

EDITORIALS.

ELECTION INSTEAD OF APPOINTMENT.

SENATOR PENDLETON, who, by the way, manfully opposed the Edmunds bill as unconstitutional and oppressive, is an ardent advocate of making elective many officers now filled by federal appointment. He says he can see no reason why the people should not elect postmasters, district attorneys, marshals, clerks of courts, collectors of customs, collectors of internal revenue and many others. The people elect corresponding officers in the State governments, and the service is quite as effective as in the Federal government.

He argues rightly that such a system would harmonize with our notions of republican government. It would secure to the people the choice of the men who are to exercise authority over them. It would decentralize power. It would break up the trained bands of office holders whom the present system fuses into a disciplined, organized army of one political opinion, fighting for the success of one political party. It would check anti-democratic tendencies in our government by restoring to the people their legitimate control over officers and offices.

The telegraph has informed us of the introduction by the Senator of a measure looking to this end. It appears that it was in the form of a joint resolution for a constitutional amendment. Following is the text of the resolution, which we would be pleased to see adopted by Congress and ratified by the people:

"Article 1.—Section 1. Postmasters, marshals, district attorneys of the United States, clerks of courts inferior to the Supreme Court, and all such other civil officers of the United States exercising executive or ministerial powers within the several States or Territories and districts, composed of the whole or part of any State or Territory, as Congress may designate, shall be elected by the people of the several districts, and the electors of each district shall have the qualifications of the electors of the most numerous branch of the Legislature of the State and Territory in which such district is established.

Sec. 2. Congress shall have power to provide for the establishment of districts in the several States or Territories in which such elections shall be held, for the suspension or removal of such officers, for filling temporarily all vacancies which may happen, for filling the offices until an election can be held, and to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Sec. 3. The time, places and manner of holding such elections under this article shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof, but Congress may, at any time, by law, alter such regulation."

A DANGEROUS PLAYTHING.

It is stated that the Company which is manipulating the Edison scheme for house electric lighting, have laid the wires and fixed the lamps for over a thousand houses in New York. Whether this is true or not—there is good reason to doubt anything said about Edison's inventions—the public, having looked for a long time for some practical outcome to the inventor's professions, will be glad to hear of the actual lighting up of the lamps by the distributing process.

Whatever may be the result of that system it is evident that electric lighting is still within the domain of experiment. It has not so far been successful in street illumination, notwithstanding the flaming notices it has received in the newspapers of Europe and America, many of which there is good reason to believe were written by the agents of the companies interested.

The Cincinnati Times-Star has lately opened its eyes to the truth on this subject, and now candidly admits that the predictions uttered a short time ago concerning electric lighting and the revolution it was to effect, have failed of fulfillment. We take the following extracts from a long leader on the subject in that paper. After describing the enthusiasm of the British Association and other scientific institutes over the new light, and its sudden subsidence, the Times-Star says:

"Some progress has been made in using electricity for illuminating purposes, but it cannot be regarded as a satisfactory advance. Parts of several cities in Europe and America are now lighted by electric lamps, and in some places the experiment is deemed a success. But there seems to be no indication of the general adoption of the system. It remains in the experimental stage, and develops very slowly, even under the most favorable conditions. In the absence of favoring circumstances, and when left to stand on its own merits, electricity has utterly failed to drive gas from the streets, or has only been temporarily or partially in possession. Notably in Europe, where the best success has been obtained with the electric light there has been the least disposition to make the experiment anything more than an experiment. Paris is an exception, perhaps; but it is well not to be too sure of the performance of the electric light in those parts of Paris now illuminated by it; wait a little longer. Edinburgh has tried the experiment and is not satisfied. The authorities have determined not to renew their contract with the Brush Electric Light Corporation. Liverpool, Barnsley, and other towns have also tried electricity for street purposes, and have postponed its adoption indefinitely.

This system was tried in Liverpool for lighting the streets, and found to be inconvenient and dangerous. Whether the wires are overhead or underground, experience has demonstrated that the work in all its details must be complete and perfect, or accidents will happen. This result can only be accomplished by an extravagant outlay of money. Capitalists and corporations naturally hesitate to embark in an enterprise which is, at best, full of risks and uncertainties.

The state of the case in England is just about the state of the case in this country. Electricity as an illuminating agent is useful under certain conditions; but, on the whole, it is as yet a dangerous plaything.

The New York Herald, dilating on the same subject says:

"The recent interference of the wires of an electric light company and those of the Fire Department, which resulted in the destruction of some of the fire alarm boxes, forcibly calls attention to the necessity of placing the wires of every description under some systematic regulation. * * * It is very certain that we are only in the infancy of this whole business."

"THAT POLYGAMY BILL."

UNDER the above caption a letter appears in the New York Hour, for March 25th, which we give below. The writer looks at the subject from a common-sense standpoint, and his picture of the probable results of so ill-advised a measure would no doubt be realized among any other people than the "Mormons." We do not anticipate such a social chaos as many people prognosticate, because we understand more than they the strength, vitality and power of adaptation which are inherent to the system known by the name of "Mormonism." But we fully agree with the writer on the hypocrisy of the people who have urged this scheme for the injury of Utah, and in the proposition that our family relations are our own business and nobody's else, so long as we do not infringe upon or interfere with the rights of others.

