

**IS THE EDMUNDS LAW A FAILURE?**

It may not be just to hold the present administration responsible for the failure to properly adjust the Mormon problem, but as to a certain success or failure must be placed somewhere, credit given, and blame laid when failure results, it is difficult to see how the present administration will escape the censure which public opinion will visit upon it, for the now very evident failure of Senator Edmunds' pet scheme. When that scheme was devised, in utter disregard for constitutional restraints or authority, the able and astute Senator from Vermont promised the country that the Mormon faith would be wiped out, and the civilization of the age asserted itself with great rapidity. Senator Edmunds and his Puritan brethren in Congress were very sanguine of the success of the measure, and they congratulated themselves, and the country, that they had found a panacea for the ills with which the body politic was afflicted by reason of the Mormon rivalry. But the deeply laid scheme has failed to produce that healthy reaction which the Senator promised, and it seems to have suggested the opposite result. The learned and valuable researches made by the Senator in the fields of human endeavor, have signally failed to show such gratifying results as the country had expected from so great a sacrifice of constitutional authority. Instead of worrying the Mormons and forcing them to abandon the "twisted relic of barbarism" with all that it implies, the followers of the sainted prophet continue to act as a unit in defense of the peculiar tenets, and the polygamous wives adhere closely to the fortunes of their much married husbands. And this too in the face of the prohibition of the legislature devised and on foot, was intended to dissipate and utterly scatter such pernicious practices and doctrines. Not a month ago an election was held in Utah, and as the franchise there includes the women, the Mormons won a signal and decisive victory. No excess or explanation will break the forces of this fact. There is no dearth of explanation as to how this was accomplished, but no explanations will relieve the voters of this much-vaunted system of the acknowledged fact that it has been a failure, and that the Mormon power is as much of a power as it ever was, and under present appearances likely to remain so. To say that the Mormons voted as they were directed by the church, is an excuse more dangerous than the frank admission of the fact without explanation. This would indicate that the church is possessed of wonderful power both over the souls as well as the consciences of its followers, and may serve, to show to Senator Edmunds how futile was the idea that Congress could abolish the church and its teachings by the passage of an act.

Without assuming to question either the wisdom or judgment of Senator Edmunds, his philanthropic brethren in Congress, it does seem as if there had been a total lack of common sense in dealing with the Mormon problem. The Senate should know, and possibly does know, that acts thrive by persecution, and this case evidently has no exception. Perhaps after all, if left to itself, the problem will work out its own solution, and it may be best to let time work out this much needed reform. It is plain that Congressional enactment will not hurry the matter, it is doubtful whether it will not retard or delay. The advancing civilization must force it to close quarters, and the march of better methods and higher aspirations must in time antagonize and destroy it. If the course of empire westward does not engulf this plague spot of moral wickedness, there is no use trying to exterminate it by violent methods, or even by public legislation. It will give way to the relentless progress of commerce and immigration, for soon the field of activity will be overrun and trampled upon, and as its converts are not gained from Americans, it will be outwitted, and outmatched, and its doom be sealed. This reform to be the only remedy left, for no harsh means can be employed, and this seems the easy and natural way of dealing with it.

The foregoing dispassionate article on a question which usually arouses so much passion that most editors lose their common sense in dilating upon it adversely, appears in *The American Register*, a very able weekly journal published at Washington, D. C., in which the principles of democratic government are discussed with uncommon force and clearness. There are some mistakes in the article, which might be reasonably expected, because there is no subject about which journalists say so much while understanding so little as this same "Mormon" question.

The failure of the Edmunds law seems to be generally admitted. It is alleged by Democrats and confessed by Republicans. And yet the common opinion on the results of that peculiar piece of special legislation is entirely wrong, unless the object had in view in its enactment was something greater and different from that specified in its provisions.

We would like some of the papers which are croaking over the failure of the Edmunds law to define what it was expected to accomplish in less than eighteen months after its passage. The principal end in view, if we may judge from the language of the law, was the disfranchisement and exclusion from office of persons in Utah living in the practice of polygamy.

