

from the first organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, had the right. Semi-annually they, with the male members of the Church, vote in General Conference upon all questions which come before the members of the Church for their action. At each Conference the principal authorities of the Church are presented to the people, males and females, for them to vote for or not as they please. In this manner women have for years exercised the right of suffrage in this Territory.

#### OUR SOUTHERN SETTLEMENTS.

The reports which have reached here from the young men who left here this Fall for the Muddy, are of a very encouraging character. The country has been looked upon as a forbidding one, and whatever ideas were entertained by those who went there were rather unfavorable than otherwise. But those who have gone seem generally disappointed. The country, climate and prospects are better than they expected to find them, and the change is not a disagreeable one.

There is one remarkable feature about our various settlements in this country. When the locations have been first examined, they have rarely impressed those who visited them favorably. Great Salt Lake Valley did not look very attractive as a place of settlement to many who first came here, and every settlement that has since been made has found some who have decried its advantages, and declared it in many respects unsuitable. The country is so different in climate, soil and in its advantages for timber to those from which the people have mainly come, that few were capable, until they gained an experience here to come to correct conclusions respecting the facilities the country presented for settlement.

During the twenty years we have lived here the experience of the people has greatly enlarged. The new generation which have grown up, see but few faults where their parents saw hundreds. This valley is the standard in their minds. It possesses the greatest facilities of any place they know anything about. Contrasts, favorable or unfavorable, as the case may be, are drawn between the locations they visit or remove to and Great Salt Lake Valley. Of course, there is not the room to draw unfavorable comparisons that there was in coming to this country from the Mississippi Valley, the Eastern and Southern States, or the countries of the Old World. There is scarcely a valley in our Territory that does not possess many features in common with this. Irrigation has to be resorted to everywhere in this land to produce crops. There is also a great similarity in the soil; and fuel and timber are in the most of places no more difficult to procure than here.

The forming of settlements to the southward of the rim of the Great Basin is no longer an experiment. The settlers there have proved beyond a doubt that the country can be made to sustain them. Considering the many difficulties they have had to contend with, their success thus far has been almost marvelous. Under the blessing of the Lord, and with their indefatigable labors wisely directed, that country will yet become rich in all the elements of comfort and prosperity, and teem with the products of the earth and of man's skill. We honor the men who have gone there. They have striven nobly to fulfil the missions assigned them. They have had their trials; but their reward is sure. Their works will stand as monuments of their faith in the Lord and their skill and perseverance in carrying out His requirements.

**SHOT THE SEDUCER OF HIS SISTER.**—A man was tried in Salisbury, N. C., for the murder of John Rich. The prisoner had an only sister, to whom he was devotedly and tenderly attached, and being suddenly informed that she had been seduced by Rich, and that he (Rich) had taken the advantage of her presence in his own house to accomplish his design upon her, he immediately, in a state of mental excitement amounting almost to frenzy, rushed to the house of the deceased (three and a half miles distant) and shot him, inflicting wounds of which he soon after died. He then returned and surrendered himself to a magistrate, remarking to him, "I have killed John Rich. He seduced my sister, whom I loved better than my own soul, and for whom I was willing to die."

The killing was admitted, and the plea principally relied upon by the defence was, that at the moment of the commission of the deed his reason was so far dethroned by the shock occasioned by the sudden announcement to him of his sister's disgrace as to render him irresponsible for the act, and it was upon this ground doubtless, that the jury, after deliberating for twenty-four hours, returned a verdict of "not guilty."—Ex.

We sincerely hope that the day will never be seen in this country when a

man, or his counsel for him, will have to make such a plea as the above in justification of the shooting of his sister's seducer. We are not by nature fond of the shedding of blood. We think that human life is too sacred to be lightly, or for trifling causes, assailed. But when the question arises between virtue and life, we view the former as more precious. Ought not the seducer of virtue to meet the demerits of his crime? By his accursed acts he robs woman of that which ought to be dearer to her than life; and should he not pay the penalty? In this Territory we jealously close the door against adultery, seduction and whoredom. Public opinion here pronounces the penalty of death as the fitting punishment for such crimes. Every man who indulges in them must know what consequences he may expect. But while chastity is rigorously maintained here, no honorable man can complain of such strictness. The illicit intercourse of the sexes can not be admitted; but lawful wedlock is esteemed honorable. No barriers are thrown in the way of those who entertain honorable intentions of that character. Seduction is unjustifiable under any circumstances; but it is especially so here, and when practiced, as in the case which we publish above, what jury of right-feeling, honorable men could do any thing else but acquit the nearest male relative, if, in his indignation, he should execute summary justice?

