

## EDITORIALS.

## FUSION OF PROTESTANTISM AND THE PAPACY.

A REPORT was in extensive circulation a weeks ago, being telegraphed all over the civilized world, to the effect that an arrangement was in progress by which over three millions of Protestants would soon seek the shelter of Mother Church and become adherents of the Catholic faith. We had no confidence in the rumor at the time, and the particulars which now come to hand show that it rested upon very slender foundations. However, there was "something in it," the falsehood was not "made out of whole cloth."

At a meeting held in the classical city of Oxford, certain High Church dignitaries of the "Establishment," and a number of Roman Catholic priests, considered the subject of a fusion of what they considered "the two branches of apostolic succession." But the very expression was itself an absurdity and involved something inconsistent and impossible.

The Roman Church takes the ground of uninterrupted continuation of authority from the Apostles through the popes down to the present incumbent of the Papal throne, which indeed is called "The chair of St. Peter." It claims to hold "the keys," with power to bind and loose. Whatever priesthood the Episcopal Church professes to hold came through this same succession. If the Romish Church had no priestly authority the Anglican church could have none. But supposing the former held this ecclesiastical power, the seceders from it were excommunicated, and being "loosed" from their position were deprived of every right thereto pertaining. An Anglican Bishop, therefore, was no bishop at all, and the priests and deacons whom he ordained were as void as he of any sacerdotal authority.

How then could any such fusion as that proposed be seriously entertained by the Papal Church? It would be a virtual denial of its fundamental principles and contrary to its teachings for centuries. A distinguished Roman Catholic prelate, Monsignor Capel, in a discourse touching on this matter makes the following pertinent remarks:

"The essential characteristic of the Roman Catholic Church was that there was no appeal beyond her decisions. She says, in language that cannot be misunderstood, that there can be no union between truth and falsehood; her teaching must be accepted in its entirety or wholly rejected. For that reason the doctrines of the Real Presence, of absolution, of the efficacy of prayers to the saints and angels, and of her infallible authority on earth, must be accepted, or there is no admission into her fold. They stood before all the world making this as their first declaration, that the Roman Catholic Church was exclusive, and had no right to sacrifice a tittle of her doctrines or authority. They must repudiate the theory that there were three branches, and no trunk. The credentials of the Roman Catholic Church were divine, and her doctrines must be conserved to all ages. This was the one answer which the Roman Catholic Church could give to those who advocated the re-union of Christendom. In conclusion, Monsignor Capel said that those Roman Catholic priests who stood on the platform at Oxford were not there in a representative character, and he hoped this would be understood by Roman Catholics."

It will be perceived that such a union as proposed is an impossibility. If the Church of England or any portion of it goes over to Rome, it must be as a repentant or a returning prodigal, not as a branch of apostolical authority, as that Church cannot by its own admissions and in the light of its own history, possess one single particle of legitimate succession from the ancient church established by Christ and His Apostles. The Romish Church has a slight shadow which it persuades itself is a reality, but its oldest daughter has not the faintest phantom on which to depend, nor any connection as a branch, living or dead, spiritual or temporal.

## CAUSES OF NATIONAL DECAY.

It was once the fashion among social scientists and preachers who were troubled with polygamy on the brain, to attribute the effeminacy of the Turks to their practice of marrying more wives than one. This was a staple argument of the champions of monogamy for many years. But the extraordinary energy and tremendous fighting qualities exhibited by the polygamic Mohammedans, in the defence of their country against the Russians, knocked the bottom out of the proposition and we do not hear it mentioned now-a-days.

