

DESERET NEWS.

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1879.

THE CHRISTIAN (?) LADIES' MEMORIAL.

WE notice in the press dispatches to the papers on the coast, a memorial from the Ladies' Anti-Polygamy Society of Salt Lake, urging upon President Hayes the punishment of George Reynolds and the refusal of any petition which may be presented for his pardon.

When some of those ladies on the occasion of their former attempt to invoke Congressional vengeance against the "Mormons," were shown the sorrow and trouble and pain and poverty which would naturally overtake the plural wives of Utah and their children, if the law of 1862 were generally enforced, they answered that they had no desire to inflict punishment upon anyone or to do anything in regard to the past, but only to prevent the spread of polygamy in the future, and that their efforts to prevail upon Congress to do something in the matter were not directed to any point except the extension of the practice in this and the surrounding Territories.

How does their present memorial comport with these protestations? They are directing their energies towards the incarceration behind prison walls, of a man who has sincerely and honestly entered into matrimonial engagements which he and his two wives believe to be in accordance with the laws of God, and not injurious to any of their fellow creatures. In the charity of their Christian souls, these ladies, members of various religious denominations, wish to put the husband in a dungeon, leave his wives to fight the battle of life alone, and their little children to grow up without the care and providing hand of their father. Is not this a striking exemplification of the sweetness of Christian womanhood, and a plain proof that they do not wish to bring trouble upon any one nor inflict punishment for the past, but only to prevent polygamy in the future?

They may argue, or rather repeat the arguments of the vile men who prompt them—for they are but puppets in the hands of certain male wire pullers that might be named—and say they wish this defendant punished as a warning to others. Indeed? Do any of the memorialists believe for a moment that extreme measures will have any repressive effect upon either men or women of the "Mormon" Church? We do not think they have any idea that it will. Bonds, pains, penalties and proscription never yet destroyed a religious innovation. They never will. The convictions which are stamped upon the souls of the people here in regard to plural marriage, cannot be burned out by the fire of the faggot nor stifled by the close air of a prison cell. Force will only increase their intensity and act as an incentive to active resistance.

If the "Mormons" are in the wrong, the very worst way to convince them of their error is to bind them in chains or smite them with the arm of the law. If "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church," the infliction of this punishment will multiply polygamy. The principle is the same. No one outside of the "Mormon" Church knows better than these same memorialists that its members are fervent in their faith as to the divine origin of its marriage system. Yet these professedly Christian ladies memorialize the head of the nation, and ask that one who has exercised a religious right, which he supposed was guaranteed to him under the Constitution of our country, "be compelled to serve the imprisonment to which he has been sentenced, as a wholesome warning to his brother Saints." What sublime, womanly pity for the erring! What tender feminine regard for their own sex threatened with bereavement! What gentle, motherly feeling for the little ones! What Christlike sorrow over the

"brother" whom they suppose has gone astray! If they should succeed in their labor of love, what satisfaction they will enjoy in this world and in the world to come, and what strong claims they will have upon the Divine mercy and an abundant entrance into Abraham's bosom, with the society and companionship of Sarah, Rebecca, Deborah, Hannah and the rest of the holy woman of old, and the grand, many-wived Patriarchs and Prophets who walked with God while in the flesh and now surround His throne in the eternal glory!

We are sorry to see any one waste so much time as those self-constituted female representatives of implacable vengeance have squandered, in the vainest attempts that have ever been made to bring trouble upon the "Mormons," and view their present unfeminine ebullition of malice as unworthy of any lady who makes the slightest pretension to the possession of a Christian spirit.

POOR CREATURES!

THE *Christian (?) Advocate* for May contains several rabid anti-"Mormon" items of the ordinary stamp, which are too stale as well as too small to notice. But we will just mention a reference made in its columns to the present Presbyterian raid on the purses of eastern tender-hearts, because it shows how it works upon the Salt Lake Methodist subscription gatherer. After stating that "several thousands of dollars are already contributed and thousands more are in prospect," to aid the Presbyterians in the work of misrepresenting Utah, the *Advocate* says:

"Where is the Methodist Church? A few years ago she led all churches in the work of education, now she is rapidly settling to the rear. To our humiliation, be it said, the church authorities in the States does not appreciate the importance of education in Utah and are leaving us to ourselves. But it may not always be so. Gentlemen statesman and philanthropists of the M. E. Church in the east—wake up, please wake up on this subject."

It is "humiliating," is it not, that the "authorities does not [advanced educational grammar] appreciate" the imposition which has been practised upon them by their begging brethren from Salt Lake, but have left them to themselves? Also that the Presbyterians have stolen the Methodist stage thunder and are now gathering in dollars on the same old story, but slightly changed, which was invented by the Methodist Lyford, and telling startled Presbyterian audiences in the East that one of their ministers "had to preach his first sermon in Utah with a revolver laid across the Bible to protect himself from 'Mormon' assassins who had sworn to take his life." Lyford used to state that he had to have the Bible in one hand and a pistol in the other, and to make a little variation, for different audiences, shifted the carnal and spiritual weapons to his coat tail pockets.

