DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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A BRILLIANT LEGAL BATTLE.

Without any expression of opinion as to the merits of the case, a matter which the NEWS is perfectly willing to leave to the jury, we can congratulate to say that the interest of Attorney Arthur Brown's case the Salt Lake Tribune, now nearing a finish, has been the occasion of the most brilliant display of legal talent ever witnessed in any trial, civil or criminal, in the courts of this Territory. The effect of the ability of counsel has been heightened by the intelligence of a number of the witnesses who have testified pro and con, and whose cross-examination has been interspersed with sparkling wit and repartee.

From the commencement of the testimony until the beginning of the arguments the proceedings were enlivened by sparring between counsel, and by flashes of talent, in the framing of questions and in objection and rejoinder, which lent an almost constant and really dramatic interest to the case, on the part of an otherwise disinterested spectator. The arguments thus far have been striking examples of legal acumen and skill, and the element of personal feeling which has entered into some of them has not made them less interesting to the jury or audience.

On the whole the case has been rather a remarkable one, and quite likely its result will have an important effect as a precedent in this Territory, in the class of cases to which it belongs.

TEMPERING THE ELEMENTS.

The manner in which the climatic and other conditions in these valleys have been changed and in effect in the advantage and comfort of those who are settling up this region of country is frequently a subject of comment on the part of the Latter-day Saints, who cannot fail to recognize in these affairs the palpable fact that the Lord has been and is operating by that means to make this land "choice above all other lands" for the dwelling place of His people. To the early settlers of these mountain vales, the incense cold, the late and early frosts, the fierce winds, and the long and severe winters that were the rule in years agone now are but a memory with the hardships of the days that are past. And accompanying this tempering of the elements there has been a constant and marvelous increase in the supply of water which agency was a necessity in transforming an everywhile desert region into a fruitful field, and from all sources have come augmented contributions of those things which are conducive to the material welfare of the people.

These being the facts, it is well to keep the object near before the Saints, that through an understanding of the operations of cause and effect in the past they may have the light to directing their future content. In the earlier history of Utah there was an intimating of inspiration in guiding the people toward permanent success in their temporal affairs, so that the earth should yield in the season for the comfort and sustenance of man. As a contributory precedent to attaining the desired end in material matters, there was kept prominently before the Saints the necessity of observing a great religious truth, a principle of sacrifice it may be called—a rule of wise investment. This principle found its practical application in the law of tithing, and so closely was it associated with temporal prosperity, that the nurture of the institution referred to was very pointed by the late Bishop Edward Hunter into the axiom "Pay your tithing and be blessed."

One of the many illustrations of the correctness of this principle is recalled in the proceedings of a district conference of Saints in the Bear Lake Stake of Zion, held at Randolph, Rich county. It is correct knowledge that as late as a score of years ago, the climatic conditions in the county were so unfavorable that the people had great difficulty in maintaining themselves in that section of the Territory, and at times were very much discouraged. Under the benefficent counsel of the Church leaders and the necessary assistance afforded, however, they remained, confident in the divine inspiration of the promises made by the servants of the Lord. One of these that may be referred to was a prediction by the late President John Taylor, who, about the time referred to, stated to the Saints there that if they would observe the law of tithing the action of the elements would be so controlled by the Almighty that potatoes and other vegetables, which at that time could not be grown successfully there, would yet be produced in abundance for the people's support. So implicit of influence did this promise appear to some that trees contained the spoken word a mistake had been made. But the faith of the Saints observed the conditions stated, and the results have been a matter of record of the community which began in the 70's. One of the pioneers was George McCrackin, of Paris, who related the incident. He was a member of the Church who was living in a fort of clay, holding Bear Lake Valley against the Indians, and had to go a great distance to get a few potatoes. Another of the pioneers was George Wm. Wood, who was the interpreter of the Indians during the early settlement of Bear River valley. He recounted how the severe frosts destroyed their grain and vegetables in the years from 1872 to 1874, and how in the latter year, in the month of June, the frost was so sharp and severe that it killed the leaves on the newly unfolded trees. "But," he adds, coming down to the present, "under the blessings of God this year we have raised over sixty thousand bushels of grain; we have potatoes and other vegetables in abundance," and these facts he points out as evidence that the Saints at Bear Lake are a thriving people—that they have kept the conditions and the promised blessings have followed to them.

