

EDITORIALS

THE METHODISTS BLUSHING.

SINCE the days of John Wesley the Methodists have got proud and puffy, and, as is the way with poor Pharisaical human nature, when it gets high and lifted up, they thank God they are not as other men are, nor even as these "Mormons," yea, verily and especially, not as these "Mormons," and this is how the *Methodist* shews it—

"It is enough to make us all blush for shame, to be compelled to confess that the House of Representatives has, all this session, tolerated the presence of a polygamist delegate. Elder Cannon, were he living in any one of the States, would be arrested and tried for bigamy; in Washington he helps to make laws for the whole people. He was bold enough to say, last week, that polygamy could only be put down by reason. This is, in some sort, a defiance of the coercive power of our courts."

It is enough to make modern Methodists all blush for shame to think that anybody in these degenerate days should have domestic relations similar to those of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, and other old prophets and men of God and ancient Israel generally, and more especially that any such body should help to make laws for the whole people. Anybody who makes hold to walk in the footsteps of Father Abraham, and help to make laws for the whole of the people, evidently ought to be crucified, in the opinion of the *Methodist*.

Our Pharisaical contemporary, however, is rather too hot and hasty, or it would remember that a Territorial Delegate has nothing whatever to do with making laws for the whole people, not even for the people of his own Territory, so the blushes and indignation of the *Methodist* are wasted on that point.

Nor is our high-minded and haughty and self-righteous contemporary any more happy on another point of its objections, wherein it says that Mr. Cannon's boldness in declaring that the marriage customs in Utah can only be put down by reason, "is, in some sort, a defiance of the coercive power of our courts." How so? Does the *Methodist* mean to say that "the coercive power of our courts" is exercised unreasonably, not in accordance with reason? If it is so exercised, ought it not to be defied, yea and put down also? Is the *Methodist* so very anxious to have "the coercive power of our courts" exercised unreasonably, as to consider any one who presumes to think and argue in favor of rational procedure a criminal, guilty of contempt, and even of treason? If so, we don't agree with the *Methodist*. We believe in rational courts, rational procedure, and a reasonable antagonism only to error or crime, real or presumed.

The following couplet we have seen credited to Charles Wesley—

"Freedom and reason make us men;
Take these away, what are we then?"

We suppose we should then be Methodists, judging by the line of arguments adopted, as above, by the *Methodist*. We can't be converted to Methodism of that strait-laced, irrational type, whether the courts like it or not.

COMET II. OF 1874.

THE papers have a new comet to talk about. It was first discovered by M. Coggia, at Marseilles, April 17 last. It is approaching the earth, and increasing in brightness. Its maximum beauty and brightness, it is announced, may be seen on the 3rd of August. An exchange says—

"Right under the Polar star may now be seen at midnight, with the naked eye, or better still with a good opera-glass, a small, hazy light about as large as a horse-chestnut, with a brighter point of light on one edge of it. This insignificant affair is a very good-sized comet, never seen before that any one knows of, and which is approaching us with astonishing rapidity."

Professor Lewis Smith, in a letter, dated June 12, to the *Rochester Democrat*, says—

"It is approaching both the sun and earth with a constantly accelerated velocity arriving at perihelion (nearest the sun) and perigee (nearest the earth) about the 1st of August. It is now situated, at 1 o'clock in the morning, directly beneath the polar star, and about twenty-five degrees from it, and is just visible to the naked eye. With a glass it can be seen as a hazy nebulous mass with a bright point a little to the side. Through my telescope of four and one-half inches aperture, six feet focus, it presents a tail filling the whole field with a low power of thirty-six. So directly towards us is it moving it seems almost to stand still, its slight deviation from it giving an apparent motion toward Beta Ursæ Majoris. It is now visible all night, but will soon be only in the early hours of evening, setting in the northwest. If at the time of its nearest approach to the earth the moon should be absent, we may expect, from present indications, to be treated with a cometary display which may rival the transit of Venus in popular as well as in scientific interest. The comet will be brightest on the evening of August 3, being then 245 times as bright as at the time of discovery, while now it is only five and one-half times as bright, and as the moon will be absent it will be subjected to spectroscopic analysis under circumstances more favorable than may occur again in many years. It will then be about five degrees from Denabola, the brightest star in Leo."

VIGILANCE AND LYNCH.

A LETTER from Vinita, Indian Territory, in the *St. Louis Republican*, says a vigilance committee has lately been organized in that Territory, extending to Kansas, for the purpose of ridding the country of bands of outlaws who defy the authorities, steal horses and depredate generally upon property. Within a short time John Blythe, John Friend, Young Cochran, Dick Goddard and two others have been lynched. Seventeen other desperadoes are on the list of the committee, most of whom it is said will be ordered out of the country, while Joe Queen and Joe Morgan will be killed on sight.

PRIZES FOR VIRTUE.—In France they actually award prizes for virtue, perhaps the only country where such a thing is done. No, we must not forget the awarding of the Dunmow fitch in England to the married couple who have never had a connubial quarrel. Says an exchange, "A Paris letter says the faithful servant, Cesarine, who remained with Mile. Desclée all her life, and nursed her up to the moment of her death, has just been given one of the Montyon prizes for virtue."

