

VIGILANCE COMMITTEES IN THE EAST.

SOME two or three weeks ago the telegraphic dispatches contained the announcement that preliminary measures were being taken, for the formation of Vigilance Committees in the different wards of the city of New York. The announcement seemed so improbable, coming, as it did, from the national metropolis, whose government is confessedly the most expensive of any city in the world, that it sounded too much like a sensation story to be believed. Our telegrams of to-day restate this startling intelligence, and a similar statement having appeared in the New York correspondence of some of the western papers, it seems as if there is some truth in it. The paragraph in this morning's dispatches reads: "Vigilance Committees are secretly organizing for the suppression of crime by co-operation with honest officials and concerted action against corruption."

This is one of the very strongest commentaries upon the degeneracy of the times. The formation of Vigilance Committees in the unsettled portions of the country has been, perhaps, in some instances, to some extent justifiable, but the necessity for the existence of such an institution is always to be regretted. When, however, circumstances are of a nature that such organizations are considered necessary in the great centers of trade and population of the country it is an indication of an alarming state of affairs. The aristocratic and conservative systems of Europe have long since been weighed in the balances, and, by the republicans of America at least, have been pronounced "wanting," but they are far from being reduced to a necessity like this. Under them law is respected, and the integrity of its administrators has hitherto been so far above suspicion, that in the great majority of cases, where violations of any branch of State or Municipal law have been perpetrated, the offenders have been promptly brought to justice, and thus the peace and good order of society at large have been preserved.

In our own land, once the boast and pride of all good men and the hope of the oppressed in every nation, the case seems to be different. Venality and corruption of the most irreclaimable type seem to have spread to almost every corner of the land. Politicians, parsons and members of the press seem alike tainted, and the saying of Isaiah seems to be specially applicable to our own times, "as with the people so with the priest; as with the servant so with his master; as with the maid so with her mistress; as with the buyer so with the seller; as with the lender so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury so with the giver of usury to him."

The love of the "fainthearted dollar," as Washington Irving termed it, seems to be so strong among the Americans as a people, that honor and integrity are freely sacrificed to obtain money, and the woe pronounced in Holy Writ upon him that maketh haste to get rich seems to be overtaking the nation. This greed for gold is not confined to any particular class, but ecclesiastics and law-makers and administrators seem to be troubled with the same infirmity. But the other week the news came by telegraph that prominent reverends in the East were known to gamble extensively in stocks, that church funds had been used for this purpose, and that at least one church had been mortgaged to gratify the itching palm of some of these priestly jobbers.

Among the reasons assigned for the formation of Vigilance Committees in New York is the fact that criminals, no matter how guilty nor of what crimes accused or convicted, can escape the punishment awarded by the law. If the "ring" to which they belong, whether it be the burglars', whisky, internal revenue, Erie or any other is only rich enough to pay the necessary bribe. What hope is there for real reform when the power which wealth confers is used for such disgraceful purposes? The formation of Vigilance Committees, and the summary execution of a few criminals may temporarily check the commission of crime; but when the laws of a State can not be enforced legitimately, the formation of Vigilance Committees will be of little avail in regenerating society.

If such organizations were composed wholly of individuals who would be influenced in their judgments by justice alone, the evils which they design to remedy might be abated; but there is little ground to hope this. In all such committees there is a fear that some of the members will be actuated more or less by personal feelings and private piques in carrying out their dread decrees. It is not in the nature of things to be otherwise. Where irresponsible power is held by a private organization an abuse of that power is all but inevitable. If once such a movement is inaugurated in New York we may expect similar measures in other large cities of the Union, and the abuse of power, sure to follow, will increase partisan strife and bitter feelings and lead to evils of a

more serious nature than those they are designed to suppress.

The formation of the first Vigilance Committee, whatever might have been the design of its originator, sapped the foundation of law, order and the peace of society; and the movement now contemplated in the East, if carried out, will most probably result in consequences of the most serious and fatal character. With Vigilance Committees in the leading cities of the North, Ku-klux and other organizations of a similar character spread over the South, we may confidently look for outrages and violence to be committed which for number and atrocity may far surpass the doings of the once-terrible Council of Ten in Venice; and help to bring about that time spoken of by the Prophet Joseph Smith, when city shall be against city, and when safety can not be anywhere found, except in Zion.

