

stitution of the United States giving to Congress power to pass uniform laws regulating marriage and divorce in the several States and Territories, which was read twice, referred to the Committee on Judiciary, and ordered to be printed.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein) That the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States; which, when ratified by three-fourths of said legislatures, shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the said Constitution, namely:

ARTICLE XVI.

Congress shall have power, and it shall be its duty, by appropriate legislation, to make and establish uniform laws regulating marriage and divorce in the several States and Territories of the United States, and for the enforcement thereof, and to prescribe penalties for the violation thereof. The several courts of the respective States and Territories shall have jurisdiction of all actions brought thereunder in such courts, by the citizens thereof, in the manner and to the extent prescribed by the legislatures of the several States and Territories respectively.

A CLEAR-HEADED ENQUIRER.

WE are frequently in receipt of letters from thinking people in various parts of the country in which information upon the real situation in Utah is solicited. These requests are sent in consequence of the disbelief of their writers in the infamous reports circulated about the "Mormons" by designing miscreants. We have just received a communication of that kind from a gentleman in Illinois. It shows an unusual penetration on his part in regard to the doings and designs of the scheming clique of Federal office-holders and Federal and local office hunters, who are, by misrepresentation and strife-stirring processes, seeking to have the people robbed of their constitutional rights, victimized and plundered by the active enemies of republican principles. We here present the bulk of the gentleman's letter, which, on account of the clearness of the views expressed by one whose opportunities for information on the subject treated have been necessarily limited, will be read with considerable interest:

"I desire a more accurate and reliable knowledge of current affairs in Utah than can be obtained by reading the specials to the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* and other hostile and sensational sheets.

I feel convinced that if people here had a better and more correct knowledge of your people and their affairs, much of the intolerant spirit at present exhibited, and unjust interference with your political, domestic and religious affairs would be condemned. Desiring to do what I can to stem this tide of fanaticism and temper, or subdue the spirit of hate which the local preachers and moral hypocrites around here are fomenting to a dangerous degree, I request that you mail to me the *DESERET NEWS*, so that I may keep informed and not advance arguments without having proofs in any statements I may make in defence of existing affairs among the people of Utah or the policy of their leaders.

It is evident to me that Governor Murray is an enemy rather than a protector of the public good of the Territory he has sworn to serve, and is relying on the ignorance of people here regarding the actual condition of affairs in Utah for his support in his career of oppression and misrepresentation.

He is evidently the tool of men who, holding fat Federal offices, are not only desirous but determined to hold them regardless of right and constitutional law. It appears to me that they are banded together for that purpose, and will scruple at no means by which their ends can be attained, be they ever so desperate and disgraceful, even to disrupting the peace of the country, and causing a state of anarchy and terrorism.

If the public here could see the hidden designs of those gentry and have them shown up in their true light, I believe the sober and reflecting portion of them would cease to countenance their outrageous and tyrannous proceedings. I deem it my duty to do my utmost to enlighten them to the extent of my opportunities and humble ability.

The inference drawn by people here as they read the Governor's message to your legislature, I mean those who do not see through the trick and comprehend the motives which prompt his allusion to lack of laws against such crimes as incest, adultery and illicit intercourse, is that these crimes are common among the people and that neither existing laws nor public opinion offers any check or restraint to those detestable practices.

Were the people here in possession of facts and understood the practical workings of the system as they actually are they would regard his villainous innuendoes with the scorn and contempt they deserve, as a lie craftily imposed on a credulous and purposely misinformed public.

I cannot find it in my heart to ponder to such evident injustice against a people who are eminently tolerant, patriotic and inoffensive if let alone in their inalienable rights. And although

the wrath of the resident clergy will be visited upon me, the goodwill of personal friends lost and my access to the columns of papers who now court my contributions be very likely denied, yet my sense of justice compels me and I am determined to act from principle rather than policy in this matter. I have fully resolved to help prevent my fellow citizens being deprived of their constitutional rights and dragged into submission by a gang of depraved demagogues.

HOW TWO DRUMMERS TALKED ABOUT UTAH.

