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HOW TO MAKE PLURAL MARRIAGE OBVIOUS.

So far as we can judge of the sentiment of the country by the utterances of the press, it is opposed to a war for the suppression of what is known as "Mormonism." The general opinion is, that the passage of any of the measures now before Congress would lead to war; but even if war were the only effective way of solving the "Mormon" problem, the common feeling is that it is not proper to adopt it, the problem had better remain unsolved. Of course the measures which are now proposed not being considered suitable, there is no end to suggestions as to the best plan to adopt in relation to the said problem. It is conceded by many of its opponents that it is not nearly so great an evil as prostitution. In our opinion it does our system of marriage great injustice to compare it with prostitution or concubinage; for there are no points of comparison between them, the latter are systems avowedly indulged in for lustful purposes, while the former is a system of marriage, bringing with it all its cares and solemn responsibilities, and is not for the gratification, but for the controlling, of the passions. We have heard some of our own people, in defending our system of marriage, institute comparisons between it and the system referred to; but we never listened to them with satisfaction or pleasure. Prostitution and concubinage are as opposite to patriarchal marriage as one pole is to the other, or darkness is to light; they have nothing in common. The one system degrades woman, compels her to occupy an ignoble and vile position, and if she have children, places the brand of shame upon them; while the other makes her an honored wife, a respected mother, gives her a standing in society of which neither she nor her children need be the least ashamed, makes her, in fact, the peer of the noblest of her sex.

While it is admitted that the domestic institution of Utah is not so great an evil, or attended by such effects as those which follow prostitution, it is claimed that the defense of government and society against this vice is the enactment of good laws and their wise administration. Many fancy they see reasons why Congress should not meddle with it, and yet interfere with the marriage institution of the Latter-day Saints. They think it would not be advisable for the Government to make war upon prostitution—a horrid vice which is sapping the foundation of the nation, and spreading the most frightful diseases among the people—because those who practise it are to be found in every city, town, village and rural district throughout the land. The enforcement of laws for its suppression is, they think, a matter for the civil police, not for an army. If they cannot suppress it, then it must fester and spread unchecked; but under no circumstances must Congress interfere. How different the feeling about Utah! One might almost imagine that the nation and its representatives have a higher regard for the welfare and morals of the people of Utah than for all the rest of the nation. The morals of Utah cannot be left to the unaided care of her citizens or officers; they must have assistance. The latest proposition that we have seen to accomplish this, is the passage of a uniform marriage law. This is thought to be necessary, as a remedy against the vicious divorce practices which prevail in some of the States.

But, the question will arise, how will such a law effect Utah's marriage institution? The proposal is, with special reference to Utah, without naming it, for Congress to pass an act, declaring that concubinage is irreligious, immoral, degrading and in violation of the spirit of civilization; and that all attempts to establish it in any State or Territory are forbidden. One point of the suggested law, which is deemed of the

greatest importance, is that it should brand the women who enter into plural marriage with infamy and the children with illegitimacy. This, it is thought by its advocates, will be a good beginning made toward the suppression of the "peculiar institution" of Utah, and will be followed by a speedy cessation of plural marriages.

This plan is thought to be the best, the most humane, the cheapest and the most effective method of dealing with "Mormonism." Its advocates assert that it has in it nothing of persecution; it cannot be called a special enactment against the people of Utah, for it will be of force in every part of the United States and its Territories.

It will be seen that it is not proposed to touch prostitution by this enactment. That is still to flourish unchecked. If a man do not marry a second wife, he may have as many mistresses as he pleases. Herein lies the palpable and fatal defect of all the proposed legislation upon this subject. It is the marriages of the Latter-day Saints that excite opposition. Their treatment of women is too honorable. If they would adopt the fashions of treating the sex that prevail elsewhere, there would be no difficulty. How will posterity judge of the men, who while living in the midst of cities, villages and a country where prostitution flourished, the capital of which was so notoriously corrupt as Washington is, would make no effort to destroy that devilish and soul destroying system, and yet devise schemes to punish a people dwelling in a remote part of the Republic, who, instead of debasing and prostituting woman, conferred on her the honored title of wife and mother?

SANDWICH ISLAND SUGAR.

CONSIDERABLE enthusiasm has been expressed by one or another, concerning the manufacture of sugar by our people on the Sandwich Islands. A large quantity of this necessary article has been shipped from Laie, the plantation on the island of Oahu, where Elder Geo. Nebeker and other Elders and the native Saints are laboring, to the wholesale Co-operative Institution in this city. It is a good article of sugar, although not so white and so pleasant to the sight as refined, and answers an excellent purpose for sweetening, and is probably sweeter, for its bulk, than high-priced sugars. It is offered at a low figure, and should meet with a ready sale; though, from what we hear, we imagine that buyers are somewhat prejudiced against it because of its appearance.

