

## UTAH AFFAIRS IN CONGRESS.

## THE POLAND BILL.

It is somewhat hazardous to attempt to criticize a law without an official copy. Yet it is believed the act, as published in the NEWS, is sufficiently accurate for the purposes of this review.

Candor compels the admission that for the last three years the District Courts of the Territory have been in a state of paralysis for the want of the necessary juries to bring the guilty to justice and to determine rights between man and man. Indeed, so great has been the "law's delay," that timid capitalists have not sought investments here, and hence the eyes of all Utah were turned to the Legislative power to furnish the laws necessary to set the courts to work. But alas, owing to the one-man power, armed with the veto, the local legislature was unable to give any relief. Then an appeal to Congress was made, and who would have objected to a law of Congress, giving the courts power to summon a legal jury by the officers selected by the people of the Territory? While this might have been subversive of the "rights" "retained by the people" to make their own laws, (constitution of the United States, Art. I X), it would have been cheerfully submitted to for the sake of harmony and the general good of the people, yet when the law is anti-republican, if not unconstitutional, and as originally framed by the piratical crew who only sought for booty, by a judicial confiscation of the property of polygamists under the mild name of "alimony and counsel fees," it becomes the duty of every man, be he Jew, Gentile, or Mormon, who has the least spark of humanity left, to rise and in the name of an outraged people protest against a law that was intended to first arrest a man for a pretended crime, and then follow up the arrest by forfeiting his property to a woman whom the law refuses to recognize as his wife by prosecuting the husband for polygamy, which virtually declares she is not his wife, yet gives her "alimony," which is declared to be the right of a married woman only; and her attorney was to aid in this plundering, under the name of "counsel fees." Had this feature of the Poland bill become law, it would have been a disgrace to the Congress of the nation, and have offered a reward or premium to lawyers to seek "counsel fees" from persons not their clients; and to induce the "judges," as lawyers are called, to become a miserable set of champertors, which are defined to be a set of judicial shysters, who "stir up lawsuits in order to have part of the lands or gain in dispute." With this temptation before them, what a demoralized set the "judges" would have soon become? But, the Senate, not wanting to lead them into temptation, and wishing to save them from breaking the commandment, as to coveting their neighbors' goods, struck out this item of land piracy, and thus saved our "judges" from violating that other commandment which declares, "Thou shalt not steal." But they do swear like the army in Flanders, at Senator Sargent and others, who voted to strike out this abomination and made the bill less oppressive to a people who had no hand in its enactment, and saved the constitution from violation, which prohibits "unreasonable seizures." Art. IV.

The act abolishes the offices of Territorial Marshal and Attorney-General, thus depriving the people of the right to select their own officers, and legislates into their offices the United States Marshal and Attorney, prohibits the Probate Court (the only court in the Territory whose judge is appointed by territorial authority) from exercising any jurisdiction in chancery or law cases; and transfers jurisdiction in all chancery cases and law action to the District Courts of the Territory, which courts the people have not been consulted in their organization, nor had any voice in their creation, and the only part they are required to take in running the courts is to be taxed to furnish the money to pay all expenses, unless we may except the jurors furnished by the Probate judge, as provided by the fourth section of the act. There we have taxation without representation, for which our fathers went to war with John Bull. Has

one hundred years made right what was then a wrong so deep that nothing less than an appeal to arms could rectify it? Have the sons of '76 degenerated so that they must submit to wrong and injury? Heaven forbid!

The purport and intention of this law, as passed, is violative of the rights of the people, and can best be expressed in the language of the Declaration of Independence, when it was declared the King of Great Britain had wronged the people of America by "suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever," which is a true bill of indictment against Congress, when legislating for Utah.

