

"We mean to put that business of the Mormons through," lately said a New-England politician to Mr. Hepworth Dixon, at a dinner party in Philadelphia. "We have done a bigger job than that in the South, and we shall now fix up things in Salt Lake City."

In pursuance of the purpose to "fix up things in Salt Lake City," the Philadelphia Press and other extreme Radical journals are sounding the notes preliminary to "stern legislation." The report of the House Judiciary Committee on the subject of polygamy forms the immediate occasion of the discussion and the warning. The Territorial Legislature of Utah petitioned Congress for the repeal of the act prohibiting polygamy, and for leave to the people of the Territory "to exercise their religion and its ordinances, as guaranteed by the Constitution." The Judiciary Committee, in its report on the application, calls attention to the fact that the law is practically a dead letter in the Territory, alleging "that the gravest necessity exists for its enforcement," and recommending that it be enforced without further delay. If its non-enforcement, says the Committee, is attributable to the neglect of the Territorial Judges, they should be removed; if from causes beyond their control, "it becomes the duty of the President of the United States to take care that it be faithfully executed." Hence, the cry of a certain class for more legislation "to put that business of the Mormons through."

There will not be two opinions, probably, as to the propriety of the general position assumed by the Judiciary Committee. The act to prevent and punish the practice of polygamy is one of the statutes of the United States, and should therefore be enforced. To repeal it in obedience to the requests of those to whom it applies would be to lend the countenance of the Republic to the practice which a former Congress intended to prevent and punish. The moral sense of the American people revolts against anything that might seem, even by implication, to connect them with polygamy. For the same reason, an effort should be made to give vitality to the statute, or, at any rate, to ascertain the causes of its being permitted to remain a dead letter. Admitting all this, however, the expediency and justice of entering upon the crusade for which the Press is preparing its readers remain open for consideration. Polygamy is a disgusting and, as the country believes, a sinful practice, but should we play the role of persecutors in order that it may be put down? The polygamy of the Mormons is, to say the least, not worse than the prostitution that abounds in our anti-Mormon cities; and what sane man expects to annihilate prostitution by legislative enactment? And if we find it difficult to contend with a great curse and sin, at our very doors, what difficulties must not be overcome before contending successfully with a curse and sin existing some two thousand miles from Washington, with mountains and hundreds of miles of desert between it and civilization?

Mere difficulties, we admit, afford no excuse for neglect or failure to give effect to law. The duty of the Federal Government to enforce its provisions is as obvious and urgent in Salt Lake Valley and on the wastes of Arizona as in Ohio or New York. It is clearly bound to protect the lives and property of the Gentiles, and perhaps should have done more than has been done in cases akin to that of the murder of Dr. Robinson. For ordinary police purposes, the military force stationed in Utah is amply sufficient. There is no conclusive evidence, indeed, that the Mormons either imperil the safety of Gentile life or interfere with the prosecution of Gentile enterprise and industry. One of their latest and most scrutinizing visitors, Mr. Hepworth Dixon, testifies that "their streets are clean, their houses bright, their gardens beautiful. Peace reigns in their cities. Harlots and drunkards are unknown among them. They keep open more common schools than any other sect in the United States." He adds, neatly and suggestively, "Being what they are, believing what they do, their merits are perhaps more trying to our patience than their crimes. It is thought that many persons in the United States would be able to endure them a little better if they would only behave themselves a good deal worse." Doubtless this is true. Confessedly a most industrious people—toiling patiently, with all nature as it were arrayed against them, and produc-

ing more from their four-acre patches of sand than an Illinois farmer obtains from forty acres of his richest loam—they are a reproach to the hordes of lazy adventurers, and shiftless, reckless miners and desperadoes who come in contact with them. We need other testimony than that of visitors of this class before concluding that the Mormons are in common matters so desperately bad that an invading army is necessary to "fix up things" among them. The probabilities of the case point another way, and dispose us to believe that the cry for "stern legislation" which the Press and other prints echo proceeds mainly from Gentiles who have grudges to gratify, or from the very moral and eminently pious people who see in the transport of an army across the plains mines of wealth in the shape of contract and plundering generally.

