

# DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - APRIL, 26, 1878.

## CHRISTIANCY'S BLOW AT CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.

WE here present a summary of Senator Isaac P. Christianity's bill ostensibly "to regulate elections and the elective franchise in the Territory of Utah," but really intended to destroy civil and religious liberty in the Territory, to deprive the mass of the citizens of the right to vote; that is, to disfranchise them, solely on account of their faithfulness to their religious convictions.

The provisions contained in the several sections are briefly as follows, as reported to the Senate with the amendments of the Committee on Territories—

1. Legal voters are to consist exclusively of male citizens of the United States, not less than twenty-one years of age, resident in the Territory for six months next preceding any election, and ten days in the ward, township, or other election precinct in which they wish to vote. Idiots, insane persons, persons under sentence for felony or imprisonment under conviction for crime, bigamists or polygamists if living and cohabiting with more than one woman as wives since the passage of the anti-polygamy act of 1862, except they have ceased to thus live and cohabit, are also excluded. None but thus qualified voters shall hold civil office in the Territory. Female suffrage is annulled, also are all local qualifications of electors differing from the above.

### 2. Secret ballot.

3. The Secretary of the Territory, or, when there is no Secretary, the Governor, shall print the ballots, slips, and envelopes to be used in voting at elections, and furnish them at cost price, under penalty of not exceeding \$2,000 and imprisonment not exceeding two years.

4. Three judges of election in each election precinct, consisting of the senior justice of the peace, if there be one, and two other electors, one appointed by the Governor, and the other by the county court, to serve a year, or until their successors are appointed.

5. The judges of each election precinct to choose two clerks of election, to act during the pleasure of the judges.

6. Judges and clerks of election to be sworn. In case of failure of appointment of judges, or neglect to attend, or refusal to take the oath, or in case of a vacancy, the vacancy or failure or neglect to be remedied by the choice of voters present at the time and place of election.

7. If no proper officer be present to swear in the judges and clerks, the judges may swear each other in, and also the clerks, in writing.

8. Elections open from seven a. m. till six p. m., excepting the time required, before opening, to choose a judge or judges if necessary.

9. Opening of the polls by proclamation of one of the clerks, at the hour. Notice of closing to be given in a similar manner thirty minutes before the hour.

10. Ballot-box to be opened and exhibited before commencing to take votes, then locked, and the key given to one of the judges. Box not to be opened again during the election, except as hereinafter provided.

11. Names of electors voting to be entered and numbered in succession in a poll-book.

12. All votes by ballot, inclosed in an envelope, and given to one of the judges.

13. All names voted for by each elector at any election to be on one ballot.

14. Ballots to be delivered openly to one of the judges, who shall audibly pronounce the name of the elector, and, if not objected to, and the judges are satisfied, the ballot shall be accepted.

15. If a person offering to vote be challenged by an elector, one of the judges shall declare the suffrage qualifications, and if the challenge

be not withdrawn, the challenged party shall answer, under oath, interrogations by the judges. If the answers are satisfactory, this ballot shall be received. If the challenge be on the ground of alienage, his certificate of naturalization shall be produced to the judges. If naturalized in this Territory, he must produce a transcript of the court record admitting him. If record and certificate are lost, and the voter state when and where he was naturalized, his vote shall be received.

16. As to evidence of such swearing and examination.

17. Canvass of the election by the judges to be public and continuous, and commence immediately after the close of the election.

18. How the canvass is to be conducted. Comparison of ballots with poll-lists, rectification of discrepancies.

19. Ballot-box not to be taken from the room until the votes are counted. How the counting is to be conducted.

20. When the votes are all counted, the result to be publicly announced. Disposal of the poll-lists and ballots.

21. County court to canvass the returns the first Monday after each election, declare the result, make abstracts, and forward duplicates, certificates, etc. Secretary and Governor to canvass the votes, Governor to grant certificate, etc.

22. Variations for town or city elections.

23. An elector can inspect public records.

24. Perjury punished as provided by act of Congress.

25. Threats, menace, force, corruption, hindrance of an elector from voting, awing, restraining, or disturbing an elector in his right of suffrage, repeating or illegal voting, punished by fine not exceeding \$2,000, or by imprisonment not exceeding three years, or both, and costs.

26. Judges or clerks trying to discover who votes for whom, or suffers others to discover, or shall mark any ballot-envelope with a view to such ascertainment, or, without the consent of the elector, shall, having illegally discovered, disclose who votes for whom, shall be punished as provided in the preceding section. Forging or counterfeiting returns when no such election has been held, wilful substitution of forged or counterfeit returns, punished by imprisonment as provided in last section. Wilfully adding to or subtracting from votes actually cast, wilful fraudulent returns by officers, aiding and abetting in the commission of any offences mentioned in the act, or fraudulent and wilful omission of official duties, punished as provided in the last section.

27. The Governor, at request of twenty or more electors of any remote settlement, not embraced in an election precinct, with place of voting not over seven miles distant, shall, by proclamation, establish an election precinct in such settlement, and designate the boundaries and place of election.