If the law-makers of the nation and the religious teachers of the people at large will use the power they possess, like wise stewards, they may yet cultivate public opinion to such a point of excellence that the law-breaker must suffer the penalty irrespective of wealth or social position. This is the only effective course to pursue; all others, including even the formation of a Vigilance Committee in every ward of every city of the Union, will assuredly fail.

(Special to the Deseret Evening News.)

By Telegraph.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

Sherman presented a petition for the recognition, in the Constitution, of Almighty God, as the source of all civil authority.

Howard, from the committee on the Pacific Railroad reported adversely, and asked to be discharged from further consideration of a large number of bills and memorials, for granting aid in the construction of railroads.

Wilson, from the Military Committee, reported adversely to the joint resolution for graded Lieutenant-General, Admiral and Vice-Admiral.

Wilson introduced a bill to establish a line of American steamers between the United States and Europe. It provides for the setting apart of an amount not exceeding two millions annually for ten years, from the money received by the United States for ocean and inland postage on foreign mails. The payment of contracts is to be made by the Postmaster-General with citizens of the United States for the transportation of foreign mails on American steamers, numbering not less than two nor more than four, to depart monthly from New York, and from two to four from Boston. The steamers are to be at least 2,800 tons register, and equal in speed to steamships of a similar class. They must carry free, all agents of the United States Government, and all mail matter from the P. O. Department; but the United States shall receive the postage therefrom. The Postmaster-General is to pay from the fund provided \$20,000 for each round voyage, provided that the amount derived from postage be sufficient; if not, such sum as may be derived are to be apportioned ratably for each ship and each voyage. In time of war the Secretary of the Navy may take possession of any or all of these steamships for use in the service of the United States; the owners are to be compensated by the United States for any damage the vessels may sustain. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Edmonds' resolution, relative to counting the vote of Georgia, for President, was taken up, and, after discussion, was passed, 34 to 11.

The morning hour having expired, the Constitutional Amendment was brought up, which was discussed by Saulsbury in opposition, and Frelinghuysen in its favor.

Davis took the floor and announced his desire to speak for several hours, when the Senate took a recess.

HOUSE.

Ward introduced a bill filling the time for the election of representatives to Congress on the Tuesday after the first Monday in December in each alternate year, and also providing for the registration of electors by inspectors appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, prescribing the mode of naturalization; also that the naturalization papers held by persons in cities, numbered over 20,000, issued since January 1st, 1884, shall be surrendered within a year and new ones taken.

A number of bills were introduced and referred. Two constitutional amendments were offered, also several memorials and resolutions from State Legislatures.

Julian introduced a joint resolution to prevent further sales of the public lands, except as provided under the present laws and honest laws, regulating grants of lands to railroads, and limiting the sales of lands to actual settlers to an amount not greater than a quarter of a section. Hopkins moved to lay the joint resolution on the table; lost 33 to 133. The morning hour having expired the resolution went over to Monday next.

The next business in order was Schenck's motion to suspend the rules and take up the Senate amendment to the copper tariff bill, which was agreed to, 118 to 149.

Spaulding, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported back the Senate amendment to the consular appropriation bill, which was made a special order for to-morrow.

The Senate amendment was read. Pike asked if Schenck would admit of discussion. Schenck declined and moved the previous question. Brooks moved to lay the bill on the table, but his motion was lost, and the previous question was seconded and the amendment concurred in, 112 to 58.

The House went into a committee of the whole, and resumed consideration of the army appropriation bill. Several amendments were discussed, but without progress, until the House took a recess.

Petitions were presented to repeal the franking privilege. Elliot introduced a bill to regulate and protect the fur trade in Sea's Island, St. Paul, St. George and Alaska.

GENERAL.

