

the hand of the law was laid upon him for his part in precipitating and maintaining a riotous condition that was destructive of the rights of freemen.

The vast body of men under Mr. Debe's leadership, and those sympathizing with them, should draw the line between indulging in lawlessness themselves and claiming the right to certain liberties in speech and action. Condemn lawlessness and greed in others, they should also condemn the same tendencies in their own ranks. If they do not, then their agitation upon the more inconsistent lines is ominous of disaster to themselves and to the nation.

#### JUDGE SMITH'S DEATH.

At 9:45 p. m. yesterday, Nov. 22, there came the end to the mortal sufferings of Harvey W. Smith, one of the associate justices of the Supreme court of Utah. His illness has lingered over a period of several months, and, as stated in the NEWS several weeks ago, when it was thought the end was at hand, there has been no hope of relief through earthly skill for a long time. For a while he rallied, and the most favorable aspect was given to the case; yet to his attending physicians, intimate friends, and others acquainted with the real status of affairs, the nearness of dissolution was looked upon as a certainty. At times the patient's sufferings were very great, but before them with fortitude, and kind hands administered to his every want in making his closing days as comfortable as possible. He has passed away at a time of life and under circumstances when, if he had enjoyed good health, there was much of promise in his future prospects; and his death will be mourned as of one who displayed brilliant talents in his chosen path in life, and who gathered around him numerous and staunch friends, who held him in high esteem. The NEWS tenders its condolence to the grief-stricken family and other relatives of the deceased. Peace to his ashes!

#### NO SUGAR TRUST INTEREST HERE.

The New York World in the course of an editorial of great length (for the World) on "The New State of Utah," has much to say quite in line with the remarks of many publicists on the "Mormon hierarchy," the "twin relic of barbarism," the "rebellion" during President Buchanan's administration, and so on and so forth. There is neither interest, information nor profit in explaining and exploding the silly ideas as above indicated which still now and then effect a lodgment in journalistic minds throughout the country concerning these dreadful Mormons and their ways; but the World has the following paragraph, which may not be passed by without a word of comment:

The new State, which now requires only the proclamation of the President to invest it with the full dignities and powers of the forty-fifth member of the Union, has a population now estimated at 252,834, about equal to that of the city of Buffalo in this state. Its assessed

property, real and personal, amounted last year to \$99,503,000. It produced last year 41,000 ounces of gold, 7,196,000 of silver, and among other things 4,000,000 pounds of sugar in which the Sugar Trust of the Atlantic coast is said to be interested to the extent of looking after senatorial votes. Perhaps these statistics make it unnecessary to attempt any further forecast of the probable action of the Utah senators on leading national issues.

The clause in the foregoing which will naturally excite first attention is the laughable information as to the interest which the great sugar trust has in the Utah sugar factory. Public memory need hardly be turned back a year for evidence as to the keen interest, and the character thereof, which must be here referred to. At that time the giant combine declared unrelenting war upon the local industry, and did its level best to close it up and force it to loss and failure. Its interest, therefore, is of that peculiar kind which a hungry darky feels in an unsuspecting chicken, or a voracious wolf in a helpless lamb—to capture and devour it. If its interest has ever taken any other form, local people do not happen to know of it; and just how much the influence or backing of the sugar trust would help any aspirant for senatorial honors may therefore be surmised with tolerable certainty. Our own opinion is that a candidate within a hair's breath of election would be turned down instantly if he allowed it to be understood, or if it could be proved, that the sugar trust was particularly interested and would be specially gratified in his election.

#### AN ASHANTEE CUSTOM.

Since the news was brought to the civilized world that the king of Ashantee had thrown aside the British ultimatum in contempt and that the English, as a consequence, contemplate an expedition to the capital of the savage king, some of the peculiar customs of the dusky majesty have been the subject of conversation as well as newspaper articles both in Europe and in this country.

Coomassie, the capital, was visited by Mr. Stanley in 1874 and by many British soldiers under Sir Garnet, who burned the city twenty-one years ago. Others have paid occasional visits to the place, and all agree that the cruelties of the monarch of that country are appalling beyond description.

Among the sights of Ashantee seems to be a place known as the Grove of Skulls, where thousands of the king's subjects are put to death. The rulers of the country have an idea that when one of them dies, he is to have a respectable body guard on the other side, and the consequence is that numbers are slain at each royal funeral. As many as two thousand were killed at the demise of King Koffee. These were of course among the most loyal of the subjects. But even enemies are sacrificed in this grove, and it has become a veritable Golgotha. The present ruler, Prempeh, is believed to have slaughtered thousands during the past year, merely to satisfy his taste for the spectacular, or to strengthen him on the

throne by thinning out the ranks of his enemies.

The ground in the grove is strewn with human bones and corpses in every stage of decomposition,—and in the trees above "sacred" vultures roost. All agree that it is the most hideous place on earth. Henry Stanley describes it as follows:

As we drew near, the foul smells became so suffocating that we were glad to produce our handkerchiefs to prevent the intolerable and almost palpable odor from mounting into the brain and overpowering us. After some thirty paces we arrived before the dreaded scene, but it was almost impossible to stop longer than to take a general view of the great Golgotha. We saw some thirty or forty decapitated bodies in the last stages of corruption, and countless skulls which lay piled in heaps and scattered over a wide extent. The stoutest heart and most stoical mind might have been appalled.

The sacrifices in this place seem to partake of the nature of public entertainments. When the victims are selected, as many as 20,000 of the ignorant savages gather to see them die. They are taken to the grove securely bound. Knives are thrust crosswise through their cheeks. Then they are tortured in various ways and finally decapitated. The executioners retire from the scene drenched in blood and the corpses are left on the ground where they fell.

It seems almost incredible that superstitions of this kind can be practiced in a country not farther away from civilization than Ashantee is, but there is no reason to believe that the accounts are much exaggerated. It is undoubtedly within the power of the countries that are now penetrating Africa to put an end to such barbarous customs. How can they be held guiltless if they fail to do so? Civilization may not always have proved an unexceptional blessing to savage tribes. Its vices have sometimes slain tens of thousands where thousands were formerly sacrificed to barbarous superstitions. But the cases are nevertheless different, inasmuch as the temptations of civilization may be resisted, while against the brutal tyranny of savagery the victims are helpless. It is therefore to be hoped that the contemplated expedition to Ashantee may result in the extermination for ever of such cruel customs, whatever may be the results of it in other respects.

#### REST IN PEACE!

Sunday the mortal part of Patriarch Lorenzo D. Young was laid away to await the resurrection. He was the last survivor of the notable band of brothers which supplied this Church, both in themselves and in their posterity, with such valiant material at a time when its numbers were few and strong men were kept more busily employed, because they were more rare, than at present. The deceased veteran will be remembered as a lovable and sturdy figure, a man of simple tastes, unblemished integrity, and great strength of character. After an exceeding long life of energy and usefulness, and with a record of good works