WE think that the people of Utah should be acquainted with their friends. We are also of the opinion that they ought to learn something occasionally about their enemies, particularly those who under the guise of friendship seek to do them injury. An open foe is to be preferred to a secret enemy who is fair in our presence and false and foul when away. We therefore think it our duty to take off the mask from two individuals who last year visited Utah and transacted considerable business here, pretending to be friendly, and who, after a riotous debauch over which we will draw the curtain, returned to the East and joined their voices to the landerous cry against the "Mormons."

To make this matter plain we present the following, which was taken at the time from the columns of the *Chicago Tribune*:

"A party of commercial gentlemen representing several of the largest wholesale houses of Chicago returned yesterday from Utah, where they have spent the summer and fall. Two of the party have made Salt Lake City their headquarters for four or five years past. Coming in contact with them at the Tremont House, a reporter for THE *TRIBUNE* made some inquiries with regard to the strength and prospects of the Mormon element.

Said one of the gentlemen: 'We are willing to talk on condition that you will not use our names. You will readily understand why we make this request, as most of our customers are Mormons. My opinion,' said he, as the others nodded assent, 'is that polygamy has a firmer hold upon the community than ever. Marriages are taking place daily, and in great number, but the fact is concealed from the general public by the strict secrecy which characterizes the service. All Mormon marriages are now conducted, you understand, within the closed doors of the Endowment House, and none are admitted except such as know the password. A Gentle might occasionally slip in and see what was going on if it were not for the influences that are being brought to bear against the polygamists by the Government. The Mormons, feeling that they are being persecuted, have been gradually perfecting their system and strengthening their organization, until they are bound together as a unit. The idea that they are being persecuted only serves to band them together. The strong language used by the President in his message is only a quotation from the oft-repeated speeches of Gov. Murray, who fully comprehends the situation. The Mormons are the most fanatical people living, and they obey their church leaders as a slave would obey his master. The legislature which has been depended upon to correct the evils has a large Mormon majority, and the Gentile members are so spiritless and inefficient that they are controlled altogether by the majority or influenced by their constituencies which are always strongly Mormon.'

"Is all this apparent on the surface of things?" the reporter asked. "No," was the response. "You would have to live there a long time before you began to get at the bottom of things. The Mormon understands particularly well how to keep his mouth shut and leaves all to the church. Now and then you can get him to talk about the principles of his faith, but what is actually going on is entirely another matter. The city of Salt Lake is overrun with Eastern people, who seem to be studying the question for some purpose or other. Kate Field and a number of journalists are engaged upon the subject. One young man has written column after column for a leading New York paper, but as yet I have not seen a line in print. I think the information is going to be printed throughout the country in several papers all at once for some reason or other, and the Mormons who know what is being done, are looking anxiously for the same thing. Mormonism looks horrid to the sight at close range, and it is a crying evil that ought to be rooted out."

The two "drummers" who talked in this way to the *Tribune* reporter were accosted by a Salt Lake merchant of long standing, who was then in Chicago with another commercial gentleman well known in this community, and asked their reasons for thus maligning the people here. They acknowledged having the conversation with the reporter and promised to retract, but all that appeared by way of correction was this brief paragraph:

"In the *Tribune* of Thursday appeared an article purporting to be an inter-

view with two commercial men, whose headquarters are at Salt Lake. The statements were, in fact, a conglomeration of hotel gossip, overheard at different times by a reporter, and emanating from several men. The language was the reporter's."

Those two drummers are now in Utah. One represents the clothing firm of H. W. King and Co., Chicago, and the other the shirt house of W. E. Barlock and Co., in the same city. They will probably be in Salt Lake in a day or two and will most likely visit other towns in this Territory. We are of the opinion that they will not be received with open arms by our merchants, and that they will not make sufficient profits to go on another "tour," either in this city or in Chicago. If this notice is insufficient, we are prepared to furnish their names with some additional particulars, and produce witnesses whose testimony cannot be impeached.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

An exchange says: Keifer must be in a cheerful frame of mind these days. To a friend who asked, "How did you spend Christmas?" the great press hater replied: "Reading Luther Benson's 'Fifteen Years in Hell.'"

An exchange says: Joseph Cook says he does not wish to under-rate the Roman empire; but he would rather be an American today than a Roman under Caesar. So would almost anybody. The Romans under Caesar are all dead.

