

## EDITORIALS.

## A MURDEROUS PROPOSITION.

PREVIOUS to the martyrdom of Joseph Smith the Prophet, it was frequently declared that if he could only be put out of the way "Mormonism" would perish from the earth. A similar statement was continually reiterated in relation to President Brigham Young before his demise. But those who fondly hoped for the death of our system on the decease of its human head, had no proper idea of this Church, its genius nor its people.

The Chicago *Interior*, speaking of this mistaken view, says:

"At length, as we read the rising statistics of their growth, we learn that the vitality of Mormonism resides not in one leader, and cannot be destroyed by legislation, which it can always defeat. Let there be action which will be effective, pressed forward, if need be, by bayonets that must needs be respected. And the President who shall inaugurate and carry on this reform will build for himself an enduring monument in the gratitude of all true Americans."

The *Interior* is a religious journal. That might be known even to those entirely unacquainted with it, from the bitterness and murderous spirit which it entertains toward the Latter-day Saints. No other means of overthrowing "Mormonism" occurs to persons and papers of the type of the *Interior*, but legislation or bayonets. These are the weapons which it advocates for the conversion of the "benighted Mormons." A religious paper urges the head of the Government to emulate the zeal of the murderous bigots of the middle ages; to repeat in free America the scenes enacted at the feast of St. Bartholomew in priest-ridden France. The enduring monument that any man would secure by such a policy of blood and crime would be, not one of gratitude or respect, but of everlasting detestation and infamy. He would be known in the annals of our nation as the slayer, not only of the devoted, but of the sacred principle of religious liberty, and as the destroyer of one of the grandest features of that system of government which in its perfect form is now the admiration of the world.

The *Interior* having seen that it was mistaken as to the vital force of our system, and in the notion that it depended upon the life of a man, should learn the lesson that it may be mistaken altogether in regard to our doctrines, doings and designs. And we would suggest that before urging any measures for the massacre of the "Mormons," the pious editors of the *Interior* learn something reliable of this people and Church, about whom the densest ignorance prevails, even among the leading religious teachers and journals of the United States. We pity their blindness, we despise their bigotry and bloody-mindedness.

## A BLOW AGAINST JUDGE LYNCH.

LYNCH law, under which many brutal murders by mobs have been partly excused, is generally aided by officials who are either timid or willing to yield to the clamor of the multitude. A thoroughly resolute resistance will, in most cases, prevent the disgraceful scenes which frequently occur, and preserve the dignity of the law and the life of the accused, until judicial inquiry has determined his guilt. The miscarriage of justice and the many loopholes that are made for criminals are deplorable, but they do not justify the rebellion against all law which is involved in the taking of human life without the formality of a legal trial and a fair opportunity for defence.

The Tennessee Legislature has passed a law which, if it is signed by the Governor, will do much in that State to prevent mob executions in future. It deprives of office and disqualifies for any future public position any sheriff who allows a prisoner to be taken from his custody and lynched. This will stiffen the backbone of the officer in charge of an accused person and prompt him to the discharge of his duty, which is as much to protect as to capture an offender against the law, until he is judicially disposed of.

Mob law is a disgrace to any community, and an innocent prisoner is just as likely to become a prey to popular passion as a guilty one. The approach of a body of armed men to a prison, is notice enough of criminal intent, and the judicious but determined use of firearms will usually be sufficient to deter the crowd from intended violence. The bill is a good one for Tennessee.

## A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS.

THE publishers of the *American*, a very able and respectable Philadelphia journal, in order to encourage practical journalism in the United States, offers the sum of \$1,500 in prizes to college students or graduates, for the best editorials, essays and poems. There are two sets of prizes—21 in all. One set for college students only; the second set of prizes is for those who have been graduated from American colleges. The topics are not limited; and all articles unsuccessful in the competition, but which reach the standard adopted by the *American*, will be accepted by the editor for publication in that paper, and be paid for at regular rates; thus, each competitor, if he can do anything at all with his pen, will not lose his labor. The judges of the editorials and essays will be active journalists of national reputation.—Mr. Noah Brooks, of the *N. Y. Times*, Mr. Walter Allen, of the *Boston Advertiser*, and Mr. M. P. Handy, of the *Philadelphia Press*. The judges of the poems will be gentlemen competent for that duty. Their names will be hereafter announced. Full particulars can be obtained by writing to W. R. Balch, Managing Editor of the *American*, box 1690, Philadelphia, Pa.

