

## EDITORIALS.

## A SAN FRANCISCO SCANDAL SENSATION.

SAN FRANCISCO has a large sized, but not sweet smelling, sensation in the scandal line. One Isaac S. Allen, manager of the San Francisco Benevolent Society, which disposes of extensive subscriptions and donations, stands charged by the *Chronicle* of that city, with the following serious offences—

"1. That Isaac S. Allen, manager of the San Francisco Benevolent Society, has embezzled the funds placed in his charge and used them for his own private use.

"2. That he has used the money of the Society to ingratiate himself in the good graces of a mother and daughter by furnishing in a splendid manner an eighteen-roomed lodging house.

"3. That he enticed the girl spoken of to his own house, and violently ravished her.

"4. That while acting as agent of the Society and using their funds, he has assisted in procuring an abortion."

Mr. Allen is out in an explanatory card, of course averring that he is not that kind of man at all, and an examination that was to have come off at the board failed, the girl and her mother, it being alleged, not being anxious to testify against Mr. Allen, but desiring the discontinuance of the proceedings. The mother, however, was produced, and she said she would not like to have Mr. Allen, "an old man like that," go unpunished for criminal intercourse with her child, and she did not think he ought to be sheltered. He ought to suffer for it.

It is hinted that intimidation was used to prevent the woman and her daughter from testifying before the board. The matter will probably get before the courts.

## MUDDLES IN BOTH WORLDS.

THERE are important political muddles in the new world and the old world. Muddles that involve wide and far reaching interests, both as to geography and as to time. Muddles among the most prominent of the people of both worlds. Muddles that involve national integrity and national boundaries, and different and distinct peoples, civilizations and religions.

In the old world there is the everlasting Eastern Question. It may and probably is drawing nearer to a solution, but it hardly seems to be, for first it is very muddy and doubtful, then it is clearer and the way more probable; now war is imminent, then there are hopes and prospects of peace; now the negotiating parties show signs of accommodation, then they are austere and repellent; now the Turks exhibit signs of yielding, then they manifest independence and stubbornness; now the Russians will proceed to put their army in motion, then the army arrangements have been broken down, the troops are sick, and the financial stringency hinders. So it goes, seesawing all the time, first one way and then another, every way by turns and no way long, altogether presenting to the general public a scene of supreme muddle, confusion and uncertainty.

The situation is much similar in some regards in this country. Here is the principal nation on this continent, and what a picture it presents! The matters pertaining to the presidential election question are so involved, confused, muddled, and mystified that nobody seems to have a very clear view of the realities of the situation, or to see a clear and satisfactory way out. First Hayes is elected, then Tilden is elected; first we are going to have a republican government, then a democratic government; first republican voters are full of fraud and perjury, then democratic voters are in that corrupt condition; first Hayes is to be inaugurated forcibly if we must, then Tilden is to undergo that revolutionary operation; first things are about to mend, there will be no trouble, and prosperity will begin to flow as in times gone, then there are going to be barrels, violence, mobs, fighting,

bloodshed, war, desolation, want, and widespread misery.

Which tale are we to believe? Amid all this contradiction, darkness and uncertainty, which way lies the path of the republic? Who has the key to the situation? Who can declare what shall be soon, so that people will know how to walk with a satisfactory degree of circumspection, so as to escape as much as possible swiftly coming evils, if there be any?

Amid all the confused cries and queries and rumors and declarations of the time, echo answers; but with equally uncertain and untrustworthy voice, so far as political leaders are concerned.

## TURKEY UP—RUSSIA DOWN.

THE New York *Herald* has the following concerning the recent talk of Turkish boldness and Russian fearfulness—

"PARIS, Dec. 31, 1876.

