

EDITORIALS.

VERY MUCH LIKE CANT.

THE New York Mail and Express is now owned by a very religious person, Col. Shepherd, who has a text of scripture placed at the head of the editorial columns, which is changed daily. The issue of September 3d has the following as its Bible motto for the day:

"With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love."

In the editorials below it are many references to the Democratic party, against which the paper is particularly bitter. We select the following as samples:

"The run-ruled democracy."

"The democratic enemies of restriction."

"The democracy are hopelessly divided into warring factions, more intent on city spoils than on success in any other direction."

"With newspapers that are edited by men who have no regard for truth and who have reason to believe in the gullibility of their readers."

"Protectionists who are deserting the 'denationalized' party by thousands and tens of thousands."

"No Presidential somersaults and no cranky third-partyism can divert those voters."

"This is the emergency which Mr. Cleveland's ambition to make a free trade issue has thrust upon the country."

"A reckless administration and its subservient trucklers."

"The immense patronage and power of the Federal and State governments will be used with unscrupulous energy."

"In this campaign for re-election Cleveland is as much of a 'spoils democrat' as Hill. The President's official gift of one-fifth of his salary for campaign purposes is a direct notice to all his subordinates to follow the shameless example or take the consequences."

How sweetly these expressions harmonize with the scripture text! What "lowliness and meekness" what "forbearance," "long-suffering" and "love!" Some people have an idea that reading the Bible is religion, and that the simple act of poring over its pages is meritorious in the sight of God. Colonel Shepherd seems to imagine that the texts at the head of his columns sanctify his paper and "take the curse," so to speak, off the ranting and often untruthful utterances which disfigure its pages.

It was one of the editorial writers of that journal who, in reply to remonstrances against the villainous things that appeared in it about the "Mormons," declared with profanity we cannot repeat, that he didn't care whether what was said in the paper was true or not; he was down on the "Mormons" and he would like to see every one of them hung.

It would be pleasant to see the exercise of that brotherly love, forbearance and charity which are breathed in the quotations that adorn the Mail and Express, but plain people on reading them and contrasting them with what follows, will be apt to think that instead of piety their publication looks like arrant hypocrisy.

THE POLITICAL ISSUE.

At Indianapolis on the 29th ult., State Senator Leon C. Bailey, who is also deputy United States Attorney, delivered an elaborate speech on the attitude of General Harrison towards the working classes. He had made a careful examination of court records and other papers relating to the matter, and produced a mass of evidence very damaging to the Republican candidate for the Presidency. It showed that he had taken the part of the moneyed corporations as against the laboring man, and had pursued a course during the labor troubles in Indiana, to coerce instead of do justice to the peaceful operatives who were lawfully struggling for their rights. But we have no desire to quote from his speech on this personal matter. Before entering upon his scathing denunciation of the Republican candidate, he made some pertinent and pointed remarks on the real issue now before the country, which he defined as: "High taxes, yielding large profits to the few, against low taxes, yielding corresponding benefits to the many." The former is the Republican policy, the latter that of the Democrats. On this subject he presented the following propositions, which we copy without comment:

"The high protective tax was made to meet the exigencies of war. Do they exist now?"

"The income and other direct taxes, bearing upon the rich, were removed in 1873. Must the poor pay all the burden?"

"Does a tax system which retires over one-third of our circulating medium into idleness help or injure trade?"

"Protection enriches less than 10 per cent. of our people; the other 90 per cent. pay the tribute."

"The price of our necessities is made high by protection; our remaining benefits, if any, are filtered through the clutches of capital."

"While the products of the world, including our own, are made dear by taxation its cheap labor comes to us without condition."

"If protection affects wages, adversely why do the coal, iron and other highly benefited industries pay the lowest wages? Or why in our several States, all under the same tariff law, does the price paid for labor differ as widely as in the countries of the Old World?"

"Does a man looking for employment in the United States give preference to the protected branches of trade? Would he not do so if they afforded him better or more permanent returns?"

"The laborer in the highly protected countries of Spain, Germany, France and Mexico gets far less pay or comforts than in England with her system of low taxes. Why is this?"

"Is not the compensation of labor the world over fixed by considerations of supply, demand and efficiency of service?"

"If the 'war tariff' has a tendency to increase the pay of workmen instead of the profits of the manufacturer, would the protected employers expend millions every election to continue it? Or is their alarm and liberality, indeed, due to sincere philanthropy?"

ORNAMENTAL TELEGRAPH POLES.

THE telegraph and telephone poles, which are so thickly erected in many cities, are extremely unsightly and their abolition is one of the municipal problems of the times. Placing the wires under ground would be the most complete solution of the question, but this is opposed so strenuously by the companies that control those essentials to rapid and facile communication that it is not likely the poles will disappear, for a long time to come, at least. They still stand erect where their removal has been the most urgently demanded.

