

mans seem, on the surface at least, to be more anxious for a warlike rupture than the French. The veteran Von Moltke is reported to be far from averse to it, and indeed looks upon it as inevitable. It is claimed, according to a World dispatch of the 6th, that he declared only a few days ago, he believed Europe was upon the eve of a general war—a conflagration such as prevailed in 1815, and that the situation now is similar to what it was then, when every country was burdened with an enormous army and when all were able to get back to a peace footing only by means of a general war. It is believed in influential quarters in Berlin that war may break out between Germany and France as early as October next.

THE LATEST HORROR.

The terrible accident on the Toledo, Peoria & Western Railway early yesterday morning is by some odds the most destructive achievement yet accomplished by the "reaper on rails," though to place any blame whatever upon the company or its employes in this instance would be manifestly unjust, as the catastrophe was not caused by structural weakness of the bridge or carelessness on the part of any one connected with the road. The most likely theory, and the one that obtains the greatest favor, is that the bridge was set on fire by a gang of thieving tramps who have been infesting Chatsworth, Illinois (near which the bridge was), for the purpose of causing a wreck and then despoiling the victims. A more ghastly, if not a plot was never concocted; so abominable is it in every feature that the average reader will hesitate before accepting it, being unwilling to believe that human beings could be so utterly possessed of an evil disposition and so infinitely degraded; yet the victims could no sooner be reached than, it is stated, there the goods were, taking money and other valuables from pockets and jewelry from persons, not even the sacred form of infancy deterring them in their ghastly work. Men who would do this would compass the means by which it might be done, though 100 lives were lost and twice as many wounded.

The scenes attending and following the wreck were harrowing. They are graphically set forth in our dispatches to-day.

WHY NOT GET THE FACTS?

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat is one of the influential papers of the country which often has something to say editorially on the "Mormon" question. And, invariably, like most of the others, it gives the strongest evidence of profound lack of information on the subject. The gentleman who writes such articles has not posted himself, unless it be from sources that convey but a fragment of fact with a whole mass of fiction.

A short time ago a long letter from Salt Lake City appeared in the Globe Democrat from the pen of a local chronic inebriate, whose word on anything "Mormon" is not considered by anybody here worth the shadow of a bogus red cent. And it is such stuff as appeared in that communication that intelligent and right-meaning men form their ideas of affairs in Utah. The Birmingham, Alabama, Age referring to that letter said:

"If the Salt Lake correspondent of the St. Louis Globe Democrat is right the attempt of the Mormons to get Utah admitted as a State is simply a plot to invalidate the Federal laws and to obtain amnesty for convicted polygamists. But the insinuation that the movement originated in Washington among Democratic politicians is simply absurd; nobody will believe it."

You see all this turns on the "if." What the correspondent said was untrue and "furthermore" ridiculous, and so the deductions from it which have appeared in the Globe Democrat and papers that copy from it are unjust and misleading. The insinuation about the origin of the State movement was no more absurd than other portious of the letter.

Here is an extract from a recent issue of that journal, which shows plainly that the writer knows nothing of the organization and genius of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:

"President Wilford Woodruff has cut the gordian knot which existed among the Mormons on the question of the succession, by publishing an address assuming the leadership in the Church. This action will temporarily delay the big fight which is more than likely to occur sooner or later. The Mormon Church can no longer boast of that harmony and unity which hitherto formed so large a portion of its strength."

It goes on to mention the names of the gentlemen who are to "link horns together in the contest," which is to result in "a long and bitter warfare which must still further weaken the Church," and it is sagely suggested that "the delay will give each of them a splendid opportunity for scheming and wire-pulling until the formal election takes place next spring."

Now if that writer had known anything at all of the constitution of the Church and its admirable provisions to prevent anything like a "wrangle" or dispute on the "leadership," he would not have put such nonsense as the foregoing on paper. The Twelve Apostles of whom Wilford Woodruff is President, naturally came up into the presiding position when the First Presidency became disorganized through the death of President Taylor. We know nothing about any "gordian knot" or of any "formal election" in the spring. Where did the Globe-Democrat get this idea? There can be no "wrangle over leadership" and the very disposition to assume authority not belonging to his place would be more likely to destroy an Apostle's influence than anything he could do short of criminal transgression. There will be no "big fight," for there are no contestants, and it was long ago demonstrated to the world that the demise of a leader has no disastrous effect upon the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints which is organized for perpetuity and is not dependent upon any man, living or dead, for its integrity, continuance and ultimate success.

We are in hopes that the Globe-Democrat will receive more reliable data on which to predicate editorials about Utah and the "Mormons" than have been available heretofore. The facts can be had, and they would prove far more interesting than falsehoods to the reading public, for they would be something of a novelty in anti-"Mormon" literature.

