EDITORIALS.

SENSATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE.

SALT LAKE has always been a place whence and concerning which much sensational correspondence by mail and telegraph has been indulged in, some of it of the most foolish and ridiculous kind, perfect-Munchausenish. The end of the time for such indulgence is not yet come, nor perhap will it until it is plain that it will no longer pay to exaggerate, misrepresent, and slander.

Among the latest falsely-colored statements from this City to the press at a distance are the following to the San Francisco *Chronicle*, in correspondence written in the interests of the unscrupulous ring in this city—

"Salt Lake City, March 25.—Yesterday the general subject of conversation everywhere seemed to be the quite unexpected acquittal of Ricks. It was generally believed that the jury, constituted as it was—nine Mormons and three Gentiles—would fail to agree, and probably might convict, so conclusive and direct was the evidence. But when his acquittal was announced a general feeling of surprise was manifested, which soon turned into indignation, and many of the leading business men of the city were quite free in expressing their condemnation of this unaccountable action of a sworn jury, and even went so far as to hint at the formation of an organization to enforce summary justice in cases where such criminals escape punishment at the hands of a Mormon jury under the influence and direction of the Mormon Church.

"Prior to the passage of the 'Poland Bill,' the trial by jury was obsolete—except in a few cases, by consent of both parties. This bill was looked forward to as the panacea of all evils and crimes, Mormon and Gentile. Under its provisions a Probate Judge is authorized to select one hundred names, and the U. S. Marshal a hundred names, to serve as jurors for the term. The property qualification is necessary, only the juror must be a citizen and able to read and write English. The Probate Judge, being a Mormon official, is supposed to select none but Mormons, and the Marshal goes out among the Gentiles for jurors. This seems to be fair—or at least a standoff, as far as numbers are concerned; but yet it does not work well, and this jury system is considered but a slight improvement, if any, over the former one—which was considered worse than none at all. It seems that the great difficulty is, that in most or all the important murder and lascivious cohabitation cases, in which Mormons are criminals, the Gentiles have formed opinions as to the guilt of the accused parties, and when their names are drawn as jurors and themselves placed on oath they have the honesty to say so; and that, on the other hand, the Mormons are not an inquisitive or talkative people; they seldom say or hear anything outside of the church, and, as a rule, never read the newspapers; consequently their minds are not made up on anything, except on the Mormon question and eternal fidelity to the church and its members. Further, they deny the right of any judicial tribunal, or any other power on earth, except the 'inspired Mormon priesthood,' to administer an oath, and do not consider such an oath binding on their consciences in the least. The consequence is the Gentiles are disqualified, and the juries mainly, if not altogether, consist of Mormons, as heretofore. This certainly is not the fault of the Poland bill, but it may be attributed to hard swearing and elastic consciences."

To those acquainted with the situation here, it is needless to point out the villainous misrepresentations in the above, while readers at a distance will do well to reject it all, and everything else of the kind from the same source, or any other.

WHAT A CHANGE!

A MOST obvious change has come over this city within the last two or three weeks. It hardly seems like the same place in regard to the important particular we are referring to, and that is, matters judicial. The change is tantamount to a revolution, a revolution from a revolutionary condition to a condition according with fundamental and well established principles.

The previous incumbent of the seat judicial was a very peculiar character. Outside of his judicial duties proper he conceived and authoritatively announced that he had a mission, a political and religious mission. Indeed it soon appeared that he came here not purely as the champion of the law, but rather as the champion of certain political and religious ideas, as the doughty antagonist of certain religious faith and practices. He acted as a religio-politico-judicial magistrate, not as a judicial magistrate alone, his judicial character being completely dwarfed, warped, and overshadowed by his religio-political character.

Some of his fulsome admirers, in their injudicious adulation, term him "an antique type of civic worth." An apt phrase. Undoubtedly antique, very. Apparently so antique as to be a relic of the dark ages, and utterly out of sympathy with the liberal, progressive, republican spirit of the century.

A remarkable peculiarity of this character was his wonderful success in demonstrating how not to do it—how not to do the thing most reasonable and most needed, and yet make an everlasting fuss about it for political effect. On the other hand, as a natural consequence, he was equally successful in demonstrating how to do that which should not be done. He had an immense faculty for ereating needless sensations. Being a chronic mischief breeder, it was the easiest thing in the world for him to keep the community in a condition of perpetual turmoil, being continually on the alert to litigiously harass prominent individuals of classes forming the greater portion of the community. A member of those classes could hardly appear in his court as a participant in a case, without being subjected to judicial insult in one way or another, and not infrequently in a style full of acerbity and vindictiveness, and in language "more appropriate to a street brawl than to the halls of justice."

