

have been unable to detect. Last night, however, a sloop was seized at Iaconner, W. T., on board of which was found a large quantity of Chinese wine. The owner of the vessel was arrested and the sloop brought here by the revenue cutter.

NEW YORK, 22.—Regarding the late meeting of general freight agents and the determination to continue the special contract system after the bluster of the Eastern lines has been the topic among shippers, many of whom were disgusted at the turn affairs took, as they were in hopes there would be some relief; but in what shape they had no idea. The general hope, however, was that contracts would be abolished and an open tariff on a reduced scale be adopted. This would be acceptable to the greater portion of the merchants, especially the larger ones, who are sufferers under the present system, as most of their customers have been given contracts, and have purchased goods in the East which formerly they bought in San Francisco. As yet no official notice has been given that contracts will be continued another year, and there yet seems a reluctance on the part of shippers as to the future. However, Mr. Stubbs, General Traffic Manager of the Central Pacific Road, has assured them that they will be protected. Still they are not settled as to what protection means in their case.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., 22.—The Mount Tom Thread Company's works at East Hampton are burned; loss \$50,000; insurance \$25,000.

St. Louis, 21.—A fire to-night burned Hagarty & Sons' auction house. loss \$40,000, insurance \$30,000, part on stock; Eli Walker & Co, dry goods, \$75,000, and damaged Moyer & Co., hats and caps, and Frank & Frank, jeans, to unknown amounts.

SAN FRANCISCO, 22.—A small boat containing four men crossed the bar last Tuesday, bound on a fishing cruise. The boat has been missing since, and careful search has been made, but without avail. There is every reason to apprehend that the boat capsized and all on board drowned.

Panama, 22.—The steamer *Antarctic*, belonging to the Compagnie Maritime du Pacifique, on her voyage from Eten to Callao, thence to Bordeaux, struck a rock on the 20th ult., near Port Cherrepe, and in less than an hour was a total wreck, the passengers, fortunately all escaping.

FRANKFORT, Ky., 22.—Governor Blackburn says he did not disregard the resolution of the Legislature about pardons issued, but that the investigation occurred as directed, and the result is in writing in the vault of the State Mansion. He also says the number of pardons are placed at only about half those actually issued, as by resolution and action of the Legislature he was compelled to issue some 500; in the case of one mob some 400 more, and others, amounting to some 3,000 additional. He says he will pardon 3,000 more, if satisfactory reasons are given.

FORT WAYNE, Ind., 22.—A broken rail near Connersville, threw one car of the passenger train on the Fort Wayne, Cincinnati & Louisville road off the track into the Whitewater Canal. Roadmaster A. J. Stewart, is seriously injured; John Colecott is also hurt; Miss Georgia Fleming, daughter of the ex-State Treasurer is very severely, perhaps fatally, injured.

Mt. Vernon, Ohio, 22.—An excursion train with 300 passengers was ditched by an open switch in the yards of the Cleveland, Mt. Vernon & Columbus road. A number of passengers were badly bruised; none seriously injured.

Bradford, 22.—A train on the Bradford branch of the New York, Erie & Western Railroad ran off the track on a trestle near the river bridge about a mile south of Carroll, ton. Two passenger coaches and the caboose went over the trestle, falling about eight feet, and being badly smashed. The engine and baggage car passed over safely. A stringer in the trestle raised from its place and ran through the front passenger coach, mostly occupied by ladies, fortunately passing down the aisle, doing very little damage. Conductor John Barnes and Thomas Sheehan of Wellsville, were thrown through the window and seriously hurt. The passengers were badly shaken up.

#### FOREIGN.

NAPLES, 21.—A passenger train has been stopped and robbed by an armed band. The government has

offered a reward for the apprehension of the robbers.

London, 21.—On the news reaching the Prince of Wales that Gambetta had a relapse, he telegraphed enquiring the real condition of the sufferer. The reply forwarded stated that Gambetta's wound was thoroughly healed. A careful examination satisfied the physicians that the condition of the patient was satisfactory.

Berlin, 21.—The Prussian government intends to replace the chamber of commerce by a chamber of economists to be composed of artisans and representative manufacturers, agriculturists and commercial men who will be chosen by constituencies. These chambers are to choose the council of the central association.

