

EDITORIALS.

THE FIGHT FOR THE TRADE WITH AFRICA.

THE De Brazza-Stanley imbroglio on the western coast of Africa is not unlikely to cause national complications as well as a struggle for commercial pre-eminence on the soil of the "Dark Continent." The main features of the dispute between Stanley, the man who found Livingstone, and De Brazza, a French explorer, may not be remembered by the majority of our readers.

Every one will recall to mind the news of Stanley's grand feat, as a journalistic traveler, of penetrating the unknown regions of interior Africa. Also his demonstration of the fact that the great river of Central Africa was the Congo. When he was lionized in Europe for his successful and daring explorations he turned his popularity to commercial account. The importance of the great river as a commercial avenue into the heart of the continent, was not difficult to demonstrate to enterprising minds. Stanley was able to convince many capitalists and merchants of the feasibility of opening up the Congo country to European traffic with the natives, and so the International Association was organized; the King of Belgium taking the presidency.

Money and men at his command Stanley went back to Africa and started to work making roadways around those cataracts of the Congo which he so graphically described in his account of his wonderful travels. On reaching the coast he found that he had been forestalled at a most important point. De Brazza, in the name of France had stepped in ahead and after effecting a treaty with the chief Makoko, had unfurled the tricolor and taken French possession. He had also taken "French leave," and was off for home to tell what he had done and obtained support from France.

Stanley in haste followed him. The two explorers and adventurers met and disputed before the Geographical Society but De Brazza was acknowledged by the French Government, his treaty was formally accepted and he was sent back to Africa with a regiment of soldiers and twenty thousand stand of arms, on a war vessel to defend the flag of France. A French station was at once established at Ponta Negro. Stanley also appeared on the scene, floated the flag of the International Association and waited for help which he had called for and expected from Portugal and England. But the French military hauled down his flag and remained for the time being masters of the situation.

It is not likely that Stanley will submit to this if he can obtain anything like the support which he has some reason to expect. Out of smaller causes than this, great wars have been evolved. The trade of interior Africa is likely to be of no small importance, and the control of the key to its mastery may be considered worth fighting for with something of greater magnitude than commercial weapons.

"DEATH IN THE POT."

For ten years or more Japan has supplied the United States with a large share of the tea consumed in this country, competing with China for this branch of trade. For some time the Japanese Teas imported were of a high grade. The tricks resorted to by the packers and dealers in the Flowery Kingdom were not imitated in the dominions of the Mikado. The amount of Japanese green tea brought into the United States in the season of 1881-2 was 34,600,000 pounds against 20,700,000 pounds of China green and 24,200,000 pounds of China black.

The large increase of trade has induced the Japanese growers and dealers to be less particular. The delicate spring leaves which are the choicest product of the plant are no longer picked carefully for the American market, but during the whole season the shrubs are stripped without care and the leaves without regard to age or quality are mixed and mingled indiscriminately. This change in the quality of the tea causes the dealer to resort to improper means for improving the appearance of the leaves without regard to the deterioration of their

quality. Thus the purchaser of Japanese tea, under the impression that in using it he is saved from the adulterations and doctorings which have rendered Chinese teas such an unsafe article for a regular beverage, is deceived and cheated and in as much danger from colorings and other tricks of the trade as if he took his tea from the Chinese. This is now admitted by the Japanese Mail which, in an article designed to stimulate the growers and dealers in Japan to work so as to retain the trade with this country, makes the following remarks:

"The foreign buyer, finding that the greater part of the teas offered to him no longer possessed the fine color and handsome appearance of former times, resorted to factitious methods of making this poor stuff seem better than it was, and by ruthlessly mixing the products of different localities, by breaking up the leaves into small plevs, and by covering the whole with an artificial color, he sought to conceal the inferiority of his purchases and to impose on the unsuspecting consumer in America. Both parties thus did their utmost to spoil a valuable trade, and they were heartily seconded in their wretched work by the New York brokers, who found in these garbled teas a means of preserving their own importance as experts, since it was impossible for any unskilled person to determine the value of an article so utterly denaturalized. By these various means, Japanese green teas have gradually lost their former distinctive characteristics and value, and the American market is now surfeited with trash which is no better than the average Chinese green tea, and has little advantage over it in the eyes of any consumer."