If it be urged that the object of "stern legislation" prayed for is to put down polygamy, and nothing else, the question arises, Why was the same demand "to put that business of the Mormons through" heard and acted upon before polygamy was formally known among them? When they were driven from Independence, Mo., a poverty-stricken band, not twelve thousand strong, it was as Mormons, not as polygamists. And when hunted like wild beasts from Nauvoo, numbering thirty thousand, polygamy had not become a doctrine of their church. Other considerations than those of aversion to polygamy evidently actuated the advocates of "fixing up things," in both of these instances, and we suspect that they are still at the bottom of the movement which is trying to make itself heard. Otherwise, the fact would be recognized that a considerable part of the Mormon body strenuously resist and denounce the doctrine as a heresy introduced by Brigham Young; and even in Utah a large proportion of the brotherhood have no lot or part in the matter. To revive persecution against the 140,000 souls that compose the Mormon population of Utah, because Young and the bishops and elders of his church act upon the Moslem notion of plurality of wives, would be unwise and unchristian. There are many, no doubt, who would gladly re-enact the horrors and outrages of Independence and Nauvoo—who would despoil the Mormon multitude of their houses and lands, their mills and cattle, and in the name of religion would send them forth anew outcasts and wanderers. But for the sake of humanity let not this temper be encouraged. Rather let us confess that, with all their folly and all their faults, the Mormons have succeeded in doing a work which no people not stimulated by fanaticism would have overcome. They have built a prosperous settlement in the midst of one of the most desolate regions known to men. They have constructed a source of supply for the mining regions of Montana and Nevada. They have founded a depot of travel and trade which will yield wonders when the Pacific Railway shall bring it into speedy communication with East and West.

Instead of "stern legislation," backed by armies, with contractors and jobbers waxing rich at the public crib, we submit that the Mormon question may best be "fixed" by the moral agencies which are at the command of a Christian country, and by the converting influences which follow in the wake of the iron horse. It would hardly become New-Yorkers to clamor for the bayonet as a means of putting down polygamy, while the Bible Communists, with their promiscuous intercourse of the sexes, abound among us. With the Oneida Community flourishing in our own State, we cannot shout for the enforcement of virtue in Salt Lake City. We may nevertheless, with perfect propriety, use available missionary means to expose the absurdities and correct the vices of Mormonism. Our churches may be asked whether the conversion of the Mormons would not be quite as meritorious as the conversion of Hindus, and quite as deserving of their attention. We prefer reliance upon these peaceful and properly religious agencies. And we trust with even greater confidence to the efficacy of that large introduction of the Gentile element which will take place as a consequence of the growth of the mining regions, which look to Salt Lake City as their commercial centre.

—Not less than a thousand people in New York live by fortune telling and other such methods of gaining a livelihood.

[SPECIAL TO THE DESERET NEWS.]

## By Telegraph.

New York, 23.

The whole of the Russian army will be provided with breech loaders by the end of June.

London, 24.

Sir Archibald Allison, historian, is dead.

Liverpool, 24.

Advices from Hong Kong say it is reported that the U. S. gunboat Ashulot bombarded a town in the Island of Formosa, the natives of which had murdered the shipwrecked crew of the American barque Rover.

New York, 24.

The Commercial says it is asserted that from half to two-thirds of Charleston, S. C., is owned by Frazer, Trenholm & Co. Reports also state that last year they paid taxes on \$14,000,000 worth of property in South Carolina.

Washington, 24.

The report of the Agricultural Department for April says there never has been so general an expression of the fine condition of the winter wheat.

The treaty for the settlement of the American claims has been ratified by the Congress at Venezuela.

New York, 24.

The Herald says the Fenians are making extensive preparations for war; that ammunition for 100,000 men is being prepared; that the iron foundry of McDermot & Co., Eighteenth st., since Jan., 1866, has made a large number of twelve and twenty-four pounders, and shells at the rate of 200 a day; also three or four tons of grape and cannister have been manufactured daily; the foundry has 35 men at work all the time on Fenian war material. The Fenians have several secret arsenals in this city. The Buffalo Dispatch makes a similar report. There was a large meeting of Fenians in Boston last evening.

London, 25.

There was another imposing and very influential demonstration in favor of parliamentary reform, in the shape of a very crowded meeting at St. James' Hall to-day. John Stuart Mill, a Liberal member of the House of Commons, attended and spoke earnestly in support of extensive and very comprehensive measures of enfranchisement for the people.

New York, 27.

The Episcopal convention of North Carolina recently met at Wilmington, and adopted resolutions favoring strenuous exertions for the intellectual training of freedmen, in order to forestall and correct the erroneous education which other denominations may impart to them, and admitting colored men to ministry in the church as special teachers and pastors of their own race.

Washington, 27.

A dispatch has been received at the Department of State, dated at San Luis Potosi, May 15, which states that Queretaro had fallen into the hands of the Liberals, and that Maximilian, Mejia, Castello and Miramon were taken prisoners.

