

DESERET NEWS.

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, - DEC. 5, 1883

On and after December 1st, 1883, subscriptions to the WEEKLY NEWS will be required in advance. Payment for papers now being delivered to parties in this city who have not paid beyond that time will be collected, after the date named, by the carriers, weekly or monthly.

Where parties prefer to pay 3, 6 or 12 months, they can do so at this office, and papers will be delivered as usual.

Weekly per 1 month,	30c.
" " 3 "	90
" " 6 "	1.75
" " 12 "	3.50

A GENUINE BENEFIT SOCIETY

Zion's Benefit Building Society is making good progress, and is in every way what it purports to be. There is still plenty of room for more stockholders and we would like to see the interest in it increase. By the courtesy of Mr. Parsons, the chief secretary, we are enabled to present a full explanation of the conditions under which new subscribers can be admitted on an equal footing with those who took shares in the commencement.

Up to the present time it has been required that new subscribers should pay the full amount of the past subscriptions, dating from July last, together with a small premium in addition. The premium is added, because the money paid in by the first members has been gaining interest for some months, and it is therefore considered fair and equitable to charge this small additional amount in order to place the several members on an equal footing with regard to the profits made. This plan still remains in force, for those who desire to take advantage of it.

In order, however, to make the conditions as favorable as possible for the people, in whose interest the society was organized, it has been decided to admit members also on the following conditions, from this time until February next. The regular subscription on each share per month is fifty cents, but if a member pay one dollar per month for the remaining six months of the fiscal year, it follows that by the end of the year he will have paid the same amount of money into the Society as those who have paid fifty cents per month during the whole twelve months. A small premium on each share subscribed will adjust the matter of accrued interest, and the initiation fee of ten cents per share will remain as at first.

Hence, if a new member wished to subscribe for five shares, say in January next, he might select either of the two conditions of membership as stated above.

By the first plan he would be required to pay as follows:

Initiation fee, 10 cts. per share,	\$0.50
Back subscription, 6 months .	15.00
January subscription . . .	2.50
Premium	0.45
Total	\$18.45

He would then pay \$2.50 per month for the remainder of the year.

By the second plan he would pay:

Initiation fee	\$0.50
Subscription	5.00
Premium	0.60
Total	\$6.10

His monthly subscriptions for the remainder of the year would be \$5 per month, but at the end of the first fiscal year he would pay \$2.50 per month, that is, the regular subscription of fifty cents per share.

By this means it is estimated that the subscribers will be enabled to participate at the year in an equal division of the profits made.

It is hoped that a large number will avail themselves of this opportunity. The Society is doing a good work, and its benefits are already being manifested. About seven thousand dollars has been loaned out already, and its usefulness is increasing every month.

ANOTHER REDUCTION.

We understand that another cut in freight rates from the Missouri River to this point has been made, the tariff being now reduced to 25 cents per hundred pounds.

This will be an advantage to the people generally, excepting those merchants who resorted to overstocking when the first large reduction occurred. The failure is now largely in favor of those who wisely only issued orders to satisfy current demands, or at least for but limited future periods.

We do not think that the general effect will be injurious, but beneficial. So far as business men are concerned the deleterious results will be confined mostly to those who have acted or may act rashly. While rates are unstable the safer plan is not to make any precipitous plunges, as a still further reduction appears on the surface to be about as probable as an upward leap. The chief popular benefit will be cheaper commodities.

We learn that the reduction stated above is not an open quotation. We understand it has been given in special instances. It will probably be followed by an open quotation.

THE UNDERGROUND COMBINATION.

TO-DAY we present the full text of the address to the public issued by the "National League for the Suppression of Polygamy" recently organized at Cleveland, Ohio. We do not entertain the idea for a moment that the object of the combination is defined by its name. Its purpose we believe to be the injury and, if possible, destruction of "Mormonism" as a whole, as an organized religious body. Having this opinion we are certain that the scheme is not only conceived in darkness, but born of hypocrisy.

The last paragraph but one makes this conspicuously clear, for if "wickedness, hypocrisy and moral corruption" were the real and not merely the pretended objects of the threatened onslaughts of the Society, more of these abominable conditions of a horrible and startling character could be found in Cleveland, or any other of the large cities of the country in one week than could be discovered in the "Mormon" community in a decade. While the land is filled with whoredoms, murders, robberies and every species of violence, works of darkness and all manner of abominations, the hypocrites pass them by as practices too common or too congenial for notice. Yet they hold up their hands, and raises their voices against the Latter-day Saints because of the conscientious belief in, and practice by a limited number of them, of the Bible form of marriage. They cannot be truthfully accused of being other than a pure, virtuous, sober and industrious community.