If this law is used only for the purposes intended (the intent of Congress is shown by striking out all in reference to polygamy) to set the law in motion to try offenders, and determine rights in civil actions, no great harm will be done, for the Supreme Court of the U. S. have the power to correct errors in capital cases, bigamy and polygamy. While this is a safeguard that will guarantee justice in the cases mentioned, it will be shown to have been unnecessary in cases of polygamy, as it is believed, by the best informed attorneys, that no conviction can be had, even in Utah, therefore no necessity for the right of appeal in such cases. It would not be proper, in this communication, to indicate the line of defence—that must be reserved, to be most effective to the day of trial. But I venture this opinion, that no person will be convicted in Utah of polygamy, though doubtless many and desperate efforts will be made to that end.

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## UTAH AFFAIRS.

Rejoicings over the passage of the Poland bill by the Senate, in Utah, were somewhat premature. The Poland bill did not pass. It was first emasculated of its infamous features, and thus made harmless, before it became a law, and the Polanders are again unhorsed. Tally one more triumph for right and justice and personal and religious liberty, and for the Mormons against attempted usurpation, outrage and oppression. The speech and vote of Lorenzo Crounse in the House against the Poland bill were proofs of fidelity to principle and courage, which, we must concede, were quite unexpected by us. The written charters of law and liberty in this country cannot be violated towards the Mormons without endangering the rights of all the people, and, even were this possible, so much the worse for the men guilty of such legislation as was attempted by Poland and his confederates.—*Omaha Herald, June 26th.*

The Utah Judiciary bill, after having most of its fangs extracted, passed Congress. Delegate Gannon is uncertain whether to be glad or sorry, but is, on the whole, thankful it is no worse.—*Cleveland (O.) Herald, June 24.*

The Utah Supreme Court rendered a decision in consonance with the opinion of Judge Holt, that soldiers cannot be punished by the civil law. Federal courts have now become mere registering offices of the will of the Washington magistrates.—*Pioche Record, June 24.*

The passage of the Utah bill, in the emasculated shape in which it came from the Senate, was not vigorously fought in the House, and it went through without a call of the yeas and nays. The Senate struck out the vital section of the bill, which proposed to exclude bigamists from juries, in cases when trials for divorce occurred. Thus the bill fails, so far as it was intended to destroy polygamy. The Senate also changed the bill so as to allow the Probate courts to retain the jurisdiction of causes. In fact the bill was amended at many points, and therefore falls far short of what its authors in the House intended. On the whole, Brigham Young has reason to congratulate himself that he has got off so easily in this Congress. This legislation is pretty sure to be all that will be had affecting the Mormons for some time to come.—*Wash. Cor. Chicago Times.*

The Republican leaders concluded to take advantage, this morning, of the interval growing out of the routine work in preparing and engrossing the appropriation bills, to put through one of their favorite

pieces of legislative malignity; namely, the bill to regulate the courts and judicial offices in Utah. Some of the bad features of the bill were taken out in the Senate, and Mr. Sargent, of California, is entitled to much credit for largely aiding in this work. One of them is the provision that in trials for adultery, bigamy or polygamy, a belief in the rightfulness of polygamy is sufficient ground for excluding a juror, but notwithstanding this and other ameliorating changes made in the bill, the law as passed to-day is regarded as sufficiently stringent by the authors of the Mormon persecution. Its policy is to supersede the local tribunals and judicial officers, with Federal officers, and to provide for such juries and courts as will uphold the prosecutions to be instituted against the Mormons. The probate courts are to be set aside and the United States district courts substituted. There is reason to fear that this bill will be promptly utilized by the federal officials in Utah for their own malicious, needy and improper ends, and that a very lively raid on the Mormons will speedily begin. There was some debate on the subject in the Senate, but in the House of Representatives none whatever was allowed. Judge Poland rushed the bill through, and even the yeas and nays were not allowed to be taken. There is a large job in this bill, the game being to force the Mormons to emigrate in a body and to get their lands and houses for a song. No other large job except the Utah bill has passed to-day.—*Wash. Cor. St. Louis Times.*

## Unfinished Congressional Work.

MEASURES LEFT OVER FOR ACTION AT THE NEXT SESSION.

