

other, and defy their efforts to sever us." Yesterday the committee were taken to Fortress Monroe and other places of interest; to-day they are viewing the city and suburbs, and this evening a grand reception will be given in honor of their visit.

TORONTO, Ont., 18.—Albert Wilcox, formerly of Anderson's mercantile house, St. Louis, was arrested here yesterday, charged with the forgery and embezzlement of \$15,000.

FOREIGN.

LONDON, 18.—The *Times* Paris special says that among the conservative delegates elected in those districts from which the results have so far been made known, the Legitimists and Orleanists are comparatively few in number, the prevailing element consists of pronounced Bonapartists; if the returns already at hand could be taken as a criterion of the final result they would give us a senate composed of 130 republicans, including life senators already elected by the Assembly, 100 militant Bonapartists, and 70 belonging to the various parties, including the patient Bonapartists.

A thousand more colliers have struck in North Wales, owing to a reduction of wages.

EDITORIALS.

MINING AND CHEMICAL MANUFACTURES vs. AGRICULTURE.

A PETITION, embodying preamble and resolutions, was presented to the Legislature of California, Jan. 8, by Alderman Bury of Sutter County, with a recommendation that it be adopted by that body and forwarded to Congress. The petition was by aggrieved property holders of Yuba and Sutter Counties, and it relates to the vexed question of mining *versus* agriculture at the headwaters of the Feather, Yuba, Bear and American rivers, and several smaller streams.

The petition represents that the present system of hydraulic mining has the effect of covering up the alluvial lands of the upper Sacramento valley, from one to twenty feet deep, with unproductive debris, destroying much property and desolating the homes of actual settlers; that recent improvements in this kind of mining will bring down hundreds of miles of gravel silt into the rivers and valleys; that most of the streams named are filled to their highest banks with gravel, all the cereal producing lands in the upper valleys are destroyed, many beautiful cities and lands annually inundated, and Sacramento is threatened with destruction; that already land has been destroyed that would be worth now, if in its primitive condition, \$6,350,000, exclusive of improvements made and destroyed, and of personal property driven away, besides the depreciation of adjacent property; that the farmers have expended \$2,000,000 in levees on the lowlands adjacent to those streams, Sacramento has raised its business portion fifteen feet and surrounded the city with an embankment of the same height, at an expense of a million dollars, Marysville has expended several hundreds of dollars on similar account, yet lost a million dollars by inundation a year ago, and the river is now above her streets, other cities and towns have expended great amounts for the same general purpose, and all are taxed to their utmost tension for these works, but still the hydraulic debris gains on their efforts, resulting in precarious protection, exhausted treasuries, and the prospect of total destruction in the near future, as the people cannot clear the debris and protect themselves from it as fast as it comes down; that the Sacramento and Feather rivers are nearly destroyed for navigation, the bay of San Francisco is menaced, the debris being sufficient to cover one square mile forty-one feet deep annually, Suisun bay will be filled up in fifteen years, and San Pablo bay in thirty-one years, after which San Francisco bay will be filled up the more rapidly, being the only place left, at the present rate of discharge of debris, the above results being liable to be intensified by future improvements in hydraulic mining.

Therefore the petition resolves that the subject be pressed before Congress; that the laws be amended so that no mineral lands shall be disposed of by Congress for hydraulic mining, only on conditions to prevent such as the above named injuries; that Congress be urged to adopt measures to prevent the destruction of rivers and bays, etc.; and that Congress be urged to send a competent engineer to collect information on the subject.

The resolutions were referred to the committee on mining and agriculture.

Thus it is evident that mining is not an unmixed blessing, by a long way. In fact, in the valleys above named, hydraulic mining is a palpable curse, producing swift desolation and sterility in place of prosperity and fertility.

There are other evils connected with mining, such as attend reduction works and divers chemical processes and manufactures, some of which evils are already complained of by agriculturists in this Territory. The fumes and deposits from smelters and from a number of other chemical establishments are noxious both to animal and vegetable life, not only poisoning the air, but are markedly injurious to field and garden crops, and the farmer ought in justice to have some redress. In England such redress is common, and damages are collected by action at law.

Actually agriculture is the basis of prosperity, for without it men could not prosper nor even exist. Of this valley we may say that there is not a rod of it, except that which is too swampy, or too rocky, or too thoroughly saturated with salt or alkali to be reclaimed, that can not be made to produce either fruit or roots or grass or grain or timber, one or more or all of these, when the proper steps are taken for that purpose. So that, although mining, in places, may, now and for some years, pay best pecuniarily, agriculture is the enduring interest, the permanent interest, for by a judicious policy it will last for ever, and never wholly fail, while it possesses infinitely the advantage over mining of rendering the landscape more beautiful and the country desirable for habitation.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AMENDMENT.

The following is published in the *Index* as the text of an amendment, proposed as a substitute for the present first amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and urged by "an earnest body of men in different parts of the country" "to secure freedom to all from religious bondage"—

ARTICLE I.