In the three days after his return from London to Paris, a correspondent writes, Lesseps had been to the Italian opera, three dinner parties, and gone out daily to ride with eight of his ten children. He had besides got through all the office work that had accumulated in his absence, had been interviewed by journalists from all parts of the world, given cues to friendly editors, checked housekeeper's accounts, and embraced a poetess who called on him to read a poem in 400 lines, of which he is the hero.

The Jersey Cow, Mary Ann of St. Lambert's, belonging to Mr. Falaney E. Fuller, of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, made the past summer 24 lbs. 13 oz. butter in one week, and 13 lbs. 4 oz. in three and a half days, which is at the rate of 25 lbs. 8 oz. per week. Her feed during this time was grass only, and 5 pounds of ground oats per day. Forcing was strictly abstained from. This cow made 100 lbs. 12 oz. butter in thirty-one consecutive days, and 202 lbs. 2 oz. in sixty-two days.

Mr. Charles H. Smith, the Denver hotel-keeper who politely pulled a pistol on and put the pugilistic John L. Sullivan out of his house is a son-in-law of Public Printer Rounds, his wife being the eldest daughter of that worthy official. Smith is a young man—not yet 30—but he is full of grit. In describing this young man the *Chicago News* uses this remarkably western style of phraseology: "Ordinarily a quite, mild-minded man, he is, when aroused, a roaring, fire-breathing, coal-eyed catamount from Cherry Creek."

John H. Feldhamp saved his life by presence of mind. He is a cutter in a Cincinnati clothing store, while he was operating a machine a spring broke, and as he reached to pick up a detached piece, his long beard was caught and rapidly wound into the machinery, which threatened to draw in his head and crush it. Instantly he threw out his arms and braced them against the frame of the cutter, and thus he stood until his beard had been pulled out by the roots and a part of his cheek had been torn off, exposing the lower jaw.

Dr. James Fraser, in the *Edinburgh Chirurgical Pathological Journal*, gives the results of a series of experiments to determine the effect of the ordinary infused beverages, tea, coffee, and cocoa, on the digestion of albumen. He finds that all retard digestion, except in four instances, namely, ham and white of egg with coffee, and fish with cocotina and with cocoa. Salt meats are less retarded in digestion than fresh. The retardation is greatest with cocoa, less so with tea, and least with coffee. Tea causes flatulence. Cream and sugar reduce the retarding effect of tea, but increase that of cocoa. He recommends as a practical conclusion that albuminoids, especially fresh meat, should not be taken with infused beverages, and therefore condemns meat teas.

The San Francisco *Report* very correctly says, under the caption "The murderer's dream: 'Chas. Richards who was hanged yesterday at Auburn for the dastardly murder of Thomas Nichols, and who had previously been convicted of murder in Nevada, expressed the belief that he was going to heaven. Condemned murderers generally console themselves with this idea and they are encouraged in it by the sentimentalists who visit them during their confinement. The innocent victim who unexpectedly meets a murderous death is allowed perhaps to descend to hades; but the sanctified coward is taken to Abraham's bosom. So some suppose. But we are of the opinion that the souls of murderers,

disengaging themselves with alacrity from their oscillating tenements of clay, are sadly disappointed in the reception they get on 'the other side.'"

The outward bound passengers on the steamship *Celtic* are experiencing the pleasures of a long and slow ocean voyage in midwinter. The ship broke her shaft soon after leaving New York, December 15. She was spoken by a steamer, also outward bound, soon after, but declined the latter's offer to take off her passengers and proceed with them to Liverpool. The latest report from the *Celtic* is furnished by the steamer *Bothnia*, which spoke her December 20th, then two weeks out, and only 1,000 miles east of Sandy Hook. At the rate she is proceeding, the *Celtic* will not reach Liverpool before February 1, when she will have been out six weeks on a voyage that ordinarily would have consumed ten or eleven days. The *Celtic* has on board 149 sacks of package mail, including many Christmas presents, and 116,000 letters.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* relates a remarkable incident of an unquenchable thirst for musical knowledge in a young lad. It says that the other day a little boy of thirteen arrived in St. Petersburg after travelling about 1,500 miles on foot in order to obtain instructions on the violin at the Conservatory. The boy comes from a Cossack village, Vladikavkaz, where from the age of six he has given village concerts. Hearing by chance of the existence of the St. Petersburg Conservatory, he bravely set out alone for the capital, traveling along the railway lines, and living by the charity of others. Sometimes a good-natured guard would give him a lift in a cattle van, but this was a rare exception. He slept in the open air, and was only now and then compelled to seek shelter in a barn or sentry box. From Moscow to St. Petersburg he travelled by the mail road, and arrived at his destination after a twenty-seven days' tramp. By a fortunate chance he met M. Pobedonostseff, the Procurator-General of the Holy Synod, who felt a lively interest in the boy, and took him at once under his protection. The long journey, however, had exhausted the little fellow, and he is at present lying in a hospital dangerously ill of typhoid fever.

