

perienced silk raisers of this Territory. But if the Osage Orange can be utilized in this way to advantage, there should be more hedges of that variety planted than at present adorn the fields and gardens of Utah.

We do not hear much from this branch of industry now-a-days, but we are sure that it will not be allowed to die out while in the hands of ladies and gentlemen whose perseverance is undoubted. There will come at time when silk-raising will be a source of great profit in Utah, and furnish employment for many hands that would otherwise remain idle.

TRACE THE RASCAL OUT.

The alleged interview of Hon. Edwards Pierpont with President Arthur on the "Mormon" question and the non-execution of the Edmunds law, has gone the rounds of the press, and several of the Utah Commissioners have rushed into print with emphatic denials of the statements about them supposed to have been made by the honorable gentleman. When these refutations appeared we remarked that we considered the defense of the Commissioners superfluous; that "much of their powder was wasted," also that it was "quite unlikely that the absurd statements which have appeared in dispatches to the press came from Mr. Pierpont's lips."

We said "They are more likely the inventions of one of those telegram manufacturers who occasionally stir up the country with bogus reports."

Yesterday we were shown a letter from Mr. Pierpont to a gentleman in this city, in which the writer denies the whole statement made in the Associated Press dispatch. He did not see President Arthur until several days after the date of the reported interview, has expressed no such views as those attributed to him, and has said nothing on the subject to give color to the fabrications of the author of the dispatch.

It is a shame that the country should be fooled in this way, and it is an outrage against Mr. Pierpont and the Commissioners. The vagabond who made up the falsehood ought to be traced out and prosecuted. It is the duty of the Associated Press people to attend to this. It is not only the "Mormons" that have cause to complain, this time, about the gross misrepresentations that are sent over the wires and published in all the chief papers of the country concerning them, but the Commissioners and Mr. Pierpont have just reason to complain and to demand the punishment of the libeler. If they want to perform a public duty and render a public service, they will not allow this matter to die out without something being done to trace up the author of the false dispatch and punish him for his crime.

Not only have the Commissioners been tilting against a windmill, and exposing themselves to ridicule for thrusting their lances against the bogus opponent, but Mr. Pierpont has been placed in an improper attitude before the country, and all by a disreputable Bohemian who has had both fun and revenge while deceiving the public.

The gentlemen who have been thus treated have learned something of the pleasures (?) of being misrepresented throughout the land, and will now know to some little extent how the "Mormons" feel over such injustice and defamation. Let the dispatch fabricator be pulled out of his hiding place by the ear, and exposed and treated to his just deserts.

THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION SCHEME.

We clip from the St. Paul and Minneapolis Pioneer Press, a well considered article on the proposed Utah Commission; it will be found in another part of this paper. It is a complete answer to the so called "argument" in favor of a Commission to take the place of our local Legislature. The Pioneer Press treats seriously the pretense of the Commission advocates that their object in view is the suppression of polygamy. From that point of view its reasoning is sound and concise.

There is no reason to believe that anything more could be accomplish-

ed in that direction by a Commission making the laws than by Congress, unless it is conceded that a dozen or fifteen men appointed by arbitrary authority can lawfully wield more power than the two Houses of the National Legislature; that they may go outside of the limits of the Constitution and of all established law and precedent, and exercise unlimited authority over the lives and fortunes of the people placed under their feet. While there is any respect left for the supreme law of the land, and for the fundamental principles of republican government, the same redress through the Courts which is now open will be at hand for persons unjustly treated, and the unconstitutional and despotic measures of an appointed Commission would be as likely to be judicially set aside as the untenable acts of an elected Congress.

The Pioneer Press wants to know why these individuals who clamor for a Legislative Commission do not prepare the same laws to submit to Congress as they would have passed by a Commission. This is a very pertinent query. And the answer is, because their schemes are of too outrageous a character to recommend themselves to either a Republican or a Democratic Congress. They might be attempted by a Commission of the kind desired, but no body composed of men having regard for the rights of citizens and the institutions of our country would listen to such propositions for a moment.

