

EDITORIALS.

MORE MONEY WANTED, AND OTHER THINGS.

THE following is a portion of a late dispatch by Stillson to the New York Herald—

"Salt Lake City, May 29.

"United States District Attorney Howard has before him evidence sufficient to convict the principal members of the Mormon hierarchy of frauds and crimes, and United States Marshal Nelson is prepared to summon the requisite witnesses. Ten thousand dollars would probably be enough for witnesses' expenses. It is understood that in advance of the extra session of Congress a certain discretion lies in regard to such an expenditure, if not with Attorney General Devens, then with the President. Mr. Howard, by consent of his official chief, has left here for a personal consultation at Washington. It would be a misfortune to the cause of public justice should the representations of this courageous gentleman not prevail, in spite of the weak counsels and tergiversations by which the Governor of the Territory has made himself ridiculous.

"What Brigham Young and his followers would like, and what they are now working for with an intensity which can hardly be conceived of at the east, is that no premonitory liberty may be taken before October with the public funds. When Congress meets they hope to use, with committee-men of both houses, the tactics that have never failed to defeat legislation against them. They are not only raising men here, they are raising money to expend there. The idea that these and other careful statements you are now receiving are sensational, in any other respect than that they are truthful, may be dismissed from your readers' minds. This is the first time that any but spasmodic attempts have been made to overturn the licentious ring who reign in Utah."

There is one thing which Mr. Stillson does not seem to know, and probably does not desire to know, and that is, that "the Mormon hierarchy" desire, above all things, that justice shall be done, but they know, by a lifetime of experience, that so far as certain parties are concerned, who appear to be "running" Mr. Stillson, if not more important persons who evidently support him, justice is not the design, that being the very thing those characters most fear, because if it were administered to them they would not be running at large to day, to say the least, to poison the moral atmosphere, pollute the community, and prejudice the public mind.

Mr. Stillson may deny that his reports are sensational, as long as he pleases to do so, but who will believe him? His latest sensations are so supremely ridiculous, that we very seriously question whether there are five persons in this city who believe them true, or even founded on facts. So satisfied has the community here become of the untrustworthiness of his reports, that it is difficult to find anybody hereabout that really believes anything he says, unless corroborated by more trustworthy persons. As to the public in the States, the belief in the trustworthiness of the Herald's sensational reports from Utah appears to have entirely subsided, and a great many grains of salt are now taken with them.

As to this being the first time any but spasmodic attempts have been made to overturn the people of this Territory, the statement shows Mr. Stillson's ignorance of the history of this region.

The "licentious ring who reign in Utah" is the ring into whose hands Mr. Stillson has fallen. It is high time that ring was overturned, but when it is, Mr. S. will take an involuntary somersault with it, unless he repents and reforms.

—An exchange says—"The Emperor Alexander has thanked the Holy Synod for finishing, after twenty years of incessant labor, the translation of the Bible into the Russian vernacular. This is the first translation into Russian approved by the Czar and the Church. The British and Foreign Bible Society's translation is now prohibited in Russia."

MORE PIOUS FALSIFYING.

REV. G. M. Pierce, editor of the *R. M. Christian Advocate*, it appears, has returned from his pious begging expedition to the States, and as soon as he returns he resumes his old practices of vilifying the "Mormon" people, telling religious falsehoods about them, and otherwise religiously misrepresenting and abusing them through his religious paper, as the sow that was washed returns to her wallowing in the mire. He says—

"On our return home, we found a condition of things in our city, and in a great measure obtaining, we judge, throughout the Territory about as follows: The ecclesiastical leaders of the Mormon Church, including their chief, abound in incendiary talk, as expressive of inward agitation, if not trepidation, about dire results that will follow if certain persons are put on trial for alleged crimes."

Now the Reverend Mr. Pierce must know that he wrote a positive falsehood when he penned the above. He ought to know that "the ecclesiastical leaders of the Mormon Church, including their chief," do not abound in incendiary talk, that they are not given to incendiary talk, and that they are not talking in an incendiary manner at this juncture. If there is any "incendiary talk" in Utah, it comes from the rabid anti-"Mormon" liars, of whom the Rev. Mr. Pierce is one, and among whom evidently his soul delights to be numbered, notwithstanding the express Scripture declaration that "all liars shall have their portion in that lake," etc. He can go to the Bible any day and read his awful doom, unless he repents. Otherwise his pious professions will be of no avail. This pious reverend editor goes on to say—

"The question to be settled is one of authority or sovereignty—Brigham Young versus the national authority in Utah."

So far as we are aware, there is no question of the kind pending. If Mr. Pierce raises any such question, let him settle it to his own satisfaction and in his own peculiar way. Who cares how he settles it? But for his own credit he might be a little less mendacious.

A MURDEROUS SPIRIT.

THE Carson *Tribune* utters the following truly Christian (?) desire:

"We trust, for the honor of the country and in accordance with the expressed wish of the President, that before the snow of next winter shall fall, Brigham Young will have been hanged as high as Haman and his associates either slaughtered or driven from American soil."

