

# EVENING NEWS.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Monday, Dec. 4, 1882.

## THE "INTER-OCEAN" AND THE "MORMONS."

THE *Inter-Ocean* of November 23d which published the letter of Elder Moses Thatcher, contained the following editorial in relation to it:

### A PLEA FOR POLYGAMY.

We publish in this issue a letter from Mr. Moses Thatcher, a prominent man in the Mormon Church, who has been called to the attention of the public by his letter to the *Inter-Ocean* in relation to the question of polygamy. The letter is published in accordance with the spirit of fairness which influences the *Inter-Ocean* in all its editorial work. It is a public statement, and because it contains an authoritative statement of the Mormon attitude toward the question of polygamy, it is of great interest to the public. It is a statement which will be read with interest by all who are concerned with the question of polygamy. It is a statement which will be read with interest by all who are concerned with the question of polygamy.

After all that has been said, this is the main question at issue, and so far as this question is concerned, Mr. Thatcher might as well have said that the Mormon Church is a polygamous church, and that it is a church which is a threat to the civilization of the world. He might as well have said that the Mormon Church is a polygamous church, and that it is a church which is a threat to the civilization of the world. He might as well have said that the Mormon Church is a polygamous church, and that it is a church which is a threat to the civilization of the world.

It was to be expected that so pronounced an anti-"Mormon" paper as the *Inter-Ocean* would have to say something by way of apology for publishing an article on the "Mormon" side of the question. However, simmered down, the above editorial contains but very little. It amounts to this: Nothing that the "Mormons" can say will move the impression which exists that the Mormon community is absorbing certain alien and antagonistic elements; that the war against the "Mormon" Church is only against polygamy; that Joseph Smith the son of the prophet, says "polygamy is not a vital principle of the religion of the Mormons;" that there is a parallel between murdering a child or starving its mother to death, and the practice of polygamy; that because murder under the plea of religion cannot be tolerated, plural marriage as a religious ordinance and practice must be punished; and that because the "Mormons" do not explicitly declare they want they mean to do it, must be concluded that they mean to do it.

We will examine briefly these assumptions. We have no doubt that the *Inter-Ocean* is correct in its statement that scores of "Mormon" denials of polygamy will not remove the impression existing on the minds of the editors of that paper; but we are of the opinion that paper's character of Elder Thatcher's communication will have great force in correcting such erroneous impressions on the public mind, and that it is for that reason that such articles are generally excluded from the eastern press. But what does the *Inter-Ocean* mean by the statement that the Mormon Church is "absorbing certain alien and antagonistic elements?" What does it mean by the statement that the Mormon community is absorbing certain alien and antagonistic elements?

Our long established friendship with Russia has remained unbroken. It has prompted me to proffer the earnest counsel of this government that the Russian people should be guided by the principles of justice and equity in their dealings with the United States. It has prompted me to proffer the earnest counsel of this government that the Russian people should be guided by the principles of justice and equity in their dealings with the United States.

It is the duty of the United States to protect the rights of its citizens, and to maintain the integrity of its territory. It is the duty of the United States to protect the rights of its citizens, and to maintain the integrity of its territory. It is the duty of the United States to protect the rights of its citizens, and to maintain the integrity of its territory.

We beg to inform the *Inter-Ocean* that the head of the sect called the "Josephites" has no authority to speak on behalf of the "Mormon" Church on any subject. He may speak for his own people, but he has no more right to speak for the Church founded by his father than the editor of the *Inter-Ocean* has, and the society which he leads is as distinct and separate an organization from this Church as the Presbyterian Church is from the Church of Rome.

We are sorry for the literary mind which can distinguish no difference in principle between murdering a child or starving its mother, and marrying more wives than one and supporting both mothers and children. To properly balanced intellects, it appears to us, the difference is as immense as the difference between a man and a woman. It is a difference which is as great as the difference between a man and a woman.