But those strife-fomenters who are brewing the Commission conspiracy really care nothing whatever about polygamy. They say so frankly to their familiar acquaintances. It does not affect them in any way. It makes no difference to them whether a man has two or more wives or none at all. They suffer no shock to their feelings in the society of men who consort with any number of women of any and every variety. They are not after polygamy or any other matter of morals. It is the supremacy of the small minority over the very great majority that they are plotting for. Narrow the thing down to its real agitators and chief promoters, and it resolves itself into a determined effort on the part of a very few political tricksters to grasp the Territory and handle its treasury.

While the republican principle, that the will of the majority as expressed at the ballot box shall regulate local affairs, is allowed to prevail in Utah as in other parts of the country, those schemers know that there is no opening for them or their supporters. Therefore they are striving to break down that essential doctrine of popular rights, and to make the minority the masters of the majority. And the object is not the suppression of polygamy, but power to plunder and oppress a community whose creed makes them obnoxious to the unthinking multitude.

Those persons do not represent the respectable "Gentile" residents of Utah. They are the self-appointed clamorers for the adventurers, office seekers and persons who have nothing of any moment to lose, but have great expectations of what may fall to their net; in the great commotion that would ensue from such a revolution as they desire. The non-"Mormon" business men and ladies and gentlemen who have permanent homes here, desire to mind their own business and leave the "Mormons" alone. But they make no combined or public effort to express their views, because they do not wish to expose themselves to the abuse of the class referred to which they would bring down like an avalanche of filth upon their devoted heads, if they attempted to oppose the scheme which they taken stock in.

It would be a cold morning for the plotters if it were possible to obliterate the plural marriage system and its established relations, of which they take advantage in appealing to the country and to Congress. They would be without a "cry." And unless they could invent something that would catch the priestly and popular ear as easily as "polygamy," they would have to seek other fields for their ambition, and other coffers for prospective manipulations.

The "bloody conflict" which is held up as an alternative in case of a failure to establish a despotism in Utah, is nothing but a ridiculous bogbear, to frighten the foolish and scare the country into an act of folly and self-injury. Suppose the fifty millions of this nation were to stop taking notice of the nonsense of anti-"Mormon" fanatics, and let the conspirators severely alone, and

that a few men in Utah were permitted to have more wives than one without any noise about it, and without punishment except on conviction for breaking the law. What cause would there be for a "bloody conflict?" Is it to be supposed that unless "Mormonism" is opposed with force and treated without regard to law or right, it will spread so as to dominate the nation? Is a community of less than two hundred thousand a danger to a people of fifty millions? Are the principles of "Mormonism" so powerful that the doctrines of great Christendom are likely to be overturned, unless the persecutions of medieval ages are revived? If not what necessity will arise for a "bloody conflict?" The very intimation that physical force is the only likely means of extirpating "Mormonism" is an admission that there is something about it superior to the orthodox systems.

We suggest a new departure for those at all interested in the "Mormon" question: Find out what it really is. Cease taking notice of the rubbish that is put forth by its enemies to deceive the world. Get hold of the facts. Learn what are the principles of "Mormonism" and the real lives and aims of its followers. Then, if you do not change your minds as to the need of its suppression, you will be able at least to act intelligently, and not be playing all the time into the hands of the political gamblers who have made this growing Territory the stake for which they are shuffling the cards.

The quickest and most proper way to settle this "Mormon" question would be the admission of Utah as a State, which would take the matter out of the hands of Congress and put it where it belongs. But this being improbable while our national lawmakers are so much afraid of the priests and the fanatics, is there not power enough in Congress to handle this thing without trampling into the dust the sacred principles upon which this republic is built? Congress exercises the right to legislate directly for Utah; also to annul all Acts of the local Legislature. The Governor, appointed by Federal authority, has the power of absolute veto. The Courts and all the important positions here are under the control of the National Government. Polygamists are disfranchised and debarred from holding any place of public trust in the Territory. Laws have been enacted for the punishment of persons convicted of bigamy, polygamy or unlawful cohabitation.

