

COMMISSIONER CARLETON ON UTAH AFFAIRS.

The following report of some remarks made to an attaché of the Washington Republican appears in its issue of Dec. 11:

"Judge A. B. Carleton, a member of the Utah Commission, reached Washington Yesterday, and is registered at the Riggs. The Commission adjourned from Salt Lake City to this city, and will meet here on the 15th, and the Judge is the first on the ground. He is well satisfied with the work thus far accomplished, and believes the operation of the Edmund's law will be highly beneficial, if it continues to be properly administered.

"I do not believe," he said, "that the law is unconstitutional, as Judge Black holds, and am sure the Government has a perfect right to legislate as it has done. Judge Black advances an ingenious argument to the effect that Congress has no right to disfranchise any of its citizens for polygamy unless they shall have been convicted of polygamous practices, but I do not think it will hold water."

"Our Commission was treated with the utmost respect during our sojourn in Utah, by both 'Mormons' and 'Gentiles,' and no obstacles were placed in our path that we were aware of by either party. As a result of the enforcement of the provisions of the law, between 12,000 and 14,000 polygamous 'Mormons,' as near as we can estimate, were disfranchised. This includes men and women, but as the 'Mormon' vote even then outnumbered the 'Gentiles' five or six to one they are in no immediate danger of losing control of their Territorial government, although they are very anxious to have the ban removed. Very nearly all the 'Mormons' adhere to the faith of polygamy as an institution divinely inspired, but for all of that only about 25 per cent. of them practice it. One of the effects of the legislation hostile to polygamy will be to show to the 'Mormons' how their institution is regarded by the country at large, and they will feel more strongly than ever that a stigma will attach to them that cannot be effaced if they become polygamists. The younger portion of the population will naturally hesitate to contract double marriages, and the result will be that the institution will gradually fall into disrepute."

"It cannot be expected that old 'Mormons,' who have been married to two or more wives for many years, and who have reared several families, will at once abandon their faith and admit the illegitimacy of their children, and adopt the manners and customs of the 'Gentiles.' That would be expecting too much. The reformation must be gradual. It will take time to eradicate the evil from the Territory; but time and a firm enforcement of good laws adverse to polygamy will do it. The trouble has been that legislation on this subject heretofore has been somewhat spasmodic and uncertain in its tenor. What is needed is a settled policy, and the steady, consistent enforcement of that policy in order that the people may understand exactly what is expected of them and what they must do. This condition of affairs, I think, can be brought about under the Edmunds bill.

"The 'Mormons' are getting recruits from Europe to the number of twenty-five hundred or three thousand annually. They are mainly Scandinavian, and so far as I am able to judge, they are as intelligent as the general average of immigrants from that part of the old world. The hostility between the 'Mormons' and 'Gentiles' does not seem to be as intense or as bitter as in former years, and it is now safe for 'Gentiles' to live in any part of the Territory. Free speech is not denied in any quarter."

DAVIS STAKE CONFERENCE.

The people of Davis Stake met in Conference at Kayville, at 10 a.m., December 9th, 1882.

President Taylor, Apostles Wilford Woodruff and F. D. Richards, and Elders George Reynolds, John Morgan and John Irvine, in addition to the Stake authorities, were present.

The first business was the reading of the statistical report, followed by verbal reports from the Bishops of the various wards.

Brother John Morgan, in reporting the Southern mission, depicted clear-

ly the lack of confidence that exists among the people of the South and the increasing lawlessness and disregard for life that is permeating all classes of society. He gave them credit, in the main, for being very hospitable and kind to the Elders who are sent among them.

Elder B. H. Roberts, lately returned from a mission to that section of country, endorsed Elder Morgan's remarks, and in a pointed manner showed the necessity of a man being properly authorized of God before he officiates in the ordinances of the gospel.

In the afternoon, Elder John W. Hess, of the Stake presidency reported the condition of the Indians at the farm on the Malad. They number some 320 persons; have raised enough wheat to supply themselves with food, have a successful school in operation, and have contributed over eight thousand dollars to the Logan Temple.

Apostle F. D. Richards spoke of the blessings predicted on the heads of the Indians, who are a branch of the house of Israel, and of the spirit that is moving upon them, giving them dreams and visions, and manifesting unto them the will of God in the bringing forth to them of the Gospel.

