

## DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - MARCH 12, 1873.

## PASSED AWAY.

THE Forty-second Congress has dissolved, and this is still a living, growing, prosperous community, which is a thing to be thankful for, seeing the slanderous, venomous, tremendous efforts which have been made to destroy it. That a reign of anarchy or drumhead law has not been inaugurated in this goodly Territory has not been the fault of the unscrupulous rule-or-ruin ring, for that body of worthies have tried their utmost to drive Congress into the enactment of one of the most proscriptive and barbarous laws ever seriously proposed in a free country.

The Frelinghuysen bill, as originally presented to the Senate, was of a most radically revolutionary nature, subverting the whole theory and practice of republicanism and the genius of American government, taking away from the people at one fell stroke those precious rights and privileges expressly reserved to them in the constitution, and conferring upon half a dozen strangers, adventurers, decayed politicians, more than imperial powers.

The bill as amended by its assumed author and farther modified by the Senate, certainly was not so objectionable as the original, but still it was a foul blow at republican institutions, free government, and the rights and liberties of the citizens. It was an entering wedge, designed to effect the destruction of all republicanism, all self-government in the Territories, in this Territory at least. But we may say in all the Territories and in all the States, for violation feeds and grows and strengthens upon violation, and whatever of this kind might be done in this Territory in the way of unconstitutional measures would be done substantially in other Territories and in the States until such policy would become the general if not the universal rule, instead of the sole exception. Precedents, once established, do not fail to have their weight for good or evil, according to their nature, so that a precedent of a very radical, subversive, revolutionary, destructive nature, like the passage of a law of the Frelinghuysen Utah bill order, is not a thing to be established by a deliberative body in a hurry, in indecent haste, at the immediate end of a session and as one of the last acts of an expiring legislative body, at the express instance, the vehement request, and the frantic pressure of two or three failing and intriguing politicians and a handful of carpet-bag conspirators against the peace of the whole Union in general and a remote territory in particular.

Whether or not the House acted on this bill in question is not known here at the present writing, but the presumption is in the negative. No matter about that, either way it will not materially affect the ultimate triumph of principles. Whether Congress has passed any such bill, or whether it has not, all our citizens have to do is simply to continue faithful in the performance of those things which they know or verily believe are within the scope of their duty, leaving results in the hands of Providence. The old advice is still the best that can be given in any situation—"Do what is right, let the consequence follow," for the all-sufficient reason that the consequence must be right.

Since writing the above the despatches inform us that the House laid the Utah bill aside.

THE FRELINGHUYSEN BILL.—The Omaha Herald has the following—

The Senate had the sense to eviscerate from the Frelinghuysen bill to regulate Mormon morality and religion, its most odious features. Right of appeal to the Supreme Court is expressly given in criminal cases, and it provides for allowing juries to be drawn by a mixed Commission of which the Utah Legislature is to select two to aid in the selection. Grant's personal interference with efforts to pass the bill disgusted many Senators of the Grant persuasion, including the magnificent Nye.

The Washington correspondent of the Chicago Times, writing February 26, to that paper, says of the

provision in the bill concerning a freed spouse or consort sharing her late husband's property, "This provision was objected to by Mr. Casserly and others on the ground that it would be a temptation to mischievous lawyers to stir up litigation."

Further of the bill he says—

There was a long discussion in the Senate to-night over the propriety of allowing an appeal from the Territorial Supreme Court to the United States Supreme Court, and it was finally decided to allow appeals in capital cases. During the debate on the subject, the district courts of the United States were freely criticised, and Senator Carpenter said that the whole system of federal courts would shortly be reorganized and relieved of its present anomalous condition. Senator Stewart predicted that the bill would break down completely when in operation, because the system was too costly.

The Evanston Age has the following—

The President is urging the passage of the Utah bill. A little interest on his part to secure the expulsion of dishonest Senators and Congressmen would be better appreciated by the country. It is certainly as desirable to get rid of thieves in office as it is to get rid of polygamy.