KEEP THIS MATTER IN MIND!

The instructions or "suggestions" of the Utah Commission to the registration officers appointed for this municipality will be found in another part of this paper. We take this opportunity of advising the active members of the People's Party in this city to take such measures as will secure a full and fair registration for the next municipal election. The people should be made acquainted with their rights and duties. Every person who can take the oath provided in the paper issued by the Commission should make sure that his name is placed on the registration list, and if it is not there when the list is made up, to have it put there within the time specified.

Several young men who neglected to register in time for the general election this year regretted very much their error when it was too late. When they found themselves unable to use any political power in their own behalf or that of their friends, they perceived how foolish they had been, and what serious consequences might have arisen if many others had been as dilatory or careless as they. At the next municipal election they need not be in the same condition. They cannot repair their error, but they can see that it is not repeated.

Certain registrars who could be named, manifested their "offensive partisanship" at the last registration by making extra, and in some cases improper, exertion to secure the names of persons who were expected "to vote the Liberal" ticket, and by bluffing" or otherwise deterring some from registering who it was known would support the People's ticket. Names improperly registered should be weeded out. Here is work for the committees appointed to represent the People in the various precincts. A little more vigilance might have changed the result in one or two districts at the general election. The mistakes of the past should be warnings for the future.

We mention these things now, that plans may be devised in time. The registration will not take place until the beginning of next December. But if instructions to the registrars now are timely, so are hints to the People and their representatives. Let steps be taken, in advance, towards the securing of a full People's vote for the next municipal officers and the prevention of fraud in any and every quarter. Keep this matter in mind!

SHEEP VS. CATTLE.

A correspondent writing from Wales, Saupete Conny, says that there are in that section two parties, viz., cattle and sheep men, who are contending about their respective ranges. The cattle men have taken up tracts of unsurveyed land under the desert act, and are driving sheep and cattle, belonging to other parties, from said tracts. The correspondent asks:

- 1. Is it lawful to make desert entry on lands on which are groves suitable for saw timber, fire wood, fence poles, etc., and also springs and streams of water?
2. What is the penalty for driving stock, sheep, etc., from the public domain?
3. Does the law make a difference in the fines imposed for befouling waters used for domestic purposes, such difference depending on the kind of animals that do the befouling, as to whether they are horses, cattle, sheep, swine, ducks, etc.?"

In reply to the first query it may be said that lands on which is found any kind of merchantable timber, or timber having a market value, are not subject to desert entry. Before ob-

taining his title the claimant must explicitly swear that there is no such timber on the lands. If it is admitted, or on contest shown, that such timber grows on the lands, the entry will be cancelled and the claimant made liable to prosecution for perjury. Lands which are truly desert in character, that is which do not and will not produce a crop of any kind without artificial irrigation, may be filed on under the desert act, even though there are springs or streams of water upon them. The law contemplates that these springs or streams shall be utilized to render productive lands that without irrigation would be of little or no value. It is held that the grasses native to the mountain regions, growing spontaneously, do not constitute "a crop" that renders the land ineligible to desert entry.

To drive stock from its accustomed range, without the consent of the owner, is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine in any sum less than \$300, or imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding six months, or both. This statute would not apply in cases in which the person doing the driving, first acquired from the government the right to possess the lands that had formerly been the "accustomed range" of the stock.

The befouling of waters used for domestic purposes, in a manner to render them unfit for such use, is a misdemeanor, no matter by what means it is done. It may, for example, result from allowing washings from a woollen factory, seepage from a manure heap, or filth of any kind to flow or be dumped into a stream; or the waters may be fouled by herds of animals of various kinds. In any such case, the person whose act or negligence has caused the fouling of the waters, may be prosecuted.

No legislative body save Congress can restrict either cattle or sheep men in the use and occupancy of the public domain, nor can any regulations be established, save by that body, that will have the effect to end the incessant conflict of interests between these two classes. It has long been a cause of complaint in Utah that large herds of sheep are allowed to consume the feed near settlements, thus starving out the milk cows on which the settlers depend largely for food. This is an evil for which there is no direct remedy in the law, but it would seem that sheep owners having a proper sense of right, would not so impose upon whole communities. It has been suggested that the law in relation to the fouling of waters can be made to afford at least some protection to settlers in this regard, as sheep herded near a settlement are almost certain to foul the streams near it, to a greater or less extent, and the enforcement of the law would result in keeping herds of sheep at a distance.

NOT AT ALL DISTURBED.