We think that our people on the Sandwich Islands deserve our patronage, and that the sugar they produce, being an excellent article of its kind, ought to be used much more extensively than it is. If it does not suit housekeepers to use it for every purpose, they should, at least, use it as much as they possibly can. For the most of purposes it can be used to advantage; it is cheap, and a good article for the price, and it is in one sense home-made. We call the attention of our citizens to this subject, and trust that this sugar will not go begging for purchasers.

A LARGE majority of the newspapers of the State of California are complaining of the injustice and impolicy of the fence law in that State. The *Alta California* says that it is fully satisfied that eight public journals out of every ten in the State have taken sides for the repeal of the fence law; and that not one in ten opposes the charge. To remove any room for doubt on the question, however, it solicits a general expression of opinion on the subject, and an estimate of the benefit or injury to accrue in each county. It says the enemies of the fence law are increasing in number every year. As the population increases, the herds of cattle are driven back, and as the area of cultivated land extends, the expense of maintaining fences multiplies. Their timber becomes scarcer and dearer, and as a consequence, the opponents of the fence law grow stronger. In the new agricultural districts of the San Joaquin Valley, the people, being without protection by the law, have, in some places, been compelled to make written agreements to turn out no cattle; and in others they have employed guards to watch the grain fields and drive away the domestic animals. In several districts of the southern counties they have resorted to the same process to protect their crops. The *Alta* quotes the views of residents of Solano and Yolo counties, where the people are exempt from the operation of the fence law, to show the benefits which have resulted to the ag-

riculturists through not being compelled to build fences. It is confident that the passage of the bill repealing the fence law for a district ranging from Sonoma to Santa Cruz, inclusive, on the coast, and from Fresno to Tehama, in the Sacramento basin, would give general satisfaction, and add, on the average, at least five dollars per acre to the value of the land conveniently tillable, and at the same time do no injury to the value of cattle.

SPECIE PAYMENTS.

The constant and daily decline of gold and the steady increase of the value of greenbacks, has been puzzling the people East. They scarcely know how to account for it. Some attribute the decline to one cause and some to another. It is said that the export of cotton has been considerable, and has done much towards paying for the imports and stopping the exportation of gold. Another cause is said to be the extra demand for government securities, in Europe. This demand has paid the balance of trade and made exchange more in favor of the United States. In fact, some anticipate the possibility of gold being brought from Europe to this country, if exchange continue in favor of the United States. If these anticipations should be correct, there appears no reason why the country should not reach specie payments. Those best acquainted with the condition of gold and currency, say that if gold fall to par there will be \$600,000,000 of paper money and \$200,000,000 of coin in circulation. In this event it is anticipated that all business would revive under the stimulus of a redundant currency, and probably expand into wild and unhealthy proportions, and there would be danger of speculation becoming as rampant as in former years. It is admitted on all sides that, to maintain the financial position which the nation holds, products and the exportation of them must increase. This would preserve the balance in favor of the country, operating on a large scale, as we see it in Utah on a small scale. When our products are in demand, and sell for a good price, then money is plentiful; but when it is all importation and no exportation, our circulation vanishes. It seems that the people of the States are anxious for specie payments, and would hail the day of resumption with gladness. They are taking the initiative; the Government stands in the back ground and awaits the result; and from all accounts, there is no intention on its part to interfere in forcing specie payments. As will be seen in another article in our columns, business men in different parts of the country are giving change to their customers in specie; and at least one bank (the Mechanics' Bank of St. Louis) has decided to redeem its outstanding circulation in coin.

It is said that the merchants and manufacturers in the East are ready for resumption, and want it immediately. They hope that the business of the country, which has been so long at the mercy of gold gamblers, will once again stand firmly on its feet, and a degree of commercial prosperity be induced such as has not been known for years.

"THE CITY OF BOSTON."

THE telegraph dispatch which appears in another column, informing the public that the steamer, *City of Boston*, has reached Queenstown, will be a great relief especially to those who have friends on board. The *City of Boston* started from New York on the 28th of January, and all expectations of receiving news from her, seemed to have vanished from the public mind, and she had been numbered among those vessels that had disappeared from the ocean, without leaving any trace behind, which might serve as an indication of the place when, or the manner in which, they were reached by their fate.