Washington.—In the Supreme Court, to-day, Chief Justice Chase delivered an opinion, affirming the decision of the Supreme Court of Oregon, that the taxes in that State must be paid in gold and silver according to its law. The Court held that greenbacks imply satisfaction in contracts or agreements, but taxes are of a different character from such obligations, and it is competent for the State to designate the character of the money in which its taxes shall be paid.

Hon. E. Jeffries, one of the Supreme Judges of Mississippi, has presented an address to the Reconstruction Committee, proposing a plan for the restoration of the State, the first of which stipulates that Congress shall declare all the State offices vacant; the second, that Congress shall provide for the appointment of a Provisional Governor; the third, that it shall provide for the modification of the obnoxious features of the Constitution; the fourth, that it shall provide for the election of State and county officers.

The President, to-day, nominated to the Senate, W. D. Spaulding, of Ky. Consul at Yeddo; Commodore Andrew A. Holland, as Rear Admiral on the retired list; Past Assistant Paymaster Frailey, and Assistant Paymaster J. P. Loomis, Paymasters in the navy. St. Louis, 8.—An eastern bound passenger train on the Missouri Pacific Railroad run through an open switch on Saturday night, when the engine, baggage, express and smoking cars were badly wrecked; the engineer was fatally injured and two other men seriously hurt.

New York 8.—Those employing printers, held a meeting to-day, and resolved to continue their resistance to the strike of the book printers, and to employ female compositors.

The Brig *Brilliant*, from Cape Fear river, laden with resin and turpentine, was lost in a storm, January 28. The second mate was drowned; the captain and crew were rescued from the wreck and brought here by the steamer *Europa*.

A dinner was given this evening, at the Delmonicoe, to Eugene Casserly, Senator elect from California, by a number of personal and professional friends, irrespective of party and politics. Chas. O'Connor presided. Speeches were made by Samuel J. Tilden, Rev. Mr. Frothingham, J. W. Simonton, Rev. E. H. Chapin, Gen. J. Cochrane, Horace Greeley, Chas. A. Dana and others.

Boston.—O'Brien has been found guilty in the Essex Superior Court of prize fighting, which is against the laws of the State. His counsel appealed, and the case goes to the Supreme Court.

Chicago.—The *Republican's* special says Senators Wilson, Sherman and Morgan, the dissenting members on the Pacific Railroad committee, have prepared a minority report, making a general assault upon the subsidy system. They object to uniting several separate and distinct measures in one bill, each of which should stand before Congress on its own merits; they show that the scheme involves the payment of 270,000,000 in the next thirty years, and hold that security for its repayment should be guaranteed, and that the payment of the interest is altogether insufficient.

Washington.—The following Internal Revenue officers have been appointed: Franklin E. Adams, Assistant Assessor, and Michael A. Donovan, Gauger, for the 2nd district of California; Louis Philip Berry, store-keeper, for Washington Territory.

General Dix will soon resign the French missions; Elithu Washburne will probably succeed him.

New York.—Vigilance committees are secretly organizing for the suppression of crime, by co-operation with honest officials and concerted action against corruption.

Chicago.—The discussion in the Senate was protracted to all night; six o'clock this morning Wilson commenced speaking.

Baltimore.—John C. Breckenridge arrived in this city, on Saturday; he is the guest of his brother-in-law, Rev. Dr. Buell.

Washington.—A confidential agent from San Domingo is still actively engaged on behalf of the annexation scheme.

The President, in compliance with the solicitation of the friends of Mrs. Surratt, has ordered her remains to be disinterred and delivered to her relatives, with the understanding that there is to be no public demonstration whatever, but that the funeral services be privately conducted.

FOREIGN.

Havana.—The insurgents have burned eighteen large plantations in the eastern department. Cholera of a very violent type is prevalent in the insurrectionary district. The insurgents and Spanish troops and citizens are falling victims. An attempt was made to fire a powder magazine at Puerto Principe has been frustrated. Some Cuban prisoners at Parra and Annoya were killed by the troops and volunteers, while attempting to escape from the Suantanamo prison. Letters deny that they were attempting to escape. Jose Cepered, late commissioner to the insurgents, sailed to-day for America. He says he is disgusted with the state of affairs. Influential and wealthy Cuban families, who, generally sympathize with the revolution, continue to emigrate to New York and New Orleans.

