

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 18, 1885.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

To the Presidents, Councils and Saints
in the various Stakes of Zion:

It is thought advisable to hold our
next Annual Conference in the city of
Logan, Cache County.

Meetings will commence on Saturday
April 4th, 1885, at 10 o'clock a. m.

Very respectfully,

Your Brethren,

JOHN TAYLOR,

GEORGE Q. CANNON,

Of the First Presidency of the Church
of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

THE PLENITUDE OF ANTI- "MORMON" PRETEXTS.

THE facility with which the anti-
"Mormon" demagogue changes his
base, and, as fast as one pretext serv-
ing him as a breast-work is torn away,
hides himself behind another, rivals
the agility of the nocturnal flea, or the
fickleness of the color-changing
chameleon. Illustrations are, like Fal-
staff's reasons, "as plenty as black-
berries," but we need not pick from
the prolific bush more than one or two
at the present time.

How often has it been asserted, by
men and women honestly or dishonest-
ly opposed to the polygamic principle
of this much persecuted religion, that
if that one obnoxious doctrine were
only done away, and its practice should
henceforth cease, all hostility to "Mor-
monism" would vanish into thin air,
the oil of peace would be poured upon
the troubled waters of political and
religious strife in Utah, and the Millen-
nial sun would be almost ready to dawn
upon this portion of our war-weary
and benighted planet.

That many persons are sincere in
this belief, we doubt not, any more
than we do that many others are not
so. Those who indeed cherish it are,
for the most part, well meaning but
superficial thinkers, who have studied
carelessly, or not at all, the crimson-
hued history of religious persecution,
particularly those chapters—destined,
thank heaven! to be among the closing
ones—relating to the career of the
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day
Saints.

We need hardly refer, in this connec-
tion, to the unfounded charges, ridicu-
lous as they were numerous, preferred
against the early Christians, and cited
by their merciless oppressors in justifi-
cation of their cruelty to that uni-
versally despised and unpopular sect;
nor give more than a passing glimpse
at the lurid scenes of rapine and
murder with which history repeated
itself in the days of the expulsion of
the Saints from Missouri, when the
pretense put forth to palliate such
horrors was not, as some might sup-
pose, the now terrible offense of patri-
archal marriage. No; "polygamy" was
not then the popular note to sound,
the revelation regarding it not having been
given to the Church. Hence, some
other excuse had to be invented, some
other catch-word adopted, some other
cloak made to order, to cover up the
real object of the murderous crusade
urged against an innocent people,
"everywhere spoken evil of," whose
appealed cause was admitted to be
just by the highest executive of the
nation, who, nevertheless, in the same
breath acknowledged himself power-
less to interfere for their protection, or
afford for their past cruel wrongs the
slightest redress.

And what, in those early days, was
"Mormonism's" alleged offense, or
more properly speaking, the main ac-
cusation, since they have ever been like
Abraham's posterity, innumerable? In
brief this: that the Latter-day Saints,
like the Saints of former days, claimed
to receive revelations from on High,
and were organized, with Apostles and
Bishops, etc., in close conformity with
the ecclesiastical system of govern-
ment that existed in the ancient Chris-
tian Church. These awful crimes ex-
cited the jealous wrath of the priests
of a perverted and apostate Chris-
tianity, and it was not a difficult thing
for these "holy men" who "spoke as
they were moved upon" by the spirit
of the devil, to poison the minds of
their pious flocks, and aided by schem-
ing knaves and political tricksters, of
whom little else could be expected, to
create a sentiment so bitterly hostile
that nothing but the blood of innocence
which it shed could satiate it. These
facts have passed into history, not yet
written in its fulness, but some day to

be thundered by impartial justice from
the house tops.

But what do we next hear? Has the
same old pretense been used to extenu-
ate all later exhibitions of Christian
hatred toward this "peculiar people,"
since they left the confines of civiliza-
tion to build up and beautify an Eden
in the heart of the American desert?
Not entirely. The real cause remains,
as ever, unchanged; but the ostensible
one has shifted and veered and fluttered
about like a weather-cock in a wind
storm. Polygamy, being published,
became immensely popular as a war-
cry, and its imaginary horrors were
sufficiently blood-curdling, without
"Apostles and Bishops," to suit every
purpose of the conspiring hypocrites
who create, in order to pander to
and be paid by, a mistaken public pre-
judice, as wide-spread as in every re-
spect unwarrantable.

