

EDITORIALS.

MORE OF MR. PIERCE'S PECULIARITIES.

LAST week we published an affidavit of Rev. G. M. Pierce, which set forth that, in answer to a complaint of H. S. Reedall, his own attorneys, Messrs. Griffiths and Snider, had not adhered to the truth. On this representation judgment was rendered in favor of the plaintiff for the amount which Mr. Pierce stated in his affidavit (\$320) he justly owed him.

The attorneys for Messrs. Griffiths and Snider then appeared and moved to strike Mr. Pierce's affidavit from the file and vacate the judgment. The motion was heard yesterday when the versatile and unstable clergyman, Mr. Pierce, stated that he had been induced to make the affidavit by Mr. Theodore Burmester, one of the attorneys for Mr. Reedall, and that he had requested another of the attorneys for the plaintiff, Mr. M. M. Kaign, to return it to him. On the other hand it was clearly shown that Mr. Pierce had not only made the affidavit voluntarily but had otherwise previously admitted the justice of Mr. Reedall's claim of \$320.

After arguments on the motion the Court took the matter under advisement.

Here is a "pretty kettle of fish." The Rev. Pierce charges, by sworn statement, his own attorneys with an attempt to defraud one of his own creditors. After thus proclaiming, under oath, that Messrs. Griffiths and Snider are not particular about using the truth when falsehood will suit their purpose as well, he then, also under oath, proclaims himself either an imbecile or falsifier, or both, by stating in Court that he was induced to make the "peculiar affidavit" by Mr. Burmester.

It appears that the most charitable construction that can be put upon such slippery conduct as this pious priest has been guilty of is to regard it as a symptom of insanity.

He has charged the attorneys on both sides of a case in which he is a principal with conduct of a disgraceful and unprofessional character, while he stands sandwiched between, the embodiment of everything that is tricky, being tossed about by the feeble breeze. He presents a picture calculated to inspire a feeling of mingled pity and contempt, his course being all the more reprehensible throughout on account of his constant pretensions to excessive piety, which misled so many into the mesh of hapless financial victims, which hangs around him like an incubus.

At the time the affidavit of Mr. Pierce, in which he charged his attorneys with making false representations, was published, we made a comment to the effect that it was a question with the public whether, in view of his fearfully slippery course, he could be believed under oath. The proceedings in the District Court yesterday showed that our stricture was anything but groundless. He wears to a matter at one time and then to something opposite subsequently with the most astounding facility, showing that his training as a falsifier of the "Mormons" has not been lost upon so apt a scholar. The only difference is that his skill as a fabricator has taken a new departure, and runs in channels that make those of his own side of the fence feel as if he had stuck them full of bent pins and rusty nails.

A GROWING ANTAGONISM.

It appears that an intense feeling of opposition exists in the minds of the bulk of the residents of that portion of the city contiguous to the proposed route of the Salt Lake and Camp Douglas Railroad. It will be observed that this sentiment of antagonism is about to take public form and expression, a mass meeting on the subject having been called for Friday night, at the Twentieth Ward school house.

It is safe to predict that the popular sentiment, so far as the more immediately interested residents are concerned, will be found to be of the most pronounced character. Should the current of feeling continue to

grow until it develops to white heat intensity it will be well—even if there were no other ground for such an action—for the company to reconsider their application for the right of way along the present proposed location, and seek a route less objectionable to a large bulk of the population. A stern conflict with the populace would render the road, even if the company should succeed in gaining their point, most unpopular, and the projectors of the enterprise would undoubtedly receive personally a liberal share of the odium attaching to it.

It is to be hoped, in view of the gravity of the interests connected with this proposed railroad, that the City Council will not be in haste to decide the question of the right of way. The citizens should have a fair and full opportunity to make representations on the subject.

A FIRM UNDERPINNING.

"Monsignor Capel says that marriage is the very first foundation stone of civilization. Utah must have a very firm underpinning then."

We clip the above from the Omaha Herald. The preacher and the editor are both right. Marriage is a civilizer. It leads to the establishment of home. It brings about the union of individuals and a common interest in communities. Families are connected with families and relationships are created in addition to those of blood and kindred. All that monogamous marriage does in this direction in degree, plural marriage as believed in by the "Mormons" effects in a much greater degree. It makes more unions, establishes more homes, connects families and communities together to a larger and closer extent and fixes a stronger and firmer "underpinning" to the basis of society than limited marriage can possibly effect.

The Herald utters good sense by way of a jest. If let alone to work out the social system established in Utah, the "Mormons" would show to the world in a short time that it is superior in all that belongs to true civilization to anything existing in Christendom. If not let alone they will do their best in this direction, all the same. And some day the world will be surprised to learn that the system they have despised and fought against, contains the power of social redemption and the genius of a civilization that is higher and better than anything that has preceded it in all the ages.

A BILL TO ENCOURAGE PERJURY.

THE Omaha Herald says;

Mr. Edmunds' bill requiring Mormon wives to testify against their husbands should be properly entitled a bill to encourage perjury.

Just so. It has been falsely charged that the "Mormons" are given to perjury. It is popularly supposed that when any institution of our Church is assailed its supporters will not hesitate to lie, on oath, in order to shield it. The accusation is untrue and has proceeded from men and women who make their living by lies. They judge the "Mormons" from their own acts, and measure us by their own standard. But the squeezing process of the new Edmunds bill is calculated to encourage perjury in those women who have not the courage and fortitude of Belle Harris, and who do not want to bring their husbands whom they love and on whom they rely on for support, into trouble and imprisonment. To "attach" women without the usual process, and "compel" them to testify against their husbands, is a rather peculiar measure to be advocated by a "Christian statesman." It does not savor of the religion of the Nazarene, nor does it accord with the principles of constitutional jurisprudence. It is humiliating to see one of the foremost Senators of the nation coming down to the level of the cunning and trap-laying schemers who are hungry for spoils, and who claim that the end justifies the means.

A STARTLING STATEMENT.

THAT portion of the City Council minutes relating to the petition of

John Heil for the use of the water running westward over the military reservation, will probably be perused with lively interest. He claims to have received a grant of the water from the Secretary of War, but that the authorizing document was lost. We are not aware by what right that official could make such an award

to an ice dealer to the detriment of a large body of citizens depending upon the stream for supplies for ordinary uses. If such a step were taken it could be only regarded as an inexcusable and inconsiderate act, while the party soliciting and seeking to retain such an exclusive monopoly exhibits a degree of unscrupulous selfishness that is anything but commendable.

But the main feature associated with the petition of Mr. Heil is in the statement of Mr. Joseph Booth, assistant watermaster in the First Ward, a gentleman who enjoys an excellent reputation for reliability. Without dwelling upon the complaint made by him in relation to Mr. Heil's obduracy in refusing to construct his ice ponds as to protect contiguous residents from damage and of his turning the water into them at such times as placed the people at great inconvenience, we will refer directly to a statement made by Mr. Booth, of a much more startling character. He asserted that when Mr. Heil could not obtain a sufficient supply of pure water he had been in the habit of turning into his ponds the sewage stream from Camp Douglas.

The thought of such a thing is sufficient to create a sensation of nausea. We have heard similar statements in relation to Mr. Heil before, but we could scarcely conceive it to be true that any man could be so lost to common decency and the doctrine of cleanliness and good health as to perpetrate so gross an outrage upon the public.

The very idea of a business being made of solidifying filth in winter, and disposing of it in the heated term to the people for a consideration, to be used for drinking when again liquidized, is most abhorrent.

If the statement of Mr. Booth is correct, and we see no present reason for doubting it, the public will do well to give Mr. Heil's solidified filth a wide berth, if they desire to avoid liability to disease or even death by the most disgusting process of poisoning.

Not only is ice used for drinking purposes, but for the preservation, during hot weather, of butter, meats and other edibles of common consumption. When it is impure it undoubtedly contaminates and vitiates everything with which it is brought into contact, and the very thought of its being impregnated with common sewage is simply horrible. It is the worst and most disgusting as well as a dangerous form of adulteration, for which there is not a particle of excuse.

FREE TRADE BY DEGREES.

THE tariff question is to be made one of the great issues of the approaching political campaign. The Democratic party is understood to stand on the policy of free trade, the Republican to support the policy of protection. There are divisions and modifications of sentiment in both parties as to the practical application of the principles advocated by each. There are modified protectionists among the Democrats, and travelers in the direction of free trade among the Republicans. But in the main the two great political parties occupy the position we have indicated.

In the election of Mr. Carlisle to the Speakership in the House of Representatives, it is considered, the Democrats practically ranged themselves on the straight free trade side of this living question. But the utterances of Mr. Carlisle, supposed to express the views of his party, indicate that he favors conservative action and not a headlong rush to remove all the safeguards which protection has thrown around struggling home industries. And there is no doubt that this disposition is shared by the leading minds and wisest heads of the party which he represents.

The New York Sun, however, does not seem to take any stock in this medium policy, and, addressing the Speaker and other prominent Democrats, remarks:

"If you are free-traders, and if you legislate to make the tariff a thing of revenue only, you will take off every protective duty. If you are protectionists you will leave those duties on, and if you have them on don't pretend hereafter to be anything but protectionists. Let there be no humbug, no false pretense, no possibility of dispute as to the fact."

This at first sight looks straight and sensible enough. But a closer investigation will bring up another view of the matter. It will then be seen that the course suggested by the Sun is neither essential nor wise. To take off every protective duty at once would be too sudden a change. The processes of nature are gradual, and radical alterations take place very often without any sudden revolution. Modifications of existing laws, in our opinion, would be better than the turning of things upside down which the policy of the Sun would occasion. Free trade may be the end in view, and reductions of the tariff, as reason suggests and circumstances permit, be the means of its attainment. This would not be humbug, it would be sound discretion. The Democrats may advocate free trade, show the selfishness and injustice of protecting certain industries at the expense of the mass for the enrichment of a few speculators and corporations, and yet proceed slowly and cautiously in reform by taking off the tariff on articles that should be free from duty, and retaining it or modifying it on those that need incidental protection for a time, and in this way carry out cautiously in practice that which they maintain in theory, and still be thoroughly consistent. The Sun's advice is rash, Carlisle's position is sound and statesmanlike.

UTAH AND THE MORMONS AFTER DINNER.

ON Saturday evening the New England Club, of New York, had its annual dinner at the Delmonico. There were the usual after dinner speeches. Singular as it may seem Utah and the "Mormons" was one of the leading themes of the evening.

Mr. Beecher, in accordance with views already enunciated by him on the subject, favored the application of moral influences in the solution of the question and deprecated everything in the form of a resort to oppressive measures. He said "You cannot do anything in a great republic of mixed people, of every nation and people, if you undertake to ride rough shod over their faults, over their errors, over their evils, with the sword of the law."

Mr. W. M. Evans manifested considerable bitterness on the subject, evidently favoring the adoption of harsh methods. He indulged in denunciation and invective against the "Mormon" religion.

Dr. Newman also had something to say, and said it in his usual style. As to what should be done, he exclaimed, "Other means have failed; what is wanted is the knife-heroic treatment."

The sentiments of Mr. Beecher do credit to his head and heart. The "Mormons" implicitly believe their religion to be correct, and those who believe them to be in error have not a scintilla of right to resort to any but peaceful, moral and intellectual methods. Every coercive and forceful means is an outrage on genuine civilization.

Mr. Evans' course on the question is, for a man of his status, exceedingly foolish. His embargo circular letter to the American ministers and consuls in Europe a few years ago, in relation to stopping "Mormon" emigration was remarkably silly, and made him the butt of any amount of ridicule at home and abroad, but it does not appear that that fiasco had any influence in preventing him from pursuing the same absurd course in reference to a question upon which he is grossly misinformed.

Dr. Newman is the individual who came out to Utah to persuade the "Mormons" they were in error. He was so badly worsted in his discussion upon "Does the Bible Sanction Polygamy," by the late Orson Pratt, that his soul has been scoured ever since. His vanity was hurt because his signal defeat was made a standard joke throughout the country

for years. Probably this accounts for the brutal position he takes in relation to this community. "The knife-heroic" treatment is a nice method for a professed minister of the gospel to advocate for the overturning of people who happen to have different views from those he professes to entertain. But, then, he knows by sad experience that so far as truth is concerned he has not a foot to stand upon. This demonstrated fact may be a partial palliation for his anxiety to have the application of brute force proceeded with it.

DEATH OF GENERAL THOS. L. KANE.

THE very large majority of Utah's people will be pained to learn of the death of their esteemed and valiant friend, General Thomas L. Kane, which took place this morning at his home in Philadelphia. The sad news came by telegram to Hon. Geo. Q. Cannon. Yesterday he received a dispatch stating the General was "ill with pneumonia; very little hope, to-morrow will decide." Today the following was received:

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.,

8.29 a. m. Dec. 28, 1882.

Hon. George Q. Cannon:

Your friend died quietly at half past three, this morning.

ELISHA K. KANE.

To this the annexed reply was telegraphed at once:

I am stunned by this sad event so unexpected. President Taylor joins me in expressing the profoundest sympathy for your mother and the family in your bereavement. Thousands of hearts in this Territory will be filled with grief at the news of the departure of so devoted and steadfast a friend. At what time will the funeral take place?

GEORGE Q. CANNON.

There is no man outside of Utah who holds a warmer place in the hearts of the "Mormon" people than the hero who has just departed. The exact date of his birth we are not able to give at present. He was about sixty years of age, and was born in Philadelphia. His father was the celebrated Judge John Kent Kane, and his ancestors on both sides were illustrious. The family name of Kent came from Chancellor Kent, notable in the annals of jurisprudence, and the Van Rensselaers, to whom he was related on the mother's side, are well known to fame and cut a prominent figure in American history. His brother Dr. Elisha Kent Kane, after whom his son is named, stands prominent among the great men of the age now departed; as an explorer, a surgeon and a scientist he occupies a proud position in the estimation of the well informed in all the civilized world.

Our esteemed friend partook in an eminent degree of the qualities which shone so brightly in his illustrious relatives. His early days were spent in Philadelphia under the influence of the learned judge, his father, and to complete his education he was sent to England and France, where he spent several years, and the latter part of that time served as Secretary of the Legation at Paris. He then returned home and acted as clerk of the court in which his father presided, took an active part in politics, but declined the official career which was often opened to him. He was a prominent worker in the charitable associations of his state, and was noted for his kindness of heart and moral and physical courage.

His sympathies were powerfully enlisted in the "Mormon" cause when the news of the expulsion from Nauvoo became a subject of public interest. How he interested himself with President Polk and the Administration in company with Colonel Jesse C. Little, when the "Mormons" were seeking aid to cross the Great American Desert to the Pacific slope; how he followed them to the frontier when the Mormon Battalion was mustered into service—taking the very strength out of the "Mormon" camp that was needed on the journey across the great plains—how he championed