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## "WAIT A LITTLE LONGER."

THE changes in the anti-"Mormon" bill, made by the Conference Committee, do not seem to give much comfort to the conspirators nor pan out much profit to the Fifty-cent League. They seem to cling to the test oath as the only solid bit of vantage. They are already announcing that it is impossible for the "Mormons" to take it, and thus they expect to do all the voting themselves and gain the offices which they could never grasp by the legitimate means of a free ballot.

It would be well for all parties still to wait a little before reckoning up probable results from legislation not yet complete. We advised the half-dollar dupes, when they jubilated so intemperately over the rush of the bill through the House, not to "count their chickens before they were hatched." The prognostications of their representatives, champions and cash collectors have proven in nearly every instance fallacious. It may be that they are making another blunder now. It is very kind of these would-be keepers of the "Mormon" conscience to say what can be done and what not, by the majority of Utah's citizens. But the "Mormons" have a way of taking their own course without consulting the views or wishes of their enemies. And it may be that they will do the very thing that it is said they cannot do, and leave undone such things as their foes expect they will do. We are aware that suspense is very irritating, especially to those who have great expectations, but we must renew our advice to the plotters, "wait a little longer."

Until the measure actually becomes a law there is little use in speculating as to what will be the best policy to pursue by either party. The minority expect to grasp all the offices in the Territory. The shortest way was that proposed in the Tucker bill. And that suited the conspirators and was just the very thing for the Governor. But that has now gone by the board and may be given up as lost. The only plank left that is of any use to them is the test oath, and it is not exactly clear what that will be. If it includes all that is reported from the Conference Committee, it is easy to foresee that it will not stand the test of constitutional adjudication. This may prove a barrier to the attainment of the object for which the Leaguers have labored and lied and paid their monthly dues to Hollister.

Then, again, whatever that test oath may prove to contain after final manipulation by the committee, it is not certain that the patched-up Tucker-Edmunds, Edmunds-Tucker, Collins-Hammond, Ingalls-Taylor particularized garment will be accepted by both Houses in its motley shape and receive the Presidential signature. Uncertainty still prevails as to the measure itself, and will still exist if it becomes a law, for there is no telling how it will result when it comes into operation. Therefore, we say to the half-dollar contributors and the very anxious fifty-cent receivers and ex-penders, "don't be too previous." The "Mormons" are awake and watching the progress of events, but they are as calm as a summer's morning and have the most certain assurance that whatever happens will be overruled by Divine Providence for the ultimate triumph of their cause.

## TWO "MARKS OF THE BEAST."

THERE are two provisions in the anti-"Mormon" bill that have been agreed upon by the Conference Committee which deserve special notice. One is the adultery section, the other the section authorizing the appointment of Probate Judges by the President and Senate.

The Tucker proposition, which has been "knocked out" in one round, was a prominent sign of the peculiar virtue that prompted the measure and proclaimed it a bill against polygamy. It prescribed three months' imprisonment and one hundred dollars fine as the highest penalty for adultery. At the same time the bill made the status of polygamists punishable by five years' imprisonment and a fine of five hundred dollars. That is to say, a man having two or more wives, even if he lived entirely apart from each and all of them, might be punished with those extreme penalties for his status or condition, without any polygamist cohabitation or association, while the adulterer who debauched his neighbor's wife or dangled

in the very worst case, could only be imprisoned three months and fined one hundred dollars! Will some of the pious preachers and refined "Christian" ladies who pleaded for the passage of the bill in that shape, please to show us where the morality of the measure came in?

The section that takes the place of the Tucker shamelessness is the Edmunds proposition. It provides three years imprisonment in the penitentiary as punishment for adultery. That is much more consistent than the other, so far as the penalty goes. But mark the wording of the section and behold its morality! When the offense is committed "between a married woman and a man who is unmarried, both parties are to be deemed guilty," and when committed "between a married man and a woman who is unmarried, the man shall be deemed guilty."

This is cunningly concocted so as to catch polygamists or "Mormons," and leave "Gentile" adulterers and seducers free. And it virtually announces that there is no crime when a married man betrays his neighbor's wife, nor when a married woman tempts to flagrant sin another woman's husband, nor in an unmarried woman when she leads a married man into sin. A married man is to be deemed guilty alone if he goes astray with an unmarried woman, but he is not to be deemed guilty at all if he seduces from virtue any number of other men's wives! We should like the pious promoters of the Edmunds provision to show us how much purity there is in that.

The section authorizing the appointment of the Probate Judges by the President and Senate, instead of being elected by the people, is a distinctly un-republican provision. The Probate Judges have to transact purely local business. The United States are not interested in any cases that are now within probate jurisdiction. The people whose affairs have to be adjudicated by those courts ought, as a matter of right pertaining to their citizenship and property interests, to be permitted to elect those county officers.

