

of the boasts that is in every man's mouth in this country, and it is no part of the business of any state to meddle or concern itself with any man's religion. Every man has the undoubted constitutional right in this free country to adopt any form of religious worship that he pleases, or espouse any creed, no matter how absurd, provided he obeys the laws and does not interfere with the rights of his neighbors. As distasteful as Mormonism is to most rational people, it is nevertheless a most unquestionable privilege to profess it, just as much as it is another privilege to become a Methodist or a Presbyterian. The adjunct of polygamy is a crime against the laws, and punishable as such, but the Montana [Idaho] people go too far when they aim to eradicate the whole of the Mormon faith.

It may not be generally known, so much popular clamor has been raised against the Mormons, that their creed is eminently orthodox, except that it goes too far, and takes in some things that modern Christians repudiate. Indeed, the Mormons hold to the cardinal doctrines promulgated by John Calvin as firmly as any Presbyterian or Baptist, and in defense of polygamy they quote the practice of some notable men of ancient times who loved the women not wisely but too well. They believe in God, in the Trinity, in the fall of man in Adam, in vicarious atonement, in baptism by immersion, in the miracles and the punishment of the wicked after death.

It will be all right for Montana [Idaho] to exclude polygamists from the polls because that is now a criminal practice under our laws, but no Mormon should be persecuted simply because he has become a proselyte to that particular form of religious fanaticism."

STREET RAILROAD FRANCHISE.

WE HOPE that in considering the important question of granting franchises for street railroads, the City Council will give due weight to the necessity of extending such privileges only to *bona fide* companies, who will actually engage in the enterprises they project upon paper. Combinations for purely speculative purposes ought not to be officially encouraged. Their operations are of no real public benefit. Private advantage should cut no figure in these public matters, but the interests of the people and city should be paramount.

The present street railroad company is an established body, doing excellent business. Its lines are improved, the new electric service is competent as far as it has been put in operation, and it gives eminent satisfaction. It should be extended all over the company's lines as fast

as practical, and it will be for the benefit and welfare of the public if other branches of the service are constructed and maintained.

We have no pecuniary or other personal interest in or against any street railroad company or corporation which exists or is contemplated. We desire only the public good. And this we have in view, when holding that an established, competent company, with a good system giving satisfaction to all, has a claim upon the consideration of those who manage the public business, when an extension of street car facilities is in contention and franchises are sought for by different parties.

"GIVING IT AWAY."

THE "Liberals" of this city will not look with favor upon the remarks reported in the *San Francisco Examiner* to have been made by Rev. J. H. Warren, "Superintendent of the Congregational Home Missionaries," at the Congregational Club in that city. His boast about having established, with Dr. Stone, a church in Salt Lake City where, subsequently, "the Methodist and Presbyterian churches here have been organized," they will pass by as immaterial. Also his statement conveying a fact which is highly significant, that all these Protestant churches "have cut a prominent figure in Utah politics."

But, after repeating the story circulated by certain "Liberal" prevaricators, that the "Mormons" are "colonizing voters," he added:

"This colonization trick is one that two can play at, and the Gentiles are preparing to bring hundreds of miners in from the mines and 'vote' them at the election."

This reverend Protestant worker in politics has "let the cat out of the bag," so to speak. He is a "Liberal" religious politician and of course knows about the scheme. He is on the inside. But he talks too much on the outside for an astute election manipulator. The "Liberals" will have to put a muzzle on the Reverend Warren, or he will spoil the "Liberal" game.

Of course, it is well understood here that this is the "Liberal" intention. Also, that because of this, the charge was trumped up that the few men who have come into this city from different places to work because they had none where they formerly lived, were "Mormons" imported for voting purposes. The

design of the "Liberals" was to divert attention from their own scheme by pointing at pretended wrong in others. But the People's Party managers must take measures to prevent the wholesale fraud, which the Rev. J. H. Warren injudiciously admits is not only contemplated but prepared, and it should be thoroughly exposed and severely punished.

Any citizen who in good faith takes up his residence here in proper time, and can honestly take the registration oath, will be entitled to vote. It makes no difference whether he is a "Liberal" or a "Mormon." But transients have no right to register and vote. Miners cannot legally be imported for voting purposes, even if they be "Liberals" and the registration officers are of the same persuasion. And proper vigilance must be exercised to detect and prosecute the lawless persons who engage in this shameful colonizing fraud.

We are obliged to the Reverend political wire puller who declares that,

"Without the efforts of these Protestant churches the Territorial election which took place some three weeks ago could not have resulted in a Gentile victory."

He has furnished us with some points that deserve attention. Of course there is no "union of Church and State" in that. But there would be, if "Mormon" churches were engaged in the same kind of business. And if a country "Mormon" were to change his residence in time to register in this city, in "Liberal" logic it would be evidence of criminal intent. But hundreds of miners can be brought from the mining districts to be "voted" in support of the "Liberal" party, and that is all proper and politic and pious.

We thank you, Mr. Warren, but we are afraid your "Liberal" associates will want to put a "Liberal" plaster over your mouth.

THE EVANS TRIAL IN IDAHO.

THE charge of Judge Berry to the jury in the Evans case, the full text of which will be found elsewhere in this paper, is somewhat of a surprise. It is a fair and unbiased presentation of the law affecting the case, and establishes two or three points which are worthy of attention.

In the first place the fact is clearly pointed out, that in Idaho, citizens are debarred from exercising the