London, 22.—Government has decided to prosecute Biggar, member of Parliament for Cavan, for his recent speech at Waterford in which he denounced Earl Spencer, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, as a "blood-thirsty English peer."

St. Petersburg, 22.—The Chinese in the province of Ille, tortured and murdered, in October, two Cossacks and Russian clerks at the Russian consulate at Kulja. On making investigation the Russians on the frontier are exasperated and threaten reprisals. The guards are reinforced.

Panama, 12.—The village of Empire, on the Panama R. R., was almost totally destroyed by fire. One hundred and fifty huts were destroyed. The loss reached \$100,000. Chinese merchants are the chief sufferers. The *Herald* intimates that the full extent of the disaster is unknown.

DORTMUND, 22.—Twenty-five persons were killed by the falling of a Cage in the Hardenburg mine on Wednesday. The Cage fell a distance of eighteen hundred feet.

Glasgow, 22.—The failure is announced of Reifenstein & Harms, iron brokers. Liabilities £55,000.

London, 22.—Two workhouses and one vessel, petroleum laden, burned at Exeter.

New York, 22.—A dispatch from Exeter, England, says: An explosion occurred at Thomas' petroleum store this morning causing a great fire which has already destroyed several business buildings and the adjoining houses are in flames. The oil ran swiftly along the shores of the canal setting fire to the shipping. One brig anchored in the canal was entirely consumed. The fire is still burning fiercely. Over 60,000 gallons of blazing oil ran into the river, lighting up the shores on both sides. More shipping threatened.

DUBLIN, 21.—The *United Ireland* says: A company is forming with a capital of a million pounds for developing Irish manufactures.

All witnesses in connection with the Phoenix Park murders were examined and instructed to attend tomorrow at Kilmalham Jail to see if they could identify Westgate as one of the assassins.

Paris, 21.—The cabinet to-day considered the proposed expedition to Tonquin. President Grevy assented to the project of Admiral Jaureguiberry, Minister of Marine, which is regarded as adopted. The government will demand a credit of 11,000,000 francs for the expedition.

Berlin, 21.—The *National Gazette* says a movement of troops is contemplated, with the object of stationing larger garrisons on the Russian frontier. The erection of large barracks, and double tracking some of the eastern railroads are projected.

The North German *Gazette*, referring to remarks of the St. Petersburg *Golos* in regard to Prussian military preparations, says: "The measures are defensive; nobody could regard them as signifying preparations for immediate impending war."

Dortmund, Prussia, 21.—While the cage was descending the Hardenburg mine yesterday, the chain broke; the cage fell, killing twenty persons.

Cairo, 31.—Osman Pasha, who was accused of intriguing with Halim Pasha against the Khedive, has been released. The courts of inquiry and courts-martial have been dissolved. It is expected that a decree will issue to-morrow, banishing some of the rebel prisoners, but releasing the bulk of them.

London, 20.—The Archbishopric of Canterbury is offered to the Rev. Dr. Benson, Bishop of Trura.

The president of the board of trade, speaking at a meeting of the national federation, energetically condemned the doctrines of non-intervention and peace at any price,

as ignoble and unworthy of Great Britain. England, he said, had certain legitimate interests in Egypt, which should be guarded by the establishment of stable institutions, leading toward self-government, but a protectorate or annexation would be disastrous.

Dublin 20.—Michael Flynn, the last of three men arraigned for the murder of the two Huddys at Lough Mask, is convicted and sentenced to be hanged January 17th. After Flynn had received his sentence he said to the Judge: "Thank you, sir; I am as willing to go there (looking upwards), as to go home with you all."

Forty young farmers were arrested in connection with the proclaimed meeting at Ballymena, Antrim, on Sunday. Ball is refused. A hundred young men and women are summoned as witnesses.

Paris, 20.—Bontoux, president, and Feder, manager of the collapsed Union Generale, are sentenced to five years' imprisonment and a fine of 3,000 francs.

Eight of the women injured by the explosion in the cartridge factory at Mont Valerian, on Monday, have died, others are not expected to recover.

Later.—Seven additional deaths have since occurred, making 15 thus far.

Trieste, 20.—Overdank, bomb manufacturer, was executed to-day. He showed no concern whatever, and laughed as he was about to be hanged. To the last he refused spiritual help.