WASHINGTON, June 24.

A clerk of the Senate reached the House with the bills for the reduction of army paymasters from sixty to fifty and to authorize the coinage of twenty cent silver pieces just as the House adjourned, and therefore these bills failed of passage. Among the bills which go over till next session are the following:—For the relief of owners and purchasers of land sold for direct taxes in the insurrectionary States; amending the ninth section of the act approved July 13, 1866, concerning deposits in savings banks; to establish and maintain a national savings depository as a branch of the Post Office; to incorporate the Southern Trans-continental Railroad Company; to provide for the more efficient administration of the laws relating to public lands; granting to railroads in the Territories the right of way through the public lands of the United States; providing for the construction of the Portland, Dalles and Salt Lake Railroad and for the performance of all government services free of charge; to enable the central branch of the Union Pacific Railroad Company to submit its claim against the United States under the existing laws, to the decision of the Supreme Court; amendatory of the Civil Rights law; to authorize the organization of national banks without circulation; to establish the Territory of Pembina and provide a government therefor; providing for a postal telegraph; providing for the resumption of specie payment and for free banking; amendatory of the tariff and internal revenue laws (this bill failed in consequence of the disagreeing votes on the amendments); for the admission of New Mexico and Colorado as States; repealing the pre-emption and amendatory of the homestead laws; to protect the navigable waters of the United States from injury and obstruction; House bill for the reorganization of the army; the House bill to equalize bounties; the bill granting pensions to all soldiers of the war of 1812 and their widows and children; for the construction and repairs of the Mississippi river levees; the McCrary bill regulating charges for railroad transportation; the Omaha bridge bill; the House bill amendatory of the steamboat law; the Senate bills for the abolition of compulsory pilotage, and to authorize the organization of national banks without circulation; all the land grant bills and many hundred bills for the relief of individuals.—*N. Y. Herald.*

CONFERENCE NOTICE.—H. Brunton, late of the Washington House has removed to the Overland House Meals 30 cents. w13 1y

## UTAH MATTERS.

"K." in a letter to the *Omaha Herald*, from Alta, June 20, writes as follows—

"Social, political and religious affairs in Utah are a little mixed; in fact, I am of the opinion that they are a good deal mixed. Madness, hate, intolerance and bigamy rule the hour. As all know, two parties exist here, which are unknown to the States and the Territories, namely: Mormon and Gentile. In all political discussions one never hears mentioned such subjects as civil rights, political equality, State rights, free trade, hard money, national banks, or honest and economical administration; the beginning and ending is the word, 'Mormons,' to which are added such adjectives and descriptions of character, as only the genuine frontier American is fluent and scientific master of, or 'dishonest and thieving Gentiles,' with a meek twang that would do honor to the 'praise God barebones' of the days of Cromwell.

"The Order of Enoch agitates the Gentile mind to an alarming extent, and their press have rung the changes on the public ear until a mind of average sincerity, that is not entirely absorbed in Utah affairs, would as soon look for interesting reading matter in a box of printer's pi or a barrel of rejected ink as in the columns of their papers. Just why such extraordinary interest in the subject should be felt by these great moral regulators, who slobber puffs for the vilest 'gin mills' through their columns, and silently tolerate every species of vice which human depravity could invent, but are struck with holy horror at every act, good or bad, of the Mormon church, is not perceptible to the naked vision." \* \*

The *Herald* comments upon the letter in the following fashion—

"Our Utah correspondent gives a 'dose' of his own medicine, and thinks it is about as much as we can 'stand' at one time. The *Herald* can 'stand' the truth at all times, and opens its columns to all sides and all opinions. It has defended the Mormons in their right to self-government and religious liberty, but it has never, and will never, give countenance to the institution of Polygamy, or any other wrong on their part. There are bad men among the Mormons, but the people who raid upon and rail at them and him [Brigham Young], are not in a position to throw stones. The work of that people has been wonderful beyond all parallel in the last twenty-five years. Excesses arising in religious fanaticism are not peculiar to the Mormons; the Puritans were infinitely worse, in many respects, and the riff-raff, political and other, that has rushed into Utah to despoil that people of their homes and privileges, with the advent of the railroad, are worse still."

