

EDITORIALS.

WIDE OF THE MARK.

AMONG the many untruths advanced by the New York *Herald* in its almost daily assault on the "Mormons," and some of which are too absurd to deserve reply or attention, we notice that the early settlers of Utah are charged with fierce opposition to railroads. The *Herald* of the 13th inst. says—

"To both mines and railroads the Mormon priests were opposed, and well they might be, for the success of either was the death knell of their debasing imposition."

This is as near the facts in the case as the great sensational journal of America generally arrives in its crusade on the "Mormons." But history is more potent than press denunciations, and the *Herald* only exposes its own ignorance in making such assertions as the above.

When the pioneers of the people who had been driven from the State of Illinois by the weapons of religious bigotry, made their weary march across the plains and mountains to find for the Saints an asylum in the West, they marked out a path for the great highway, which the spirit of inspiration that prompted their leaders manifested would be cast up in the wilderness. Soon after their arrival here, and their organization of a temporary Government, they applied for admission into the Union, and also memorialized Congress to build a railroad across the plains, setting forth its advantages to commerce and to the nation at large. This is a fact in our history of which the New York *Herald* can become perfectly satisfied, by taking a title of the trouble at Washington to find out the truth, that it has taken in Utah to work up plausible error.

When the Union Pacific actually approached Utah from the East and the Central Pacific drew near from the West, it was "Mormon" labor and "Mormon" energy which hurried up its completion, and joined the roads together with a speed and completeness unparalleled in the history of railroad building.

"Mormon priests," as the *Herald* calls them, have worked with their hands as well as their heads—a kind of labor in which the priests endorsed by that paper are never guilty of engaging—to construct and equip a number of railroads, both of broad and narrow gauges, which are now in running order and acting as feeders to the great continental highway. How much does this look like "opposition to railroads?"

And as to the mines. The leaders of the people here, with a sagacity for which nearly all sensible people in the world give them credit, saw the folly of a policy which would develop the mineral interest before there was any agricultural basis and manufacturing support. They therefore wisely advised the people who flocked here from the industrial centres and rural districts of the old world and the new, to till the soil, convert the deserts into fields and gardens, conduct the mountain streams upon the parched and thirsty soil, beautify the earth, raise cattle and horses and sheep, manufacture wool into cloth, produce cotton, build comfortable homes, worship God in the valleys. He had blessed with fertility under their labors, and leave the gold and silver in the mountains until in His providence the proper time should come for their development.

The history of Utah when contrasted with the experience of surrounding Territories in which this plan has been reversed, shows the wisdom of this advice and the benefits which have followed from acting upon it. And time has shown what will be more abundantly demonstrated as it advances, that the Latter-day Saints are not, as a community adapted for mineral pursuits. They will achieve greater success as a pastoral, agricultural and manufacturing people than as miners. Let those who will spend time and money in hunting for precious ores. The Saints can do better in every sense of the word by following those pursuits which nature, their religion and wise counsel point out to them.

But they do not oppose mining

by any means. They have never hindered those who wished to dig in the hills from making as many holes in the ground as they please. They recognize the hand of Providence in the opening of the mineral wealth to human gaze and industry, but think they can be far happier and more prosperous by laboring in those channels in which they have hitherto been so successful, and in which they can enjoy the benefits of home, family associations and the consolations and refinements of religion, than by working amid the dangers and hardships and rude conditions that are general features of a mining camp.

These are the facts in the case, and the New York *Herald* as in most of its efforts to touch upon the "Mormon" question, is again very wide of the mark.

A CAPITAL CRIME AND A PETTY PUNISHMENT.

THE case of Rev. McGhee, of Dixon, Illinois, accused of poisoning his wife, has been decided. He was found guilty and sentenced by the jury to fourteen years' imprisonment.

This is a peculiar verdict. If McGhee was guilty of anything, it was deliberate, cold-blooded murder. The penalty is entirely inadequate to the crime. He should have been either acquitted or executed; or if an Illinois jury is too tender to take the life of a murderer, imprisonment for life would be the nearest approach to justice in such a case as McGhee's.

