

EDITORIALS.

A FAVORITE course of procedure on the part of certain characters is to avail themselves of every favorable opportunity to reproach the Latter-day Saints on account of particular points of their religious faith or practice, and on none more than points pertaining to domestic life.

It is a settled point of honor, good breeding, courtesy, among gentlemen, that they interfere not with each other's family concerns, whatever they may be. But there are prominent official characters in the community who appear to delight in ignoring all rules of courtesy, all evidences of the gentleman, in these particulars, when the persons to whom and of whom they communicate are Latter-day Saints. Now whether a man is a Latter-day Saint or not, it does not absolve any other man, official or unofficial, from the obligations of courtesy and civility, nor does it render it obligatory on any other man to prove himself destitute of the attributes of a gentleman.

It is well enough understood that the Latter-day Saints entertain respecting domestic matters opinions not altogether in consonance with those entertained by about a fourth of the inhabitants of the world. This is a matter that is not denied, it is widely known, and those who hold these considered peculiar opinions are not in any wise ashamed of them, nor, as a rule, are they disposed to compromise or abate one jot of their convictions in the matter. Their opinions may be, very likely are, distasteful to some people. But this is no warrant for such people improving every opportunity to deal out abuse to those who hold those opinions.

It has become a too common practice of officials to tell the Latter-day Saints in this Territory that their marriage principles and customs are not precisely the same as those officials hold to, that is, when they have any to hold to. But what of that? It is a thing perfectly well known to the Latter-day Saints—they know a little more about the matter than any one else can tell them. They have abundance of good reasons for their faith and practice, and they are so well satisfied therewith that they design to continue faithful in well-doing to the end, that they may reap the reward of the same. It is rather a superfluous piece of business for officials to persist in telling them they are what they know they are, what they knew they were long before those officials dreamed about it, and it is certainly a mark of arrogance and of impudence for officials to speak of the domestic concerns of the community in such a designedly rude and offensive manner as some of them frequently do.

If some persons in prominent positions were to understand one thing, it might prevent them from making themselves so impertinent and ridiculous as they appear to be ready to do, and as they are really very successful in accomplishing when they make the endeavor. It is this, speaking directly. You say we hold the "religious dogma" as you term it, of plural marriage. We know it—hence there is no necessity for you to tell us that fact again. You say this "dogma" is distasteful to you. We know it—hence there is no necessity to tell us that fact again. You say you consider the "dogma" objectionable and contemptible. We know it—hence there is no necessity for you to tell us that fact again.

But there is one fact that you may not know—it is a matter of no concern at all to us what dogmas you may entertain upon the marriage question, nor whether you hold any or none at all, and this equally whether you occupy official or non-official station. Further, it may do you good to know, that no matter in what contempt you hold our views and practices, so far as we are concerned they are right, your opinion of them is not of the least possible account to us, and any pious lecturing or official hectoring from you to us is simply so much wasted breath.

At times the cholera has been the common destroyer. Its march westward, reported last summer, appears to have been checked, perhaps by the cold of winter. In fact it is said to be retreating eastward. At least we have heard nothing of that dreaded epidemic coming towards the setting sun of late. But there is another at work very generally, and has been unwontedly active, for some time, and that is the small-pox. It was very prevalent in England during all last year, and it

still prevails there, indeed ravages in many localities. Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Liverpool and London and a number of other places were severely visited, and those and many other towns and cities in England are still afflicted with the same scourge. By letter and by our exchanges we learn that the town of Nottingham has been and is sorely pressed by the disease, most families having, or having had, one or more cases. Says an exchange, "Nottingham, England, seems to be the headquarters of the terrible disease which is now making great havoc in England, and mail advices declare that there is no longer any room in the hospital and pest houses. As many as one hundred and sixty cases have been reported in the city in one day."

