

EDITORIALS

A SEDUCER SHOT.

WILLIAM A. MITCHELL, a member of the Fourth Indiana Cavalry in the war, and engaged in Wilson's raid on Macon, Ga., was recently shot and killed, near that place.

About a year ago, while drinking, Mitchell publicly boasted of seducing a daughter of Dr. John Bull, a neighboring citizen of good repute and extensive practice, at whose house Mitchell had been accustomed to visit, and he declared to Dr. Bull that it was true, and that the young woman had freely consented, as he could prove by letters and notes. These, however, were not forthcoming, and Mitchell absented himself and went to Virginia. Dr. Bull also removed to Macon. Mitchell recently returned there, and was shot in the vicinity, it is supposed by Dr. Bull and his son George M. When the facts were known, nobody expressed any sympathy for Mitchell.

THE GRASSHOPPER BURDEN.—

The Missouri Democrat of June 5 says the farmers of ten counties in Iowa and Minnesota are fleeing from the grasshoppers. Mr. Dunnell had asked Congress to allow pre-emption and homestead settlers of those afflicted districts to be absent from their settlements until May 1, 1875, without forfeiting their locatory rights. Mr. Dunnell stated that last year some ten counties of Minnesota and Iowa were raided upon by grasshoppers to such extent that the settlers in that section were rendered extremely poor, hundreds of them being driven away, while the grasshoppers filled the soil of that region with eggs. The States of Minnesota and Iowa, as well as the citizens of those States, contributed some hundred thousand dollars for the purchase of the necessities of life and of seed for these unfortunate settlers. It turns out that these eggs are now hatching, and that the earth is literally filled with young grasshoppers and all vegetation there is being destroyed.

The House unanimously granted Mr. Dunnell's request.

It is feared that the ravages of the insects will be much more extensive this year than they were last.

Utah has gone through several long and painful grasshopper experiences, and now it seems our friends east of the mountains are having similar experience.

SAVORS STRONGLY OF PERSECUTION.—The Chicago Tribune of June 3 talks in this strain—

"The bill to regulate the practice of United States Courts in Utah, which passed the House yesterday, is not above reproach. It provides special machinery for the conviction of Mormon polygamists. Elder Cannon, the Delegate from Utah, insisted, with considerable force and a reasonableness that will appeal to the good sense of 'the average man,' that the operation of the bill should not be confined to one Territory; and that class-legislation is inhibited by the spirit, if not by the letter, of the American Constitution. Nobody in this part of the country admires the Mormons or their peculiar institutions, but the bill for their suppression, which passed the House yesterday, savors too strongly of persecution to give general satisfaction."

WASTING SWEETNESS.—A correspondent of the Helena Herald, writing from Westfield, Mass., says—

"There is one thing very noticeable to one who has lived in Montana as long as I have, and that is the large proportion of females. I sometimes stop and wonder where they all come from and where they are going, so many of them. Surely there is no good reason why any man should live a lonely life in any part of the world, if he wants a wife, is able to support one, and is fit to have one."

Here is another paragraph of similar import concerning a place in the Quaker State—

"Eight hundred superfluous marriageable females in Easton, Pa., live a silent protest against the advice given to young men to go West."

And yet the stupid Solons out that way vote for Poland's bill. O consistency!

THE SOUTH POLE.—Now it is the South Pole that is exciting an interest in the scientific world. Commodore Wilkes claimed to have seen an antarctic continent in 1840, which has since been described and marked as "Wilkes' Antarctic Continent." Now Lieut. Hynes, of the British discovery ship *Challenger*, writes to Dr. Hayes, the Arctic explorer, that the around-the-world trip of that vessel has proved that no such land exists in that part of the earth as claimed by Commodore Wilkes, and that what Wilkes really saw was icebergs. Further developments are awaited by the savans.

BAD PRECEDENTS.

IN the discussion of one of the Utah proscription bills some time ago in Congress, one of the members remarked that the legislation in regard to Utah was not to be regarded as a precedent.

It is simply nonsense to talk in that manner. Every thing that a man does, that a legislative body does, is a precedent, in the very nature of things. Every act is and must be a precedent. It can not be otherwise. Every act has its influence upon other and succeeding acts. If you sow, you must reap, something. As you sow, you must reap. If you sow the wind, you must reap the whirlwind. If you legislate unjustly and unconstitutionally, that act will be held as a precedent for further unjust and unconstitutional legislation, possibly to the damage of those who set the precedent.

Mr. Crouse, in discussing the Poland bill, sensibly urged that it would constitute a bad precedent. He was right. The bill will as it is, and it will be more thoroughly and influentially if it shall become law.

Why will such a law constitute a bad precedent? Here are some reasons—

1. It abolishes the equality of citizens.

2. It virtually deprives the citizens of much of the right of suffrage by substituting federal appointment for local legislative or popular election.