"SECTION 1. Neither Congress nor any State shall make any law respecting an establishment of religion, or favoring any particular form of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or permitting in any degree a union of Church and State, or granting any special privilege, immunity, or advantage to any sect or religious body, or to any number of sects, or religious bodies, or taxing the people of any State, either directly or indirectly, for the support of any sect or religious body, or of any number of sects or religious bodies; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

"SEC. 2. No religious test shall ever be required as a condition of suffrage, or as a qualification of any office of public trust, in any State. No person shall ever in any State be deprived of any of his or her rights, privileges, or capacities, or disqualified for the performance of any public or private duty, or rendered incompetent to give evidence in any court of law or equity, in consequence of any opinions he or she may hold on the subject of religion. No person shall ever in any State be required by law to contribute directly or indirectly to the support of any religious society or body of which he or she is not a voluntary member.

"SEC. 3. Neither the United States, nor any State, Territory, municipality, or any civil division of any State or Territory, shall levy any tax, or make any gift, grant, or appropriation, for the support, or in aid of, any church, religious sect, or denomination, or any school,

seminary, or institution of learning, in which the faith or doctrines of any religious order or sect shall be taught or inculcated, or in which religious practices shall be observed; or for the support, or in aid of any religious charity or purpose of any sect, order, or denomination whatsoever.

"SEC. 4. Congress shall have power to enforce the various provisions of this article by appropriate legislation."

Correspondence.

Traveling and Preaching—Opposition—Education in Utah and in Illinois—Free Schools.

NORMAL, Ill.,
Jan. 4, 1876.

Editor *Deseret News*:

Yesterday I returned from a trip through the northern part of this county, where I have been lecturing and preaching during the holidays. I met with good success in securing houses to lecture in, and audiences to lecture to. The school houses were all open to me, except in one or two instances, and I enjoyed myself in my first trip, traveling without "purse or scrip." I found the majority of the people willing and anxious to hear what I had to say, and many of them imbued with a spirit of charity towards our people. Good order prevailed, and I trust some good was done, in enlightening the minds of the people in regard to our history, also the history of our Territory, the principles of co-operation, our method of farming, stock raising, etc., all of which I found the people interested in, and could thereby make the same a stepping stone to preach the first principles of the gospel. I did not lack for food or shelter, nor friends, though I did meet opposition, and in some instances of a very unpleasant character. In one instance a man drove me away from his house, when he found out what my faith was, and followed me to where I did get shelter and tried to get me turned out there, but failed. I held a good meeting that night, well attended, thanks, to a great extent, to the opposition I met. I have just received an invitation to return to the same quarter again and preach, with the assurance of a large congregation. I expect to rest a few days and start out again.

I have had some opportunity of examining the "free schools" of Illinois, and this county of McLean is one of the leading counties of the State. I find that our schools in Utah compare very favorably with the schools here, as regards buildings, seats, general accommodations, and especially as regards quality of instruction. The text books in general use are Ray's Third Part, McGuffey's Readers, Pinneo's Grammars, McGuffey's Spellers, etc., a class of books that our Utah teachers consider behind the times, very much indeed. The highest salary I found paid to teachers was fifty dollars. These were male teachers educated at the State Normal. These schools I speak of are the free schools, and are supported by taxation. The largest school I met with numbered seventy-seven, the smallest seven. What would a Utah teacher think of sitting down to teach ten or twelve pupils, at a salary of forty dollars a month, after educating himself for the business. I have not yet seen any good reason to change my opinion relative to the deleterious results of the system called "free school," which my many readers are doubtless aware I opposed in my feeble way through the columns of your paper years ago. I am, on the other hand, more than ever convinced that Utah has done well to avoid this mistake that our neighbors have made.

There are fine schools here, separate and apart from the free school system, that have been munificently endowed, by State and general government, and by private donation, that have a national reputation, and reflect great credit upon their founders. In connection with this subject I wish to make a correction of an error made in a former communication, in which I stated that the Bible had been thrown out of the State normal, which I am informed by one of the pupils is incorrect, and further that the present faculty have daily reading lessons in the Scriptures, but that the Board of General Directors have enacted a clause forbidding its use, but not enforcing it.

The weather has been very mild and pleasant so far during the winter, and but for the mud would be very agreeable.

Respectfully,
J. MORGAN.

Spending Christmas—Making a Coffin—Well Received—Liberal Sentiments, etc.

VIOLA, Richland Co., Wis.,
December 27, 1875.

Editor *Deseret News*:

I and Elder M. H. McAllister have just arrived here, after a fourteen mile walk this morning, feeling well, and thankful for the Spirit of the Lord that attends us in our labors among the people in this part of Wisconsin.

