

## EVENING NEWS.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Wednesday, July 6, 1887.

### THE BIGAMY AND POLYGAMY PROVISIONS.

THE provisions in relation to bigamy and polygamy which were reported to the Convention on Tuesday, are something novel to State Constitutions. The idea is not new, neither did it originate among the Delegates chosen by the people to formulate an instrument for the establishment of fundamental laws. It has been urged upon Utah for many years. It has come to be a matter of certainty in the popular mind, that Utah cannot be admitted into the Union as a State, without some constitutional provisions against practices about which the country has been much misinformed and unduly excited. Former efforts for Statehood without such provisions have been treated with the coldness which usually prevails over with selfishness on the subject.

The committee to which an application of Montana for admission into the Union was referred at the last Congress, made a report requiring Montana to insert a plank on the polygamy question forbidding its practice in the new State. It has been proposed in Congress that an amendment to the National Constitution shall be made forbidding polygamy in every part of the Union.

Thus the question is not new, the idea is not novel, it has already been taken up and practically treated by the Utah Constitutional Convention. But no State has heretofore embodied it in the fundamental law, because there has never been such an occasion requiring it as now exists. Everybody, friend and foe, has declared emphatically that without some provision of this character it would be useless for Utah to attempt to get into the Federal Union. Friends have advised such a step for many years; foes have jeered at it and urged it sneeringly, believing that it would never be done.

Under the former condition of affairs in this Territory, it is probable that no such action as that of the present Convention would have been taken. The most active men in movements of this character could not consistently take such a step because they were engaged in the practice of something which they were asked to prohibit. The members of the present Convention are free from those conditions. They have taken the oath required by Congress in regard to the practice condemned by national statute, and their course now is in line with the oath and the condition understood to be imperative on the part of the authorities and the great masses of the people of this nation. They have acted, as we have heretofore explained, entirely in a political capacity. They have entered into no compacts, formulated no agreements, made no compromises of a religious or any other nature.

As American citizens representing American citizens, they have recognized a political exigency and a popular demand in relation to a political question. The provisions they have inserted in the Constitution are in the nature of civil law on a matter relating to civil government, without reference to religion in any shape or form. The State cannot legislate for or against any religion, nor can the Nation as a whole. The acts of either, to be valid and in harmony with the principles of this republic, must be entirely devoid of emulity or favor to any religious creed or ecclesiastical body; they must be civil, political, secular, entirely and integrally.

The provisions in regard to bigamy and polygamy, which are unusual in State Constitutions, have been inserted as a political necessity arising from a peculiar condition of affairs requiring political settlement. So in regard to the relinquishment of certain rights or privileges common to State governments in reference to pardons and amendments. The objections have been raised that if Utah should frame and adopt a Constitution forbidding polygamy, the Legislature must not make it practical by appropriate legislation; or if the provisions were inserted in the fundamental law it would soon be amended after Statehood was achieved; and that if not, the State Governor could pardon the offenders and thus render the law and the Constitution nugatory.

The provisions in relation to Congress and the President do not pretend to confer any powers on them or to require any duty on their part. They can act or decline to act. It is merely stated that until such action is taken, the amendment proposed or the pardon granted shall not take effect. The State does not presume to say what either Congress or the President shall do or shall not do. It does not ask any action on the part of either. It does not step outside of its own domain in any way. It simply relinquishes a common right or privilege, for a special contingency and to meet one of the objections considered insuperable to its existence.

The objections to these provisions on such grounds as are here treated of, and that the framers of the Convention, to view the matter in all its bearings, be slow to jump at conclusions, until all the ground is surveyed, and to keep calm, and clear-headed, and silent-tongued until they comprehend the situation and the reasons for the course of the Convention, and then they can speak and act intelligently, being "like serpents and harmless as doves."

### IN FAVOR OF PEACE.

In a certain quarter, for some time before the Fourth, determined efforts were made to prevent a harmonious celebration of that glorious holiday. Those efforts were unsuccessful, as but few citizens were influenced by them. It appeared that a general determination existed among all classes of the community to lay aside, for the occasion at least, those differences that have agitated and divided the population of the Territory so long, and to have a hearty and harmonious celebration. That determination was carried out, and the exercises of the day, deserve credit accordingly.

Why should there be ill feeling and a conflict between any one class of the people of the Territory and any other class? Who is responsible for the animosities that exist? Who labors to perpetuate them? Not the members of the People's party, nor of the "Mormon" Church. If the members of those organizations could have their way amity would replace enmity, and a permanent harmony would be established. It is in order to end animosities. There is a determined public opinion in favor of peace.