Is not this about enough to satisfy the country? If not, what is desired that is lawful and proper in a nation like this? Is it desirable to give the lives and property of a hundred and seventy thousand people into the control of from nine to fifteen appointed officials? To destroy the principle of local self-government in one part of the country while maintaining that it is essential to our institutions in others? To punish persons accused of crime simply on suspicion? To smite them hip and thigh and stamp them to death because legal proof cannot be had of their guilt? To violate the vested rights conferred upon an organized commonwealth by its Organic Act and disfranchise all its citizens for the alleged acts of a few of their number? To set up a veritable despotism in the midst of a constitutional republic? And for what? To satisfy the greed and vain ambition of a clique, claiming consideration because their votes are so few that they are politically dead when opposed to the great majority.

That is the position, and we think it only needs to be properly understood to stifle at once the hopes of the adventurers, and banish the idea of a Legislative Commission so far out of sight and sound that it will never be mentioned again except in derision and contempt.

FAILURE OF "CHRISTIAN" ANTI-"MORMONISM."

The San Francisco Post has occasionally something to say about the "Mormons." In a recent editorial it draws attention to the success of the "Mormon propaganda," notwithstanding the opposition met with by the Elders in some places, and the general unpopularity of the system which they advocate and defend; speaks of the landing of another shipload of immigrants, paying their own way to Utah, and adds:

"In view of this fact and of the steady growth of Mormonism as a religion, one is impelled to inquire whether Christianity has lost vital energy, and is unable to cope with that new and pestilent heresy, Mormonism? If we may judge from the failure of Christian missionaries in Utah to convert a single Mormon to Christianity, and their appeal to the secular arm for help, which they invariably make when addressing Eastern audiences, the conclusion is inevitable—Christianity is feeble in its presence. It has ceased to be aggressive. Its standard bearers are engaged in whittling away all its substance, denying or ridiculing the doctrines which have been the hope and solace of ages. The dry rot is destroying the evangelical church. When things have come to this pass within the church, what wonder if Mormonism, or any other strange doctrine, should prevail?"

The answer to the foregoing question is, yes; that which is called Christianity has lost vital energy, and that it is unable to cope with "Mormonism" has been demonstrated in the struggles of half a century. "Christian missionaries" to Utah admit that it is a hopeless task to attempt to convert an adult "Mormon" to either of their creeds systems. They think they may be able to catch some of the rising generation, by getting them into denominational schools under the pretext of imparting secular education, and insidiously impregnating their youthful minds with the essential dogmas of the sects. But a dyed-in-the-wool "Mormon" they have not the slightest expectation of capturing.

But this failure to convert the "Mormons," the masses of whom are generally acknowledged to be sincere, honest and devotional, it seems to us should make very doubtful to a thinking mind, the assertion that "Mormonism" is a pestilent heresy." The necessity of that "appeal to the secular arm for help" which the Post refers to, is rather an argument in favor of the superiority of "Mormon" principles to those of their opponents, than an indication that "Mormonism" is "heresy."

It is a mistake to say that so-called "Christianity" has ceased to be aggressive," at any rate in its attitude toward "Mormonism." The legislation which was rushed through Congress with indecent haste, for the purpose of destroying the "Mormon" system, was forced upon the country through the aggressive influence of the preachers and their fanatical followers. Conventions, conferences, convocations, and other religious gatherings passed resolutions against the "Mormons," urging action on the part of Congress, and demanding the aid of Representatives and Senators in different districts to secure the passage of anti-"Mormon" measures. Religious papers have published articles innumerable, and "Christian" societies have been formed to battle against the alleged "heresy" and punish its principal adherents. No end of money has been gathered—and pocketed by the most zealous "Mormon" eaters—preachers and pamphlets have been sent to Utah and scattered where it was thought they would do the greatest good; the most absurd and outrageous things have been said about the system and the people, so that ridicule might play its part in the warfare, and a general hue and cry has been kept up to make "Mormonism" unpopular and render embracing it difficult and dangerous.

