

EDITORIALS.

LADIES' MASS MEETING AT COALVILLE.

A mass meeting of the ladies of Summit County was held in the meeting house at Coalville, December 20th, 1879, the minutes of which were taken, but by some misunderstanding, were not forwarded to this office. Mrs. E. Davis, of Salt Lake City, by request, subsequently reported the meeting, but by postal delay the report did not reach us till recently. Since we received it, the press of matter through the Burton trial, etc., has crowded it out, and we now produce it in a very condensed form:

Mrs. S. T. Richards was called to the chair. T. Bullock was chosen secretary and Sister Boyden assistant.

The president stated the object of the meeting, when Mrs. E. Davis, of Salt Lake, read the anti-polygamy petition, circular and letter.

Spirited addresses were then delivered by Mrs. Rheid, Mrs. Marchant of Peoa, Mrs. Gentry, Mrs. M. Salaman, Mrs. Margaret Robinson, Mrs. L. J. Roundy, of Wanship, Mrs. M. Workman, Mrs. S. S. Richards, and Mrs. E. Davis, who read a letter written by herself to Mrs. President Hayes.

The following resolution was then read and adopted:

Resolved, That we the women, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, of Summit County, in mass meeting assembled, do hereby enter our solemn protest against any and every interference with our religious faith, depriving us of our rights as American citizens.

And we fully endorse the preamble and resolutions adopted by the women of the Latter-day Saints in mass meeting assembled in Salt Lake City, Nov. 16th, 1878.

Bishop R. Salmon, Elders Alma L. Smith and Thomas Bullock spoke a few words. The choir sang "Do what is right," and the benediction was offered by Sister Sarah S. Richards.

SCHOOL MEETINGS.

We are requested to answer an inquiry respecting the validity of the proceedings at a school meeting held on the 3d of March, notices of which were posted up on the 22d of February, and also whether another meeting may be called in the same year. This is a matter that anyone can understand by reading the law upon the subject. Ten days notice is the requirement therein specified. Of course nine days is not sufficient. If a tax was levied at that meeting, and any tax-payer chooses to resist collection, the trustees would fail in a legal suit. In a county where a paper is published having general circulation therein, notice for a meeting for the election of trustees or the assessment of a school tax must be advertised at least three times, and notices must also be posted up in three public places in the district. Where there is no paper the notices will answer the purpose, but they must state distinctly the time, place and object of the meeting.

If there is any likelihood of a difficulty in the district in question, in consequence of this mistake of the trustees, they had better call another meeting and take care to allow sufficient time for a legal notice. There is nothing in the law prohibiting more than one meeting of this kind in a year.

IMPORTS OR MANUFACTURES?

The establishment of home industries in this Territory is naturally beset by many difficulties. In a new country the manufacture of various needful articles assumes the character of an experiment. Obstacles arise which were overcome ages ago in the great workshops of the world, and unforeseen hindrances and expenses confront the venturesome capitalist or patient laborer who attempts to embark in any new industrial enterprise.

But the greatest drawback to successful home manufactures is outside competition. In the populous and long-settled cities of the Old World and the New, business has settled down into grooves, along which it smoothly glides without obstruction. Labor is cheap and plentiful, material is easily accessible, markets are close at hand, money draws but small interest, mechanical facilities are numerous and constantly improving, and the abundance of skill as well as muscle makes the overseer as well as the common worker anxious and eager to excel. In a new region all this is reversed, and the only offset against these immense advantages is the cost of freight from foreign factories to this market.

Over and above all this, the home manufacturer has to contend against the power of vast capital. While he can invest hundreds, his competitors command thousands and against the thousands of home companies, loom up the millions of outside corporations. The odds are great, and it is only by the sympathy and aid of the consumer that the manufacturer can be sustained.

