



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR

Wednesday.....Jan. 16, 1867.



FOR

Delegate to Congress, WM. H. HOOPER.

[BY AUTHORITY.]

AN ACT

To provide for the election of a Delegate to the House of Representatives of the United States.

SEC. 1. Be it enacted by the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah: That an election shall be held on the first Monday of February, 1867, at the usual places of holding elections in the several Counties of the Territory, for the election of a Delegate to the House of Representatives for the Fortieth Congress. The election shall be held, conducted, and returns thereof made agreeable to an "Act regulating elections," "approved Jan. 3, 1853." The Delegate for the Forty-first Congress shall be elected at the general election on the first Monday of August, 1868, and biennially thereafter.

SEC. 2. This act shall be in force from and after the passage thereof.

Approved Jan. 10, 1867.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, } ss
Utah Territory,

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a law on file in this office.

AMOS REED,
Secretary of Utah Territory.

GLOOMY PROSPECT.

The Atlantic Cable, among other more important items, informed us a few days ago that the London Times, with the complacency which its waning greatness often affects, had predicted that the New Year would be one of general peace. The opening of the year presented a belligerent picture, that would lead people to believe the "Thunderer" had perpetrated the statement on Christmas evening, after an aldermanic attack on roast beef and plum pudding; while the prospect ahead is indicative of stormy times, that may be expected to startle the nations from any delusive dream of general peace in which they might be led to indulge.

The aspect of affairs at the seat of our national government is one which deeply touches every patriotic heart, and compels involuntarily the question, What has the future to reveal? The attitude of the Executive and Legislative departments of the nation is one which augurs such serious results, that no person can look upon it with indifference. The conflicting policies of the opposing parties are maintained

with a tenacity that admits of no idea of a compromise. The action of Congress in adopting the resolution to impeach the President, with an overwhelming majority in that body opposed to him, is believed by many as but hastening a conflict which seems inevitable. There are those among the leading journalists of the nation who do not hesitate to say that the country is rapidly drifting into another internecine war, compared with which the one that has been so recently passed through would be insignificant. There is no evidence of either side manifesting a desire of conceding in the least. Rigid, fixed determination is the prevailing spirit; and, while the war-feeling of the nation, so roused during the late rebellion, pervades a large portion of the country, the peace-loving view with no ordinary alarm, the threatening dangers that seem approaching.

Beyond doubt the political "situation" is not indicative of an early return to that condition of peaceful unity which marked the earlier years of our Republic's existence. If there was more genuine love of country, and less desire for party predominance, in those who wield influence among their fellow citizens, the prospect would speedily be much brighter for the nation's peace and happiness than it is likely to be. But the future of nations, as well as of men, is in the hands of the great Disposer of events, who controls the results of the actions of men, however sceptical they may be concerning it.

Amid the stormy times of the present session of Congress, Utah is receiving a little attention, from members of both the Senate and House. The bill, of which a meagre synopsis appeared recently in the dispatches, directed against the citizens of Utah, speaks for itself. The plain and direct infraction of the Constitution involved in it, shows that, if passed, the appearance of adhesion to that instrument is rapidly passing away. We have been accustomed to consider the Constitution the palladium of our rights, the noble heritage bequeathed us by men who labored for, and aimed at, securing the utmost liberty and freedom for all men, consistent with the inalienable rights common to all. But when the Legislative Council of the nation can repudiate its plainest provisions, for the purpose of endeavoring to compel an entire community to accept a position that is derogatory to manhood, and which strips them of their dearest rights bestowed upon them by their Creator, we can well imagine to what extent strong party feeling and sectional animosity may control them in their political course.

The only safety for the nation, and for all parts of and parties in the nation, is a close adherence to the principles of the Constitution; for there is no political party, however powerful and dominant it may be, that is controlled by the mind and will of man, but will, sooner or later, become divided; and those who disregard Constitutional provisions to trample upon the rights of others, may be the next in turn themselves to suffer and be smitten in a similar manner. This thought should obtrude itself upon those who are so anxious to legislate, independent of Constitutional provisions, against the people who inhabit this Territory; so that selfishness, if no better motive, might restrain them from a course which opens a floodgate by which a wave of evils is let in that would sweep over the nation with overwhelming force.

If the reverence which hangs upon

the lips of many for the fathers of our country, had deep root in their hearts, they would strive to emulate the just and patriotic efforts of those great and noble men, whose party was their country, and their object the good of all. With such holy a desire in the hearts of our public men, the existing difficulties would be overcome, knotty points be smoothed down, differences of opinion be calmly discussed, and there would be a desire manifestly expressed to act harmoniously for the public good. If the strongly marked difference which now exist, among those who occupy the most important positions of responsibility and power in the nation, continue to be maintained with the fixity of purpose which is now displayed, and the Constitution is set aside where it conflicts with personal dislikes or party purposes, the future before the nation may well be looked upon as one extremely dark and perilous.

MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS.

