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THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

The first message of Governor John C. Cutler to the Legislature of the State of Utah is a voluminous document. It touches at considerable length on a great variety of subjects. They all relate, however, to important State affairs, and each recommendation is worthy the close attention of the Legislative Assembly. The "News" has published it in full and has also given a fair synopsis of the contents, for the benefit of persons who have not time or inclination to read the entire address. The Governor has evidently given earnest attention to Utah affairs, and has grasped the most prominent and pressing in a vigorous manner. If he had had more time at his disposal, after receiving the reports of the State officials, to condense his remarks and recommendations, the message might have been made shorter, and thus have secured a wider reading. As it is, we commend it to the close consideration of the legislators in all its parts, for it contains nothing that is not pertinent and suitable to the times. There is no need for a further recapitulation of the chief points in the address, as they have already been given in the "News." We congratulate the Governor on the tone and spirit of his message, and hope that it will be printed in pamphlet form and be widely distributed, and that his timely counsel will have due weight with the Legislative assembly.

A GREAT MIND WARPED.

The Deseret News has had occasion to animadvert on the premature conclusions arrived at by a number of newspapers, from a one-sided investigation of the case that has been, so long before the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections. Without waiting for any testimony on the part of the accused, they have formed decided opinions and given them publicity, thus endeavoring to prejudice the cause in the minds of the American public. This we consider very reprehensible and contrary to the spirit of fairness which hears both sides of a question before judging it.

Whatever license may be claimed in this respect by the journalists of the country, it can scarcely be considered just or wise on the part of a great constitutional lawyer to rush into print with no more evidence to warrant his verdict than testimony on the part of the "prosecution," if that term may be properly used, and that to a very large extent mere hearsay, opinion and "common report." But ex-Senator George F. Edmunds has taken this course, and without waiting to hear a syllable on the side of the defense, pronounces his judgment and offers a so-called remedy for the evils he assumes to exist, and all that through the columns of a religious paper called the Christian Herald.

Apart from that view of the matter, ex-Senator Edmunds betrays a woeful lack of information on the subject about which he writes. He commences by talking about the "Mormon hierarchy" and its establishment in the valley of Salt Lake. We are aware that this term is very commonly used in reference to the "Mormon" Church, and generally in that sense in which it is defined in the dictionaries, namely, "A form of government administered solely by the priesthood and the clergy." If the gentleman had taken sufficient interest in his subject to inquire into the organization of the Church, he would have learned that there is in it no "hierarchy." The form of ecclesiastical government in this Church embraces the principle of "common consent," and it gives to the entire membership of the Church so much power in determining both its doctrines and its government, that it has been made a test of in the examination before the committee, and designated as placing in the members "a veto power over the Lord." The term "hierarchy," then, so frequently repeated by Senator Edmunds and others, is entirely out of place in reference to the "Mormon" Church.

Referring to polygamy, Mr. Edmunds says "It had been condemned by the original Book of Mormon," which shows that he does not understand the prohibition as it appears in that Book, applying, as it does, entirely to a people living on this continent many ages ago, and bearing with it the announcement that when the Lord desired its establishment he would command the people. Thus the revelation supporting

that doctrine introduced in the nineteenth century, is in no way contradictory of the Book of Mormon as Mr. Edmunds desires to make appear.

Again, he says, "It having been found that polygamy could not safely be practiced and defended in Missouri, where the hierarchy was at first established, he retreated with its subjects and adherents to Illinois," etc. The facts are that the Church was not first established in Missouri, but in New York and afterwards in Ohio; that polygamy was neither taught, practiced, or defended in Missouri, and that the persecutions which drove the Saints from that State into Illinois were not founded, or pretended to be founded, on their practice or teaching of the doctrine of polygamy.

Further on, Mr. Edmunds, speaking of the appointment of President Brigham Young as Governor of Utah, says, "But when his lawfully appointed successor arrived at Salt Lake, Young refused to turn over the government, claiming a dominion derived from the Lord and the lawful officers were driven away." This shows that the gentleman is as ignorant of Utah history as he is of the previous history of the latter-day Saints, and this lack of acquaintance with the facts is exhibited throughout the entire article he has supplied to the Christian Herald.

While he quotes correctly the requirements of the Enabling act on which Utah entered the Union, in relation to the prohibition of "polygamous or plural marriages," he shows his ignorance of the enactments by the state of Utah in reference to unlawful cohabitation and kindred offenses, and assumes that there are no such laws. Everybody who knows anything of the Utah statutes is aware that the Territory of Utah adopted the provisions of the Enabling act in regard to polygamy and unlawful cohabitation, and that they were made a part of the laws of the State of Utah after its admission. It is strange, too, that after showing that the Enabling act simply provided against future plural marriages and that the State constitution copied the provision literally, so close a reasoner as ex-Senator Edmunds should attempt to lay any fault about this upon the Constitution and laws of the new State.