And the change would nullify an important provision of the Poland law, and at the same time sweep away the small remnant of precept that a fair jury trial can be had in Utah. For the Probate Judges select the names annually to compose half the jury lists, the other half being selected by the clerks of the District Courts. This arrangement was designed to give the "Mormon" majority one half representation on the jury list, and the "Gentile" minority an equal representation. But the practice of the courts under the Edmunds Act has cast out all "Mormons" from juries in most criminal cases, leaving them only their meagre share on civil cases and sometimes none at all in them. The present proposition would virtually throw out from jury service the entire "Mormon" population, leaving the small minority to furnish all the jurymen. For it is not to be supposed that the President and Senate, in the pressure that exists on this question, would appoint any "Mormon" to be a Probate Judge. The jury lists would then be made up entirely from the minority.

Of course all this is eminently unjust and shameful, contrary to well established principles of law, equity and morality. But these considerations do not seem to weigh much on the minds of the fanatics, whose eyes are blinded by prejudice and whose judgment is warped by virulent anti-"Mormonism." These two provisions alone in the patchwork measure as it stands to-day, ought to open the eyes of statesmen and fair people everywhere to the infamy of the hybrid monstrosity now pending in the Congress of the United States.

## "OH, WHAT A FALL WAS THERE!"

WE do not envy Governor Caleb W. West in the position he occupies before the country. After forsaking his post in this Territory to go to the National Capital and wirework for the passage of a bill to clothe himself with authority previously unheard of in this republic, and proclaiming through the press and through his toadies and supporters the eminent and certain success he had achieved, the whole expected fruit of his toils has been swept away, by a sudden blast never calculated upon nor dreamed of in his manipulations. His "extraordinary influence, with Speaker Carlisle," seems to have counted for naught after all, and he has no prospect whatever of playing the autocrat in Utah.

Just think of it! One day proud and smiling, and confident of soon carrying in his pocket such patronage as no Governor ever handled in this Union before; the next day blank and sad, without a solitary appointment at his command, wherewith to reward a sycophant or curry favor with a man of "Liberal" influence. And to have this done in such a wholesale manner, and by Republican influence, interposed to save to the people some semblance of Democratic government! A Democrat legging in Congress for the establishment of an autocracy in which he was to be the one-man-power; a Republican Senator stepping in to put a stop to the outrageous infamy. Which will shine the brightest on the page of modern history?

The spectacle of any Democrat in

trigling with public men for the destruction of the popular voice in a part of the American Union and the substitution thereof of an irresponsible autocracy, is disgusting enough to any patriot. But the sight of a Democratic Governor, appointed by a Democratic President, working upon a Democratic body to utterly destroy Democracy in an incipient commonwealth in order to advance himself as a virtual Dictator and Despot, is so shameful and atrocious that it should cause loathing in every lover of his country and believer in the principles of popular government.

The failure, just in sight of success, of his scheming and plotting and joining in with disreputable conspirators to effect the greatest political robbery ever attempted in this country, is just retribution for the wrong sought to be wrought. And we hope that when the Governor comes to reflect on his course, and see how little good has come to himself or his predecessor in reward for their labors, he will resolve henceforth to perform his duties according to his official oath, and leave the shameful projects in which rascals are engaged for the enslavement of their betters, to the chief conspirators who will yet come to be known and despised of all men.

## NEVADA PROPOSES TO TAKE A BACKWARD STEP.

THE anti-Constitution wave has struck the "Sage Brush" State. The Nevada Legislature has passed resolutions proposing an amendment to the constitution of the State, for the purpose of disfranchising all citizens resident within its borders who are "Mormons." The following is the warrant with which it is proposed to disfigure the nose of the supreme legal structure of the State of Nevada:

"No person shall be allowed to vote at any election in this State who is a bigamist or polygamist, who teaches the doctrine of bigamy or polygamy or who is a member of, or belongs to an order, organization or association which sanctions or tolerates bigamy, polygamy, plural or celestial marriage, or exercises or claims the right to exercise civil power conflicting with or opposed to the Constitution or laws of this State or the United States. If any person offering to vote shall be challenged as disqualified under this section, his vote shall not be received unless he takes or subscribes to the following oath:

"I solemnly swear or affirm, before Almighty God, under the pains and penalties of perjury, that I am not a bigamist or polygamist, that I neither teach, nor practice bigamy or polygamy, that I am neither a member of nor belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly called the Mormon Church; that I am not a member of nor belong to the order, organization or association which sanctions or tolerates bigamy, polygamy, plural or celestial marriage, or which exercises or claims the right to exercise civil power in conflict with or opposed to the Constitution or laws of this State or the United States; that I regard the Constitution of the United States and the laws thereof, and the Constitution and laws of the State of Nevada, as interpreted by the courts, as the supreme law of the land, the doctrine or teachings of any order, organization or association to the contrary notwithstanding, so help me God."

