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Wednesday, Aug. 28, 1867.

UTAH'S UNPOPULARITY.

Utah has been, and continues to be with some people, rather unpopular. Some seem to dislike Utah without knowing why. Like the individual who disliked Mr. Fell, yet could not tell the reason why he did so, they simply know they do not like Utah, without having any clear understanding wherefore.

As she is unpopular, however, she must have some distinctive features which mark a difference between her and other places. We have no particular wish to "show up" the evils, iniquities and abominations which exist elsewhere. The task is not a very pleasant one; neither is it a profitable one. And it may be that in finding the reasons of Utah's unpopularity, we may have to expatiate on the virtues that are said to exist so abundantly throughout Christendom! Still, we hardly think this likely, unless the world has become much more righteous than it was a few years ago and the entire press of the civilized world is given to traduce themselves and their neighbors in the most calumnious and slanderous spirit.

To find out the cause of Utah's unpopularity we must try and find out wherein we differ in our manners, habits, customs, belief and practices from the inhabitants of other places; for some of these are the cause of that unpopularity. Our people look very much like other people, so much so that when any of them mingle with the great world, no one entertains any suspicion that they belong to Utah. They eat, sleep, dress, walk, talk, transact business, and attend to all of those matters which occupy the attention of mankind just as other men and women do.

As they are not distinguishable in these respects from other people, it must be something which shows itself in some other way, or develops itself in them in a collective capacity, that causes their unpopularity. Travel away from this Territory, and in some of the leading characteristics of society a very material change is seen in every city you enter from that which is found here. In business matters there are the same peculiarities to be noticed here as elsewhere; but there are some things which strike the attention of travelers from this place, when they go abroad; while their opposites are exceedingly noticeable here to those travelers who pass through our cities.

The great number of saloons, grog shops, and similar places, that are found to exist elsewhere, with their scarcity here, is a noticeable feature. This has been found to be one cause of our unpopularity, among many who have made this Territory their halting place for a time; and numerous were the devices resorted to that the law might be evaded or made void which restricted within close bounds the vending of liquors.

Another thing in which Utah does not meet the wishes of those accustomed to and desirous of having all the institutions which characterize society

elsewhere, is the absence of houses of ill repute and their abandoned inmates, which have come to be looked upon in the world as a necessity, because those who assume to be conservators of public virtue find themselves unable to stem the current of depravity. They are not here, and their absence has been made the subject of private comment by individuals with whom Utah grew very unpopular, because of the lack of these and kindred means of enjoyment!

The people of Utah, too, are so far behind the spirit of the age that they wish and seek to live at peace with each other and with all the rest of mankind, if they will be permitted to do so. Because of their peaceful disposition, they are berated by individuals who would much prefer to see them divided into parties and abusing each other, according to the method most approved and in fashion in the world.

The people here also believe in men whose nobleness, virtue, integrity, truthfulness, honor and wisdom they have proved through many trying years; and they object to elevate to pinnacles of eminence in their midst, and do extreme reverence to, poor miserable beings who may be sent here, and who wish to be exalted to positions nature never qualified them for and their vices forbid them from filling. This is very galling to them; they do not like to be placed on their proper level; and the people who do it are very unpopular with them. Hence they speak and write as they feel, with all the wounded dignity of neglected swell-heads, not according to facts and reason. The consequence is that they seek to extend Utah's unpopularity; and as far as their influence goes or their word is received, they are successful in doing so.

But this article seems like stretching out much beyond the limits designed, so we will have to postpone the remainder of it till a more convenient time.

SOMETHING MORE ABOUT
UTAH'S UNPOPULARITY.

The reasons why Utah is unpopular are not confined to one or two, as some would try to make appear.

It is very common to ascribe all the malevolent things that are said against this community to the fact that plurality of wives is a part of our religious belief; though the same individuals undertake to say what is and what is not a part of our faith, telling us that we cannot include the principle named in our religion. It is presumable that this is the first instance in the history of the world, of one class or set of people telling another that they do not believe something as part of their religion which they claim they do.

We say, as a people, that the Lord has given a revelation commanding plurality of wives; our enemies say He has not done so. There is only one way by which they could say so truthfully, knowing their assertion to be correct, and that is by having received a revelation from God saying that He had not commanded it. This they do not pretend to have received. They do not believe that He does or will give revelation. They are not very sure whether they believe anything about Him. At any rate, they do believe that He never interferes with, nor takes any practical concern relative to the affairs of mankind; and that He would not disturb the equanimity of fashionable life by revealing anything that would in the least come in contact with their opinions and practices. So they say that God has not given us this command; and though it would seem that we ought

to know best, and that we ought to know what our religious belief is, they still persistently refuse to admit that this is a part of our faith.

It seems strange that they should deny us the right of knowing what we believe, especially as they call this an evil and erroneous practice, and they very eagerly seek out anything which we believe or practice that has the appearance of evil, hoping thereby to make capital against us and increase our unpopularity. But the fact is, they still wish to keep up a semblance of clinging to constitutional principles; and if they were to admit plurality of wives to be a part of our religious faith, they would be compelled by the provisions of the Constitution to let it remain undisturbed. Sweep away that section of the Constitution which prohibits interference with any religion, and the cry would go out, from one end of the land to the other, among those with whom Utah is unpopular, that plurality of wives is a portion of our religious faith!