"It is astonishing what a number of friends Turkey has all of a sudden got here. Since she promised to pay her debt entire, even the humanitarian rulers have been converted. There could be no civilization in a Power that could only promise to pay half the interest on her bonds and then fail even in that. Such a state of affairs convinced the humanitarians that the creed of Islam was very debasing and its professors not by any means fitted to rule over Christian people who meet their obligations. The unpaid half coupons stamped polygamy as the crime of crimes and an empty treasury was the clearest indication of a cruel and vindictive disposition, and accounted for the Bulgarian atrocities. Now, what a change! Turkey is the fowl of fowls, the paragon of paragons.

"I have just learned the manner in which the money is to be got. The Grand Vizier, Midhat Pasha, proposes, Germany supporting him, to erect Roumania into an independent kingdom, with neutral territory guaranteed, like Belgium. Roumania under this plan is to redeem its present annual tribute by a lump sum, which is to be applied to the reduction of the Turkish debt at par by a drawing of prizes.

"This is Midhat's scheme by which he hopes to secure European support for the new constitution. It is very smart. People who have money to invest will be anxious to buy the bonds of a steady going State like Roumania, and any plan that looks like getting money from the Turk will have a good many to favor it. Midhat, of course, only proposes to take money out of one set of pockets to put it in another set, and none of the pockets to be depleted are to be in the Mussulman's apparel.

"While the scheme promises a good deal, those who are for peace at any price look upon the general breakdown of the Russian preparations for war as a dispensation of Providence. The latest information from the army of the Pruth describes the prevalence of dysentery among the troops, who are also suffering great privations. A spirit of insubordination has appeared; and the military outlook in South-western Russia is as gloomy as the most devout Moslem could wish. The business interests of Russia are so demoralized that widespread bankruptcy is imminent. In view of all these bad omens the war fever is sensibly cooling."

## ADMISSION OF UTAH.

OUR dispatches on Monday stated that Mr. Cannon, Delegate from Utah, had said that he was confident of securing favorable action on the bill admitting Utah into the Union. The same dispatch also intimates that there will be a strong opposition to the bill, that the discussion will bring the entire "Mormon" question into prominence, and that it will have to be settled one way or the other by Congress before Utah can become a State, also that "Mormon hostility to Gentile settlers will prove the greatest stumbling block to the success of the bill."

The exploded notion of "Mormon hostility to Gentile settlers" is one of those bugbears, horrible creatures of the imagination, which might be used to frighten children with, but could hardly have much

effect upon men and women. It is sufficient on this point to say that "Gentile settlers" have always lived here, and that they go and come, settle and do business, as they please, without let or hindrance, much as they do in any Territory or State.

As regards the settlement of the "Mormon" question by Congress before Utah can become a State. What has Congress to do with the settlement of the "Mormon" question, or any other religious question, before Utah becomes a State? "Mormonism" is a religion, the religion of many thousands of sincere, well meaning, conscientious people. What has Congress to do with their religious convictions? Those convictions are settled. Congress not only has no power nor authority nor business to settle them, but we do not see how it is possible for that body to either settle or unsettle them. Congress has nothing to do with anybody's religion, no right to interfere with it, and therefore has no right to make any action concerning "Mormonism" preliminary to, or a basis of, the admission of Utah into the Union as a State, not the least shadow of right whatever. It is just as inconsistent to say that the question of Methodism, or the question of Catholicism, must be settled before Utah can be admitted into the Union. What has "Mormonism," Methodism, or Catholicism to do with the admission or rejection of Utah? What has Congress to do with "Mormonism," or Methodism or Catholicism in connection with the admission of States? "Mormonism" is not the established religion of the Union, nor is Methodism, nor is Catholicism. This dragging of the subject of religion into the question of the admission of States is a mere political side issue, and is wholly irrelevant to the real question at issue. It lacks the sanction of constitutional law or fundamental principle, and the weight of consistent procedure. Those members who seek in such a discussion to bring "the entire question" of any religion up in Congress are out of order, and should be promptly and effectually voted down, rebuked so sharply that they would not err a second time in that direction.