We pity these poor creatures who have exhausted the patience of charitable "Mormons" here, and surfeited their once credulous coreligionists in the east with their absurd fabrications, false in warp and woof and without a thread of simple truth, and now find themselves distanced by their Presbyterian competitors in the race for dollars. But if they are being left to themselves now, what will be their condition when Eternal Justice shall measure out to them their just deserts, and they find themselves outside the Holy City, whose gates bear the names of the twelve polygamist patriarchs, in that place which is reserved for all "who love and make a lie?"

THE DEMONSTRATION.

Frank Leslie's *Illustrated Newspaper* for May 31st has a supplement containing pictures of the recent grand demonstration in this city in honor of Counselor Daniel H. Wells. The artist has drawn somewhat on his imagination, but has succeeded in giving a pretty good idea of the procession, and makes no attempt at carica-

ture or intentional misrepresentation. The letter press account of the demonstration is fair and candid, and concludes as follows:

"Those who think 'Mormonism' is weakening are mistaken. In Brigham Young's palmist days he could have done no more than has been done on this occasion."

Mr. Jas. Dwyer has disposed of all the copies he received of this number, but has telegraphed for more which will arrive in a few days.

NIHILISM.

EVERYBODY has heard about Nihilism, but few, outside of the circle of its adherents, understand what it is. That Russia is the immediate sphere of its operations and that the name signifies the destruction of everything is well known. But the aims and objects of these who belong to the secret society of Nihilists are not generally comprehended. Assassination is one of its principles and many public men have fallen victims to its decrees, but the reasons for their immolation are not clear to the public. And it appears that its power is not confined within the dominions of the Czar, but is extending to other countries. The Russian Consul at New York, recently received the following communication, for it seems that Nihilism warns before it strikes:

C. C. R. R.

A nos amis, salut! a nos ennemis, le defi!

FIRST WARNING.

The Russian Revolutionary Committee, in special session assembled has adopted the following resolution:

Whereas Pierre Kartchewsky, Consul General of the autocrat Alexander Nicolajewitch, at New York, has uttered certain slanderous insinuations and base falsehoods in New York society against one of our most honored and trusted friends, a gentleman whose personal character and patriotic valor stand so far above that of this despot's hireling that it is superfluous to say a word in vindication; they have been tested both in the field of battle and of diplomacy. "And whereas, all this has been done in order to prejudice our just cause and deprive us of the well-deserved sympathies of the humane and liberty loving American people, in our desperate struggle for emancipation from a disgraceful and unworthy bondage, inconsistent with the progressive spirit of the nineteenth century.

Whereas, further, the above-named Pierre Kartchewsky has made himself particularly obnoxious to our Order by transferring to this free soil the contemptible system of Romanoff espionage; now, therefore, be it resolved, "To forward to the above-named Pierre Kartchewsky the first warning, that should he persist in his infamous conduct, the consequences will be mainly disastrous to him as they have invariably been to those who have disregarded our warnings."

The above named resolution has been unanimously adopted and the Secretary is hereby instructed to forward copies of this resolution to those whom it may concern.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE.

A Monsieur le Prince Pierre de Kartchewsky, Consul-General de Russie, New York.

This formidable document indicates the existence in this country of an organized branch of the Nihilistic tree, but does not make plain the motives nor claims of the society. That men and women should band together for the destruction of law, government, society, order and peace and to bring about chaos and nothingness, seems too preposterous for belief. Yet this is the prevalent idea of the nature of Nihilism.

The only explanation we have seen which throws any satisfactory light on this mysterious subject, is contained in an account of an interview with a prominent agent of this secret Order, said to have been obtained with great difficulty, and after strong pledges of concealment of the name and whereabouts of the

agent, by a representative of the *New York Herald*.

From the statements alleged to have thus been made it appears that Nihilism aims at the destruction of the whole system of government introduced into Russia from the time of Vladimir I, and particularly by the Romanoff dynasty, with the civilization and religious formalism of the Greek Church. This signifies a return to the old Slavonic patriarchalism, which prevailed in Russia before either Greek or Mongolian influences spread over the land, followed by the centralization that held sway down to the time of Peter the Great, who introduced features of western civilization, which it appears are as obnoxious to the Nihilists as the orientalisms of the Tartars.

The ancient Slavic tribes were a pastoral and agricultural people, industrious, hospitable, patriotic, and peaceable except when attacked or their country invaded. Their chiefs were chosen in public assemblies and their form of government was a mixture of patriarchalism and republicanism. Their religion was originally monotheistic, but degenerated into a sort of pantheism bearing some resemblance to the creeds of India. The chiefs acted as priests, the worship was held in groves and temples, and sacrifices were offered of fruits and animals.

