

EDITORIALS.

A CORRECT SENTIMENT.

THE editor of the *Denver Republican* recently made the statement that "there was a direct antagonism between Christianity and Romanism" and that "the rum-sellers, drunkards and criminals are nearly all members of the Roman Catholic church."

The *Neos* of the same city utters a dignified expostulation against such sweeping and indiscriminate attacks upon an entire denomination, and remarks:

"A redeeming trait of our age is a growing tendency to have a decent respect for the religious convictions of each other, and the time for paying the way to political success by exciting religious hate and prejudice has been distanced by the world's progress."

Could this sentiment be given universal sway, the world would be infinitely the better for it. In the United States it is supposed to predominate, and the founders of our government intended that it should prevail. Every journal which antagonizes it should be condemned, and every agency that seeks to add to its popular strength, is working for the truest and highest liberty.

POLAR EXPLORATION.

So long as the Polar Sea remains locked to the outer world, so long will there be a disposition among the more venturesome of the scientific elements to keep knocking at the doors even though, as is most frequently the case, they falter and faint upon the threshold. One expedition has been no more successful from a practical point of view than any other, since none has penetrated beyond the great crystal barrier intervening between the known and the unknown world, the only success achieved being the penetration as far toward the Pole as nature and Providence would permit, some going further than others but all coming to a halt within what they claim would be a plain view of an open circum-Polar Sea were it not for the vision being cut off by solid walls of so far insurmountable and impenetrable ice. Perhaps that is true, perhaps not; the shape of the earth and its rapid rotary motion on its axis favor the latter conclusion, since it is well known that the tendency of a globular body in rapid motion is to cause a movement toward and impingement of particles upon that portion of the sphere described by the term equatorial periphery; this, in the case of our planet, is of course the equator, or imaginary line around its exterior equi-distant from the Poles at all points; this would mean that water would forsake the poles and seek the equator, which is the fact; it is also true that the gravitation is not sufficiently powerful because the rotary motion is not sufficiently rapid to cause the waters of the north and south to rush in a body to the centre; but it is a reasonable conclusion that there is less at the source of the moving mass than at the place where it congregates or near there, and therefore that there is as much land as water, perhaps more of the former than the latter, in both the Arctic and Antarctic regions.

Some enthusiastic, and we doubt not imaginative explorers, have returned from voyages filled with hope and exultation, not that the barrier had been actually passed, but because of their alleged entrance into the outer limits of the northern zone. One especially, an advocate of the "Symmes hole" theory, had found a land luxuriant in vegetation, wealthy in minerals and populated by a hardy and gigantic race of people speaking pure Hebrew; cattle and in fact all our domestic animals were there in abundance, only much larger and stronger; gold and silver nestled in gorges and crevices not in meagre and scattering quantities, but abundantly, tons of it being in sight, and soon. The writer of this was not Jules Verne, as the reader may suppose, but he makes statements utterly at variance with scientific facts and recorded achievements with an audacity rivaling that of the famed Frenchman. No souvenirs of the discovered Utopia were brought back of course, and this act, or rather this omission, alone would place it and all similar statements among the apocryphal literature of the day.

But notwithstanding dangers, defeats, hardships, death and famine, all probable and most of them sure, attending the quest of the extreme northern limit of our abiding place, speculation if not preparation for other ventures goes on constantly. As suggested before, just so long as there is anything on the earth's surface shut out from the contact of man, just so long will he persevere and fight against fate itself to overcome the intervening impediments. The balloon plan of passing the Arctic sentinels is now being revived; it has been talked of a number of times, and we believe tried on one or two occasions, but not as thoroughly as supporters of the scheme desired. Our dispatches recently contained the statement that a

circular was received at the Navy Department from a Chicago man announcing he had solved the problem of aerial navigation, and is about to build a great air ship which will start out June 1st next year on a voyage of discovery to the Pole. He estimates that a month's time will suffice for the voyage, allowing ten days or two weeks for scientific observation of Arctic phenomena. The ship will carry 200 persons and travel at a speed of seventy miles an hour. The inventor says he will carry with him representatives of the press and scientists. The essential feature of the discovery consists of a great cylinder built of thin plates of steel, to which the passenger car is attached. For a force instead of gas a partial vacuum is used, and eight exhausting screw propellers driven by electric secondary batteries propel the craft. This has the smack of the young man who invented the flying machine about it, and may amount to just as much; or it may be launched upon the world as "was the Keesley motor, to be seen but not handled; and again, by a remote possibility, it may prove a success, but we doubt it. The undiscovered country is hedged about by forces of nature above as well as upon the earth, and though the balloon may move through the air currents of the temperate zone in a triumphal flight against the law of gravitation, and in various directions, the inventor would doubtless be startled, if he should be so fortunate as to reach the Polar walls at all, to find that when he mounted high enough to strike an air current, it would be one moving in the direction of the water beneath—southward. Yet it is almost certain that that is exactly what would happen, and that no artificial force he could apply would prevent his being swept homeward much more rapidly than he went away.