This will surprise many advocates of the purity of Japanese Teas as compared with the imports from China. The Mail declares that every pound of tea shipped from Japan to America passes through the filthy operations of the adulterator. But explains that

"It is to their foreign agents alone that the American people are indebted for the conglomerate of tea leaves and pigments saturated with the sweat of unclean laborers which is thrust upon them under every attractive title unscrupulousness can suggest, and is sold in America as 'pure Japanese tea.'"

What with poor pickings, old leaves, painting, fixing and dirty handling and packing, "the cup which cheers but not inebriates," is no inviting draught to those who understand its true inwardness. "A comfortable cup" of such tea is likely to produce extremely uncomfortable results. If this work of adulteration continues, a skull and cross bones will be a fitting painted ornament for the teapot.

ANCIENT RELICS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

CALDWELL County in North Carolina has contributed quiet recently some valuable relics to the ethnological treasures of the Smithsonian Institution. A party of investigation had been sent to that region, in consequence of the finding of a "food cup" in a locality where other relics had been discovered. The party came across several prehistoric mounds containing a large number of skeletons with singularly formed heads, some buried in stone sepulchres encased around with rock, without any accompanying relics, and others being surrounded by pipes, tomahawks, shells, beads, copper ornaments, pottery, etc.

Without noticing the many conjectures of the wise or foolish concerning the origin of the two races thus represented, we will merely append an account of the most curious of the relics thus unearthed.

First—Three "pitted" stones, about three feet by one and a half, oblong, rounded on the edges, and having in the centre, on the top surface, a round depression "large enough to hold a hen's egg. These stones correspond with the specimens described in the third volume of "North American Ethnology," and are supposed by the learned in such matters to have been employed in Indian sepulture as a kind of intertribal badge, to indicate consanguinity between tribes living in localities remote from each other. Second—Four "food cups," intact and entire—a very rare find, and there are probably not over one hun-

dred perfect specimens in the United States. These cups were placed at the mouth of the dead brave, after he was interred, filled with food for his use in his journey to the happy hunting grounds. Third—Three or four large conch shells, veritable sea trophies, the concave surfaces of the leaves of which were entirely filled with hieroglyphics supposed to declare the history of some "chief" or tribe. Fourth—Strings of beads composed of sea shell and copper, alternating upon "strings." Beneath one skeleton's head was found a string of beads in a most wonderful state of preservation. This country has been settled for over one hundred and fifty years, and within that time no Indian burials have been known here. Now, beneath the skull of this Indian were found a considerable number of beads, copper and shell, and several pieces of copper. The copper had caused the string upon which the beads were attached to corrode, and there they were still strong together upon it ready to be hung around the neck! The string, undecayed and moderately strong, seemed to be made of two strands of poplar bark, and was "doubled and twisted" as deftly as a thread mill could do it. Together with it was found about a handful of human hair."

DISBURSEMENT OF THE SCHOOL TAX.

We have received the annexed communication on a subject which we supposed was by this time thoroughly understood; but it appears that in some instances either the law is misapprehended, or it is wilfully ignored:

LOGAN, Cache County,
May 18th, 1883.

Editor Deseret News:

Will you have the kindness to state whether it is lawful to use any portion of the Territorial appropriation for fuel, rent, or any purpose other than the payment of teachers? and oblige a

SCHOOL TRUSTEE.