### A SPECK OF WAR.

The reported action of the British government yesterday in recalling Minister Wood from Constantinople has a warlike sound, it being the common opinion that a complete and unqualified rupture of the entire cord between two powers, being in and of itself a declaration of enmity, is the precursor of a declaration of hostilities by one or the other. The cause of this rupture, as stated by the wires, is of course the long-pending Egyptian convention. England had a complete understanding with the Porte as to what terms should govern the contract which they were jointly to execute, and it was drawn in accordance therewith; England ratified it on her part with what to some might seem to be an auspicious omen, and then comment on the Ottoman government to let no moments, least of all days, pass before concluding the full execution of the instrument, but it was postponed, and when the date to which the postponement was taken came around, the Egyptian convention was still pending. There was cause for this failure and the British government knew very well and in advance just what the cause was; and this knowledge will be accepted by a large majority of those who study the subject as the cause of English haste and urgency. Turkey is and for a long time has been in a state of war with other nations represented respectively by Russia and France; both these powers take as deep an interest in the conduct of affairs of the Ottoman Empire as does the Sublime Porte himself, and neither of them under any circumstances will permit Great Britain to become greater than it is by securing even a square acre of land or a stagnant pool of water within that tract of coveted territory lying between the western part of the far east and the eastern and southern parts of Europe recognized as the highway to India. The terms of the treaty called for the almost unlimited occupancy of Egypt by the forces of England, in addition to which certain executive privileges were to be granted, thus securing a firm frontier footing and a vantage ground the prestige of which alone would have put her Majesty's government at a long way ahead of all contestants in the struggle for control over the territory forming the threshold of that wealthy nation whose Empire she is without its consent. To this scheme, of course, France and Russia put in an instant and impressive denier, accompanying it with energetic expostulations, denunciations and threats; the former went so far as to pledge assistance to any needed extent if Turkey would resist the encroachments of England, a tender which the Ottoman ministry, for effect, it is to be presumed, indignantly declined, and the latter would not be champion. But it was not so with the Sultan himself, and without his signature nothing could be done. He has been pretty badly harassed and is doubtless in that frame of mind in which one does not know what he ought to do. On the one hand is the long agreement usually bidding in favor, with the protection of the most powerful of the European nations behind the formal ratification; on the other are two nations nearly as powerful closer by, and determined to make war if the Porte should decline to accede to the demands of England. What is the question then arising? What is the course to be pursued by the Sultan? Should he ally himself with Turkey with such a monstrous struggle on her hands, more particularly when both were determined to prevent the delivery of the values even if he died to the hand had been properly executed, and when the first long agreement was to be effectively erased Turkey from the map of the future? If the contemplation of such a dilemma is perplexing, what must the realization of it be? To decide either way was evidently to provoke if not bring on war of contention, from which the hope of exemption, perhaps, if the dispatches inform us correctly, the Sultan has done the best that could be done under the circumstances, since, while powerless to give satisfaction all around, he has taken such action as will not be likely to produce an immediate outbreak and one that adds little fuel to the coals in any other course would have done.

### THE EUROPEAN TRIPLE ALLIANCE TO BE STRENGTHENED.

SHARP'S SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY.

Twenty Houses Engulfed by Land Subsidizing.

THE LONDON PAPERS ON THE GOVERNMENT DEFEAT.

MISSIONARIES THREATENED IN SOUTH CAROLINA—GENERAL NEWS.

By Telegraph to the News.

Explaining It Away.

LONDON, July 6.—In the House of Commons to-day Right Hon. H. W. Smith, government leader, referring to the action of the house last night in the House of Commons last night, under an erroneous impression as to what it was the duty of the government to do, said that the government had established the truth in connection with Miss Case on the charge of being an improper character.

The Labor Trouble.

PITTSBURGH, July 6.—This was set as the day for the operators for the resumption of work. The works generally throughout the regions were opened to all who desired to return. A number of their works some of the strikers reported and were put to rest. In places there was a large number.

Threats of Violence.

CHARLESTON, S. C., July 6.—Mormon missionaries have been having for some time in Richmond County, Georgia, and have made a number of proselytes among the ignorant country people. The missionaries were the cause of a riot in the town of Milledgeville, where they had been preaching. The riot was caused by the fact that the missionaries were of the same race as the people of the town, and the people were jealous of them. The riot was a very serious one, and resulted in the death of several people. The missionaries were driven out of the town, and the town was in a state of confusion for several days.

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