

# DESERET NEWS:

## WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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### THE MESSAGE.

THE message of President Arthur which we print to-day in full and which came in excellent shape by the Western Union Telegraph line, is a well considered and temperate document, embracing a great variety of topics and couched in plain and understandable language. We find little to object to in his recommendations to Congress with the exception of his references to Utah, silver coinage and internal revenue. We think that the revenue tax on tobacco and other luxuries as well as distilleries spirits might be retained with profit to the country and no injury to individuals. It seems to us that it would be wrong policy to cripple the silver interest, and that by stopping the issue of one dollar and two dollar notes the silver dollar might come into more general use; we consider the President's remarks on the silver question as in the interest of the gold kings rather than for the general welfare. And we regard his recommendations about Utah as so much Republican twaddle, in keeping with the enunciations of his party but not designed for practical purposes. We need not dwell on this. There is nothing new in it. It is not very likely to have much influence except on the minds of men who care nothing for the Constitution nor the rights of citizens, so long as they can carry a point and pander to the prejudices of their constituents. In the main we think the message sound and conservative. And if there is nothing very remarkable in it, there is no very remarkable issue at present before the country requiring special mention in a President's message.

### APPEARING IN A NEW ROLE.

THE Salt Lake *Tribune* has become profoundly prophetic. The gusher of that sheet has fallen upon this paragraph, which has been going the rounds for some time:

"Recent researches show that electioneering was carried on in ancient Pompeii very much as at the present day. Inscriptions have been found informing the public that 'a vote for Lentulus is a vote for honest government,' and asking all patriotic citizens to vote for 'Balbus, the true friend of the people.'"

The *Tribune* describes Balbus as a "dashing kind of a man," a reader, thinker and orator, and says that in the political campaign he

"Passed through the land like a pillar of fire, and men, listening to him, wondered if the mighty men, whose names illumined history, were really grander than he.

"Lentulus was a different kind of a man. He had grown up among the hills of Noricum; he had never seen salt water in his life; he had read few books; he had never heard an impassioned speaker pronounce a syllable except once."

Further on the gusher says:

All admitted there was no comparison between the men; either in ability or in the services each had rendered his country. But the friends of Lentulus found out that Balbus had owned some stock in a road which was designed to connect Pannonia with the sea coast in Illyricum; that he found out that the stock promised to be a good investment while he was senator in Rome, and they employed the shrewdest artists in Pompeii to picture him as a rogue. Among the people there were not many who could read. There was not much to be said about but they understood picture lessons.

Lentulus was "elected by a scratch" and the barbarians rejoiced.

But here comes the prophetic part:

"Meanwhile, the gods had been watching from the mountain tops, and when the returns were all in they descended into Vesuvius, lighted her awful fires, and buried Pompeii with all her people, all her hoarded wealth, all her sin and all her pleasures so deep that the dreadful burial place was not opened for more than eighteen hundred years. The destruction came so swiftly that even the posters of the campaign were left on the walls."

According to all this the unthinking masses rejected the brilliant Blaine because of the Little Rock Stock cartoons, and accepted the semi-barbarous Cleveland because he had made no record. As a consequence of all this, the great Republic is to be suddenly knocked into chaos, buried under the weight of its own accumulated cor-

ruption. This is a strong prophecy, and comes with questionable grace from a source which has made it a point to greatly deprecate any prognostications that we have indulged in about coming trouble upon the country. This assumption of the role of predictor of universal disaster upon the Republic because of a supposed mistake in the late election is something new. Hitherto every evil with which the country was to be afflicted in the future was to originate with the toleration of the "Mormons."

### GROUND AND LOFTY TUMBLING.

SOMETIME since Governor Murray was the object of frequent ovations at the hands of the clique of anti-"Mormon" office hunters who expected preferment at his hands, providing the anti-American party succeeded in placing the Territory under a legislative commission, with his Excellency at its head. They habitually tendered him taffy in such mammoth doses as to sicken sensible people who observed him swallow the huge masses of the sticky stuff.

On one of these occasions at which the mutual admiration business reached the point of what might be termed sublime absurdity, we commented to the effect that as soon as the political props were knocked from under Mr. Murray, the transient admiration exhibited for him would vanish like "the snowfall in the river, a moment white, then melts forever."

Just previous to the occasion referred to Mr. Murray had returned from a trip through the East, where he had himself interviewed by newspaper men, to work up a journalistic furore in favor of a legislative commission for Utah. "At the mutual admiration gathering he was sycophantically lauded to the skies as a hero of the first magnitude, and the poor man apparently took it all down, while those who lifted him to the stars with hypocritical adulation doubtless smiled at his veridancy. He was too full for utterance, and had to take a stride or two across the platform before he could give expression to the thoughts that swelled his bosom and enlarged his head until both were about prepared to burst.