According to the agent mentioned above, the birth of Nihilism may be dated from the time of Nicholas I, whose despotism, with the rapacity of the officials whom he appointed without regard to birth or education, embittered not only the peasantry but the nobility of the empire. Large gangs of Polish exiles driven in chains to Siberia sowed the seeds of disaffection and hatred towards the Government by the way, a distance of about 3,000 miles. The Pan-Slavonic movement and literature aided in bringing forth the fruits of Nihilism. Pan-Slavonism looked to a unity of interests among all the Slavic populations, but varied from time to time in its plans and methods, sometimes advocating a democratic union of all Slavonians, and at others a confederation under the Czar of Russia. The abolition of serfdom, strange to say, has helped to develop Nihilism. While apparently endowing the emancipated serfs with land and the right of emigration, it is pronounced a "curse instead of a blessing." For the landowners being given free choice either to endow the peasants gratuitously with the huts and lots of ground on which they stood, without any claim for arable land, or to endow them with tillable land at a fixed price, in cases where the land was valuable gave them the miserable novels in which they lived but no land, while in cases where the land was barren, they forced the peasants to take it in full complements, at a price far beyond its worth.

The Nihilistic movement is thus made to have this difference with the socialistic and communistic schemes of other parts of Europe, with which, however, it is in sympathy: while the latter have their strongholds in the cities, the former spreads throughout the rural districts. Communism is chiefly urban, Nihilism is agrarian.

The name Nihilism was not attached to this movement until 1866. Under the pretence of the discussion of the question of slavery, during the civil war in America, a number of works were published and freely distributed in Russia without exciting the suspicion of the police and government spies, in which the social problems of Russian life and the abuses under which the people suffered were vividly portrayed. In a novel by Turganief, entitled "Fathers and Sons," the word "Nihilism" was given to the system which was spreading like wildfire throughout the country. The most extreme doctrines of socialism were treated of in the novels and pamphlets in circulation and took deep root in the Russian heart. Thus Nihilism in its completeness came not only to embrace the idea of the destruction of the Empire, the Church and Society, but also of Marriage. Tchernenchewski, who was banished in irons to Siberia, taught communism and free love in their fullest sense.

But these ideas have been somewhat modified of late. The failure of the Paris Commune opened the eyes of some of the leading spirits of the movement, and they began to perceive the necessity of the sympathy of the better classes of

Russian society, and the result has been the adoption of plans for the establishment of a republic based on universal suffrage, recognizing the equality of all citizens before the law, granting full toleration for all religions, a return to the peasantry of the lands which were in their possession before the reign of the Romanoffs, and transfer to the communes of tenure of those large tracts held by individual owners.

Nihilism in this modified form is being embraced by all sections of society, including the nobility, the clergy and the army. members are sworn to sacrifice property and life, if necessary, the cause of liberty. The system of all the secret societies of Europe have been studied from which to perfect this; assassination is adopted and defended as justifiable in an oppressed people against their oppressors and the Romanoff family is denounced as the most dissolute and bloody family in Europe, which can only be affected by retaliation and the exercise of that vengeance which its members have wreaked so terribly and freely on others.

The foregoing is only a meagre account of the vast movement, which is undermining the constitution of the great empire of northern Europe, but contains enough to give some idea of a popular subject about which so little is known. These are times of turbulence, revolution and the extreme of liberty. Great changes will soon take place among the old established monarchies of the world. And among them not the least by any means will be the disruption of the dominion of the Czars, which in all probability will be shaken from centre to circumference by the agency of the formidable and secret organization imperfectly known under the name of Nihilism.

A SIMPLE REQUEST.

A LARGE number of preachers of various "Christian" denominations arrived in Ogden last evening. Some of them came to this city on the passenger train this morning, and the rest will reach here this evening. We bid them welcome. We hope they will enjoy their visit and obtain as much correct information about Utah as is possible on a sojourn of forty-eight hours in the Territory.

It might seem impertinent to ask of these clerical visitors that when they write and speak about our affairs, religious, social or political, they will tell nothing but facts, because from their standing and profession they are supposed to be, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion. But the Latter-day Saints have received so much misrepresentation from "Christian" ministers, particularly if they have had the extraordinary experience of sleeping one night in the stronghold of "Mormonism" that we have good reasons for making this request. They would not very strongly to being judged as we generally are, by the statements of bitter enemies. Yet very few of those who write or preach about the "Mormons" make any attempt to draw their information from the authorized publications of our Church, or the statements of its appointed representatives. If the Savior of the world should be tried on such testimony he would be condemned as a wine-bibber, a coarser with harlots, a treasonable pretender to kingly powers, who suffered an ignominious death for his offences and whose body was stolen from the tomb by his disciples to raise the pretense that he was resurrected from the dead.

We do not expect that all men will view our faith and formula through our eyes. Neither do we condemn or anathematize those who honestly differ with us or actively oppose our doctrines and practices. We claim religious liberty, the freedom of speech and of the press, and the right to combat what we believe to be error by all legitimate means, and we frankly accord this freedom to others. But we do object to misrepresentation and defamation of our principles and character and the lives and objects of our leading men. We do object to articles and sermons against certain views and actions attributed to us without any reason in truth. We do object to the impudent assumption of persons, who, after a flying visit to our chief city,