Utah does not ask admission into the Union because many of her people are "Mormons." She would not expect to be admitted on the plea that they were Methodists or Presbyterians. She has the good sense to know that the religion of the people has no legitimate constitutional bearing upon the question, and should not be introduced in the connection.

Utah asks to be admitted because she thinks she is entitled to be admitted. She has more population than some of the States of the Union. Her people are intelligent, enterprising, energetic, industrious, and above the average in morality. She proved herself capable of self-government years and years ago. She is one of the most loyal commonwealths in the land. There are no people more truly patriotic than hers, no people more desirous of good, wholesome laws, no people more disposed to maintain public peace and good order, to develop her great and varied resources judiciously, and to promote local and national welfare and prosperity, union and harmony, on the soundest principles.

Therefore do we consider that Delegate Cannon has good grounds on which to ask for the admission of Utah, and if Congress shall shortly admit her as a State, the admission will prove that the Federal Legislature is disposed to act fairly in the matter and in accordance with the intent of the fathers of our common country.

## FORTY PRESIDENCY-ABOLISHING REFORMERS.

ACCORDING to the *Washington Star*, forty persons lately assembled at Clarke's Hall, Washington, to discuss the important question of abolishing the presidency of the United States, Colonel Lafayette Bingham presiding. The following is given as a specimen of the proceedings—

"A Virginian, who declined to give his name, except as Mr. Stranger, said that this meeting was evidence that there was some dissatisfaction with the government. Gentlemen called statesmen

are engaged in a work which any child can do—trying to count 185. He claimed that the country was diseased and they should go to the root of the disease. He did not see how a seven-handed tyrant would be an improvement. Constitutional liberty had been overthrown in the country, and plunder is the object now as it was in the days of old.

"Mr. J. B. Wolfe gave his views, and Col. Bingham remarked that he knew of office-holders afraid to attend the meeting. Belknap and Robeson are both guilty by the people, but go free.

"Mr. Wolfe.—What remedy do you propose, which does not now apply?

"Mr. Watson.—The government will be responsible to the people through Congress; and if there are seven in the council, some will be competent to carry on the government. You never heard of seven men getting crazy at once.

"Mr. Wolfe.—They may all be crazy from the start.

"Mr. Watson.—You never heard of seven having the dyspepsia at once.

"Mr. Wolfe, holding up his hands—My G—! I have seen whole communities with it.

"Mr. Wolfe thought the Senate needed reform. It did not represent anyone except the rings of the several States.

"Mr. Watson.—Does the Senate get drunk all at once?

## A GREEDY PRIEST.

THE late Cardinal Antonelli, the Pope's premier and right hand man, is said to have banked in his own name and interest [the valuable offerings of the recent Spanish pilgrims to Rome. William Howitt, in a letter from Rome to the *London Christian World*, says the Cardinal "was noted for three things—avarice, the sternest despotism, and licentiousness," all glaringly inconsistent with the character of a true representative and minister of the meek and lowly Jesus. Howitt says, a Catholic gentleman met him with the news, "Well, Antonelli is gone, but has left thirty or forty millions of francs, every farthing of which was wrung from the blood of the poor."

An exchange further remarks of him—

"Now that the will of the late Cardinal Antonelli has been made public, there comes a storm of indignation from his fellow-countrymen and fellow-churchmen for his utter failure to leave them any portion of his vast wealth. His only gifts to the public were five dollars to a hospital and the same amount to the holy places in Jerusalem! It was supposed that he would give his valuable collection of jewels and precious stones to the Pope for the Vatican Museum. He however turned his old master off with the single gift of a crucifix worth about \$400. The whole of his colossal fortune was bequeathed to his family relatives."

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

—This is the sort of a New Year they had in San Bernardino, according to the *Times* of that city—"Yesterday was the driest New Year's day we have seen for a long time. The air was dry, the earth was dry and all the people were dry. Everybody we met were dry, and everybody that met us told us it was dry and straightway started somewhere to get moist. All our callers were dry, and by sundown every decanter in town was dry. Altogether it was a dry day in a dry season. But as this is a dry subject we'll dry up."