Sentiment and business are usually pushed widely apart. Buying in the cheapest market is one of the chief aims of the shrewd merchant. "Make me an article," says he, "as good in quality and appearance as low a figure as I can lay it down here from the east or west, and I'll patronize you; if not, not." From a commercial point of view this looks quite consistent. It is of small use for the struggling worker to plead the disadvantages under which he labors and the good he is doing in providing work for the unemployed. It is simply a matter of dollars and cents, of profit or loss in the eyes of the dealer.

But a little reflection on this subject will show that there are material advantages in the encouragement of home industries that will overbalance a considerable difference between the cost of home products and imports. The money paid by the merchant for the latter goes out of the Territory and its benefits are lost to him in common with the rest of the community, while that which he expends for home products is kept for home circulation, a good share of which will come back to him. If he will help to create and foster a popular feeling in favor of home productions, the general purchaser will be willing to pay a trifle more for them than for imported goods, and thus the trader will gain as much, or nearly as much, immediately, as from the sale of imports, and will profit indirectly by the increase of business and the retention of money for local circulation consequent upon the success of home manufactures.

All who are interested either from principle or profit in the building up and development of this Territory and community, should give preference to home-made goods, particularly if they are as good and within a trifle as cheap as those of foreign manufacture, and should assist in defeating the schemes of those who seek to break up and destroy our home enterprises.

Recently a drummer from the West endeavored to induce one of our merchants to buy blankets of him to the exclusion of the home-made article, offering as an inducement a reduction in the price so as to give the dealer a greater margin for profit. The merchant declined, stating he would rather sell the home-made goods at a small profit than the imported at a large profit. Blankets and shawls made in this Territory, of sound, good, genuine wool, are really cheaper than the mixed, deceptive and really inferior foreign articles finished to please the eye for a little while.

An eastern house has been offering boots, appearing equal to those manufactured at the "Big Boot," at a lower figure, declaring that this home industry would not be allowed to exist in competition with the mammoth outside firm. But an honest boot is worth two of the cheap, "filled" and slop-made things often palmed upon the public, and with proper encouragement Utah boot and shoe makers can fill the home demand to the profit of wearers as well as workers.

The latest attempt to ride down one of our local industries is the raid on the soap trade. We have two soap factories in this city doing

a flourishing business. There were three until but a short time ago, but one, after a hard struggle against adversity, has succumbed. It was only a small concern, but manufactured most excellent soap. Mr. Henry Snell, and the Utah Soap Manufacturing Company each make a splendid article, fully equal and some think superior to the best eastern brands, and it is sold as cheaply. One big firm, which has done an immense business in Utah, has now determined to crush out these enterprises, and has reduced the price of its goods. That house adopted the same policy when Omaha started to make soap, and after succeeding in crippling the business there and retaining its grip on the trade soon raised the price again. There is no doubt that the same process will be repeated here if the people are foolish enough to aid and abet the scheme.

Now the best policy for our friends to pursue is plain. By patronizing such industries as we have named we benefit the community. Every local manufacturing institution that can be conducted on fair principles provides employment for labor, trades for our youth, and business of a general character. Consumers should ask for such home-made articles as are placed on the market, and take them in preference to others. Dealers should put them forward and bring them into notice. Men who spend their time and invest their means in home manufactures should not be left to struggle single-handed against great capitalists and gigantic corporations, who seek only to bleed the Territory and fatten while we fail. It is a disgrace to any community to foster foreign speculators and starve out its own artisans. And such a course by the Latter-day Saints is not only suicidal to their own best interests, but a sin against God and a violation of the spirit and the letter of their most holy faith. Think upon it.

WRONG, AS USUAL.

A FEW years ago the people of this Territory were expected to bow down in mute worship before the wonderful wisdom of the judicial trinity, exalted by the arbitrary power of the Federal Government to the position of U. S. Judges for Utah. To regard them with anything less than awe, or to venture an opinion in opposition to their rulings, was denounced as rebellion and quoted as proof of the contumacy and treasonable spirit of the "turbulent Mormons." But time and experience have manifested to all classes of the community the fallibility of the idols of the bench, and proven that they are not only subject to the errors common to common humanity, but are singularly prone to taking the wrong view of important subjects.