But now comes a new argument, based on the supposed sluggishness and feeble physical development of the subjects of the Sultan. Mr. Frederick Lauer, in an address before the Brewers' Congress at St. Louis, recently, attributed the rapid decay of the Turkish Empire to the abstinence of its people from stimulating beverages. He contended that beer-drinking peoples have the advantage in vigor over wine and spirit drinking nations, and instances the power of Britain, the superiority of the Germans over the French, and the victories of the North over the South in this country. Here is an extract from what he said about the Turks:

"There are samples of nations that have practiced prohibition, but it has invariably been to their great disadvantage. The Mohammedans adhered to total abstinence for a period of 1,200 years. They constituted the principle population of Turkey on the three continents of Europe, Asia and Africa, and the Turks, as a rule, have faithfully adhered to their prohibitory laws. We find as a result that of all the nations on the earth they are the most stupid, sluggish, slovenly, and even the most filthy. They are as far back in civilization to-day as they were when they conquered Constantinople, nearly 900 years ago. Being a nation of water drinkers, they have become as a stagnant morass—an offence to civilization."

His statement is stupid, of course, but it is just as reasonable and defensible as the assumptions of the anti-polygamists in regard to the effects of plural marriage. The rise and fall of nations can be traced to causes which are certain to produce the effects recorded in history, but abstinence from intoxicants and the practice of Biblical matrimony cannot be shown to be numbered among them. On the contrary, they each conduce to the permanency of any people, and "Mormonism," which inculcates both temperance and plural marriage, will yet demonstrate this truth to the world in such a manner that it cannot be controverted.

## CHRISTIAN UNION AND WORLDLY INFIDELITY.

THE advance of "Rationalism," which is the "liberal" name for infidelity, is viewed with alarm by most of the leading minds of the various "Christian" churches, and is freely acknowledged if not feared by the rest. This is plainly perceived in the many discourses aimed at the unbelief of the age, and the attempts which are made to reconcile the developments of science with the tenets of dogmatic theology.

At the recent great Oxford meeting of eminent clergymen and prominent laymen of the Anglican Church, at which the Bishop of Bombay presided, the following Resolution was adopted:

That the advance of the infidel movement throughout Europe, and the actual or threatened dissolution of the relations of Church and State, constitute a fresh call on all sincere believers to pray and labor earnestly for the reunion of Christians in one faith and one fold."

The sentiment and desire expressed in the Resolution are highly commendable. But is there any probability that such a union of faith and effort can ever be effected?

The essential elements of Protestantism and of the Papacy are naturally discordant. They cannot be harmonized. The only way for identity of interest and action of the Anglicans with the Romanists is through the portals of the Catholic Church. The two systems cannot combine, as such. Catholicism yields nothing. It will accept recantation and submission, but never consent to fusion. There is more hostility between the Catholic and Episcopal churches than between the latter and the Dissenting sects which repudiate all priesthood; and these cannot be reconciled with the "Establishment," except through return to her jurisdiction. The project springs apparently from worthy motives, but it is impracticable and impossible.

The disunion existing among the professedly authorized expounders of religion has done much towards producing the infidelity they now deplore. Both Catholic and Protestant divines of the highest as well as lowest degrees, have declared, as essential to salvation, doctrines and tenets on which they cannot agree themselves, and about which they are compelled to admit that they know nothing. The creed concerning the Trinity is a case in point. It says: "Whosoever will be saved before all things he must believe the Catholic faith which faith except he do keep whole and undefiled, he shall, without doubt, perish everlastingly. And the Catholic faith is this; that he worship one God in trinity, and trinity in unity, neither confounding the persons nor dividing the substance" &c. It goes on to explain that there are three separate and distinct persons in this godhead, but yet they are not three; that they are all essentially different, and yet all exactly and precisely alike; that one begat another, and the third proceeded from the two, and yet they are co-eternal, neither before the other, and neither after the other; that one has a body, the others none, yet the whole is without parts. After a great deal more of this kind of definition, the being described is declared to be, in all its partless parts, entirely "incomprehensible."

This vain attempt to declare the Only true God, faith in whom is the very main-spring of religion, is a sample of their entire systems of theology, according to pronounced damnation on all who do not accept them, and then confessing utter inability to comprehend that which they undertake to explain, under pretended authority conferred from a divine source.