In Brazil, Dame Nature has set her adorning hand to take away the ugliness of these street obstructions. Not only the poles but the wires are becoming covered with foliage, the latter through numerous little mistletoes finding lodgment upon them and which, dying, make places where seeds take root and form a green fringe which is pleasant to behold and does not interfere with the transmission of messages.

Here is a hint for cities where the rainfall is sufficient to support vegetation, and even to places like ours, the posts may be placed near water-sects. Creeping vines could be planted at the base of the poles, which would turn them into pleasant ornaments instead of bare ugly objects obnoxious to the public gaze. If the poles were covered with living green the wires could go unclothed. This may cause a smile on the countenances of the corporations that deal in the electric fluid, but it is worthy of consideration, nevertheless, for the demand for a change will be made some day, with a force and a universality that will not be ignored or denied.

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.

THE long-looked-for letter of acceptance from President Cleveland has come at last. It was published in full in the DESERET NEWS of Monday evening, leaving no space then for comment. It is a calm, dispassionate and forcible document, without any attempt at what is called "fine writing." It is plain, direct and devoted to the chief issues of the times. The question of revenue reform, the point of difference between the two great political parties, is ably discussed, and the statements and arguments on that subject are straightforward, simple, and convincing. We think they will be acceptable to the majority of the voters of the United States.

There is nothing novel or startling in the letter, but it stands solidly on the platform of the Democratic party adopted at the St. Louis Convention, and is manly and dignified in every part. The effects of a high tariff for protection are portrayed without exaggeration, and the republican policy is clearly shown to be detrimental to the general interests of the nation and particularly oppressive to the laboring classes and the poor.

We do not think there are any openings left for the lance of his adversary, nor that the orators and journalists who have been waiting for something to attack by tongue or pen, will find much legitimate opportunity for the shafts of political wit or the clouds of polemic ridicule. The letter is very much like the writer, stalwart, sensible, courteous, and democratic to the core.

The country will now look with eagerness for the letter of General Harrison, and much curiosity will be felt to see how the Republican standard bearer will be able to meet the argument of his formidable adversary. There is one good that will grow out of the Presidential campaign of 1888: The people will receive much political instruction. The relative merits of protection and free trade—although these are not really arrayed against each other just now—will be set forth in an exceptionally comprehensive

manner, and thus the country will be educated towards a comprehension of these subjects, against the time when they will be the square issue of the hour.

The proper object of a tariff is now definitely the subject in dispute between the two parties. That it should be for revenue purposes and should not exceed the necessities of the government, and that any such tax beyond that is in the nature of robbery, is what the Democratic party claims and seeks to establish. And to make this plain to the ordinary citizen, nothing has done more than the messages to Congress and the letter of acceptance of President Grover Cleveland.

REFUTED BY THE FIGURES.

"It is surprising to learn that about one-half of the adult Mormons in Utah are still living in polygamy; that the number of indictments against polygamists is larger than the convictions; that 'scarcely one of the parties convicted pays a fine,' and that nearly 10 per cent. of the convicts have been pardoned."

The above from a Pennsylvania paper, is similar to other remarks in Republican organs. It would be "surprising," if one ought to be surprised at anything said by partisan papers just previous to an election, or at anything published in relation to the "Mormons." But it certainly is not true. Every statement contained in the paragraph is a falsehood. This is verified by figures in official reports. But the story was started for political use, and the truth will have no effect upon the fabricators.

There have been 16 convictions for polygamy in Utah and 498 for unlawful cohabitation. The sum of \$44,225 20 has been collected for fines and costs. The parsons have been rare and only on the recommendation of the prosecuting officer, the judges and other officials, and prominent citizens. We do not know of but two cases in which objection has been raised here, even by the most virulent anti-"Mormons." The President has been exceedingly cautious, and has exercised the pardoning power in these cases without any extraordinary stretch of clemency. As we view it, pardons might have been granted in many other cases without any violation of official duty or discretion, but in strict accordance with the dictates of justice and humanity.

The first assertion in the paragraph we have quoted has been refuted by statistics so often, that it would be indeed "surprising" to see it repeated in a respectable paper, if it were not for the fact that the press generally ignores the most complete answers to rash anti-"Mormon" assertions, and prefers to repeat the nonsense and falsehood that pander to popular notions and antipathies.

The story was told by Fred. T. DuBois before a congressional committee, and was branded on the spot as a palpable untruth. It was intended to prejudice the committee, but when exposed, worked the other way. So it ought to be with every shameless falsehood of a similar character. The facts and figures in relation to these matters will come before Congress, and then we shall see how many papers which copied the lies will give place in their columns for the truth.