28. Annuls all acts or parts of acts of the Territorial legislature, repugnant to this act, and all laws of the Territory relating to suffrage.

## CHRISTIANCY'S VICIOUS BILL.

YESTERDAY we presented a brief abstract of Senator Christianity's mischievous bill, aimed at the vital function of the exercise of civil and religious liberty in Utah. It is a most vicious bill, and if enacted without material and radical amendment, amendment in its truest and fullest sense, and not in the sense of alteration or change alone, it will be a gigantic step and a vile precedent in the deprecated and dangerous direction of the destruction of civil and religious liberty of the great republic of these United States, the long and much vaunted land of liberty.

Here, parenthetically, we make one observation, that, paradoxical as it may appear, while the old, effete monarchies and despotisms of Europe, and even of Asia, are making steady progress in the direction of civil and religious liberty, the greatly lauded republic of the United States of America, the new world, the loudly-heralded land of freedom, the smartest nation in all

creation, of late years, has been making like progress in an opposite direction, so that if things continue to move on as they are moving, ere long, if people wish to enjoy civil and religious liberty, they will be under the necessity of fleeing from this enlightened and liberal republic in the New World to the ancient countries and governments of the old world, which it has been the custom for professed lovers of liberty to libel as being almost yet in the dark ages in regard to the general march of progress towards light and liberty for the people. In other words, while the peoples of most if not all of the nations of Europe in particular and the old world in general, even priestridden Spain and Mohammedan Turkey, are notably advancing in the attainment and enjoyment of real liberty in civil and religious matters, the people of the United States are notably retrograding in the possession and enjoyment of real liberty, and advancing in an opposite direction, so that the liberty they do have is fast degenerating into licence, the most galling and insupportable and destructive kind of tyranny.

We may say, what it would seem to many almost needless, that there can be no tenable objection to the enactment of fair and just laws regulating the exercise of the elective franchise and guarding it from abuse. This should be done, and done by the proper authority, which, under the American system, is the local government. The great objection to Christianity's bill, and the same objection applies to all bills of a similar nature, is that it is diametrically opposed to the fundamental principle of American government, self-government, the government of the people, by the people, and for the people, as the Declaration of Independence axiomatically says, that to secure the equal and inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, "governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed," and the governments, when they become destructive of these great ends, are justifiably abolishable by the people, in fact that it is the right, it is the duty of the people to throw off such degenerate, corrupt, oppressive, and despotic governments, and provide new guards for their future security.

These outspoken and liberal sentiments are the very essence of the great justificatory plea put forth to the world, from a decent respect to the opinions of mankind, by the chosen representatives of that heroic people who revolted from Great Britain and founded the present republic of the United States of America, in which we live. But this bill put forth by Senator Christianity coolly aims to deprive the large majority of the inhabitants of this Territory of that hard won and dearly prized civil and religious liberty to establish and maintain which their patriotic sires of '76 revolted, fought, bled, and died! Shame on such degeneracy! Shame that any man should be allowed to offer such a retrogressive bill in the Congress of the United States, or even to suggest such a bill there with impunity!

For more than a quarter of a century, for more than a quarter of the age of the federal government, ever since the organization of the Territory, Utah has enjoyed the common privilege and right of a degree of self-government, included in which was the power to enact laws concerning the exercise of the suffrage by the inhabitants of the Territory. But now this long vested and great privilege and right is sought to be taken away entirely. The last clause of Senator Christianity's bill annuls and abolishes every vestige of the territorial law relating to suffrage or the elective franchise. At one fell swoop the self-governmental legislative rights and privileges of a hundred thousand people, of a whole Territory, common rights, relating to a vital subject, are to be ruthlessly swept out of existence under the hypocritical pretence of "regulating" the same. What more did Britain do a hundred years ago, what more could the veriest despot do, than to arrogate to himself the vested rights and privileges of the people, and leave them wholly subject to his will in those matters?

—Prof. Swing, in a sermon recently at Chicago, said that latterly wine had not done so much harm as lace, and the congregation applauded the declaration.

## THE CHARGES AGAINST PRESIDENT GRANT.

OUR dispatches yesterday were somewhat of the sensational order, concerning the alleged corrupt use of public money by President Grant, or his express order, to influence the New York elections. Some of the newspapers are very severe upon the President, on account of these revelations.

There are so many investigations occurring just now of the action of public and prominent officials on account of their alleged corrupt conduct, that it seems to be necessary to exercise great caution in accepting charges made against men in important public station, not taking them for granted except on evidence that cannot be rejected.

Certainly official crime or misdemeanor should be properly punished, and further perpetration prevented; so far as is reasonably possible. But charges of this kind should not be lightly made, nor too readily accepted as true, concerning such officials, especially concerning the Chief Magistrate of the nation. Because that there is a certain amount of respect due to the office, whatever the character of the incumbent may be; because further that the incumbent should be respected until it plainly appears that he is unworthy; and because further still that if a chief ruler is not respected at home by his own people he cannot be expected to be respected abroad by other people. Nor can any good come, either at home or abroad, from disrespect to the ruler of a nation by his own people, except in an extreme case. It is a thing to be seriously deprecated, and not indulged in except when it can no longer be avoided.