We publish in our present issue the Memorial of the Legislative Assembly of this Territory to Congress, for a repeal of the anti-polygamy Act. The reasons why the memorialists pray Congress for the repeal of the Act referred to, are briefly and lucidly set forth. That the act was passed under an existing and bitter feeling of prejudice against this community and their faith, is beyond a shadow of doubt. That the prejudice which then existed and still exists, was and is due, in a great measure, to the slanderous stories and malignant reports, freely circulated against us by evil-disposed persons, every person acquainted with matters and things in this Territory knows full well. But with all that prejudice, the Congress which passed the Act in question manifested a lack of a proper sense of justice that was humiliating in the representative wisdom and justice of a great nation. Independent of the fact that the Constitution is express in prohibiting any interference with the establishment or free exercise of any religion—while plurality of wives is to us a commandment from God which demands our most solemn consideration, and obedience as commanded—the prohibiting, by law, a man from openly and honestly taking to his heart and home more than one of the opposite sex, who may have voluntarily bestowed their affections upon him, and supporting them and their offspring in a God-fearing, noble and honorable manner, and of punishing him by fine and imprisonment for so doing, while the seducer and adulterer, who defile the earth by their damnable deeds, are passed over in silence, winked at and patronized, is a perversion of the simplest justice so glaring as to be almost unaccountable.

Accepting the prejudiced view of those who are opposed to plurality of wives, if the Legislature of the nation does not pass a law to prohibit adultery and punish it by fine and imprisonment, on what grounds of consistency is a law kept on the statute books to punish the man who by plural marriage could not commit a greater violation of the moral law? Apart from religion, if a man must be confined by law to one wife, consistency demands that the law should extend to sexual communion with that wife alone, and should extend its penalty to every infringement of that requirement. But this might prove too hard on some honorable members, as it assuredly would on those who are loudest in their denunciations of the plurality of the "Mormons." We are not believers in, and practitioners of, plural marriage for lustful purposes, nor because of sexual

desires. We believe it, sacredly, solemnly and religiously, to be of God. The doctrine is incorporated in our faith; and the law against it should be repealed, because of its unconstitutionality, and for the sake of consistency.

It seems that members of Congress are impressed with some vague idea that women are compulsory agents in plurality of wives here; that they are in some sort of a condition of involuntary bondage. Such an idea has been set forth by those precious "witnesses" who testified before the Congressional Committee last July; and has been declared by others like them. There is not a man or woman in the Territory of Utah but knows it to be false. And we can assure Congress, with a certain knowledge of facts in the premises, that the ladies of Utah are neither bound, forced, nor coerced in their actions or choice as to who they accept for husbands. They have learned the laws of life sufficiently to pity their sisters elsewhere who yield to unhallowed embraces, and have accepted a doctrine which elevates the mind, purifies the heart, and gives a healthier and nobler physiological organization to their offspring.

The absence here of those dens of depravity which cry shame on civilization in every nation of christendom, is one great cause why self-styled "virtuous regenerators" declaim against the immorality of Utah. They could not enjoy indiscriminate intercourse with the opposite sex here, and it was painful. They found that our ladies preferred the society of good men, and it made them bitter. So they had to travel eastward and vent their spleen in bitter accusations of a people who would not patronize their corrupt institutions, and repudiated their efforts to introduce infamy in our midst.

We trust Congress will show its respect for consistency and the Constitution, by acquiescing in the Memorial for a repeal of the Act.

MEMORIAL

To Congress to repeal an Act, entitled "An Act to punish and prevent the Practice of Polygamy in the Territories of the United States and other places."

TO THE HONORABLE THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

Your Memorialists, the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah, respectfully represent that

Whereas, upwards of fourteen years ago, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints did publicly avow and proclaim its belief in the doctrine of plurality of wives as being of divine origin, and

Whereas, this doctrine has been adopted not for lustful purposes, but from conscientious motives and as a portion of religious faith, and

Whereas, great prejudice has been created in the public mind against the people of this Territory, by the continued misrepresentations to which they have been subject, because of the unpopularity of this doctrine of their faith, the existence of which prejudice the people of the Territory have deplored and exerted themselves to the uttermost to remove, and

Whereas, under the influence of these prejudices and misrepresentations, as we believe, Congress, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-two, did pass an act, entitled "an Act to Punish and Prevent the practice of Polygamy in the Territories of the United States," etc., expressly designing to restrict the said Church in its religious rights, and

Whereas, the Judiciary of this Territory has not, up to the present time, tried any case under said law, though repeatedly urged to do so by those who have been anxious to test its constitutionality, and

Whereas, the Judges of the District Courts of this Territory have felt themselves obliged by said act to refuse naturalization papers to certain applicants, and

Whereas, your Memorialists having ever been the firm and loyal supporters of the Constitution of the United States, and profoundly valuing its provisions and guarantees, and believing, moreover, that the said Law is contrary to the spirit of the Constitution, and directly in conflict with the first Amendment, which states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an