

"The Kingdom of God or Nothing."

[COMPOSED FOR THE WELSH 'EISTEDDYD,' HELD IN G. S. L. CITY, JAN. 18, 1858.]

TUNE—"The Rising of the Lark."

Rejoice, ye chosen Saints;
God hears all your complaints,
And glorious days are nigh at hand:
The nations, far and near,
Begin to quake with fear,
That God will by his people stand.
Then be ready,
Watching steady,
With your armor always on;
Warm in praying,
Cool in slaying,
Till the victory is won,—
Till Saints in God are one,
And sinners wasted from the land.

Long driven and oppress'd,
We've hardly found a rest.
Ere mobs rush to this far-off land:
Then, "Liberty or death!"
We'll shout while we have breath;
Whatever comes, we'll nobly stand.
God's great "Lion"
Watches Zion;
Tyrant's blood shall stain each sword:
Rights we'll cherish,
Though we perish;
For, "The Kingdom of our Lord
Or nothing," is the word
That greets the foe on every hand.

JOHN S. DAVIS.

The Mormon Question—How Hostilities are to be carried on.

A Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Times thus writes concerning the Mormon question:—[St. Louis Intelligencer, Nov. 23.]

I find that the probability of Brigham Young's leading his followers from Salt Lake to the Mexican Province of Sonora, has attracted the attention of our Government, and become a point of serious consideration in the discussion of the policy to be pursued towards the Mormon rebels. Mr. Buchanan is anxious to acquire the Province of Sonora from Mexico; but if the Mormons were once to get settled there, it would put an end to all hopes of success,—for public sentiment in the United States would never consent to the acquisition of any foreign territory however valuable, on which the Mormons had taken up their quarters. Once out of the United States, the country would no more buy them back into our jurisdiction than it would purchase Delhi in the hands of the Sepoys. It becomes important, accordingly, to prevent a Mormon hegira to Sonora, if possible.

But, on the other hand, it is feared that the Mexican Government would entertain with favor a proposition from Brigham Young to settle the Province, and protect that border from the Indian tribes who now devastate it, encroaching every year further and further upon the domain of civilization, and driving its inhabitants towards the interior. Besides, the Mormons would defend the country from any filibuster approach in that direction, and pay a large annual tribute to the Government of Mexico, while they enriched themselves by working the valuable mines of the country.

The policy of making California the base of operations against the Mormons has been urged upon the Executive. Among the arguments in its favor is the fact that the Valley of Salt Lake can be approached at all seasons from the Pacific, through the lower valleys and passes. Nor can the entrance to the Mormon country from that direction be successfully defended against Gentile troops. An army of twenty thousand men could enter Salt Lake Valley in mid winter by the way of Los Angeles and San Bernardino, except for the fact that there is a single stretch of country in which, for a distance of one hundred and twenty miles, there is no water except a bitter spring. This difficulty it is thought may be overcome by establishing the depot for the army at the foot of the great canyon of the Colorado, which is east of the desert referred to. This depot it is proposed to reach by the Gulf of California and the Colorado river, which is supposed to be navigable in the vicinity of the depot suggested. It will be remembered that Lieutenant J. C. Ives is now engaged in an exploration of the Colorado. It is anticipated that early intelligence will be received from him on the general subject of the navigability of that stream.

From the fact that the Salt Lake country is so open to attack from the Pacific side, it is urged that, if operations against the Mormons are conducted thence, their object may be attained with less bloodshed than if the contest is waged in the narrow passes and canyons, where the Mormons, from their superior position, can hope to force the assailants to retire, and can be certain of making serious havoc among the troops, whatever the ultimate result. The alternative of meeting a large and well disciplined army in open field, would be likely to induce the Mormons to yield far more readily. But, in addition to these advantages of operating from California, the presence of so large a force in that country would overawe and terrify the numerous hostile Indian tribes there, who are becoming exceedingly troublesome; while it would effectually cut off the Mormon retreat towards Sonora—an object really of great importance, independent of considerations connected with any purpose of acquiring that Province,—for it is eminently essential to the welfare not only of the United States, but of the civilized world, that Mormon abominations should be effectually checked, by the arrest and punishment (instead of flight) of the leaders of the rebellion.

Mr. Washington correspondent of the N. Y.