How great the contrast since the accession of the present incumbent! The former gentleman was on the bench five years, judicially "breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the Saints," and yet, with the law of Congress in his hand, he did not succeed in securing one single conviction for the statutory offence of polygamy. The latter gentleman heard and decided one such case in two days, and another in half a day, both of which two cases had been in suspense nearly six months under the administration of the former gentleman. A trumped up murder case hung fire about the same number of months under the former gentleman, but the latter gentleman heard and decided it in five days. Further, though all these cases, during their six months' suspension, were used for sensational effect abroad, they are settled in a straightforward business way now, quietly, without any fuss or any startling accompaniments, with no judicial high and mighty stiltedness, or anything intensely dramatic about them. Instead of being nursed for political effect, and let off in pieces, in instalments, occasionally, like fireworks, for extraordinary sensational purposes, they are disposed of with quiet regularity, like any other ordinary court business.

Instead of the city being always in a ferment in consequence of extraordinary judicial movements, sudden and conspiratorial, it is relapsing into as unexcited and quiet a condition as that of a remote country hamlet. People go about their daily business now without the slightest anticipation of suddenly hearing of some new piece of judicial ascerbity, passion, perversity, vindictiveness, usurpation or rascality.

The present incumbent, Judge Emerson, appears to be intent simply upon doing his duty as a judge, that is, in administering the law in the spirit and intent thereof, instead of making invidious distinctions, or seeking for and eagerly embracing opportunities to harass, oppress and punish any particular class of the community, and twisting the law to accomplish the same ignoble purpose. He may be right, or he may be wrong, in his rulings or decisions. He may not be always right, for that is something more than human, though we have heard of human beings claiming infallibility. He may be in error sometimes in his conclusions, for to err is human. But he goes steadily along in the discharge of his official duties, as appears right to him, and with no effort or desire to strike any particular persons or classes in the community. This begets an unwonted degree of satisfaction and confidence in the community, until the feeling grows on the public that it would be more agreeable to go into his court and be tried, convicted, and condemned, than to go into the court of his predecessor and be tried and acquitted.

JUDICIAL PERSECUTION.

IT has been often said that the official career of the late chief justice of Utah Territory was notorious for its intense partizanship, a determination to inaugurate and wage a religio-political crusade, and to carry on a judicial persecution, rather than to honor the eminent position he was appointed to fill, by administering the law according to the spirit and intent thereof. Perhaps nothing stronger, by way of confirmation of the preceding, could be given than the case of Hon. George Q. Cannon, under indictment for polygamy, which was disposed of in a few minutes yesterday, in the Third Judicial District Court, by his hon or Judge Emerson.

The indictment against Mr. Cannon was presented by the Grand Jury last October under, we believe, a special charge of the late Chief Justice; and, although upon its very face it showed that the entire proceeding was a nullity in law, it has been continued in court from that time to the present, an unnecessary expense of several hundred dollars having been entailed upon the Government, and the defendant, refused by the Court a speedy trial, having been subjected also to great personal expense, and to the opprobrium and scandal of an indictment for what is regraded by many people as a high crime while occupying a seat in Congress as a Delegate from Utah Territory.

When the case was called up in court yesterday, it appeared from the indictment that the plural marriage charged against the defendant had been entered into many years before the indictment was found, and under the U. S. Statute of Limitations of 1790 prosecutions for all acts considered criminal in the eye of the law, except murder and treason, are barred unless the offenders are indicted within two years from the time such offences are committed. The U. S. District Attorney stated to the court yesterday, that the crime, if any had been committed, had long since been outlawed, and that the prosecution was therefore utterly null and void, being contravened by the Statute of Limitations.

It cannot for a moment be supposed that the late Chief Justice was ignorant of this fact, any more than was any other professional gentleman connected with the judiciary or bar of Utah. But that was immaterial. The people of Utah had elected Mr. Cannon as their Delegate to Congress by an overwhelming majority, leaving not the shadow of a chance for the admission of the ring candidate by fair means, and hence any and every expedient, no matter how shallow and outrageously unjust, must be resorted to, and therefore the indictment of Mr. Cannon and the refusal to grant him a speedy trial, evidently in the hope that Utah might be left without a representative in the national legislature, or that, under the opprobrium of an indictment for a crime against a law of the United States, the people's honored Delegate might be subjected to the shame and disgrace of being deprived of his seat and expelled from Congress.

Happily, in the dispensations of Providence, the vile scheme failed, and the designs of the guilty conspirators against the rights of the people of this Territory were frustrated so far as expulsion was concerned; and now, with a gentleman occupying the chief judicial position in the Territory, who has too much honor for the government he represents, and too large a share of self-respect to become the head and front of a set of contemptible carpet-baggers and conspirators, the indictment against Mr. Cannon, which its contrivers well knew must fail when submitted to any conscientious man competent to occupy a high judicial station, has been promptly quashed.

Many complaints, some of them probably more or less well founded, have been made during the last few years about the extravagant use of the public money by the Department of Justice. The case now under consideration furnishes another illustration of wrong in this direction, perpetrated under the forms of law, in direct violation of the statutes of the United States, through the corrupt administration of men chosen to represent the government, and to execute some of the most important and momentous of all its functions, namely, the administration of law and justice. Let us hope, however, that, in this respect, the dawning of a brighter day has come for Utah.