3. It establishes the anti-republican policy of federal officers disbursing the local taxes.

4. It re-affirms and extends the old hateful colonial policy of "taxation without representation," as it "imposes taxes on us without our consent," and spends them without the approbation or consent of the people who pay them, but in direct opposition to their wishes.

5. It re-affirms and re-establishes and strengthens the old hateful colonial idea that the just powers of the government are not derived from the "consent of the governed."

6. It erects a "multitude of new offices," and sends "hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out their substance."

7. Its effects will be virtually "taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering, fundamentally, the forms of our governments."

8. It is a deadly blow at the principle of local self-government, and correspondingly promotes federal centralization.

9. It establishes the baneful policy of federal interference in the minutest details of local affairs, legislative, judicial, and executive, political, domestic, and religious.

10. It prescribes and persecutes the people solely on account of their religion, when the Constitution expressly says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

11. It really deprives "us, in

many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury."

12. It excludes nine-tenths of the people, purely on account of their religious belief, from sitting on juries by which alone those nine-tenths are to be tried for their religious practices.

13. It provides juries from the small minority only to try the large majority of the citizens. This is minority representation with a vengeance.

14. It provides juries who may be adulterers and whoremongers and drunkards to try sober and respectable citizens for being honorably married.

15. It provides juries of always prejudiced and often malignant enemies to try the abounding majority of the people who strictly mind their own business and let other people's alone.

16. It empowers a federal judge to divide the property of good citizens among rapacious lawyers and others, solely at his own discretion.

17. It delivers over a peaceable, sober, orderly, industrious, enterprising, and prosperous community, bound hand and foot, into the hands of an unscrupulous, greedy, brutal, reckless horde of political adventurers and speculators.

If these are not precedents, bad enough, dangerous enough, and sufficiently numerous, then we do not understand what constitutes a bad precedent.

RECKLESS LEGISLATION.

IN the discussion of the Poland Spoliation Bill in the House of Representatives Mr. Crouse is reported to have made the remarkable statement that he had heard the remark made around him by members that they did not care what in the bill contained, they were going to put it through. What a careful, sober, Christian spirit in which to legislate upon a subject affecting the liberties, property, and perhaps lives of a whole community! We had not before heard that Utah affairs elicited open profanity in the halls of Congress, although we very well knew that the "ring" here that has sought proscription legislation against Utah was malignant, profane, and reckless in the matter, caring nothing what that legislation might be, so that it was sufficiently bad, sufficiently proscription, sufficiently despotic and subversive of the rights of the citizens. The "ring" here is perfectly reckless, brutally so, and sedulously seeks to destroy the constitutional rights of the citizens, no matter by what measures or means, but it is hardly the thing that Congress should legislate in any such low, unworthy, reckless spirit.

THE GRASSHOPPERS BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS.

A LETTER in the St. Paul Press, dated Winclone, Minn., May 22, says—

"There are fields which a few days ago promised an abundant harvest that to-day are as destitute of anything green or verdant as the streets within your city, and this is the work of the grasshoppers, and they are not yet as large as common house flies. What may we expect when they become full grown, if they are not by a merciful Providence destroyed? It was in view of these facts that the people of several counties conferred together and concluded to meet in convention to consider the best and most proper means of providing against this great calamity, and I speak what I do know when I say that it was never in the minds of any that this convention should be called for the purpose of asking for more present relief, and the only question that will be discussed at that convention is whether, if it becomes necessary, we will ask our neighbors to furnish us with sufficient to sustain us for another year, and remain and prepare our farms for another crop, or abandon our new but pleasant homes."

Other newspaper reports state that the inhabitants of half a score of counties in that part of the Union are fleeing before the grasshopper visitation as people sometimes do before the pestilence. That may

be the best way for the Minnesotans to do under the circumstances, but it was not the way in which the people of this Territory saw and met and conquered and triumphed over the locust swarms, year after year. Our farmers planted and replanted, and with their families fought and refought the grasshoppers, bagging, drowning and burying them by bushels, while they were young, as it is of little use to fight them when full grown. The tillers of the soil here fought it out on that line, if it took all summer, and it did take several summers, until the victory was secured and universally bounteous harvests followed.

As regards the whole Territory the visits and the ravages of the grasshoppers were only partial, not universal, though general, and in some localities severe enough and almost destructive of all crops, year after year.

Our citizens were glad enough to get rid of the grasshoppers, but are not glad that the people eastward are afflicted with them. On the contrary, those who have once endured a grasshopper season, know how to sympathize with any other people who may be similarly troubled, for it is a grievous visitation.

POLAND'S BILL REFERRED.—In the U. S. Senate, June 4, the bill (H. R. No. 3,097) in relation to courts and judicial officers in the Territory of Utah, was read twice by its title, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. This was Poland's Utah Spoliation Bill, as it passed the House.