In Philadelphia, New York, and many other cities in the East this plague is very prevalent. Nor do the efforts made to check its progress appear so successful as might be wished, although in the Red River country north, as a dispatch recently stated, it is reported greatly abated, through the vigorous suppression of the trade with the Indians in buffalo robes, which were supposed to be a fruitful means of wide-spread contagion. Certain medicines of San Francisco suggested that cats were a likely prolific means of spreading the contagion. We have been delicate in mentioning this, and we do not do it without misgiving, as it might lead to considerable feline fatality.

With faith, prayer, cleanliness and due attention to health, personally, domestically, and municipally, the very few cases which have occurred in our cities and settlements need not be considered cause for great apprehension.

MEXICO is a striking example of the natural results of the lust for power, gold and women. The condition of that country has long been one that portions of this country appear to be fast hastening towards, and that is, chronic revolution and anarchy. Spain and Mexico should be ensamples to the United States, not to pattern after but to avoid. Lust when it is conceived bringeth forth sin, and sin is a reproach to any people. It is not only a reproach, but it is the path to decay and ruin. There is no permanent prosperity or stability or safety to any people except in doing that which is right. It is right that the right man occupy the right place, and do right when he is there. But it is not right for every man to be ambitiously seeking and intriguing to obtain public and prominent place, and especially irrespective of the fitness of the man to fill the place with credit to himself and advantage to the public. The right man for any place is the man best fitted for that particular place, unless he is wanted to fill a more important place. Then the next best man is the right one. When this principle is faithfully developed and a nation decays, then the people are totally corrupt and ought to go to decay. In fact they cannot be saved, except by the infusion of better blood, and then with difficulty. It may have been so with Spain and Mexico, and apparently it was so.

It only needs an ambitious, able, and unscrupulous man in the Presidential chair of these United States, having large influence with Congress, and Mexico would speedily be split up into States or Territories of the Union. Any protest from Europe would be of no avail, because a war with any one, two, or three European powers would unite the American people, and conquest of America by European powers is out of the question. The day has gone by for that.

But the conquest of Mexico by the United States might prove as disastrous eventually to the Union as the American conquests were to old Spain. Certain it is that the conquests of war are not the right way to obtain dominion, and such conquests in the past have been generally if not invariably the precursor of the downfall of the conquering power. The history of nations attests this, verifying the Scripture that it is righteousness and not lust for dominion that exalts a people.

Nevertheless there is a wide-spread filibustering feeling in favor of annexing Mexico, and Cuba, and other portions of the West Indies. If those annexations were facts accomplished, then the lust for dominion would cast its evil eye northward to the British possessions, and southward to the revolutionary States of Central and South America, nor would it be satisfied when the whole continent of North and South America, with the adjacent islands, ac-

knowledge the Stars and Stripes, but very likely, after the fashion of Alexander, the conquerors would sit down and cry that there was nothing else to conquer.

Pursuing a train of reflections like this, such paragraphs as the following from the Missouri Democrat would be read and received with caution—

The Mexican news is no news; that is what it has been for about every month for the past half century; revolution upon revolution without end, chronic anarchy and the ruin of industry and trade. When this continent was discovered its occupancy by savages was held to give to civilized men the right to put it to better use. Mexico should be worth, in her commerce alone, hundreds of millions to her own people, and other hundreds of millions to the people of the United States, where now she is not of a dollar's account. The same is true of the West Indies. What this country sadly needs is a vigorous continental and insular policy. The whole commerce of Mexico, the West Indies and South America, is but a pittance to what it might be, yet the large portion of it is done with Europe. This whole situation should be reversed. It was statesmanship that brought the world's wealth to the little English isle. Some fraction of the same kind of statesmanship would immensely promote every human and humane interest on this half of the globe.