A FAIR AND CONSISTENT VIEW.

THE following appears in the editorial columns of the *Arizona Gazette*, published at Phoenix:

"At the time of the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, there was great prejudice existing among the different States on account of religious belief; in none of the colonies, except in Maryland, did absolute religious tolerance exist. There was much opposition, particularly from the New England States, against the enfranchisement of the Jews and there was a feeling equally strong that there should be no religious test of any kind whatever. Until it was agreed that 'Congress should make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' Virginia and New York refused to ratify the constitution. These States accepted the instrument with the understanding that the first amendment guaranteeing the freedom of every man to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience should be proposed and adopted."

The United States were first to give political rights to every religious creed. Efforts have been made since to prohibit the free exercise of religion, notably in the Know-Nothing craze of 1853 and 1855, when a city was raised against Catholics and the attempt was made to prevent them from holding office. The Democratic party has always opposed any abridgment of political rights on account of religious belief. It is because the *Gazette* is Democratic and believes in a strict construction of the Constitution of the United States that it protests against the attempt to disfranchise or persecute any class or creed on account of their religion. We have no sympathy with Mormonism or the supposed revelations of Joseph Smith, but we are not disposed to quarrel with those who have. That is none of our business.

About five per cent. of the Mormon Church entered into polygamous relations. Congress passed what is known as the Edmunds act to protect the family by punishing those who practiced polygamy or unlawful cohabitation. This law has been most rigidly enforced. Ninety-seven per cent. of those charged with polygamy or unlawful cohabitation have been convicted and punished; the destruction of polygamy is inevitable; it cannot flourish in any part of the country. This being the case there was no necessity of the passage of the Edmunds-Tucker act by the last Congress.

The *Gazette* has heretofore declared it to be questionable legislation. It is doubtful if Congress has the right to confiscate church property because it dislikes the church; and it is also doubtful if Congress has the right to set the limit to the size of the lot and number of acres of land a church can own in any Territory, as it does under this bill. Congress has the power under Section 3, Article IV, of the Constitution, to make all needful rules and regulations respecting the Territories, but whether it can, under this clause, strip the people of a territory of all voice in their local government as is done under the Edmunds-Tucker act, is very doubtful.

While every one is agreed that polygamy cannot and must not be tolerated, yet conservative and thinking men are not prepared to go to the extreme which this Mormon persecution, for it can be known by no other name, is being carried. Hence it is that such papers as the *New York Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Lewiston, Me., Journal* and the *Springfield Republican* begin to sound the alarm against such

a wanton and wicked invasion of the rights of the whole people.

Arizona, by the repeal of the anti-Mormon legislation of its 13th Legislative Assembly, has said to the world that here all men shall enjoy equal political and religious rights; no man shall be punished for opinion's sake, but when opinion lead to actions in violation of law, then and not until then shall the culprit be punished."

THE BIGAMY AND POLYGAMY PROVISIONS.

THE provisions in relation to bigamy and polygamy which were reported to the Convention on Tuesday, are something novel to State Constitutions. The idea is not new, neither did it originate among the Delegates chosen by the people to formulate an instrument for the establishment of fundamental laws. It has been urged upon Utah for many years. It has come to be a matter of certainty in the popular mind, that Utah cannot be admitted into the Union as a State, without some constitutional provisions against practices about which the country has been much misinformed and unduly excited. Former efforts for Statehood without such provisions have been treated with the coldness that arises from reference to a committee which usually freezes over with silence on the subject.

The committee to which an application of Montana for admission into the Union was referred at the last Congress, made a report requiring Montana to insert a plank on the polygamy question forbidding its practice in the new State. It has been proposed in Congress that an amendment to the National Constitution shall be made forbidding polygamy in every part of the Union.

Thus the question is not new, the idea is not novel, it has merely been taken up and practically treated by the Utah Constitutional Convention. But no State has heretofore embodied it in the fundamental law, because there has never been such an occasion requiring it as now exists. Everybody, friend and foe, has declared emphatically that without some provision of this character it would be perfectly useless for Utah to attempt to get into the Federal Union. Friends have advised such a step for many years; foes have jeered about it and urged it sneeringly, believing that it would never be done.