It was for this that the election and registration offices of this Territory were vacated. It was for this that five Commissioners were provided for to appoint "proper persons" to fill the vacated offices. It was for this that so much care was exercised in arrangements for the election of members of the Utah Legislature. It was for this that the Commissioners went beyond the powers specified in the law and assumed authority which it was contemplated was certainly not expressed. It was for this that they formulated a test oath which no person could take who had ever been in the practice of polygamy. It was for this that they excluded all citizens from the polls who cohabited with more than one woman "in the marriage relation," while they admitted persons who cohabited with any number of women and

women who cohabited with any number of men, provided it was done out of the marriage relation.

This object has been accomplished. How then can the bill be regarded as a failure? The complaint seems to be that "Mormons" voted in such numbers at the recent election as to carry all before them. Well, did the Edmunds law propose to prevent non-polygamous "Mormons" from voting? Certainly not. It provided for the election of "Mormons" in the exercise of the elective franchise who had not entered into the practice of polygamy. Here is the language of the law.

"Provided, That said board of five persons shall not exclude any person otherwise eligible to vote from the polls on account of any opinion such person may entertain on the subject of bigamy or polygamy, nor shall they refuse to count any such vote on account of the opinion of the person casting it on the subject of bigamy or polygamy."

The object is plainly indicated. That is, to cast a stigma on practical polygamists and encourage "Mormon" opponents. The Act was not designed to disfranchise people or disqualify them for holding office on account of belief. Who but a blind bigot or a rash and radical revolutionist would desire that any such measure should prevail as would destroy, in any part of this Republic, the sacred right of free opinion? The "Mormons," then, who did not actually practice polygamy were as free to vote as the non-"Mormons." They were allowed to exercise equal political privileges with libertines and prostitutes.

But this seems to have been too lenient to suit some of the pious so-called "Christians" of this land of liberty. Because any of the "Mormons" were permitted to vote in regard to the local officers for the transaction of their affairs, and the people of this Territory were not handed over to the hands of the political control of a minority not equaling one-fifth of the voting population, many persons and among them some of the journalists, the moulders of public opinion effect to be scandalized, and they loudly proclaim the Edmunds law a failure. They are very inequitable and they have fallen into a very grave error. Even the close reasoning *American Register* speaks of the result of the election as serving to show to Senator Edmunds how futile was the idea that Congress could abolish the church and its teachings by the passage of an act.

Now, there is no indication in the Edmunds law that such an object was held in view. What has Congress to do with abolishing a church or interfering with its teachings? Senator Edmunds, much as he strained the Constitution and resorted to measures that cannot be fairly defended in the light of that sacred instrument, knew better than to attempt such a palpable impossibility. The only reference in his enactment to the "Mormon" Church is in Section Seven, which legitimates up to January 1, 1883, the issue of bigamous or polygamous marriages "solemnized according to the Mormon sect."

But this appears to be the "consummation devoutly to be wished," which the Edmunds law did not bring about, and the failure to accomplish which is the cause of the great complaint against it. The *Register* is so far right. Congress cannot destroy the Church nor abolish its teachings by law. Those who have looked for such an effect from the Edmunds Act have been naturally disappointed. It did not aim at such an end. That which it chiefly provided for has been effected. Indeed a great deal more has been done than it provided for. The Commissioners have not only done everything which the law authorized them to do, but much more, in their zeal and determination to perform their part of the work out of it. They not only arranged matters and enacted rules and regulations for the disfranchisement of actual polygamists, but carried the business to the extent of shutting out from the polls and from holding office men and women who are not now practical polygamists, and some who never entered into plural family relations since the passage of any law of Congress against it; thus stretching the provisions of the Edmunds law far beyond their legitimate limit, and making them unjust, retro-active, ex post facto, and therefore unconstitutional.

To find fault with the law as a failure is therefore unreasonable and childish, and to rail against the Commissioners for not accomplishing more is equally unreasonable. The difficulty is, there is not an editor in ten who is summing up the results of the Edmunds Act that really understands its provisions; and there is not one in a hundred who comprehends the real situation in Utah. The *Register* says that "the converts are not gained from Americans," which is a great mistake, and it talks about Utah as "the plague spot of moral wickedness," when it is infinitely superior in morality and all the virtues that tend to make up good society, to any other part of this nation that boasts so much of its "Christian" enlightenment. But in the main the *Register* is right, and if these agencies which in their very nature have the greatest power over erratic notions and practices cannot detach ever or uproot "Mormonism," then it is because the system called by that name is different to what is generally supposed and is superior to its moral antagonists. It is wrong to apply to the alleged disease, and force will utterly fail in effecting the destruction of the soul which which cannot be reached by any of the methods of violence.