UTAH AND THE MORMONS.—Dr. Parry, who paid a visit last year, in the interests of botany, to this Territory, and spent some months in the Southern part thereof, recently delivered a lecture at Davenport, Iowa, upon what he had seen in Utah. The following are extracts from a report of his lecture in the Davenport *Gazette* of February 21—

"In the pursuit of his vocation as a botanist the doctor had lately visited Utah, traveled through its line of remote settlements, visited at its homes, experienced kindness and hospitality everywhere—never was insulted, never cheated. He could say at least this much to any who feel disposed to travel through this interesting country—you need no weapons of defense; only it will not be wise to rail at polygamy or denounce Prest. Young as a murderer, a thief or a libertine, which would not only be unsafe, but untrue.

"No unprejudiced traveler can pass through their country without carrying away an impression highly favorable to their morality, honesty, and persevering industry. No people seem so completely to live out their religion in daily life; by no modern church are duties of a religious life more strictly inculcated. In no dwelling, however poor, is a meal partaken of without first invoking divine blessing. Dancing and all assemblies of amusement and instruction are opened and closed with prayer. That such a community, now thoroughly organized, cemented by persecution, bound together by the strongest social and religious ties, can be broken up by official or legal instrumentalities, past history shows to be untenable. The lecture closed with a vivid picture of the desolation that will follow a military invasion of Utah. "Nauvoo, the beautiful city," after a lapse of nearly thirty years has not yet recovered from the desolation following the Mormon expulsion of 1849. A Gamaliel policy is the part of wisdom in dealing with the Mormon problem."

ABOUT SUFFRAGE.

THE recent decision of the U. S. Supreme Court concerning the matter of the right of suffrage, appears to be giving a good deal of satisfaction in different parts of the country, although it denies the right of woman suffrage, except where granted by local law. The Missouri *Democrat* of March 31 says—

"The preposterous claim that the fourteenth amendment of the Constitution sets aside all State constitutions and laws regarding suffrage, and extends that franchise to all citizens of the United States, hardly needed the emphatic denial which it has received by unanimous decision of the Supreme Court of the United States. For if the Constitution extends the franchise to all citizens, it extends it to babies in the cradle, convicts in the penitentiary, and to lunatics in the asylum. It is not necessary to discuss the absurdity of such a claim. The Supreme Court holds that 'the Constitution does not confer the right of suffrage upon any one. Its fifteenth amendment merely provides that States shall not exclude persons on account of race or color. But both amendments and the Constitution leave the States to determine what portion of the citizens, as to age, sex, property, intelligence or other qualifications, so represents the whole community that the franchise may wisely be conferred upon it."

That "preposterous claim" was made here to cover a number of ring election frauds, and this "emphatic denial" of the claim by the court of last resort hardly suits the ringites.

The Philadelphia *Times* of March 30 says—

"The Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of Miner against Hoppersatt, involving the political status of women under the war amendments, follows the line already laid down in the New Orleans and other recent cases. Women are citizens now, precisely as they were before the adoption of the Fourteenth Amendment, and have the same privileges now that they had before. But suffrage is not one of the privileges of citizens, as such, and 'the Fourteenth Amendment does not apply to it. A citizen is a voter under the Constitution and laws of his State, and all that the recent amendments provide is that the right of a citizen to vote shall not be denied for certain specific reasons. A number of very important constitutional principles are laid down with unusual force and clearness in this decision, principles more important, indeed, than the point directly ruled—that the political position of women under the Constitution is not in any way affected by the amendments. This is the most interesting decision that Chief Justice Waite has yet delivered, and it will be received with a great deal of pleasure by all but the suffrage reformers."

A NORMAL SCHOOL FOR NURSES.—San Francisco is to have a very useful institution—a normal school for nurses. The *Chronicle* of that city, of March 21, thus records the initiatory steps—

"The Pacific Dispensary for Women and Children incorporated yesterday. Its purpose is to provide for women and children the medical aid of competent women physicians, and to assist in educating women for nurses and in the practice of medicine and kindred professions. The Directors are Annie S. Taylor, C. A. Sims, Mary Winslow Staples, Rachel W. Healey, M. B. F. Stone, R. J. Wallace and Elizabeth W. Phillips. The capital stock is $1,000, divided into fifty shares of $20 each, with the privilege of increasing the stock to $100,000.

NEITHER THE BEST NOR THE WORST.—The San Francisco *Post* says—

"Governor Woods made the best Governor Utah ever had, and ought to have been continued there until his work was finished."

The *Post* is mistaken. That gentleman was neither the best nor the worst governor Utah ever had. He was no better than he ought to have been, and he possibly might have been worse than he was, but he evidently did continue until his work was finished. He stayed here until he was completely "played out," and when that happens to a man his work in such locality must be about done.