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NEEDLESS FOREBODINGS.

A RESPECTED contemporary announced that on Monday last Judge Zane would take a seat on the bench as Chief Justice of Utah, and at the same time the people of Utah will go into mourning. We do not think the prediction will be verified. We see no reason for the grief anticipated and no signs of its coming.

There have been several decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States in relation to Utah affairs since the time when this Territory was subject to the reign of terror that paralyzed business and filled thousands of homes with sorrow and suspense. These have settled some questions which were then undecided and were the cause of much of the trouble and uneasiness of the times. Experience also has taught many lessons which cannot surely be lost to the judiciary, but must be of value both to the officials and the people.

The class of our citizens exposed to the severity of that stringent and changeable application of special laws which was formerly the principal difficulty, can now understand much better than then what those enactments require, and therefore are in a much better position to conform to them intelligently. And the history of the past four or five years has demonstrated that a fair, consistent and humane judicial policy is much more potent "in the direction sought," than harshness, terrorism and vindictiveness.

In the period alluded to, no defendant under the Edmunds act knew when arraigned what would be the construction of that act as applied to his case. Each new trial developed some new ruling, and what was considered a proper rendering in one case was changed to suit the peculiarities of another, and so there was no certainty but a great deal of positive absurdity. Circumstances are different to-day, and there is a more definite understanding of the law and its application.

The disposition of the public outside of this Territory, too, is modified. At the time of the excesses complained of, public feeling was wrought up to fever heat on the Utah question, and almost any extreme in the execution of the law would have been justified thereby. But public men, the leaders of the nation, have received much information since then. And while there is a fixed determination that the prevailing marriage system shall be maintained, and innovations shall not be permitted in this country, the persecution of people endeavoring to live without clashing with the laws is not approved, either by Congressmen or the people whom they represent. And many things which were formerly done in Utah without rebuke, would now raise a storm of indignation in circles where influence is powerfully exercised.

We see no reason to suppose that Judge Zane desires to oppress or injure the people of this Territory or any class among them. The course that will be pursued in the administration of the criminal laws will depend largely upon the Prosecuting Attorney. Judges have sworn duties to perform and so have the officers of the court. Laws are made to be enforced. But their enforcement does not imply malice, invidious zeal, the concentration of effort in one special direction, nor the accumulation of profits by way of fees. It does not require the packing of juries, the badgering and insulting of witnesses, nor the cowardly berating and verbal assault of helpless defendants. Neither does it demand, in every case, the full penalties prescribed, particularly when mitigating circumstances appear and the purpose of the law can be attained by mildness and the exercise of judicial discretion.

All these considerations will, we believe, have some weight in the future administration of the laws of this Territory. And as a great many people who at one time were in such a condition that they could not fully comply with the laws, as then construed, are now living in harmony with a fair and rational interpretation thereof, it is reasonable to conclude that the disruption of social order and the tumult that then disturbed the community will not be revived, because the supposed occasion for it does not now exist, or, at any rate, to anything like the same extent.

We would rather look forward for peace, for progress, and for such an administration of the laws as reason

and justice demand, than expect a return to the methods which belonged to a past which we hope has gone forever. In this instance we think the words of the song-maker are applicable, and we suggest them to those who can only forebode trouble:

"Let tomorrow take care of tomorrow,
 Leave things of the future to fate.
 What's the use to anticipate sorrow?
 Life's troubles come never too late."

"WIDOWS-BY-LAW."

THE Utica, N. Y. *Press* informs its readers that, "as a result of the law against polygamy, 'A Home for Divorced Wives' has been established at Salt Lake City." It goes on to say that there is thrown "a surplus of 'widows-by-law upon the matrimonial market' here, and hence the establishment of this 'place of refuge' for them, as 'the stock of husbands is below the sudden abnormal demand.'"

We do not know of any sudden abnormal demand for husbands in Utah nor of any "Home for Divorced Wives." Both of these have been formed by the vivid imagination of the Utica *Press* editor, or some other scribe from whom he has drawn his "information." But there is a perpetual demand greater than the supply in the State where the *Press* is published, and a still larger discrepancy in the demand and the supply in several New England States. A Home for Divorced Wives, too, would be of far greater service in each of those States than in Utah, for widows-by-law are comparatively scarce here, while there they swarm at every public place of resort and not a hotel of any note is free from them.

If the plural wives of Utah, whom the plotters against her peace desire to see cast adrift, were utterly forsaken, they would not be "widows-in-law," and when the men of Utah treat them as their trailers are wont to act toward dependent women who have no legal claim upon them, it will be time for fire from heaven to fall upon and consume them. If New York would take care of its own widows-by-law and other victims of consecutive polygamy, it would have its hands full and no time left to trouble over ills that do not exist in this much maligned Territory.

The rule that great men have small families is exemplified in Bismark and Gladstone.