## SPECIAL STATISTICS WANTED

THE work of taking the census in this Territory was so thoroughly and efficiently performed that Secretary Thomas has received several handsome compliments from headquarters, and the Department now declares that the Utah returns are more complete and competent than those received from any other district in the country. Secretary Thomas has just received the appointment of special agent, under the Act of Congress of March 3d, 1879, to collect and compile statistics of the schools and libraries in Utah, and of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints generally. There is no doubt that he will bestow the same care and diligence to this labor as in supervising the census taken last year, and that those who are called upon for information will impart it as correctly and fully as lies in their power.

## SECRETARY BLAINE.

OUR Washington correspondent Knox writes under date of April 6th as follows concerning the new Secretary of State:

"I am requested by a friend of Secretary Blaine to say that there is no truth in the reports which have gone out, as coming from the Secretary, that he had disclaimed any connection with the nomination of Robertson as Collector of the port of New York. The Secretary, this friend says, will leave that question open until the President chooses to settle it. The aggressive ways of Mr. Blaine when he was in the House and Senate, have perhaps prepared the public mind for a belief that as Secretary of State he had taken hold of the President and cabinet with the idea of controlling them. Few men, however, have a more thorough appreciation of the proprieties of official life than Mr. Blaine, and whatever he may have done or left undone in the Robertson matter, he has not made public announcement of it. Beyond Mr. Blaine's often expressed wish that the Senate Republicans should consent to the transaction of executive business, for a time waiving any other matters whatever. I am told, he has, during the last month expressed no opinions on subjects now agitating the Republican party, except such as he expressed to the President when consulted. His wish is understood to be, that he be no longer considered as actively engaged in political affairs, or as seeking promotion to the Presidency. All this comes from one of his intimate friends and admirers."

## MATRIMONY AND THE CENSUS.

THE footings of the census which show that there are over eight hundred thousand more males than females in the United States, have provoked many humorous and some silly remarks concerning the relations of the sexes. Some papers find in these figures an opportunity to inveigh against the "Mormons" for making a monopoly in the matrimonial market, and construct out of them an argument against "Mormon" polygamy; on the ground that if some men have more wives than one, others must go without. Others profess to see in them an answer to the perplexing question "why so many young men in these latter days remain unmarried;" they say it is because there are not wives enough to go round.

Now there is one feature in the population question which these commentators do not consider; indeed, it is unfortunately left out of the census. It is the relative numbers of marriageable men and marriageable women. It does not follow because the total number of males exceeds that of females—all ages being included in the total—that the disproportion is the same in regard to persons of marriageable age. Where is there a place in the United States, outside of mining camps and newly opened districts for settlement, where any young man who is of a marriageable disposition and of age cannot find a young woman for a wife? The great number of marriageable girls who do not find partners for life is a matter of comment everywhere in places of any considerable population. It is frequently referred to in the public prints. Utah, according to the census, has about 5,000 males in excess of females, and yet outside of the mining towns there are troops of young girls in every settlement without any immediate prospect of matrimony. The influx of miners, who as a rule are not marrying, has changed the ratio in our census tables and yet we do not think that any truthful person will claim that there is a lack of wife material in the matrimonial market for every one who wishes to enter the connubial state.

