

EDITORIALS.

A FAIR REPRESENTATION.

ONE of our most valued exchanges is the *Chicago Journal of Commerce*. Its columns are never devoid of interest; the financial and commercial articles which it contains are always well written and full of ideas which incite reflection and comment, and it is evidently conducted on a basis of truthfulness and respectability.

In its issue of June 28th appears a long article, from special correspondents, on Salt Lake City, from which we make the following extract:

"We had but one object in visiting this renowned city; to familiarize ourselves with the vast mineral and agricultural resources and commercial interests of Utah and to make them known to your readers in as clear and comprehensive a light as possible, unvarnished by extravagance and without the slightest color of prejudice. If after close observation and thorough investigation our views are found to differ somewhat from those of the journalistic loggerheads who come here apparently to destroy all interests, without distinction, by trying to discover a bloody conspiracy to decapitate intruders in somebody's back yard, it is because we have no ambition to become notorious by promulgating fiction. We protest against the malicious castigation of the press and assert that there is not the slightest cause to derogate from Utah's name as a peaceful Territory of great wealth and promise.

"We do not desire to defend the religious hallucinations of the people. If evil exists among them they cannot remain long deluded, but in the light of the nineteenth century the better principles of education and refinement will be transfused among them, and their present dogmas will soon be things of the past. Newspaper rallery only strengthens their beliefs and fills them with revolutionary notions. The business world, on the other hand, is permeated with distrust, and capital—that sensitive element of progress—looks with suspicious glances upon Utah's opportunities, and instead of the vast wealth which it might grasp without an effort, sees only factious turmoil and strife.

"The 'commissioner' who has tormented and misrepresented the people of Salt Lake City and the Territory generally through the columns of a most vacillating and unreliable New York newspaper, has certainly, by a system of audacious falsehoods, prepared many eastern people for an uprising here and a consequent Mormon war. He has even gone so far as to attempt to destroy the credit of leading commercial houses because they are controlled by Mormons. Thus has eastern capital become more and more timid, and the progress of development in Utah has been delayed, if not permanently impaired. When gentlemen of such sagacity and farsightedness as Governor Emery, Generals Crook and Smith, after persistent investigation, pronounce the people peaceful and well disposed, it is not presumable that the statements of the above mentioned obnoxious 'commissioner' have any authentic origin. It would perhaps have been a benefit to Utah and to society if the mysterious assassin, whom the utmost vigilance fails to produce either in the form of Mormon or Gentile, had been effectual in his disposition of the 'commissioner.' We hope the readers of the *Journal of Commerce* will look into matters here for themselves before they credit the pernicious balderdash that the sensational press just now abounds with.

"We have found the business men of Salt Lake City to be wise, honorable, courteous and liberal. Their ideas are progressive and they work with exceptional energy to build up and develop the little empire which thirty years ago was considered an uninhabitable waste. Harmony and good will exist among them to a remarkable degree and they join hands in all matters of public interest and advancement. Religious and charitable institutions of almost every creed thrive here and are encouraged. The Territorial and city governments are

well administered, the courts are conducted in a manner calculated to insure justice to everybody and there is perfect protection to life and property."

We have only one objection to the above remarks concerning the "commissioner." It is a mistake to suppose that he has "tormented" the people here. "Amused" is the proper word in this connection. His floundering and inventions; his susceptibility to marvellous yarns and blood-and-thunder stories, which soak into him as naturally as the beverages he imbibes; his faculty of spreading over several columns a tissue of fiction woven around an almost invisible filament of fact; and his wonderful escapes from mythical pistol and imaginary knife, have served to make fun for our citizens, but have inflicted nothing approaching to anything like "torment."