Again, he charges the leaders and "chief rulers" of the "Mormon" Church with "deliberately and continually carrying on the practice of polygamy." The gentleman seems to forget that he was the author of the definition of the term "polygamy." He defined it as the act of marrying a wife or husband when the legal wife or husband was living and undivorced. The offense of living with two or more women as wives, he defined as "unlawful cohabitation." He made the penalty for "polygamy" very heavy, and that for "unlawful cohabitation" comparatively light. The Utah laws on these offenses have been framed upon the foundation which he laid, and yet here he is now writing to a religious journal and confounding the two practices. He ought to know the meaning of "the practice of polygamy," and that it signifies the act of polygamous marriages, as he was himself the author of this statutory definition, and not the living together of persons in that relation.

Mr. Edmunds asserts that the investigation before the committee shows that "the hierarchy continues to control the government of the state and that the choice of officers and their official actions, in some degree at least, are subject to its control." The gentleman has undoubtedly taken the newspaper accounts of the testimony of virulent anti-"Mormons" to that effect, which is only their bare assertion without one particle of proof of actual instances of such alleged domination. The leaders of the "Mormon" Church neither claim nor exercise any such domination as that which the imagines them to wield, and we cannot help expressing surprise that a man of his experience and legal acquirements, would pronounce judgment upon such flimsy and vicious hearsay "evidence" as that which he accepts.

Ex-Senator Edmunds proposes as a remedy for the "evil" which he assumes exist in Utah, a Constitutional amendment "to prohibit polygamous marriages and plural cohabitation and provide for their punishment, and also to require all persons taking office under the Constitution or laws of the United States, or of any State, to take and subscribe an oath that he or she is not and will not be a member of any organization whatever the laws, rules, or nature of which require him or her to disregard his or her duty to support the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the several states."

There is nothing new in these suggestions, nor would there be any objection to the passage of such an amendment if there was any real occasion for its adoption. In the first place the practice of polygamy, that is, plural marriages, has been forbidden by the laws of the State, and a rule of the Church, and, as a matter of fact, they have been stopped, and there is ample power both in Church and State to prevent the contracting of any such unlawful unions, or if any such cases as those that gentleman terms "sporadic" occur, to punish them just as severely as could be effected by a federal statute. In the next place the "Mormon" Church does not require or advise or encourage any person "to disregard his or her duty to support the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the several states." On the contrary it requires and urges upon all its members to conform to those enactments.

It is a matter of regret that so eminent an authority on constitutional law as ex-Senator Edmunds is thought to be, should plunge into such a mass of error, both of fact and history, and allow his mind to be so warped by newspaper stories and one-sided assertions made by enemies of the "Mormon" Church, as to lead him into such an exhibition of error and misapprehension as is disclosed in his communication to the Christian Herald. It is but one more bit of evidence that even great minds will fall into folly, when they permit their judgment to be warped by popular prejudice and religious animosity.

OPENING THE RESERVATION.

Communications are frequently received containing requests for information concerning the opening up of the Utah reservation. According to the act of Congress on that matter, the opening is to take place on the 10th of March next, but the Land office here has as yet no information as to the details. Communications sent to the office are, we understand, filed and, as soon as the desired information is obtained, those letters will be answered in the order in which they have been received. The nearest coal camp to the reservation, that is developed, is Sunnyside, northeast of Price. The nearest railroad is the Utah road, which was opened a couple of months ago and runs from Mack Junction on the main line of the Denver & Rio Grande right into the heart of the reservation to tap the asphaltum deposits.

THE BEST POLICY.

Is it not a little strange to hear representatives of the people, gathered for the purpose of attending to public affairs, express hesitancy as to the wisdom of voting for that which they can in a position afterwards in which they cannot ask for favors of party leaders? Why should they seek favors, except at the hands of their constituents? They have been given the honor of representing them, not by party leaders, but by the people, and their duty should be to the public. Their chief consideration should be the interests of the state. "Do what is right, let the consequences follow," is an excellent motto, for the consequences of doing right are always good, ultimately, while wrong-doing always carries its curse with it.

The best policy is to have a firm conviction on all public affairs, and stand by it, until it is proved to be wrong. The man who is known to have views and to be faithful to them, is more esteemed than the one who casts his votes as the hope of future favors may dictate. It is the man of strong convictions who is sought after, and whose opinions are considered of value. Others may be wanted as tools, for special occasions, but they are not considered when useful material is needed for the rearing of massive political structures. One of the greatest evils of our time is the buying and selling of political influence. By such bargaining the very fundamental principles of the American form of government are set at naught. The intents and purposes of the laws framed for the conduct of government are defied; the public is betrayed and the interests of the people are sold as so much merchandise. It is a condition that calls for the earnest consideration of the best men and women of the country.