## FAILED.

As a matter of fact the movement to obtain special legislation against Utah failed in the forty-second Congress, notwithstanding the frantic efforts made in each of its sessions, but especially in the last to drive through such legislation. Upon the effecting of legislative action of that kind the hopes of the ring here were based, after the blow to their expectations by the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States a few months back. The hopes of the wicked frequently fail, and sometimes at the very moment of long expected triumph. Such was the case in the present instance, and it is certain that though man proposes, God disposes and overrules for good.

No special legislation of the kind urged was needed. If it had been accomplished, it would have been purely a work of supererogation, though not one to redound to the credit of the workers. If the officials of this Territory would endeavor to do their plain duty honestly, in accordance with the law and the constitution and in the true spirit of American liberty, there would be found little need of any very material change in the laws of the Territory, or of the laws applicable to the Territory, so far as they are strictly in accordance with the spirit of the time honored charter of American government. But sorry we are to have cause to say it, the legislation that is so eagerly sought for and so rampantly pushed upon Congress is of a diametrically opposite character, depriving the people of their rights and thrusting almost all power into the hands of a very few persons who are not in union, harmony or sympathy with the people, not chosen by them, but imposed upon them in opposition to their well-known and plainly enough manifested desires. This is not republicanism, it is imperialism, it is despotism, it is at deadly enmity with both republicanism and democracy. Therefore do we consider that Congress and the country have cause for congratulation that this desired but disastrous kind of legislation was not brought about in the forty-second Congress, that the efforts of the originators and promoters of such legislation proved conspicuously futile.

It may be yet that a special session will be called and that some kind of a proscriptive Utah bill will be passed therein. Be that as it may, it will be all right. But of this thing we are well enough assured—if Congress knew the situation and the character of the Utah ring as well as we do, no such legislation would ever be dreamed of by the solons who assemble in Washington.

## NOT VERY ELEVATING.

THE Congress just expired in its last days did not present a very dignified spectacle, nor one of a character to inspire unlimited confidence in a creditable future for the country. Senators and Representatives, including some of the very highest and most honored names, stood charged with bribery and other corrupt practices and narrowly escaped impeachment or expulsion. Nor was their es-

cape altogether satisfactory to the country at large. Rather we might say that the fact that so much dishonesty as was evident in somebody or other in high place, and in more than one, should go unpunished, was not relished by the people. The example was bad, and it cannot but have an unfavorable influence on the country.

Then there were the sorry pictures of the House harangued by a Territorial delegate in furtherance of unconstitutional procedure against another Territory; of the Senate passing such a bill, though shorn of many of its most outrageous features; and of the highest officer in the whole Union, according to report, leaving the executive chair to visit the halls of Congress purposely to urge the passage of and help to roll through a very sinister piece of special legislation against a feeble, harmless, orderly and remote portion of the population, pushed forward by its promoters in the hurry of desperation. There is no doubt that the President was basely misinformed and grossly deceived respecting the true condition of affairs in this part of the Union, and hotly urged to lend his personal and official influence to the effecting of legislation favorable to the Utah ring of conspirators against the peace and prosperity of the Territory. Any man is liable to be deceived by the misrepresentation of interested and zealous individuals.

It is sufficiently manifest that a couple of Territorial delegates were anxious to induce the President to favor any bill, no matter how unjust, how illiberal, how proscriptive, how unconstitutional, nay even how monstrous, against a small number of the citizens of the republic, and on matters chiefly of a religious character, which Congress is expressly enjoined from legislating upon.

Now we ask, in a frank and friendly manner, if action of this kind can be reasonably considered a creditable thing, if it was a spectacle to be admired, an example to be emulated? We are unable to see it in any such light, and we think that statesmen will be ashamed of it when they have a more perfect understanding of the true situation, of the real character of the people here and the character of the ringists and the especial animus of their malevolent action towards Utah.

On the accounts named and for the benefit of the example one could wish that in the legislative halls at Washington had been presented a more noble, a more admirable spectacle, an example more worthy of general emulation, than was presented in the last days of the Congressional term just closed.

