

The impression which Mr. A. T. Wood sought to make upon the public mind by the publication of the fraudulent card was that one thousand dollars cash had been paid to Mr. Keyes in settlement of his loss, whereas not one cent was paid. The only consideration given was a note payable at ninety days for four hundred dollars less than the amount stated in the card. We do not desire to depreciate the prospects of Idelman Brothers for payment of their account, but in view of the course of A. T. Wood, we should judge that that individual's paper would not bring more than ten cents on the dollar, if that much. We understand that the Midland concern has been doing considerable business at Ogden, on the strength of the supposed settlement of the claim accruing from the skating rink fire. Even before that we are credibly informed that not a few persons in that town invested money in the Midland, by taking out fire policies. In view of the facts narrated in this article, we should think that the alleged company will not have a rush of business for some time to come. If we are mistaken in this idea, than there are more simpletons around than we imagined.

THE ALTA CATASTROPHE.

THE news of the fearful disaster at Alta created a sensation in this city. Although the public have become familiar with casualties of this character, as scarcely a winter has passed for years without the occurrence of a number of them, yet we do not recollect of any single accident by which so many human lives have been lost at one sweep. Some individuals express wonder that, in view of the dangers common to the surrounding mountain fastnesses at certain times of the year, people can still be found to reside in them during the winter season. But so long as labor can be had in those exposed places, people will be found, impelled by choice or necessity, to perform it, let the risk attending its prosecution be ever so great. It is a matter of regret, however, showing the unevenness of human affairs, that many persons are compelled almost to enter the jaws of death to earn the means of living.

GOVERNOR MURRAY AND THE ELECTION LAW.

We publish in this issue of the News the act of the Legislature providing for elections, also a message to the Council from the Governor stating some of his reasons for disapproving of the bill. We invite a careful reading of both documents. We consider the bill an excellent measure, fully equal to the requirements of the Territory and in strict conformity to the laws of Congress. The veto message is a characteristic paper, ungrammatical in many of its expressions, false in some of its statements, incorrect in a portion of its citations of law, bitter and unjustifiable in its general tone and insinuations, and just such a document as might be expected from its author.

We have only time and space to-day for brief allusion to the salient points of the message. The Governor says: "I will file the bill with the Secretary of the Territory. It is disapproved." He is a great stickler for a certain section of the Organic Act, or rather for his interpretation of its meaning. He ought to be mindful of other provisions of organic law, and we will cite for his benefit Section 1842 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, which says:

"Every bill which has passed the Legislative Assembly of any Territory shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the Governor. If he approve, he shall sign it but if not, he shall return it with his objections to that house in which it originated, and that house shall enter the objections at large upon its journal etc."

Let the Governor honor the law he has sworn to uphold and return the bill with his veto, and the Council will, no doubt, enter his objections upon the journal, otherwise they have the right to treat his insulting message as waste paper. The Governor informs the Assembly that by the provisions of the act of Congress, known as the Edmunds law:

"Every duty relating to the registration of voters, the conduct of elections and returning the results thereof was imposed upon a Board of five persons appointed by the President of the United States."

This is not true. The Edmunds law made no such provision. It provided that until other provisions be made by the Legislative Assembly, the duties here enumerated should be performed under the existing laws of the United States and said Territory, by proper persons who should be appointed by a board of five persons to be appointed by the President. The Governor might as well say that these duties of registration and election were to be performed by the Legislature, as to state that they were to be performed by the Commission. The difference is great and he should not attempt to quote law unless he quotes it correctly.

After some ungrammatical and awkward references to the laws of 1862 and 1882, he intimates that the Legislature is required by the Edmunds law to pass enactments which will tend to uproot polygamy, and asks, "does the bill tend to this by providing against those disqualified by Congress," or "does its provisions tend to make inoperative all Congressional Acts relating to the subject?" The intimation is incorrect, for there is nothing in the Edmunds Act that imposes any such duty upon the Legislature of Utah, and the questions are answered by the bill itself. It provides that no person shall register without subscribing to an oath containing the words: "I am not disqualified as a voter by any law of the United States or the Territory of Utah." The Edmunds law provides: "That no bigamist, polygamist, or any person cohabiting with more than one woman, and no woman cohabiting with either of the persons aforesaid * * * shall be entitled to vote at any election," etc. The bill under consideration requires that every person before being registered shall swear that he or she is not disqualified by any law of Congress or of this Territory. Does not this "provide against those disqualified by Congress?" And how can it be truthfully charged that the bill "tends to make inoperative all Congressional enactments on the subject?"