It appears that Parson McGhee, a dapper, little, smooth-tongued Methodist preacher, who was much admired by the females of his flock, fell in love with Miss Lorilla Padlock, one of the members of the church in which he officiated. To open the way to woo and win her, he administered arsenic to his alluring wife. This treatment falling through an excessive dose, he next tried strychnine with fatal effect. But a post mortem examination disclosed the poison, and investigation proved his purchase of the deadly ingredient.

He protested against the accusation and loudly proclaimed his innocence, but in vain. The jury believed him guilty and said so. This was in accordance with the evidence, and so far they were right. But how they could affix such an insignificant punishment for so terrible and inexcusable a crime is one of the many incomprehensible mysteries of jury decisions.

PROFESSIONAL SUICIDE.

It was our intention to drop the N. Y. *Herald* "commissioner's" sensation fizzle, out of charity to the discomfited victim of *mania a potu*, and a self-inflicted vest wound. But that unwise person persists in making himself ridiculous by drawing public attention to his escapade, and at the same time indulges in such wilful perversions of the truth, that we are induced, reluctantly, to refer to him again.

Under date of the 16th inst. he sends to the *Herald* a collation of fictions, for the evident purpose of drawing a veil over the full account of the investigation into his Guiltarian story. He states that the report was made by a "stenographer who is Brigham Young's own private secretary;" that a stipulation was made that the report should be ready within a week; that three applications had been made for it without result; that the "priesthood had decided to suppress it;" that a courteous messenger had been sent to the Mayor for the report, who was insulted; that the report "had been completed and was lying in the Mayor's desk for days past;" that the testimony of witnesses was to be "manipulated as Brigham Young and his counsellors desired;" that old residents believe the Mayor and his police force were "accessory to the assaults," because of their "evident desire to rush up the affair and shield the criminal;" &c.

We read the letter in which the above inaccuracies occur, with deep pity. It is evident that the unfortunate writer is really in mental disorder. His habits, associates and

recreations have powerfully affected his intellect, and not only produced that moral infirmity which leaves the victim to reverse facts, but blinds him to the defects, palpable to ordinary observers, of his own attenuated fabrications.

Every one of his statements is untrue. The stenographer who, as he says in another place was "the only one in the city disengaged," is not and never was President Young's "private secretary." The reporter did not "stipulate" that his transcript should be ready in a week, although he thought that it might be prepared by that time. The priesthood did not decide to suppress it, for it had been published, and the "priesthood" had nothing whatever to do with it. Neither a courteous letter nor a courteous messenger was sent to the Mayor, and that officer did not insult anybody, although himself insulted by a supercilious and arrogant demand for the document. The transcript did not lie in the Mayor's desk at all. No testimony was manipulated except that of the "correspondent," who "manipulated" it himself, before publication, according to his own "desire." And seeing that the Mayor has not hushed up the affair, but given it all the prominence that any one could ask or expect, the ridiculous intimation that he was "accessory" to the pretended assaults falls to the ground with the rest of the correspondent's gratuitous falsehoods.

It is apparent to every candid person that this investigation was conducted with the utmost fairness, and that the delay in its publication was only caused by a desire on the Mayor's part to present a report to which no valid objection could be offered. The stenographer transcribed his notes with as much dispatch as his abilities and attendance to other regular duties permitted. Each deponent's testimony was submitted to the witness for endorsement or revision. The correspondent's evidence was given to him in proof and he made just such alterations as suited him, and remodeled it so that the style would appear in print suitable to a person of literary pursuits. The greatest possible care was taken to have the whole report entirely accurate, and hence a delay which no unprejudiced person will deem unreasonable.