## THE PRESIDENT'S SOUTHERN TOUR.

THE announcement a few days ago that President Grant, owing to public business demanding his presence in Washington, would be obliged to defer for the present his proposed tour, with the members of his cabinet and other high functionaries, through the Southern States, would be a disappointment to many, and the postponement is a thing to be regretted. Portions of the South are still in anything but a satisfactory condition, and their true condition is a subject of misrepresentation by some classes of persons who have access to the public, and perhaps influence with those who are in power. There is reason to think that the Southern people would have been pleased to have the President and other high officers of the Government travel among them, and see with their own eyes and hear with their own ears of the actual situation. There is nothing like personal contact and actual ocular and auricular experience for the acquisition of a correct idea of men and things. A visit of the ruling authorities of the federation could not fail of resulting in a more perfect understanding of the situation and grievances of the South, and that would be the first best step towards a satisfactory removal of those grievances. The Savannah (Georgia) Republican, says, "If the President would only travel with his eyes open, and see and judge for himself the actual condition of things South, and the character of those who claim to be his special representatives, the trip might do him and us good. He will then certainly return a sadder and wiser man. Let him come by all means."

Similar things might be said of Utah. If the President and his cabinet were to come here and see with his own eyes and judge for himself of the actual condition of things, he would have a much more accurate idea of it than he appears to have as it is, and he might not have so high an opinion of some of his "representatives" as he seems to have now. A proposed Presidential trip to California was some time ago talked of, and then announced as deferred or given up. It would be a very good thing if the President and his cabinet could find time, at an early date, not only to visit the South but to extend the visit to the Pacific Coast, or at least to Utah. Such trips or tours could be made highly interesting to him and his cabinet, and they could hardly fail of resulting in the enhancement of the general welfare. The more people know of each other the better they understand each other, and the more thoroughly they understand each other the more easy is it to come to a satisfactory adjustment of any existing or future differences, if both parties earnestly and sincerely adopt the motto, "Let us have peace."

## SEEMS TO BE SPREADING.

THE feeling in favor of legalizing and licensing prostitution seems to be spreading, under the specious term of regulating it. St. Louis some time ago sanctioned this vice by legalizing it, and energetic efforts have been made in San Francisco to accomplish a similar object. At the last session of the Nevada Legislature an attempt was made to pass a bill much like the St. Louis law, for that State. Another attempt is in progress during the present sitting of that Legislature. The committee on public morals (save the mark) have the bill before them, and the Territorial Enterprise understands that the chances are in favor of the passage of the bill—at least in the Assembly. The provisions of the bill are said to be exceedingly stringent. It provides for a registry of all houses of prostitution and the names of their inmates; for the appointment by the Board of Aldermen or Town Trustees of an examining physician; that no house of prostitution shall be opened or conducted without a permit; that "every bawd, lewd woman or courtesan occupying a private room or rooms shall be regarded as a brothel-keeper," and taxed accordingly; that medical examinations shall be made weekly of all courtesans, and that a hospital shall be provided and maintained for their care; that all brothel-keepers shall pay \$10 per month and all courtesans \$6 per month, to go into a hospital fund.

The San Francisco Pioneer talks in this wise of legislation of this most vicious character:

LEGALIZING SIN.—The city of St. Louis, which claims to be the proud metropolis of the Great West, has legalized prostitution, and the ordinances in relation thereto are of a most infamous character. The City Council of that "virtuous" capital ought to be arrested for publishing "obscene literature" and suffer the severest penalties. A like villainous enactment is proposed for Albany, New York, Washington and other cities. That venerable apostle of chastity, Dr. Holland, proposes to engraft the atrocity upon San Francisco. The charming old sinner ought to study the Lord's Prayer (profit thereby) and not plagiarize the St. Louis ordinance.