WHY NOT DO IT NOW?

HIS Honor Chief Justice Sanford, in charging the grand jury on Tuesday, briefly but clearly and forcibly drew their attention to the duties devolving upon them under the laws. No exception can be taken to the tone of the charge. If the jurors carry out the instructions it contains, they will perform all that is required of them under their official oath.

Judge Sanford particularly charged them to enquire into offenses that may have been committed against the public welfare, the public morals or the public health. And referring specially to the latter he mentioned reports which had come to him concerning the sanitary condition of the city. It may be said that this is a matter that comes under the control of the municipal authorities. But if what is stated is correct, the odors that arise around the building where the court sits and the grand jury hold their sessions, very deeply concern those officials as well as the general public. We trust that the grand jury in their investigations will not depend upon rumors nor commit themselves to theories, but will present the actual demonstrable facts.

As to the saturation of the soil with the deposits of forty years, His Honor has no doubt heard something which sounds quite plausible. But the truth is that whatever waste matter has been covered with the soil has become chemically changed so as to be entirely innocuous. There is nothing that will turn evil into good, when it is in the shape of matter offensive to sight and scent, as quickly and perfectly as the earth, which we tread under our feet. It is a natural deodorizer, and an actual destroyer of those germs which produce disease and death, when it can completely cover them in its embrace.

Cesspools that are placed in proximity to wells will very likely communicate, and leakage will carry foul fluids to the water. But unless there is some near opportunity for such drainage, it is only a question of time when,

by absorption, the soil will transform that which is committed to its keeping and render it odorless and harmless.

We need not fear the effects of refuse matter which has been deposited in the soil. It is that which is permitted to remain on the surface that is harmful. Sift into the nascent outgrowth a little dry earth, repeatedly, as occasion requires and all vile odors will be stifled. The laboratory of mother earth is the best manufactory of disinfectants, and dry dust is the most potent transmitter of base material ever applied for the purpose.

The foul odors that arise from accumulations in outhouses and refuse thrown out of doors and permitted to rot and fester on the face of the ground, are nuisances that ought to be abated and that can be completely removed. An inspector of nuisances with assistants and a few dump-carts could see that the city ordinances against nuisances are effectually executed or obeyed. While the jangle over impossible sewerage goes on, the stinks continue to arise. If the sewer district now organized should build its pipe system, and the main sewers should be built without a feasible outlet, or some place of proper deposit should be discovered which would not prove a worse nuisance to the whole city than that in the small district to be drained, still the evil complained of would exist, all over town and in the suburbs, and germs of destruction will be generated to float in the air and carry disease in the gentle breeze and the fair sunlight.

A sanitary system is needed to embrace the whole municipality whether or not the sewers are built for "district number one," whether or not a sufficient outlet can be found for sewage, whether or not the work proposed at the cost of the city shall be consummated. This is something that can be done now and ought not to be delayed. If foul odors and danger to health from refuse matter are the subjects of complaint, let them be attacked at once. A movement for their suppression need not interfere with a sewerage movement. It is wanted in any case. It is the sanitary demand of the hour. Why not inaugurate it without delay?

Whatever people may think about the legitimate functions of the grand jury in relation to the subject of sewerage, the public will thank Judge Sanford for directing the attention of that body to an evil that exists, and ought to be abated whether or not it is of the dimensions reported to His Honor. We have a lovely climate, healthful breezes, clear sunshine and an azure sky, but in the fall of the year there are odors borne upon the balmy air, which rankly smell to heaven and sometimes suggest the danger of a pestilence.

THE RECENT OUTRAGE ON ELDERS.

A FEW days ago the NEWS published an account of a cowardly and brutal outrage perpetrated upon four Elders from Utah and one local convert to the faith of the Church, in Tennessee. The Elders were dragged from their beds by an armed mob of religious ruffians, taken some distance from the house at which they were stopping and unmercifully whipped with hickory whips.

While being subjected to this terrible outrage, and writhing under the suffering inflicted by the laceration of their backs, these men exhibited the coolness and courage usually manifested by the Elders in the midst of danger. During cessations in the process of whipping they were asked if they would agree to leave that part of the country. Feeling that they had broken no law, but were merely engaged in the performance of what they esteem to be a sacred duty—proclaiming the Gospel of faith, repentance, baptism by immersion for the remission of sins and the laying on of hands for the imparting of the Holy Ghost—they remained silent. They had broken no law and had a right to stay or go as it might please them, without let or hindrance. Had they not finally yielded by consenting to leave that part of the country, there is but little room for doubt that they would have been foully murdered, hanging being the alternative offered by the mob providing the latter's demand were not complied with.