The Saints will recognize that this is but one of a multitude of instances of similar character, many of them of vastly greater importance in their general bearings than the incident related. But it will serve to illustrate a principle, and perhaps to impress it more upon the minds of the people. Certainly the Saints of Bear Lake Stake need no urging to learn the lesson presented; they have the body of their own experience so freshly lighted and so newly filled with its clear rays must shine brightly to guide their future operations under a principle which brings such rich reward. And a score of similar experiences throughout all this region, where the elements have undergone, by the mercy of an Almighty hand, changes or modifications to their action to better suit the conditions and needs of the people, should bring to Saints a realization of their duty in the present hour; now that hard times and their afflictions should be more in due measure and severe, that the voice of the poor and afflicted may not be heard in vain, and that the law of the Lord may be observed in its letter and spirit. If this requirement is conformed to by the people, the future, even more strongly than the past, will bear witness to the fulfilment of the Divine promise that to those who observe the law of tithing they shall be a land of plenty, of peace, of happiness—truly a land of Zion.

IN BEHALF OF THE ARMENIANS.

The latest reports from Armenia give the number of victims at ten thousand, but it is not impossible that when all the details are known, the Hun estimate of six thousand will be found but little exaggerated. Still, the massacre of ten thousand persons on the altar of religious fanaticism is a crime against humanity—carnage and depravity in its extreme, especially when committed at the threshold of the civilized world and in a country whose ruler is outside and by the power of Christian nations. The conditions that make such outrages possible call for a speedy remedy.

The nation, we are told, has already sent a commission to investigate the affair, but those acquainted with Turkish diplomacy will not look forward with confidence to the results of such an inquiry. It will be to the interest of the Mohammedan representatives of Islam to whitewash the Turkish government to prevent the matter in a light as unfavorable as possible to the Armenians. That they will do so is a foregone conclusion. If any further proof is needed it should be conclusive of imperial men, in order that the whole truth may be laid before the world. If the sitting ministers and others in this country and in England would take the matter up in earnest they would undoubtedly be able to influence the future of Turkey the necessity of producing the Christian population without at the hands of the marauders that infest the empire and prevent a repetition of the crime. The matter would be emphatically with the sense of the Evangelical Alliance which has influential members in all parts of the world.

The present nation is known to be a well educated, liberal minded gentleman, and if he had his own way, he would introduce western civilization among his subjects on a generous scale. In traveling through his dominions little impression can be noted almost everywhere as a result of his efforts. But he is, himself, limited by his surroundings. The ministerial head of people, the shell-of-Islam, frequently presses more influence over the people than the sultan and can annul any imperial decree. He is the chief exponent of the laws of the land, and as all legal decisions rest ultimately on the Koran and its commentaries, it is clear that development is next to impossible. To the narrow conservatism of this official and all his subordinates most of the bad conditions of the Turkish dominions are due, whatever may be said in exculpation of the sultan personally. In this case, however, if the Armenian massacre it was stated that the pashas who conducted the preliminary affair exhibited an order from Constantinople, commanding the soldiers to execute their victims. By whom this order was signed did not appear, but, if the information really came from the capital, it was probably issued by the exertion of the ecclesiastical clique who are a constant opportunity of striking a blow to the interest of the religion. The true facts in the case may never be fully known, but this outrage is so clear at hand and supported by so many corroborative evidence that it seems almost a hopeless effort.