We don't hear of prizes being given for virtue in this country; whether the reason is that virtue is not sufficiently in demand, or that virtue is considered to be sufficiently its own reward, we leave for others to say.

FINANCIERING JEWS.—The *Omaha Herald* has the following upon Hebrew capacity for financial business—

"The Jews in every nation cope with the world's financiers. The famous Rothschild family have been the bankers of the most powerful nations, and have often held their fate in the palms of their hands. But in the higher walks of statesmanship they are not less eminent and powerful. Disraeli in England, Gambetta in France, Castelar in Spain, and Lasker in Germany, are four Jews who have made themselves the most powerful men in the four most powerful governments of Europe."

NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE.—It is stated that the London *Times* has private cable and telegraph wire connecting the office of that paper with Paris. It is further said that the proprietors of the *Times* are

considering a scheme for directly connecting their office with every great business centre in the world. Of course that includes Salt Lake City.

SUMNER'S PROPHETIC VOICES.

Prophetic Voices Concerning America. A monograph. By Charles Sumner. Lee & Shephard, Preston Lee, Shephard, and Dillingham, New York. Received through Dwyer's.

This is a work of nearly 200 pages, beautifully printed on good thick paper, with a steel portrait of the author, and bound in cloth. As its title indicates, it is a collection of things prophetic which have been said of America and its progress and destiny, by sagacious and far-seeing persons in both hemispheres, going as far back as Seneca and Strabo, and coming down as late as Cobden and Alaman. Some of the prophetic ideas and language advanced are rather obscure, but others are curious and striking, and more than one have become household words. A few brief extracts will probably be interesting to our readers.

Seneca, in his chorus to Medea, talks of "Ultima Thule." Bacon terms the passage, "A prophecy of the discovery of America," and Archbishop Whately translates it thus—"There shall come a time in later ages, when ocean shall relax his chains and a vast continent appear, and a pilot shall find new worlds, and Thule shall be no more earth's bound." Seneca was born about 61 B. C.

Strabo, in his geography, said, "There may be in the same temperate zone two and indeed more inhabited lands, especially nearest the parallel of Thine or Athens, prolonged into the Atlantic Ocean." Strabo died about 24 B. C.

Pulci, who died in 1487, in his *Morgante Maggiore*, talks of the daring mariner going far o'er the western wave, far beyond old limits, and says—

Men shall descry another hemisphere,
At our Antipodes are cities, states,
And thronged empires, ne'er divined of yore.
But see, the sun speeds on his western path
To glad the nations with expected light.

Sir Thomas Browne, who died in 1682, published a tract in which he said that "America will be the seat of the fifth empire."

Now we come to the famous poem, concerning America, of Bishop Berkeley, A. D., 1726, to whom Pope ascribed "every virtue under heaven." We quote the first and last stanzas—

The Muse, disgusted at an age and clime
Barren of every glorious theme,
In distant lands now waits a better time
Producing subjects worthy fame.

Westward the course of empire takes its way;

The first four acts already past,
A fifth shall close the drama with the day;
Time's noblest offspring is the last.

Samuel Sewall, 1727, writes some remarkable things—

"The English nation in showing kindness to the aboriginal natives of America may possibly show kindness to Israelites unaware."

"Instead of being branded for slaves with hot irons in the face and arms, and driven by scores in mortal chains, they shall wear the name of God in their foreheads, and they shall be delivered into the glorious liberty of the children of God."

"New Jerusalem will not straiten, and enfeeble; but wonderfully dilate, and invigorate Christianity in the several quarters of the world, in Asia, in Africa, in Europe, and in America. And one that has been born, or but liv'd in America, more than three score years; it may be pardonable for him to ask, Why may not that be the place of New Jerusalem?"

"Of all the parts of the world, which do from this Charter, entitle themselves to the government of Christ, America's plea, in my opinion, is the strongest."

"May it not with more or equal strength be argued New Jerusalem is not the same with Jerusalem; but as Jerusalem was to the westward of Babylon, so New Jerusalem must be to the westward of Rome, to avoid disturbance in the order of mysteries."

"Lift up your head, O ye Gates

[of Columbina], and be ye lift up, ye Everlasting Doors, and the King of Glory shall come in."

Justice Sewall also adduces "learned Mr. Nicholas Fuller," who would have it believed that America was first peopled "by the posterity of our great-grandfather Japheth."

Several persons prophetically spoke of the separation of America from European government, the establishment of independent governments on this continent, and its superior advance in knowledge and power, also the general prevalence of the English language.

John Adams, 1780, wrote and said many things concerning the future greatness of America, among them the following to Jefferson—

"Our pure, virtuous, public-spirited, federative republic will last for ever, govern the globe, and introduce the perfection of man."

This last prophecy means the ultimate, utter and irretrievable defeat and overthrow of the political demagogue and anti-"Mormon" crusader classes.

