GOVERNOR WELLS ON ROBERTS CASE.

He Is Interviewed by the San Francisco Examiner.

SAYS POLYGAMY IS DEAD

And That the War Against Mormonism is Misdirected.

CONGRESS MUST DETERMINE

Whether a Man With More Than One Wife is Eligible to a Seat in Congress.

In response to requests from the New York Journal and San Francisco Examiner, Governor Heber M. Wells furnished the following terse and well expressed contribution to the current "Roberts" literature. If the same opportunity is given to the press to both sides of the controversy, the American public will be able to discern the truth in the midst of the mist which has been raised around the simple question involved:

Mormonism is alive and well but polygamy is dead. Eastern people make the mistake always of associating the two together, as if they were synonymous. They are utterly distinct and separate. The Mormons have abandoned polygamy as plural marriage absolutely. Lorenzo Snow, the President of the Church, in line in his determination to uphold the manifesto of the former President, discontinuing plural marriages. The laws of the Church will not allow plural marriage without the sanction of the President and the President has declared that no such marriages have been contracted since 1890 and that none will be permitted in the future so long as he is President. Mr. Snow is a very honorable man as well as a very resolute one and the American people may rely upon his word.

The war being waged against Mormonism is misdirected. Those engaged in it are poor marksmen. Their aim is as bad as the Spanish Mormonism did not elect Mr. Roberts. The Democratic party did it. Who doubt the Journal put the responsibility where it belongs? Republican Mormons worked and voted against Mr. Roberts and they resent the accusation that it was Mormonism that elected him. The facts are that Mormon and Gentile Democrats nominated and elected him, and Mormon and Gentile Republicans nominated and voted for Alma Eldredge, another Mormon but not a polygamist. Whatever glory attaches to Mr. Roberts's election belongs to those who voted for him and those who voted against him are not entitled to any share in it. As justice might it be charged that the New York newspapers, including the Journal, elected Mr. Roosevelt as that the Utah Mormons elected Mr. Roberts.

The Mormon people are not seeking to re-establish polygamy. It is wrong to force them as a people into a defensive position on that question when for eight years it has not been mooted either in their teachings or in their practices.

I think I am safe in saying as many polygamists voted against Mr. Roberts as voted for him. It is true that there are some men in Utah who have more wives than one at the time the manifesto of the former President was given and who have continued to live with their plural wives and support their families ever since rather than to abandon them. Even taking this view, I do not believe any informed person will allege that more than 15 per cent of them voted for Roberts.

So that neither Mormonism, as such, nor polygamists, as such, are entitled to the credit or discredit of his election. It was Democratic, as such, that elected him. It is my opinion that the leaders of the Mormon Church would have been pleased to see Mr. Roberts defeated after the Democratic convention nominated him for the reason that they foresaw the result might be attributed to the Church, but the leaders have been so frequently accused of interference in political affairs, that they wisely remained entirely neutral, taking no part either for or against him. None of the lower leaders in the Church affairs who are active Democrats, favored Mr. Roberts's candidacy, for the reason that they realized that if that man who are qualified as Mr. Roberts is by political distinction should be debarred from the seat, the party would be in discharging moral obligations to his family. This view is shared and is still held by a considerable number of Mormons. These are not seeking to rehabilitate polygamy, but they argue that men who were married long before it was inhibited and have remained such from motives of honor and self-respect and humanity, should, equally not to be precluded from office, and that to precludes them shuts out some of the ablest men in the state.

My own position is this: Being a Republican I was opposed to Mr. Roberts on political grounds and not being from one of the State I deemed it a duty to warn voters against the commission of an act which might be construed as a violation of those solemn pledges by virtue of which amnesty was granted to polygamists and statehood was procured. I have not changed and do not now believe that a recent provision is constitution extreme. I think Mr. Roberts's election is an evil, and I take and indeed, I hope the Democrats would have done the State more good and themselves less harm if they had nominated and elected a man who was not a Democrat. I preferred that the people of Utah should settle the matter at home rather than that the election should go to Congress, that the political ambition of one man should be subordinated rather than that the vital interests of the State should be retarded by an agitation which seemed inevitable. But the majority of the voters have expressed their will. Mr. Roberts has been fairly elected. The Democratic party has plainly told that it wants Congress to rule upon the question of Mr. Roberts's eligibility. Certainly the Journal has passed out of its usual control. It must now be determined by Congress. But the question to be presented should not be embarrassed with extraneous charges that are untrue and not pertinent to the issue. It should be considered fairly and without prejudice.

The question, as I understand it, is not whether polygamy is right or wrong, it is not whether the Mormon people are seeking to re-establish the plural marriage system. It is simply this: A man who is living and cohabiting with more than one woman as his wives eligible to a seat in Congress?

Now that things have gone so far I see no solution of the problem except by decision of Congress. It is the earnest hope that the question, shorn of all prejudice and passion, will be settled on its merits.