We felt positive then that a collapse would come, and said so at the time, but hardly thought it would arrive so soon. The treatment Mr. Murray is now receiving at the hands of the office-hunters, who appear to have no more use for him now that his cake appears to be devoid of rising properties is shameful. He used to be denominated "the white plumed knight of Utah," and propositions for three rousing cheers for "Murray's mathematics" were wont to be responded to with boisterous acclaim, but a silence deep as death seems to have supervened.

He used to be tickled with suggestions of his fitness for the honored position of second man on the Presidential ticket. Were it not that those who formerly looked to him as a source from whom local political preferment could be attained under a much-desired autocracy for which the "Liberals" have so long panted, view him in the light of a dead duck, he would now probably be flattered with assertions that he would be just the man for a place in Mr. Cleveland's prospective cabinet, as an independent Republican.

But the anti-"Mormon" office-seekers have no present use for poor Mr. Murray. He must now content himself with the admiration of a few tippling loafers with whom he can frequently be seen sitting upon the doorsteps of a saloon on the sunny side of the street.

It is a downright shame for his former flatterers to drop him like a tuber at high temperature. The neglect is altogether too sudden, and we suggest that a regular rousing taffy-distributing convention be called for the purpose of giving Governor Murray one more gigantic dose of the sweet medicine for which he, in the glowing days of a few months ago, has shown himself to be the possessor of a most capacious swallow. The politically defunct Mr. Cassidy, the Nevada Hibernian to whom the "Liberal" representatives of Salt Lake—including the Governor *de facto* and the Governor *de jure* of Utah carried the anti-"Mormon" taffy bucket all the way to Ogden, might be invited to participate.

An adulation convention might serve to sweeten the bitter cup of disappointment, and tend to let the former mighty—but now useless—men down easy. The present neglect of them is too palpable; it is positively frigid. To treat the "plumed knight of Utah" after the manner of a worn out, cast off shoe, is directly the reverse of magnanimous. Shame on those who formerly held him up in the hope of using him as a political ladder by which to climb into office.

### AN ABSURD PROPOSAL.

THE Chicago *Herald* has begun to speculate upon the course that will be pursued by the Democratic party toward the "Mormons," when it ascends into power. It is not very sanguine about the Saints being used up, but expresses an opinion that something should be done to stop accessions to the Church from abroad.

Besides the absurd character of this

proposition, the ground upon which it would have an embargo placed upon "Mormon" immigration is stupendously foolish. It is to be done on the bare assumption that those who come to Utah on account of their connection with the Church are "intending criminals."

How the criminal intent is to be established does not appear. It looks as if our Chicago cotemporary took the position that people should be prevented from coming to this country because it might be supposed that there existed in their minds a probable intention of at some time in the future committing a breach of the laws.

The *Herald* admits one great barrier against legislative onslaughts upon the "Mormons." The Constitution stands in the way. In fact, it is clearly admitted that, in order to strike a blow at them, a simultaneous assault would have to be made upon the principles of human freedom and democracy, which are synonymous. The hand that holds the weapon must be stretched over the great safeguard of liberty. Were it not for this barrier, doubtless the attack and attempted demolition would not be long delayed.

The following quotation from the paper we have named admits that the Latter-day Saints are entrenched behind the Constitution, which forms a breastwork of defense for comparatively helpless minorities who may be threatened by popular majorities:

"They will suffer, as the Republicans have suffered, by the difficulty of proceeding against the Mormons constitutionally. If it was only necessary to devise some ordinary measure of repression, the task would be comparatively easy, but the Supreme Court of the United States must be guarded against, and to do that laws must be weakened almost to the point of destruction."

The proposal to stop the "Mormon" emigration on the ground of intending criminality advanced by the Chicago *Herald* is unworthy that bright and incisive journal. It is a reasonless suggestion, without basis. Any step in that direction would have to be taken under authority of law, and a legal enactment to put people at a disadvantage because of a supposed probability of their future acts not being in conformity with legal requirements, would be the laughing stock of the world. It would presuppose the possession, in the breasts of the administrators of law, a sort of supernatural divining power, by which they could perceive the present thoughts as leading to prospective acts of their fellow creatures.

As human law only relates to overt acts and not to probable deeds based on suppositional present intentions, we might be allowed to suggest that the legislative and administrative departures involved in the suggestion of our Chicago cotemporary are too wide a step to be taken all at once. It should think a little before it speaks on a subject of that character, and save itself from assuming an exceedingly foolish position.

