destroy the detested "Mormon hierarchy," which was the finally devoutly prayed for by the slave-ocratic border-ruffians whom he sought thereby to compliment. The condition of "bleeding Kansas" a few years since attests the character of these "border ruffians." It was intended that if compliance was made to the demand the Indians would make a prey of whatever number of Mormons would remain in camp. But it was confidently believed that the Mormons were at heart then, the same as they are represented to be now, "only nominally" loyal to the "supreme authority of the United States;" hence it was expected that they would refuse and in that event the United States troops were to attack them as rebels and traitors, and thus annihilate or disperse their numerical power. But the "prophetic" wisdom of Brigham Young discerned in this tyrannical demand the future safety of his

followers, who regarded him as their chosen guide and counselor. He accordingly instructed the young men and boys, that although their just quota as citizens of the United States, would be only one and one-half man in proportion to that required of the whole Union, it was the "will of God" (and the dictates of worldly wisdom as well) for them to enlist, and thereby to show their captious enemies that they were true loyal citizens of their native country, and to rebuke the slanderous insinuations of those who were ignorant of their motives and purposes. As an additional inducement Brigham Young "prophesied" that not a man who would enlist should ever fall in battle; that the storm of battle and of war would all clear away as they would advance, if they would be sober, attend to their prayers, be obedient to the orders of their official superiors and faithfully discharge all their known duties to each other and to the God whom they professed to serve. These prophecies happened to be most happily verified.

In April, 1847, one hundred and fifty-three picked men formed the pioneer party with Brigham Young at their head, started from near Omaha, (now Florence, Nebraska,) Winter Quarters, and on July 24th, 1847, arrived in the valley of the Great Salt Lake and founded the Mormon metropolis and political capital of Utah, then a barren wilderness of wild sage and natural salaratus, but now the most beautiful and attractive collection of public and private buildings inhabited, by twenty-five thousand people, of fruit and shade trees, of commerce and wealth, of convenience and luxuries, that can be met with on the face of the earth. Each lot comprises one and one-fourth acre, and is used as a garden, orchard and dwelling.

Here, upon arrival, the banished exiled Mormon refugees unfurled to the breeze the flag of their native country—the Stars and Stripes—six months and eight days before Mexico ceded the country to the United States. "They took Mexican soil and held it for the Union." Does such conduct evince the characters of rebels and traitors or a people who have "only a nominal regard for the supreme authority of the United States?"

The Mormon Battalion crossed the plains via Santa Fee, New Mexico; they crossed the Colorado Desert, a distance of ninety miles, without a drop of water, and arrived at San Diego, California, in time to reinforce the military strength of John Charles Fremont, so as to deter Great Britain from attempting to seize that productive region. Although in literal verification of the Mormon President's prophecy, the storms of battle had all subsided even before they arrived. At the close of the war, the soldiers of the Mormon Battalion were disbanded at Los Angeles, California. Some of the ex-soldiers migrated to Utah, where they joined their friends, secured health, peace and competence for themselves and families. Other soldiers of the Mormon Battalion tarried for awhile in what was then called "New Helvetia," where they engaged their services to a Captain Sutter, to dig a mill race. Among those thus employed were Sergeant Daniel Bruit, Ezra Allen, Sidney and Ira Willis. These with others, threw up with their shovels, the yellow treasure of which is fashioned his august magisterial excellency, the Golden Cal, which has evoked so much of the homage and adoration, the joys and sorrows, the happiness and misery of mankind. Such are some of the events which have resulted from Mormon energy. But in spite of all such service many of our erudite, popular editors of secular and sectarian newspapers are always ready and eager to listen to, write and publish any story, no matter how absurd, originated by apostates and repeated by unprincipled adventurers and promulgated by credulous sectarian, which brand the Mormons as treasonable and rebellious.

There are many bad people in Utah, as elsewhere; people guilty of theft, falsehood and licentiousness, some of which offences are committed by persons who profess to believe in the Mormon doctrine when in company of other professed Mormons; and, when they are in the society of other clamorous anti-Mormons, then they, too, are very severe in denouncing the prevalent misdemeanors of pretended "Latter-day Saints." These pseudo-Mormons, speaking from experi-

ence, and from the innate promptings of their own hearts, of course know the "Mormons" are bad. However, many unprejudiced observations have convinced me that for daring deeds, of great crimes, excommunicated "Mormon" adherents and those who have seceded from other religious sects, surpass by far all those who are sincerely devoted to the literal teachings of the "Mormon" church publications.

Mere feigned belief in "Mormonism," however, does not afford an infallible guide nor an invariable restraint for evil-minded persons. Dissimulation and hypocrisy is as tenable with the "Mormon" as with other religious or political party affiliations.

BY TELEGRAPH.

AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 18.—The following is an abstract of the reports made to the comptroller of currency, showing the condition of national banks in the United States at the close of business on Monday, 1st of October, 1877: Resources—loans and discounts, \$888,243,290; overdrafts, \$3,677,303; United States bonds to secure circulation, \$336,810,950; United States bonds to secure deposits, \$14,903,000; United States bonds on hand, \$30,088,700; other stocks, bonds and mortgages, \$34,435,995; due from approved reserve agents, \$73,284,133; due from other national banks, \$45,217,246; due from State banks and bankers, \$114,100,761; real estate, furniture and fixtures, \$45,229,983; current expenses and taxes paid, \$6,915,792; premiums paid, \$9,219,174; checks and other cash items, exchanges for clearing house, \$74,524,215; bills of other national banks, \$15,541,484; fractional currency, \$900,805; specie, viz: gold coin, \$14,869,656; silver coin, \$3,700,703; United States certificates, \$14,088,460; legal tender notes, \$63,820,684; United States certificates of deposit, for legal tender notes, \$33,410,000; five per cent. redemption fund, \$14,394,633; due from the United States Treasurer, \$1,527,119; total, \$1,741,684,680. Liabilities—capital stocks paid in, \$479,467,771; surplus fund, \$122,776,121; other undivided profits, \$44,572,678; national bank notes outstanding, \$291,874,236; State bank notes outstanding, \$481,755; dividends unpaid, \$3,623,703; individual deposits, \$916,403,987; United States deposits, \$7,972,714; deposits of United States disbursing officers, \$2,376,983; due to other national banks, \$115,028,954; due to State banks and bankers, \$46,577,439; notes and bills rediscounted, \$3,791,219; bills payable, \$6,137,116; total, \$1,741,084,680. Number of banks, 2,080.

"Sunset Cox" created considerable amusement, to-day, by his ridicule of Hewitt's corn-kitchen proposition, but this had already been eliminated from the bill by the committee, and his elaborated speech against the measures in general was not worthy of his reputation, either for wit or erudition, and fell very flat.

Copp's Land Owner, issued a few days ago, contains a full report of the recent decision by Secretary Schurz, in the case of Homas vs. the St. Joseph and Denver City Railway Company, which settles certain questions of very general interest, affecting numerous claims of individuals and of corporations that are grantees of public lands. The main points established by it are as follows: A valid homestead entry is an appropriation of the land covered by it, and remains such until a forfeiture is declared in accordance with the law and with the rules and regulations of the general land office, and until the reservation is removed. These regulations in regard to the method of declaring a homestead claim abandoned and the entry cancelled, are necessary to an efficient execution of the homestead law. Cases adjudicated under a different view of the homestead law are not to be re-opened. The rule now announced is for future guidance.

PITTSBURG, 19.—The grand jury have made their special presentment to the quarter sessions on the July riots here, animadverting on the refusal of the State officials to testify. They trace the cause of the strikes to low wages, the combined action of the labor unions, etc., and express the belief that the sheriff did not exhaust his power before calling in military aid. They had been unable to trace the authorship

or authority of the proclamation issued in Gov. Hartranft's name beyond the Pennsylvania Railroad Depot. The Governor certainly did not authorize it, as he was slumbering in his car near Salt Lake City. In their summary they lay the blame on a lack of judgment and coolness in the commanding officers; in the control which railroad officials exercised over the troops; on the presence of the Philadelphia troops without authority; on the absence of the State civil authorities, and on the insolent course of the State civil and military officials. Throughout they denounce those who have thwarted their investigations, and intimate that those persons wish the truth suppressed. They allude to the massing of troops in Pittsburg, after the riots, as a mark of disrespect and contumely to the citizens not called for, in view of unparalleled promptness with which they crushed out the rioters and brought them to punishment. This grand jury has indicted nearly 400 rioters.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., 19.—The extensive rubber factory of L. Condee & Co. was burned to-night. The fire broke out while prominent officials of the New Haven and Norfolk fire departments were going over the building inspecting the new fire extinguishers which had recently been put in. It spread so rapidly that they hardly had time to get out. The fire extinguishers and other appliances were of no avail. The very combustible nature of the contents caused the flames to progress rapidly, and the efforts of the firemen could only save the adjoining buildings. The majority of the employees were not at work, 500 girls having left at 3 p. m. for lack of work. The fire started in the cementing room. Some cement in use by the workmen was ignited by a gas jet, and in an instant the whole room was in flames. About 300 men at work, some in the third story, could get out only by dropping. Those who dropped were the only ones hurt so far as known, although it is feared some were burned with the building. Five were considerably injured. The works were mostly of brick and covered three acres. The loss is about \$500,000. The company will rebuild immediately. The total insurance is \$325,000, of which \$100,000 was placed in New York agencies, and the remainder mostly in eastern and foreign companies.

DEADWOOD, D.T., 19.—One of the most important mining cases in the Black Hills court has just been decided by a jury, who remained out less than fifteen minutes. The case was a suit against the famous Alpha mine, brought by W. C. Bennett for the recovery of a one-fourth interest that he claims to have purchased. The verdict was rendered in favor of Pinney, Lorton & Co., the original and present owners of the mine.

