

## EDITORIALS.

## LIQUOR LAWS.

PROHIBITORY liquor laws in this country appear to be fated to uniform failure, and temperance advocates are coming to the conclusion that they must rely upon laws that will not absolutely prohibit but regulate the sale of intoxicating drinks so as to cause a diminution of drunkenness. The new legislature of Massachusetts, it is expected, will modify the present unsatisfactory liquor law of that State.

A correspondent of a London journal talks of the success of some curious but salutary regulations in Gothenburg, Sweden, in regard to the sale of intoxicating liquors. The whole of this trade in that place, since 1865, has been managed by a philanthropic company, which pays over to the town the whole profits of the business. The company pays its employees stated salaries, allowing them to make all they can from the sale of food, but nothing from the sale of intoxicating liquors. Says the correspondent—

It thus becomes their interest to promote the consumption of food rather than of drink, and gradually to transform the public house from a mere drinking shop to a kind of restaurant. No sales on credit are allowed. The results have proved very satisfactory. Not only have the public houses been transformed from dark and dirty holes to clean and well lighted houses, where unadulterated goods are supplied, but at the same time drunkenness has fallen off to a remarkable degree. While in 1865 there were 2,070 cases of drunkenness reported in Gothenburg, in 1871 there were only 1,533—a reduction of about 25 per cent. in a town whose population is rapidly increasing and rising in prosperity. The example set by Gothenburg has been followed by several other communities, and the system has everywhere been found to work exceedingly well.

A policy something similar to this was adopted in this city a few years ago, the proceeds from the sales of liquors going into the city treasury, and pot-house drinking was discouraged. But divers persons who would rather see those profits slide into their own pockets, were hugely indignant that they did not. Now almost anybody in the city can sell liquor, by paying a licence, but we cannot say that the sobriety and orderliness of the place have been increased thereby.

## A TALE OF BLOOD.

THE Montana papers have a terrible tale of crime and blood recently brought to light, reminding one of the dark record of early days in that region. Some time during the past summer a man, named Goodwin, was missing near Snake River, and Sheriff C. S. Warren, of Deer Lodge, Montana, a few weeks ago, was apprized by letter of that fact, and was informed that James N. Gash and Peter Matte were suspected of murdering the missing man.

Sheriff Marion, of Missoula county, was notified of the matter, and the two suspected men were arrested about the middle of the present month (November) at the house of "Mother Gash," in the Bitter Root valley. She had previously resided at Helena for years, and was well known. She had two sons, known as Jim and Ed, and a daughter Mollie, "who followed the profession of a dancing girl in a hurdy gurdy house, and who was married to Phil De Rouché several years ago."

Last summer the citizens of Bitter Root Valley became much excited over the stealing from that locality of a large number of horses, and the sudden disappearance about the same time of five or six men from the valley, among them Jim Gash and Pete Matte, who were heard from sometime after at or near Ross' Fork, on Snake River.

After the arrest of these two at "Mother Gash's," they were lodged in jail in Missoula County, to await requisitions from the Governors of

Montana and Idaho. Since the arrest Matte has made the following confession, as it appears in the *Missoulian* of Nov. 11—