If those editors who are endeavoring to impress their readers with the idea that Utah is just now in a terrible tumult could come here and view the situation, we think many of them would be very much astonished. There is probably no quieter place on the continent. There are no people in the country who are so little disturbed by passing events bearing upon their present and future than the Latter-day Saints. Yet from reading many public journals the public would gain the impression that in consequence of the movement for statehood, the planting of suits to plunder the "Mormon" Church, the death of President Taylor, and the imagined "conflict over the succession," added to the occasional arrests and the retirement of leading men from the common gaze, all "Mormondom" is in an uproar.

When Jesus was depicting the scenes of the latter-days and foretelling how his people would be persecuted, imprisoned, hunted and slain, while the woes and judgments to precede his second advent were poured out upon the nations, he exclaimed, "In patience ye your souls!" It is greatly to the credit of the Latter-day Saints that they carry out in practice that divine injunction. There is scarcely a ripple upon the steady stream of "Mormon" life in Utah.

The alleged "struggle for the Presidency" is wholly imaginary. The real is not anything in it at all. No one has contemplated such an improbable thing but persons who do not understand anything about the Church, its order, spirit and operations. It has suffered the loss of its earthly head on two former occasions without any disturbance of the body. Such contentions are provided for in its constitution. It contains inherent vital energy and natural power to supply the loss of any of its parts. There is no place for individual ambitions, and no necessity or object for such contentions as have been surprised and published as existing facts.

As to the suits against the Church, they occasion but little comment and no any commotion. The consequences foreshadowed by onlookers from a distance are not expected by faithful Church members here. They are not concerned as to the result. In their feelings they resent the injustice attempted, and consider it another proof of the truth of their religion, reasoning that if their faith were false it could be successfully attacked, in this age of learning and skill, with other weapons than those of force and spoliation. They rely on Providence

for the issue, and feel assured that it will be for the spread of truth and the triumph of the right. They do not expect even temporary disaster. But of this they are assured: If the Church to which they belong should be robbed of every dollar and stripped of every covering in the shape of houses of worship, it would live, thrive, extend and accomplish its mission in this world, and give to them its influences and helps to happiness in this life and salvation and exaltation in the life to come. It does not depend for its existence and power upon man or the institutions of man. It is divine, impregnable and indestructible. They have neither tears nor doubts about the Church.

The statehood movement has been and will be a topic of general interest. But it is not of a nature to cause agitation. The legal voters are moving in the line of their rights. Those who are not legal voters have abstained from interference. The country has been demanding certain things for years, and now those who are in a position to act in pursuance of the demand are moving accordingly. The rest are willing to wait and see if the country was sincere, and whether any honor or fairness is to be considered by the Government and the nation in dealing with the "Mormon" question.

The persecutions in the name of law have lost their novelty and some of their terrors. Legal wives are no longer compelled to testify against their husbands. Vicious prosecutors and biased judges cannot continue to pervert the law by doubling and trebling its extreme penalties, for the purpose of wreaking vengeance upon "Mormon" defendants. In several places the process of hounding and hunting men for living with their wives is exhausted, because every plural-wived inhabitant has suffered for his deluge. Families deprived of the presence and aid of husbands and fathers have managed to live and are not crushed by the weight of their injuries, and the Saints are ready to help the distressed and relieve the wants of the needy. Prosecutions pushed in the spirit of persecution have the opposite effect to that intended, and the people have learned patience and forbearance.

So affairs in Utah are very peaceful. The Saints meet in their respective tabernacles and places of worship, praise the Lord in the hymn and the sacrament, receive instructions and rejoice in the sublime truths of the everlasting gospel revealed anew from heaven. Their children go to Sunday School and are taught common learning during the week. They till the earth, tend their flocks, pursue their daily vocations and mind their own business. They multiply, increase, inherit the land, unite in the spirit of fraternity and enjoy the pure air, bright sunshine and glorious climate and opportunities of their mountain home, and look with confidence to the future for the reign of righteousness which is sure to come. They are possessing their souls in patience, they trust in God, and they also work while they wait for the great salvation. There are no people in these United States who are less disturbed over what is and what may yet be, than the Latter-day Saints inhabiting the lofty and lovely vales of the great Rocky Mountains.

CONVERSION BY CONFISCATION.

"THE proposition to confiscate the property of the Mormon Church and devote it to common school education is to be commended. There is no better way to eradicate the principles on which that church is founded than to provide for the spread of intelligence. Like almost every other evil that curses mankind, its foundations are laid in ignorance and the best way to prevent its spread is to enlighten the wretches who become its victims through want of knowledge."

