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INAUGURATION DAY.

THE 4th of March, 1869, has been looked forward to with exceeding great interest by the people of the United States generally. It has at length dawned and, being the day appointed by law for the inauguration of the President elect, it is fraught with tremendous interests to the nation.

The last eight years have been the most momentous in our national existence. During that time our national escutcheon has been cleansed from the foul blot of slavery, which has added millions of freemen to our population; and during the same period the most gigantic and fiercely contested civil war ever inaugurated, has been subdued, and hydra-headed treason stamped out.

As might naturally be expected, during the settlement of such mighty issues, the development of our national resources has been greatly retarded, and general prosperity impeded, and that there are still many conflicting interests to be reconciled, before the harmony and prosperity, for which the nation was once so celebrated, can be hoped for again in their fulness. The work of restoration and reconciliation has been retarded materially by the fierce strife which has existed between Congress and the Executive; but no evil has yet been wrought or inflicted, beyond the power of wise legislation to remedy. The nation at large looks with confidence to the incoming Administration to accomplish the great work yet to be done; and it is to be hoped that an era, in which the bitterness of political partisanship and sectional animosity will be modified or forgotten, and in which the United States will start anew in her progress to national prosperity and greatness, has dawned to-day.

The new Chief Magistrate of the nation, although elected by the Republican party, disclaims the idea of being a party man. He has emphatically proved himself the man of the people. In the time of the nation's greatest peril, when the massed forces of secession seemed determined to rend the Union, his skill, coolness and determined courage crushed the flower and strength of the Southern chivalry, gave the death blow to the Confederate cause, and ended the war. This man is now to a very great extent, if his life should be spared, the arbiter of the nation's destiny for, at least, the next four years. His character for reticence and discretion, so remarkably developed during his career, will stand him in excellent service in his new position, and will certainly mark the character of his administration. It is these qualities in the man which have inspired all sections of the country and all classes of the people, whether Republicans or Democrats, with the high hopes for the future of the nation now entertained from him and his administration.

That the nation at large may speedily feel the benefits of the policy about to be inaugurated, and that the President may have wisdom imparted to him to heal every wound not yet healed, to purify the Administration of every department of the government, and to start the nation once again on the highway to that proud position to which she is designed by Providence, and for which her position and resources so pre-eminently qualify her, all must ardently pray.

COMPLETION OF THE RAILROAD—CONTEMPLATED EXCURSIONS.

WE understand that great preparations are already being made for the celebration, with becoming pomp and enthusiasm, of the meeting of the Union and Central Pacific Railroads. The St. Louis Democrat speaks of the preparations of the Union Pacific managers; it says that the most extraordinary railroad event of this railroad age will be the magnificent trans-continental excursion which, in the coming month of July, is to open the Pacific Railway route from one ocean to the other. It

will be the world's great representative gathering, that will meet in the heart of the continent to see the last rail spiked home. From the eastern side the party will consist of one thousand guests, in a superb train of forty-five cars, finished expressly for this occasion. Dr. Durant will, we understand, commence the excursion proper at Omaha, leaving it to guests from all over the country to reach that point by their own choice of routes. At the head of the list of invited guests will be President Grant and his Cabinet. It is expected that there will be delegations of leading Europeans also.

Whether the members of this party will give our city a call or not we have not heard; it is too early yet, probably, for the programme to be made out in minuteness; but it is not unlikely that they will. At any rate, whether they do or not, we may rest assured that there will be large parties of visitors come here. We have heard of several excursion parties being already arranged in the East, with the intention of making trips to this city during the coming Summer. We may reasonably enough calculate that this will be a point of great attraction and resort. The watering places on the Atlantic have been visited by the eastern people so often that their charms are exhausted; they no longer possess any novelty for the seeker after pleasure or health. Saratoga, the Hudson, the St. Lawrence and the bathing places on the coast will, likely enough, be comparatively deserted for some seasons to come, if those who have been in the habit of frequenting them can reach these mountains with any degree of comfort, and be accommodated in good style when they arrive here. These valleys, with the magnificent Utah, Salt Lake and Bear Lakes, the grand natural scenery, the many points of interest and the fine trout fishing, must inevitably become places of great resort after the completion of the railroad. Their attractions cannot soon be exhausted; and instead of flocking in shoals to Europe, as at present, every person who has any pride of country—now that facilities for easy and rapid transit are placed within his reach—will first become acquainted with the beauties and grand scenery of his native land.