A committee of the workmen, who are in possession of the Keets mine, waited upon the district attorney this morning with a proposition that they would abandon the property, provided they were assured of immunity from criminal prosecutions. This the district attorney refused to do and the committee retired. It is probable they will vacate the mine to-morrow. The soldiers who were to assist Sheriff Bullock in this case have not put in an appearance yet, though they are reported to have been within ten miles of the city for the past three days.

WHITEHALL, N. Y., 19.—The Fort Edward Institute, at Fort Edward, New York, was burned, this evening. Nearly 200 students were in attendance. The destruction of the Institute is supposed to have been caused by the explosion of a kerosene lamp. The students had hardly time to escape, most of them losing their clothes and money. Aid was sent from Saratoga in time to save the other buildings; loss \$125,000, insurance \$90,000.

NEW YORK, 20.—Col. McDaniel, of turf celebrity, obtained a postponement of the case in which he was defendant, by horse whipping plaintiff's attorney in a Princeton, N. J., court. He had asked the hearing deferred that he might attend the sale of his horses. Counsel opposed the delay, and used some very offensive language to McDaniel, who promptly castigated the offender, and so severely that the granting of the request became a necessity.

The Herald's Paris special says, General and Mrs. Grant, yesterday, visited the chocolate manufactory of Minier, a radical republican

deputy from the Arrondissement of Meaux, at Noisiel. They were entertained with a splendid lunch at the chateau. Grant is booked to dine with Langel on the 23rd, where he is to meet the Count De Paris and Duke D'Aumale. On the 27th the General will dine with Emile Girardin, editor of La France.

The Herald's Rome special says the Vatican physicians, lately dismissed for furnishing information to the Victor Emanuel government, have been recalled; the charge was proved to be unfounded. Another surgeon has been summoned to give hourly attention. Van Zette says the health of his Holiness is decidedly precarious, but declares the symptoms are not aggravated.

The sentence of Robert L. Case, the convicted President of the Security Life Insurance Company, has been deferred until to-morrow, when a motion will be made for a new trial.

The case of Thos. S. Lambert, President of the American Popular Insurance Company is postponed, the Court's physician pronouncing him too sick to go to jail.

ST. LOUIS, 20.—Some time last summer ex-United States Attorney Williams brought a suit against Wm. McKee, of this city, for the balance of the money alleged to be due for services in procuring a pardon for McKee. A demurrer was filed by the defendant's counsel, and Judge Wickham, in the circuit court, to-day, sustained it, using the following language: "Contracts of the nature of the one set out in the petition are illegal, as they tend to encourage the use of improper means to accomplish the object, and tend to interfere with the proper exercise of the pardoning power, and therefore against the public policy."

CHICAGO, 20.—The Times' London special says the leading Turcophile journals speak of the fall of Kars as the most serious catastrophe of the war, and concede that the Turkish resistance is practically at an end, unless Mehemet Ali, winter, or chance will prevent the fall of Plevna. A public meeting is called to express sympathy for the Turks in their present desperate condition. The terms of peace are a subject of great discussion, no doubt being expressed as to the desire of Turkey to make peace in the event of the surrender or destruction of Osman's army. In the peace discussions the attitude of Germany is creating much anxiety. It is thought that Russia would be willing to grant acceptable terms, but the fear is expressed that Germany may urge Russia to demand terms which England could not permit to be accepted. Much uneasiness is felt here, and the impression prevails among shrewd, financial men and politicians that while the end of Turkish resistance is at hand, the settlement of the terms of peace is full of peril for Europe. England is more alarmed at Germany than Russia, not knowing where to secure allies in case of a rupture with the former. France is not ready for a foreign war, and is greatly embarrassed, of course, by the magnitude of her domestic difficulties.

The Journal's Washington special says the anti-resumption men claim that they can and will prevent an adjournment until action is taken on the pending bills.

There is a fair prospect that the elections committee will dispose of the Kellogg-Spofford cases this week. The committee sat this morning, and will hold another session after the Senate adjourns.

The republican senators will vote together on the Kellogg case, although it is expected that Patterson and Conover will vote for the admission of Butler. The democrats are anxious to have Butler's case decided first, so that he can vote for Spofford.

PITTSBURG, 20.—An examination of the accounts of S. B. W. Gill, lawyer, who disappeared from this city a short time ago, show irregularities amounting to over \$200,000. Some persons, conversant with the facts, believe that the deficiency will amount to half a million. This loss falls on clients, and the estates which he held in trust. There is no clue to his whereabouts.

WATERTOWN, N. Y., 20.—Beach & Dodge's tannery, at Harrisville, was burned; loss \$50,000, insured.

DENVER, 20.—A fire in the Terrible Mine, Georgetown, yesterday, was controlled after burning two levels; loss, \$25,000.