Under the former condition of affairs in this Territory, it is probable that no such action as that of the present Convention would have been taken. The most active men in movements of this character could not consistently take such a step because they were engaged in the practice of something which they were asked to prohibit. The members of the present Convention are free from those conditions. They have taken the oath required by Congress in regard to the practice condemned by national statute, and their course now is in line with the oath and the condition understood to be imperative on the part of the authorities and the great masses of the people of this nation. They have acted, as we have heretofore explained, entirely in a political capacity. They have entered into no compacts, formulated no agreements, made no compromises of a religious or any other nature.

As American citizens representing American citizens, they have recognized a political exigency and a popular demand in relation to a political question. The provisions they have inserted in the Constitution are in the nature of civil law on a matter relating to civil government, without reference to religion in any shape or form. The State cannot legislate for or against any religion, neither can the Nation as a whole. The acts of either, to be valid and in harmony with the principles of this republic, must be entirely devoid of enmity or favor to any religious creed or ecclesiastical body; they must be civil, political, secular, entirely and integrally.

The provisions in regard to bigamy and polygamy, which are unusual in State Constitutions, have been inserted as a political necessity arising from a peculiar condition of affairs requiring political settlement. So in regard to the relinquishment of certain rights or privileges common to State governments in reference to pardons and amendments. The objections have been raised that if Utah should frame and adopt a Constitution forbidding polygamy, the Legislature would not make it practical by appropriate legislation; that if the penalties were embodied in the fundamental law it would soon be amended after Statehood was achieved; and that if not, the State Governor could pardon the offenders and thus render the law and the Constitution nugatory.

To meet these objections it is provided that no amendment shall be made on this one question without the consent of Congress and the President, and that the endorsement of the National Executive shall be required to make a pardon effective. This is also unusual. But the situation is unusual. Utah has been served with repeated notices, voiced by Congress in demonstrative acclamations, that without certain provisions Utah will never be admitted as a State into the Union; and now these conditions are met frankly and fully. And because the action is not an imitation of some former methods, shall that be consid-

ered a tangible objection? We think not, in the mind of any rational person.

The provisions in relation to Congress and the President do not pretend to confer any powers on them or to require any duty on their part. They can act or decline to act. It is merely stated that until such action is taken, the amendment proposed or the pardon granted shall not take effect. The State does not presume to say what either Congress or the President shall do or shall not do. It does not ask any action on the part of either. It does not step outside of its own domain in any way. It simply relinquishes a common right or privilege, for a special contingency and to meet one of the objections considered insuperable to its existence.

The objections to these provisions on such grounds as are here treated of, will be found to be those who have helped to raise the obstacles and are now completely chagrined and exasperated at the removal of their barriers. Objections to the provisions on other grounds may be raised by those who have not studied them or who cannot divest them of some religious import, but one fact stands out clear and unmistakable as a sign to the wise, and that is, the worst enemies of the people of Utah will fight this movement and find fault with these provisions to the very utmost of their strength and ability to falsify and misrepresent.

We simply advise our readers to take time to think, examine the work of the Convention, try to view the matter in all its bearings, be slow to jump at conclusions until all the ground is surveyed, and to keep calm, and clear-headed, and silent-tongued until they comprehend the situation and the reasons for the course of the Convention, and then they can speak and act intelligently, being "wise as serpents and harmless as doves."

IN FAVOR OF PEACE.

In a certain quarter, for some time before the Fourth, determined efforts were made to prevent a harmonious celebration of that glorious holiday. Those efforts were unsuccessful, as but few citizens were influenced by them. It appeared that a general determination existed among all classes of the community to lay aside, for the occasion at least, those differences that have agitated and divided the population of the Territory so long, and to have a hearty and harmonious celebration. This determination was carried out, and the gentlemen who had the management of the exercises of the day, deserve credit accordingly.

Why should there be ill feeling and a conflict between any one class of the people of the Territory and any other class? Who is responsible for the animosities that exist? Who labors to perpetuate them?

Not the members of the People's party, nor of the "Mormon" Church. If the members of those organizations could have their way amity would replace enmity, and a permanent harmony would be established.

It is in order to end asperities. There is a determined public opinion in favor of peace.

A SPECK OF WAR.