Times, why did you not fully expose the hellish thoughts of your black heart, and write DEATH instead of 'punishment,' in your last sentence? for that is what you wish to see accomplished. But, Mr. Correspondent, what 'abomination' is more abominable than aiding and abetting the shedding of innocent blood? Be pleased to read the Bible, if you have one, and practice its teachings, lest in your present course you prepare yourself to richly merit the lowest depth of future punishment.

The Utah Expedition.

In the history of Mr. Buchanan's administration, the Mormon troubles are destined to form a conspicuous feature. What may be the ultimate solution of the difficulty is now, of course, only matter for conjecture, but the steps taken thus far betray a lack of capacity somewhere, that argues ill for the speedy termination of the vexatious annoyances and unpunished outrages that harass and defy the Federal Government.

After the consummate skill, foresight and judgment displayed in fitting out the expedition to Mexico, under the auspices and instructions of General Scott; after witnessing the verification of every preconception, the truth of every calculation, and the carrying out in detail of every plan and combination, concerted by the master-mind of that glorious campaign; the country was not prepared to see the long-talked-of Utah expedition dwindle down to scattered detachments of some 1200 troops, straggling across the plains in October, without unity of action; apparently without any settled plan or point of rendezvous, plundered of their baggage; their commander absent; the two main bodies not possessing the means of communication with each other, and the chief object of all being to secure winter quarters, where they may remain in inactivity with safety!

It is a 'lame and impotent conclusion' of an expedition that was twelve months in preparation, with carte blanche on the Federal Treasury, and all the military experience of the country at its command for co-operation or counsel. The present is not the time, however, for critical inquiry into the causes of the misadventure. We prefer rather to scan the latest news from Utah, in the hope of discovering a brighter side of the gloomy picture, and in full reliance on the prudence and courage of the officers in command, to hope for the best.

It is impossible to foretell what course Brigham Young will pursue, but if he follows up his treasonable proclamation with actions as bold as his words, it cannot be disguised that the situation of the troops is precarious in the extreme, and measures for their relief or support should be at once adopted. It is now too late to send reinforcements across the plains; but Col. Alexander is informed that there is a road from California to Salt Lake open all winter, and by this route troops from Oregon and California might be put in motion without delay. If they did not arrive in the winter they would be there in the spring, as early as troops could set out from the States; at all events they cannot arrive a moment too soon.

By the detour of march adopted by Col. Alexander, he avoids the mountain gorges and dangerous canyons, through which he would otherwise have had to approach the Salt Lake valley, and in which a handful of Mormons would be sufficient to cut off his entire force. Thus, deprived of their chief advantage for offensive operations; it seems probable that the Saints will confine their opposition to acts of pillage, and the interception of supplies; a kind of predatory warfare which—like the late burning of the trains—can be disavowed always by their leaders. But even in this, the most favorable prospect of affairs, reinforcements and supplies will be almost as speedily wanted, as if the troops were harassed by more active hostilities.—[N. Y. Dispatch, Nov. 22.]

The Mormon War—Its Vast Consequences—How to Wage it.

The Emperor Nicholas lost the Crimea, and fifty years of national advancement, and the prestige of the first military power of Europe, by lacking a railroad from Moscow to Perekop. A peaceful work could suppress a bloody war. Let us beseech Congress and the President to prepare for their war with the Mormons by appropriating \$100,000,000 to the Pacific Railroad. There will be absolute economy in this.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun who has access to the best sources of information in the Departments, intimated a few days ago that the cost to the United States Government of the Mormon war would not fall short of FOUR HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS. This calculation struck every one at the time as extravagant; but upon reflection, it will not be considered so.

A Mormon war involves necessarily a general Indian war, with all the fierce tribes that now infest the great Western plains, and find their secure retreats among the mountain fastnesses of New Mexico, Utah, Oregon, California, Dacotah and Washington Territories.

When we come to think of the numerous and powerful tribes of Indians infesting the entire vast distance between Kansas and California—their predatory life and habits—their villainous instincts for robbery and murder—their facility to attack and escape—the entire lack of property among them, either of lodges or villages, the destruction of which would not be any loss or chastisement to them—and finally, the utter destitution of supplies in their country, whereby any armed force of the United States could be subsisted, necessitating the tedious and enormously expensive transport of every thing of the kind across the plains—the full weight of difficulty

presented to our Government is forced upon the mind.

