

# THE EVENING NEWS.

PUBLISHED DAILY, SUNDAYS EXCEPTED, AT  
EIGHT O'CLOCK.

GEORGE Q. CANNON,  
BRIGHAM YOUNG,  
EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS.

Saturday, November 9, 1878.

## THE POLICY OF THE SWORD

"POLYGAMY is a crime, and here is a glaring instance of its commission so susceptible of proof that if the authorities fail to convict the offender, decent people elsewhere will be forced to the conclusion that the sword is the only thing that can correct the evil."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one.

It is not time to pursue a different policy towards these presumed misguided "Mormons." Why not try and convert them? The sword is a poor argument against conviction. It never did succeed in any parallel case. It will not prevail in this. Here are wives and sons and daughters and grandchildren, with their multifarious family relations forming the very warp and woof of society, in a community bound together by the ties of faith as well as matrimonial connections. These bonds are sacred to us. You cannot sever them with the sword. You cannot legislate successfully against them. You cannot stamp out the fires of religious fervor with violence. And when you contemplate the role of the savage instead of the part of a wise, just and prudent brother, remember that One mightier than thou has declared, "He that taketh up the sword, shall perish by the sword."

The "flat money" case was considerably damped by Tuesday's election returns, and its unwary votaries ought to learn a lesson by their losses. The Republican gains were chiefly made through the votes of the "Mormons," who in the state and in the nation, and if they do I will show them the liveliest corps at the funeral they have ever heard of. Personal success or defeat to me is nothing. Results are all that count.

Now, what is the *consecrating cause* of this recent outburst of spasmodic virtue? The *Record-Union* asserts that the proof is clear that a man has married three women at once; and this statement has been repeated throughout the country. The fact is that there has been no proof, whatever adduced, up to the present time, that such a marriage has taken place.

The examination before the Commissioner developed the fact that one woman had been married to this man, and some of the evidence went to show approbability of his having married another woman on the same day. It was not even alleged that he had married a third. Where then is this case which is so very "susceptible of proof"? We venture to assert that in such hearing and conjecture as were offered in testimony before the Commission, no jury on earth, unless packed to convict, would bring in a verdict against the accused.

But waving all this, it is perfectly true that the Mormons believe in having a plurality of wives, and President Taylor testified in court, they declare that they know it is right and in accordance with the revelations and commandments of Almighty God. We have heard of more than one case in which two young women formed an abiding attachment for the same man, and in which the object of that affection, instead of desiring and discarding either or both, as is not at all infrequent in civilized Christendom, married them both, and thus made them happy and contented wives and mothers.

Custos apart, what is there so very dreadful about all this? The same people who affect holy horror at such a plural marriage, will treat as sacred the Scriptural account of the family relations of Jesus with Rachel and Leah. And these same persons who denounce the "Mormons" and curse them, will, out of the "Mormon" exorcism, will read in nasal tones and with the peculiarly hypocritical twang of their trade, the Biblical tribute to the four wives of the patriarchs, "the holy women of old," of whom it is said in praise, "these did build the houses of Israel," and will dilate in terms of pious admiration on the beauty of that glorious city whose gates are of pearl, and on which are inscribed the names of the twelve sons of those four women who were the wives of the same man.

True these Biblical marriages were solemnized in the days of antiquity. But, why should distance or time lend such enchantment to the "view"? "Polygamy," says the *Record-Union*, "is a crime." Was it a crime in the days of the patriarchs who held communion with God and converse with the angels? If not, it is not crime now. It is made an offense against modern law, but is not a crime in itself. Constructively it may be so regarded, but actually it cannot be demonstrated as such. Why then, should the sword be invoked for its extirpation? Is it only a crime made so by law, why not leave its punishment to the machinery of the law? But the advocates of the sword will say, "we only call for violence when the law fails." Just so. Then weak will you demand the blood of every accused murderer, when the law fails to convict? Will you call for a mob to assault or banish an acquitted defendant accused of theft? Will you advocate the destruction of an editor, and his press, who has been charged with libel but not proven guilty?

It really seems as though editors as well as clergymen love their common cause, and their common humanity, when they touch upon this Mormon question that troubles them so much. They seize with avidity upon every rumor or telegraphic falsehood, no matter how inconsistent it may be, and deem the unsupported report proof as strong as holy writ. Then they denounce the supposed guilty persons and all others who belong to the same faith. Finally they call for the terror of the law, proof or no proof, and this failing they want the dogs of war let loose.

Shame on such instructors of the people! Out upon such champions of "advanced thought"! They are only fit to have lived in the days when witches were thrown into a

horse pond to sink and die if innocent, and if guilty—"susceptible of proof" by floating—to be hauled out and burned at the stake. They go farther than the whale-burners and advance more execrable sentiments and still denser logic, in this fashion. "One man is guilty of marrying three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

It is not time to pursue a different policy towards these presumed misguided "Mormons." Why not try and convert them? The sword is a poor argument against conviction. It never did succeed in any parallel case. It will not prevail in this. Here are wives and sons and daughters and grandchildren, with their multifarious family relations forming the very warp and woof of society, in a community bound together by the ties of faith as well as matrimonial connections. These bonds are sacred to us. You cannot sever them with the sword. You cannot legislate successfully against them. You cannot stamp out the fires of religious fervor with violence. And when you contemplate the role of the savage instead of the part of a wise, just and prudent brother, remember that One mightier than thou has declared, "He that taketh up the sword, shall perish by the sword."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

It is not time to pursue a different policy towards these presumed misguided "Mormons." Why not try and convert them? The sword is a poor argument against conviction. It never did succeed in any parallel case. It will not prevail in this. Here are wives and sons and daughters and grandchildren, with their multifarious family relations forming the very warp and woof of society, in a community bound together by the ties of faith as well as matrimonial connections. These bonds are sacred to us. You cannot sever them with the sword. You cannot legislate successfully against them. You cannot stamp out the fires of religious fervor with violence. And when you contemplate the role of the savage instead of the part of a wise, just and prudent brother, remember that One mightier than thou has declared, "He that taketh up the sword, shall perish by the sword."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento *Record-Union*, and embodies a sentiment which has recently found expression in other papers. The "glaring instance" referred to is the alleged marrying of three wives; he is only accused of marrying two, but no matter, his case is susceptible of proof; therefore punish him with the law. But if you can't prove him guilty, draw the sword and destroy the people who believe it is right and proper for a man to have more wives than one."

The above is copied from a leader in the Sacramento