We would ask why should the *Inter-Ocean* expect the "Mormon" people, who sincerely believe that the doctrine of plural marriage has been revealed to them from heaven, should declare what they will do about it under certain conditions? So far as Elder Thatcher is concerned, he has explained the general situation, and he cannot speak for any one but himself as to future action. Every "Mormon" on this question stands for himself.

He is not responsible to the *Inter-Ocean* nor to the Government of the United States for his belief. But he is amenable to the law for his acts. It is an individual matter. If he breaks the law, it is the business of the officers of the law to bring him to judgment. On conviction he may be punished. That is all there is of it, legally, rationally, justly.

But the *Inter-Ocean* wants something more. What does it expect? Is every member of the "Mormon" Church to come out in the columns of the Chicago paper and announce whether he is going to marry more wives or not? It is plain, notwithstanding the statement of that paper that there is "no war against the Mormon Church," that it is the "Mormon" Church which is assailed, and its doctrine and belief are being assailed.

So much for the remarks of the *Inter-Ocean* upon Elder Thatcher's letter. The communication is a plain, manly and conclusive answer to the baseless charges of District Attorney Van Zile. We endorse its sentiments, we thank the *Inter-Ocean* for publishing it, and we welcome its circulation as widely as possible. It will appear in the Semi-Weekly News of Tuesday, Dec. 5th, and will make it with other interesting matter a good number to send all over the country.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States: It is provided by the Constitution that the President shall, from time to time, give to the Congress information of the state of the Union; and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient. In reviewing the course of the year which has elapsed since the commencement of your session.

First—Your attention is directed to the gratifying condition of our foreign affairs. Our intercourse with the most friendly character, such slight differences as have arisen during the year have been promptly settled, or are likely to reach a speedy adjustment. The arrest of citizens of the United States, in Ireland, under recent laws which have been passed by the British Government, and the condition of that country, has led to a somewhat extended correspondence with the government of Great Britain, and a disposition to respect the rights of the United States, manifested by the release of the arrested parties.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS. The claim of this nation in regard to the supervision and control of any inter-oceanic canal across the American continent has been the subject of conference. It is likely that time will be more powerfully than discussion in removing the divergences between the two nations whose friendship is so closely connected by the intimacy of their relations and the community of their interests.

of conference for the consideration of important matters of common interest to the United States and Bolivia on one side, and Chili on the other, began more than three years ago, on the occupation by Chili, in accordance with the provisions of the treaty of 1878, of the whole coast of both countries, and since the Capitol of Peru. As you have already been advised by correspondence, I have transmitted to you, in January last, this government sent a special mission to the belligerent powers to express the hope that Chili would be disposed to accept a money indemnity for the expenses of the war, and to relinquish her demand for a portion of the territory of her adversary. In the recommendation which Chili declined to follow, this government did not assume to enforce such action, for it could not be enforced without a resort to measures which would be in keeping neither with the temper of our people nor the spirit of our institutions. The foreign commerce of the United States during the last fiscal year, including imports and exports of merchandise and special was as follows: Total, \$2,075,500,000; of which, \$1,885,000,000, or 91 per cent, was merchandise; and \$190,500,000, or 9 per cent, was special.

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including public buildings, light-house and collecting revenue, \$38,337,500; for expenditures on account of the District of Columbia, \$38,337,500; for interest on public debt, \$7,107,720.37; total ordinary expenses, \$83,782,720.37. The ordinary revenue of the Treasury, including the proceeds of the sale of public lands, \$1,885,000,000; of which, \$1,885,000,000, or 91 per cent, was merchandise; and \$190,500,000, or 9 per cent, was special.

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BLANKETS  
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MANUFACTURE.  
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FRESE'S  
HAMBURG  
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Announcement Extraordinary!  
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OF OUR ENTIRE  
GROCERY STOCK  
Our building being inadequate to our constantly increasing business, we have decided to go out of

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UPRIGHT PIANOS  
Are made of the best materials that money can purchase, and the workmanship is of the very highest order. Their construction is of the

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