The latest demonstration of this indisputable fact is the case of Mary G. Hussey vs. Job Smith, which has been decided by the U. S. Supreme Court. Mr. Smith had the right of possession under our old local statutes to a piece of property in this city, which he mortgaged to Dr. Bernhisel. The mortgage not being lifted in due time, it was foreclosed, and the property was sold, under decree of court, by the U. S. Marshal. Mr. Jennings became the purchaser and he conveyed it to Mrs. Hussey. The land in this city then being entered under the townsite law, the right to this piece of property was disputed, and was decided in favor of Mr. Smith, who was allowed to file on it. The case came before the Third District Court, and subsequently before the Supreme Court of the Territory, and both courts affirmed Mr. Smith's title. The principal ground on which this decision was reached was the alleged lack of authority of the Marshal to make the sale.

There were two Marshals in this Territory previous to the passage of the Poland bill: the United States Marshal, who executed the process of the courts in United States cases, and the Territorial Marshal, who performed that duty in cases arising under the laws of the Territory. The District and Supreme Courts here ruled out the latter officer and put all his business into the hands of the United States Marshal. But the decision of the Supreme Court

of the United States in the Engelbrecht case proved that this was wrong, and that the judicial trinity had made a terrible blunder. When this land case came up before them they recognized their mistake, but only to plunge into another which was worse than the first. For they not only remanded the United States Marshal to his proper place, but by their decision in this case repudiated the acts he had performed while the *de facto* officer of the court. This the Supreme Court of the United States declares was "a gross error," because

"During all this time the Marshal's acts were valid as being those of an officer *de facto*. They were as much so as if they had been done by him *de jure*. An officer *de facto* is not a mere usurper, nor yet within the sanction of law, but one who *colore officii* claims and assumes to exercise official authority, is reported to have it, and the community acquiesces accordingly."

The consequence is that the *de facto* Marshal's sale was valid, and therefore all right and claim to the property held by Mr. Smith passed to Dr. Bernhisel and so on to Mrs. Hussey.

It is curious and amusing to note the many instances in which the vaunted judgment and supernal wisdom of those who assumed to be our judicial masters, have been proven lamentably weak and remarkably stupid. We presume that we shall no longer be expected to worship and adore them as the embodiment of legal light and learned majesty. Ichabod?

"MRS. PRESIDENT HAYES."

THE New York *Graphic*, of March 8th, contains a well written article on the position occupied by "Mrs. President Hayes." The remarks of the *Graphic* were prompted by the appeals that have been made to the President's wife on the polygamy question, and particularly by a two-column letter in the *Chicago Tribune*, addressed to Mrs. President Hayes, as the *Graphic* says, "by a person signing herself 'Mrs. Ann Eliza Young,' asking the lady to 'exert her influence against that vast and increasing crime.'"

The *Graphic* asks, "Are these persons so ignorant as to really think that Mrs. Hayes is President of the United States; that they appeal to her for aid in political difficulties?" Or, finally, do they think that Mrs. Hayes would so far forget her dignity as to lobby against or in favor of measures of legislation pending in Congress or before the Executive?"

We do not suppose that the women who appeal to Mrs. Hayes reflect much upon the inconsistency of their course. They, no doubt, expect her to use a private influence over Mr. Hayes in his public capacity as President. American women have with nearly as great lack of wisdom made appeals to Queen Victoria for the passage of laws affecting their sex in England, ignorant, apparently, of the fact that the Queen has no actual legislative powers, but is a mere puppet in the hands of her ministry. There is some excuse for those who petition the Queen, because they might suppose that as the nominal head of the nation she could do something in the desired direction. But Mrs. Hayes, though a most excellent lady, holds no official position whatever, and therefore the applications of anti-polygamists to her are simply ridiculous.