To prepare for this increased travel and the numerous visitors who will come here, we should have increased accommodations. We need a Grand National Hotel. We feel convinced that the want of such a building will be seriously felt this coming season, and that, in the absence of such, private dwellings will have to be largely used to accommodate visitors. With a Hotel, such as we have spoken of in previous articles in the EVENING NEWS, we could entertain the thousand guests, who are expected to leave the Atlantic side next summer, without difficulty or inconvenience; but at present where could one thousand guests be kept without trenching to a considerable extent on private families? We have heard it estimated by gentlemen who have been East, and have had good opportunities of forming correct conclusions, that there will be at least ten thousand travelers visit our city this coming summer. Their number will depend to a great extent on the conveniences there will be here to make them comfortable and their stay agreeable.

Should proper steps be taken we have no doubt but that all the stock necessary to furnish ample means for the erection of a Grand National Hotel in this city could be quickly obtained in the East. Land on which to erect it, building materials and labor can all be obtained here, and our citizens would not hesitate to invest in it. But there are many leading citizens in the East, who would take greater interest in their visits here, if they had stock in such a building; they would have a voice in its management, and have an assurance that their comfort and happiness would be consulted. Financially we think there is not the least room to doubt its success, and we think that steps should be taken to inaugurate the project and give it a practical shape. The cost of erecting a large Hotel, with all the modern improvements, would be very considerable, probably not less than a million of dollars; but the city has advanced to a point, where, costly as it may be, it is indispensably necessary, and we cannot progress as we should without it. We have been accused of seeking isolation, and of doing all in our power to break off all intercourse with the outside world. Those who make these charges either do not understand our real views, or they misrepresent us. We have always thought that we possessed the right, and have not failed to exercise it, of choosing our own compa-

ny. There are many people with whom we have not the least wish to associate; indeed, their society would be disagreeable. But we have known that the destiny of this people was prominence, and not isolation; and that even if we had wished to seclude ourselves and break off intercourse we could not have done it; the Latter-day Saints and their cities are to become the cynosure of every eye. There is an attraction connected with the system with which we are connected that becomes stronger and wields greater power over the human mind every day. The Nauvoo House was intended as a place of residence for the leading men of the nations when they should visit Zion; but, since we left Nauvoo, the interest in us has increased, and we need a place at present that will far exceed the Nauvoo House in size, beauty, style and accommodations.

THE MONTANA "POST" FOLLOWS A BAD EXAMPLE IN QUOTING SCRIPTURE.

THE Montana Post tries to pick a quarrel with the New York World because the latter says that

"By all accounts, the moral state of the Mormon community is in all respects, excepting one, far above that of any of the States and Territories which if Mr. Ashley has his way, are each to take a bite out of Utah, swallowing both Territory and people."

The Post does not like these remarks. They are too true to suit it, and it feebly attempts to combat them. But its line of argument, if not very logical, has at least one merit—it is unique. The Post had better stick to post-prandial orations—a specimen of which we saw lately in its columns—and not attempt to measure lances with the World, or to discuss Latter-day Saint questions. People are not surprised at a certain amount of nonsense in after dinner speeches; but they look for something more than a string of high sounding phrases—such as "spontaneous moralities," "steeped in the sensuousness of concubinage," "taint in every fibre," "only emit fragrance to such places as a charnel house, the Five Points, or nostrils that minister delights to a badly diseased brain,"—in a newspaper article of the pretensions of this of the Post.

The World said,

"Indeed, with the Mormons polygamy is religion; they found their social relations upon the divine law which at least permitted it, as no readers of the scriptures pretend to deny."

The Post says bluntly that the first of these assertions is untrue. It does not condescend to say why it is untrue; but merely says that, if polygamy is religion with us, we managed to get along without religion a good while. It declares the statement untrue, and we suppose that it is great presumption for us or the public to question the correctness of the *ipse dixit* of the Post. If the Montana Post says that polygamy is not religion with us, it ought to be our duty, we suppose, to accept that decision; but, with the fear of that paper before our eyes, and fully aware of the consequences which may follow, we re-affirm the World's statement, and say that with the "Mormons," or Latter-day Saints, polygamy is religion.