London.—Advices from Athens are contradictory. It is now said that a new cabinet, under Zaimes, is formed and that peace is thereby secured.

The reported battle between the Turks and Montenegrins is denied.

Havana.—A band of insurgents, number unknown, have made their appearance on the line of railroad between Cienfuegos and Villa Clara. A detachment of troops has marched against them, and a panic prevailed at Cienfuegos. Many families, fearing that the insurrection will spread to that district have fled from the town, and have arrived in this city. Fort Cabanas, which guards the place, is garrisoned only by a battalion of volunteers. A force of regulars has been dispatched to reinforce them. On account of the outbreak at Camerones, where the first act of the rebels was to destroy a section of the railroad between Cienfuegos and Villa Clara, the *Diario* acknowledges that the situation in this district is grave. Much excitement was created at Havana by versions more or less exaggerated, of events in the central department. The approach of the rebels to the vicinity of Cienfuegos, which is the centre of a large planting district, is expected to

cause a rise in the sugar market. Several attempts at revolution have been made in the Vuelta Arajo region, and the first and fifth battalion of volunteers are under orders to proceed to that point to prevent a renewal of the disorder. Strangers continue to arrive at various points of the coast, it is supposed with the intention of joining the revolutionists. Many have been arrested on suspicion. The government has chartered several steamers and is preparing some men of war and light draft steam launches to proceed to Roman Keyes to prevent the disembarkment of an expedition from Nassau; when that is accomplished the flotilla will proceed to attack the earthworks which the insurgents lately erected at Lagunay. The rebels to the number of 300 recently assembled at Manama; they were attacked by the troops, and, according to official reports, were defeated, losing all their arms, ammunition and standard prisoners.

London.—The Standard predicts that the *Alabama* treaty will be rejected by the United States, and is sure that the next administration will not get such favorable terms for the settlement of the question.

Paris.—A dispatch from Athens says that King George declares Greece must either accept the protocol or receive his resignation of the crown.

Madrid.—Exciting rumors have been in circulation all day with regard to the Carlists; one is that the Carlists have attacked Soutones, in the province of Sawtande, but were repulsed after a sharp fight.

San Francisco 8.—The steamer John L. Stephens brings Mazatlan advices to January 3. General Gutierrez, a bandit, had been captured and was imprisoned at Durango, awaiting his trial for numerous highway robberies. Two officers, supposed to be his accomplices, have also been arrested and are at Mazatlan. Five thousand dollars in coin and a quantity of valuable jewelry have been recovered.

A conspiracy to rob the mint at Mazatlan, containing \$200,000 has been frustrated by the authorities.

Heavy rains prevailed throughout the State of Santa Fe, and have overflowed, inundating the country and destroying several villages entirely, and extensively damaging many others. The loss of life is not known, but is feared to be great. Of one family not a soul escaped. The people had sought the highlands and tree tops for safety, when they were rescued by boats. A fund for the immediate relief of the suffering was subscribed. Great suffering is the result among the poorer classes on account of the destruction of the new crops and the consequent high prices of food. Ranches have been swept away and replaced by sandy plains.

Florence.—A slight shock of earthquake was felt to-day; no damage was done.

Peeth.—The trial of Prince Alexander Kara Georgevitch, for complicity in the assassination of the late Prince of Serbia, has commenced here.

Lisbon.—The mail steamer from Rio brings news that the allies have proposed a truce to Lopez for the purpose of opening negotiations for peace.

The following article from the New York *World*, evinces more candor and correct reasoning, than is usually manifested by journalists when they treat upon that prolific subject for prolific pens—"Mormonism."

POLYGANISTS AND PURITANS.