We are positively certain, from knowledge of existing conditions in this Territory, that there are many more girls and women willing and competent to marry, than there are bachelors willing to take them to wife. It is certainly not because there are "not wives enough to go round" that young men here remain single. It is generally conceded, and it would be just as true if it were not conceded, that women as a class are more willing to contract matrimony than men. Wedlock is the goal of a girl's ambition. In numerous instances young men shrink from the responsibilities, expenses, cares and anticipated burdens of matrimony, and prefer a life of single "blessedness" as it is libelously designated.

If every man who could marry would wed there would not be much need for many men to espouse more wives than one. Still, this is a matter involving something more than relative numbers. You cannot pair people off at will, nor decide that every man shall marry because there are women enough to be married, nor that every woman shall marry because there are single men. Choice, inclination, personal freedom, play a very important part in the drama of matrimonial life. Suppose there are a dozen single men and a dozen single women in a town, and eight of the men each marry a wife, while the other four men are not acceptable to the remaining four women and will not marry them. But these remaining women form an attachment to some of the married men, and by consent of the wives each becomes a plural wife. Are those four bachelors, even if they were willing to marry, defrauded by these plural marriages? Not at all. The women wouldn't have them anyhow, so they lose nothing by the plurality, while the women gain by having the men of their choice, which is their right on natural principles so long as they do not infringe upon the rights of others, and there is no infringement when all parties are mutually agreed.

If all marriageable men would seek to fill the measure of their creation and obey the primal law, there would be little talk of "surplus women," of which there are many almost everywhere, of marriageable age. But there are great numbers

of the lords of creation, who will not espouse, although they often seek to betray, the ladies, and, consequently there are, all over the United States, notwithstanding the totals in the census, a great many marriageable women who remain single, and without the opportunity of honorably reaching maternity, the acme of true woman's happiness and hopes.

There are many men not fit to be entrusted with matrimonial power over a virtuous, tender, affectionate woman. There should be perfect freedom of choice for women, subject only to the restrictions we have named, and if society was properly regulated, brutal, unvirtuous and passion-ruled men would not prey upon the weaker sex. None but the good deserve the fair, and there is no more robbery in one man having more wives than one, on their free choice, if some vile or unacceptable man goes without, than there is in one man acquiring property by honorable means, while another does not accumulate.

In some of the Eastern States, the women greatly preponderate. In the newly-settled States, particularly in mining districts, the men are in the majority. This occurs through the love of adventure and of change in the males, and in their desire to strike out for fortune. Immigration has brought great numbers of men from the old world to settle in the new, and the consequence is an increase of males in the United States, with an increase in the relative number of females in the old countries. But whether the males or the females are in numerical excess, or if the numbers are equal, the vital question involved in "Mormon" plural marriage is not in the least affected. And if there are so many unmarried men as assumed, and they are ready and willing to marry, there need be no further anxiety on the subject which agitates so many foolish people in the country, for there will be no extra wives for any one to take, as there will be husbands enough for all and to spare. The views which seem to obtain on the revelations of the census ought therefore to stop at once all fuss and feathers over the danger to American institutions from our marriage system, which has been conjured up with as little substantial cause as the baseless fabric of a vision.

## THEY SEE THROUGH IT.

IT is pleasing to note that while a general outcry is being raised once more throughout the country against the "Mormons," intelligent people everywhere see through the attempt to take advantage of the public feeling by perpetrating and excusing a fraud upon the Territory of Utah. Here are two or three extracts which show the drift of public sentiment on this question.

The Cincinnati *Times-Star* says:

"Mr. Campbell claims the seat from Utah partly on the ground that many of the votes cast for Cannon were by women of foreign birth and girls under age. It certainly does not speak well for Campbell that the female population failed to fly to his relief."

The statement of the minority man is not true, as he is well aware, but, as remarked, it comes with a poor grace from the pretended champion of "the down-trodden women of Utah."

The Cleveland *Herald* says:

"Campbell implores the President to pitch into polygamy at once, in the name of civilization and religion. Where he would strike one blow for civilization he would strike two for Campbell—and his seat in Congress."