President Taylor also occupied a few moments on the same subject.

On Sunday, President Joseph F. Smith was also present.

Apostle W. Woodruff was the first speaker. He testified that God had revealed His Gospel for the last time, and has set up the last kingdom He will establish on earth. All those who fight against the Kingdom of God will mourn some day for doing so. We are called to warn all nations and teach them the Gospel.

Prest. Joseph F. Smith said we have all that the people of the world enjoy, and in addition we have the Gospel with all its gifts, and are in the favor of God. The greater the privileges we enjoy the more humility we should manifest, and give God the honor for all our blessings.

In the afternoon the authorities were presented by the clerk, after which,

President John Taylor occupied the time. He admonished the Saints to be full of charity for those who do not receive the Gospel, as it is their misfortune, and they will be held to a strict account of how their agency has been used. No one has the right to enslave his fellow-creatures, and the Gospel of Christ teaches the law of perfect freedom, and only when ruled by the evil one do men seek to exercise unrighteous dominion over their fellows. We should seek the spirit which actuated Jesus and contend earnestly for the equal rights of all men. Promised the Saints that the enemies of righteousness should never have rule over them.

The attendance was large at all the meetings, especially so on Sunday, the large meeting house being filled to its utmost capacity and many being unable to find seats.

J. H. WILCOX, Clerk.

THE LAND-SLIDE CASE.

BY M. TWAIN.

It was in the early days of Nevada Territory. The mountains are very high and steep about Carson, Eagle and Washoe Valley—very high and very steep, and so when the snow gets to melting off fast in the spring, and the warm surface earth begins to moisten and soften, the disastrous land slides commence.

General Buncombe was shipped out to Nevada in the invoice of territorial officers to be United States Attorney.

One morning Dick Sides rode furiously up to Gen. Buncombe's door in Carson City, and rushed into his presence without stopping to tie his horse. He seemed much excited. He told the General that he wanted him to defend a suit for him, and would pay him \$500 if he achieved a victory. And then with violent gestures and a world of profanity, he poured out his griefs. He said that it was pretty well known that for some years he had been farming, (or ranching, as the more customary term is), in Washoe district, and making a successful thing of it; and furthermore, it was known that this ranch was situated just in the edge of the valley, and that Tom Morgan owned a ranch immediately above it, on the mountain side. And now the trouble was that one of those hated and dreaded land slides had come, and slid Morgan's ranch, fences, cabins, cattle,

barns and everything down on top of his ranch, and exactly covered up every single vestige of his property, to a depth of about six feet. Morgan was in possession and refused to vacate the premises—said he was occupying his own cabin, and not interfering with anybody else's—and said cabin was standing on the same dirt and same ranch it had always stood on, and would like to see anybody make him vacate.

"And when I reminded him," said Sides, weeping, "that it was on top of my ranch, and that he was trespassing, he had the infernal meanness to ask me why didn't I say on my ranch and hold possession when I see him coming! Why didn't I stay on it? The blithering lunatic! And, by George! when I heard that racket and looked up that hill it was just like the whole world was a ripping and a tearing down that mountain side—trees going end over end in the air; rocks as big as a house jumping about a thousand feet high and bursting into ten million pieces; cattle literally turned inside out and a coming head on with their tails hanging out between their teeth. I just took one glimpse of that spectacle, general, and I lit out'n the country in three jumps exactly.

"But what grinds me is that Morgan hangs on there and won't move off'n that ranch—says it's his'n and he's going to keep it—likes it better'n he did when it was higher up the hill. Mad! Well, I've been so mad for two days I couldn't find my way to town—been wandering around in the bush in a starving condition—got anything here to drink, General? But I'm here now, and I'm a going to law. You hear me?"

The innocent General was amazed. He said he had suspected before that the people of that Territory were fools; and now he knew it. "But," he said, "rest easy, rest easy and collect the witnesses, for the victory was just as certain as if the conflict were already over." Sides wiped away his tears and left.