Being in the neighborhood of Rocktown, Vernon Co., holding meetings about Christmas time, the Hon. Van S. Bennet and his estimable lady invited us to tarry with them a few days, and spend Christmas in their society. The invitation was cordially accepted, and the treatment we received was of that kind that makes a lasting impression on a person's mind, of the most favorable character. We were treated with the greatest kindness and respect by the entire family, and I must not forget to mention their chubby, handsome, good natured, intelligent-looking baby, which gave to their home a "homelike" appearance. As we "Mormons" of course are all fond of the dear innocents, we must not forget them. Mr. Bennet is an ex-member of the Wisconsin Legislature, a gentleman of influence in this section of country, and I think he is above the political corruptions of the age, and of a liberal mind. He is favorable to our people, and seems much interested in our doctrines. He told us on leaving his home to call often, make his home our home, and that we should always be welcome, and I assure you we appreciate such kindness, and thank our God for raising up such friends to assist us when we are far from home and friends of our faith.

On Sunday, while in Rockton, we were informed that a poor widow's child had died the day before from the effects of a severe burn, and mortification having taken place they were desirous of burying her as soon as possible, and there being no one in the village who had ever made a coffin, I thought it would be doing no harm to do good even on Sunday. So I took my coat off, went to work, with some help, and in a short time we had made a very respectable coffin. Previous to this they had invited me to preach the funeral sermon. At 2 p.m. the citizens met in the School house. We conducted the ceremonies, and had an excellent opportunity to preach the gospel, and our faith in regard to the dead. All the people present seemed pleased and well satisfied. In the evening one man who, when we first visited the village, wanted us mobbed, changed his feelings, so that that night he walked three miles to hear us preach, and expressed himself to Mr. Bennet that "he would rather hear the Mormons preach than any minister he ever heard." Thus, in fulfillment of Elder Taylor's words to us, the Lord opens up our way in a wonderful manner, and we feel to praise his holy name.

We have now thirteen towns and villages whose meeting-houses are open for us to preach in, and the people give us bed and board free of charge in most places. Many who through prejudice were our enemies are now our friends. In some places they refuse us their meeting-houses, and treat us at first with contempt, yet as we become better known in the neighborhood, some of those even relent, and at last open their doors.

Our labors up to date have been confined to this county, Vernon county, and Crawford county, and I believe a good work will yet be done in this State. Where Elders will take their carpet sacks in hand and, leaving railroads, go and hunt the "lost sheep" in the far-off places, they will find some, for I am satisfied that there are thousands in this land who never heard of the "Mormons," only from their enemies. Consequently we bear with the people, talk kindly to them, show them a better way, and if we accomplish no more we at least remove a great deal of prejudice from their minds.

Intelligent men, who are somewhat acquainted with affairs in Utah, will often say, "I cannot un-

derstand how it is your people bear so much injustice. Why in any other country, they would 'tar and feather' such villains as the editors of that lying sheet which is published in Salt Lake." Very many of the people are not in sympathy with the anti-polygamy law. They think we should have the right to enjoy and practise the rites and principles of our religion unmolested.

We have received invitations to visit Grant county, and hold meetings. Therefore we shall, after "New Year's," visit that county as well as Dane county, and return here and labor in this district at least till Spring. So that the inhabitants in this part will be left without excuse. I think if all the Elders would centralize their labors more, greater good would result, as it does but little good to hold one meeting in a place, and then leave it to return no more. The people like to talk with us and feel of our spirits, and thus they gain confidence, and no doubt many by faithful labors will be yet brought into the fold.

In some of the towns we preach in, the "ministers" begin to raise a dreadful "howl," telling the people we are wolves in sheep's clothing, but there is one thing I notice—the people seem to have lost all confidence in their preachers, and in some places their influence don't amount to much.

The weather for several days has been beautiful for this country.

We hold meeting to-night again in Kickapoo Centre. Many people there seem much interested. The family we baptized into the church, Mrs. Mathers and sons and daughters, deserve honorable mention. They treat us kindly, do all they can to spread the work, take the *Weekly Deseret News*, which for some time has been a source of consolation to them, and best of all, strive to live their religion. We have ordained John Mathers to the office of an Elder. He has several times publicly borne testimony to the truth, and in time, I think, will make a very efficient Elder.

Brothers Anderson & Woodward are laboring north of here, in this State, and I believe are doing well, the prospects there being good.

I have not yet heard from the brethren in Minnesota.

Bro. M. H. McAllister is doing well, and is faithful in his labors.

M. P. ROMNEY.

Cold Weather—Co-operative Schools—Improvement.

BLOOMINGTON, Idaho,
January 13th, 1876.

Editor *Deseret News*:

We are having very cold, foggy weather. The snow is about ten or fifteen inches deep; the thermometer nine to twelve degrees below zero.

Our co-operative store is paying the shareholders fifteen per cent. dividend, besides paying for the store house and building a good frame granary in the last twelve months.

We have a day school, taught by F. L. Johnson, and a well attended Sunday school under the direction of Brother Peter Greenhalgh.

Christmas and New Year passed off pleasantly. Our young people are taking the counsel of our Bishop in doing away with round dances, and dismissing the dances about eleven o'clock.

A great many of the saints here have been rebaptized and are trying to live their religion and become more united. The health of the people is very good, little or no sickness.

PIONEER.

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