CORK, 23.—Poff and Bartlett are convicted of the murder of Thomas Brown, farmer, near Castle Island, and sentenced to be hanged January 23d. They protest their innocence.

Sligo, 23.—McDermott, well-known nationalist, and ex-suspect, was remanded a week on a charge of using seditious language at a meeting of the national league. The prisoner during his speech said: The gallows were reeking with the blood of innocent people condemned by drunken juries and partisan judges.

Paris, 22.—Nine rioters from Mont Ceaux les Mines are sentenced to imprisonment for terms varying from one to five years, with recommendations for mercy; 14 were acquitted.

Berlin, 22.—The *Germania* states that the understanding between Russia and the Vatican is as follows: The re-establishment of the Russian embassy at the Vatican; amnesty to Polish bishops; reinstatement of the archbishopric of Warsaw, the new bishop to be appointed after an understanding between Russia and the Vatican; appointees to important livings in Russia to be submitted to the Russian government; the States of Russia to exercise certain rights of supervision over the seminaries; Uniates to have the right to return to the Catholic Church.

Leipzig, 22.—Of 12 students who died here at the last session of the University, one was killed in a duel and six committed suicide.

Cairo, 22.—Gen. Stone Pasha, late chief of staff in the Egyptian army, has resigned his commission. He intends to return to America.

Pietermaritzburg, 22.—The first part of the military force to reinstate Cetewayo on his throne has started for Zululand. It consists of mounted infantry.

St. Petersburg, 23.—Lieut. Harber telegraphs from Yakutsk that he has arrived there with the bodies of De Long and his companions.

Paris, 23.—Gambetta has had a relapse and suffers internally.

#### The Mormon Phenomenon.

[From the San Francisco Chronicle.]

Few things in the history of mankind are more baffling to the understanding than the phenomenon of Mormonism in the United States. The nineteenth century is, above all preceding ones, the age of reason and science. By these tests all faiths are being judged, and all pretended inspirations. Time has rendered nothing so sacred but science and reason, searching after the truth, dare to condemn error wherever it is found. Text books on religion that have stood unquestioned for a thousand years are now being presented, indicted, tried and convicted of absurdity with as little respect for their years as any grand or petty jury would have for an ordinary libel. These condemnations are not confined to the secular courts of public opinion either. Tyndall, Mill, Ingersoll are reinforced very strongly from the Christian pulpit, and it is hard to say whether the secular philosophers or the ecclesi-

astic have done most toward raising doubts in the popular mind on such grave and hoary beliefs as those of the existence of a future state of endless torment for the unregenerate, and of endless bliss for the orthodox believer. Belief in the soul's immortality and in a personal God has been undermined and shaken—not among the ignorant, but in the highest circles of science and of thought. And still the iconoclasm goes on, gathering force and converts as the century nears its close. When, in the sixteenth century, Protestantism divided the Christian world, there was still left a very formidable party that adhered to the old ideas of Papal authority and infallibility. But now we behold the strange spectacle of a kingdom entirely Catholic enacting and enforcing secular laws which reduce the once revered head of the Church in all secular matters to a level with the most humble citizen, utterly disregarding of his protests and appeals to the past, and throughout Christendom the voice of no Catholic ruler or country is raised in his behalf.

In the midst of all this form and movement in the grooves of science and reason, and in the very centre of it, there rises up a new religion and a new prophet, whose creed is more at variance with reason and science than any that ever preceded it. The prophet of Buddhism was a prince and a philosopher before he became a preacher. The Bactrian, Zoroaster, was a noble and learned man in his age. The best intellects of ancient Greece and Rome were employed in compounding the religious systems of those nations. The Egyptian priests were skilled in all the knowledge of their times. The early Christians were men of high rank and adepts in dialectics. Mohammed was a genius and had some learning. But Joseph Smith, the Mormon Mohammed, was a coarse, sensual, ignorant man, with only animal force and a certain kind of strong common sense and business quality to back his absurd pretensions as a prophet and religious expounder. He was a bold man indeed to set up his system right in the heart of the civilization of the century and expect it to grow and endure. History and tradition concur in the statement that his confidence never wavered even in the midst of the direst calamities of his flock. If tradition is to be believed, ignorant as he was, he must have been a remarkable man. So eminent a politician and statesman as Stephen A. Douglas thought him a great man.