The revenue law provides that three mills on the dollar shall be annually assessed upon all taxable property in this Territory for the benefit of district schools. Also that the tax shall be disbursed according to the provisions of the school law. It is provided therein that all moneys thus accruing shall be paid to the trustees of the respective districts according to the school population thereof; and that "said moneys shall be used by the trustees in paying school teachers during the year following the one in which it was assessed and collected." (See Laws of 1880 p. 34, Sec. 19). It is clear, then, that the territorial school tax can be lawfully used only for the payment of teachers. But to put the matter beyond dispute it is further provided in the same section that "such moneys shall not be used or disbursed for any other purpose than that for which they are paid in."

The object of adding this clause was to put it out of the lawful power of the trustees to withhold cash from the teachers, paying them in some other way and using the money for lights, fuel, buildings, or any other purpose whatever, thus securing to the teachers a certain amount of money for their services. If means are needed for the building or repair of school houses, or the support of district schools, or any school purposes, the law provides that a tax not exceeding two per cent. per annum may be assessed, "by a two-thirds majority vote of the property tax-payers present at a meeting called for that purpose." But it is sometimes difficult or inconvenient to assess a tax for the small expenses incidental to the management of schools, and as in most cases a tuition fee is necessary to make up the full amount required for the payment of teachers, in addition to the sum received from the territorial tax, it is customary in many districts to have the tuition fee cover those little expenditures, a full account of receipts and disbursements being rendered by the trustees at the annual school meeting held on the second Monday of July.

But it should be thoroughly understood by all trustees that they are not at liberty to use the proportion of the territorial school tax which comes into their hands for any other purpose whatever than the payment of school teachers, and that it must be so paid during the

year following the one in which the tax was assessed and collected. Any departure from or evasion of the law in this respect is improper and unsafe.

A FEW MORE COMPARISONS.

THE violent anti-"Mormons," official and otherwise, do not seem to relish our comments on that sort of zeal for the law which shuts up in a prison designed for convicted criminals only, a woman, with a nursing babe in her arms, who has committed no crime, because she would not answer impudent questions about her social status, and lets loose a prisoner charged with bigamy on a complaint so strongly fortified with unimpeachable evidence as to leave no room for doubt of his guilt. We did not think they would like the exposure of the latter case, nor its contrast with the former. We did not publish the account of Carrington's release from custody without Belle Harris' imprisonment, bail being denied; with the intention of pleasing them. We simply wanted the fact to be known and understood, and that the doings of persons claiming to act from a desire that the laws may be executed in Utah as elsewhere, might be exhibited in contrast to their professions.

We notice that the dispatch fiend who furnishes colored sketches of Utah affairs for the Western papers, has wired the news with the usual lying accompaniments in the way of comment, but does not say a word about the infamous Carrington case in which a "Gentile" bigamist and scoundrel was allowed to run the country after arrest without even entering into any recognizance, to say nothing of the bonds required by law. The press association promised us a local news gatherer, and, for a short time, fulfilled the promise. During that brief period news was sent from Salt Lake of every important occurrence without those false comments which previously disfigured the dispatches from this point. But we are informed that change was made and hence the return to the former studied misrepresentation of local affairs. It is not to the credit of the Association that it sends the news to the Coast papers that such wilful falsification is encouraged. It is as misleading to the people who read the dispatches as it is unjust to the "Mormon" Church and people who are the subjects of these telegraphic attacks.

The Judge who sent Belle Harris to the penitentiary because she declined stating whether she was married or not, claimed that it was necessary to preserve the dignity of the Court. Seeing that an appeal was taken from his decision, would it not have been perfectly consistent with the Court's dignity if good and sufficient bail had been accepted pending the review of his ruling by a superior court? Compare her case with the following, in the same Judicial District and under the ruling of the same Judge. Robert Keys, who shed the blood of a poor inebriated soldier, is out on bail for appearance at the September term of the Court. Dave George, a recent inmate of the penitentiary, but pardoned by the Executive, and now under indictment for burglariously entering the residence of George Collier, during the temporary absence of the latter, and stealing \$815 in gold, Collier's savings for many years of hard and honest toil, justice decent citizens on the streets, for he is also out on bail.