THE latest gossip about Louis Napoleon, Emperor of the French, is contained in the correspondence of the New York *World*. The correspondent, in a long letter, makes the statement that the Emperor died under the knife of Ricord, the eminent French surgeon, on the 8th of last September, he having summoned Ricord to perform a surgical operation upon him; and that, by the arrangement of the Emperor, prior to his demise, the fact of his death was to be kept concealed. To do this, a "dummy" was needed, who, on a few occasions on which the supposed Emperor would appear in public, was to represent him. It is said that the "dummy" is of the Emperor's

family, though not of the line of succession. The correspondent says that, as soon as he heard of the Emperor's death, he endeavored to obtain a near view of the *soi disant* Emperor, as he walked on one of the terraces of the palace, in company with the Prince Imperial. He says he was not allowed to approach too close; but as seen through an opera glass, he bears a striking likeness to the late Emperor. That art was employed to make the likeness striking, he had no doubt; but there was a strong personal family resemblance between the walker on the terrace and the Emperor, as he remembered him.

The reason why it was the object of State to conceal the death of the Emperor, was that the Prince Imperial had not yet reached his majority; and affairs were very much disturbed in France. There was a public craving for reforms, and the "Reds" were prepared to revolt as soon as the firm hand of the Third Napoleon had been removed. It was all important that the regency of the Empress should be quietly established, and that it should win good opinions before the news of Napoleon's death should be made known. Hence, the plan of keeping it secret, which, it is believed, originated in the late Emperor's own mind; and as any disturbance of order in France might lead to very serious European complications, the Emperor received, before his death, a promise from England, and, it is believed, from Russia, that they would aid in maintaining the Prince on his throne. It was plainly impossible to conceal the event of the Emperor's death from the ministers of State, etc., so they were taken into confidence and promised great honors under the new government, as a reward of their secrecy. We give the particulars as we gather them from the *World's* correspondence. We do not suppose that any of our readers will attach any truth to its statements; but it shows the character of the sensational rumors which are constantly kept in motion about a man so famous as Napoleon.

WE learn from the *Chicago Tribune* that immediately after the announcement that some of the retailers in New York and that city had begun to use silver for change, the Chicago banks commenced receiving orders from their country correspondents for small amounts of silver. This demand has increased every day, and one prominent bank in that city received twenty orders in one day, from different country bankers, to purchase and send silver coin, in amounts ranging from one hundred to five hundred dollars. Very few orders are for half dollars; but most of them are for quarters, dimes and half-dimes; showing that people, the *Tribune* says, are thoroughly tired of the ragged and greasy fractional shinplasters, one-fourth of which is palpably counterfeit, another fourth so defaced that it is impossible to tell whether it is genuine or not, and the whole of which is filthy to a degree that makes one who gets it, feel as though he had touched a small pox patient. The *Tribune* says the stock of silver in that city is not sufficient to supply the demands of such retailers as wish to put their business on a specie basis; and it suggests that the bankers import the amounts they require from Canada or the Pacific coast. It sees no reason why specie payment may not be resumed at once without any action of Congress, so far as relates to the thirty-nine millions of fractional currency. It thinks the people are thoroughly sick of the fractional currency of denominations below fifty cents.

From the *Missouri Republican*, we learn that the Mechanics' Bank of St. Louis has determined that its outstanding circulation, as well as that of its branches, shall be redeemed in coin, on presentation. The circulation thus affected amounts to nearly, or quite, \$50,000. Of course the resumption of specie payment does not apply to the National banks' circulation. The *Republican* says this is the first instance of any bank in the United States adopting the policy of resumption; but it has no doubt it will soon be followed by similar institutions in other parts of the country.

AT the latest dates from San Francisco, we learn that a petition was in course of signature, at the Merchant's Exchange, in that city, asking the State legislature to pass a resolution urging Congress to vote such a subsidy as will be necessary to carry out a proposed line of steamships to Australia, or, in other words, a subsidy that will be equal to that now paid by Great Britain towards the Australian line, via the Red Sea. A line of steamers is wanted between Australia and San Francisco, it being urged that, now the great railway across the continent is completed, the establishment of a line of first class steamers will control the transit of the mail matter, and that 30,000 Australians will yearly visit England. Those who have originated the petition say that the route by the Red Sea is unhealthy and expensive, and that around Cape Horn is boisterous, lengthy and tedious; and that the Australians would much prefer coming by way of San Francisco and the trans-continental railroad. As the best possible evidence of this desire, it is said that the legislatures of New Zealand, New South Wales and Queensland have voted money subsidies in support of such a line.