A FATAL DISEASE.—Some of the California papers have accounts of a prevalent and fatal disease at Deer Creek, Tehama county, in that State, which has baffled the physicians and spread terror among the residents. The disease, it is represented, commences with a chill, which is succeeded by a fever, after which follow spasms and convulsions, which throw the patient into a stupor, from which he never recovers. One paper states that the disease is only a malignant type of chills and fever, and that it is no mystery to competent physicians. However, a number of deaths are reported from its attacks.

The San Francisco Chronicle states that Dr. Olendorff, of Red Bluff, thinks the disease is meningitis, is the offspring of miasma, and is confined to the low miasmatic portion of Deer Creek, and that persons suffering from chills and fever and those generally in a low state of health are predisposed to meningitis. Children generally are affected by it, few adults being attacked. The symptoms are first, chills succeeded by fever, accompanied by

rigor of extremities and turning back of head, but there is no facial contortion, and the abdominal muscles in no case have been implicated. Stridius of glottis and thorax occurs generally with the first appearance of convulsion symptoms.

NOT GOOD TO BE ALONE.—A special to the Cincinnati Commercial says there is a report, which has every appearance of accuracy, in circulation to the effect that the Vice President elect is soon to renounce his single miseries and take a wife. Miss Edes, a wealthy and cultivated lady of Washington, who is very popular in society, is said to be the party of the second part.

THINKS THEY OUGHT TO GIVE IT UP.—The Alta California thinks "the Mormons should give up any reliance upon supernatural aid. If polygamy has no better reliance for its preservation it may as well give up."

ANOTHER CHANCE.—The Washington correspondent of the New York Herald, writing February 23, says—

UTAH HAS ANOTHER CHANCE YET.—The Utah question will not be disposed of by the House Judiciary Committee this session, and the law must remain as at present until the next session of Congress.

## COLFAXIANA.

THERE could hardly be a more conspicuous example of the truth of the Scripture statement that "favor is deceitful," than is furnished by the career of Mr. Schuyler Colfax. The one great object of his whole public life appears to have been to secure the good opinion of the public, and in order to do that he assumed the role of "piety" and "virtue." He has evidently been anxious to acquire a reputation like that which Caesar wished for his wife, not only unsullied but unsuspected, and to accomplish this ambition his outward character was invariably affable. Suavity he cultivated to a high degree, insomuch that he became known as the Great American Smiler. For pleasantness of demeanor he was generally accorded the belt of championship among public men, and politicians especially are inclined to assume winning ways towards the public, or at least that portion of it from which they hold or expect in any wise to hold their lease of public life and public favor. Schuyler was king in complaisance, to such an extent indeed as to sacrifice that frankness, that openness, that ingenuousness of speech and general conduct, which is the very essence of honor and integrity, the backbone of moral courage.

This apparent purpose of his proved a signal and lamentable failure. Just in the last great moments of his public life, when he undoubtedly hoped to retire flushed with success and laden with honors, the platform on which he walked suddenly gave way, and he was precipitated from the heights of political glory to the depths of — we leave it to the reader's imagination. He was caught in a trap, from which his "piety," his "virtue," his suavity was utterly inadequate to save him.

As a matter of course, in his great misfortune his most ardent admirers think he has been ill-used and they sympathize with and defend him, while many of his old friends and companions "go back on him," and his political enemies lampoon him unmercifully. The New York Herald has been very severe upon him.

The New York Tribune says—

A Connecticut newspaper quotes the celebrated Colvin case in New Hampshire in behalf of Mr. Colfax. This is the case where they found the entire remains of a murdered man, down to his brass buttons, in Colvin's fire-place; Colvin confessed the killing in the most circumstantial way; a jury convicted him, and he was hung. Afterward they found the murdered man in New Jersey teaching school. This story is always cited in desperate cases. There is no record of its ever having made any difference with the jury, but they always listen to it with profound interest. We had hoped the Vice-President might escape this, but it was ordered otherwise. And yet the parallel is not complete. Colvin confessed.

The Buffalo Express, a leading Republican journal, in western New York, talks on this wise—

It is not pleasant to kick a man when