

EDITORIALS.

ONE of the excuses which we have lately heard urged for the attempt to deprive the Territorial Courts and officers of the jurisdiction which is given to them by the statutes of the Territory, is that as the officers are principally "Mormon," they favor their co-religionists at the expense of those who are not of their faith. In other words, "Mormon" Judges and other officers screen and exonerate "Mormon" offenders; but deal severely with those who are brought before them who are not of their faith; and in cases where a "Mormon" and a non-Mormon are parties, it is asserted that the "Mormon" wins his suit regardless of the justice of his cause. For these reasons, it is claimed, the ruling has been made that there shall be no Territorial Courts or officers, but that the United States Courts and officers shall be the only ones known.

These are old and oft-reiterated charges which have been frequently disproved; but their being made again only proves the desperate condition to which those who circulate them are reduced to justify the measures which have been adopted. It is a most unjust and cruel libel upon this community to assert that the Territorial Courts and officers have ever discriminated for or against citizens in decisions they have rendered because of religious opinions. Take the Probate Court of Salt Lake county as an example, and this is an instance with which we are all familiar, and in what land can a Court of equal authority be found whose decisions have commanded more respect and been accepted as more just and impartial by all classes than this Court? Let the gentlemen of the bar who practiced in that Court be asked if they ever knew of an instance where a "Mormon's" case was treated more leniently than a non-Mormon's, if the merits or demerits of both were equal, and we feel assured they will answer in the negative. What we say in reference to this Court can be truthfully said of all the Courts of the Territory. The condition of the country itself also gives the lie to the statement that "Mormons" will not punish "Mormons." How long would life and property have been safe here, if "Mormons" could commit crime with impunity? Not a year. But what are the facts? In no land could a traveler pass to and fro with more security for himself and property, whether money or other articles, than in Utah. Men were as safe in traveling through this frontier country as if they were among their own friends. If there has been any change in this respect of late, and life and property are more insecure than formerly, the Territorial Courts and officers cannot be blamed for it.

Every candid man who is familiar with affairs in Utah, though the religion of its people may have none of his sympathies, knows the falsity of these charges about "Mormons" not being willing to punish "Mormons." There was a time here when it was not a matter of unfrequent occurrence for non-Mormons to appeal to ecclesiastical tribunals, the members of which were all Latter-day Saints, in cases where they had difficulties with "Mormons." Would men do this if they thought "Mormons" would wrest justice to favor a fellow-Mormon? Not likely. But they were satisfied that rigid justice would be enforced, and they were not disappointed in the result. Their cases were decided equitably, and at little or no expense. For years after the emigration to California began to flow across the continent, the courts of Utah had to arbitrate on the difficulties which so frequently arose in the traveling camps of the emigrants. In these transactions they gained a reputation for the fairness and wisdom of their decisions, and for the cheapness with which justice was administered, that is not forgotten by the emigrants and that to this day causes Californians to feel sympathy with the people of Utah in the attacks made upon them.

These facts are patent to every well-informed man, and the excuse which is urged to justify the exclusion of the Territorial Courts and officers from the exercise of their legitimate duties, has no weight with such a person. The authors of this charge know that it is utterly false. But it suits their purpose to circulate it. If they can only convince the country that the "Mormons" are not fit to be trusted with authority, they think they will have gained a point; especially if they can only have matters so arranged that the "Mormons" will have to pay them for their services; for at the bottom of all these attacks upon the "Mormons" is the greed for money. If this country

was valueless, and the "Mormons" were as poor as they once were, who would concern themselves about their affairs, or whether their courts dealt fairly or unfairly?

SPEAKING of the recently exposed corruption in high places in New York, the *Observer* of that city says—

The example set by these bad men was followed rapidly enough. Never in the history of our country had stealing been done so boldly or on such a magnificent scale. Never were there more embezzlements, defalcations, and breaches of trust. It was enough for any young man to know that the successful villain kept out of jail. But if, in addition to keeping out of deserved imprisonment, the villains were able to make such an exhibition of their wealth as to throw the magnificence of all honest wealthy men into the shade, was it not a fine thing to steal, and to grow fat on stealing? The defalcations both in public and private station make abundant answer.