In this connection we deem it proper to say that there have been several characters here this fall and winter, who may not be aware that this climate is an exceedingly unhealthy one for such as they. We believe that practices such as they are guilty of are not considered healthy in any place. We refer to those who have been guilty of vile attempts upon children, several of which cases have occurred here of late. We have heard of parents whose feelings would be much relieved by a sight of the villains to whom we allude.

**INFORMATION WANTED.**—The following letter was addressed by the anxious writer to a gentleman who holds an official position in our city government. It seems from it that the person for whom inquiry is made was a merchant in this city. We have the recollection of a man by that name who left here very suddenly some time last spring. We give the letter publicity with a desire to relieve the distress and anxiety of his poor, old father in Ireland, hoping that those who can give the desired information will send it to the address which accompanies the letter:

NEWTON BUTLER, Co. Fermanagh,  
Ireland, Dec 10, 1897.

Honored Sir:—Anxiety of mind, and distress otherwise, occasions me to trouble you with these few lines, requesting of you the favor that you will acquaint my son, WILLIAM MCGRORTY, merchant, in your city of Salt Lake, by letter or otherwise, to write to me immediately and send something that will tend to show that he is still alive and thinks favorably of his poor, old father, as he used to do in New York and other places. Your goodness in granting my request will gain the constant prayers of  
JAMES MCGRORTY.

#### XVITH ANNUAL SESSION.

At two o'clock p.m. on Monday next our Territorial Legislature meets. Already the most of the members of both Houses are in town. The Council and House will meet, as per adjournment, at the Council House, and that their proceedings may be beyond question, will probably pass an act to adjourn from that building to the City Hall, in which rooms have been engaged for the session. The City Hall is very conveniently situated, and its elegant rooms, which have been well-fitted up, will be rather pleasant places of confinement for our legislators during the forty days they are in session. It is but a brief period that our Legislature is allowed, to enact the laws and to attend to the business which comes before them, for our large and rapidly-growing Territory. Forty days are not sufficient; but no longer time is granted.

It is true that our laws are few and simple; but this simplicity costs time and labor to reach. Our law-makers have been very careful to frame such laws as were adapted to the wants of the people, and this will doubtless be characteristic of the present body. We have heard of a Territorial Legislature which adopted the laws of a neighboring State *in toto*, without even taking the trouble to change the names of the counties. There may be some exaggeration about this story; but we believe it to be true in the main. It is not uncommon to take entire laws in that way and pass them

with little or no revision or alteration. Our legislators have never done this, and, because they have not, we suppose that there are lawyers who think that they have failed. But if it be a failure to keep our laws few and simple, it is certainly on the safe side.

In convening on the second Monday in December, it was found that the holidays seriously interfered with the work of the session. A change in the time of meeting was therefore proposed, and the second Monday in January decided upon as the most suitable day on which to come together. By this change the members have had the opportunity, in nearly every instance, of spending Christmas and New Year with their families. The business of the session can now be prosecuted without interruption.

We are all glad to see our legislators in the city, and trust they will have a pleasant time here, and their labors be successfully and agreeably prosecuted.

#### THE NEW YORK HERALD AND THE "MORMONS."

The New York *Herald*, in a recent editorial, asks the question: "What are we to do with the Mormons and Mormon polygamy in Utah? What is to become of them if we do nothing?" The writer then proceeds to sketch our movement from Illinois to this valley, and the hopes which we indulged in respecting our separation from our remorseless enemies—that "we could here build up our New Jerusalem and flourish for a thousand years." He then attempts to show how we have been mistaken. The silver and gold mines which have been discovered in the Territories around us have, within a few years, made our Happy Valley, the common thoroughfare of migratory hordes of "Gentiles" from all points of the compass. And worse still; from the impulse given by these discoveries to the enterprise of the Pacific Railroad, the iron horse from the East now thunders along the base of the Rocky Mountains, while from the Pacific he has already surmounted the lofty crest of the Sierra Nevada, and in the summer will be snorting in the sandy waste of the Great Basin. He goes on to say that in two years his course will be free from the Mississippi to the Pacific. And, then, "with four days as his time from St. Louis to San Francisco, Salt Lake City, the city of the Mormon Saints and their saintly institution of polygamy, will be overwhelmed by swarming Goths and Vandals."