An individual who played the role of a bull-dog and bit off the ear of his antagonist in a low bar-room fight in Beaver City, and other violators of the law under indictment in the Second Judicial District, are all out on bail. The man Carrington, who was undoubtedly guilty of the crime of bigamy—using that term in its full and proper sense—was turned loose in this city without any bail at all.

Compare these cases with that of Belle Harris and how much dignity is left to the Court that sent her and her baby to the pen, a place for the worst criminals known to the law? The object of the law and its penalties is to protect society. How much is society protected by the incarceration of a woman who merely declined satisfying the impudent curiosity of a prying lawyer in regard to her private affairs? And how much is it protected by the liberation of violators of virtue and of marriage vows, ear-eating brutes, burglars and blood-letters?

We are aware that these queries and strictures are not pleasing to certain parties. But what of the truth is often unpalatable, it is right that it should be told such public matters as the "Would it be out of the way to why this special rigor in the case of Belle Harris? And to remark, the connection that the men are charged with the crimes mentioned, and who are enjoying the liberty, are "Gentiles," while a woman who is in the penitentiary and has committed no crime—"Mormon?" Such comparisons are tedious but they are very suggestive.

We do not envy the individual who have taken an active part in this piece of petty spite and enjoy this vindictive triumph over a man who would not bend to a scheme. Whoever thinks this bit of thing will throw as much as straw in the way of plural marriage is immensely mistaken and understands very little of human nature. It fires the hearth, braces the nerve, strengthens the resolution of both men and women who believe in a principle thus meanly and trickily assailed, and will have exactly the opposite effect to that intended "Mormon" and "Gentile," with few exceptions, honor the woman who makes this stand for principle and there are many who would rather a thousand times exchange places with her than with any of the persons concerned in her illegal and unwise incarceration.

A CAUSELESS RUMOR.

THE San Francisco Chronicle, always alive for sensations, sets upon the arrival of some "Mormon" immigrants from New Zealand, who were joined at Hawaii by some Sandwich Islanders, to work up an excitement over an alleged case of leprosy among the latter. The company was in charge of Elder William Burdett, returning missionary to New Zealand. All passed the quarantine officer without detention, but some officious persons who claimed to know all about leprosy called upon Brother Burdett, company with a reporter, and insisted upon examining a boy who he claimed was affected with the terrible disease. Having no authority to back his impudent demand he was not permitted to do so, the reporter was informed that the boy in question had nothing to do with him but some few sores.

The company arrived here to-day the Sandwich Islanders being relieved of Kamakahi, residing here. An attempt had been made to raise a scare in this city on the ground worked by the Chronicle, we requested some gentlemen who had resided on the Sandwich Islands and who are familiar with the language of the people and the symptoms, signs and characteristics of the disease, to meet the train and examine the boy. They unanimously decided that the eruptions on his arms have no resemblance to leprosy. The lad is evidently in poor health and needs attention, his blood being in poor condition, but he is not a leper. It is not probable that the President of the mission on the islands would allow a leper to emigrate to Utah with the members of the Church, and if such a case should occur he would certainly send word of it to this city. There need be no alarm on that head.

Another point that should be looked at is the rumor that certain persons are trying to spread, to effect that leprosy is a contagious disease, likely to be communicated by merely touching the clothes of the patient, and that the mere presence of a leper in a company of persons is enough to spread the disease among the community. There is nothing in it. If lepers should come here and the people were so corrupt and lecherous as some of these flares and alarmists might be danger of the spread of the loathsome disease. It is in our sequence of the licentiousness of the Kanakas that it is so prevalent among them. But ordinary contact will not cause infection. Our Elders have mingled with the natives, eaten food prepared by persons afflicted, slept in blankets that they have used, visited the leper settlements, shaken hands with the victims in every stage, conversed with them, and placed themselves in a condition to contract the disease if it could be received by ordinary contact. But no one has ever heard of