

grew the condition made criminal by late legislation was legally innocent at the time it was performed, as he married his plural wife when there was no law against polygamy. Added to this it might be stated that Mr. Wilcox has nearly completed the allotted span of three-score and ten years of mortal life, and an investigation of his course would have exhibited the fact that a more quiet, inoffensive and respectable citizen on general principles than Mr. Wilcox could scarcely be found.

If a case of this kind does not appeal to the sympathy and softer consideration of a court, it is difficult to tell what additional element would be needed to create such an effect. But, as before stated, the discretion in relation to severity or leniency is in the breast of the judge, and every court must make its individual record. In this particular case we differ from the court. But of course the situation in that respect is not particularly new.

A STRANGE SCENE.

A very strange scene was witnessed here on the 25th inst. It will be remembered that Mr. Samuel D. Davis, of this place, was found guilty, not long since, at the District Court held at Malad City, of voting at the election held here last fall contrary to the provision of the anti-Mormon Test Oath law, and that he was sentenced to pay a fine of \$500 and costs, pending payment of which he was sent to the county jail. He applied for a writ of *habeas corpus*, which was denied by Judge Berry. Application was then made direct to Washington for a similar writ. Here it was thought the matter would rest for the present. But not so; on Sept. 13, Sheriff Beason came to Samaria and levied an attachment on Mr. Davis' property, having an order from the court to sell at public auction enough to cover fine and costs. On the 25th inst. said order was carried into effect. Sheriff Beason, Attorney Standrod, Treasurer D. Tovey, Commissioner P. Fredrickson and a few other came over. The sale began at 2 o'clock. Mr. Davis' only horse was sold to Meyer Kohn, of Malad, for \$21.00 (Mr. Kohn has since offered to return the animal for the same price), which was about one-fifth his real value. Mr. Davis' interest in the firm of Evans, Gibbs & Davis was knocked off to Standrod for \$190.00.

It was the intention to sell the little home where Mrs. Davis and her two little children reside, but the title being defective it was abandoned. This was all that could be found to sell and the sale came to a close.

The sheriff seemed very dry after his labors, for he and his companions indulged quite freely. They

had apparently come over well prepared. It was no doubt anything but interesting to Mrs. Davis to witness such proceedings after the sale of all she had to depend upon for a living. And why was she thus reduced to poverty? Why was the husband and father occupying a prison cell, while all his earthly possessions were being sold under the hammer? O freemen, listen! His crime consisted in being a member of the Mormon Church! Strange scenes in a nation founded upon religious liberty! Where is the nation drifting to? Has it reached its zenith and begun its downward course? When 3000 or 4000 citizens can be deprived of every right except to pay taxes on account of their religious belief, such questions force themselves upon the mind. Ye citizens of Utah, beware! The same class of political schemers (robbers) are among you. Guard your rights with a jealous eye. LIBERTY.

SAMARIA, Idaho, Sept. 30, 1889.

IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

In some sections a deep and bitter antagonism continues to exist between the two races in the South. The recent excitement in Alabama, occasioned by negro cranks, is, however, allayed. At that time there was quite a furore among the blacks. Many left their homes and plantations to join the crazy clan, sacrificing money, food, clothing, etc.

Brother Collard, of Fountain Green, and myself lately visited Saints and friends just over the North Carolina line, where we were kindly entertained. Our way lay mostly through thick forests and our main guides were familiar notches cut on trees. These nearly defaced marks were made in years past, by other Elders who had trodden the same uncertain paths. On our return we ascended the locally famous Look-out Mountain, in this State, hoping to obtain a good view of the surrounding country, but by the time we reached its summit, clouds had gathered and we were somewhat disappointed. The top of this little mountain is 1441 feet above sea level, with a recently erected tower 52 feet in height. At the foot of this is a rude pile of rocks surrounded by a board fence bearing the inscription: "This is the grave of a Cherokee Chief." Here is a public pleasure ground, where necessary buildings have been erected and other improvements made for the comfort and entertainment of visitors. The native Carolinian feels that he is "up in the world" when he attains this elevation; but to a Utah boy who has stood on Mount Nebo and feasted his eyes upon endless chains of high, snow-capped mountains—more beautiful and grand than tongue or pen can describe—this is "a way down."

There seems to be a mania in the South for erecting cotton factories. Several are now nearing completion, whilst others are being "built on paper." Large store-houses are also being built for laying away the raw material until needed, or until it will command advanced prices.

Cotton stands at a higher figure already than for several years. Utah may yet own her cotton factories as well as woolen mills. Is it unreasonable to suppose this—for Southern Utah and Arizona have the climate? In the near future a railroad must certainly reach Salt Lake from Mesa or Phoenix, and our western people need millions of dollars worth of cotton cloth, which can just as well be produced at home. Land in the Southern States is fast wearing out.

The water question is sometimes quite vexatious here, as well as in Utah, and no doubt it is beyond human power to more properly regulate the present system.

The following is said to be incorporated in an appeal by a certain Baptist minister of these parts for rain: "O Lord, we don't want one of those trash movers or gully washers, but send us a drizzly, drizzly redland soaker!"

In all the rainy regions of this continent, so far as I have been informed, there is very little land lying in a position to be properly irrigated by artificial means, while the arid portions are contiguous to high mountains, with deep receptacles for snow, well situated for receiving the life-giving element as it gradually trickles from its great white banks and gives relief to the parched earth.

A friend from York County reports the cruel whipping of a Brother Lanier, also a widow lady aged 62 and a young man on the night of the 19th inst., because they were guilty of entertaining "Mormon" Elders. I will send you particulars later. D. F. L.

SOUTH CAROLINA, Sept. 21, 1889.

FERN GATHERING.

The bristle fern delights in shade and moisture, and our first find was in a rocky cleft in the immediate neighborhood of the Tork waterfall, says T. Johnson Evans, writing of a visit to Killarney. Subsequently, within the deep recesses of a cave, the mouth of which opened upon the upper lake and could only be approached by a boat, we discovered several splendid specimens, one of which, with a creeping rhizome, some three feet long, contained no fewer than thirty perfect fronds. Nothing that I have ever seen in my varied experience of fern life equaled the delicacy and pellucidity of those fronds, nurtured in the darkness and the mist. The veins were so prominent and the green portion so like a membranous wing around the veins that it resembled more a beautiful seaweed than a fern.

In this natural cave we also discovered some of our finest specimens of the adiantum, or maiden-hair fern. This plant is called the true maiden-hair, to distinguish it from some other ferns which share its familiar name. The bright evergreen tint, the elegant form and lightly waving attitudes of this fern render it very attractive, and when growing against the sides of the seawashed rocks, or any moist place in any abundance, no fern exceeds it in beauty.