

EDITORIALS.

THE present holiday season is a peculiar one. It is the mildest time atmospherically that we have ever known in this locality at this time of the year, and this has been a blessing to many who have neither plethoric purses nor abundant stores of fuel.

Some of the stores have done a "rushing" business in holiday articles, others would have done much more than they have, had it not been for the snow "blockade" eastward and the injury by rains to the railroad westward. So much freight is now detained eastward en route to this city that many of our largest stores have been seriously inconvenienced and they must have suffered great losses in consequence. Of some staple articles, there is already quite a scarcity in the city, and when the scarcity will be remedied from the east by incoming trains through the blockade, who knows?

Probably partly on this account and certainly much on account of the operations of those peculiarly constituted persons who evidently think the grandest thing they can do is to hatch up litigation and override justice and law in the much abused name of the law, the state of business, trade, and labor in this city and Territory is just now unwontedly flat, stale, and unpromising, and the consequence is that at this trying season of the year many who depend upon their daily labor for the support of themselves and families, find themselves suddenly pinched in resources, and subject to privations even at this festive season. If those who can find or make work and furnish the pay, will be good enough to cast around and endeavor not only to live and enjoy themselves, but help others, who may not be so fortunately situated, to live and enjoy themselves a little also, it will be an excellent beginning of the new year, and nobody would be much the poorer for it this time next year.

DOUBTLESS about this time many sensation dispatches and letters will be sent from this city by certain parties eastward and westward, but particularly eastward, with the view not only of furnishing highly spiced paragraphs for newslayers, but of exciting and inflaming public sentiment in regard to current circumstances hereabout. We may as well say now, that quietness, peace, and order predominate in this city. Notwithstanding recent and pendant court matters, among the citizens proper there is no undue excitement that we have heard of, but a calm and patient spirit is manifest, under the manifold efforts of those who ought to set a better example than to rule or ruin. The public at a distance, therefore, will do itself justice if it make liberal allowances for the prejudices and the sensational leanings of those who may forward, telegraphically or postally, startling or wonderful news from this part of the globe. It is always safe to take clap-trap or alarming dispatches from Salt Lake *cum grano salis*, as with the senders or the instigators the wish is very likely to be father to the thought. Certain ancient characters employed their time in telling some new thing or other. In this day such characters abound, and they may not be backward in employing inventive genius when facts are too slow or are not considered sufficiently highly seasoned naturally for the pampered mental appetites of inveterate newslayers, or for the plotting purposes of intriguing and unscrupulous politicians and the heated and swift and tyrannical wishes of prejudiced, bigoted and fanatical priests and partizans.

We make it our policy to endeavor to moderate and calm public sentiment, locally and generally, because, when the passions of the people are inflamed, if justice is done and wisdom rules it will be more a matter of accident, or rather of the merciful overruling of Providence, than of popular human design, forethought, or arrangement.

It may be considered a very sweet thing to some news collectors and to political adventurers, to set the country ablaze with excitement upon any topic which may be most likely to offend the prejudices and excite the passions of a large portion of the public. But no patriotic honest man, no man who desires to promote the welfare of the country would indulge in such censurable, if not really criminal business. For all these occasions of great public excitement necessitate the expenditure of much money for naught, or at most for what is nothing more satisfactory than vanity.

We are not aware of any sensible man who does not view the present court proceedings as got-up affairs, the result of religious or partizan prejudice, or of a striving for political power and effect, and, so far as their instigators and originators and many of their aiders and abettors are concerned, entirely independent of the merits of the cases dragged into court. This is by no means the first time that prominent men of the Church have been the subjects of charges which everybody of fair understanding is well enough satisfied in his own mind have been hatched up for ulterior purposes. Nor is it likely to be the last time. So long as truth and error, righteousness and unrighteousness exist, and error and unrighteousness have power over the minds of men, dissimilar events occur. Particularly, whenever the Almighty has a church on the earth, the enemy of all righteousness ever and anon excites those whose hearts are not set to work righteousness, against those who desire and endeavor to keep the commandments of God and to live according to the principles of life, instead of following the way of destruction and death.