Yesterday morning, a 17-year old boy named Lake, at Lynne, was trying to head a horse, when the one he was riding slipped down, bringing the boy to the ground with it. The luckless rider sustained a fracture of the right leg, between the knee and the ankle. A couple of boys passing by picked him up and took him to his home. — *Ogden Herald.*

**BY TELEGRAPH.**

FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

**AMERICAN.**

LATEST BY LIGHTNING.

Not Serious.

CHICAGO, 3.—Special report that Lord Hoadley, who accompanied the Hatch excursion to the Yellowstone, went into the wilderness in search of game, accompanied by two experienced hunters. Report reached the hotel at Mammoth Hot Springs yesterday that Hoadley had sustained injuries by slipping down a precipice while pursuing game. A party was sent out and brought him to the hotel last night. The injuries sustained, though painful, are not serious.

**Yellow Fever.**

WASHINGTON, D. C., 3.—Advice from Pensacola state that two new cases have appeared since the last report, but no deaths.

**The Villard Orator.**

ST. PAUL, 3.—The Villard party arose early this morning and repaired to Lake Minnesota depot, where a train of eight cars was in readiness to take all to St. Paul. Upon their arrival at St. Paul a grand reception was given the party. The mayor and members of the city council, and many distinguished citizens were on hand with abundance of carriages, in which the party proceeded to their destination. Soldiers were drawn up in front of the depot, presenting an imposing appearance, and military bands filled the air with music. As the procession moved on through the city, the people lined the streets, and from the depot, an ovation of the most eloquent character greeted them on every side. Buildings were profusely decorated with flags and streamers bearing the names of the party. The military, and the fire department were out and leading citizens and women representing every industry of the Northwest. It was received by President Villard and party at Rice's Park. After reviewing the procession the guests were drawn all over the city. President Villard, with General Grant, occupied the foremost carriage. From St. Paul the party left for Minneapolis at 12:30, there to receive a second reception.

**A Sea of Broken Bones.**

ST. JOHNS, N. F., 3.—Captain Nickerson, of the schooner *Bessy*, has just arrived from the Grand Banks. His left hand, which was broken by a shark's bite, is now in a perfect sea of shattered dories and broken bones, spars, gaffs and other gear of fishing vessels. No further reliable particulars yet to hand. The *Bessy* narrowly escaped going down with all hands. She was badly strained and leaking.

**Base Ball League.**

NEWPORT, R. I., 3.—The Base Ball Association known as the American League, of professional Base Ball Clubs, was organized and will hold a meeting at Pittsburgh on the 12th inst., for the purpose of arranging for a solid foundation for the new league. The American Association will abolish what is known as the eleven reserve rule. Thus far the clubs entered are to work, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Pittsburgh, Chicago and Indianapolis. In addition it is expected that St. Louis and Cincinnati will be represented at the meeting. The league is expected to be the project of the association.

**Railroad Week.**

NEW BRITAIN, CONN., 3.—The east bound passenger train on the New York and New England R. R. consisting of seven passenger cars and one baggage car, jumped the track near here this morning, owing to spreading rails. It collided with two freight cars standing on the siding. They were smashed to pieces and the engineer, Allen Balch, was cut about the head and arms, but not fatally. None of the passengers were injured, although the train was running 35 miles an hour.

**A Requested Paper.**

BOSTON, 3.—Resolutions were passed yesterday by the Associated Irish and Catholic Societies, of Fall River, in joint convention, to boycott the *Daily Herald* because the latter refused to print an appeal for aid in behalf of the families of the men executed for complicity in the Phoenix Park murders.

Body Found.—The Navy department is in receipt of a letter from San Francisco stating that the body of a man supposed to be that of Master Putnam, of the *Rogers*, was found on Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska, by the natives when the ice broke up in August 1882.