THE reported action of the British government yesterday in recalling Minister Woolf from Constantinople has a warlike sound, it being the commonly accepted doctrine, although an unwritten and therefore not necessarily imperative one, that a complete disruption of the *entente cordiale* between two powers, being in and of itself a declaration of enmity, is the precursor of a declaration of hostilities by one or the other. The cause of this rupture, as stated by the wires, is of course the long-pending Anglo-Egyptian convention. England had a complete understanding with the Porte as to what terms should govern the contract which they were jointly to execute, and it was drawn in accordance therewith; England ratified it on her part with what to some might seem to be suspicious haste, and then commenced urging the Ottoman government to let no moments, least of all days, pass before concluding the full execution of the instrument, but it was postponed and when the date to which the postponement was taken came around, the signature was still wanting. There was a cause for this failure and the British government knew very well and in advance just what the cause was; and this knowledge will be accepted by a large majority of those who study the subject as the cause of English haste and urgency. Turkey is and for a long time has been between the upper and nether millstones represented respectively by Russia and France; both these powers take as deep an interest in the conduct of affairs of the Ottoman foreign office as the Sublime Porte himself does, and neither of them under any circumstances will permit Great Britain to become greater than it is by securing even a square acre of land or a stagnant pool of water within that tract of coveted territory lying between the western part of the far east and the eastern and southern parts of Europe recognized

as the highway to India. The terms of the treaty called for the almost unlimited occupancy of Egypt by the forces of England, in addition to which certain executive privileges were to be granted, thus securing a firm frontier footing and a vantage ground the prestige of which alone would have put Her Majesty's government a long way ahead of all contestants in the struggle for control over the territory forming the threshold of that wealthy nation whose Empress she is without its consent. To this scheme, of course, France and Russia put in an instant and impressive demurrer, accompanying it with entreaties, expostulations, inducements and threats; the former went so far as to pledge assistance to any needed extent if Turkey would resist the encroachments of England, a tender which the Ottoman ministry, for effect it is to be presumed, indignantly declined and even snubbed their would-be champion. But it was not so with the Sultan himself, and without his signature nothing could be done. He has been pretty badly harassed and is doubtless in that frame of mind in which one does not know what he ought to do. On the one hand is the oral agreement usually binding in honor, with the protection of the most powerful of the European nations behind the formal ratification; on the other are two nations nearly as powerful closer by, and determined to make war if the Porte assents. The question then arises—What assistance could England possibly be to Turkey with such a monstrous struggle on her hands, more particularly when both were determined to prevent the delivery of the valuables even if the deed to them had been properly executed, and whose first movement would be to effectually erase Turkey from the map of the future? If the contemplation of such a dilemma as this is perplexing, what must the realization of it be? To decide either way was evidently to provoke if not bring on early hostilities, from which the bone of contention could not reasonably hope for exemption. Perhaps, if the dispatches inform us correctly, the Sultan has done the best that could be done under the circumstances, since, while powerless to give satisfaction all around, he has taken such action as will not be likely to produce an immediate outbreak and one that adds as little fuel to the flames as any other course would have done.

A WRONG VIEW.

CHICAGO people are greatly exercised over the possibility of the Supreme Court of the State of Illinois granting a new trial to the condemned anarchists. Some of the papers of that city assert that such a judicial act would be nothing short of a calamity and they sound a sort of advance protest on the subject. The *Journal* is quite pronounced upon the matter and says: "If a court should interfere to shield them from punishment, it would grossly violate its duty, and would be worthy of the severest execration." This is certainly an erroneous view. Should the court find that various errors and mistakes were made during the conduct of the trial it will be its duty to grant the appellants a new one. It is folly to stigmatize people who hold this opinion as being in active sympathy with the Anarchists and their methods. They merely insist that the forms of law should be adhered to, otherwise there will be no assurance of its continuous protection. It is a lesser cause of demoralization even for a guilty person to escape punishment than that the forms and requirements of law should be violated on account of a feverish anxiety—either public or otherwise—to convict.

ENTHUSIASM.

All the People Join in the Celebration.

A MAGNIFICENT PARADE.

For some time prior to the Fourth it was evident that all classes of the population of this city were infused to a marked extent with a determination to celebrate in earnest the nation's natal day. But the result as witnessed during the proceedings and developments of the day far exceeded the general expectation of what the occasion would bring forth.

During the whole of the previous night there was an incessant sound of explosives, from the small boy's fire cracker to the booming cannon. The spirit of celebration was certainly rampant during that night, and dawn only served to stimulate it. Flags were flying everywhere, and public buildings and private residences in all parts of the city were adorned with bunting. Enormous quantities of fireworks were consumed during the day and evening, and there was a very general disposition to hilarity. Considering the occasion excellent order prevailed and no disturbance of the peace worthy of note, occurred.

Of course the

GRAND FEATURE OF THE DAY

was the procession. There seemed to be a general desire to get it started on time, and persons taking part in it were nearly all astir at an early hour. It