In all these persecuting trials the ultimate object is to destroy the church from off the earth. Such was the object in former ages; such is the object now. The special charges are nothing—the ultimate object is one and the same, awaiting only opportunities which may be deemed favorable for the successful carrying out of the one final purpose of destruction. The abolishment of the truth, of righteousness, and of those who advocate and endeavor to practice it, is the real aim of all this persecuting litigation, no matter how sophistically it may be glossed over, or how skillfully it may be disguised. The Prophet and the Patriarch fell victims to the same evil purpose, but the hope of the persecutors that that shameful tragedy would be the end of the church and the banishment of the power of God from the earth, was not realized. Neither will such hopes be realized in the current crusade.

Suppose we say that the present proceedings will fail to accomplish the designs of those who instigate and sanction them, will these be the last of the kind? No, they will not, for the same persecuting spirit will exist, and, as long as men are foolish enough to be influenced by it, attempts will be made to develop it, until it shall be demonstrated and abundantly evident that the Church of Christ and those who desire peace, righteousness, and good and wholesome laws are in the majority, and their influence is sufficiently powerful to "bind old Satan with a chain" and thus restrict his power. Until that time, the Newmans, the Cragins, the Hawleys, the McKears, and many others of the same opposing classes will not fail to appear, as Pharaoh and Herod and Boggs and others appeared, in their times and their seasons, to do their special work on the side of the opposition to the Lord, to His anointed, and to His people, who believe in Him and acknowledge His hand and desire to preserve His precepts and keep His commandments just as perfectly as they can.

ON Tuesday, when President Young's case came up in Court and the question of bail was argued, allusion was made by the U. S. Attorney to the case of Aaron Burr, and to the fact that he had been admitted to bail when under arrest for grave crimes. A few words in relation to that celebrated case may not be out of place at the present juncture.

Aaron Burr, ex-Vice President of the United States, had made a confidant of General Wilkinson, commander-in-chief of the army of the U. S. and governor of the then Territory of Louisiana, and had written him two letters in cypher, in which, according to Wilkinson's interpretation, Burr revealed treasonable designs of the most daring and startling character. He contemplated nothing less than the conquest of Mexico, the placing of himself on the throne of Montezuma, the extension of his empire to the Alleghanies, and the seizing on New Orleans as the instrument of compulsion for the Western States. Burr also informed him, he said, that he had funds, that the navy was with him, and that he calculated on Wilkinson and the army as being ready to join him. As soon as possible after receiving these letters, Wilkinson communicated their contents to President Jefferson, who immediately issued a proclamation and sent it flying through the States, filling the country with consternation. The President also sent special messages to Congress, attributing to Burr designs

the most treasonable. While the public excitement was thus wrought up to the highest pitch, General Eaton came forward with a deposition which in the main corroborated Wilkinson's statement, and which produced a most profound impression, leaving no room for doubt in the minds of the bulk of the people of the United States that Aaron Burr was a traitor. Burr was arrested on board his flotilla as he was descending the Mississippi; but after appearing in court and complying with, as he claimed, his recognizances, he demanded a legal release from the court, which not being granted to him, he fled. A large reward was offered for his arrest, and he was finally captured, and by orders of the Government was carried to Richmond, Virginia.

The case was one of the greatest importance, not only because of the supposed extent of the conspiracy—nothing less than the separation of the Western States being aimed at—but because of the standing and talents of the accused and the fact that the President, by his proclamations and by his messages to Congress, had conspicuously committed himself to the opinion of Burr's guilt. So thoroughly was the public convinced that he was a traitor that the gentlemen who had been summoned to serve on the grand jury, upon being questioned, all admitted that they had strong impressions that the accused was a traitor, and these men were, many of them, the leading men of the State, in fact, the celebrated John Randolph was the foreman of the jury. Subsequently fourteen days were nearly all consumed in attempting to find among the mass of jurors twelve who had not formed or expressed an opinion of Burr's guilt, and even when the jury was formed some of the jurors confessed to being decidedly prejudiced and to having warmly denounced the prisoner.