Matamoras, 23.

At 3 a.m. of the 15th, La Cruz was taken by the Liberals, who surprised the enemy; shortly after the garrison were made prisoners the Liberals occupied the Plaza, while the enemy retreated towards Cerro de la Campana where the Liberals' artillery caused them to surrender at 8 a.m. Maximilian and his Generals Mejia and Castello surrendered unconditionally.

Gen. Escobado reports, from the interior, that Juarez has ordered Maximilian and all his Generals to be shot.

Matamoras, 25.

The Liberal force which took possession of Queretaro has started for the Capital.

London, 27.

The press in England and Ireland generally urge the sentence of the convicted Fenians to be commuted to imprisonment for life.

A dispatch from Dublin states that the jury brought in a verdict of guilty against O'Brien, coupled with a recommendation of mercy. It is said that the American Minister Adams will interpose his good offices to save the prisoner McClure from death.

New York, 27.

The National reform Union, in an address to Gladstone, asked him to take up the bold cry for household suffrage, as it would have the sympathy and approval of the whole nation. He replied reassuringly, and was caustic in his criticism on the government bill, but

did not commit himself to the bold cry for household suffrage. Bright addressed the Union, advising them to hold meetings throughout the country.

A public meeting at Dublin, presided over by the Lord Mayor, adopted a memorial to the Lord Lieutenant, asking that the lives of the condemned Fenians be spared.

Galveston, 27.

Gen. Griffin has issued an order suspending the collection of taxes levied during the war. Judge Reeves, of the 9th District Court, has decided that negro witnesses are not competent on a trial of white men. The Sheriff of Victoria County has refused greenbacks as legal tenders.

London, 27.

It is authoritatively announced that the Government has commuted all the capital sentences of the Fenians to imprisonment for life.

New York, 27.

Seward has received a dispatch from London announcing that the sentences of Burke and McCafferty have been commuted to imprisonment for life.

New Orleans, 27.

A letter from the American Consul at Monterey confirms the capture of Maximilian.

Kansas City, 27.

Twenty-five citizens of this place started in pursuit of the Richmond Bank robbers yesterday. As a part of them approached a house near Independence, one of the party was shot by a notorious bushwhacker named Payner Jones, who escaped.

St. Louis, 27.

A majority of the managers of the street railroads in this city have decided to admit colored people to the cars on an equality with the whites.

An Omaha dispatch says in a fight on the 16th, at Pine Bluff, between a party of men cutting railroad ties and some Indians, one of the former and six of the latter were killed. In another fight at Cheyenne Pass, on the 20th, one white man was killed. Grass on the northern route is insufficient for pasture.

New York, 28.

Gen. Griffin, in Texas, has found it necessary to issue an order declaring that the usual taxes must be paid, the people thinking that they were relieved under the military bill.

Report says the proposed Fenian raid is taking definite shape; a secret circular has been distributed to all the Circles, calling to them arms; munitions of war, in large quantities, are being taken to the border and secreted ready for use. Quite a number of persons, supposed to be Fenians, are at St. Albans. Fifty thousand troops are reported ready to take the field, backed by 50,000 more, in case of need.

To-day Dexter and Lady Thorne trotted for \$10,000; the latter was distanced in the second heat; time two minutes and twenty-two seconds.

Cholera has broken out in Buenos Ayres and all the towns on the coast as far as Corrientes.

Memphis, 28.

Fire this morning destroyed Greenwood and Loeb's dry goods establishment; loss \$100,000; insured \$65,000.

New York, 29.

In the House of Commons, after an exciting debate on the question of borough franchise, the right embodied in Disraeli's reform bill was settled on the basis of household suffrage; and it now stands that each £10 householder in a borough is to pay a tax rate personally, instead of through his landlord, and so secure the right of voting; in the matter of franchise qualification in the counties, it has been voted that settled occupants of lands or tenements, worth £12, shall enjoy the right of voting when duly registered. The Government first proposed that the value of land tenements should be £15; the Liberals, in opposition, wanted to have it fixed at £10, and a compromise took place; the result is a gain to the people.

Earl Derby tendered to the Queen the Cabinet recommendation that mercy be extended to the convicted Fenians, and the Queen, after anxious consideration, assented to it. The announcement of the result was received in both Houses of Parliament with loud cheering. Derby stated that the only reason for giving way was the overwhelming testimony of the Irish people, that it would be politic not to let the law take its course.

O'Brien has been found guilty of high treason, and sentenced to be hanged on the 19th June; the sentence will probably be commuted.