The persecution of Christians in Turkey is outside. Once in a while Christian at wholesale slaughter have resented the world from Holiest when under Turkish rule from Asia Minor and the interior of the country. Such persecutions are by no means confined to the region inhabited by the Kurds. It is more or less general. Thus, only a small part of the story has ever been published. The pity and daily assurances to which Christian families are subjected and which make life to them miserable, are only known beyond the borders of the empire. For such a condition the government of the country cannot escape responsibility. Its power is sufficient to punish the perpetrators, if the intention to do so were honest. It is the failure to protect the Christians from being robbed and murdered and otherwise persecuted by the Mohammedans—except in places where the foreign consuls exert their influence—that shows the real sentiment of the government. It is some summary means for the benefit of other creeds, a feeling which unfortunately breeds and nurtures among the common people.

The condition calls for foreign and civilized interference, because it can be remedied in no other way. It is due to the millions of suffering Christians, ignorant and superstitious though the majority of them are, to interfere in their behalf. It is due to the advance of the age to wipe away the stains of barbarity that still have been allowed to cling to it, and it is due to the subjects of Turkey to render him the aid needed to restore his benighted subjects. Handicapped as he is by fanatical surroundings, alone he is helpless. But if he be placed in a position to speak to his people, backed up by the powers of Western Europe, that is an authority they will understand and appreciate. They have done so before when financial interests have been involved and when the Christian powers have been ready enough to emphasize their authority; they will accede again if the same powers could be induced to speak a word to the journal of Christian interests on behalf of millions of enslaved followers of the Prophet of Nazareth.

MEXICO AND GUATEMALA.

Ordinarily, one would think that a war between Mexico and Guatemala would be about the most foolish proceeding in which either of those nations could engage, yet the news brought by the telegraph indicates that the possibility of hostilities breaking out at almost any time is dangerously close. The quarrel, words as yet, is over a strip of territory that always has been debatable ground, though of recent years Guatemala has been so occupied with local troubles that she could give little attention to claiming it, and therefore Mexico away has been on tape so. Now, however, Guatemala presents what will be regarded by many as a legal claim to the disputed tract. In consequence of this, bad blood has been stirred up to such an extent that consideration of the rules of law and equity are likely to be laid aside, and the question be submitted to the arbitrament of arms.

In a contest on the battlefield it does not seem possible that Guatemala will have even a chance of holding her own, unless the people there have caught an infection from the Mohammedan subjects and expect to "Japanese" their power at northern neighbor. But if the Guatemalans have any hope of that kind they are likely soon to be disappointed, for the comparison between Chinese and Japanese cannot be carried to Mexico and Guatemala so far as the fighting qualities of the Mexicans are concerned. In times were a numerical equality between the fighting forces of the two nations there might be some doubt as to the result, but as it is, it would seem to be the height of rashness for Guatemala to enter upon a war the outcome of which promises only disaster to herself. The fighting strength of the two nations so far as the regular armies is concerned may be summed up in simple figures: Mexico 29,881 officers and men, Guatemala 3,775. The available reserve forces show also a great disparity in numbers: Mexico 108,000, Guatemala 27,000. With this prospect, if the Central American state looks to attack on the Mexican republic she naturally can expect anything but lamentable defeat.

As to the status of the claims of either nation, the news received does not give any information that can be relied upon. Rain can make a very plausible story, and for the time which has realized access to channels of news can create a sentiment in its favor, regardless of the virtue of its claim. It would seem, however, that unless Guatemala has the strong argument of a clear title to her side, her present attitude is somewhat in the nature of a game of bluff, by which it is hoped to have Mexico relinquish the claim to debatable ground in a similar neighbor across. On the other hand, the statesmanship and patriotism of President Diaz would appear, from his past career, to be of a character which will not allow Mexico to be drawn into any conflict unless it is necessary that she be merely maintaining well defined national rights. In the event of this latter position being taken by the Mexican chief magistrate, the probability is that the whole affair will end with the war of words or, if the fighting spirit of some center, that Guatemala will get a severe drubbing, and perhaps be obliterated as a distinct nation, through being absorbed by the more powerful republic.

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