In a case of shooting of Evans by Brokaw, for the seduction of the wife of the latter, tried recently at San Francisco, Judge Hardy for the defence said for "a fact that for thirty years there has not been a conviction in such a case as this." Judge Campbell, for the defence said—

I have been practicing at the Bar for twenty-three years, and I have never known a case where a man was hanged for killing the seducer of his wife, or a brother for killing the seducer of his sister. Supposing you were to go over to San Quentin, and there see this man in prison garb, and on your return, your wife should ask you whom you saw there, and you should answer, "Oh, I saw there a fellow whom I, with other jurymen, convicted for shooting the seducer of his wife. And she should say, "What, you convicted—" what would be your feelings? Whatever is an act of right and heavenly impulses is an act justified in law. The law holds a man responsible where, from the nature of the surrounding circumstances, he does that act which the impulses of a good man would impel him to do. It is absurd to say that that which every man believes to be right can be punished by death or imprisonment for it.

COLORADO AS A STATE.

It is not a matter of surprise that men influenced by sectional prejudices should legislate against the interests of Colorado and other Territories. It is, perhaps, natural that they should be jealous of the growing power of the west and should seek to delay the inevitable transfer of the seat of empire. But any one who is capable of taking a broad view of the future, and can escape the tyranny of partisan or sectional feeling long enough to make the discovery, must see that whatever accrues to the welfare of one section of the country must be for the good of the whole.

Every citizen of Colorado should be so impressed with the desirableness of possessing a state government, that his voice shall not cease to be heard in favor of our speedy admission into the Union. Every personal and party consideration should be gladly ignored in view of the paramount advantage which would be shared by all.

If there is need of argument, to show the importance of a persistent and combined effort to secure so desirable a result, it will be readily suggested to him who is at all identified with the interests of Colorado, or who has ever known anything of the true American spirit. No thoughtful person of this class need be told, for example, that the most rapid development of a state in every element of real strength is best secured by having a government of its own. A condition of tutelage for the nation, as well as for the individual, is, beyond the period of absolute helplessness, unfavorable to growth. It fosters a feeling of dependence with which a genuine sense of self-reliance cannot co-exist. It takes away the spur to endeavor and leaves the life destitute of ambition and enterprise. That parent

who has in view the true welfare of his child, will early seek occasion to throw him upon his own resources that he may test his strength and develop his manhood. That nation is wise which adopts the same principle of action in dealing with its citizens. No policy could be more disastrous to the development of the newer portions of our country than that which would take away from them the hope of early attaining the rank and privileges of a State. Our fathers were wise, or else builded better than they knew, when they prescribed, as the only qualification to be insisted upon in admitting new States into the Union, nothing more than that the State desiring admission should possess a constitutional government, republican in form and spirit. They would make the way as easy as possible for any of the dependencies of the general government to become self-governing and self-supporting. The history of our progress as a nation shows the wisdom of this provision of the constitution. In consequence of it there has been a constant accession of States to the Union. And, under the stimulus of State pride, there have grown up large internal improvements and interests of various kinds which have increased the resources of the State and added to the wealth of the entire country.

But a more important thought in this connection is the fact that only a State government can give suitable protection to internal improvements and other interests. This is a leading consideration with those who are about to embark in any enterprise which involves a large outlay of capital. It must be admitted, though there is generally a combination of causes which produce any result we seek to explain, that the fact we have just mentioned furnishes, in great part, the true explanation of that rapid development of the new States which is so apparent when we examine the revenue returns.

According to a comparative statement made by Mr. Delano, showing the aggregate receipts from each collection district for the past eight years, we find that Nebraska, for example, shows a gradual increase of its revenue, in round numbers, from twelve thousand dollars in 1863 to three hundred and eight thousand dollars in 1870. This gives an average yearly increase of sixty per cent. The exhibit of Nevada is equally remarkable, showing an increase from year to year from twenty-three thousand dollars in 1863 to three hundred and eight thousand dollars in 1868, when the reduction of taxes took place and diminished its revenue. But with this decrease the average yearly gain was seventy per cent.—*Denver Tribune.*

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