The following certificate appended to the published report we reproduce as proof that there is no excuse for the intimation that any part of the testimony was subjected to improper manipulation—

Territory of Utah,
County of Salt Lake.
I, Chas. W. Stayner, a notary public in and for Salt Lake County, Territory of Utah, do hereby certify that the foregoing testimony, after having been transcribed from the reporter's notes, was duly read to the respective parties giving the same, and was by them severally subscribed in my presence, excepting that of Daniel Davidson, whose signature I could not obtain, as he was out of the city.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal this 20th day of June, A. D. 1877, at my office in Salt Lake City, U. T.
CHAS. W. STAYNER,
Notary Public,
Salt Lake Co., U. T.

For the credit of the "commissioner" of an influential journal, we regret to see such gross untruths presented to the public. He is totally ruining his character for that veracity which should be one of the chief recommendations of a special correspondent. The readers of the N. Y. *Herald* will naturally regard all communications from his pen, wherever his duties may call him, as totally unworthy of confidence. And his indefensible attempt to misrepresent the affairs of this Territory; his Münchhausenish stories of impossible outrages; his senseless fabrication of violence to his person; his vain attempt to asperse the character of the Mayor and others connected with the investigation; and the general stamp of fiction and exaggeration with which all his Salt Lake communications are branded, are sufficient to so damage his reputation as to exclude him from the staff of any paper claiming or aiming at a leading position in the field of journalism. He is committing professional *felony de se*.

—The Omaha *Republican* says, "The St. Paul Press says that kerosene and 'ole' are cheaper and better than coal tar as a 'hopper-killer.' If 'he' is death on 'hoppers' there ought not to be a live 'hopper' within the limits of Nebraska afflicted with the buzzing of the mendacious Omaha insect."

HIS STORY OF THOSE ALLEGED ASSAULTS AND THAT INVESTIGATION.

THE New York *Herald* telegraphed to its "special commissioner" for a detailed statement of the two alleged attempts to assassinate him in this city, matters which have become stale, flat and unprofitable hereabout, and mostly on account of the very "fishy" nature of the allegations and the utter lack of corroborative testimony. In answer, the "special commissioner," over his own signature, forwards by telegraph his own peculiar story of the alleged outrages, and also his own peculiar story of the informal investigation of the same at the Walker House, at which his honor, Mayor Little, presided. These stories are published in the *Herald* of June 18. The latter story, in particular, may be assigned a place among the curiosities of literature, because of the patent straining to misrepresent which it betrays throughout, for it does show an extraordinary effort to meanly depreciate the Mayor and others who are supposed to be "Mormons," and to grandiloquently extol and exalt the "special commissioner," and the Gentiles who were present and who took part in the investigation. The object of the investigation is purposefully misrepresented, and the imputation of unworthy motives to the Mayor, in regard to the investigation, is not only inconsistent with the character of a gentleman, but entirely gratuitous, as the "special commissioner" well knows. The investigation was made to satisfy the general demand of all sorts of citizens, and to find, if possible, some clue to the individual who made the alleged assassination attempts. The investigation furnished no clue to the alleged guilty parties, not a jot of corroborative testimony whatever, the two Gentile witnesses who said they thought they knew the assailant, or assailants, refusing to further explain, leaving the company assembled and the public to conclude that no such assault had been attempted, and that the whole affair was a poor sensational intrigue, too flimsy for further serious consideration.

Equally unbecoming, poor, flimsy, and gratuitous is the attempt of the "special commissioner" to impute conspiratorial motives to his Honor the Mayor in not having the report of the investigation transcribed and handed over at an earlier date. As has been already shown, the report was published as soon as possible after it was received from the stenographer, set in type, furnished to the several witnesses, and their corrections were made. None of the other witnesses made so many changes in the report of their testimony, nor caused the compositors so much trouble, as the "special commissioner" did. He ought to be the last man to complain of the report. His own testimony he "fixed" to suit himself, and he took time to do it too. The other witnesses subscribed to theirs as it stood in type, with the exception of one, who could not be found, but whose testimony, however, was not very material.

The *Herald* stands by its correspondent, assumes all he reports is gospel, speaks of the "farce called an investigation," of "the graceless ruffian who acted as the tool of his atrocious Mormon employers," of "their farce of investigation in the hope of assassinating Mr. Stinson's character," of "two or three weeks having been taken to alter and garble" the report of the investigation, and that "it is now to be published in such shape as the Saints think fit."