Most of the New Year's resolutions are now where the snows of last year are.

It may be some comfort to Governor Peabody to know that the ex's go better for the wise.

So long as the weather is not unpleasant people do not care what the weather bureau reports predict.

If all the Cain that Colorado raises were made into sugar, what a great sugar state Colorado would be.

Foreign Minister Delcasse says that the Morocco crisis has been relieved. It should feel much better now.

Mr. Bryan neglects no occasion to praise President Roosevelt. What has the President done to deserve this?

Colonel Henry Watterson says that Paris is dull. Perhaps time has dulled the Colonel's capacity for enjoyment.

It is as incumbent on the officers of the National Guard to be loyal to the Governor as it is for the men of the Guard to be loyal to their officers.

For a third time Alva Adams is governor of Colorado. No wonder ex-Governor Peabody protests when he has only been governor once.

The Kaiser is the shrewdest diplomat in Europe. Who but he would ever have thought of conferring the decoration of the Order of Merit upon both Stossel and Nogi?

The London Spectator says that in any serious encounter with a European coalition the United States would have England on its side. This is most reassuring and will quiet Uncle Sam's nerves so that he can get a little sleep.

The people of California are justly proud of the Yosemite, but some of them seem to think the recession of the reserve to the United States means that the government is going to take it away and let some other state have it. United States control of it would be better for California than California's control of it.

A Washington dispatch says that officers recently returned from the theater of war in Manchuria have given the war department interesting information. One result of the knowledge acquired is that the issue of the new United States rifle will be delayed pending an examination of the desirability of making changes in some of its features. It is an old, old story, spending millions and millions for arms and armament and when the scheme is all carried out finding that they are obsolete and something else is better and must be had. Then a new scheme is devised and carried out, only to be discarded and another substituted for it. And so it goes; and so it has gone, and so it will go. It is the task of Sisypheus.

A GREAT LEADER.

Chicago Record-Herald.  
Not only will Theodore Thomas be celebrated as the founder of the Chicago orchestra and as the educator of at least two generations of music lovers, but he will be in musical history as one of the world's great conductors. His catholicity and sympathy were as remarkable as his grasp and profundity. Some conductors—like the

late Seidl, for example—are admirable in Wagnerian and other essentially modern music. Some are at home only in the classical compositions. Some are purely emotional, others are distinguished for precision and technical perfection. Theodore Thomas had preferences, and very decided ones, but no limitations. While it is well known that Beethoven was to him the Alpha and Omega of symphonic music, he never allowed this conviction to mar in the faintest degree his treatment of other composers. He was as good in Brahms and Liszt and Tchaikovsky as he was in Beethoven and Mozart.

FOOLING THE MINISTERS.

Springfield Republican.  
Banana fritters with rum sauce were served at the recent annual dinner of the Tidewater Ministerial Association of Southern Virginia, and now every minister of the lot is being provided with a particularly sharp stick by the temperance women. One preacher asserts that there was no rum sauce, because he knows rum when he smells it. And in fact, there was a deal of cheating in the menus. Rum or brandy, so far as the world is concerned, are put on because they sound enticing, but it's a saving to use a little lemon juice. And if the W. C. T. U. will take that view no harm will have been done.

PARSIFALITIS.

New York Evening Sun.  
While Parsifalitis or Parsifolomania was prevalent in this city last year, the audience at the sacred music drama maintained an attitude of churchlike awe and reverence. This was very amusing to those of us who, on the principle of "a primrose by a river's brim," regarded the thing as an opera and nothing more. Now there is applause, with certain calls and so on. This is healthy and as it should be. New York seems to have come around to the view of Mr. James Muncker, who said on one occasion: "I do not see why the 'Meistersinger' should be called Wagner's comic opera. 'Parsifal' is the only comic opera he ever wrote."

RUSSIAN NAVAL PROGRAM.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.  
Not the least interesting fact to Americans about this Russian program is that it will put money in America's purse. If the ambitious scheme is ever carried out it will probably mean large business for American shipyards. The decided pro-Japanese sentiment in this country has been resented in official Russia, but this is apparently dying away. Certainly Russia loves us as much as she does Great Britain, and if her new naval program is ever completed she will have American and British shipbuilders chiefly to thank for it.

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me, and I have told others  
about it and they are intending  
to place some of their claims in  
your hands.  
Yours truly,  
MRS. W. G. PARKER.  
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