This polygamic wire has been
twanged till it is almost ready to snap
asunder, from age and prolonged use,
and those whose business it is to
strum the harp of slander and tune
it to the ever-varying popular
pitch, find it necessary to once more
look about for material to meet the
imminent popular demand for a
change. "Blood atonement" will
hardly do, for that has also seen much
service, and like "polygamy" is getting
somewhat out of tune. There is some-
thing, however, that suits the times "to
a T," and far from wonderful to tell, it
has already been stretched and played
upon.

And what is this new bugaboo?—
this Olympus of popular dread—this
towering mountain of a nation's alarm
that "sings its piteous wail against the burn-
ing zone," making the polygamic Ossa
to appear "like a wart?" In sooth,
"Church rule in politics," an auto-
cratic theocracy, *imperium in imperio*;
a "Mormon" empire in an American
republic; an "ecclesiastical light di-
vine, as opposed to the ballots of a
free people"—and yards on yards of
similar stuff, all of which, summed up
and simmered down, might be put thus:
a handful of religious worshippers,
armed with implements of labor, with
their feet firmly planted on the granite
backbone of the American continent,
leering down upon and threatening
with an avalanche of hymn-books, the
peace, welfare and existence of a shiv-
ering little group of fifty-five millions
of people!

This, then, is the leading pretext of
to-day—the comet of ill-omen now
sweeping and swishing through the
political heavens, with "polygamy,"
"blood-atonement," and all the other
little horrors following and serving it
as a tail. This is the pale spectre that
"spreads its streaming hair over
France," Germany, Switzerland, Eng-
land, Scotland, and all other countries
of the civilized and terrified world.

But tell us—What has this new terror
to stand on? Is it utterly without
foundation, like the vast majority of its
predecessors, or has it, like some of
the more notable ones, a shadow of
tangibility, which at first sight—but at
first sight only—seems almost as plausi-
ble as a skeleton's visible, or a vag-
rant's imaginary means of support?
Simply this and nothing more: the
"Mormons," like all true Bible believ-
ers, hold that the God of heaven and
Maker of the earth intends ere long to
pay a personal visit to this planet, to
take for a season the reins of govern-
ment into His own hands, establishing
a reign of universal peace and right-
eousness, and requiring all nations to
acknowledge His sceptre. They further-
more believe that, as usual, He has
sent word on ahead, in order not to
take the world entirely unawares, and
has commissioned certain humble,
God-fearing men to preach the glad
tidings to their fellow creatures and
prepare the way for His coming.

This is the very head and front of
"Mormon" "treason," "rebellion,"
and all the rest of the clap-trap which
continually salutes the tired eyes and
ears of a long-suffering public. It is
the government of God—that these
Christian priests and politicians affect
to regard as a foreign power, and it is
Jesus Christ whom they stigmatize as
an invader, and whose approach they
are preparing to repel with all the force
and fury at their command. Who
would have thought that the parable of
the Lord and His vineyard would
find its application in the nine-
teenth century, and in "the land of
the free and the home of the brave?"
Who would have supposed that, in this
professedly Christian nation, a Bible
prophecy in relation to the coming of
the King of kings, would be used as a
pretext to "justify the suppression of
a people and religion whose only crime
is clinging to the hope of its literal
fulfillment?" What next will be the
scare-crow to keep away honest in-
vestigation into the merits of "Mor-
monism," and afford a temporary
hiding place for the conspirators who
are too cowardly to assail the system
except from behind a barricade of sub-
terfuge, sophistry, misconstructions
and make-believes?

SOME OF THE INCONSISTEN- CIES.

THE inconsistency of the operators
in the anti-"Mormon" crusade has
probably never been excelled. Their
professions are flat contradictions of
their actions, and some parts of their
doings are the antipodes of other por-
tions of their conduct.

Frantic efforts are put forth to make
polygamy appear in the light of a

crime intrinsically, as well as a legal
offense. The "Mormons" are asked if
burglary, murder or arson were to go
unpunished would they not raise a
vigorous protest against such laxity?
Certainly they would, and with just
cause. It is not, however, against the
proper enforcement of any existing law
that the "Mormons" are protesting.
But they have just cause for complaint
on two prominent grounds.

First—Little or no regard is paid to
the forms and rules of law in the
savage attempt to punish "Mormons"
accused of offenses.