The Cincinnati *Gazette* has unearthed a bill by James M. Ashley, of Ohio, Chairman of the House Committee on Territories, which proposes to extend the boundaries of the States and Territories which surround Utah so as to absorb Utah and wipe out the 100,000 Mormons as a distinctive community. Against this proceeding the *Gazette* protests. It is shown that for twenty-three years the Mormons have made their own laws; have created their own civilization; have made a wilderness generally attractive to American emigrants to blossom as the rose; have built up and bound together a people numbering to-day more than the population of any of the surrounding Territories, and larger than most of the adjacent States; while by all accounts the moral state of the Mormon community is in all respects, excepting one, far above that of any of the States or Territories which, if Mr. Ashley has his way, are each to take a bite out of Utah, swallowing both Territory and people.

The one exception is the prevalence of polygamy, the morality or immorality of which is clearly constructive, since its existence in Utah is shown to be no violation of human law, and its existence anywhere is not in opposition to divine law. Indeed, with the Mormons polygamy is religion; they found their social relations upon the divine law which at least permitted it, as no reader of the scriptures pretends to deny; and they claim that their withdrawal to the far West to found a community of their own was precisely from the same motive which induced the Pilgrims to land upon Plymouth Rock, to wit: that they might enjoy their own religious convictions in their own way, and without persecution or molestation. History will certainly draw a parallel between the Polygamists and the Puritans, and credit the Polygamists with minding their own business. The persecuted have not become the persecutors. What Plymouth Colony Pilgrims did to Roger Williams, the Utah Polygamists have not done to any of their own community or to their neighbors. That they have made themselves a strong, respectable, and prosperous people is evidence in their favor that their peculiar views respecting domestic relations are not necessarily opposed to social success and to the highest degree of individual and general morality. When a new class of men, with widely different notions with regard to sexual intercourse settled at Oneida in this State, there was the same desire to persecute on the part of their neighbors that Radicalism proposes now against the Mormons; but when these neighbors saw that the Communists were people of integrity, of thrift, and above all, that they were prosperous, they did not hesitate to permit their own sons and daughters to work for and associate with these people. If the new raid against Mormonism is purely upon moral grounds and if the Mormons are to be obliterated because they are "wicked," they may well retort by offsetting their polygamy against the feticism so alarmingly prevalent in New England, and show that their efforts to increase population are possibly quite as moral as the general endeavor in some States

to limit it. A comparison between the plurality of wives in one section and the prevalence of prostitutes in other sections, the readiness with which people may marry there and the forced celibacy here, might present contrasts calling for no more legislation in the one case than in the other.

Which brings us to the main point of the whole matter, which is clearly this: that government, especially what constitutes or calls itself government now-a-days, is not called upon to run the moral machine of the country. Mere morals are matters beyond legislation. We have seen to what pass the party which claimed pre-eminently to be founded upon "moral ideas" has brought the country. We see the kind of men whom this party persists in forcing into prominence. Corruption is no longer a crime, but is the very means by which the leaders in the moral party are advanced in position. Robbery is the rule and integrity the exception. Nearly all the rascalities of Radicalism in the last eight years have been effected under the cover of these "moral ideas." The country is sick of this cant. As for the morality or immorality of Mormonism, it is pretty certain that any Radical raid against polygamy is only a cover for some fresh Radical rascality in another direction. Radicalism would do well to let the morals of the country—and even of the Mormons—alone.

ARRIVAL IN ENGLAND.—By the *Millenia Star* of the 16th ult., we learn that Elder Peter Nebeker had arrived in Liverpool, from Utah, on the 16th of January. He was in good health and spirits, and was appointed to travel and labor in the Leicester and Bedfordshire Conferences.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES BY STAGE.

From the East.—H. Lovell, Geo. K. Eager, J. H. Gerrish, A. C. Earsle, Hugh Hoppy, T. Swartout, A. Wineshanks, H. Phillips, L. Meyers, Z. Snow, E. T. Green, O. B. Pettit, J. R. Liden. From the West.—J. W. Faulkner, W. C. Lipp, R. W. Page, B. Phelps, Chas. Brooks. To the East.—L. C. Overton, A. S. Merser, E. Kane, D. Parish, Frank Cloiser, W. Engstrober, Jno. Glehen, J. V. R. Wilt, J. M. English, D. Bartlett, D. R. Fliman, R. C. Page, B. Phelps. To the West.—E. E. Skae, Jno. Skae, B. H. Orvt and wife.