We trust that "before the snow of next winter shall fall," public sentiment will be so far corrected on "Mormon" affairs, through the presentation of facts, and the explosion of the sensational falsehoods which have recently excited the country, that those persons who have suffered themselves to be carried away by senseless passion, to entertain such atrocious sentiments as the above, will be thoroughly ashamed of their folly and wickedness.

Crime should be proven and punished only according to law. They who attempt to incite others to illegal judgment and mob violence are criminals in intent, and deserving of general execration. A writer who uses the power of the press to stir up men to deeds of blood, is as much a murderer in his heart as he who urges another by voice or act to slay his fellow man.

Such language as that indulged in by the Carson editor is an illustration of the *license* of the American press. The liberty of the press is dear to every freeman. But that liberty is perverted and betrayed when advantage is taken of the shield of journalism to shoot forth poisoned word-darts, intended to arouse the basest passions and encourage the spirit of lawlessness. It is high time that these press excesses were frowned down and denounced by all who have at heart the welfare of society.

As to "the expressed wish of the

President," we think that Rutherford B. Hayes is too wise a man and too sensible a President to commit himself to any such incendiary views. He is required to execute, not forestall, the law, and from his official course up to the present time there are no warrants to be drawn that he desires anything but justice and fairness to prevail in any section of this great country.

The spirit breathed in the above extract is that which led to the mobbing of the Saints, the demolition of their property, the outrages committed on their defenceless wives and daughters, and the massacre of their leaders unconvicted of any crime. It is the spirit that moved men to make martyrs of the greatest souls of the ages, and nailed Christ to the cross. It comes from beneath, it leads to the way of death, it is dangerous to the peace of society, and will dye every one who yields to its influence with the crimson stain of blood-guiltiness, which cannot be washed out for ever.

EX-PARTE JUDGMENTS AND CONSEQUENT ERRONEOUS CONCLUSIONS.

THE New York *Herald* accepts the sensational and uncorroborated reports of the alleged attempted assassination of its correspondent in Utah as gospel truth, assumes also as true that the "Mormons" made said attempt, and thereupon proceeds to read a stern and threatening chapter of invective against said people.

Our New York contemporary makes three grand mistakes in its column and a half commentary on this absurd sensational report. It makes one mistake in threatening the "Mormon" people. It makes another mistake in assuming that the "Mormons" committed this alleged attempt at assassination. It makes another mistake in accepting as true the silly reports of the attempted assassination, which are regarded here as among the poorest and baldest attempts conceivable at sensation-raising, inasmuch as the reports are exceedingly inconsistent, and rest wholly and solely upon the unconfirmed statement of the correspondent, without an iota of circumstantial evidence to support it.

These fundamental mistakes vitiate the entire *Herald* article, and render it unnecessary to be further commented upon.

MUDDLE AND MYSTIFICATION.

AN article in the *New North-West* upon "The Alleged Mormon Uprising," is a very good indication of the muddle and mystification in which the public, the more intelligent public even, finds itself concerning the state of affairs in Utah. The *N. N. W.* says, rather plaintively, "If ever there has been an alleged commotion, the truth of which seemed past finding out, it is the present ado about the Mormon militia." Then that paper goes on to say that the first paper started the cry that there was arming and drilling, the second denied and derided the reports, the first reiterated and avowed, the second changed tactics and wanted troops to protect its own city only. Then Eli Perkins pronounced the reports false and the people peaceful, then a metropolitan paper's reporter was dispatched, who corroborated the reports of No. 2, then a federal civil officer said there was something in it, then a federal military officer said there was nothing in it, then a federal governor said there was nothing in it, but asked for troops to soothe the nerves of those who thought there was something in it, and who had become frightened thereby.

The editor of the *N. N. W.* himself rather thinks there was "some grain of truth in the reports," but that "the preponderance of good, solid, disinterested judgment appears to be that the Mormons are not preparing for war, at least not in a manner that the authorities can obtain good evidence of." He says, further, that neither Brigham Young nor his followers want trouble, that "Salt Lake is a goodly

city and they have build d up there homes and a kingdom, where they would wish to live and die," and says further still—

"So, from all the reports that fill the press of the country, we draw the conclusions that some arms have been shipped to Southern Utah, where the rallying point would be in case of trouble; that the Nauvoo Legion is not learning military evolutions, or the manual of arms, to any great extent at present; that the reports in the *N. Y. Herald* and *Salt Lake*—are greatly exaggerated; that the *Corinne Record* veered around a little because a military post is a good thing to have in a town, but that it knows there is no danger now, and that this hurrah is kept up as a newspaper sensation."

It is presumable that there are in Utah, as in every Territory and State in the Union, and especially in every frontier State and Territory, a few shotguns, rifles, and revolvers, also table knives and forks and broom handles, and that these things are being imported as general merchandise more or less all the time, just as is the case in every other State and Territory in the Union, and just as has always been the case. But it is not fairly presumable that there is anything on foot more warlike than that regular and customary mercantile business among the peaceful people of Utah. The fact is, if our contemporaries and the public press generally would go the *DESERET NEWS* for trustworthy reports of the situation, and disbelieve and discard the reports of the sensational papers, public opinion would not be excited so much and so often as it is, and would also be a great deal nearer the truth than it generally is in regard to the state of affairs in this Territory.