At two in the afternoon Referee Roop's court opened, and that remorseless old joker appeared, throned among his sheriffs, his witnesses and a "packed" jury, and wearing upon his face a fraudulent solemnity so awe-inspiring that some of his fellow-conspirators had misgivings that may be he had not comprehended, after all, that this was merely a joke. An unearthly stillness prevailed, for at the slightest noise the Judge uttered sternly the command:

"Order in the court!"

"Way for the United States Attorney!"

The witnesses were called—lagislators, high government officers, ranchmen, miners, Indians, Chinamen, negroes. Three-fourths of them were called by the defendant, Morgan, but no matter, their testimony went invariably in favor of the plaintiff, Sides. Each new witness only added new testimony to the absurdity of a man's claiming to own another man's property because his farm had slid down on top of it. Then the Morgan lawyers made their speeches, and seemed to make singularly weak ones—they really nothing to help the Morgan cause. And now the General, with a great glow of triumph on his face, got up and made a mighty effort; he pounded the table, he banged the law books, he shouted and roared and howled, he quoted from everything and everybody, poetry, sarcasm, statistics, history, pathos, and blasphemy, and wound up with a war whoop for free speech, freedom of the press, free schools, the Glorious Bird of America and the principles of eternal justice. [Applause].

Ex-Governor Roop leaned his head upon his hands for some minutes, thinking profoundly, and the still audience waiting breathlessly for his decision. Then he got up stood erect, with bended head, and thought again. Then he walked the floor with long, deliberate strides, and his chin in his hand, and still the audience waited. At last he returned to his throne and seated himself. The Sheriffs commanded the attention of the Court. Judge Roop cleared his throat and said:

"Gentlemen, I feel the great responsibility that rests upon me this day. This is no ordinary case. On the contrary, it is plain that it is the most solemn and awful that every a man was called upon to decide. Gentlemen, I have listened attentively to the evidence, and the weight of it, the overwhelming weight of it is in favor of the plaintiff, Sides. I have listened also to the remarks of counsel

with high interest—and especially will I commend the masterly and irrefutable logic of the distinguished gentlemen who represent the plaintiff. But gentlemen, let us beware how we allow human testimony, human ingenuity in argument and human ideas of equity to influence us to our undoing at a moment so solemn as this!

"Gentlemen, it ill becomes us, worms as we are, to meddle with the decree of Heaven. It is plain to me that Heaven, in its inscrutable wisdom, has seen fit to move this defendant's ranch for a purpose. We are but creatures, and we must submit. If Heaven has chosen to favor the defendant Morgan in this marked and wonderful manner; and if Heaven, unsatisfied with the position of the Morgan ranch upon the mountain side, has chosen to remove it to a position more eligible and more advantageous for its owner, it ill becomes us, insects as we are to question the legality of the act. No—Heaven created the ranches, and it is Heaven's prerogative to rearrange them to experiment with them, to shift them around at its pleasure. It is for us to submit without repining. I warn you that this thing which has happened is a thing with which the sacrilegious hands and brains and tongues of men must not meddle. Gentlemen, it is the verdict of this court that the plaintiff, Richard Sides, has been deprived of his ranch by the visitation of God! And from this decision there is no appeal."

Buncombe seized his cargo of law books and plunked out of the court room a raving madman, almost. In all good faith he returned at night and remonstrated with Roop upon his extravagant decision, and implored him to walk the floor and think for half an hour, and see if he could not figure out some sort of modification of the verdict. Roop yielded at last and got up to walk. He walked two hours and a half and at last his face lit up happily, and he told Buncombe that it had occurred to him that the ranch underneath the new Morgan ranch still belonged to Sides, that his title to the ground itself was just as good as it had ever been, and therefore he was of opinion that Sides had a right to dig it out from under there, and—the General never waited to hear the end of it. He was always an impatient and irascible man, that way. At the end of two weeks he got it through his understanding that he had been played upon with a joke.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

There are said to be 75,000 children in New York that cannot get seats in the public schools, and probably half as many in Chicago.

The sharpness of Brooklyn people is ascribed to the fact that Brooklyn boasts of the only needle factory in the United States.

The annual value of the industrial products of the United States are about \$10,000,000,000, and exports \$732,000,000.

New York has forty hospitals, containing seven thousand beds. That these establishments are all kept running proves the existence of some charity and goodness in that wicked city.

