

Dubois of Idaho addressed the committee. His speech was a rehash of last year's diatribe, with some additions about the Mormons endeavoring to vote in Idaho at the November election. This brought out the text of the infamous test oath, and excited the astonishment and disgust of the committee that such an enactment could be made and enforced in the United States. Dubois said there were about 15,000 Mormons in Idaho, and two-thirds of them were polygamists! Also that when they voted they received their orders from Salt Lake, and the tickets were made up in Logan.

Mr. Caine then finished his speech and made things lively for Mr. West, whose endeavors to establish an oligarchy with himself as dictator, which would "exactly answer his purpose," were criticised severely. Mr. Caine thought, as Governor of the Territory, he respected his office, but when he came here as a lobbyist and descended to misrepresentation, he considered it his right to expose his attempt to injure the people of Utah and gratify personal ambition. As the reader ought to have more than this brief notice of Mr. Caine's strong speech, and sufficient space will not now remain to give it, a full synopsis will be sent in another letter.

It is understood the worried Governor will have a chance to deliver himself tomorrow, and some fun is anticipated when Judge Jere Wilson gets after him at the close.

The Church suit was not taken up in the Supreme Court until Wednesday afternoon, when Col. Jas. O. Broadhead occupied an hour and a half in an elaborate explanation of the case, reciting considerable interesting Mormon history, and laying down the proposition that Congress had no power to annul the charter of the Church corporation, because thereby it attempted to impair the validity of a contract between Utah Territory with the United States conjoined, and the Mormon Church. While explaining the resistance of the Mormons to the army sent out to Utah under President Buchanan, he was asked by Justice Harlan what that had to do with this case. To which the learned counsel replied: "That is what I would like to find out. But as it is in the brief of counsel for the Government, I have the right to speak upon it, though I cannot see why it is there except to prejudice the mind of the court on the Mormon question." Col. Broadhead concluded his argument today, reasoning in

masterly style as to the rights of the members of the Church to the corporate property even if the corporation was dissolved, and the lack of any limitation to the amount of personal property. In any event it could not escheat to the government. He was closely interrogated by members of the court.

Solicitor-General Jenks commenced his argument for the United States but had not finished when the court adjourned to Friday morning. This case is viewed as of very great importance not only to the "Mormon" Church but to the general cause of religious liberty.

X.

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 17, 1889.

### EUROPEAN TOPICS.

The situation in Egypt is daily becoming more and more complicated, and recent events in Africa only add still more to the difficulties. The government of the Khedive cannot certainly undertake to be responsible for the cost of military operations on the scale which is now necessary; and England's position in Egypt does not allow her to make war in her own name. England's standing-place throughout the whole Egyptian embroglio has been so undefined, and her action so much imposed by the force of circumstances, that at present, it would seem, she has everything to lose and nothing to gain by the occupation. On the other hand, the moment the British troops are withdrawn Egypt will be overrun by the Soudan tribes, and the commerce through the Suez canal will be endangered. The annexation of Egypt is out of the question, and without annexation no thorough improvement can take place. There are rumors that a conference of the Powers will be called, with a view to official recognition of England's position.

Considerable interest is manifest in the introduction of the new British rifle, with which the troops are pretty well supplied. In the last battle in Egypt, it is said that in less than a quarter of an hour five hundred dead were left upon the field, while large numbers of dead and wounded were carried off by the enemy. This rifle is said to be much superior to any of the arms adopted by the various foreign Powers, its chief merits being long range, precision, and rapidity of fire.

The past year has shown a wonderful activity in shipbuilding in the British islands, especially on the

banks of the Clyde. From Glasgow and neighboring towns there have issued during the past year 302 vessels. Of these 175 were steamers, and many of them constructed for foreign Powers. The total number built in the British islands reached more than six hundred during the year 1888—the greatest number previously known in a single year.

The Christmas holidays in England seem to be a time when everybody goes out of the cities and seeks refuge with their country relatives. This has been preeminently so with London. The great city seems deserted. For a few days prior to Christmas the scenes at the principal railway stations beggared description. It was a wild, mad scramble to get away anywhere. The railway officials scurried about in a semi-crazy manner, trying to do the hundred and one things demanded of them at the same moment. Trunks and parcels innumerable lay about the platforms, and trains constantly steamed out of the stations laden to their utmost capacity. The postoffices were likewise pretty well "demoralized," and the ordinary staff seemed perfectly incapable of meeting the emergency; but the police came to the rescue, and several thousands of them did postoffice work at ninepence per hour when off their usual duties.

On the other hand, Paris throbs with increased life and activity. It would appear as if half London were on the boulevards, together with eager contingents from far-away America, seeking the shops filled with objects designed with art and fashioned with patient skill. The little railway that runs around the *Champs de Mars* is now completed, and has commenced making its regular trips, stopping at the various departments of the Exposition like so many stations. Ten minutes is the allotted time to make the circuit.

The long-expected crisis in the affairs of the Panama Canal Company has occurred. The eight hundred and sixty thousand shareholders will now have to come to a conclusion as to what is to be done. The recent decision of the Chamber—however much the shareholders may have suffered—can certainly be defended on grounds of policy. The Panama Canal is on the continent of America, and already considerable jealousy has been manifest in the United States toward the Panama enterprise. It is almost certain that complications would at once arise if the French government should seek to inter-