The foregoing is from the Norristown, Pa., Herald. It is a specimen of anti-"Mormon" honesty and morality. It is assumed that the "foundations" of the "Mormon" Church are "laid in ignorance," and the best method that "Christian" intelligence and culture can furnish to "prevent the spread of the evil," is to rob the Church and impress its members with the superiority of orthodox religion, by taking away their property and diverting it, without their consent, to uses for which it was not designed, and for the benefit of others who have no right to any portion of it. We are so "ignorant" that we cannot see why such dishonesty "is to be commended" by any person or paper in Christendom. If all that is said by the bitterest enemies of the "Mormon" Church were true, it would not justify the confiscation of its property, nor would the contemplated robbery be calculated to "enlighten the wretches who become the victims," as to the pure morality of the "Christian" thieves who despoiled them.

Assuming that the Norristown Herald men are Methodists, what would they think of a project to confiscate the property of the Methodist Church in Pennsylvania, and devote the means for the education, in the common schools, of children belonging to Baptist, Episcopalian, Catholic, Jewish, Hindu and other families, that never contributed a dime towards its accumulation? That would be a most terrible outrage, of course. But who can show any difference in principle

between confiscating Methodist property in Pennsylvania and seizing "Mormon" property in Utah. The supposed "ignorance" of the people to be robbed does not alter the right or wrong of the transaction. Whether "Mormonism" is true or false, fair or foul, makes no difference as to the attempt to steal the property of its adherents. And the proposition to "enlighten" the children by means plucked from their parents, is of such a highly moral and eminent "Christian" character as to strike a reflecting person with admiration—or else amazement and disgust.

The following from the Philadelphia Call contains some chunks of good common sense on this subject, which we commend to the notice of all who are so anxious to put down the "Mormons" that they would applaud pillage and encourage plunder:

"The Gentiles of Utah, in their natural hatred of the Mormon Church and all its belongings, have taken a step which may react on themselves, not only in Utah, but in other parts of the United States. A petition has been presented in the Federal Court praying the United States to disincorporate the Mormon Church, and escheat its property for the benefit of the common school funds of the Territory. This is to be done, if done at all, under the law of Congress, prohibiting any church from owning more than \$50,000 worth of property. This prohibition, of course, extends only to the Territories over which the United States has exclusive control.

Now, while there is no question about the wickedness of the Mormons from a Christian standpoint, the reactionary folly of the proposed suppression is plainly apparent. If we are not mistaken there are several churches in the territories possessing property of greater value than \$50,000. In the District of Columbia, which is under the control of Congress, there are many wealthy church holdings and the church is poor indeed which does not exceed the limit set by Congress. If the law is enforced against the Mormon church, why not against the Catholic, the Baptist or the Episcopal churches?"

Already there is a large party in this country who call for the taxation of all church property, and affect to view with alarm the increasing wealth of the leading sects. To escheat the Mormon Church property may form a dangerous precedent for the escheating of the Baptist Church property, for instance. The Gentiles have allowed their zeal to run away with their discretion. Their province is to use the legal machinery to suppress polygamy, and beyond that they have no business to interfere. With polygamy eliminated the Mormon Church is a harmless institution, however erroneous its doctrines may be, and to persecute it for being rich is to condemn every other leading sect."

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CENTENNIAL.

The 15th of September promises to be a bright day in the history of Philadelphia, as well as being commemorative of an important national event. In that city on the date named, is to be celebrated one of the most marked occurrences connected with the birth of the nation. It will be the centennial celebration of the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, on the 17th of September, 1787, being the culminating act of the revolutionary struggle. It was not, however, until March 1790 that it was submitted to the people, in due form and ratified.

Ample preparations are being made by the Constitutional Centennial Commission. Among the chief features will be an industrial and civic processional display. Col. A. L. Sowden is chairman of the committee appointed to arrange and manage this important part of the celebration. He has lately addressed a letter to the governors of the several states, inviting their cooperation. The following passage occurs in it:

"In July, 1788, there was a celebration in this city intended not only to manifest the gratification of the people on the adoption of the Constitution by ten of the States, but also to stimulate its ratification by all the States composing the old Confederation. On that occasion the processional display, which received the countenance and the hearty support of the leading men of the period, representing all branches of business industries of all kinds, as well as the judiciary, the professions, and the schools of learning, headed by the venerable University of Pennsylvania, etc., was the most comprehensive and suggestive ever attempted up to that period on this side of the Atlantic. It devolves upon us in the coming celebration to illustrate, as far as possible, in the processional display, the marvelous material and industrial advance which has been made under the benign influence of the Constitution."

In his letter of Sept. 17th, 1787, Washington, President of the Convention, said: "We kept steadily in view that which appears to us the greatest interest of every true American, the consolidation of our Union, in which is involved our prosperity, felicity, safety, perhaps our national existence." In speaking upon this expression of the "father of his country," a writer in a prominent journal justly remarks: "If this was true a hundred years ago, how profoundly true it is now!"