In the face of the patent facts, what can honorable people think of such silly and irrelevant stuff as these extracts? They must come to the conclusion that the "special commissioner" has effectually assassinated his own character, so that it needs no assassination from others, that his reports are not worthy of credit, being intentionally and almost crazily sensational, and that so long as the *Herald* bases its comments concerning Utah upon the reports of its "special commissioner," believing in those reports, the *Herald's* comments are equally as unworthy of public acceptance as are the reports of its "special commissioner."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

—Dom Pedro is in London again, or was a few days ago.

—Germany is advancing in laying underground telegraph wires.

—Mrs. Frances E. Willard says Mrs. President Hayes absolutely will not talk gossip.

—A Washington paper says, "The wrecking of trains ought to be made a lynchable offense."

—The public will remember the marriage of the Hon. Mrs. Norton, the poetess (aged 70 and confined to her bed with rheumatism) to Sir William Stirling Maxwell, Bart. (aged 59), on the first of March last. She died June 15.

—The following is said of Governor Hendricks—he never took a glass of whiskey or smoked a cigar in his life, never lost his temper, never kept late hours, has a competence for life, is the head of the bar of the State, and never made an enemy, except by his merits.

—The Methodists keep one or other of their bishops constantly going round the world to visit their missions. Bishop Andrews went last fall on this mission, and next September Bishop Wiley, of Boston, is to leave San Francisco on the same round the world tour.

—The Omaha *Herald* says, "A gentleman, well-known in Omaha, but now residing in Paris, says sentiment there is almost universal that the war in Europe will become general, but he himself thinks otherwise."

—Zach Chandler says, "Never hunt for ducks with a brass band." Why not? If the ducks carry a brass band with them, and blow it, it is easy to find where the ducks are, and if you capture them you may capture the brass band also.

—It is stated that within an area of 23,500 square yards in one locality in Liverpool 5,000 souls live and move and have their being. This is equal to a population of about 1,000 to the acre. Liverpool averages about 100 souls to the acre, and not a Scotch acre, which runs twelve stories above ground.

—William Miller and Andre Christol wrestled for \$150 a side and the gate money in Terrace Garden, New York, June 15. Miller won, being awarded two falls. Great confusion ensued that Christol was not awarded one fall. At the close of the match, Theobald Bauer excitedly challenged Miller to a wrestle for \$500 a side, or an immediate fight for \$100, neither of which offers were accepted.

—The *Pall Mall Gazette* says, "The world seems to have receded generations into the past, and in the last quarter of that century which was supposed to have ushered in a golden age of civilization, we see religious passion distracting empires, dementing statesmen and destroying peoples as in those be-nighted times on which we have been wont to look back with such self-complacent pity."

—A Scotch ditcher, working on the estate of Mr. Allan Gilmour, near Cupar Fife, struck his spade against something hard, which proved to be a bronze vessel with a stone wedged in its mouth. There were nine thousand silver coins in the vessel. They appear to be of the twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. It is supposed that they are coinage of the reigns of Robert II. and III. and David II.

—Pocahontas might well be proud of her F. F. V. connections if she were living now, judging by the following—"A Virginian has just compiled a genealogy of the descendants of Pocahontas. During the course of his labors he incidentally gathered the pedigrees of nearly all the prominent families of Virginia, and his investigations reveal the singular fact that nearly every family in the State of any duration of residence, may be interlinked lineally or collaterally."

—The Deadwood *Champion* says, "During the recent visit of Secretary Hand to the auriferous regions of Battle Creek, in Custer County, he was shown, by a Cornish miner, who was prospecting on the creek referred to, some specimens of tin that he had found. The mine from which the metal ore was taken out is pronounced by experts to resemble in every essential the celebrated Cornish mines of Great Britain. The crude tests made of ore produced an apparent good quality of tin."