THE MARRIAGE QUESTION.

MRS. P. D. BROWNE, of San Francisco, has a communication in the *Woman's Journal* which has given occasion for some comments in different papers. The writer commends the women of Utah for their faith, patience and devotion, but thinks polygamy wrong and unnecessary. In answer to the argument of woman's desire for motherhood she says—

"There is no love on earth higher, deeper, more heaven-like than a mother's love. But it seems to me a libel upon our sex, that we are so unpopular that we may be glad to be one of many wives. I believe that there are hundreds of men to-day, unmarried, who would make happy homes and devoted husbands."

But suppose those hundreds and thousands of unmarried men will not become husbands nor make happy homes. What then? That "heaven like" love that we hope Mrs. Browne enjoys and lavishes must be denied to a great many of her sex, as it is to-day under the monogamic system of marital restriction. And if that natural desire for happy maternity cannot reach fruition in what is considered a legitimate manner, in many instances it will seek gratification unlawfully. And this is one reason why that state of society exists which Mrs. Browne refers to—

"There are other sins; there are houses that should make every woman blush as she walks the streets of our cities; blush for her own sex; blush that such a state of society exists. Woman may have been quiet too long upon this delicate matter. Society is wrong."

Is it to be reasonably supposed that if every woman had the opportunity of becoming an honored wife and mother, the sin to which the lady alludes would prevail to anything like so great an extent? We think not. Society is wrong. But how shall it be re-constructed? Reform must commence at the foundation. The axe must be laid at the root of the evil; it is of little use to nibble at the branches. Let the gates of honorable marriage be thrown wide open to every woman, and give her the opportunity to wed the man whom she prefers above all others, provided each person interested in the union is willing. Then let that association of the sexes which is only proper in wedlock, be legally branded as a

crime, if indulged in unlawfully, let the sinful man be counted the chief criminal instead of the erring woman, and let punishment be dealt out accordingly.

Mrs. Browne says:

"Let us, therefore, never fear to declare the old, true doctrine, that what is 'sin in the woman is sin in the man,' and whether in Utah or out of it, if it be right for a man to have three or six wives, it is just as right for a woman to have the same number of husbands. Neither is right; both are equally wrong."

That old doctrine is correct, but the lady's argument is wrong. In the first place, it has not yet been proven that it is a sin for a man to have more wives than one. Laws may be enacted declaring it a punishable offence. Popular prejudice may denounce it. But no argument drawn from the Scriptures which declare what is sinful, can be adduced to prove the order of marriage practised by the patriarchs a sin. Then, it may be proper for either of the sexes to do some things which would be improper in the other. If Mrs. Browne's argument were carried into practical effect, one of the principal objects of marriage, namely, the perpetuation of the race, would fail to be promoted. The effects of such a practice would be evil in every way. Physically, socially and paternally there would be disorder of the direct character. It has nothing to recommend it. There is no occasion and no reason for it. Whatever may be the numerical proportion of the sexes, it cannot be denied that, in every place, with the exception of newly settled localities where only adventurous males could exist in any comfort, there are more women than men suited for and desirous of the marriage relation.

The argument frequently used that polygamy must be wrong, because, if one man has several wives other men will necessarily be deprived of any wife at all, is not tenable. All over the world, save in the localities above mentioned, almost any kind of a man can get a wife. Some of the most depraved, cruel and repulsive men are married. If men remain bachelors it is in almost every instance from their own choice. There is nothing to prevent their assuming the responsibilities of wedlock. On the other hand there are large numbers of marriageable women who would, as a general thing, accept an honorable proposal if offered, and who remain single simply because they are unsought. Gail Hamilton says, "There is not one woman in a million who would not be married if she had a chance." It is no "libel" upon the fair sex to say this, it is only the truth. And the fault, if any, that some women are, as Mrs. Browne puts it, "glad to be one of many wives" rests upon those men who would marry and will not.

The polygamist does not prevent the bachelor from marrying. But the single man who will not fulfil the first great commandment, renders it necessary that some man with a larger soul and a deeper fountain of affection should marry more women than one, to save them from the neglect of the timid and stingy bachelor. If the single men have any complaint or this score, let them each marry one wife and thus, if they can, render polygamy impossible.

Who hinders any man in Utah from getting a wife? Who prevents any woman from wedding with a bachelor? There is a free field here, and no favor to any one, except that which springs from choice. And this liberty of choice is what those who would abolish plural marriage attempt to destroy. They would force a woman who desires marriage with a married man, either to wed a person whom she does not wish for a husband or remain single, and be deprived of the exercise of that "heaven-like love which" Mrs. Browne admits is the "highest and deepest on earth," and which is the grand ultimatum of woman's aspirations.

There is no argument offered against the "Mormon" system of marriage which will stand the test of thorough investigation. Many plausible objections are raised against it, but they melt away, like mists before the sun, when the rays of truth and the force of facts are brought to bear upon them unimpeded by the thick clouds of ignorance and prejudice.

—Ben Butler says it is all a mistake, the story about him going west to run a Colorado sheep-farm.