The Legislature shall have power to enforce this amendment by appropriate legislation, and add other requirements to the foregoing oath, but shall omit no part thereof."

The Church does not claim the right to exercise civil power conflicting with or opposed to the Constitution and laws of the United States. It is a fact, however, that the proposed amendment is in direct conflict with the Constitution of the United States, which forbids the application of any religious test.

The proposed Nevada constitutional carbuncle is worded in a more straightforward way than the generality of such diseased protuberances on the body politic. It names the Church, the members of which it is proposed to rob of the rights guaranteed them under the supreme law of the land.

It is a curious fact that the Territory of Arizona, within whose borders are many Latter-day Saints, has recently receded from a dangerous innovation upon political liberty, while Nevada entertains the idea of taking a backward step in that line.

## WHEN WILL THEY LEARN?

IT seems that the press of this country will not look into any question relating to Utah and the "Mormons," deep enough to get an ordinary understanding of it. Here is the Chicago News commenting on the recent United States Supreme Court decision, and stating the ruling as that "bigamy is bigamy whether a man have two wives or twenty, and that he cannot be punished for each wife separately."

That is about as near the fact as editors commonly get, when they attempt to touch on "Mormon" affairs. No such question was before

the court; it was not alluded to in the remotest manner; the decision gave not even a hint on that subject; there has been no question on this point before any of the courts, and it has not even been sprung in the papers. It is not open to dispute. The law is so plain in that respect that even the attorneys and courts engaged in the crusade against the "Mormons," and who are ready and anxious to take every advantage they can, have not attempted to twist the law so as to raise a controversy on this head.

The offense is "cohabiting with more than one woman." It makes no difference whether the number be two, or twenty, or a hundred. It is "more than one," in either case. The penalty is the same because the offense is the same, as created and defined in the third section of the Edmunds act. The Chicago News is entirely off the track, and misstates the ground of the litigation as well as the result.

The question at issue was the power of the courts to divide up into several offenses that which the law makes but one offense, and to inflict several penalties where the law prescribes but one penalty. And this related not to the number of wives, but to the time during which the offense occurred. Instead of finding several indictments for different periods, or several counts in the one indictment on the same principle, the court of last resort has decided that only one offense can be charged, up to the date of the indictment, and therefore that only one penalty can be imposed for conduct up to that date. The attorney and courts here, thinking their doings were not subject to review by the higher court, undertook to divide up the offense and to multiply the penalties, and thus inflicted false imprisonment and illegal fines upon a number of victims to their excessive anti-"Mormon" zeal. All this the appellate court has decided to be wrong in principle and void in law.

Will the Chicago News and other superficial commentators on Utah questions try and grasp this statement of the situation, and save themselves from exhibiting such painful lack of information as is palpable in their doleful attempts at wit, and their laughable essays at explaining something that they know nothing about?

## FUN AND FAILURE.

WHATEVER may be the fate of the measure before Congress which has been changed and mended so much that it is like the boy's new jackknife, that had been treated to four new handles and seven new blades, it will be quite amusing to collect and compile the positive predictions of its promoters and supporters during its eventful history.

The special dispatches to the organ of the conspirators alone will make a rich fund of humor. Purporting to come from a favored correspondent on the spot, who had access to the inner circles of congressional life, they have in almost every instance turned out to be special deceptions, misleading, untruthful, speculative and absurd. The things prognosticated have not occurred, and the very events declared impossible have come to pass. The special dispatcher has not had even common access to the facts, and the two B's engaged in spending the half-dollar contributions of the duped Loyal League, have been as much at sea as the correspondent, and have aided in mystifying and deceiving the organ and its readers.

One thing is certain. The conspirators have not achieved the object of their plotting. Already there are gaspings of teeth and curses both loud and deep among the "truly loyal," and both Edmunds and Tucker come in for their share of abuse from their whilom admirers and applauders. We cannot weep over this discomfiture. We confess to enough of the "Old Adam" to give us as much joy in the chagrin of the rascals who have schemed and lied and jubilated promulgating over this legislation, as in the relief that will be felt by decent citizens over the defeat of the infamy intended in the bill as it passed the House of Representatives. Whatever is now accomplished, their conspiracy has proved a conspicuous and emphatic failure.