Nothing is more patent than that corruption, unless effectually checked, and checked in time, is the forerunner of dissolution, national, social, physical, or in any other respect. Much has been said of corruption in high places in Russia, China, France, and other nations, but if any nation in the world can surpass these United States in official corruption, that nation is certainly in a very bad way. In this country the man, hundreds of men, seeks the office, instead of the office seeking the man, which is the proper way. In this country, men appear to expect to make their fortunes in two or three years of official life, and the man who does not possess "tact" to accomplish that result is considered an "old foggy," or a fool, or at best hopelessly honest.

Recent events in the commercial metropolis of the Union in regard to official municipal corruption have awakened and sharpened the moral perceptions of many throughout the nation, and it will be well if the lesson be thoroughly heeded, although there is little hope that it will. It is as true now as ever, that "righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people," and that nation or community which is truly wise will act upon this principle, and thus save itself from decay, disgrace, and ruin, and win everlasting honor.

If we do not know how it is with others, we do know how it is with ourselves, and this much we know, that we never could understand the propriety or the wisdom of any representatives of a great and liberal government like that of the United States setting themselves in needless and irritating opposition to the feelings, views, customs, or even prejudices of the people. We can not come to the conclusion that it is any part of the duty of a Federal official to adopt any such course as either of the following—

To imagine that he is a full head and shoulders taller than any other man within the purview of his official duties.

To imagine that the people were made for his especial use and glorification, and that they are not of the least account for any other purpose.

To imagine that the people have no rights nor privileges, only such as he chooses to concede to them.

To imagine that local officials and local laws can be acknowledged or ignored according to his special bias or caprice.

To imagine that it is his particular duty to run counter to the views and wishes of the most widely influential and highly respected citizens.

To imagine that it is his particular duty to seize every opportunity to annoy, irritate, and aggravate prominent citizens.

To imagine that it is his duty to receive and believe every report prejudicial to the principal citizens.

To imagine that it is his duty to consider that the prominent citizens committed or were accessory to or in some way implicated in every crime that has been committed in the community since its settlement.

To imagine that it is his duty to sedulously insult prominent citizens.

To imagine that it is his duty to act so as to create the public impression that the Federal government is mean, stingy, and parsimonious.

To imagine that it is his duty to act so as to create the public impression that the Federal government is tyrannical and desirous to reduce the people to the condition of serfs.

To imagine that it is his duty to ferret out and cordially and constantly consort with those who are the avowed enemies of the people.

To imagine that it is his duty to bestow all government encouragement, sanction, patronage and support upon those who are the avowed enemies of the people.

To imagine that it is his duty to hinder in every possible way the prosperity of the community.

To imagine that it is his duty to make himself rich on the spoils of office, and to get his hands as far and as often as possible into both Federal and local treasuries.

To imagine that it is his duty to divert so much of the Federal appropriations as he can, from channels which may peradventure reach old and well respected citizens, and direct it into channels which are in part purposely made for the special accommodation of the avowed enemies of the people.

To imagine that it is his duty to act so as to convey the impression to the public that the Federal government is anxious to disturb, disfranchise, proscriber, fine, imprison, hang, and exterminate people on account of their religion.

To imagine that it is his duty to be just as cross-grained, awkward, ugly, disobliging, unaccommodating, perverse, bigoted, and insolent to the people, to the principal citizens, and to the representatives of the people, as he knows how to be.

To imagine that it is his duty to encourage and foster vice and criminals and the transgression and transgressors of undeniably wholesome laws.

To imagine that it is his duty to do all in his power to disturb the peace and good order of the community, check its progress, disarrange commercial and financial matters, frighten away capital, prevent the influx of bona fide settlers and business men, and fling back the general advancement of the community in material wealth.

All these things and a great many more of a similar kind which we might mention, we cannot by any method of reasoning, become convinced are among the particulars which constitute the duties of officials who are supposed to represent the views of the Federal Government, and who are at least its representatives; whether they represent or misrepresent its policy, intentions, and endeavors.

If we were asked what we consider a Federal official should consider his chief duties, we might say not to offend, irritate, insult, and alienate the people, destroy peace and prosperity, and make it appear that the Federal government is surly, savage, foolishly and bitterly prejudiced, penurious, belligerent, and despotic. O, no! But we might say that we should consider the duties of a representative of the Federal government to be to promote peace, good will, good order, domestic and public virtue, to be the servant instead of the master of the people, to adapt his policy to their views, customs and prejudices so far as he consistently can, to strive to make it evident to the people that he is their friend, that the Federal government is their friend, that the public welfare is his object and not personal aggrandisement nor the gratification of private pique, that the welfare and prosperity of the particular community in common with the general welfare and prosperity of the country is the object of the Government, and that its policy is shaped with this view, and wherever it may not be so shaped, as regards his particular duties, the government should be so advised carefully and faithfully.

If the Federal officials in Utah would act in this spirit and seek to inaugurate and to diligently cultivate cordial relations with the people and especially with the representatives thereof and the prominent members of the community, it is very certain to us that a radically different state of things would soon prevail in Utah, there would be little more heard of the buncombe cry about the "solution of the Mormon problem," for there would be nothing to solve, immense unnecessary expense would be saved, and peace and prosperity would follow. Will this rational line of policy be followed, or will the irrational one of studied and bitter antagonism? We do all in our power to favor the former.

THIS is how some things go on in the capital of the Empire State. We copy from the *Albany Post*, of Dec. 27—

Late last night as officer Joseph Dor-

sey, of the Sixth Ward police, was patrolling the Bowery, he was informed that a gang of disorderly persons were molesting and assaulting passers-by at Pell street and the Bowery. He at once hurried to the spot and recognized among the crowd a number of well-known professional burglars. The officer ordered them to disperse, but they only laughed at him and dared him to make an arrest. He attempted to seize the man who made the threat, whereupon he was struck a violent blow from behind and was felled to the ground. He arose in an instant, just in time to see the crowd dart into O'Donnell's liquor store at Pell street and the Bowery. The officer then sounded the alarm rap, which brought officer William Dean to his assistance. Together they entered the liquor store, to be met by a solid phalanx of some of the most reckless and desperate men who walk the streets of New York. Before the officers could draw their pistols they were completely surrounded, their clubs were wrenched from them and used on their heads and bodies. Then ensued a desperate and bloody fight. The officers fought like tigers, at almost every blow felling a man. Suddenly, however, a rush was made for the side door on Pell street, and most of the mob left, carrying with them, though involuntarily, the gallant Dean. He was powerless in their hands, though fighting desperately for his life.

Meanwhile, all covered with blood, Officer Dorsey was struggling hard against George Malutz and Donovan, two powerful thieves. Each of the three was knocked down several times and all were growing faint, yet no assistance was at hand. Then the brave Dorsey seized Donovan by the throat, wrested the club from him, and felled Malutz, who dropped in a pool of his own blood, Donovan then made his escape, and as he ran, Dorsey again sounded the alarm rap. It was heard by Roundsman Brogan, Captain Kennedy, and some officers, who answered it and rushed to Dorsey's assistance.

This is sufficient, without pursuing the whole of the details. One of the main reasons for such a state of society in the capital of the principal State in the Union, is official corruption, especially judicial rottenness. Almost any one in New York State would be ready to say that the existence of such a numerous class of audacious and ferocious criminals at large as that which the principal cities of that State are afflicted with, arises from the fact that many officials are "collogued," avowedly or virtually, with the open criminals. To a similar cause may be ascribed the increasing prevalence of various crimes in this city, a matter of great concern and deep regret to every right-minded person.

THE TERRITORIES.

It has been said that there is only one man who has a correct idea of the size of the United States, and he is the man who drove a yoke of oxen in 1850-51 from Maine to California. However this may be, the newspaper remark that "few people realize the immensity of our territorial area," is true. There are in the West, eleven Territories, two or three of which are twice or three times as large as all New England; and it is a small Territory that is not at least ten times as large as Massachusetts. Colorado is thirteen times as large as Massachusetts, while Dakota and Arizona are half as large again as Colorado. The eleven Territories, are accurately as can at present be ascertained, contain over one billion and a quarter of acres (1,036,385,919), exceeding by nearly two hundred thousand square miles the aggregate territory of all at present admitted States of the Union. The Territory of Alaska, containing 369,529,600 acres, is included in the number of acres stated.

There may be a good deal of information, in one way or another, but in point of fact very little knowledge, of the Great West, in the Atlantic States. Not that we do not know generally the geography of the country, the names of the States and Territories, the mountains and rivers, possibly the distance across the continent, and, what is often stated with a good deal of particularity, the height of the land above the level of the sea. But the vastness of the country, its millions of square miles and billions of broad acres, is not easily realized, any more than is the largeness of the sum in dollars that goes to make up the national debt. We get an imperfect idea of an area or space from the mere statement of a million of acres, and we are little less than a thousand times worse off when we spread over a billion of acres; and yet, when the public lands in the great West are spoken of, these terms come into frequent use.—*Cincinnati Times*.