Section three of the bill, to which the Governor objects, is substantially a re-enactment of existing provisions which will remain in force without any new law, and examination shows that it is simply for the purpose of filling vacancies in county offices, and according to the Governor's own showing is pursuant to powers conferred by Section Seven of the Organic Act, and here he objects because the Legislature does not re-enact one of the provisions of that everlasting section, requiring that officers appointed under the laws of the Territory shall be commissioned by the Governor. Of what earthly benefit would such re-enactment be to him or anyone else? The law is in force, and it would be no more in force by local legislative enactment. He would have no more commissioning to do if it was copied a thousand times. We are led to wonder why the Governor does not insist upon the repetition of some clause of Section Seven of the Organic Act in every bill passed by the Legislature.

The Governor complains that in the qualifications for office-holders prescribed in Sections Six to Nine, it is not required that they shall be citizens or registered voters. But reference to those sections shows that no person can hold any office of public trust in the Territory unless he is qualified to register as a voter. All the qualifications required of a voter, then, are required of an officeholder. What more can be asked? Is it not evident that nothing that the Legislature could do in this direction would satisfy an Executive that is predetermined not to be satisfied?

The Governor asserts that, "The Edmunds law makes the registration officers judges of the qualifications of officers and electors in Utah Territory." This is another untruth. It confers no more power upon them than the territorial statutes bestow upon registration officers. Not a line or a word of the kind can be found in any section of the Edmunds law. What need be said of an argument based upon such a falsehood, and what of the insulting and unmanly accusation at its close, that the provision of the bill under consideration tempts men to override the laws of Congress?

We come now to the Governor's remarks on Section Ten as it relates to woman suffrage. Of course he objects. Examine the section. All that it contains on this question is the words "or female." It makes the qualifications for a woman voter the same as for a male voter. And what is the objection? Hear it. He regards "the existing law of doubtful validity," and "declines to approve any act giving it vitality." The objections offered to the old law will not apply to the new, therefore he will not sign the new. There's logic for you! The new law would repeal the old, but he will not sign the new law because it would give the old one "vitality." He will not sign the new law because he doesn't like the old one that would be abolished if he signed the new law. What a wonderful statesman and reasoner we have in our veto-making Executive!

The statement that immigrants in this Territory are isolated from Republican influences is a palpable and absurd untruth, and a very poor excuse for objection to the provision, in pursuance to an Act of Congress, conferring the elective franchise upon non-citizens who have declared their intentions to become such and have taken an oath of fidelity to the Constitution and laws of the country.

The next point to be considered is another of Governor Murray's extraordinary falsehoods. He quotes in full the oath formulated by the Utah Commission, and states that it was "required to be taken under the Edmunds law." There is not only no oath of any kind mentioned in that law, but there is no authority specified therein authorizing Commissioners or anyone else to prescribe or require any oath of any description whatever. But he complains that the oath prescribed in the bill is defective because it leaves the applicant for registration to judge of his own qualifications. We have shown the untruth of the state-

ment here repeated by the Governor that the registration officer is made by the Edmunds law the judge of the qualifications of the voter. And the answer to the objection, and to the statement that this oath would permit every polygamist to vote, is found in Section Thirty-eight of the bill:

"If any person who is required by this Act to take an oath shall falsely swear, such person shall be deemed guilty of perjury."

Passing over some frivolous objections which we have not now space to notice we, come to his quibble about the ballots. The method of requiring the envelopes in which the ballots are deposited to be furnished by the County Board, and to be uniform in color and size, without any marks, writing, printing or device upon them, and leaving the voter to put in what ballot he pleases, has been commended everywhere as the best protection to a secret ballot and against fraudulent voting. The Governor wants the ballots to be uniform, in size, color etc. This would require the ballots to be furnished to the voters, would prevent any voter from providing his own ballot, and thus do much towards defeating the object in view of a secret vote.