But it is not the lasciviousness and corruption which they wrongfully, in their impure thoughts, say are consequents of plurality of wives, with which they find fault, and which render the principle and those who believe in it here unpopular in Christendom. All have some idea of the corruption and lasciviousness which reign in monogamic society; though but few have any conception of their grossness and heinousness. That society could not be more corrupt under any circumstances where plurality of wives prevailed, than it is at present where monogamy is the exclusive practice, is a fact easily demonstrated; and it is proveable that even under the fierce tropical sun, with all the incentives to licentiousness which there abound, there can not be found corruption so deep and damning among polygamists as is to be found to-day in the midst of (so-called) Christian and monogamic nations.

No, it cannot be the alleged corruption which it is falsely said plurality of wives produces that makes it unpopular. The Sultan of Turkey and the King of Egypt have recently visited France and England, two monogamic, Christian (!) nations, that claim to stand in the van of civilization and refinement; and these two noted polygamists of the eastern hemisphere enjoyed the hospitality of imperial, monarchical and aristocratic monogamists, and were for the time being the very lions of the hour, feted, caressed, and made the objects of the most solicitous attention. Had they visited this nation they would have been equally lionized and feted, and their polygamy would only have made them more "interesting creatures!" Who doubts it? Nobody with an ordinary share of common sense.

The reason why plurality of wives here is so unpopular with those who rail against it is, because they cannot find in Utah that corruption which their depraved appetites desire; and though it may hit hard elsewhere, the truth must be told, that ninety-nine one-hundredths of all the opposition elsewhere turned against our practice of it, is because of the corrupt thoughts and practices of those who rail against it, and who judge us by their own vile hearts, and what we do by what they would do were they in our places.

Another thing which may help to make Utah unpopular is, that the fashionable practice of abortion is not practiced, nor thought of, among the inhabitants of this Territory. The children given to us by the Lord are viewed as blessings and are watched after and cared for as valuable treasures. Hence a trip through our settlements shows

more robust, healthy, rosy-cheeked, good-looking children than can be found in any other portion of the world with the same adult population.

In Utah, too, our married men do not do, as the practice is elsewhere: have a wife, open and avowed, whose children are nurtured in the lap of ease and elegance, while they keep several others to whom they are not married, who are not recognized as wives, and whose offspring grow up uncared for, children of secret shame and guilt, whose pathways in youth are in the haunts of vice and infamy, and who swell in after life the long roll of criminals that fill our prisons and disgrace the country. This is popular in the world; it is unpopular here where every man honors his wives with the sacred and holy name of wife, and cares for his offspring as treasures bestowed upon him by Heaven.

Utah is unpopular because she does not desire to have the public purse robbed to enrich a few greedy, unscrupulous, dishonest speculators, who would, if possible, involve Government in expenditure however needless and uncalled for, by which they could secure a fat contract. In this Utah is very unpopular—with said speculators—because she knows their character, disregards their enmity, and proclaims their dishonesty.

We could give several other reasons why Utah is unpopular, but these are sufficient to make her as unpopular as the nether regions—and a good deal more so—with all those who love, cling to, and advocate the superiority of that which is fashionable in the world. When simple truth is preferred to tinsel falsehood; when virtue is practiced, and men cease to gloss over corruption with specious words and phrases; when honesty is at a premium and hypocrisy at a discount; when politicians seek the good of the country in preference to that of party, becoming patriots instead of partisans; when God is worshipped, His truth believed, His name revered, and His laws obeyed, then Utah will become popular; but until then, it is probable she will be more or less unpopular with the world at large, and with dishonesty and corruption in particular.

HOME ITEMS.

SABBATH MEETINGS.—Bishop Nathan Davis, recently returned from the east, spoke for a short time on several topics.

Pres. Daniel Spencer reasoned on the nobleness and independence of character which the gospel imparts to those who embrace and live its principles; and encouraged the Saints in righteousness.

President H. C. Kimball urged upon the young the importance of taking care of their health and bodies, that they might long retain vigor of body to work the works of righteousness. He reasoned that keeping late hours, unnecessary exposure, and carelessness with regard to health, are reprehensible, and should be avoided by all.

AFTERNOON.

Elder Thomas Williams related some of his early experience in the Church, and spoke of the visible manifestations of Providence which he had seen, in testimony of this being the work of God.

Elder John Van Cott spoke on several points; urged "home manufactures," and the storing up of grain; and exhorted the people to hearken to the counsels of the servants of God, that they may realize the benefits resulting from such obedience.

President D. H. Wells called for some more carpenters to assist on the New Tabernacle. The work is progressing rapidly, but there is a vast amount still to do; yet it is designed the building will be ready to hold the Semi-Annual Conference in by the 6th of October.

GO HOME.—Elder Robert N. Russell arrived from Europe, where he had been on a mission for three years, on Sunday, having traveled from the railroad terminus to Green river with D. P. Kimball, at which point he took stage. He is in good health and spirits. He passed several trains of merchandize on the way between Green river and this city, some of which were expected to arrive by Tuesday, or Wednesday morning.