Not able to dispute the World's statement that we found our "social relations upon the divine law, which at least permitted polygamy, as no readers of the scriptures pretend to deny"—by reference to the Bible, which Christendom, as well as "Mormondom," accepts as God's word, the Post attempts to show, by quoting the words of Jacob from the Book of Mormon, that polygamy should not be practiced by us. We said this part of its argument was unique. We mistake. It has a parallel. Bible readers will recollect that Satan quoted scripture to Jesus. He used the word of that God whom he despised and hated, and whose work he was laboring to destroy, regardless of every consideration except to gain his end. So with the Post in quoting from the Book of Mormon. It gives Jacob's words to the Nephites, in which he forbids their taking more wives than one; but it does not give the context, which is as follows.

"And whoredoms are an abomination before me, thus saith the Lord of Hosts. Wherefore, this people shall keep my commandments, saith the Lord of Hosts, or cursed be the land for their sakes. For if I will, saith the Lord of Hosts, raise up seed unto me, I will command my people; otherwise they shall hearken unto these things."

The italics are ours. The entire argument of the Post, and on which its article is based, would have been spoiled by adding the three sentences which follow the quotation which it gives;

for that which we have italicised shows that there would be a time when the Lord might deem it necessary to give His people a command to adopt a system of plurality of wives; but, until that time did come, they were required to hearken unto the law which Jacob gave them. Satan himself in quoting scripture did not mutilate it; the Post might, we think, even when making out a case against the "Mormons," be as fair as he was.

It is not often that the press is as much united on any subject as on this which called forth the article in the New York World which the Post criticises. From every part of the country the papers are almost unanimous in their condemnation of Ashley's scheme for dealing with Utah. In an article in the San Francisco Bulletin it is argued that the plan would have the appearance of persecution inasmuch as

"Aside from polygamy, there is nothing in Mormonism that has not a perfect right to exist on an equality with any other religious faith."

The San Francisco Chronicle in alluding to the Bulletin's article says:

"So far as legal and political right is concerned there is no doubt of the correctness of the Bulletin's proposition; and, so far as political right is concerned, even polygamy has as good a claim to exist as monogamy. We agree with the Bulletin that no indirect or covert measures should be taken against the Mormons. What is to become of their system is not yet plain. We must leave it to the operation of the various forces and influences now so actively at work and to those of the future. Of one thing we may be sure, that if the system has not in itself some robust principle of vitality in harmony with the spirit of the age, it will not long survive the outside pressure that will be brought to bear upon it when the trans-continental railway is completed."

The San Francisco Times, in an article which, in the main, is unfavorable to Utah, being based on misrepresentation, says:

"We presume it will be admitted that the people of Utah possess rights which are entitled to respect, and that the objectionable features in their social system do not deprive them of the benefit of the laws of the United States. Granting this, we are compelled to admit that any act which transferred a considerable portion of these people to a State which owes a heavy debt, as does Nevada, and which would necessarily compel them to contribute toward its liquidation, would be most unjust. Utah has no debt of her own, so that there would be no offset for this injustice."

"But the most serious and, as we regard it, fatal objection to Ashley's bill is a political one. Should such a division take place, as is contemplated, the probability is that the Mormons, acting in perfect unison, as they do, would obtain the balance of power in several of the States and Territories among which it is proposed to parcel them out, and would practically control the politics of all these, as well as of the remainder of Utah. The Republican majorities in Nevada and Colorado would be seriously imperiled, and the very means adopted for the purpose of crushing the civil power of the Mormons, might result in the building up of a far greater influence than they ever could attain if left to themselves."

The Montana Post will scarcely suffer these papers to publish such sentiments and not rebuke them. But of one thing it may rest assured that our system is composed of "robust principles of vitality," and that if not at present in harmony with the spirit of the age, we intend to bring the spirit of the age into harmony with it. This may not be satisfactory to the Post, but it is to us.

ADVANTAGES OF TWO THROUGH LINES.

WE at last have a mail from the East. After a blockade of twenty-one days passengers and mails have begun to arrive to-day in this city. When it is considered that this has been a mild winter the detention has been an extraordinary one, and it gives the Union Pacific Railroad people a little idea of what they would have had to contend with in building their line had this winter been as severe as our winters are usually in these mountains. It is quite likely that the passengers who have been caught on the road, and prevented, by the closing up of the railroad line, from traveling in either direction, have suffered great inconveniences and been under heavy expenses, and, as a consequence, have been very impatient; but in this city and Territory a disposition has been manifested to submit to the deprivation very cheerfully. If the mails had been on the stages and detained as long as they have been by the cars this winter, there would, without doubt, have been considerable dissatisfaction felt and expressed. The feeling has been very general that the Railroad has great difficulties to contend with this winter; the line is new and it is not so well prepared for storms at the present as it will be in future