In closing the Governor repeats the untruth about the requirements made upon the Legislature by the Edmunds law. He says it "imposes upon the present Legislature the important duty of enacting laws that will aid the government in its efforts to suppress what it regards as organized crime." He makes no quotation from the law in support of this assertion, but has the hardihood to refer to Section Nine. Everything in that section imposed upon the Legislature is the duty of providing for registration and election officers. This the Legislature has done, and done well, and the Governor now stands in the way to destroy the labor they have performed in accordance with the law of Congress. What they are required to do, he aims to prevent. What he claims they ought to do is not in the law, and he knows it. The law says, in effect, that the Commission shall remain in office until the Legislature makes the very provisions embodied in the bill which he has vetoed, and the inference is clear, that his object is to retain the Commission in office, thwart the wishes of the great body of citizens of the Territory—a course he has taken from the beginning—and from the failure of the needful law now rendered void by his act, to work upon the country for additional agitation against a people whom he has taken the utmost pains to abuse and misrepresent.

The last paragraph in the message relates to matters that have no bearing whatever upon the bill, and have been thrust in by the Governor in his usual disingenuous manner, to further prejudice the country against the people of Utah. For like other documents purporting to be addressed to the Assembly, the message is written for outside use, and is intended to aid in the present crusade for the enslavement of the citizens of this Territory, and the exaltation of the writer to a still more extended exercise of the tyrannical and un-American one man power.

BEECHER AND THE MORMONS.

A LATE issue of the New York World contains the following special from Washington, dated March 6th:

"Henry Ward Beecher's plan, for the settlement of the Mormon question, as outlined in his lecture of last evening, has attracted the attention of a number of Congressmen. He believes that adverse legislation has only the effect of strengthening the Mormon Church and its peculiar institutions. Education and the encroaching influences of surrounding civilization are the two irresistible weapons for securing the downfall of the Mormon power. It is hardly probable, in view of the present temper of Congress, that there will be any additional legislation this winter upon the Mormon question."

OUR DELEGATE AT WORK.

THE telegraph informs us that Hon. John T. Caine, Delegate to Congress from Utah, addressed the House Committee on Territories on Saturday, in criticism of the Cassidy bill, H. R. 946, which proposes to substitute a Legislative Commission for the Legislative Assembly of this Territory. The points made by our Delegate are not very clearly expressed in the dispatch, so we must wait for fuller particulars before making any comment. The Cassidy bill in the House is similar to the Culom bill in the Senate. But the introducer of the measure in the House is a Democrat, and in his bitterness towards the majority of the people of Utah, does violence to the fundamental principles of his political creed by presenting a measure for the destruction in this Territory of the last scrap of local self-government left to its citizens. Senator Culom is equally bitter, but being a Republican, his advocacy of a similar measure is not open to the same objection that applies to the demagoguery of Mr. Cassidy. We do not think Congress has yet reached so low a point as to enact either of the

propositions for the establishment of an oligarchy in Utah. We are pleased to see that our Delegate is active in his labors.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Oscar Wilde is in a repentant mood, and says it is impossible for him to do anything of which the American people will approve. This causes an exchange to state that Mr. Wilde is mistaken, intimating that if he were to come to this country and commit suicide all would be forgiven. This is a cruel remark.

A Kentuckian of Lexington made a bet that he could name 100 women in his town handsomer than Mrs. Langtry. He wrote out his list, but the editor of the paper to whom it was submitted for publication declined to print it, on the ground that the friends of those who were not among the 100 would riddle him with bullets.

Professor Ayrton is of the opinion that the day for electric tricycles has not yet come, because of the difficulty of getting the supply of stored electricity replenished, though he believes that the period is not far distant when that curious contrivance, an electric tricycle, may be taken on a tour, and the smallest item of expense in the case will be that chargeable to electricity.

An electric bouquet was presented to the Crown Prince of Austria, a short time ago, at Vienna, which consisted of a group of snowy globes, inside of each of which was an incandescent lamp, fed from small storage batteries in the vase. The capacity of the battery was found sufficient to maintain a brilliant illumination for three days.

Among the new applications of cotton is its use, in part, in the construction of houses, the material employed for this purpose being the refuse, which, when ground up with about an equal amount of straw and asbestos, is converted into a paste, and this is formed into large slabs or bricks, which, acquire, it is said, the hardness of stone, and furnish a really valuable building stock.

O'Donovan Rossa sounds the warning loud and bold for Irishmen of all shades to keep from near the British House of Parliament. He or his men mean to blow them up with dynamite. Speaking of him an exchange remarks: "This fellow should be arrested for vagrancy and compelled to show an ability to earn his living by other means than his mouth and the misapplied popular subscriptions of the real friends of Ireland."



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