WESTERN FLOATS.

James Fergus, of Meagher County, Montana, is the oldest member of the Constitutional Convention, which met in Helena. He has been in Montana a quarter of a century, and until last week had not seen a railroad car for twenty-two years. He is over seventy years old.

While on his way to Butte, Sheriff Blakely, of Gallatin County, Montana, was put off the train between Silver Bow and Butte because, having paid his fare all the way through (to another conductor) he refused to duplicate it from the junction to Butte. The officials of the road have since apologized.

The Northern Pacific land sales for the Montana district during the month of December amounted to 1,312 acres, for which was received \$6,618, and four town lots for \$960. This makes the total sales for the month 70,017 acres, for \$222,168; town lots, \$3,272. The Oregon & Transcontinental sales for December were 11 town lots for \$1,297.

At Portland, Oregon, the grand jury, which adjourned on the 11th, made the following recommendation: "It having been found impossible to suppress, we recommend the licensing of houses of ill-fame, as, they being a necessary evil, we believe that, being licensed and under the supervision of the health officers or of a board of physicians, it would be the means of closing the worst places and putting the remainder under medical restraint and examination."

Five tramps attempted to board the south-bound freight train at Borden, Cal. on the 17th, and on being put off by a brakeman, made an assault on him with clubs and stones. The conductor came to the aid of the brakeman, but was knocked down with a club. Another brakeman came to the rescue, and being armed, drew his pistol and commenced firing at them. The tramps also drew pistols and returned the fire. Four of them were finally captured and taken to Fresno.

Information was conveyed to Anaconda, Montana, on the 17th that a person had been found on Mill Creek, six miles from there, evidently frozen to death. It appears that the deceased was James Smith, formerly in the employ of the proprietor of the Alamo Hotel, but recently had been chopping wood for David Nagglesome, seven miles from Anaconda. While in a semi-intoxicated condition he had fallen into a creek, his clothing being wet through, and then frozen stiff on his body.

Last Thursday morning an accident happened at No. 2 mine, in Almy, by which fourteen men were more or less injured—two or three quite seriously. The men were just starting to work; was going down the slope on a trip of cars, had with them a 25th keg of powder which had been opened. When the powder was first placed in the car the keg was tipped over, and a little of the powder spilled out on the bottom of the car. When near the foot of the slope, the powder exploded with a terrible force, scattering the men and

cars in all directions. It is supposed to have caught by a spark from one of the lamps. It is a singular fact that none of the men were killed outright; though two of them, Mr. Ishmael Southern and Mr. John Burnett are very badly injured.

The Chinese and demi-monde residing on Sacramento Street, San Francisco, were greatly startled about 9:20 o'clock the other night by a loud explosion. The officers entered the house where it occurred and found one of the inmates named Lena Wallace bleeding from a wound in the arm, while her face bore several small cuts. The window of the room in which the girl was found was blown to fragments, the casement shattered and the small pieces of glass littered the furniture and the floor. The window looks out on Oneida place, which is frequented by Chinese, for whom the house is a resort. The woman says she was standing in the room and went to the window to call a passing heathen, when she discovered the fuse of a giant cartridge burning on the sill. She turned around quickly to get some water to put on the dangerous combustible, when the cartridge exploded, blowing the whole window out and in its passage cutting her slightly on the arm. She was also struck in the face by several small pieces of glass. The wounds were dressed at the receiving hospital and are not very serious in their character.

The eastern quarter of London is undergoing rapid changes, the like of which are declared to have been previously unknown since the great fire. Recently no fewer than 150 houses, some of them the oldest in London, have been pulled down in order to make space for a new thoroughfare leading to Tower Hill.

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