Second—No "Mormons" who com-
mit similar offences with which "Mor-
mons" are charged are because the acts
are done outside the "marriage rela-
tion"—allowed to go scot free.

The first cause of complaint is out-
rageous and the second, which is class
exemption from the effects of law, is
not any better.

But what is called unlawful cohabi-
tation, so far as it applies to the plural
marriage relation, has no similarity to
bigamy or any other offence that is
malum in se. The offences with which
accused "Mormons" are charged are
malum prohibitum, and therefore do not
stand on the same moral plane as those
that are essentially crimes even if
there were no legal prohibitions
against them.

Eager efforts are put forth to make
it appear that the object of the present
raid is the suppression of polygamy,
but the facts are against the claim,
those who are alleged to be living in
plural marriage relationships, no mat-
ter how long since the contracts have
been entered into, being mainly the
objects of pursuit. It does not matter
whether or not the parties who are the
subjects of the solicitude of the pro-
secutors entered the plural marriage
relation before there was any law pro-
hibiting marriages of that character
and never since. How much does such a
course contribute to the prohibition of
polygamous marriages? All that it
can produce, if the crusade is contin-
ued and reaches the extremest results of
which it is capable, will be simply to
disrupt and disorganize families, put
good, conscientious, honest and patri-
otic men to great trouble and incon-
venience, and bring untold misery up-
on many innocent and helpless women
and children. But this detestable
work, if done at all, must be the tri-
umphant of the efforts of the white souled
anti-"Mormon" crusaders. The "Mor-
mons" cannot acquiesce in it either in
theory or practice.

"Put away you unlawful wives,"
cries the crusader, who, in the next
breath shouts in favor of genuine
democratic principles, of which he ap-
parently has not the slightest
comprehension. Yes! put away
your "unlawful" wives, and brand
yourselves as miscreants. It
amounts to saying, "Put away the
wives with whom you contracted years
ago in the full religious belief that in
entering into the relationship you were
not acting in conflict with any consti-
tutional law of the land. Cast adrift
those who are dependent upon you and
who are at your mercy." What a
small comprehension men must have
of great moral and religious obliga-
tions who speak with such flippancy
about a matter involving so great con-
sequences.

A good deal is said about the Su-
preme Court decision in the Reynolds
polygamy case. It is asserted that
to be consistent the "Mormons"
should have ceased entering into plural
marriage relationships from the date
of that rendering, which merely held
that Congress had a right to make laws
prohibiting polygamy in the Territo-
ries. The decision did not, nor could
it, claim that every law that might be
afterwards made with that avowed in-
tent would be constitutional. That
must be a subject for future decision.
But is any distinction made in the
present crusade between cases, so far
as the cohabitation wing of the pro-
secution is concerned, in which the al-
leged marriages occurred previous to
that decree and those alleged to have
been formed since? Not the slightest.

It will be claimed, of course, that
the Edmunds law is on the statute
books and must and should be en-
forced, as it makes no exemptions
whatever. Well, does it exempt the
non-"Mormons" who cohabit with
more than one woman, and who fre-
quent dens of prostitution to such an
extent, that even according to Commis-
sioner McKay it might be shown that
some of them practically "have the
same habitation." Yet while their
libidinous conduct is not even inquired
into, the very forms of law are ignored
and overridden in the pursuit of "Mor-
mons" alleged to be guilty of living
with the families.

It is pompously claimed that fifty-
five millions of people are demanding
that "Mormonism" be extinguished.
This is an absurdity. The fact is that
the great bulk of that vast body
are engaged in attending to
their own business and have no time
to devote to that of other people.
Those who are so deeply exercised, or
profess to be, about the "Mormons,"
are generally clergymen who view the
success of any other than their own re-
ligion with a jealous eye; and political
hucksters who seek to ride into office
on the anti-"Mormon" hobby, while
the newspapers chime in with strongly
seasoned articles on the question to
suit the tastes of the lower strata of
society. Those classes, together with
a mass of humanity that are blown
hither and thither by the winds of
prejudice, constitute the anti-"Mor-
mon" host whose clamor occasionally
weakens the back-bone of more
respectable and fairly disposed people.

ANOTHER EXHIBITION OF MALIGNITY AND FANATICISM ON THE BENCH.