But the "Mormon" immigrants from abroad are not intending criminals. They gather around one central point with the purest motives, make the most exemplary and law-abiding citizens, and we apprehend that the managing editor of the Chicago *Herald* is more or less aware of that fact, as he paid a visit to Utah some time ago, and a gentleman as bright and intelligent as he could not have his eyes altogether closed to the merits of this community, even during a brief sojourn, but the desire to cater to popular clamor and prejudice appears to shunt most men off the track of consistency.

If the Chicago *Herald* or any other journal has any substantial basis upon which to found an embargo on emigration we would like to have it described. The New York *Mail and Express* once advocated the embargo business. We asked it how, under this government, it could be established and applied, and what would be the *modus operandi*, but it never attempted an explanation. We do not believe it is in the remotest degree feasible, thanks to the Constitution and the commonest rights of mankind.

In 1879 Mr. Evans, who was then a member of the Hayes cabinet, tried his hand at the embargo idea, and made himself a standing joke in consequence, not only in this country, but in Europe. Finding the dilemma he was in, he said "I didn't mean to," and dropped the matter with as much suddenness as he took it up.

### STRUCK A MARE'S NEST.

IN the course of the squabble over election matters in Idaho, it has been frequently asserted by the chief conspirators in the anti-"Mormon" clique, that the election in certain precincts was invalid because the Democrats had a blue ticket, so that it might be known who did and who did not vote that ticket; and that it was printed at the office of the DESERET NEWS. We do not know whether or not the first of these awful charges is true, but we do know that the second, which is second in order and second in its great enormity, is untrue.

No tickets for the Idaho election were printed at this office, blue, green, red or any other color. But if the terrible accusation was true, we are not aware of any law which forbids the printing of election tickets for any precinct in Idaho or any other place, at the office

of the DESERET NEWS. If the anti-"Mormons" desire such a provision to prevail in future, they will have to obtain special legislation on the subject.

And now supposing there were some blue tickets printed. It is quite possible that this frightful charge is founded in fact. And then again it is possible that the anti-"Mormons" and Singiserites were so blue over their chilly prospects that everything looked blue to them. But we do not know of any law that prohibits the use of blue election tickets any more than it declares they shall not be printed by the DESERET NEWS. And lest any one may be led to think that some awful crime has been committed by the use of blue election tickets in Idaho, we here append Section Thirteen of the Idaho statute entitled, "An Act Relative to Elections," which will serve to settle this startling question:

Sec. 13. Every elector shall, in full view, deliver to one of the judges of election a single ballot or piece of paper, on which shall be written or printed the name of the person voted for, with a pertinent designation of the office he or they may be intended to fill; said ballot may be open or folded as the voter may choose.

Thus the ballot may be either white, black, blue or any color or shade of the rainbow, and the Idaho law will not thereby be violated. The Antis will have to hunt up some other objection. This time they have struck a "mare's nest."

### THE PERSECUTIONS IN ARIZONA.

ANOTHER conviction has been obtained in Howard's court in Arizona, for polygamy. Peter J. Christofferson is the victim. The evidence, it is stated, was as incomplete as in the case of Mr. Tenney. A dispatch to the San Francisco *Chronicle* says: "The Mormons threaten vengeance against the court." That, of course, is a falsehood. The Prescott press dispatcher has taken a leaf out of his Salt Lake confrere's book. The "Mormons" will naturally feel indignant at the course pursued, in committing without bail pending an appeal prisoners who have been convicted on hearsay. But they will neither threaten nor injure the court.

Submission to the law is and has been one of the characteristics of the Latter-day Saints, and they have not changed their principles nor their policy by moving over the line into another Territory. Their non-obedience to the anti-polygamy enactments is well known to spring from their belief in the invalidity of those statutes, and it is acknowledged that with those exceptions the "Mormons" are exemplary in their submission to the laws of the land.

Whatever opposition may proceed from our friends in Arizona to the verdicts of juries and the rulings of courts, no matter how unjust and arbitrary they may be, will be taken on legal grounds and pursued by lawful measures. Such proceedings as have been inaugurated may give temporary comfort to idiots, but patience is a "Mormon" virtue and "the end is not yet."

### STALE NEWS AS "SPECIALS"

THE "special dispatches" which have appeared in the *Tribune* and which, by the by, appear in several coast papers, contain a good deal of nonsense about a war against the "Mormons" in Switzerland. The editor of the Ogden *Herald* who hails from Helvetia and knows what he is talking about, has exposed the contradictions and absurdities contained in one of these dispatches, which is really a cable telegram to the New York *Sun* and no special really to either the Salt Lake or Pacific Coast papers. This morning another appears in which the veracious (!) manufacturer of news says: "The police are vigilant in their surveillance over an American named Cannon." As the "American named Cannon" has been home from his mission to that country nearly six months and has not been in Switzerland since last May, this is rather stale news to send by cable and to be passed off as a "special dispatch" to the Salt Lake *Tribune*. What stuff to impose on the public with special headlines as something startling about the "Mormons!"

### ASSUMPTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

WE publish to-day the report of the Utah Commission. It recommends some very stringent legislation, all in the line of depriving the majority of the citizens of this Territory of every right connected with local self-government. The recommendations are, many of them, hostile to the spirit and letter of the Constitution, and when they are summed up, "infamous" is a mild word to use in relation to the mass. We do not intend just now to discuss them. They may come before Congress and may not. We will merely remark that the whole thing is funny while at the same time it is shameful. Here is a Commission whose powers

are defined and limited by a single section of a somewhat doubtful law, posing before the country in a variety of characters altogether foreign to the functions marked out in the law of their creation. They were not sent to Utah to inquire into the marriage relations of the people, to take notes of the progress or the suppression of polygamy, to define the belief or unbelief of the people, to exercise judicial or executive powers, to decide questions concerning citizenship, the validity of elections, the powers of the Legislature, the authority of the Governor, the conduct of school affairs, or any public questions whatever, nor to frame laws or suggest legislation likely to be obnoxious to the "Mormons."

Yet they have assumed all these functions, and gravely submit to the Government and the country the result of their deliberations, many of them predicated upon common rumor, without the shadow of a fact to substantiate them, evidently considering themselves entrusted with the responsibility of the entire solution of the "Mormon" problem.

We are as much provoked to laughter as to astonishment at their amazing presumption. The Edmunds law gave them an inch of authority; they have assumed about a thousand yards of power and importance. Of course they ought to do something to earn their comfortable salaries, but a small modicum of modesty would make a refreshing variety to their ludicrous achievements as a pretended Board of plenipotentiaries and quasi-judicial-executive legislators.

### "HONOR TO WHOM" ETC.

THE manner in which Chief Justice Zane has sustained the City authorities in their endeavors to enforce the ordinances against gambling and unlawful liquor-selling, is to be highly commended. It contrasts very favorably with the course pursued by many of his predecessors. It has appeared to be the policy of some occupants of the judicial bench in this city, to curtail by every possible means the authority of our local officials, and especially to sit down upon the municipal officers in their efforts to suppress local disorder.

Judge Zane receives the encomiums of members of the bar for his general methods of dispatching business, his quick perception of the weak or strong points of arguments presented, and his knowledge of legal principles and methods. Except in the polygamy cases that have come before him and in which, as we believe, he made grave errors, he has not exhibited that bias which seems to have governed him in that one direction.

It is a good thing to have an experienced lawyer on the bench, and we do not wish to be slow to recognize merit, even in those whom we are led to regard as enemies to our cause. And while we cannot close our eyes to the animus against a certain class of cases that have become before His Honor, we desire always to give credit where it is due.

### THE FORTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

THERE have been a number of conflicting estimates as to the relative strength of the two great political parties in the next Congress of the United States. The Clerk of the House of Representatives has compiled the list of names and gives the result as follows:

The present Congress consists of 201 Democrats and 124 Republicans. The next will consist of 184 Democrats and 141 Republicans. The Democrats have a gain of 12 members, as follows: Florida, 1; Illinois, 2; Kentucky, 1; Maryland, 1; Michigan, 1; Mississippi, 2; North Carolina, 1; Texas, 1, and Virginia, 2. The Republicans have gained 29 members, as follows: California, 5; Connecticut, 1; Indiana, 1; Massachusetts, 1; Missouri, 2; Nevada, 1; New York, 5; Ohio, 4; Pennsylvania, 4; Tennessee, 1, and Wisconsin, 4. The number of members of the Forty-eighth Congress re-elected is 191.

The territorial delegates stand five Democrats to four Republicans.

### SENTENCED FOR POLYGAMY.

THE following special dispatch to the News was received this afternoon from John B. Miller, Esq., who has been acting as attorney for the defendants in the Arizona polygamy cases. Ball has been refused pending appeal to a higher court. Howard is carrying things with a high hand, but a little time, patience and perseverance after justice will develop a change of which he little dreams at present:

PRESCOTT, A. T., Dec. 5, 1884.

Editor Deseret News:

Ammon M. Tenny, P. J. Christofferson and C. I. Kemp, tried and convicted of polygamy, were sentenced this morning to three years and six months' imprisonment at Detroit, Michigan, and five hundred dollars' fine each; and W. J. Flake and J. N. Skonsen, who pleaded guilty, were sentenced to six months' imprisonment at Yuma, and five hundred dollars fine each.

JOHN B. MILLNER.