His successor as the head of the Church, Brigham Young, had a like reputation. Under him—and he never quitted Utah from the time he founded Salt Lake City till his death—the organization flourished with more than its former success in the work of proselytizing. Brigham had learned the lesson in Missouri and Illinois that the Americans were not to be imposed upon by the false teachings of his faith, and he turned all his attention to the ignorant and the poor of the Old World. It has never been difficult for any religion to make converts among a class whose temporal and mental condition was as low as that of the Mormon immigrants from England, Wales, Sweden, Norway and Denmark. It is easy for the skilled Mormon missionary to draw a picture of the Utah "Paradise" as seductive to the imagination of the starving poor of Europe as the Paradise of Mohammed was to the Arab mind. And it is hardly a matter of doubt that the physical condition of most of the immigrants has been bettered by the removal. The hierarchy supplies the brains to plan for those who are brainless. The mountains supply the water for irrigation, and the driest desert will yield good returns if well watered. Salt Lake is surrounded by sterility; but it is a better country for agriculture and horticulture than the regions about Mecca and Medina. Utah is a desert land but not in the Arabian or African sense. It has its lakes, mountains and rivers, and wherever there is a water supply human labor and ingenuity can make sand productive. Utah, therefore, has many thriving agricultural settlements. It is, in fact, a more exclusively agricultural country, so far as the Mormons are concerned, than any State in the Union. But the Mormon phenomenon is no longer confined to Utah. It has penetrated into Wyoming, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Montana and Idaho. In the latter Territory the Mormons this year hold the balance of power in the Legislature, and are

becoming as defiant as they always have been in Utah. In Arizona, while all others are engaged in mining and mercantile pursuits, the Mormons, true to their instincts and the teachings of priesthood, are taking up, holding, irrigating and cultivating the soil wherever the opportunity is presented. They have come to stay, and they will stay to rule, judging the future by the past.

No religion ever exercised a more absolute domination over the mind and conduct of its proselytes. It costs little or nothing for the hierarchy to collect a 10 per cent. tax from all producers. The great wealth of the late Prophet never excited envy or scandal, though all must have known that it was wrung from the poor with a hard hand. The orders of the Church are inexorable and submitted to by the highest and lowest. There is no reason to believe that Bishop Lee, of Mountain Meadow massacre notoriety, was not executed for carrying out an order of his superiors in the hierarchy. He was sacrificed for policy's sake, and died without a murmur or a thought of betraying the awful secret. This is not short of Mohammedan enthusiasm and devotion. It touches the bottom of the thing we call religion. The early Christian martyrs did not exceed it under the infliction of what they regarded as Roman persecution. The relations of these people to the government of the United States are strikingly like those of the early Christians to the Roman empire. If there was anything in the Roman laws—and there was much—that the fanatical Christians from the age of Tiberius to the age of Constantine regarded as in conflict with their faith, they openly denounced it and secretly conspired to set it at naught. The best of the Emperors as Trajan and Marcus Aurelius—were enraged and baffled by these conspiracies to defy the law which it was the first duty of every Roman citizen to respect. The more rigorous the punishment, the more the Christians increased. The Mormons are in the same course of conduct toward the laws of the United States which conflict with the teachings of their rulers. On the question of polygamy they are making their first fight. The law of modern civilization, including the United States and all the States and Territories, holds polygamy to be a high crime and punishes it as a felony. The Mormon sets up his conscience and religion against the law and treats this crime as a duty to God. It is probable that most of them are sincere in this. It is certain that they are obstinately insisting on the subordination of the law to the command of their rulers. It is recent history that all laws enacted to beat them on this question have been of no avail.

The future of Mormonism must, in view of these victories over the secular authority, be brightening to the Mormon imagination. And, indeed, it is not easy for statesmanship to set bounds to its expansion, considering the increase in the last ten years. They have Utah secure. Nothing but force can dislodge them from there. They have Idaho in sight, and such a hold on Wyoming, New Mexico and Arizona as cannot easily be broken. From a Mormon point of view the leaders were exceedingly wise when they planted themselves in the desert; for there they will remain secure from the general rush of Gentiles immigration at least for another quarter of a century, by which time they may reasonably hope to make it all their own.

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