The abbe Raynal, 1770, wrote—

"Perhaps then it will be seen that America is favorable to genius, to the creative arts of peace and society. A new Olympus, an Arcadia, an Athens, a new Greece, will produce on the continent, or in the archipelago which surrounds it, Homers, Theocrituses, and especially Anacreons. Perhaps another Newton will arise in the new Britain. It is from English America, do not doubt, that will shoot forth the first ray of the sciences, if they are to appear at last under a sky so long clouded. By singular contrast with the ancient world, where the arts passed from the South towards the North, in the new we shall witness the North enlighten the South. Let the English clear the land, purify the air, change the climate, meliorate nature; a new universe will proceed from their hands for the glory and happiness of humanity."

"Break the knot which binds ancient Britain to the new; soon the northern colonies alone will have more power than they possessed in union with the mother country. This great continent enfranchised from all compact with Europe will be free in all its movements."

"The new hemisphere must detach itself some day from the old. This great dismemberment is prepared in Europe by the fermentation and the shock of our opinions; by the overthrow of our rights, which created our courage; by the luxury of our courts and the wretchedness of our fields; by the hate, enduring forever, between the cowards who possess all and the robust, even the virtuous, who have nothing more to lose than life. It is prepared in America by the growth of population, of agriculture, of industry, and of intelligence. All moves to that scission."

Bishop Jonathan Shipley, 1773, in a discourse, said—

"The colonies of North America have not only taken root and acquired strength, but seem hastening with an accelerated progress to such a powerful state as may introduce a new and important change in human affairs."

"It is difficult even to imagine to what height of improvement their discoveries may extend."

"And perhaps they may make as considerable advances in the arts of civil government and the conduct of life."

"May they not possibly be more successful than their mother country has been in preserving that reverence and authority which are due to the laws—to those who make and to those who execute them? May not a method be invented of procuring some tolerable share of the comforts of life to those inferior, useful ranks of men, to whose industry we are indebted for the whole? Time and discipline may discover some means to correct the extreme inequalities of condition between the rich and the poor, so dangerous to the innocence and happiness of both."

"How slowly in all countries the principles of natural justice, which are so evidently necessary in private life, have been admitted into the administration of public affairs!"

"A time, I doubt not, will come, in the progressive improvement of human affairs, when the checks and restraints we lay on the industry of our fellow-subjects and the

jealousies we conceive at their prosperity will be considered as the effects of a mistaken policy, prejudicial to all parties, but chiefly to ourselves."

"The success they [the colonies in managing their own affairs] have met with ought to be to us a memorable proof that the true art of government consists in not governing too much."

"My Lords [Parliament], I look upon North America as the only great nursery of freemen now left upon the face of the earth."

Dr. Richard Price, speaking of American affairs, in 1777 and 1778, said—

"These measures have, in all probability, hastened the disruption of the new from the old world, which will begin a new era in the annals of mankind, and produce a revolution more important, perhaps, than any that has happened in human affairs."

"A great people, likely to be formed, in spite of all our efforts, into free communities, under governments which have no religious tests and establishments! A new era in future annals, and a new opening in human affairs, beginning among the descendants of Englishmen, in a new world! A rising empire, extended over an immense continent, without bishops, without nobles, and without kings."

In 1784, in a tract upon the American revolution, the Doctor said—

"With heartfelt satisfaction I see the revolution in favor of universal liberty which has taken place in America—a revolution which opens a new prospect in human affairs, and begins a new era in the history of mankind. * * Perhaps I do not go too far when I say that next to the introduction of Christianity among mankind, the American revolution may prove the most important step in the progressive course of human improvement."

Governor Thomas Pownall wrote to Benjamin Franklin, in 1783, concerning the Revolution—

"A revolution that has stranger marks of Divine interposition, superseding the ordinary course of human affairs, than any other event which this world has experienced."

Sir William Jones, 1781, whose appointment to a high judicial station in India was called "the greatest blessing ever conferred by the British Government on the inhabitants of the East," in his Ode, in "Initiation of Alcaeus," doubtless in reference to America, wrote—

"What constitutes a state?
Not high-raised battlement on labored mound,

Thick wall or moated gate;
No; men, high-minded men;
Men, who their duties know,
But know their rights, and knowing, dare maintain,

Prevent the long-aimed blow,
And crush the tyrant, while they rend the chain;
These constitute a State."

Mason wrote—

"Old England's genius turns with scorn away,
Ascends his sacred bark, the sails unfurl'd,
And steers his State to the wide Western World.

High on the helm majestic Freedom stands."

Jefferson in 1824 wrote to Edward Livingston of the American government as "a constitution of government destined to be the primitive and precious model of what is to change the condition of man over the globe."

Alexis de Tocqueville, 1848, spoke of American affairs thus—

"The most fearful of all the evils which menace the future of the United States springs from the presence of the blacks on their soil. When we seek the cause of present embarrassments and of future dangers to the United States, we arrive almost always at this first fact, from whatever point we depart."

"The Americans of the United States, whatever they do, will become one of the greatest people of the earth; they will cover with their offshoots almost all North America. The continent which they inhabit is their domain, it cannot escape them."

"So in the midst of the uncer-