## Our Visit to Denmark.

On Tuesday, May 19th, after attending the London Conference, we embarked at London Bridge, on board the steamship *Granton*, for Hamburg, and thence to Copenhagen, to attend a conference appointed for May 23rd and 24th. Our passage across the German Ocean—480 miles to Hamburg—was extraordinarily pleasant, being free from sea-sickness and the many disagreeable features of stormy weather and rough seas. Three hours slow travel by rail brought us to Kiel; seven hours more, by steam, took us across an arm of the Baltic—skirting the coast of the island of Langeland on the one hand and that of the island of Laaland on the other—to Korsor; from whence, after two and a half hours' pleasant and easy railway travel, we were brought safely, on the 22nd ult., to Copenhagen, where we were warmly greeted by President C. G. Larsen and a number of both Utah and native Elders.

That evening we attended the regular meeting of the Copenhagen Branch, which was well attended, the commodious meeting room of the Saints being well filled by a warm-hearted, earnest and attentive congregation, who partook freely of the excellent spirit enjoyed so bountifully by the Elders who addressed them. At the conclusion of the meeting, we passed through a cordial and vigorous ordeal of shaking hands, with greetings of "Welcome to Denmark."

The following day, the opening

meeting of the Conference was held at the same place, where the local business of the Conference was transacted in a prompt, spirited and agreeable manner, under the guidance of the President of the Conference—Elder Carstensen, and remainder of the time being devoted to short discourses by some of the Elders. On the Sabbath day, three meetings were held, in a large hall, hired for the occasion, which was well attended by the Saints and strangers. The discourses of the elders were listened to with the utmost attention, great interest being manifested in the same by all present. We could not help noticing the contrast, in this respect, from what we experienced twelve years ago, on our first visit to Copenhagen—it was then a rare thing to hold a meeting without molestation or interruption from a bigoted and senseless class of persons who sought on every opportunity to annoy the Saints in their religious worship.

On Monday, the 25th ult., at 10 a.m., a priesthood meeting was held in the Saints' meeting room, which also was well attended; and in the evening, the branch choir gave a musical entertainment, which was patronized to overflowing, and went off with remarkable eclat.

We have been very much gratified and pleased in observing the lively and healthy condition of the Copenhagen Conference, (which numbers 982 members), as well as the earnest and commendable zeal of the elders in bearing aloft the banner of Truth. We observed one feature in the conduct of that mission, which we would commend to the notice of the Presidents of Conferences in the British Isles, wherever it can be made practicable. In agricultural or other districts, work is brisk during certain seasons, and slack, or at a stand still, at other seasons, the local brethren who, during the dull seasons, are out of employment, could be—as they are in Denmark—profitably employed in the ministry,—visiting from village to village, or from house to house, among their neighbors, and preaching the everlasting Gospel,—trusting in God, as did the ancient disciples, and as all so engaged should do to-day, and at all times, taking no thought as to what they should eat or drink, or where-withal they should be clothed,—knowing that He, who notices even the sparrow, will not desert the faithful laborer who is worthy of his hire, and when the busy season for the laborer returns, resume work again at their trade, keeping steadily in view the great object of gathering to Zion, and remembering that the quickest and best road leading there—and to deliverance from the many hardships to which the poor are inevitably subjected in the over-crowded countries of the Old World—lies in the strict and careful observance of the just and righteous laws of God, revealed to us in the Gospel.

After a pleasant, and I trust not altogether unprofitable, visit to the Saints in Copenhagen, we returned to England, arriving at Liverpool on the 2nd inst., in excellent spirits, rejoicing in the manifold mercies of the Lord to his servants. —*Millennial Star, June 9.*

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