IN to-day's issue will be found the full
text of Judge Jacob S. Boreman's
charge to the grand jury of the second
Judicial District of Utah. We publish
it as a matter of record, in the full ex-
pectation that in a future day the
author of the foul calumnies and gross
falshoods it contains will be con-
fronted with them. That will be at a
time when the mask shall be torn from
the hypocrite, and there will be no
more hiding behind the "refuge of
lies."

The author of the charge advised
those to whom he spoke not to be gov-
erned by malice, hatred or ill-will, and
thus counseled them to take a course
the antipodes of his own. There is
no room in his contracted soul for
nobler sentiments toward those with
whom he differs religiously. His vision
is warped by constant gazing
through narrow sectarian spectacles. He
presents the most pitiable picture that
can be beheld on the judicial bench.
His lack of knowledge of the common-
est principles of law—a deficiency well
known to the bar of Utah—is even
outweighed by an almost unparalleled
intolerant bigotry, which crowds out
the practicability of his being pene-
trated by a thought with a tinge of
magnanimity in it.

He does not appear to be able to
catch the scintilla of a grasp at the
greatness of true Republican govern-
ment. The idea has evidently entered
his small calibre capacity that a Terri-
tory of the United States and the peo-
ple living in that abnormal condition
are mere worms. He considers that they
can be properly used by the parent
government as a species of football, to
be kicked about for amusement, or as
figures on a slate that can be wiped
out at will.

He would, had he the power, obliterate
"private judgment," which he
evidently imagines should not be ex-
ercised. To assert it is to him "rea-
sonable." Had he lived at the time
the Declaration of Independence was
made, he would undoubtedly have op-
posed it as traitorous to the existing
government. It would have been
viewed by him as a wholesale assertion
of individual judgment, as opposed to
what were esteemed to be unjust laws.

At every stage of Judge Boreman's
charge his ignorance or malice crops
out like toadstools on a pile of refuse.
He says the particular law under which
he desires "Mormons" to be prose-
cuted has been decided to be consti-
tutional, yet the validity of the Ed-
munds Act has never been ruled on
by that tribunal.

Mr. Boreman's tirade against the
"Mormon" community is as false as it
is brutal, and those of his own kind
know that he fabricates when he states
that animalism, and sexual crimes
abound in Utah as an outgrowth of
plural marriage. He speaks against
his own knowledge when he makes
statements so infamously and pur-
posely incorrect. Polygamy is merely
malum prohibitum, but not a crime of
itself, and was practiced by the best
men of whom sacred history gives any
account. According to that standard
the Latter-day Saints, as a community,
have no superiors as exemplars of
sexual virtue. Among no people on
earth are there fewer crimes of the
grosser kind. And they are not ex-
celled in their law-abiding and virtu-
ous tendencies in every other particu-
lar. But these facts are as patent to
this calumniator of the pure as to any-
one else, but his intense and fanatical
prejudices have run away with what
little of reason he possessed, at best
only an infinitesimal quantity.

The fact that a man may have en-
tered into plural marriage be-
fore there was any law in re-
lation to it is, according to
this person—so extraordinary in his
ordinariness—is to be no shield. He
wishes to sweep everything before him
as with the "besom of destruction."
But he finds it necessary to say that he
has "no desire to do injustice to any
one." If he were not conscious of his
own perfidy he would not consider it
necessary to fortify himself with this
special plea of self-justification. But
the guilty generally defend their posi-
tion in anticipation of an attack which
they know they so richly deserve.

This is the person who found it con-
venient to ignore the U. S. Statute of
1862, for the punishment of polygamy,
and tried and convicted a man in his
court for that offense under a Terri-
torial Statute, which had not the
slightest applicability to the case.

This is the whilom sectarian preacher
and pseudo judicial functionary who
cut a conspicuous figure in a Methodist
meeting on a Sunday night; one of a
large number held all over the country
to bring a pressure to bear upon Con-
gress to suppress the "Mormon" re-
ligion.

This is the man who foreshadowed
his intention to go into the anti-"Mor-
mon" missionary business when he
first came here by saying to us—"If
ever I do your people injustice it will
be through errors of the head and not
of the heart." If this voluntary state-
ment was honestly made, and the pro-
fessed course subsequently adhered to,
his head has been worse than useless,
while his heart has kept him constant-
ly side-tracked from the line of con-
sistency and humanity.