That's it exactly. These violent anti-polygamy shriekers care nothing about our marriage affairs, they all have an axe of their own to grind on the "Mormon" wheel. One of the best things we have lately seen on this subject is the following from the Sacramento *Record-Union*. It appeared simultaneously with another article, against polygamy, and this shows that it is not out of any regard for the "Mormons" or any sympathy with their principles that that paper takes decided ground against the crime in the certificate matter and against the flimsy attempt at excuse for its committal. The *Record-Union* heads his editorial "No Excuse At All."

"Campbell, the man who failed to be elected to Congress in Utah but to whom Governor Murray illegally

issued a false certificate of election, has had the impudence to tell President Garfield that he only accepted this false and fraudulent document because his opponent, who had been lawfully elected, was an alien and a polygamist. This is not the first time that a knave has sought to excuse a crime by alleging the bad character of his victim, but the excuse is none the more valid for its antiquity. Campbell has no more right to a seat in Congress than any other man who has never been elected by the people of a district. He ran for Congress and was beaten, and what is more, the vote he received was so light as to show that there was no appreciable sentiment in his favor. It does not in the least matter to him or to the usurping official who gave him his fraudulent certificate, what Cannon is. If Cannon is not a fit or eligible person to sit in Congress, that is for Congress to determine. No matter what Cannon's disabilities may be, they cannot be conjured into qualifications for some other man, and least of all for the man who ran against him and was defeated. Campbell is a judge of the question whether his opponent is an alien, nor is Governor Murray. These two, however, have disgracefully and infamously defied the law in order to defeat a Mormon, and they ought to be denounced by all decent and right-thinking men. We regret that President Garfield should have even appeared to look with toleration upon proceedings which he must know to be utterly wrong and indefensible."

## Correspondence.

COMPAGNISTERS 285,  
Neestved, Sjælland, Denmark,  
March 22nd, 1881.

Editor *Deseret News*:

On the 21st of October, 1879, I left Salt Lake City on a mission to Europe, being called at the October Conference and set apart by Apostle C. C. Rich. He said that the Lord should protect me on land and on sea; many should listen to my counsel and receive the everlasting gospel, and I should also baptize many into the Church of God. The Lord has, in fact, fulfilled to the very point. While leaving Salt Lake City and Ogden, in company with my brother, John T. Thorup, thirteen more Elders were leaving their homes to preach the everlasting gospel to a fallen world—three of them were for the States and the others for Europe.

On the 28th we left New York on the steamer *Wyoming*, first spending two days in New York, in seeing all that could be seen in that time. On November 7th we landed in Liverpool, after a pleasant voyage on the great waters. The captain was wondering at the fine weather we had, and told some of the first cabin passengers that he had never experienced such good weather in October; but, said he, I have Mormon Elders on board, and ever since I have dealt with the Mormons I always had good luck.

At Liverpool we were kindly received by Prest. W. Budge and the other brethren of the office. Here seven of the brethren left us, leaving five for Scandinavia. Left Liverpool on the 8th, and landed in Copenhagen on November 11th. The names of the brethren who landed in Copenhagen were: Jacob Hansen, of Bear River; Peter Nielsen, of Washington; O. N. Stolk, of Brigham City; John T. Thorup and R. F. F. Thorup, of Salt Lake City. We were kindly received by Prest. N. Wilhelmsen and the brethren there. We were appointed to our several fields of labor the same day; my brother, John T. Thorup, for Aarhus Conference; my appointment was in the Copenhagen Conference, in the south and west branches—a very large district, 55 miles one way and about 70 miles the other way. I have labored here ever since my appointment, as presiding Elder of these branches. I can say that the Lord has been with me, although I feel my weaknesses and imperfections, but God has been my strength and my protector, and to Him I ascribe the honor.

I have had the privilege of bearing my testimony to the Gospel of Christ in 34 towns, 42 have been baptized, and 33 of them I have baptized myself, and hope to baptize many more before leaving these lands, which is fulfilling the Apostle's word upon my head. While laboring in this northern mission I must say that President N. Wilhelmsen