**Lord Coleridge.**

PORTLAND, ME., 3.—Judge Webb, of the U. S. District Court, this morning invited Lord Coleridge and party to sit in court. The invitation was accepted, and a review of the case, Lord Coleridge was presented to about 55 members of the bar. This afternoon members of the Cumberland Bar take the party to drive about the city and environs, returning this evening, when a dinner will be given by the Cumberland Bar.

**FOREIGN.**

**LATEST TRANS-ATLANTIC DISPATCHES.**

**Sixty Killed.**

LONDON, 3.—Intelligence is received that a fight occurred on the 2nd and 3rd of August, at Comel, between King Kaffie and Mshah. Sixty of the latter's men were killed.

**Centres.**

The rumor that the steamer *Ambergris*, which was on board a cargo and passengers, was disabled, and that the steamer *St. Germaine* had foundered proves untrue.

**French Forces.**

LONDON, 3.—A dispatch from Hong Kong states that the French General Houet demanded of the war department a national reinforcement of 6,000 men. The country is still suffering from floods. The French admiral has issued a notice declaring all the ports of Annam, including Saigon, in a state of blockade.

**Pemba Arrests.**

Glasgow, 3.—The nine Irishmen arrested here, charged with being connected with attempts to destroy property by dynamite, are known to the police as Pemba and have been under surveillance for several months.

**Michael Davitt.**

Dublin, 3.—At a mass meeting held on Sunday at Cappalora, Michael Davitt, delivered an address stating that by the financial operations of landlords in Ireland, 2,000 households have been deprived of their homes within the three months ending July 1st. Davitt contended that the question of complete abolition of landlordism must be kept before the people. The land, he stated, is not a fallen tree, but a living thing, and it is rapidly becoming so, and not one sixth of the tenant farmers of the country have yet succeeded in having their rents reduced. He urged the people to be resolute, calm, and not to lose self-control.

**Chinese Protest.**

VIENNA, 3.—The Chinese government intends to issue a formal protest to the Great Powers, declaring the treaty of peace between France and Annam, signed at Hue in 1882, as void, as the King of Annam was forced by the French to sign it.

**Removing the Remains.**

PARIS, 3.—The remains of Chamberlain were removed from Frohndorf to Wolkersdorf on Sunday morning and sent from there to Goritz in the evening. All the inhabitants of Frohndorf accompanied the procession from the Chateau to the depot. The cortege consisted of a force of local volunteers and intimate friends of the deceased, and the coffin was placed in a railway carriage elaborately draped. At Goritz the railway depot was heavily hung with black draperies. In the street through which the procession moved black flags and draperies were displayed from public buildings and residences. Plaster casts of the count's face were taken and the Duke of Sagan made a sketch of the body as it lay in state.

**Contractions.**

Read the call for bids for earthwork in our advertising columns. Send in your bids.

**STOCK FUTURE.**

At Little Farm, three miles south of Sixth Ward Bridge, 50 cents per week.

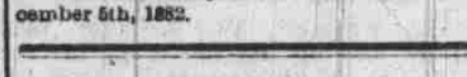
**DIED.**

CONNERT—In the 12th Ward, Salt Lake City, September 2nd, 1883, of summer complaint and tetanus. Augustus Frederick, son of Paul A. and Anna Scheller, aged 9 months and 9 days.

MCBRIDE—At Oakley, Idaho, August 25th, 1883, of inflammation of the kidneys. Blum, a twin son of Aaron and Caroline McBride, born October 25th, 1882.

GARKE—September 1st, 1883, of tetanus and pneumonia. William Adams, son of Jacob L. and Mary Wallace Garcke, born December 31st, 1882.

**EMIL FRESE'S**



**HAMBURG TEA.**

Is the best family medicine, and will be found, on trial, to be the most easy, natural and comfortable aperient obtainable. For sale everywhere.

**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.**

SEALED PROPOSALS FOR the earthwork construction of first five miles of the Uncompagnie Canal, lying in Montezuma County, Colorado, will be received at the office of the Colorado Loan and Trust Company, Room 11, Taber Block, Denver, Colorado, until September 15th, 1883.

The Canal will be nearly twenty miles in length, eighteen feet wide in bottom. It will be constructed through a country similar in character to that found in the valleys of Utah.

