

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

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THE LETTERS TO THE "WORLD."

THE New York World has taken a consistent course on the "Mormon" question during the whole of the recent agitation in Congress and throughout the country. Without any sympathy towards "Mormonism" or any of its peculiar features, that Democratic organ has perceived the shallowness of the pretences held up to cover ulterior designs on the part of preachers and politicians, and has advocated fair treatment, and maintenance of constitutional principles in dealing with the so-called "Mormon" problem.

It has opposed the Edmund's bill, as a measure hostile alike to common justice and the doctrines which form the basis of our national system of government. This is in keeping with the Democratic platform, which upholds the Supreme Law of the Land in its entirety, and gives no support to measures which are subversive of that palladium of human liberty.

The World has been very fortunate, in its endeavors to place the "Mormon" question before the country in a truthful light, to secure the services of a gentleman thoroughly qualified to investigate the subject impartially, having no national or local American politics to bias him, and being a traveler and writer of world-wide reputation. He has startled the readers of the World by telling the truth about a people and a system which have been everywhere spoken against, but scarcely anywhere understood. The correspondent is no penny a liner nor common "reporter." He has "struck a new lead" in journalistic prospecting, having gone out of the beaten track, keeping himself clear of the "stuffers" who make it their business to fill up tourists and Bohemians with horrible tales and hobgoblin sensations, sickening from everlasting repetition, and has looked and listened for himself. What he has seen and heard he has told in his own way, and his way is simple but fascinating. We do not endorse all his opinions or testify to all his facts, but we accord to him sincerity of purpose, and recognize his exceptional talent of acute observation. A thorough scholar, a finished gentleman, a practised adept at searching out and grasping facts and motives, he has made a sensation by giving to the world, through the World, an account of his investigations and experiences in "Mormondom," which are of a different character altogether from those hackneyed stories which have for years past appeared occasionally in the public prints written by reporters who have seen with other people's eyes, and heard with other people's ears.

Mr. Phil. Robinson, whose letters to the New York World are now creating so much attention in the Eastern States and in England, has just returned to the city from a tour of a thousand miles "by road and rail" through our Territory. He has in person visited the whole of Utah from Bear Lake Valley to Long Valley, and carried into his latest expedition all that activity which has made the English war correspondents so distinguished all over the world.

For Mr. Phil. Robinson was the special war correspondent of the Daily Telegraph (or London) in the campaigns which the British troops fought against the Afghans in Asia and the Zulus in Africa. His experiences in both campaigns have been published long since in the London papers and magazines. Among the many thrilling episodes of which he has written the history, is the death of the Prince Imperial of France in Zululand. Mr. Robinson was previously known, however, both in India and England as the author of several books of which Messrs. Roberts Bros., of Boston, have now bought

the copyright, and an American edition is now in the press. It was in connection with one of these books that Mr. Robinson came to New York from London some two months ago, and there meeting with Mr. W. H. Hurlbert, the proprietor of the New York World, was commissioned to proceed westward to inquire into and give his views on the Chinese question in San Francisco and the "Mormon Problem" here. It happened, however, fortunately, that Mr. Robinson elected to stay here, and the result is shown in that series of letters which President Taylor commends in to-day's issue to the favorable attention of the Saints in the patronage of the weekly World.

The prospectus of that paper with the recommendation attached will be found in another column, and we will add that, apart from the letters and editorials which have appeared in the World on the "Mormon question" some of which we have copied and others of which we shall copy, it is a very interesting journal of first-class ability, and advocating those political principles which commend themselves to people who venerate the Constitution of the United States, and are opposed to centralization of power in the hands of an oligarchy to the weakening of that authority which rightfully belongs to the individual and sovereign States.

POLITICAL ASSESSMENTS AGAIN.

A FEW day ago we referred to the case of General Curtis, on trial in New York, for violating the law against political assessments on Government employees. The defendant has been found guilty, after raising all kinds of technical points, and so far this is a vindication of the law. But how much does the Republican party, with its supporters in the highest places of the nation, care about the verdict or the law? Not much.

Right on the back of the conviction of Curtis comes a demand from the Republican National Congressional Committee upon the Government clerks at Washington, for two per cent. of their salaries to aid in the campaign of next fall. Even the boy pages in the Houses of Congress have to "fork over" or be in danger of discharge. It was thought, and the idea was expressed by leading journals, that the Curtis case would have a wholesome effect upon the party chiefs, but it is now evident to all that the politicians have no more respect for the law than mercy for the poor clerks, who have as much as they can do to "make both ends meet" with their scanty stipends.

This course of the committee is disgusting decent people and papers of their own party and is rightly denounced as "a hardy, brutal and cynical repudiation of the principles which the party leaders have put in their platform, and upon which the country was carried for Garfield last year."

"THE WORLD" AND THE MORMONS.

Dear Sir: I desire to lay before you the prospectus of THE WORLD newspaper and to ask your particular attention to the position taken by the THE WORLD in regard to the recent legislation in Congress, aimed at the private rights and local liberties of the people of Utah.