Died:

At Fillmore, January 4th 1899, of quick consumption, Joseph F. Son of Wm. P. and Emma Jones, born August 24, 1881. In Echo City, Utah, on Saturday the 6th inst., at 7 o'clock p.m., after an illness of six days, Mrs. Julia L. wife of Walter Davis, and daughter of Martin and Caroline Harris, in the 24th year of her age. She leaves a husband, two children and a numerous circle of friends to mourn her loss. Remains were brought to this City yesterday attended by her husband and family, to the residence of her grandfather, President John Young. The funeral services will take place to-morrow, the 10th, at 11 o'clock a.m., at the residence of President John Young, 13th Ward. Friends of the deceased are invited to attend. At Kanab City, Millard Co., January 5th, 1899, of inflammation of the lungs, William Latham Ward, aged 28 years, 1 month and 1 day. Deceased was born at Belgrave, near Leicester, England, December 10, 1870. *Mill. Star*, please copy.

Special Notices.

Alfred Best has just received a large supply of Cook and Parlor stoves, which will be sold at very low rates for Cash.

Lath for sale at J. D. Lyon Plasterer, 12th Ward.

BAILED HAY, for sale at Faust & Houtz. 11. SARD'S CHICAGO STOCK ALE on draught at the Salt Lake Billiard Room. d16 3m

THEATRE.

Lessee & Manager.—J. E. Clawson & J. T. Oleson.

MISS ANNIE

LOCKHART

Has arrived, and will shortly appear.

This Evening,

TUESDAY, FEB. 9th,

Will be presented, Dion Boucicault's world-renowned Drama, in 3 Acts, entitled,

JESSE BROWN

on

The Relief of Lucknow.

EMERACING

THE STRENGTH OF THE COMPANY.

The performance will commence with the High Comedy Farce, in 2 Acts, entitled

A ROLAND FOR AN OLIVER!

DOORS OPEN at 8 o'clock. Performance commences punctually at 7.

EASTERN LEATHER!

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED a stock of Leather from the East, consisting of French and Philadelphia Calf and Kip Skins, Lining Skins, Best of hemlock and oak tanned Sole and Upper Leather, and a variety of Boot and Shoe Findings, which I propose to sell to the public at reasonable rates.

Address GEO. C. RISER, Six doors south of Post Office.

REMOVAL!

Wholesale Dealers and Importers of

HARDWARE & CUTLERY

HAVE REMOVED TO

506 North Second Street,

ST. LOUIS,

Where they are opening the largest and most complete stock of Hardware in the West.

d27 3m

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

ELDREDGE

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Respectfully ask the

MERCHANTS OF THE

CO-OPERATIVE

MERCANTILE ASSOCIATION,

And their numerous patrons.

TO CALL AND EXAMINE

THEIR

Large and Complete Assortment

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AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS,

Hats and Caps,

BOOTS AND SHOES,

QUEENSWARE.

AND THE IMPROVED

Charter Oak Coal and

Wood Stoves.

Our goods have been selected with great care. We call particular attention to our BOOTS and SHOES, which are of the best quality, and for style and durability are unsurpassed.

CASH BUYERS WILL FIND IT TO

THEIR INTEREST TO GIVE

US A CALL.

d27 4m 2w

CHAS. W. SANFORD,

Manufacturer of

CONFECTIONERY,

Of all kinds, by steam, and Wholesale

Dealer in NUTS,

CIGARS, CANNED & GLASS GOODS,

RAISINS, FIGS, ETC.,

35 Randolph St., Chicago.

d27 1y

DAY, ALLEN & CO.,

WHOLESALE GROCERS,

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

Take pleasure in calling the attention of the

Trade of Salt Lake City and Utah Territory to

their IMMENSE stock of GROCERIES in

store and arriving.

We invite the special notice of the Jobbing

Trade to the inducements we can offer the

coming year, and especially the favor as with

others that they will receive just what they order

and at the lowest market rates.

d27 6m

DAY, ALLEN & Co.

OUR NEW

CHARTER OAK

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