IN EDUCATIONAL CIRCLES.

City Board Will Meet on Thursday Evening and Reorganize.

Judge Henderson Will Probably Succeed Brigham Public School Reopened This Morning.

The board of education will meet in regular session on Thursday evening next to effect a reorganization. It will also probably fill the vacancy existing in the Fourth precinct membership caused by the resignation of Nephi M. Brigham. It is presumed that Judge Henderson will be selected to fill the place. It is likewise understood that this name will be presented by Mr. Young, the new member from the Fourth, who succeeds to the place formerly occupied by Mr. Winder, and that the board will readily acquiesce in the appointment.

It is also probable that a new paper incident will be chosen to fill the place made vacant by the resignation of Dr. Milnemark, who has removed to Winona, Minn., to take charge of the Normal school of that state. There appears to be less certainty now than a few days ago that one of the principals of the grade schools will be advanced to the position, although the friends of Professors Alvey and McKnight of the Washington and Franklin schools respectively, are diligent in their behalf in the hope that the responsibility will fall upon one of them.

The city schools opened at 8:30 a.m. today, after the holiday vacation. All the schools were in attendance for the army of young hopefuls who thronged them for the purpose of continuing their studies towards promotion and graduation.

The University and training school open their doors again on Monday morning next.

THEIR WORK APPRECIATED.

President Wattles of the Omaha Exposition Thanks Utah Commission.

Gordon W. Wattles, president of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, writes as follows to State Senator J. W. Sharp, chairman of the commission having in hand Utah's part of the big exhibit:

My Dear Judge—I cannot shake my duties as president of the Trans-Mississippi and International exposition without expressing to you my appreciation of your untiring and efficient services for your State in connection with the exposition. The work you have done for your State will not be appreciated by all its citizens, but as time goes on they will realize the importance of Utah's work more fully.

Hundreds of thousands of the Eastern visitors came here and have carried beyond measure at the magnificent display of Western products which they saw. By virtue of your efficient efforts and those of your associates, Utah had a splendid exhibit which attracted the attention of all. I personally heard during the season many favorable comments from those who had visited Utah before the marvelous beauty and variety of the resources of your young State.

I have no doubt that already forty thousand dollars have been received in Utah on account of the advertisement the State received at the exposition. The money expended by your commission will be returned to your State many times over in the business that it will receive from intending settlers, which will be made on account of this exhibit.

To you personally I feel under many obligations. You were always willing to assist in meeting the many questions we had to encounter. Your pleasant manner and honorable methods have been a source of great gratification to me in the official duties I have had to perform.

With kind regards for you and best wishes for the prosperity of your young state I remain, Very sincerely yours,

GORDON W. WATTLES, President.

ENSIGN PEARSON'S SWORD.

Blade Has Been Ordered By Governor Wells and is Now Being Made.

Will Be Embellished with Gold and Silver from Utah Mines—More Money Needed.

Definite steps have at last been taken towards the forging and presentation of a sword and scabbard to Ensign Pearson, Utah's naval representative in the Philippines.

It will be remembered that Ensign Pearson was an officer in Admiral Dewey's command in May last, when the Spanish fleet was sent to the bottom of Manila bay. It was at that time, while in charge of the Zafiro, the transport just purchased from the Spanish government, that Ensign Pearson, who's pluck the cartoonists ever of late have made so much of, performed such conspicuous and hazardous service during the engagement, and subsequently Admiral Dewey's opinion from consultation to the settlement of the Philippine question, and which was acted upon, the loss of the power and responsibility of the United States navy.

Shortly after this it was suggested that the people of Utah should in everything to contribute to a fund of sufficient size to enable the Governor to make a presentation of a sword to the young naval officer. A subscription list was circulated and Governor Wells, Senator Clark and Congressmen King, but after that the matter lagged until Governor Wells resigned. The sword the latter promised to state was for a considerable time. Finally all hope vanished upon the receipt of a letter from the Governor, in which he stated that the money had been diverted to other purposes, and that he would make a personal canvass among prominent and patriotic citizens in order that the deficit might be filled before the last and the bale be delayed to that later on sufficient contributions would come in to pay for an artistic conception. With that purpose in view a couple of energetic Salt Lake ladies have taken it upon themselves to make a personal canvass among prominent and patriotic citizens in order that the deficit may be filled and they will at once begin their work and prosecute it to a successful conclusion. They have no doubt that they will be able to do so.

The sword will be a decidedly handsome one and one of which Utah's young naval officer may be proud. It will be exclusively and artistically embellished with gold and silver taken from the mines of Utah. It is known that Pearson intends and expects to visit his friends and relatives in Salt Lake during the present year, perhaps for many months hence. Of course, continued trouble with the insurgents in the Philippines may prevent his home-coming. However, that may be, it is certain that he will be given a most enthusiastic welcome whenever he does come.

NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION.