Along among the leading journals of the United States THE WORLD has from the first and always protested against any attempt to deal with the religious beliefs and the social system of the people of Utah, on any other principles than those which flow from the foundation of the American Government have limited Federal interference with the religious beliefs and the social systems of the American people in all parts of the country.

When it became certain that a Republican Congress would adopt and a Republican President approve legislation hostile to those principles, THE WORLD commissioned a special correspondent of recognized ability, familiar with the study of social and political questions in all parts of the globe, to visit Utah and report truthfully and impartially upon the social, material, moral and political condition of the people. The letters of this correspondent are commanding attention, not only in all parts of the United States, but in Europe. I confidently invite your attention to them, and I leave it to you to judge whether it is not important to the best interests of your own people that THE WEEKLY WORLD should be extensively circulated throughout Utah, as an organ of that sober, deliberate, impartial common sense of the great democratic masses, which is certain in the end to dominate all

the excesses of folly and of fanaticism in a land of free discussion.

And I remain,
Your obedient servant,
WM. HENRY HURLBERT.

Without endorsing everything that is contained in the articles referred to, yet as there are many plain facts enunciated which will be appreciated by the fair and honorable, I recommend the paper to the consideration of the Saints.

JOHN TAYLOR.

J. H. Parry, Main Street, opposite Z. C. M. L., is the authorized agent of the "World," and will receive subscriptions for the same.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

PURSUANT to adjournment the Convention met in the City Hall, at 2 p. m., to-day. On the call of the roll 52 members answered to their names. Opened by prayer by Bishop Crane. A communication was read from Mr. Jas. Lowe, of Beaver County, announcing his inability to be present, and the name of Daniel Tyler as his alternate. Mr. Lowe was excused and Mr. Tyler accepted. Mr. W. Haslam was accepted as alternate in the place of Mr. J. Howell, of Cache County, and Mr. G. A. Murdock in place of Mr. W. H. Seegmiller, of Sevier County. The alternates were sworn in by Mr. John T. Caine.

Mr. D. H. Wells moved that a committee of seven be appointed to select delegates to present to Congress the Memorial and Constitution of the State of Utah. Carried.

Mr. Thurman moved that the sense of the Convention be taken as to the time when the Delegates to Congress shall proceed to Washington.

Mr. Booth moved as an amendment that it is the sense of this Convention that the Delegates present the Constitution and Memorial at the next session of Congress.

Mr. Wells opposed the amendment, thinking it best for the matter to be attended to at once.

Mr. Penrose thought the members were not prepared at present to vote as intelligently as desirable on this matter, and moved that the motion lie on the table till to-morrow. Carried.

Mr. Wells, chairman of the Committee on Memorial, presented the following:

MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled:

Gentlemen—The citizens of the United States in the Territory of Utah, through their delegates in Convention, respectfully present this Memorial, asking for admission into the Federal Union as a free and sovereign State, on the same footing as the other States, under the name and title of the State of Utah; and herewith submit the Constitution which they have adopted:

When the people who opened this vast region to civilization, and rendered possible its settlement by the advanced races, first planted their feet upon the virgin soil of these valleys, it was part of the domain of the Republic of Mexico. Five hundred of their stalwart men were in the field aiding in the war with that Power, and they occupied this part of the country as loyal citizens of the United States, unfurling its flag to the mountain breeze, and proceeding to organize a provisional government, preparatory to becoming a part of the Federal Union. When, by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, this portion of Mexico was ceded to the United States, they sought at once, by proper means to secure the rights and privileges of statehood. California, the settlement of which by citizens of the United States was largely due to the people of this Territory, made application at the same time as they for admission into the Union, and was successful. To Utah was granted a territorial form of government. For thirty-two years, the citizens of this Territory have been kept out of the Union, and under the disadvantages of a system which, in many respects, is foreign to the principles of democratic republicanism. They now, for the fourth time, approach your Honorable Body, with their respectful petition for that republican form of government which Congress is required by the Constitution to guarantee to every State in the Union.

And they submit that Utah has outgrown the conditions, if they ever existed, which justified the establishment of that imperfect political system which has been so long continued. Her population numbers at least 150,000 souls. Her agricultural, stockraising, manufacturing, mineral and other resources and industries, are of such magnitude that she is abundantly able to bear the burdens and meet the expenses involved in independent statehood. Her cities, towns and villages exhibit all the marks of thrift, prosperity and order that indicate capacities for self-government. Unaided by any extraneous assistance, schools for the education of her children flourish in every settlement within her borders. The local laws protect life and property with more than common safety, and extend all possible liberty to persons of every party, creed and race, without distinction. Railroads and telegraph lines connect her people with each other and with all parts of this great nation, and they are familiar with the common interests and public questions which blend the various States in political unity. There is nothing to prevent Utah from taking an active part in the Federal compact but those barriers of prejudice which have been built up chiefly through misrepresentation aided by unfamiliarity with the facts.