Bids will be received on the following classification:

- 1st—Earthwork.
- Excavation—including the adjacent embankment.
- Embankment—where needed and in excess of excavation.
- 2nd—Solid Rock.
- 3rd—Loose Rock.
- 4th—Gravel.

Should the Company deem advisable, bonds with securities for the faithful execution of the work will be required.

The bids on the first five miles satisfactory, the remaining portion of the work will be given on same terms.

Further information can be had at the office of the Engineer, WALTER H. GRAVES, Engineer. DENVER, Aug. 31, 1883.

**WALKER OPERA HOUSE**

Tuesday Eve., Sept. 4, '83

**60 MINUTES IN THE WAR!**

A Rich and Delightful Entertainment ENGAGEMENT OF

**COL. WILL L. VISSCHER**

In which he has been connected with extraordinary by delighted audiences of leading cities.

50¢ Parquette and Dress Circle, 50 cents. Family Circle, 25 cents.

**60 Minutes in the War!**

In which he has been connected with extraordinary by delighted audiences of leading cities.

50¢ Parquette and Dress Circle, 50 cents. Family Circle, 25 cents.

**RUPTURE**

Radically Cured in a Week

WM. TODD, A. M., M. D., PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.

Office and Residence, Rooms 7 and 8 White Hall, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Hours, 10 to 12 a. m., 2 to 5 p. m. and 8 to 9 p. m.

**The Iron Manufacturing Company of Utah.**

FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING the manufacture of iron and steel, the Iron Manufacturing Company of Utah has been organized.

The company has been organized for the purpose of promoting the manufacture of iron and steel, and has been organized for the purpose of promoting the manufacture of iron and steel.

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**SALT LAKE THEATRE.**

Grand Historic Combination!

MRS. F. M. BATES, Miss Sallie Hinckley, AND THE HOME DRAMATIC CLUB, In the Greatest Dramatic and Spectacular Success of the Season.

THE Red Pocket Book

The special property of Miss Hinckley.

Three Performances! Positive and Certain!!

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 2d, 3d and 4th.

Box Office open Saturday, September 1

Stockholders of Canaan Co-op. Stock Co.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE decided to advance the rate of the average capital stock for the year ending 30th June, 1883. Said rate to be charged at par against the capital stock of the parties drawing said advance.

ELIABUS B. SNOW, Secretary C. O. S. Co. St. George, August 27th, 1883.

\$50 REWARD, I WILL PAY THE ABOVE REWARD for the recovery of a three-year old Colt, no brand, but a prominent saddle. It is a small American colt, very dropped rump, long slim tail, was hurt on night, jaw and winter, leaving quite a lump below right eye; unbroke to harness or saddle.

S. C. EWING, Proprietor, Cuth House, Salt Lake City, Utah.

NEW TIN STORE! C. PEARCE HAS OPENED HIS TIN STORE, Opposite the D. & R. G. Depot.

ALL KINDS OF WORK DONE FOR HOUSE, MINES, MILLS, OR SMELTERS, IN TIN, COPPER OR IRON.

Call and see him before going elsewhere. Residence—West side 9th Ward, School House block.

10th Ward Brass Band

THREE DAYS' EXCURSION TO NEPHI

ON WEDNESDAY, Sept. 5th

Nephi & Return \$3.00

Provo " 1.75

CHILDREN HALF FARE.

Tickets for sale at Daynes & Coal-ter's, and Dwyer's, Pembroke's and Raybould's book stores.

Train leaves depot at 8 a.m.

Tickets good for Ten Days by paying half regular fare each.

**To Pleasure Seekers**

To parties coming to enjoy a SAIL ON THE GREAT SALT LAKE, Or a visit to any of the islands in the Lake, I respectfully announce that I have the LARGEST, SAFEST AND BEST BUILT YACHT.

Launched on the Lake, capable of carrying from 20 to 30 persons, and stock takes parties for a sail to any part of the Lake. The Yacht is kept at Hinkley's, where parties can be made, or at the Premier's Hall. I will sail on the Lake, the Day or Hour. I also have HOW BOATS for hire.

4231st O. L. HAMMER, Proprietor.

**WOOL WOOL.**

Having secured, for the present, the large building recently occupied by Z. C. M. I. Produce Department, better known as the Old City Meat Market, I am prepared to continue the purchase of WOOL. Call and see me.