—The New York *Herald's* London cable dispatch says, "The medical journals report the discovery by an Italian doctor of a cure for diphtheria. It consists of the local use of chloral and glycerine, and the internal administration of chlorate of potash."

The *London Times* begins a two-penny weekly with the new year, and the *Daily News* erects its seventh Walter press at the same time.

—We presume we must consider as settled now the question where the Dickens is Dickens, that is, where Charles Dickens is gone to. Rev. Phoebe A. Hansford, in the Church of the Good Shepherd, Jersey Heights, Dec. 31, held forth

this way—"Rev. Dr. Fulton, of Boston, said that Charles Dickens is in hell, but I say he is in heaven." Phoebe thought the great novelist was too good a man to go to the other place. For says she, "If Dickens is not in heaven, where can he be?"

—An exchange says, "In a thoughtful essay on political corruption in the United States, the *International Review* arrives at the conclusion that a vast amount of corruption exists in the present administration, and finds the reason thereof in the insatiable greed for wealth, which is a chief characteristic of our people, and in the vicious class of men who compose the administrative body of our republic. The two combined pervert the power and patronage of the Government from its proper channel, the benefit of the citizen, in the vile rut of personal aggrandisement, and outrage the first principle of all government, protection of rights in reciprocity for their trust, by robbing the public for the lust of the individual."

—The New York *Herald* says Queen Victoria brought up her children on oatmeal, and the *Boston Post* suggests that the Prince of Wales must have taken his oats wild.

—"J. B. Gough, is sick." So are many of the people who have been lectured at by him.

—The *Burlington Hawkeye* says, "In distinction to 'Old Probabilities,' the pretty Treasury girls at Washington are called 'young possibilities.'"

—The authorities at Castle Garden, N. Y., state that more Russian subjects have arrived in this country during the past year, especially within the last few months, than in any year within their recollection.

—This must be the age of utilization. The *Scientific American* remarks, "The question is whether, in this age of utilization, we are going to allow the bodies of the dead to remain unutilized," and tells how the skin of a human being makes soft, pliable, light brown leather when tanned, like fine calfskin, but more porous. The available skin of a good sized man will make two pairs of boots. Another way of utilizing bodies suggested is to cremate them in retorts, converting the volatile matter into illuminating gas, and the bones into phosphates.

—The Cherokee Nation in Arkansas has gained its suit to compel the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad to take up its rails and cease running within its boundaries.

—A German watchnight party were met, Dec. 31, to see the old year out and the new year in, at New York, when Miss Kate Handwerk, a 16 year old, who had a revolver, snapped it three or four times, "thinking it was not loaded," but it was, and the snapping discharged it, lodging a bullet in the abdomen of Mrs. Anne Weil, the girl's aunt, who is expected to die in consequence.

—The New York *Herald* terms the present "the sick man's winter," because of the abundance of snow in that locality.

—One Oscar Hudson threw boiling water over his mistress, Martha Shuttle, and then held her over the stove and nearly roasted her to death, at the "Crow's Nest," Jersey City.

—A Philadelphia policeman, convicted of murder, is to have a new trial because at the time of the deed, in the language of the Judge, "his reason had been torn up by the roots, and judgment jostled from her throne."

—The French are said to have the greatest modern cyclopedia, that of Larousse, *Grand Dictionnaire Universel du XIXme Siecle*, just completed in fifteen volumes, for 526 francs. It is reported to contain more than double the matter in any other modern cyclopedia, and is correspondingly valuable so far as it is accurate and symmetrical in the range of its subjects and in their treatment.

—Two burglars broke into a New York store recently, and packed up \$30,000 worth of pearl buttons, but were astonished on finding themselves in the presence of policemen before leaving the building. The buttons were in boxes on the counter, which communicated with an alarm arrangement, affected by the addition of an ounce to, or subtraction of an ounce from, the counter.