We further submit that the exercise of absolute and unlimited power over the great body of citizens inhabiting this Territory, which is claimed by Congress as a right, is anti-republican in theory, and most oppressive in practice. We have no voice in the election of the national legislators who, without understanding our condition, occasionally make laws to govern us, or of those authorities who appoint officials to conduct our affairs. The Governor, placed over us without our consent, has the power to render void all the acts of the legislators elected by the people, by simply withholding his signature thereto. This absolute veto power is added to the supreme authority of Congress to abolish or make null all or any of our local laws. The essential principles of American republicanism, as enumerated in the Declaration of Independence, are thus grossly violated, and the people of Utah are kept in a condition of vassalage alike unworthy of a free government, irksome to those who are compelled to endure it, and subversive of the inalienable rights of men.

We direct the attention of your honorable body to the pledged word of the nation, in the treaty before mentioned, agreeing that the people residing in this region at the time of its ratification, should be "incorporated into the Union of the United States, and be admitted at the proper time to the enjoyment of all the rights of citizens of the United States according to the principles of the Constitution, and meanwhile should be protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty and property, and secured in the free exercise of their religion without restriction." Abstaining from any inquiry as to whether these guarantees have been fulfilled by the Government in the case of Utah, we ask whether the proper time has not arrived when her people should be admitted to the full rights and privileges of citizens of the United States, the same conditions being required as of other communities seeking the status of independent statehood?

We present with confidence the Constitution framed by this Convention, and ratified by the people of this Territory at the polls, the election being held May 22d, 1882, when 27,814 ballots were cast in its favor, and but 498 against it (with two counties, Uintah and San Juan not reported). We think it will be conceded that it provides for the State of Utah a republican form of government; and we urge that this being guaranteed beyond dispute, the constitutional requirement is complied with, and nothing stands lawfully in the way forbidding Congress to authorize the admission of Utah into the Union.

In conclusion, we respectfully suggest that by granting what we believe to be our rights under the Constitution and the treaty made with Mexico, benefits will accrue not only to the new State but to the nation at large, in the settlement of questions that have frequently produced great and unprofitable agitation; in the addition of one more vigorous and promising commonwealth to the Federal Union; and in the security which will be the con-

sequence to every interest in this important section of country that is calculated to add to the wealth, power and perpetuity of the glorious Republic in which we desire to become incorporated.

And as in duty bound, your memorialists will ever pray.

On motion of Mr. Wells, the memorial was received and laid on the table until to-morrow.

The president announced that three engrossed copies of the Constitution were ready for the signatures of the Delegates, who came forward by counties and signed the instrument.

Adjourned till Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Convention met at 10 a.m., Wednesday. Roll called; quorum present. Mr. H. G. Boyle officiated as chaplain. Communications were received from Messrs. Cluff, of Summit, and Atkin, of Tooele Counties, stating that they were unable to attend. On motion of Mr. Caine they were excused.

The Memorial to Congress was taken up and read, and considered by paragraphs. Several motions to amend were lost. A motion of Mr. Booth to amend by substituting the word "proceeded" for "proceeding" in the second paragraph, prevailed.

Mr. Thurman moved to strike out the paragraph relating to the pledge of the Government in the treaty with Mexico in regard to residents of this region before its cession to the United States. He considered that as this treaty related to Mexican citizens and we claimed in the memorial to be citizens of the United States at the time of the treaty, there would be an inconsistency in retaining the paragraph.

Mr. Penrose, replying to a question by Mr. Young, admitted that the section of the treaty from which the quotation in the paragraph was made referred to Mexicans and therefore the objection raised was technically correct. But he argued that the guarantees of the United States applied to all inhabitants of the territory ceded from Mexico, by implication at least, and this ground had been taken by Mr. Seward on the application of California, a part of the same region, for admission into the Union. The speaker opposed the motion.

Several members took part in the debate, taking either side of the question, and when put to a vote the motion was lost.

After considerable discussion, the memorial was unanimously adopted and the following was added on motion of Mr. Penrose:

"Adopted in Convention at Salt Lake City, on the seventh day of June, A.D. 1882, by unanimous vote, and ordered to be signed by the President and Secretary."

The President reported that 2,000 copies of the Constitution had been printed and distributed, and that the remaining 3,000 copies ordered would be made more complete by the addition of the Resolution of the Legislature authorizing the Convention, the Memorial to Congress and the proceedings of the present sitting of the Convention, and would then be distributed by the Delegates.

The report was approved.

The Committee on Nomination of Delegates to Washington presented the following:

Mr. President and Members of the Convention:

Your committee on nominations beg leave to recommend that seven delegates be chosen to present the memorial and constitution to Congress, and respectfully place the following names as nominations for said delegates:

W. H. Hooper, Salt Lake County;
John T. Caine, " "
James Sharp, " "
W. W. Riter, " "
F. S. Richards, Weber " "
D. H. Peery, " "
W. D. Johnson, Jr., Kane " "
D. H. WELLS,
Chairman of Committee.
Salt Lake City, June 7th, 1882.

The report was accepted and the gentlemen nominated were appointed by the unanimous vote of the convention.

Mr. Penrose moved that the delegates be instructed to proceed to Washington in time to present the Memorial and Constitution to Congress at its present session, and take such measures as in their judgment are best calculated to effect the object in view. Carried.

Mr. Boyer moved that when the Convention adjourn it be to meet on Monday, October 9, at 2 o'clock