"Meantime," he thinks, "Brigham Young seems to be blind to this approaching danger." He says, in a political point of view he is to the writer and his clique what the Holy Father of Rome is to the King and Kingdom of Italy. He stands in their way and must be removed. "But how?" He thinks it morally certain that unless Government shall interpose in season, and secure our peaceable removal, we will be exterminated in a bloody conflict with the Gentiles. If not removed by the Government, we will be expelled by the mob, as we were from Ohio, Missouri and Nauvoo. He thinks our institution of polygamy has become too deeply fixed to be abolished without a removal of the community. And, moreover, that having built up and accumulated valuable properties, the appropriation of which, when the opportunity comes to reckless adventurers, will be apt to exhibit a living illustration of the wolf and the lamb.

He thinks the true plan to settle the question is very simple. He suggests to Mr. Seward the idea of buying out the Sandwich Islands for us. If he will turn over those Islands to Brigham Young, he says, "he will soon make them blossom like the rose with their tropical productions." Or probably an arrangement might be made to let us have the Aleutian Islands, included in the Alaska purchase, for settlement: or, again Mexico might be induced for a few millions to accept us as a colony. But, at all events, he concludes, the duty devolves upon this Republican Congress to provide for a peaceable settlement of Mormon polygamy before it is too late.

We reproduce this editor's speculations and vaticinations that our readers may share in our amusement in reading them. There is probably not another paper in the country which has prescribed so many infallible panaceas for "Mormonism" as this same New York *Herald*. Among our earliest newspaper reading we can recall several theories and views which it propounded on this subject. This was while the Prophet Joseph was yet living; and from that day until the

present its columns have contained frequent allusions to the "problem." A selection of the writings which have appeared in its columns in relation to the "Mormon" question alone would form an unequalled literary *olla podrida*. Whatever the merits of the New York *Herald* may be, consistency cannot be claimed as one of them. We have thought that its wide circulation was to some extent due to the utter absence of this quality. The public buy the paper to see what new Somerset the editor has taken.

As to his question as to what they are to do with us, it is easily answered: LET US ALONE. If there ever was a people who earned the right to be left to the unmolested enjoyment of their homes and property and civil and religious rights, we are that people. We assail none; we encroach on none; we stand in the way of none, who can be called good citizens; but strictly adhere to our creed—mind our own business. If we are in antagonism, it is not our choice. If we occupy such a position, it is only in their feelings; and they have placed us there. For that we cannot be blamed. If we have not proved our loyalty; if we have not done as much for the Republic as any other people of equal numbers within its confines, then we have not read the history of the past twenty-two years aright.

The *Herald* hits the right nail on the head when it says, that we have built up and accumulated valuable properties, which are desirable in the eyes of reckless adventurers. This is the true secret of the most of the opposition we have to contend with. Our homes in Missouri and Illinois were desirable in the eyes of that class when we lived there. They envied us our quiet enjoyment of them, and leagued in mobs against us. They would be well pleased to re-enact those same scenes. There have been men here, who, for years, have done all in their power to bring down the vengeance of the Government upon us. Our prosperity has galled and maddened them. But the *Herald* need never indulge in the idea of seeing a living illustration of the fable of the wolf and the lamb in our case. The Railroad may come—and we shall certainly welcome it—the "Goths and Vandals" may swarm here; but the same Railroad that brings them can carry them away again. A mob would find burning the houses, the fences and the grain of the "Mormons," stealing their cattle and plundering them of everything that could be carried away, a different business to-day from what it was when living a few in a place in the states of Missouri and Illinois.

If the concern and anxiety of the editor of the *Herald* in urging the purchase of the Sandwich Islands as a place of residence for us, have their sole origin in the fear that we will be exterminated by mobs, he can set his soul at rest. He need not trouble Mr. Seward. The Government need not be put to the least trouble or expense. With God's help, we can take care of them, and deal out such justice that mobocracy will hide its hideous head, never more to be seen in our vicinity, at least.

[For the Deseret Evening News.]

#### Correspondence.

##### CRAGIN AND HIS BILL.

Mr. Editor: Sir:—We, the "Mormon" ladies of Utah, would offer an expression of indignation towards Senator Cragin and his despicable Bill, did we not consider those subjects too preposterously degrading to merit our contempt.

We would merely say of the Bill, (and even this we feel to be a great stoop of condescension) that it is what, in the language of Dr. Holland, "*Contempt would honor over much*." And of its author, we would say, in the language of Byron,

"*Even satan's self, with thee would dread to dwell  
And in thy skull discern a deeper hell.*"

"MORMON" FIRST WIVES,  
AND ALL OTHER "MORMON" WIVES.

P. S. Our apology is due J. G. Holland, and the memory of Byron, for such application as we make.

Through the publication of the Governor's Message in our present issue, we are compelled to omit several of our advertisements.

An enterprising Washingtonian offers for sale fresh buffalo meat, received direct from the hunting grounds, via Pacific railroad. Rocky Mountain ice cream will be in order next summer.