EFFICIENCY REQUIRED.—Simmons, the energetic and enterprising young man whom Ben Butler recommended, Grant appointed, and the high-toned Bostonians did not want as collector of customs thereabouts, thus supports civil service reform and silences a removed deputy who was anxious to be reinstated—"You were an inefficient officer and not capable of discharging properly and efficiently the duties of your office. Under these circumstances, your services were no longer required and you were rightly recommended for removal."

EDITORS EXCURSIONING.—The Washington Star, of June 3rd, says—

"The members of the Illinois Press Association, many of them accompanied by their wives, visited the Executive mansion this morning, by special appointment, to pay their respects to the President. The reception took place in the East Room, and was attended with very great cordiality, both on the part of the President and his visitors."

On the back of this the Chicago Tribune thus introduces some Illinois fraternal comments concerning the excursionists—

"The rural editors, who left here recently for Washington, are not meeting with a very courteous attention from the stay-at-home editors of this State. The Macoupin Enquirer says—'It is time the mass of the people were looking with suspicion upon those editors who neglect their business and engage in dead-beat excursions.' The Mound City Journal says—'Many of the most noted dead-beats of the Illinois press meet at Chicago next week for the purpose of arranging a free trip to Baltimore and Washington. It is to be hoped that they will not generally be taken as true representatives of the editorial fraternity of this State.' The Jonesboro Gazette says—'The whole brigade should be arrested for obtaining railroad rides and free lunches under false pretences. These yearly dead-beat excursions of those who assume to represent the editors of Illinois is a disgrace to the press, and should be denounced.'"

So the Star has to return to the charge in the following fashion—

"This is a pretty good joke upon the handsome and intelligent members of the Illinois Editorial Association, who have made so pleasant an impression at the national capital; but it only serves to

show that the stay-at-home editors named are suffering torments of envy over the honors and compliments heaped upon their more fortunate traveling brethren. But it is all nonsense for them to talk about business keeping them at home. Quite evidently they were not invited, or hadn't any good clothes to wear a-visiting."

SOMETHING FOR POETASTERS.—

Here is an anecdote, recurring to the London Times in connection with the Oliver Goldsmith centennial, concerning what sort of people poets are—

"One day," writes the younger Column, "I met the poet Harding at Oxford—a half-crazy creature, as poets generally are—with a broken brick and some bits of thatch upon the crown of his hat. On my asking him for a solution of his Prosepopoeia, 'Sir,' said he, to-day is the anniversary of the celebrated Dr. Goldsmith's death, and I am now in the character of his deserted village."

This reminds us of the saying that genius to madness nearly is allied.

Now as to how poets make poetry or verse, which is often held to be the same thing, here is another anecdote, also just to the point—

"M. Theodore de Banville is credited with a very happy resort by the Charivari. It appears that he was being bored the other evening at a party by an individual who asked him all sorts of foolish questions. 'Can you tell me, sir,' said this person, 'how verses are made, for I confess I have never been able to understand?' 'It is very easy, sir,' 'Really?' 'Really. You take lines of unequal length, you put rhymes at the end, and talent inside of them.' 'Ah!'"

SHOULD TAKE LESSONS.—Hon. Alvah Crocker, of Massachusetts, in the course of a speech in the U. S. House of Representatives, June 5, said, "We have heard this very week much of Mormonism," and remarked that it would be a good thing if Congress "would take a few lessons on political economy from Brigham Young and his associates, who have made a wilderness of sagebrush to bloom like the rose; who have made a wealthy community in twenty-five years, of barefooted men and women, by supplying the wants of their people at home."

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM TUESDAY'S DAILY, JUNE 18.

Being Uncovered.—The walls of the Temple are being uncovered, for the purpose, we believe, of recommencing the laying of rock.

Gone to Kaysville.—Presidents B. Young and Geo. A. Smith went to Kaysville to-day, to organize a branch of the United Order at that place.

Drowned.—A two-year old boy of Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, on Big Cottonwood, was drowned yesterday morning. The unfortunate little fellow accidentally fell into a mill race.

Silk.—Brother Walter Reynolds, of the 20th Ward, has produced some very beautiful cocoons from 2,000 eggs which he received from England, 1,500 of the 2,000 having hatched out. The silk is glossy and of fine texture.

Fire.—Between five and six o'clock yesterday evening a barn in the rear of Clift's Row, Seventh Ward, took fire, and was partially destroyed. The damage was but small. The "Vigilance" hand engine was out. A very large crowd was attracted to the spot by the alarm.

Summer Heat.—The temperature has at last risen to something like to ordinary summer heat. The thermometer was up to 90 in the shade to-day. The clouds awhile were indicative of a shower, which would have been very acceptable, but the wind blew the clouds away and the rain didn't come.

Leather Makers and Workers.—We are requested to publish the following announcement—