The *Graphic* alludes to the visit of two Mormon women to Mrs. Hayes, asking her "to stand between the women of Utah and harm." We remind that paper that these ladies were delegates from Utah to the Woman Suffrage Convention, and called on Mrs. Hayes while at the capital, with other ladies. They made no appeal to her, officially or otherwise, but merely, in conversation, presented their side of the marriage question, in answer to appeals that had been made to Mrs. Hayes by an anti-polygamy society of this city.

The *Graphic* shows that if petitions on polygamy are tolerated, petitions on land grants, subsidies, appointments, etc., will become common, and concludes by saying:

"We do not propose to acknowledge the existence of an Associate

President, unknown to the Constitution or the laws, who is supposed to be keeper of conscience and complete master of the constituted Executive."

To all of this we say, Amen, and hope that the anti-polygamy fanatics will learn a little wisdom, and season their proceedings with a little common sense, though perhaps this is too much to expect of them.

THE PLAGUE.

IN view of the speculations and alarms that are rife concerning the breaking out of the plague in Russia, its origin, and the possibility of its spread over Europe and introduction into the United States, the following, from the official report for March 5th, of the Surgeon-General United States Marine Hospital Service, will prove interesting and valuable:

"Official reports of European medical officers in China show conclusively that true 'bubonic plague' has prevailed extensively in that empire during the 30 years preceding 1873, when it was supposed to be wholly extinct. The reports also show that owing to the meagre facilities for communication with Central Asia, virulent epidemics may ravage extensive districts of that country without any knowledge of their existence extending to Europe. The reports present records of the disease having prevailed in the province of Yunnan, to which it seems to have been introduced from Burmah, during 20 of the 30 years in question, varying in intensity in different parts of the province, and in different years. The appearance of the disease was coincident with the breaking out of the rebellion against the Imperial government, which was longer maintained and suppressed with more violent measures, in Yunnan, than in any of the other provinces, conditions which undoubtedly contributed greatly to its virulence, as did also the superstitious practice of refusing to bury the dead, who are exposed on a bier to the sun till completely decomposed.

The plague was very prevalent in Yunnan in 1871-2-3, and in the latter year suddenly reappeared in Mesopotamia and Persia, gradually extending its area until in 1877 it reached the shores of the Caspian Sea, prevailing especially at the town of Resteh, which has a direct trade with Astrakan. In May and November, 1877, a fever of intermittent type, accompanied with glandular swellings, prevailed in the port of Astrakan and in Wetlyanka and other villages of that province; and in November, 1878, a similar affection again appeared at Wetlyanka; a few deaths had occurred up to this time, but about December 1st the disease assumed the malignant character that has marked the present outbreak. The Report of the Russian Medical Service of the Interior for 1877, which has just been made public, announces that 241 cases of Siberian plague were reported to the government during the year, the mortality being 21 per cent.; the principal outbreaks occurred in the provinces of Viatka and Tchernigow, which are at a considerable distance from each other, and were contemporaneous with, or occurred soon after, the virulent prevalence of the disease in Persia.

From the above facts, which have been obtained from official sources, and are in the main well attested, it seems proper to conclude that instead of the late outbreak being due to the spontaneous regeneration of the virus of the plague in the Valley of the Volga, or at the farthest, in Persia, the disease was reintroduced from China into Persia and thence to Russia, local conditions in each instance probably favoring the development. Of these conditions no authentic account will be obtained until the International Commission of Experts who are visiting the infected district make their report. The return of cold weather, combined with the stringent means adopted by the government, seem to have confined the late violent outbreak to the limited district where it first appeared. The American ministers to Austria and to Russia report that the disease has manifested such an extremely virulent and contagious character that great alarm exists in the whole of Eastern Europe, and urge upon the government the necessity of taking measures to prevent the pos-