"Sometime after being arrested Matte, who is a bright and intelligent half-breed, made a confession of the whole matter, and after arriving at Missoula, he made substantially the same confession to other parties. From a party who heard both confessions we obtained the following: Matte says that when they arrived at Ross' Fork with the stolen horses, Gash and another man took them on to Corinne or Salt Lake and sold them, and then returned to Ross' Fork. That they remained about there a considerable length of time, during which they made the acquaintance of the man Goodwin. That Gash found out that Goodwin had quite a sum of money and proposed to him (Matte) that they should put him out of the way and get his money, and that they would have more money to bet on a horse race they were trying to make on Matte's horse. Matte says he objected to it, as he did not want to kill a man to get money. However, after repeated conversations on the matter, it was agreed that Goodwin should be killed. Goodwin was just on the eve of starting to Boise in company with two wagons. In order to make sure of their victim, they stole his horses and ran them off in the hills in order to keep him from going with the wagons. Goodwin and one or two teamsters looked a couple of days for the horses, but did not succeed in finding them. Matte having removed them and driven them up into a canyon. Failing to find his horses, the teamster proposed to him to remain a few days and look for them, and when he found them he could easily overtake the wagons. After the wagons had been gone a few days Gash and Matte proposed to help Goodwin look for the missing animals, and of course found them. It was then arranged between Gash and Matte as to their future plan of operations. Gash was to accompany Goodwin to Boise, while Matte was to remain behind until the next morning and start ostensibly to Montana, but in reality to cut across the country, join the others and accomplish their hellish deed. Goodwin and Gash started, and the next morning Matte saddled his horse and set out, telling the people with whom he had been stopping that he was off for Montana. About noon he overtook the others. Gash seemed to be quite surprised, and said that he thought he (Matte) had gone to Montana. Matte said that he had changed his mind and had concluded to go with them to Boise, and Goodwin seemed pleased to have him travel with them. It was then, while Gash and Matte were riding together, that they agreed that when they came to a good place they would camp and kill Goodwin, or to use Matte's own words, 'lay him in.' Some time during the day, they came to a good place and stopped to rest, turning their horses loose, taking some of their saddles off and leaving others on. They were then on the bank of Snake river, and after turning their horses loose, the three men were walking along, Goodwin some fifteen feet ahead, and the other two together behind, when Gash told Matte to shoot, but he says that he hesitated, and that Gash gave him a push and again told him to shoot; that he then drew his pistol and fired at Goodwin's back, who turned around and exclaimed, 'Oh! man, what are you doing?' Matte says that he then became frightened, dropped his pistol and ran for a clump of bushes some fifty yards distant, and that while he was running he heard two shots fired, but does not know who fired them. In a few minutes Gash came towards him, and they met about half way, when Gash told him that it was 'all over.' They then went to where Goodwin lay, and he was just ceasing to breathe.

"Gash then examined Goodwin's pockets and took out what money he had, amounting to two hundred and three or four dollars. Among the money was a \$100 greenback, some \$80 in coin, a \$20 bill not a greenback, but supposed to be a California gold bill, and some currency. They then put a rope around the body, hauled it to the river and threw it in, thinking thus to obliterate all traces of their bloody crime. When the firing commenced some of the horses took fright and among

them Goodwin's saddle horse, with the saddle on him. After disposing of the body Matte jumped on a horse without a saddle and ran Goodwin's horse about two miles but could not catch him, but afterwards Gash went with him and caught the horse. We had almost forgotten to mention that before putting the body in the river, Gash took from it Goodwin's knife and pistol. Goodwin had two horses, a gray and a sorrel. They gathered up their horses and started for Montana and traveled all that night and went into the hills and remained all the next day, and traveled all night the following night, after which they traveled during the day and stopped when night came. On the first or second march after the murder, Goodwin's gray horse did not lead well, but impeded their progress and Gash drew his pistol and shot him. When some ten miles above Taylor's Bridge they endeavored to trade off the sorrel horse of Goodwin's, and when near Camas Creek they found a sorrel horse standing beside the road, which they took and led to the next station, and traded it off for a white one, which they brought on toward Bannack. Sometime after they traded off the sorrel horse they had picked up, the owner came to the station, saw and claimed his property, which was given up to him, and the station-keeper started in pursuit of Gash and Matte and threatened to have them arrested, and in order to satisfy him, they gave him the hundred-dollar bill that they had taken off the body of Goodwin.

"Matte also says that somewhere on the road they traded off Goodwin's knife and pistol, giving them and five dollars for a gold ring. Goodwin's saddle they brought with them to the Bitter Root, and it is probably by this time in possession of the Sheriff. Such is the substance of the story told by young Matte. We may have erred in some few particulars, but in the main we have given it as related to us. If Matte's story is true, a more wilful, deliberate, cold-blooded murder was never planned and executed by the most desperate of 'Plumber's Band' in the dark days when the road agents held high carnival throughout Montana.