For these reasons, then, among others, it is to be hoped that President Grant will be able to answer satisfactorily and clear up these charges which are made against him, that no stain may come upon the Executive of this great republic, for if there should be the disgrace would fall also, in greater or less degree, upon every one who claims the title of an American citizen.

## BRIGHAM YOUNG AND THE "MORMONS" AT THE BOTTOM OF EVERYTHING.

AMONG the dispatches from Washington is one which says that there is no longer any doubt that Brigham Young expects to control the organization of the proposed new State of New Mexico and dictate the terms of the new constitution.

This is in continuation of the sensation raised by the recent ring story, published in the New York Sun, of the proposed exodus of the "Mormons" from Utah to New Mexico.

A short time ago the sensation was that the "Mormons" were going to leave Utah for Palestine, and the wonder is that Brigham Young was not credited with being the cause of the recent visit of Sir Moses Montefiore to the Holy Land, and the reported purchase of a large part of that land by the Rothschilds.

Again, why not get up a story of an alleged connection of the visit of the Emperor Dom Pedro of Brazil with some mysterious design of Brigham Young and the "Mormons," in respect to some portion of the Brazilian empire? That is a large country and not very thickly populated. It has room for an enterprising, industrious and moral people like the "Mormons."

Why not represent Brigham Young and the "Mormons" as being the moving cause of every enterprise or occurrence of any note in the world—of the Egypto-Abysinian war, the British purchase of Suez canal shares, the Turco-Selavonian difficulties, the Russian war on the borders of India, the visit of the Prince of Wales to India, the visit of Queen Victoria to Germany, the Don Carlos war, the Cuban struggle, the Centennial business, the Emma mine business, the Chinese invasion of California, the crooked whisky trials, and many other things? In

short, shall there be anything notable done, or any remarkable event happen, anywhere in the world, and Brigham Young and the "Mormons" have not a hand in it? Go to, this particular field of sensational enterprise is large, and there is plenty of room for more laborers of inventive genius in it.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

—Paris is after Centennial styles.

—The Cologne Gazette advocates reform in German literature, by the adoption of the Latin in place of the German or "black" letter.

—A mulatto, Jim Tarpin, by name, was taken from a jail in Danville, Ky., and hung by masked men, for outraging a little girl. Mulattoes should not do such things.

—The Chicago Times publishes the following as "latest from the Black Hills," "Send me money, to get home with." That is the latest news from many places besides the Black Hills.

—M. H. H. says in the Woman's Journal, "There were more divorces granted last year in the State of Michigan than marriages."

—The Richmond Enquirer suggests that the following be inserted in a republican platform—"Resolved, That this is a nation," and that we have a right to rob it."

—All that glitters is not gold. The Alta California says, "Those who wish to live without hard physical labor, will find more competition here than in the Eastern States."

—John M. Coghlan, the papers say, accepted the appointment to the U. S. district attorneyship of California, rather than that to the chief justiceship of Utah, because he liked San Francisco better than Salt Lake as a place of residence.

—An official investigation of the Ohio Soldiers' Orphans' Home shows that pounding with barrel staves, blows in the face that left disfiguring remarks, and other equally severe punishments, were daily inflicted.

—Hon. Elijah A. Morse, of Canton, said in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, "The women of Utah recently sent to Congress the largest petition ever presented, asking for a repeal of the laws against polygamy."

—Mr. Schell, an old pioneer, testified before the California senatorial Chinese Investigating Committee that he preferred to employ white labor when he could do it, but he could not always do it, as there were thousands of white men loafing around San Francisco, who would not go into the country.

—The late Countess Danner, widow of Frederick VII of Denmark, left her property, valued at nearly \$4,000,000, for the maintenance of an institution for orphan and deserted girls of Denmark. The castle of Jagerpris, in North Zealand, will be the central building of the institution, and accommodations for six or eight hundred children will be provided.

—Lucy Hooper says, in reference to tied back skirts and glove-fitting dresses, "Not one form in a hundred can stand the total absence of drapery. And so, fat and forty, and thin and thirty, must be turned into guys in order that the sweet and shapely may have a chance to stun the world with a revelation of loveliness."

—The Nevada Tra script tells the following sad story:—While Louisa Schmidt, a pretty little school-girl, was standing on a chair working out a problem at the blackboard, another pupil playfully pulled the chair from under her, and in falling her chin struck on the rim of the blackboard with such force that she died within a few days.

—The Rev. W. H. Milburn, the blind Methodist preacher, recently gave a lecture in Cleveland, O., on "What a Blind Man Saw in Paris," in the course of which, according to the Herald of the former city, he remarked—"Paris! The garden of pleasure, the fairest city that ever stood upon the earth's crust; no ancient city can compare with it! The reservoir from which emanates all that gratifies the expectant world!" He commented upon the "average American in Paris," his weaknesses, and especially his claims to blue blood, "from the best families of the country, sir."