Had the Elders been convinced that it was the will of the Lord that they should remain, there is no reason to doubt that they would have died there and then rather than they would have come to terms. That is the kind of metal of which they are made. However much many people may differ religiously from men who show such courageous qualities, it is scarcely possible to fail to admire their indomitable bearing.

But the question arises in relation to the exercise of needful prudence in such situations as that in which the Elders in this instance were placed. The exercise of sound discretion is perfectly consistent with a display of unqualified valor. It is exceedingly questionable whether it is necessary for the brethren to expose themselves to bodily injury or to the probability of losing their lives, unless it is plainly the will of the Lord that they should. And it is a matter of regret that the Elders recently so flagrant abused did not concede the point the mob presented at an earlier stage of the outrage, as, according to the account received, they might thus

have saved themselves no small degree of suffering and after all it was deemed necessary to make the agreement demanded.

The brethren who are in the missionary field should not fail to remember that men of valor who will lift and carry forward the standard of divine truth into the ranks of the unbelieving are none too plentiful. There is a mighty work for them and their children after them yet to perform, and it is a sacred duty devolving upon them that they be careful not to expose themselves too freely to the liability of their lives being taken. While God has promised to protect His servants from harm, He expects that they will exercise due care and prudence in the premises, but never by showing what is commonly designated as the "white feathers." Cowards are of no use in the work of God, and the Prophet Joseph said that no man that could be properly relegated to that class will ever enter the celestial Kingdom. However, "when you are persecuted in one city, flee to another," is an injunction that applies with considerable force now as well as when it was delivered personally by the Savior to His disciples anciently.

The State of Tennessee has done her quota in the matter of persecuting those who were sent unto her. Four years ago, on the 10th of August, a furious mob broke into the house of Mr. Condon on Cane Creek, and murdered Elders Gibbs and Berry from Utah, and two young men named Condon and as a climax to their diabolical work, shot and severely wounded Mrs. Condon through the window as they were departing from the scene of the butchery. The red-handed murderers were never brought to justice, and doubtless those who committed the outrage of September 2d will be allowed to escape the just reward of their dastardly work, so far as the law is concerned. Both pieces of religious fanaticism were consummated on a Sabbath day, consecrated for rest and worship by all true Christians, but in these instances dedicated by bloodthirsty religious bigots to murder and outrage.

In this connection it is proper to allude to the retreating fact that although red handed and furious fanaticism can be found among a few of the people of Tennessee, the bulk of her citizens are opposed to persecution in every form, and among them the Elders find many warm and true friends from whom they receive a cordial welcome. These are the honorable men and women of the earth who favor right and justice, and who will in no wise lose their reward.

The relatives of the Elders who were maltreated on September 2d, are necessarily anxious regarding their welfare. The probability is that the brethren are recovering from the effects of the assault made upon them; otherwise it is more than likely that further intelligence concerning their condition would have reached here before this date.

THE CAMPAIGN.

Now that the letters of acceptance of both Cleveland and Harrison are laid before the country, the campaign may be said to be fully opened. It may be thought that in Utah, so far away from the battle field, it is difficult to form correct opinions as to the relative strength of the contending forces; but as a matter of fact it is probable that the intelligent newspaper reader here is able to form as correct opinions as to the outcome of the canvass, as can persons who live in the midst of its turmoil; on the basis that the beholder of a battle-field, who stands upon a distant and elevated spot, can better note the progress of the strife than can the men engaged in it.

The election occurred in Vermont and Maine before Cleveland's letter reached the people. In the former State the Republicans gained about 1,100, and the Democrats a bout 330. This is more than a pro rata increase for the Republicans, which, however, are always a strong majority in the Green Mountain State. Full returns of the Maine election will probably disclose a Republican gain of from 5,000 to 6,000, as against a considerably smaller proportionate increase in the Democratic vote. The Republicans point to their gains in these two States as an indication of what may be expected in November; but it ought to be borne in mind that Vermont and Maine are Republican strongholds. Probably were an election to be held forthwith in a State which is a Democratic stronghold, an increase of Democratic strength would appear which would offset the Republican gains in the States named.

One marked advantage must be conceded to the Democrats—Cleveland's letter of acceptance is a much stronger document than Harrison's, not only because of the superior literary and forensic ability displayed in it, but because the attitude of Cleveland is bolder and more distinctly outlined than is Harrison's, and admits of a more definite and unequivocal statement. President Cleveland has given the ablest exposition of Democratic financial doctrines ever contained in a state paper; indeed it is doubtful if an equally able statement and defense of those doctrines was ever before penned. Thoughtful voters who plac