We refer to the summoning of the jurors to show how deep and widespread a feeling there was in the minds of the people against Aaron Burr. Public opinion would have sustained the Court in any proceedings, however harsh, which might have been adopted towards him. But fortunately for Aaron Burr, John Marshall, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, sat upon the bench, and he was to be tried by him. John Marshall has been called the Washington of the bench, and never did his conduct in any case contribute more to earn for him this title, than in this to which we now refer. He was the soul of dignity and honor, prudent, courageous, alive to censure, but immovably resolute to do right. The wishes or dictation of the President, the blandishments of the powerful and the clamors of the populace could not swerve his inflexible will to the right or to the left. After listening to an argument of three days' duration, when Burr was first brought before him, he admitted him to bail in the sum of ten thousand dollars! This was in the latter part of March, and the court at which he was bound to appear was to be held on the succeeding 22nd of May. Here was a man accused of a conspiracy to seduce the army and the navy of the U. S. from their allegiance, to revolutionize the States and Territories west of the Alleghany and to found for himself an independent empire of which he was to be the sole ruler, and the throne of which was to descend to his heirs, and against whom public opinion would have justified the most extreme measures—a man who had not traveled four hundred miles in the depth of winter, in feeble health, to meet a requisition based on the accusation of a self-convicted murderer; but who had fled with the intention of taking refuge on board a British vessel of war—admitted to bail by the Chief Justice of the United States in the sum of ten thousand dollars! We shall leave our readers to draw their own conclusions respecting the contrast between Chief Justice Marshall's decision and that uttered last Tuesday.

Burr was tried, and the best procurable talent was employed in his prosecution and defence. The Chief Justice rendered his decision. Some of the closing remarks of that celebrated decision may be read with profit, and should be borne in mind now, as they are directly applicable to the circumstances which surround the case of President Young. The Chief Justice, in noticing some points alluded to in the course of the argument, said:

"That this court dares not usurp power is most true. That this court dares not shrink from its duty is not less true. No man is desirous of placing himself in a disagreeable situation. No man is desirous of becoming the peculiar sub-

ject of calumny. No man, might he let the bitter cup pass from him without self-reproach, would drain it to the bottom. But if he have no choice in the case, if there be no alternative presented to him but a dereliction of duty or the opprobrium of those who are denominated the world, he merits the contempt as well as the indignation of his country, who can hesitate which to embrace."

THE editor of the Laramie Sentinel appears to be a gentleman of a much more liberal and frank and unprejudiced character than some are who visit Utah and report the result of their experience here. In the Sentinel of Dec. 27th is the following—

A recent visit to "the City of the Saints," and particularly favorable opportunities to learn something of this peculiar people, induce us to give our readers some information upon a subject pertaining to them, which will, perhaps, be new and interesting to at least some of them. Having partaken of their hospitality, and been treated with courtesy and consideration, we do not propose, as has been frequently done, to be guilty of ingratitude by maligning and misrepresenting the Mormons, and if we do this it will be through ignorance.

The world has been kept pretty well posted as to the social customs, laws and peculiarities of this people; but the mass of us know nothing about their religious tenets, which are even more novel and strange than their social habits, though perhaps not more absurd than many things taught and believed throughout the civilized world.

After giving a statement of the religious tenets of the "Mormons," the editor says—

The above are, as honestly and impartially as we know how to state them, some of the articles of their faith, as we had them from their most eminent and best informed divines. As we remarked in the outset, they are not more absurd than many other things which are taught and believed, and they fortify all their positions by Scripture arguments, even to that of being baptized for the dead, which they claim was practiced and recognized as a duty by the early Christians in 1 Corinthians, 15th, 29 verse.

THE MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY!

As the time for the meeting of the Legislative Assembly is near we think it proper to call the attention of the members to the subject by publishing the Act passed by the last Assembly in relation to the time and place of convening—

Be it enacted by the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah: That the Twentieth Session of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah, shall begin and be held in the City Hall, Salt Lake City, at two p.m., on the second Monday in January, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, and every two years thereafter; provided that if Congress shall at its present session authorize annual sessions, then the twentieth session shall begin and be held in the City Hall, Salt Lake City, on the second Monday in January, eighteen hundred and seventy-one, at two p.m.; and subsequent sessions shall commence annually thereafter on the second Monday in January, at two p.m.

THE Sacramento Reporter smells danger not a little in the centralization policy of the party in power, and thus expresses suspicions—

Formerly the President had no right to suspend the writ of habeas corpus and declare martial law. Formerly the application of the civil authorities was required before the President could send troops into a State. Formerly the President had nothing to do with elections. Consider the changes that have come over these things and then add to the accumulated powers of the President control of all the telegraph lines in the country, and then answer this conundrum: "What is to hinder a coup d'etat?"

A SENSIBLE PROPOSITION.—The New York Herald, noticing this presented in the House of Representatives, mentioned "one by Mr. Blair, of Missouri, to legalize polygamist marriages (we hope he means those already contracted) and to dismiss all criminal proceedings against polygamists in Utah—a sensible proposition."