A church in Bavaria accommodating 1,000 people has been almost entirely built of papier mache, which can be supplied at a cost little above that of plaster. It can be made to imitate the finest marble, as it takes a polish superior to slate.

The British possessions in Australia cover 5,075,000 square miles. The population, white and colored, number 5,832,954, by far the greater part being concentrated in a few miles. The debt of the colonies is already nearly \$100,000,000.

A Russian statistician has estimated that the embezzlements and robberies, private and official, in his country, amount to 26,000,000 in a year. The figures are pretty steep, but this land of the free can see them and go several millions better.

The rumor comes from Washington that the President is not disposed to do anything to conciliate that portion of the Republican party which is now in revolt. If this is so, we may be prepared for complete democratic ascendancy to follow the election of 1894.

Official returns show that the California Legislature will consist of 92 Democrats, 27 Republicans and one Independent, divided between

the two houses as follows: Senate, 31 Democrats and 9 Republicans, Assembly, 61 Democrats, 18 Republicans and one Independent.

There are 7,500 one-legged or one-armed soldiers who are receiving pensions of from \$18 to \$24 per month. It is proposed to increase their pensions to \$40 per month. The Maimed Soldiers' Association is pushing the measure, which is pending in the Senate, and is likely to become a law.

News from Winnipeg, Manitoba, is to the effect that rich gold and silver-bearing quartz has been struck in Kicking Horse Pass, Selkirk Range. Specimens have been assayed as high as \$90 to the ton, and the mining people in that section are more or less excited.

The King of Siam has had a bicycle sent to him, and will probably enjoy heaps of fun in learning to ride it. If the present is a piece of retribution on the part of somebody to whom the King has given one of his traditional white elephants, it is clear that His Majesty has been beaten at his own game.

The people of Cameron County, Texas, are profoundly concerned about a strange, rumbling noise on Red River, like the roar of a waterfall or of a railroad train. There is no railroad within fifteen miles and the people cannot account for it, though it recalls sounds preceding the great earthquake in Mexico in 1759.

Public sentiment is a very uncertain thing. It has not been many years since everybody clamored for the jingle of silver, and the "Dollar of our Daddies" was the keynote of the campaigns. Now the shining coin is permitted to lie in the Treasury vaults, and the people cannot be coaxed to carry it off.

The Providence Star remarks: Robeson and Kiefer have appeared again together on the floor of Congress, but, alas! no more as matter and man. An irreparable coolness seems to separate these two statesmen. Robeson has publicly said that Kiefer's speeches killed him. It is a hopeless case of *let the Brute*.

Springer's bill to make the election of President and Vice-President the direct act of the people instead of by the electoral college, has much to recommend it to the country. We see no good reason why the old round about system should be continued. But the citizens of the United States in the Territories ought to cast their votes for the chief officers of the nation as well as the people in the States.

A national observatory is about to be erected on the summit of Ben Nevis. Its situation is the middle track of the depressions or storms of Northwestern Europe is one of the chief reasons for its selection, as observations made there must be of far more value in their relation to the theory of cyclones than the mountain observations in Southern France, where the principal observatory for this branch of meteorology is at present situated.

The number of failures in business in the United Kingdom reported in *Kemp's Mercantile Gazette* (London) during the week ending November 22 was 235, against 247 during the same week in 1881, and 265 in 1880. The totals for England and Wales were 206, against 229 in the week named in 1881 and 250 in 1880. Scotland had 23, against 11 last year and 9 in 1880. Ireland reported 7, against the same number in the corresponding week in 1881 and 6 in 1880.

"Hydraulic Mining in California," an illustrated article by Tallies Evans, in the forthcoming *January Century*, is said to be an excellent popular description of the methods of mining by water—a form of extracting ore which, while wonderfully effective, has destroyed a large percentage of the farming lands in the river valleys of California. The efforts now making by the sufferers from this industry to put a legal end to it will give added interest to this paper on the Pacific slope.

There has been but little change in the material or shape of horse-shoes since they were first invented. An English mechanic, however, has made a discovery which promises well. It is a shoe composed of three thicknesses of cowhide compressed in a steel mould and subjected to a chemical preparation. It is claimed that it is more durable than the ordinary shoe, weighs about one-fourth as much, and has other important advantages.