Scandinavian's Give a Banquet to Their Aged Poor.

The Scandinavians of Salt Lake thronged the Arcade hall yesterday afternoon and evening, at a complimentary banquet tendered to honor of the poor and aged of their own nationality. The hall was artistically and prettily decorated for the occasion, and scores, warm welcome, and the good things of earth made the crowd a good happy one. The affair commenced at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Later the guests began to seat themselves at the beautifully spread tables. Toast-making, responses, singing and other interesting exercises followed, the function ending in a pleasant old-fashioned dance. Those who entertained the gathering by the delivery of humorous responses were Elder Anton H. Lund, J. A. Eklund, F. S. Fornstrom, C. A. Carlquist, Matt Iversen, Martin Christofferson, F. W. Madsen and A. W. Winberg.

Among the features of the event was the reading of the annual report showing what had been accomplished in the charitable and benevolent purposes during the past year. It is intended that this shall be the first of a series of such celebrations.

ESCAPE OF A SAFE BREAKER

A Clever Thief Digs Out of the County Jail.

Manti, Utah, Dec. 31, 1898.

To the Editor:

The man who was caught the first of the month for robbing the safe of the R. G. W. Ry. station at Mt. Pleasant on the night of Nov. 30th, and who was brought to Manti and placed in the county jail, broke out last night and made his escape. At the time of his arrest, he gave his name as George Miller, but subsequently he stated to the officers entered the jail he was discharged at making the time at the call of the marshal, which was about 8 o'clock. He got well up the grated window to plainly showed the work of the fugitive opening the cell door, as well as the method of egress. A light rope had fallen about it which, last night, and the fugitive had evidently made his escape from the window sill, and jumped down to a southeast direction. He evidently made the escape about 10 o'clock, as parties who knew not the reason that hour and 1 a.m. of morning, saw the jail door open and lights burning in the sheriff's office. The first time had been set for January 4. It has not been the belief that he will be found in the vicinity of Manti. A great deal of work has been done in the search for the escaped prisoner.

FUNERAL OF MRS. ROGNON.

Occurred from the Family Residence on Third Street Today.

All that was mortal of the wife of Mr. H. O. Rognon, the well known young mining man and attorney, was lowered into a vault in Mount Calvary cemetery today. The obsequies were conducted from the family residence on third street, commencing at 11 a.m. and were largely attended by sorrowing friends. The deceased was an artistic and accomplished young woman, particularly well known and popular in Methodist church circles in which she was an active and helpful member. The death occurred at the Holy Cross hospital on the evening of New Year's day. She was operated upon in that institution to be operated upon for a trouble which it was said could not be relieved by anything short of the surgeon's knife. To this relief she bravely submitted about ten weeks ago, but rallied very slowly from the effects of the operation. Her husband, physician, and her husband, Mr. Rognon, both being present. For a time she rallied and strong hopes were entertained for her recovery. These however, were soon in vain as mostly shown by the sad sequel of death.

DEATH OF WM. HULBERT.

Follows the Partner of His Joys and Sorrows to Another World.

Yesterday, New Year's day, a venerable Salt Lake citizen, William Hulbert, "Grandfather" Hulbert, as he was affectionately called, gave up the voyage of earthly existence and passed to another world.

Elder Hulbert was a native of London, England, and eighty-two years of age. He long ago identified himself with the religion of the Latter-day Saints and for years was one of the best known citizens of the Eleventh ward, where he resided since crossing the Great Plains. The battle was due to an accident which befell him some months ago and from which he suffered considerably. To make his suffering more severe, the aged partner of his joys and sorrows died from the result of a similar accident (just turned at one of the Salt Lake hospitals about six weeks ago. This affliction, together with his physical disability and advanced age was more than he was able to bear, and he gradually grew worse until the end came on the morning of the New Year.

The deceased leaves a large family of children, forty-two grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and a host of friends and acquaintances to mourn the passing of life's evening shadows. The funeral services will be held in the Eleventh ward meeting house, commencing at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. The body will be in state from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. of that day, at the home of his son-in-law, Albert H. Cole, No. 40 Eleventh ward, corner of second South, between Eighth and Ninth East streets. Friends of the family are especially invited to attend.

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And good Ulsters ready for it. Overcoats are all right in their place, but for real comfort those blustering, wintry days, there's nothing so comfortable as an Ulster. Ulsters come extra long, made with the large storm collars. We start the Ulsters at $6.50 for a good one; that at $7.50 and $8.50 for some really fine ones, and $12.50 or $15.00, $18.00 and $20.00 for our finest ones. Ulsters come for boys, too, $2.00 to $15.00.

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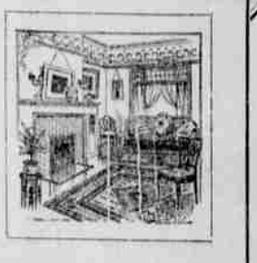

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