If this secret abomination initiated at Cleveland shall spread all over the country, surely the deep hypocrisy of the nation, steeped as it is in the slough of iniquity, shall bring upon it the swift judgment of offended heaven.

The stars which appear in the circular indicates omissions from the full document prepared by the supposedly unknown inquisitors, for the government of their "star chamber" proceedings. The omitted parts are not for the public eye. They probably would explain other objects held in view by the inquisitors. What would doubtless define the nature of the more nefarious duties of the members of the League and the Reserve Legion is not given. Neither are the more subordinate executive officials, nor the mode of procedure of the inquisitors in their dark seances.

We have already explained somewhat copiously, the predictions in the Book of Mormon, and others given directly through Joseph Smith in relation to the establishment of this secret combination, and what the result will be should it

spread over the nation. Unless it is checked in its incipency the prediction in relation to its effect will follow just as surely as that regarding its inauguration has been fulfilled.

MR. GLADSTONE'S ATTITUDE.

THE attitude of Mr. Gladstone toward the anti-"Mormon" committee that waited upon him on the 23d inst., did good credit to his capacious brain and generous heart. It would be well for our leading men of national reputations to consider the position on this question of one of the foremost statesmen in the world.

It appears that the committee was grossly ignorant of the subject regarding which they solicited Mr. Gladstone's aid. They represented that the Elders were traveling about the country making a special business of entrapping young girls and shipping them off to Utah for sinister and immoral purposes. Doubtless they unjustly judged the Elders from the standard that prevails only too widely in the world. It is easily ascertainable by all who wish to inform themselves on the subject, that the missionaries preach the gospel of faith, repentance, baptism for the remission of sins, and the imparting of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands, and all who believe and obey their message, male and female, old or young, are admitted into the church. That people of no one sex or age predominate could readily be ascertained by observing the companies of emigrants which leave the port of Liverpool.

But notwithstanding the representations, or rather misrepresentations of the committee, the venerable Premier stood by the position he assumed on a former occasion of a similar character. He did not know that the Elders resorted to any illegal methods to obtain proselytes, and did not see that he could interfere. He appeared pronouncedly opposed to any legislation whose object would be the prevention of Mormon emigration from the country. Although Mr. Gladstone was mistaken in his opinion "that it was generally some hope of material benefit that caused people to fall into the arms of Utah missionaries," his remark that measures looking to the improvement of the material condition of the working classes would be a better method than a resort to legislation, was a mild yet somewhat cutting rebuke to the committee.

THE EASTERN REVOLUTIONIST.

THE New York Herald gives the following as the prophecy concerning the appearance of El Mahdi, called the "False Prophet."

"On the 1st of the month of Moharrem, in the year 1300 (November 12th, 1882) will appear El Mahdi or Messiah. He will be exactly 40 years of age, and of noble bearing. One arm will be longer than the other. His father's name will be Mohammed and his mother's name Fatima, and he will be hidden for a time prior to his manifestation."

Accordingly Mohammed Achmet, son of Mohammed and Fatima came forth from retirement, on the date stated. One of his arms is of such unusual length that while standing erect he can touch his knee with his hand.

THE SECRET ANTI-MORMON LEAGUE.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF POLYGAMY,

Cleveland Ohio, Nov. 20, 1883.

To the Public:

The National League for the Suppression of Polygamy was organized in Cleveland, O., October 27, 1883. The object of the League is the abolition of polygamy as practised by the Mormons. The following preamble and constitution fully explain the position of the organization.

PREAMBLE.

Whereas, It is our solemn duty, as citizens, to promote the welfare of our country and to preserve for

coming generations a government founded upon righteous principles, free from all that tends to disgrace us as a people; and

Whereas, We recognize in the system of polygamous marriages inaugurated, fostered and perpetuated by the Mormons, an institution that is a curse to the nation, a foul blot upon the face of the earth, and a dangerous foe to the liberty of the Republic, striking, as it does, at the very basis of good government in bringing into jeopardy the homes of the Nation, and in violating the sanctity of the marriage relation; and

Whereas, We recognize the lamentable fact that the debasing institution is growing in power and wealth, we associate ourselves for the purpose of organizing a Society, the one aim and object of which shall be the total and absolute extirpation of polygamy. In accordance with this determination we establish the following

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

SECTION 1.—The name of this Society shall be "The National League for the Suppression of Polygamy," with headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio.

ARTICLE II.—OBJECT.

Sec. 1.—The object of the League shall be the extirpation of polygamy in the United States of America.

ARTICLE III.—MEMBERSHIP.

Sec. 1.—Citizens of the United States shall be eligible to regular membership, but can be admitted only by a majority vote of the charter members. The name of no applicant shall be voted upon until two weeks after it is proposed by a charter member in good standing.