Truly, we have a dismal prospect before us, and if a few hundred Seminoles, in Florida, could engage the American army well on to five years, at a cost of about fifty millions of dollars, what exaggeration is there in supposing that the numerous and blood-thirsty tribes of the interior of the Continent, roving as the Bedonin Arabs, and uncertain, yet as swift as the wind in their attacks and retreats across the great American plains, will engage our Government in the longest and most harassing war it has ever had, at a cost of even more than \$400,000,000. It can hardly end, if once commenced, short of the annihilation of the major part of the Indian tribes engaged in the strife. Nor would the citizens of the West wish it to cease till the country was fairly rid of the beastly wretches upon whom such large amounts of sickly sympathy are annually expended.

But recur to the cost of the Mormon War—\$400,000,000! That is twice the amount that would be needed to take up the Missouri Pacific Railroad, at Kansas City, and build it through Utah to the city of Sacramento in California. And the building of that road would quell the Mormon war, without the firing of a gun by the Government—it would repress and keep in order the Indian tribes by a policy of self-protecting settlements of whites, thick along the railroad, clear across the continent. The sunlight of civilization poured by railroad trains through Utah would disperse its moral miasma, and purify it by contact with the intelligent world. The discontented Mormon man or woman could flee in safety from the toils of unprincipled prophets and elders, and the 'Danite band' could not gather their prey from the flying locomotive.

There can be no mistake about it—our relations with the Mormon and Indian savages of the mountains, are of the most threatening and dangerous character, and no policy would be so wise or prudent for our Government to pursue, as to stop all warlike movements that would be carried on at such crushing cost, and apply the funds instead, to the construction of a military highway—a first class railroad—across the continent. We will crush the Mormon and Indian mutiny years sooner, and at vastly less expense of treasure and blood by so doing.—[St. Louis Evening News, Nov. 28.]

A NEW INSTRUMENT OF DEATH.—The Paris correspondence of the New York Times says:

You have all read of Jules Gerard, the lion-killer, and of his wonderful encounters in the jungles of Africa. When Gerard came back to Paris the last time from his favorite amusement in Africa, he suggested to Devisme, the well-known gun-maker of the Boulevard des Italiens, the idea of inventing a ball that would explode when it arrived in the animal's body. Mr. Devisme went to work to realize this idea, the utility of which in the chase of lions, elephants, and other wild beasts, is but too obvious, and it is pretended that he has perfectly succeeded. The new projectile is about the size of the Minie ball. Its force is equal to the common ball. Arrived in the animal's body, it explodes like a bomb, and, of course, causes the sudden death of the animal. If shot into the lungs of an elephant, for example, the ball, in exploding, disengages carbonic acid gas, and the animal, which, from its size, might otherwise survive for a short time, will suddenly fall asphyxiated.

A few days ago a party of gentlemen accompanied Mr. Devisme to a horse-slaughter-house in the environs of the city. There the new projectile was tried on five horses that were standing tied to a fence waiting to be shot. They were each shot in the lungs, the ball exploded and the animal fell dead. The experiment was completely satisfactory. Since then, Mr. Devisme, to demonstrate the practicability of his new projectile as a substitute for the harpoon in the destruction of whales, has gone to Havre, not with the hope that a whale would present itself to be killed, but to try the experiment on an artificial whale that would respond in its resistance to a real one. The experiment was entirely successful, and those who witnessed it assert positively that the substitute for the harpoon is found. But if this ball will penetrate the blubber of a whale to a sufficient depth, its utility over the harpoon is so great that the use of that instrument must suddenly cease; for the harpoon is not only an uncertain but a dangerous instrument for those who use it, while the ball of M. Devisme is both certain and safe. Making due allowance for French exaggeration in the matter of inventions, there yet remains a hope that this invention is a serious and a practical one.—[Sac. Union, Aug. 22, 1857.]

Two friends were lately speaking of a certain publisher whose kindness of disposition has been frequently abused to his injury, when one remarked:

'P. is a noble fellow, and might have been rich, but his heart is so kind that he never can bear to say no, to an application to publish.'

'Yes,' replied the other, 'a publisher must be a no-ing man, and a knowing man, or he will soon find himself an owing man!'

The reply of an enlightened Mahomedan to a missionary is characteristic of the race of Moslems: 'Your religion,' says he, 'gives me three gods and one wife; mine gives me three wives and one God: I prefer my own.'

'I am afraid,' said a lady to her husband, 'that I am going to have a stiff neck.' 'Not at all improbable my dear,' replied her spouse, 'I have seen strong symptoms of it ever since we were married.'

When it is not despicable to be poor, we want fewer things to live in poverty with satisfaction, than to live magnificently with riches.—[St. Evremond.]