The writer is a little mistaken in regard to the status of the people who have converted the wilderness of these mountains into fruitful fields, and made possible the construction of several rich States out of the barren region which once forbade human habitation. They are by no means of the poorest or most ignorant of European populations. The bulk of the people who have come here from abroad are such as can recognize the truth and value of principles, and have made the long journey for principle's sake, in the face of a jeering, frowning and hostile world; and who have been able, in the midst of their toil and despite their small wages, to save up at least part of the means to pay the expenses of their passage. And they are competent, in most instances, to give such reasons for the hope that is within them as to put to the rout professional theologians and hired preachers who attempt to assail their faith.

Yet we admit that not many wise, not many mighty, not many learned, not many rich after this world's fashion, but, as in former days, he has "chosen the weak things of the earth to confound the mighty, that no flesh might glory in his presence." And just as sure as God lives it will be found that the "mighty" who glory in their fancied strength and chuckle over their cunning, will be confounded in all their devices and be brought to shame and confusion therein, while that which they have plotted to destroy will be found beyond their power to affect except in the very opposite direction to that which they intended.

The writer in the Hour says:

To the Editor of The Hour:

Public opinion is so cruel a tyrant in this country, that on some subjects it is impossible for a man to speak his mind freely or to induce any newspaper to give him a hearing. Every lawyer in Congress knows that the Anti-Polygamy bill is an outrageous one in all its features, and yet they dare not speak out for fear of being howled down by the press.

Anyone who has visited the Territory of Utah knows that the Mormons are in exceptionally comfortable circumstances. They are an industrious, God-fearing people and have no poor or idle persons among them. There is no "social evil," all the women are married, all the men have mates, and no one can visit Salt Lake City without being impressed with the superiority of its municipal government and the thrift of its people over those of any other city in the country. The Mormons have converted a wilderness into a fruitful garden. It is quite true that their numbers have been recruited from the poorest and most ignorant populations of Europe, and yet the inhabitants of Salt Lake Valley today need not fear comparison with any part of the country, except, of course, in the matter of mere book learning. They are fanatical, it is true, and there is much to be said against polygamy—their one social heresy. But this is their own concern. It is notorious that there are more harem in New York, London and Paris than there are in Constantinople. Society tacitly recognizes the fact that people do form these irregular relations in every locality, and no particular ado is made about it, except where it is sought to be made decent by being put under the sanction of religious practice. If one or more women consent to live with one man, that is their business, not ours. All society has to do in the case is to see that the offspring do not become a public charge. There is no exceptional tyranny in these Mormon marriages. All the women of Utah vote, railroads penetrate into all parts of the Territory, and any woman can leave if she is not satisfied with her social condition. Under the outrageous law just passed, a commission of carpet-baggers can arrest anyone as a polygamist on the merest suspicion, for no legal proof of the fact is required. If President Arthur signs the bill, an industrious, religious community, which is harming no one, which attends to its own business and which has converted a desert into a fruitful region, will be broken up and great social disorders will follow. In view of the scandals of our large cities and the amazing number of our divorces, even in conservative New England, the passage of this law is an act of national hypocrisy. Some time or other we must come to the conclusion that the relation of the sexes is a personal matter with which the law should not interfere, except to endorse any contract which has been entered into with the free consent of all parties concerned.

PROTEST.

"FOURTH PERSECUTION OF THE MORMONS."

THE Omaha Herald of March 28th has the following vigorous letter headed as above. The writer is evidently acquainted with the early history of the "Mormons" and can see the motive that underlies all the pretended horror of polygamy on the part of the persecutors:

The Mormons, as a religious body, exceed every other religious body in these States, in morals, peaceful industry, and honesty in their religious belief. They are a people who are industrious, self-supporting, far beyond anything within the pale of religious organizations; they have no paupers, no poor houses, no houses of ill-fame, no drinking saloons,

no law suits for the collection of debts among themselves; but they are more anxious to compel a brother Mormon to take that which is supposed to be his due, than to collect that which might be supposed to be long to him. The bill of abominations which has just been approved by President Arthur, charges the Mormons with one sin, and only one, to wit: polygamy. I ask you Mr. Senator Bayard, where you find in your religious code, if you have any, between the two lids of the Bible, one word spoken against a plurality of wives? The only question appears to be, what excuse could be raised against the Mormons, as a persecution for the fourth time. That question can be answered by the fact that a hungry set of cormorants seek to drive the Mormons out from the rich valleys of the Salt Lake in order that they may occupy their present property as the same class of men have done three times in years gone by. The writer is no Mormon, nor is he in sympathy with polygamy, but for the reason that it is not fashionable. That he charges Congress and the President with overlooking the abominable practice of taking to the other horn of the dilemma.

A HATER OF PERSECUTION.

SANITARY REGULATIONS.

THE approach of warm weather after the long and tedious winter, is likely to be very rapid. Great care should be exercised in regard to clothing, the evenings and mornings being cool, while the temperature in the day time is considerably higher, tempting folks to wear lighter garments than would have been comfortable a few days ago. Those who make the change should provide extra clothing for the morning and evening, or ill health will be the consequence in a great many instances.