Sec. 2.—Any moral citizen shall be eligible to membership in the Reserve Legion, which shall be the title designating an auxiliary to the League. The duty of the members of the Reserve Legion shall be to assist in the work of the League.

Sec. 3.—Members of the Reserved Legion shall be honorary members of the League, but shall not be permitted to participate in the meetings of the League, nor shall they be asked to contribute funds for the support of the League.

ARTICLE IV.—DUTIES OF MEMBERS.

Section 2.—No member shall disclose the proceedings of any meeting of the League, nor the names of the charter members.

Sec. 3.—Each member shall take an oath solemnly obligating himself to observe the provisions of the two preceding sections.

ARTICLE V.—OFFICERS.

Section 1.—The officers of this League shall be one President, one Vice President, one Secretary, one Disbursing Treasurer one Receiving Treasurer, one Auditor, and one Sentinel.

ARTICLE VII.—MEETINGS.

Section 1.—Regular meetings of the League shall be held at least twice each month.

During the coming winter it shall be the purpose of the League to agitate the subject of polygamy; to expose the wickedness, hypocrisy and moral corruption existing among the Mormon bishops and saints, and to use all legitimate means to root out the debasing practices of the Mormon church.

It is suggested that Auxiliary Leagues be organized in every city, town and school district of the United States, in order that public sentiment be aroused and new ideas conceived. Auxiliary Leagues can be formed by the application of ten citizens in good standing to the National League for a charter, for which twenty-five cents will be charged.

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF POLYGAMY.

AMENITIES OF EVERY DAY LIFE.

We are almost deluged daily with copious oral and written accounts of weddings, surprise parties, birthday parties and other complimentary social gatherings of a similar character.

From a degree of deference to the

feelings of the persons concerned, perhaps a little more space has been accorded to such affairs than should have been given. But we deem it necessary to make a radical curtailment in this direction in the future. When such matters are mentioned at all, we intend to give them scarcely more than a passing notice. We draw attention to the subject thus conspicuously that those who might otherwise furnish matter of this class may not be disappointed by having their statements radically boiled down or not appear at all.

We will probably be pardoned for expressing the opinion that the desire to publish accounts of birthday surprise and other parties has been carried to an extreme. Such social affairs are excellent in their way, especially when moderately engaged in. But they properly belong, as a rule, to the amenities of private life, in which they serve to break the monotony of every-day routine. When they are described through the columns of a newspaper they become public and the charm of privacy is broken.

Speaking to the community of Latter-day Saints, while on this subject, it will be well for them to consider how far the spirit of adulation of others or self can be indulged in without overstepping the boundary line of the Gospel. An ounce of solid, sensible appreciation is worth a ton of exaggeration exhibited in an excess of public display. Too much care cannot be taken in avoiding anything that will feed a feeling of vanity or pride. "Beware of pride lest ye become like unto my people the Nephites of old," is the voice of revelation to the Latter-day Saints, through Joseph Smith.

It is nearing the holiday season. There will be many surprise parties. Who can fail to observe in the community a too strong tendency to run according to class lines in this department of life? The rich feast the rich and pay them numerous attentions that make their hearts run over with the oil of gladness. We are pleased to observe this, and would like to see the hearts of the wealthy made still more plethoric with the joys of life. We know how it can be done. If they would extend their little courtesies to the poorer and more needy they would kill two birds with one stone. The good they would do by turning at least a part of their attention that way, and the happiness they would impart to those who need it so much more than those to whom it is customary to tender it, would find a pleasurable echo in their own hearts.

Perhaps we will not be esteemed hyper-critical if we express an opinion to the effect that there is some room in our community for improvement in social practices, by the infusion of a little more of that Gospel Spirit that inspires a constant desire for the welfare of the comparatively helpless. Those who are in affluence are in a position to take care of themselves. A little more of the actual work of doing good without heralding the act with the blast of a trumpet would serve to increase the actuality of a professed brotherhood and sisterhood.

We have departed somewhat from the strict line of our first object expressed at the beginning of the article, but there is at the same time a connecting link throughout. Except in cases where occasions of the nature named are of more than ordinary note, we expect to adhere to the policy of brevity or non-publication.

WANTS A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

THE resolution proposed by General Rosecrans for an amendment to the Constitution "forever prohibiting polygamy in the United State" is very absurd. It is as good as an admission that as the Constitution now stands, all laws made with a view to the suppression of the plural wife system of marriage are in conflict with it, which we hold to be the case. A constitutional provision is of itself powerless on any subject. This is so plain as to be almost self-evident.

A High Opinion.

Capt. John J. Dawson, late of the British Army, residing on Love St., between Mandeville and Spain, this city, says he used St. Jacobs Oil with the greatest possible advantage when afflicted with rheumatism. — *New Orleans Times-Democrat.*