## THE DARK CONTINENT.

IN a lecture delivered in the Salt Lake Theatre several years ago, among other subjects referred to the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher alluded to the "dark continent" in rather contemptuous terms. He said that no great invention or intellectual advancement had ever originated there, and declared that "if that whole continent was to sink into the sea, the bubbles that rose on the surface would be as valuable as anything that ever emanated from Africa." This was a very broad assertion to say the least, and, in the absence of accurate information as to all that has occurred in past ages upon that great continent, would seem to admit of some little qualification. If the old monuments and pyramids of Egypt could reveal all that has transpired, even since their erection, it might throw a very different light upon the intellectual achievements of the inhabitants. Apropos of this subject the New York Sun says:

Some way south of Zambesi River there is a large region extending from the sea nearly 400 miles inland, and 300 to 400 miles toward the south, in which ruins are constantly being discovered, proving that in prehistoric times the country was inhabited by a civilized people. To-day only the rudest black tribes inhabit this land, save in a few places where the Portuguese have established stations. The little beehive huts of the natives are seen among massive ruins betokening a degree of architectural skill which rivals that of the ancient Aztecs. Our knowledge of these ruins is still far from perfect. Our earliest records of travel and trade on the east African coast, extending back to the beginning of the Christian era, do not mention them. Only in recent years have the travels of Selous, Erskine, Mauch, Baines, Mohr and O'Neill revealed to us the monumental evidence this country contains.

The coast town Sofalais is shown on all maps of East Africa. Near that town Carl Mauch found extensive ruins remarkable for their enduring nature and strange shapes. There are partly ruined walls, still thirty feet high and twelve feet wide at the base built of small hewn blocks of granite. In these walls, sometimes fifteen or twenty feet from the ground, are embedded one end of blocks of stone eighteen to twenty feet long, which were evidently used to support galleries. Here and there, built in the walls or standing by themselves, are round stone towers which evidently rose to heights of thirty to fifty feet. Similar masses of masonry are found as far as 350 miles inland and a little north near the coast.

It is not positively known yet who built these ancient structures. No trained archaeologist has visited them, and no search has yet been made for inscriptions, though O'Neill says he has no doubt from what he has recently heard that there are numerous inscriptions on the ruins about Manica. All these ruins are surrounded by surface gold mines. It is believed that all this country was occupied some time before the Christian era by a great colony, probably of Phœnician origin, and that its chief occupation was gold mining.

Mr. O'Neill says that these numerous ruins are nearly as well preserved as those of ancient Egypt and better than those of Assyria. Some day, no doubt, they will be systematically studied. Their existence shows conclusively that a large region of inner Africa, now given up to savage men and wild beasts, was subject many centuries ago to the control of a people who were considerably advanced in the arts of civilization.

## A SPLIT IN THE RANKS.

THE atmosphere above and around the "Loyal League" is murky with gloomy clouds and lurid with the forked lightning of red-eyed wrath. In other words there is a split in the camp. The "segregation" is drawn on party lines—Republican and Democratic.

Both dogs in the fight gaze with greedy eyes upon the bone of contention, the prospective local offices to be filled, according to anti-"Mormon" anticipation, by the Edmunds-Tucker bill, should it become a legal reality.

Instead of the brethren of the League falling upon each other's necks and weeping with joy unfeigned, they appear to feel like getting their hands in each others hair and tearing it out, by fistfuls, judging from the curses and imprecations low and deep, and some that are not so low, so far as sound is concerned, that are indulged in on both sides. Meanwhile the indefatigable Mr. Lannan is credited with flying around and to and fro, first on one side and then the other, almost tearfully imploring the malcontents to reconcile their differences. But the gulf is wide and likewise like the curses hurled by one faction against the other—deep. In this situation, the distress of the manager of the Tribune, seeing that no amount of oil he can pour upon the disturbed waters of the crusade will stay their turbulence, is very great.

It leaks out that the Republican wing of the League have been working in opposition to the part of the Tucker amendment to the Edmunds bill which placed enormous political prerogatives in the hands of Governor West. The cause of this was clear. Governor West is a Democrat, and in the event of his being given the extraordinary appointing power it was not to be supposed that he would be rushing around with his hair streaming in the wind hunting up Republicans in order to fill the local offices with individuals of that political complexion. Not much. It could be seen at a glance that the pickings tendered to Republicans would be about in like proportion to those that fell to the lot of Lazarus, and whatever would be doled out to that wing of the schemers would be tendered to those who would be willing to assume the role of "Mugwumps." It may be added here that Bennett is a Republican, and it is rumored that the unsophisticated Baskin was led to believe that the making of the offices elective would be generally acceptable to the Leaguers.

On the other hand, the Democratic wing of the League are wild over the elimination from the bill of the clause which would have made Governor West a veritable autocrat. They ima-