Post Office Reform.

We know but little about the administrative ability of the present head of the Post Office Department. But, if he is fit for his place, he will certainly recommend to Congress great alterations in the laws now regulating his department. A comparison between the post office system of England and that of the United States is a commentary on our system which, with the boasts of enlightenment and practical character of our government, very few would suspect to be possible. Will it be believed, that, while in Great Britain for the four years 1853, '54, '55 and '56, the number of letters sent through its post office was nearly eighteen thousand millions, the whole number sent through the post office in the United States, for sixty-seven years—from 1789 to 1856—was less than seventeen thousand millions? That is, in Great Britain there were sent in four years more than there were sent in this country in sixty-seven years. Yet the number of our people is now nearly equal to that of Great Britain, and has been so for the last four years; the business of our people, so immense, compares favorably with that of Great Britain, while, in the latter country, not half the people can read and write. Yet in Great Britain they send yearly through the mails five hundred millions of letters, while in the United States there are only about one hundred and thirty millions!

So much for the accommodation. Now let us glance at the receipts and expenditures. In 1856, the receipts of the British post offices were \$14,300,000; and the expenditures \$8,300,000, leaving a net revenue of \$6,000,000. In the same year, the receipts of the United States post offices were \$7,600,000, and the expenditures \$10,400,000. Net loss, \$2,800,000! Difference between the British and American systems, eleven millions, three hundred thousand dollars in favor of the British system!!

In the British post office, the rule is inflexible that every person employed shall have his qualifications ascertained by, in most instances, a rigid examination. Wages and salaries are quite moderate. But there are no dismissals from cause, while every employee is held to the strictest accountability. After years of faithful service, they are allowed to retire on a pension which is graduated by the length of the term they may have served. All who are, while in the discharge of duty so injured as to be incapable of further service, are also pensioned.

In the United States Post Office Department with a few exceptions, just as in all the other Departments of our government, appointments are made and employments given with scarcely a reference to the qualifications of the incumbent. Hardly anything is ever taken into the account but the degree in which the person applying for office has been an active and useful partizan. All that we read, with disgust and indignation, in the histories of the favoritism of corrupt courts is exceeded by what happens at every change of administration in our government. What the supple and servile courtier is to a profligate prince, that thing, often the successful office-hunter is to the appointing power in the United States. The practice under the shifting administrations of our government is such as to discourage men really honest and capable from taking office. It operates as a premium on dishonesty, incapacity and neglect of duty. The man most fitted for a particular office, who, when he has been put into it, and kept there just long enough to have become perfectly familiar with its duties, is instantly thrust aside to make way either for the last man who ought to be put into such an office, or for some man who, when he has become most useful in the office, is thrust aside like his predecessor. Of course such a system fully accounts for the shameful way in which the public business of this country is done. It is a system that almost avowedly is not intended for the due dispatch of that business; but it is one that almost avowedly is carried out to feed, clothe and enrich hungry partizans at the public expense. It is a system which will either come to an end with the general crash of our institutions, or, if this nation means to perpetuate itself in vigor, will by-and-by be torn up by the roots as a disgrace to any people with claims to a better average sense, wisdom and honesty than govern a colony of thieves and swindlers.

The 'Dead Letter' arrangement in our Post Office Department, is highly objectionable. It shows a recklessness of private interests, and the feelings of individuals, that stamps it with something like inhumanity. It certainly works much injustice and wrong. The letters that fall or miscarry ought to be promptly returned to the office in which they were mailed, in order for delivery to the writer.

In the United States we have a higher postage than in Great Britain, accommodate only one-fourth of the people, and lose near three millions of dollars. Great Britain has a lower rate, accommodates four times the number, and makes over eight millions yearly. Is not such a contrast a shameful one?

Who will move in a reform of the Post Office Department?—[St. Louis Herald, Nov. 22.]

Kansas Affairs.

The accounts from Washington would seem to show that the Kansas question is likely to come before Congress in a shape that will no longer admit of equivocation or evasion. It is not now a question of Slavery or Free Labor; that question has been for the present superseded and set aside by another and more vital and pressing one—the right of the people to be consulted as to the Constitution under which they are to live.

It is undoubtedly the fact that in a certain number of instances State Constitutions have been adopted without being submitted to a formal vote of the people. But there was nothing in any one of those cases which bore the slightest resemblance to the existing state of things in Kansas, or which can by any ingenuity be tortured into a