The "religious hallucinations" of orthodox Christians are respected by the "Mormons" so far that we never attempt to interfere with those who indulge in them. Yet they are quite as ridiculous, at least in our eyes, as anything peculiar to our religion may seem to them. Of course we do not expect any defense of our faith from the *Journal of Commerce*; we only claim the right to believe and practice it with the same freedom we accord to others who differ from us. Give us a fair field and no favor, and if our "dogmas" cannot survive contrast or collision with the doctrines of modern Christianity, and "the light of the nineteenth century," let them go down by all means. But if they are treated in the same manner as the *Journal* treats our material interests, representing them as they are without coloring or distortion, we have no fears of the issue.

The whole article, which occupies nearly two full columns of the *Journal*, is well worthy of perusal.

WANTS TO KNOW ALL ABOUT IT.

THE *Montana New North-West* of the 29th says, "We believe there is no more probability of revolt in Utah at present than there is in New Jersey." Which is right, so far as it goes. But the same paper is not so sure of the future, and is very anxious about it, wishing to know if, in the event of the arrest, trial, and conviction of a distinguished citizen of Utah, upon serious charges, the "Mormon" people would yield peaceful obedience to the decisions of the courts, or resist the infliction of legal punishment. The *N. N. W.* thinks the NEWS can tell what the "Mormon" people contemplate in the event of criminal prosecutions, etc., as the American people generally are very desirous of knowing.

If people would exercise their own wits calmly, coolly, and collectedly, and with candor and impartiality, they might know as much about such things for themselves as we do for ourselves. We cannot call to mind an instance of the "Mormon" people ever resisting legal processes. They are pre-eminently a law-abiding people, and we believe that they would like to see all constitutional laws observed and administered in the proper spirit and intent thereof, and justice done to all parties, innocent or guilty. We do not think that the "Mormon" people now contemplate resistance to the legal processes of the courts. We hear of no such thing as resistance, except from a few sensational papers and others which copy from them. We do not recollect hearing the word resistance used, or the idea of resistance discussed, by the "Mormon" people. That kind of talk comes from the anti-"Mormon" people, the more rabid of whom are always talking about it, as if it was their native and congenial element, and as if without it they would be like a fish out of water.

We do not think the "Mormon" people contemplate any legal convictions of the kind, and therefore it is not reasonable to suppose that they contemplate any resistance to the carrying out of such convictions. If any person has committed crime, we believe that the "Mormon" people wish such person to be punished therefor in the manner provided by constitutional law.

If trials such as are alluded to by

the *N. N. W.* should be instituted, we shall endeavor to represent the proceedings fairly, and be in favor of their being conducted strictly according to the law and the constitution, leaning as much in the direction of justice as can reasonably be desired. That is what we "are going to do about it."

THE DESERT LAND ACT.

THE following is found in the *Ogden Junction* of July 5—

"Washington, June 21, 1877.
"To the Commissioner of the General Land Office:

"SIR:—I beg to submit for your consideration a copy of a letter just received from John Gwyn, Jr., Esq., Counselor at Law, Santa Fe, N. M., and to request you to inform me if you entertain the restricted views relative to the Desert Land Act which are accorded to you by Mr. Gwyn.

"Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
JAMES H. MANDEVILLE.
"HON. JAMES A. WILLIAMSON.

"Santa Fe, N. M.,
June 13, 1877.
"JAMES H. MANDEVILLE, Esq.,
Attorney and Counselor at Law,
Washington, D. C.

"DEAR SIR:—I am in receipt of your several letters of May 24, 26 and 29, and this morning arrived your last letter of June 4th.