"Gash makes no confession, but says that he knows that he has done wrong, and should be punished, but that he is not guilty of killing the man.

"The arrest of these young men has brought sorrow and grief to their relatives and friends. Gash has a widowed mother, and also brothers and sisters in the Bitter Root valley, upon whom this affliction falls with a heavy hand. Matte is about sixteen years of age, and the son of Louis Matte, of Stevensville, a man near seventy years old, and extensively known to the early settlers as a man of sterling worth and honesty. This blow has almost crazed and broken the heart of the old man, who cannot long survive the grief brought upon him by this misguided and guilty son. One of the most affecting scenes of which we have ever heard or read was enacted in the jail the other evening. Young Matte was detailing the bloody story of his guilt, and among those who were present was his aged father, who almost wept tears of blood at the recital of the bloody tale. It was a spectacle that would almost melt a heart of stone."

A letter from Frank H. Woody, to the sheriff of Deer Lodge, dated Missoula, November 17, and published in the *Helena Gazette*, states that on the evening of that day, Jim Gash shot sheriff Marion and escaped from jail. It appears that Jim's younger brother, Ed, was in the jail, having called to see him, and had conveyed him a pistol. Marion had just taken Jim in from supper, when the latter asked to go to the privy. As Marion passed the privy door, Gash fired at him twice, breaking his arm above the elbow. The two Gashes then rushed out and escaped. Ed had been around town two or three days, professedly taking legal steps to have Jim released. It was supposed that they had horses and provisions ready, and might have struck for Kootenai, or Fort Benton, or Whoop-up, or Bismarck.

The following descriptions are given of the two Gashes—

"James Gash's description—About 22 years of age, 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high, round face, with a beard about two weeks old and a light moustache and heavy eye-brows; had on a white shirt with a flannel one over it, light striped pants and black coat.

"Ed. Gash, brother of James—About 21 years old, smooth, round face, stoop shouldered; 5 feet 4 or 5 inches high, wears gray clothes, considerably worn; boots nearly new with high heels; small, round gray eyes, rather weak; wears a broad brim hat."

## "THE MORMONS FOR WAR."

SUCH is the sensational big letter headline, in a New York exchange, over a dispatch from this City concerning the recent Cuban rally meeting at the City Hall. "The Mormons for Peace," would have been just as correct as its opposite. So far as we understand things, the "Mormons" as a rule and abstractly are decidedly "for peace." They are only "for war" as an unavoidable last resort, and in the especial interests of peace. In regard to this present Cuban difficulty, we do believe they are "for peace" so long as it can be honorably maintained, and "for war" when it can no longer be honorably avoided. But whether "for war" or "for peace," we believe they admire a sensible, determined, resolute policy, instead of anything of the weak, irresolute, vacillating, neither one thing nor the other kind. The honor and dignity, not the prejudice and passion, of the country should be maintained unflinchingly and at any cost, whether war or peace be in the programme necessary to effect the same.

War is a dread arbiter, and should not be lightly nor unnecessarily invoked. There is only one thing worse than war, and that is crime, but war usually presupposes crime in one or the other or both parties. War is ever demoralizing to both parties, for though it develops nobility and greatness of character in some, it also influences the worst passions and fosters the abuse of the best. It is all long time before a nation, whether victor or vanquished, recovers from the demoralization which is generally if not always the legacy of war, and there are good reasons for the opinion that defeat is less hurtful than victory to the moral status of a people. By honorable peace only can both parties win. In case of war, both parties are sure to lose, as witness the civil war in this country and its effects, and the late Franco-Prussian war and the effects so far of that.

Therefore no people can justifiably declare themselves determinedly "for war" only under circumstances where it cannot be honorably avoided, while, excepting under those circumstances, they can honorably declare themselves "for peace." Even in the case of unavoidable war they can safely declare themselves constitutionally and unreservedly "for peace," though through war as the only available means of obtaining honorable peace.

## FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES CAUSED IT.

THE sad and self-taking-off of the editor of the *Corinne Reporter* may be imputed to the influence of Spiritualism, and the consequent belief that the next life is a better one than this, which likely is the case, though one who shirks his duty in this life and turns from its responsibilities may not be received so handsomely nor welcomed so cordially as he would like to the duties, the responsibilities, and the privileges of the next life. Besides, a murderer hardly has a right to expect favorable consideration either in this life or the next, and a man who takes his own life is really guilty of murder, self-murder, provided he perpetrates the act when in the possession of his senses.

But whether Spiritualism was or was not the immediate cause of the sad event referred to, the main superinducing cause in all probability was financial difficulties, dating back to the time when the de-

ceased was one of the editors and proprietors and chief capitalists of a rabid anti-"Mormon" paper published in this city. In that unworthy and ill-starred concern the ill-advised young man sank his capital, his money fortune, to the tune of a number of thousands. He not only lost money but reputation also by the venture. He learned a good deal by dearly bought experience, and he discovered anew that all that glitters is not gold, and all the praters are not patriots. His newspaper venture in this city was another evidence that rabidity does not pay in the end. After he saw his mistake and endeavored to amend his course accordingly, his quondam friends became his manifest enemies, and worked to render his financial embarrassment more complete.

We refer to these matters because they furnish another evidence that the policy of bitter, malignant, rabid hostility to the people is a losing game, as indeed it ought to be. Of all the papers instituted in this Territory for the purpose of attacking the people, not one has proved a success, but sooner or later each has come to an ignominious end. Generally they have commenced with most angelic pretensions to purity, patriotism, and regard for the common weal, but in a very short time the cloven foot has manifested itself and the animus has been patently diabolical. They have protested altogether too much virtue, and the vice subsequently developed has been quite as extreme. Abuse unstinted, slanders most shameful, misrepresentations most outrageous, and lies unmitigated have become their staple stock in trade. They have been endowed with official patronage, and bolstered up with official favor, and still they have invariably petered out and come to naught, as they have richly deserved. Not one of them has done a fair, legitimate business, and come out straight, but each in its turn has succumbed to inevitable failure.

These things ought to prove a warning to all adventurers in the newspaper line who think to make fortunes by malignantly attacking and vilely abusing the people of this Territory and their institutions. Had Mr. Myers at first sought advice which would have been honestly and freely tendered for his good by parties who did not wish to swindle him out of his means, he would never have engaged in his unfortunate newspaper enterprise in this city, nor associated himself with those bad characters who merely professed to be his friends, and as a natural consequence he need not have thrown away his money and his life as he did, but might have been now living on good terms with himself and with his thousands of dollars in his pocket.

## THE CHIEF JUSTICESHIP.

By the dispatches which we publish to-day, it appears that President Grant has offered the Chief Justiceship of the Supreme Court of the United States to Attorney-General Williams, and the consequently to be vacated office of Attorney-General to Col. Bristow, of Kentucky. These nominations were to be before the Senate to-day.

## Our Country Contemporaries.

Ogden Junction, Dec. 1—

Mr. John Hall, of West Weber, deserves great credit for the energy he has displayed in repairing and leveling the road leading to that settlement. At his own expense and by his own labor he has placed that thoroughfare in a good condition for traveling.

The pay car of the Central Pacific Company arrived yesterday noon, and paid out a large sum to the employees of the road. We understand that the locomotive, which was attached to the car and said to have been destroyed at the fire at Rocklin, was not entirely ruined, but so badly damaged that it has been rendered useless for the present.

An interesting trio—father, mother and child—were among the passengers who arrived from the East by the Union Pacific train yesterday afternoon, and destined for the West. There is nothing wonderful in such an every-day occurrence, but the circumstances connected with their journey are