No wonder that infidelity prevails and increases, and that as liberty spreads in the earth, and the pains and penalties which priestcraft framed against all who had the temerity to dispute its pretensions become mere wordy threats, the thinking portion of mankind, everywhere, throw off the ecclesiastical trammels which have bound the world in bondage, and that they jump to the extreme of utter unbelief, and repudiation of all religious creeds, systems, forms, ceremonies and instructions.

The only thing that will save the world from the darkness and woes that are the result of rejecting the Supreme Being, is a new revelation of the truths which will lead mankind into communion with him. So called "Christianity" is an old, worn out, motley garment that is only rendered worse by patching. Its days are numbered. It will perish and pass away. The old gospel, preached by Christ and his apostles, with its baptisms and spirit, its authorized priesthood and covenants, its heavenly gifts and binding and loosing power, its ordinances, sealings and manifestations, all of which have been restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith, contains in itself the only influence that will bind men's souls together in a bond that cannot be broken, for the work of saving mankind, dispersing the powers of evil, gathering the elect of God, redeeming Zion and rebuilding Jerusalem, and preparing the way for the second advent of the Messiah.

The work is commenced; it will roll on to a glorious consummation. And while the sects which men have formed talk union and practice strife, and move downward to dissolution and an everlasting grave, that which they call "Mormonism" will rise in strength, beauty and almighty power, to fill the earth with the glory of God and establish that union and brotherhood which shall never be dissolved for ever.

## THE LUTTRELL UTAH BILL

ACCORDING to a dispatch from Washington, this morning, the committee on Territories submitted a report "before the adjournment" on the Luttrell bill to regulate elections in Utah. The committee struck out the provision disfranchising polygamists, considering it wrong to punish persons accused of the practice of polygamy, until the fact shall have been determined by trial by jury. However they consider that the plea of religion in connection with polygamy, is untenable, and state that bigamy had a well defined position in the catalogue of crimes when the provision was made in the Constitution for "the trial of all crimes." They express their wonder that the "audacity and publicity of the violation of the statute, singularly enough has the effect to lessen the enormity of the crime in the minds of many." They recommend the disfranchisement of the women of Utah and consider that the new election law of this Territory discriminates in favor of females, and opens the way for polygamous wives who were born aliens, to exercise the franchise, and thus use their votes to foster the practice of polygamy, while the naturalization laws can recognize but one woman as a citizen by reason of marriage with a citizen. They recommend the enactment of restrictions and safeguards similar to those in practice in California, but consider registration unnecessary in a newly settled country like a Territory. The bill, it is said was placed on the calendar, so as to be brought up early next session.

Careful examination of article III section 2 of the Constitution will show that the reference to it is irrelevant, having no bearing upon the power of Congress to pass laws of a certain character, but only providing that trial for crime shall be by jury. The point about the votes of plural wives is not well taken, for it has to be proven first that any but wives as contemplated in the law are registered in Utah as citizens by virtue of their marriage, and then it would be difficult to show in what way their votes would affect polygamy, seeing that it is not a question that enters into our politics either territorial or national. And it is quite funny to hear those who make out that women are in polygamic bondage in Utah, talking about the danger of their voting to sustain and perpetuate that bondage.

We do not know whether this report was actually made to the House or only intended to be presented. But it is not likely, in either case, that the bill will pass when Congress meets again. We have a good election law in the Territory, which by that time will have proven itself to work well, many of the objections which are urged against it will have been shown to be without foundation, and there will be subjects of too great importance to be considered, to allow of much time to be wasted over a matter that is only agitated by a few malcontents, with the sole object of obstructing progress and disturbing the harmony of affairs in this Territory.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Fourth of July concert in the large Tabernacle is expected to be one of the grandest affairs and the greatest musical treat of the season. Everybody should attend.

One tramway in London employs a thousand American horses. This shows how the equines of this country are coming into use in Great Britain. The horse trade of the United States is looking up.

Harper's Magazine for July has a number of novel subjects which its readers will find interesting and instructive. We shall not attempt to enumerate them. They are various and numerous and, as usual, beautifully illustrated. Harper's is always good, and the July number is not a whit behind any of its predecessors. Harper & Bros. New York; James Dwyer, