

## EDITORIALS.

## GODLESS MARRIAGES.

THE California papers are somewhat alarmed at the great prevalence of divorce in the Golden State, and though they are more or less satisfied that "we are a Christian nation," yet they seem forward to admit that neither God, heaven, divinity, nor Christianity is allowed to be a controlling factor in the marriage contract.

The Oakland Transcript says—

"Whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder. We judge from the frequency of divorce, that God did not join together all who are married. Senator Pierson's bill limits the causes for which divorces may be granted to one—adultery. Unless some severe punishment should be made the penalty of the offense, the crime would be committed with the view of being divorced."

That is a sad confession that people would commit adultery for the sake of getting a divorce. Eminently Christian, that!

The San Juan Times says, in answering a woman who asks what a poor woman ought to do, if her husband and she are ill-mated, of totally dissimilar temperaments, constantly quarreling, he finding fault with her, and never giving her a pleasant word, but making her home unhappy and unpleasant—

"We know of no law, human or divine, that requires a woman to live with a brute of a husband any longer than she has a mind to do so. The divorce laws of California are very liberal in their provisions, especially to women, and as for divine laws regulating marriage, there ain't any, except in Mormonism."

## MORE FEDERAL OPPRESSION.

UNDER the above head the S. F. Chronicle says—

"The Mormon brethren are now boosting themselves up on to high ultramontane grounds and howling in lugubrious chorus against the encroachments of the civil power upon the sacred domain of sacerdotal prerogative. They are full of lachrymose indignation at the interference of the civil law with the hallowed institution of polygamy. The brethren insist that plural matrimony is a holy, chaste and beneficent institution with which the civil law has nothing whatever to do. Interference is unconstitutional, persecutive and oppressive. They complain that their faith is interfered with and their liberty of conscience outraged by the Federal raid against polygamy. The complaint is preposterous. No one proposes to interfere with their faith or their consciences, but only with their practices. They are left free to believe what they will. They can still pay tithes to Brigham and worship in the Tabernacle. They are free as air to teach and preach whatever doctrines they please; but if they insist on the practical luxury of a harem of wives the law steps in with its penalties. We are not aware that the civil power has undertaken to interfere with the faith or the organization of the Mormon Church. It has, however, insisted upon enforcing the law of the land against polygamy. We do not regard this as a great outrage, or a flagrant act of oppression. Meantime the entire Mormon press are howling in concert, and declaring that religious freedom and liberty of conscience no longer exists in Utah."

Not much howling. The howling is outside. We only contend for our constitutional rights, which give us entire freedom in the exercise of our religion. Upon what is or what is not religion, people disagree, and every man has the constitutional right to say what his religion is. Another man can't say what it is for him; unless the other authorized him to do so. Congress nowhere is given the power by the Constitution to declare what a man shall accept and

what he shall refuse to accept as portions of his religion. This is a point which the newspapers generally do not properly consider, and consequently they fall into blundersome statements.

## THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

THE message of Governor Emery to the Legislature, taken in its entirety, is a fair and passable document, considering his point of view. He makes a number of good suggestions and recommendations, which the Legislature will be likely to take into deliberate consideration, and will probably act upon so far as, in its judgment, action will be beneficial to the community.

Good and sufficient legislation for the encouragement of all useful home industries, and for the proper protection of investments therein, is of course desirable.

A geological survey is a good thing, but as the Federal Government has the original ownership of the land and receives the money for the same when sold to the people, it seems right that Congress should provide for a competent geological as well as a topographical survey of the Territory.

The centennial year is naturally a time of rejoicing for all Americans, and if the Legislature were to make a reasonable appropriation for this purpose, we do not think the people would complain.

Too much cannot be said in favor of education, if of the right sort, for it cannot be denied that the more thoroughly and symmetrically the various powers of men and women are cultivated and developed, the more intelligent will the community be and the more effective it ought to be for good. Considering the situation of the Territory we believe Utah has done creditably in the matter of education in comparison with other Territories and States. There is no doubt that there could still be an improvement made here, as there could in every other region. But that the imposition of a heavy territorial tax to establish free schools would be advisable, is a thing of which many people are by no means well assured. If the school fund and school teacher appointments were to be made a political bone of contention, and the school law a political engine for hungry politicians to quarrel over and struggle to control, perhaps the Territory would be better without any such law, and with education left to local enterprise.

We must take exception to the statement concerning the illiteracy of the young people of the Territory. The Governor must have been grossly misinformed upon this subject. If he will take the trouble to procure correct information we are assured that he will find that there is scarcely a youth who has grown up in the Territory, who cannot read and write. It has been the custom, for political purposes, to depreciate and misrepresent at wholesale the educational progress of this Territory, and it is about time this kind of business came to an end.

Good roads are desirable. There is no doubt of that, and within certain limits they pay. The roads in this Territory are natural roads almost exclusively, and very good roads of the kind, though in places they are bad enough. So far as either the Territory or the counties are concerned, what they can reasonably appropriate to road making and mending, bridges included, would be well spent in that direction. Turnpiking and graveling, in places, is about the extent to which public moneys can reach, but when one talks of macadamizing one talks of a thing a long way in the future. We do not suppose that there is a rod of macadamized road in the Territory. The expense is too great in a thinly populated country. As to summer's dust and winter's mud, we are afraid that the Utah people will be afflicted with them for ever. This is an arid climate and practically there is not enough water to keep down the dust.

The Governor appears to have fallen into the notion that a "free ballot" as it is called would cure every election evil. The erroneousness of this notion is nowhere more fully demonstrated than in this country. They have a free ballot in New York and in Philadelphia,

yet the election frauds there are infamous. It is yet a discussed point whether open or secret ballot most conduces to the integrity of the ballot. Both systems are practised in different portions of the country. There is certainly greater irresponsibility, and in all probability greater fraud, connected with secret than with open voting.

We presume the system of compensating local officers by post-appropriations was adopted by the Legislature to check careless and induce careful expenditure of the public means. We have not heard of appropriations for reasonable compensation to local officers being refused by the Legislature.

If a reorganization of the judicial districts is really desirable, it is likely that the Legislature, upon due deliberation, will make the necessary changes.

An asylum for the insane, under proper regulation, may be desirable, if not upon too large a scale, because most of the insane people of this Territory are too shrewd to be immured in an asylum.

A proper distribution of the estates of decedents is a very important matter, and should not be lightly legislated upon. The provision that all the children of a man, and their mothers, shall have part in his estate after his decease we consider very just. The practice in Christendom generally of ostracizing and cutting off from pecuniary interest those which are considered illegitimate children is a premium upon illegitimacy. If a man will be the father of children, let him be responsible for them all, and let them all have a right to proper care while he lives and to a fair share of his property when he dies, whether he recognizes them or not, provided it be satisfactorily established that he is their father. We consider this demanded by justice under existing social conditions.

An equitable irrigation law would undoubtedly be a good thing. Irrigation is necessary in this Territory, and probably always will be.

We have recently passed civil code and if a new criminal code is desirable, the Legislature will probably adopt one, if there is time enough this session.

Of course the Governor must enter his protest against plurality of wives, especially as he considers it not in harmony with modern Christianity and civilization. But those institutions, as they exist, certainly need something strong to bring them up to a desirable condition of humanity and equity. Plurality of wives, under judicious regulation, is one of the things needed to make Christianity and civilization an undoubted success. This the Utah people and their representatives believe—hence their actions in this direction. Moreover, they further believe that under the Constitution of the United States neither Congress nor the Utah Legislature has the right to prohibit religious plurality of wives. Hence it is rather absurd of the Governor to ask the Legislators of this Territory to do it—twofold absurd, in that by following out his recommendation on this point they would violate, firstly, their own consciences, and, secondly, the glorious Constitution of the United States, and for what? Simply to pander to popular prejudice.

Finally, all the suggestions by the Governor, or by anybody else for the matter of that, which the Legislature shall find to be worthy of adoption, it is to be hoped it will adopt, always remembering the safe policy of keeping public expenditure within a reasonable public income. There is far too much public debt already in the world.

## AT THEIR OLD GAME.

THE following morceau has been boastfully published as sent from this city to Washington for political effect—

"SALT LAKE CITY,  
Jan. 8, '76.

"To the Editor of the Washington Chronicle:

"The petition for the admission of Utah, and for the repeal of the Poland bill, is a fraud. The signers were told that they were asking for a free Centennial, and reduced railroad fares. The purpose of the petition is known only to Brigham Young and his slaves."

It appears from the above that the members of the Utah "ring,"

with their characteristic recklessness in regard to truth, have commenced their annual crusade, and are employing the telegraph and the press in their abominable falsehoods. It may be that we do not express the facts when we say those characters are reckless of truth. In one sense they may be so considered, but in another sense they are not, far from it—they are very careful to avoid telling the truth, or anything like the truth. So opposed are they to it, that, whatever they may write or telegraph, it may safely be regarded as false, designedly so, in whole or in part, and therefore utterly unworthy of credence. The "ring" gentry seem to be natural liars.

## THE MENDACIOUS LYFORD LIMNED.

THIS is the way the Virginia (Nev.) Territorial Enterprise limns the fire-eating Rev. Lyford, and it often shoots far wider of the mark—

"As a passing event in the history of the day this act of the divine is worthy of record. It shows how little religion there is abroad in the world, and how little some ambassadors from the Court Above regard the example and teachings of their divine Master. It is on account of just such representatives that Christianity is at such a low ebb in the world. They preach peace, and carry pistols; they proclaim brotherly love and practice hate; they pretend to teach the precepts of Him who when reviled opened not his mouth, and who commanded, 'if a man smite thee on one cheek turn the other also,' but in their daily walk and conversation act as if under the curse of Canaan."

## RAILROAD STRIFE IN WASHINGTON.

The New York Herald's Washington correspondence of Jan. 8 states that it is generally understood in the House that the Southern members will vote for the Centennial Bill, provided that the Southern Pacific R. R. bill shall be first assured by the pledged votes of all who are interested in the Centennial Bill, and it is even threatened that unless such assurance is given for the passage of the S. P. R. R. bill there is no chance of the Centennial Appropriation receiving the support of the Southern members.

The same correspondence also states that there is a strong influence in favor of the repeal of the U. P. R. R. charter, and the forfeiture of its franchises, partly because of the defeat of the Government in the late suit, and partly because it is alleged that the agents of the Company have been at work to defeat all proposed rival Pacific Railroads, such as the Texas and Southern Pacific. The southern and south-western members naturally favor the proposed southern railroads, and are consequently incensed against the U. P. R. R. on these abovementioned accounts. Let us have peace and equal rights and privileges.

## Local and Other Matters

FROM TUESDAY'S DAILY, JAN. 18.

**Stormy.**—For a short time it snowed furiously yesterday afternoon, but this morning there was only an inch or two of snow.

**Train Late.**—The Central Pacific train for Ogden was announced as being five hours late to-day. The U. C., however, did not intend to wait for it.

**Disturbing the Peace.**—For putting himself outside of too much strong liquor and shooting his pistol off on the street, S. McMillan was arrested last night, and was to have an interview with Justice Pyper this afternoon.

**Information Wanted.**—Jens Christen Hansen, of Greenville (P. O. Box 675), Michigan, wishes to know the whereabouts of his aunt, Anne Sophie Christensen, who left Sendal Sogn, Hjørring, Denmark, about sixteen years ago.

**Lost.**—There was lost yesterday, somewhere between this city and Halfway House, or Tooele Mills, Tooele County, a parcel containing

needle work, mostly materials for white shirts and ladies' dresses. The finder will be rewarded on leaving the same with W. S. Brown, at the address above mentioned, or at the residence of Bishop L. D. Young in this city.

**Breaking the Sabbath.**—We are informed there were from four hundred to five hundred skaters on the Warm Springs Lake on Sunday last. The lake is within the limits of the corporation, but we understand the city authorities have changed their intention with regard to prosecuting the parties who thus broke the Sunday law, but will probably act if the ordinance continues to be in this way infringed in future.

**Missionary Work.**—To-day we perused a letter from Elder B. F. Cummings, dated at Canton, Fulton Co., Ills., January 9th, in which he states that the evening previous he baptized Mr. Williams, a merchant of that place, and also his son, a promising lad of fourteen years. He also ordained Mr. Williams an Elder, and set him apart to the labor of building up a branch in that locality. There are several others who will probably be baptized shortly.

**Mule Stealing.**—About three o'clock this morning deputy sheriff N. V. Jones was on the lookout for thieves. It occurred about that time that he met a man on the southern outskirts of town, on the State Road, with a span of mules with the harness on, and arrested him, on suspicion of having stolen the animals. While the officer was putting the mules into Wickel's stable his prisoner took "French leave" and escaped. Mr. Jones pursued and finally captured his man about three miles south of the city, at Howard's liquor store. As he was preparing to start with him the fellow made another break and got away a second time, and again did Mr. Jones pursue and capture him, and finally got him to town and lodged him in the City jail, where he now lies.

To-day the mules were claimed by a gentleman who lives at Bountiful, from whom they were stolen.

**Fire—Incendiarism.**—Shortly before one o'clock this morning, flames were observed bursting through the roof of a two-story frame building, next south to the Salt Lake sale and feed stables, Commercial Street. The members of the Fire Brigade, with apparatus, were on the spot as soon after the alarm as possible, and did splendid service. The flames communicated to the building adjoining south, also a two-story frame, the boot and shoe factory of Mr. William J. Hooper. Luckily willing hands were plied in removing Mr. Hooper's goods to a place of safety, the whole stock being saved, with but little damage; both buildings, however, were destroyed, excepting the mere outside shell.

The firemen worked well and bravely, and but for their efforts a general conflagration in that part of the city would have been the result.

The building in which the flames broke out was the property of Mr. James Gordon, and had been vacant for several months, leaving but little doubt that the fire was incendiary. The other building belonged jointly to Messrs. W. J. Hooper and to Mr. Hawkins, the blacksmith, the same whose premises were burned in the late conflagration below the White House, Mr. Hooper being the heavier loser, having a two-thirds interest. The building of Mr. Gordon was worth about \$2,000, and that of Messrs. Hooper and Hawkins the same, making the total loss somewhere between \$4,000 and \$5,000.

The fire below the White House also started in a vacant building.

**University of Deseret.**—At a meeting of the Board of Regents of this institution, held last evening, in the University building, the President, Dr. Park, in reporting the condition of the department of instruction, stated that the enrollment for the present term was 167 students.

In alluding to the Library he said that from the time of its inauguration, on the 19th of Oct., 1874, to the end of the same academic year, in June following, 1637 volumes had been given out, and from the beginning of the present academic year, Aug. 23, 1875, to the present time 2756 volumes had been given out, making an aggregate for twelve months, during the sessions of the institution, of 4393.