There has been no lack of "aggression" in times past "Christian" preachers have headed mobs to drive out the "Mormons" from their homes and possessions, and even now some of those holy exponents of modern "Christianity" advocate the wholesale massacre of the "Mormon" leaders as the most feasible method of solving the "Mormon" problem. And less sanguinary disciples of "Christian" orthodoxy are at the present time clamoring for the political death of all citizens in Utah, male and female, who believe in the system called "Mormonism." This is surely "aggressive" enough to suit the most belligerent.

It is not for lack of the will or the money or the men that so-called "Christendom" has not exterminated "Mormonism." What then is the reason that, as the Post remarks, the former as "feeble" in the presence of the latter? It is because the great, wealthy, popular, learned, long-established and wide-spread power is not what it purports to be, and

this so-called "heresy" is the genuine Christian system restored, with all its pristine principles, influence, spirit, gifts and assurance. The much misunderstood marriage system which is a part of it, is not, as supposed, its distinctive feature nor its principal peculiarity. It has been made an excuse for the force which professing "Christians" have used and advocated against this Church. Even that is really a restoration of the marriage system of primitive Christian times. But "Mormonism" in its entirety is a new revelation of that which Jesus of Nazareth and his disciples set up, and which has been perverted and departed from so widely for centuries, until nothing is left of it in Christendom but its shadow and faint memories of what it once was.

Let "Christian missionaries" come to us with the Bible, with the Old Testament or the New, or both, and we are ready to receive the doctrines contained therein. More than that. We can prove to them that their creeds are contrary to the scriptures. That they do not and dare not preach the doctrines with the promises taught by Jesus, Peter, James, John, Paul and their brethren. That which the Apostles taught that these "Christians" neglect or repudiate, we accept and enjoin. Nothing that can be established from Holy Scripture is found antagonistic to the "Mormon" faith, but it is all incorporated in the creed that the "Christian" missionary in Utah wishes to attack. Hence the failure of all these pretended "Christian" agencies to put down "Mormonism." It is the sham fighting the reality. The spurious trying to stamp upon the genuine. Divided error; charging furiously upon united truth. Counterfeit "Christianity" boldly attempting to outshine the pure and unadulterated Gospel.

There is no "dry rot" in that which is called "Mormonism." It is solid, compact and vigorous. It is reviving that childlike faith in divine things which modern "Christianity," saturated with vain philosophy and honeycombed with doubt, has helped to drive out from the souls of men. With the revival of that faith comes divine assurance and divine power and divine light, and these make strong the votaries of this "Mormonism," and shew up in contrast the weakness and worthlessness of the vast sham which claims consideration and worship under the name of Christianity.

This bogus "Christianity" is so feeble in the presence of Mormonism" that it dares not depend upon the only weapons which are permissible by its own code. If "Mormonism" is such a "palpable and pestilent heresy" as is charged, cannot truly Christian agencies be employed for its overthrow? Why this general recourse to carnal weapons by the professed disciples of the charitable and pleading Christ? Is it not a tacit confession that in argument, reason, scripture, they have no prevailing strength, and therefore are compelled to let the strange thing alone or else fight it by force?

But whether the decaying, discordant and self-divided system called "Christianity" wields the weapons which alone may be lawfully used in religious warfare, or invokes the aid of secular power, civil, military, mobocratic or diabolical, the result will be the same. "Mormonism" is but a nickname for the Church and Kingdom of the living God, set up on earth never to be thrown down for ever. It is not a handful of united believers that are to be overcome, but the Lord God Almighty, who has introduced the beginning of His government on earth, and who intends that it shall spread and prevail, until the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of God and His Christ, and spurious Christendom, with all the systems, inventions and creeds of men, will fall, like the millstone of the Apocalypse into the depths of the sea of oblivion, and all peoples and nations, redeemed from error and priestcraft and kingcraft and oppression of every kind, shall willingly bow the knee and serve and obey Him.

A Strong Argument.—The People's Committee of Ogden, on the subject of a new railroad depot in that town, assert that during the last two years, the railroad freight business, including the receiving and outflow, done with the Ogden merchants amounts to \$12,000,000, placing the rate at a dollar a hundred pounds, which is esteemed to be a fair basis for the calculation. This is a strong plea for accession to their request.