"I had suspended all action on my cases until I could get some positive instruction in the premises. When I first examined the 'Desert Land Act' I placed a more liberal construction upon it than the Commissioner appeared willing to grant. From the nature of our climate all our lands in New Mexico are desert lands. None will produce agricultural crops without irrigation, not even the lowest bottom lands on streams; and as the law neither required a residence upon, or cultivation of the land, or improvement otherwise than flowing water upon it, I had arrived at the conclusion that it could be made available to our stock men in securing permanent water rights. Our streams are principally mere branches, two feet wide and four or six inches deep, fed by living springs, are remote one from the other, unusually rise in the mountains, and run down through the prairies or plains, twenty or fifty miles; and it is impossible to obtain water by sinking wells at points between these streams. Any person owning the lands immediately along these streams would have entire control over it (the water) because it is only sufficient in quantity for irrigating the lands immediately along each stream. As the former pre-emption laws had been construed 'that a person cultivating one, or at most a few acres, was constructively cultivating in 160 acres—which he had located,' I had concluded the same, or a similar liberal construction would be made by the Commissioner in regard to flowing water upon 640 acres. But you inform me that all the land will have to be reclaimed by flowing water over all or every acre. This I could not do; for at intervals there would be hills, mounds, cliffs, &c., that water could not be made to flow over; but there are parts of every location that could be reclaimed, irrigated, and cultivated. Yet, cultivation was not my object. It was to secure and hold the right to that water for all time to come; and as the land is now mostly vacant, no prior rights to contend with—and unsurveyed—and the law permitting locations upon unsurveyed tracts, and also the instructions of the Commissioner, permitting conveyances of these locations after they were made and before patent issued. I had arrived at the conclusion that if the law permitted us to avail of these advantages it was right to act upon them. But your letters have put a damper upon our expectations; however, you appear to understand what I wanted, and you may yet get the liberal construction placed upon the act.

"Very respectfully,
(Signed) JOHN GWYN, JR.

"General Land Office,
Washington, June 22, 1877.

"Respectfully returned to Mr. Mandeville.

"I cannot go farther than to say that the whole of the land pre-empted must be reclaimed for agricultural purposes, but the raising of

grass would meet this requirement. Any more liberal construction of the Desert Land Act might embarrass my successor or the future policy of the Land Department.

"This statement is unofficial.
"JAMES A. WILLIAMSON.

"Respectfully transmitted to Mr. Gwyn.

"After the Commissioner said that he could not answer this letter I framed the foregoing endorsement, and asked him to sign it upon this ground. 'If the people whose interests are so largely affected see that you are flat footed in carrying out the law strictly they may attempt to secure additional legislation. I should like to have your views published so that parties may proceed understandingly, instead of expending large sums of money for an object which you believe to be illegal, and therefore would have to disprove.'

"After signing it he replied substantially: 'You know there was a good deal of opposition to the law and that it has been denounced as a swindle. I have no objection to additional legislation to accomplish what Mr. Gwyn wants, but I must execute this law as I understand it.'

"The Commissioner knows that the New Mexico people desire to pre-empt 640 acres under this law for the purpose of stock raising, much more profitable to them than the usual agricultural pursuits. But from what he said, I believe that he would not approve of entries made for that object.

"JAMES H. MANDEVILLE.
"Washington, June 12, 1877."

In former articles on this subject we have suggested the advisability of parties attempting to take advantage of the Desert Land Law taking into consideration the fact that the law requires the land to be reclaimed within three years by conducting water for irrigation upon it. Some persons may have supposed that they could fulfil the requirements of the law by irrigating an acre or two of the mile square, or five, ten, or twenty acres of it. But this does not appear to be the view of the matter taken by the authorities of the land office at Washington, and it may be added that it could hardly be expected that they would accept so unreasonable a construction of the law. The law undoubtedly was pushed through Congress in the interest of land grabbers, but it is not reasonable to suppose that the land office authorities would accept the extreme construction which the land-grabbers would like to put upon the law, to suit themselves and their grabbing purposes.

It will be seen by the foregoing correspondence that the authorities referred to are inclined to construe the law to mean that the whole of the mile square claimed under the law should have brought upon it water sufficient for irrigating purposes, within three years, so that the whole of the land may produce an agricultural crop. As to growing grass being sufficient, it may be observed that there are few crops which require so much water as grass does, to grow a crop of it. The cereals used as food for man require much less; that is, such as oats, barley, wheat, corn.

It therefore follows that, as things are at present, those who take up land under the Desert Land Act must do so with the idea of reclaiming the whole section by conveying water upon it sufficient to irrigate and perfect some kind of an agricultural crop, or they are likely to fail to perfect their title to the land.

WHY?

THE New York *Herald* commissioner having exhausted the topics on which he depended for his staple sensations, has now fallen back on Beadle's balderdash published as the life of Bill Hickman. Episodes from this cooked up dish of horrors are now re-hashed for the delectation of the *Herald* readers, and are gravely reproduced as original statements from the original assassin to the original unassassinated. As a retailer of undiluted tales of blood the "commissioner" would be a great success if he were only a little more inventive. But to merely quote from a romance which has proven too solidly unveracious for even the novel-reading public to swallow, and palm it upon the readers of the *N. Y. Herald* as

news, is certainly impudent in the extreme, and a very expensive kind of correspondence for the great unreliable sheet of the period.

If the statements of the self-confessed murderer, who seems to be the familiar acquaintance of U. S. Marshals, U. S. Attorneys and N. Y. *Herald* "commissioners" are worthy of any credence, why is the so-called, self-confessed principal in more than a dozen murders, permitted to go unwhipped of justice while the most strenuous efforts are made to cast the odium of crime upon innocent individuals? The answer is, the prosecution of criminals is not in order, it is the persecution of unorthodox religious leaders.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

—The Mayor of Boston, Mass., ordered the police to lay aside their belts and clubs, and the police went and did it.

—They say Rutherford B. Hayes is afflicted with a boil. We think this is an error: he is merely troubled with a *Blaine*.

—The Mayor of Chattanooga advertised for three dog-catchers to perambulate that city. In one day 750 applications were put in.

—A Kentucky county is anxious to have the good old whipping post brought back to the place of honor it held in the good old times.

—Rev. Dr. Chapin, of the church of the Divine Paternity, New York, it is said, contemplates resigning, partly through failing health.

—Several of our contemporaries are telling "How Miss Muloch became Mrs. Craik." Just as if everybody didn't know how such things were managed.

—Minnesota is represented as the only State that has ventured upon publishing her own school books, but so far she has not made a success of it.

—Toohy, whose front name is Dennis, has been "retired" from the *San Jose Herald*. Toohy is too low for any respectable sheet, however small and struggling.

—An eastern paper says, "Sheridan has started off for a six months' trip to the Custer battle field. This shows what having twins in the house will drive a man to."

—Secretary Evarts suggests that it is easier for literary men to get laurels placed on their brows than to browse on the laurels when obtained.

—Three women living near Mara, Illinois, within a week recently gave birth to ten babies, equally divided as to sex, all doing well.

—At Camp Tabor, near Denver, N. J., the locusts came down in such large numbers that a Methodist camp-meeting broke up and the people went home.

—The following comes from Minnesota—"Mrs. Vinnie Case, a young married woman, residing a few miles from Spring Valley, was as she and the physician supposed, dying from consumption. All hope had fled and there seemed to be but a brief period of life remaining, when a distant relative, an aged and devout man visited the suffering woman. He engaged in prayer for her cure, with his hands upon her head. Immediately she began to recover, and is now well. Her face has regained its healthy appearance, her lungs are apparently elastic and sound, and she is able to do a hard day's work. Such is the story as set forth by a Minnesota editor, who himself saw Mrs. Case."

—A Washington paper lately made a fierce attack upon Sir Edward Thornton, the British minister, while he was away in England, virtually charging him with swindling in regard to the building of the legation residence. The Washington *Star* of June 25 denounces the attack and says, "If the builder for any cause failed to pay the sub-contractors, or any of them, that was not the fault of the British minister. Sir Edward Thornton has, in his long residence here, shown himself the soul of honor and probity, both in his official and private relations, and this wanton attack upon him, while he is absent in England, is most censurable, and seems especially ill-timed in view of the honors and attentions now being heaped upon Gen. Grant in this country as a representative American citizen."