This fanatic on the bench prates
about Utah being brought into har-
mony with other States and Territo-
ries and, to use the religious cant ex-
pression which his narrow sectarian

proclivities impel him to introduce into
his anti-"Mormon" sermon, come out
with "clean hands and a pure heart."
Yet this maligner of an innocent and
God-fearing people knows that but for
such as he, who turn purity to corrup-
tion, this fair Territory would be spot-
less from the festering rottenness that
is damning communities, which are
held up as patterns after which Utah
should follow in the shaping of her
moral status.

AN EXCELLENT DECISION.

THE decision bearing on the liquor
question which appeared on yesterday's
News, is eminently satisfactory, be-
sides being a clearly reasoned opinion.
It furnishes another evidence of Judge
Zane's ability as a lawyer. On matters
in which his anti-"Mormon" bias is
not brought into play, he exhibits ex-
cellent legal capacity, enabling him to
grasp questions brought before him
with uncommon clearness.

The decision sustains the Territorial
liquor law and sets aside ordinances
of cities wherein they simply re-enact
its provisions. The statute itself
covers the ground. And instead of cases
of infringement being brought under
municipal ordinances, they must be
brought under the Territorial law.
Justices of the Peace have jurisdiction
over such suits and fines imposed
go into the city and county treasuries,
and when imprisonment is a part of
the penalty the accused are to be incar-
cerated in the city jail or county prison,
according as the offence has been com-
mitted within or outside the boundar-
ies of a municipality.

The ruling holds that the statute does
not abrogate any power to prohibit
the liquor traffic that may have been
incorporated in any city charter.

The decision will have a tendency to
weaken the backs of the liquor men of
this county, who lately combined to fight
the County Court on the question of
its recent determination to raise the
license fee. In any event the County
Court proposes to stand by its posi-
tion, and if need be fight its way
through the courts.

It was reported a short time ago that
the city liquor men intended to get up
a struggle against the municipality,
but the straightforward and reasonable
opinion of yesterday will also operate
in the capacity of a wet blanket over
the whiskey combination in that quar-
ter.

LEGAL BUSINESS BRISK AT BEAVER.

THE otherwise sombre town of Bea-
ver presents an unusually lively ap-
pearance just now, being more or less
thronged with jurymen, and witnesses
in Territorial and United States cases.
The legal mill is doing some rapid
grinding. About twenty indictments
have already been found, one-fourth of
them under the laws of the United
States. The petit jury adjourns from
day to day, no cases being yet ready
for trial.

Rogerson and Sculley, who were
lately sentenced to imprisonment for
one day and to pay a fine of fifty dol-
lars and costs, for contempt of court,
are still incarcerated, owing to their
inability to meet the monetary portion
of the judgment. The offense for
which they were thus punished is that,
at the last September term of the Sec-
ond District Court, while the case of
the Territory, etc., vs. Rogerson's
bondsmen was pending, they conveyed
to the jury certain papers militating
against the plaintiff.

A peculiar spectacle was recently
presented in Court. Father Morrell,
of Circle Valley, a patriarchal old gen-
tleman who is alleged to have more
than one family, appeared to plead to
an indictment for unlawful cohabita-
tion. The bonds had been placed at
fifteen hundred dollars, but when the
venerable man, whose age is seventy-
two years, went before the Judge, the
amount was reduced to five hundred
dollars.

Members of the families and kins-
folks generally of Presidents Murdock
and Shepherd, Bishops Fotheringham
and White and Wm. Ashworth and W.
Robinson have been successively be-
fore the grand jury since Monday. The
result of the inquisition is not known.

Constable Pace, indicted for the kill-
ing of Woodard, is now in jail. Wood-
ard was the man who murdered George
W. Thurman, a young school teacher,
at Lehi, a few years ago.

Four men named Smith, brothers,
together with their brother-in-law, a
Spaniard, have been conveyed to Bea-
ver from Kanab, and lodged in jail,
there being fifteen indictments against
the gang for grand larceny.

LOCAL NEWS.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, MAR. 13

A Fine Portrait.—We were to-day
shown a very striking likeness of Apost-
le Franklin D. Richards, in India ink,
by Brother Paul Hammer, of this city.
The picture is exceedingly life-like,
and we consider it the best specimen
we have seen of this artist's work.

Gratifying.—Three sons of Mr.
Beck, of Tintic, who are deaf and
dumb, have been in attendance at the