As the rays of the spring sun increase in force, waste and decaying matter allowed to remain on the surface of the ground or to accumulate in various places, will increase in strength of scent and power for evil. Now is the time to make a general clean up in lots, gardens, outhouses, cellars and every other place likely to harbor a nuisance. All rubbish that cannot be properly removed and buried should be burned. Everybody should know that dry earth is a splendid deodorizer. When covered over offensive matter it will take away the disagreeable scent, and in many instances all its noxious qualities. Every outhouse should be provided with a box of dry earth and a small shovel, so that fecal matter may be kept covered. People who have no cow or pig to eat up waste pieces, such as potato and fruit peelings and other things often thrown out upon the ground, should burn up those scraps instead of casting them out to rot and fester in the sun and breed disease.

Earth vaults for outhouses should be entirely abolished. They are more mischievous than any other common thing which endangers health. The matter soaks down into the ground, percolates the soil and finds its way into wells, from which families obtain water for culinary purposes, and thus fevers and other diseases are engendered and death finds easy victims. A box that can be drawn away and emptied periodically is far better than a pit, and if a little dry earth is daily sprinkled therein, all offensive odors will be entirely prevented, and the material thus accumulated can be used for manure and yet will not have a particle of impure scent. An ash heap near these places, from which a little can be used daily, will answer the same purpose as dry earth, but care must be taken with hot ashes lest they fire the buildings. They must not be wetted, or they will do more harm than good. Dry earth, or dry ashes, remember, not wet, are required for the work of deodorization.

We hope that the officers appointed to see that nuisances are not allowed to exist or continue will be diligent and impartial. The public health demands rigid scrutiny and official determination. Let those who will not comply with necessary rules be promptly complained against, and if they persist in their neglect or obstinacy punish them according to law.

The great talk about sewerage for Salt Lake City is so much nonsense. The cost of a system of sewerage for this extensive place with its large area and wide streets would be

enormous, and if it were even so easy to effect, we have no place where the sewerage can be deposited without greater danger to public health than now exists. Some drainage might be done to advantage, cutting off the seepage from the upper to the lower part of town so as to keep it out of the wells. But sewers connected with pipes from dwellings have been demonstrated to be pestilence breeders. There is a dispute as to the existence and effects of what is called sewer gas; but whether the evils complained of in those cities where expensive sewerage systems have been established arise from sewage gas, or the bacteria which are said to form on the inner surface of the sewers, and becoming detached find their way through the piping up into dwelling houses, poisoning the blood of the people who inhale the deadly germs, those evils prevail and we have enough to contend against without providing means for their increase by a system which would bring the city into hopeless bankruptcy.

Sanitary measures can be adopted and enforced to keep the city clean. The completion of the canal will permit of further extension of the water mains so that people will not have to depend upon well water. The wells can be helped by drainage judiciously arranged. And thus the public health can be guarded by means within the reach of the corporation in which everybody is interested and should take an active part. If a general cleaning up takes place at once and periodical visits are made by the officers appointed to see that no nuisances are allowed to remain, the public condition can be made a vast deal better than in some years past, and the pestilence which walketh abroad at noonday may be kept from this beautifully situated city of orchards and gardens.

THE GOSPEL IN THE STARS.

THE author of the "Miracle in Stone," "Voices from Babylon," etc.—Joseph A. Seiss, D. D., has just published a volume containing his lectures on primeval astronomy, called the "Gospel in the Stars." The book, containing 452 pages in addition to the preface and table of contents, is exceedingly interesting. The author claims that the scripture phrase, "The heavens declare the glory of God" is literally true, and that the main facts of the gospel of redemption, the birth of the Son of God from the virgin, the destruction of the serpent, the redemption of the earth and the reign of righteousness are plainly set forth in the starry groupings, the constellations declaring the story, and the heavens being emblazoned with an illuminated picture of the scheme of salvation.

He takes up the signs of the Zodiac, the Mansions of the Moon and the Thirty-six Decans, and in a most ingenious manner points out the thread of the gospel plan running through and connecting them all, and corresponding with the revelations of the Word of God in the Holy Scriptures.

A celestial map is given in the work, with the ancient figures of the zodiacal signs, in which the author discovers the symbols of the gospel history, and which assist the reader in an understanding of his theory.

Whatever may be thought of the peculiar ideas of the writer, it cannot be denied that there are some striking analogies between the handiwork of Deity in the firmament on high, and the plan of redemption portrayed by the inspired writers under the influence of the same spirit by which the Almighty has garnished the heavens.

We are indebted to James Dwyer for a sample of this interesting work, a few copies of which he has for sale at one dollar and a half.

A BRAVE DEFENSE OF THE RIGHT.

WE surrender a goodly portion of our space to-day to the remarks made in the United States House of Representatives during the debate on the Edmunds bill, so that the sentiments of able men may be known, who, while as much opposed to polygamy as any supporter of the bill, abhorred the main features of the measure as unconstitutional and utterly at variance with the basic principles of republican government. The truth is that the insti-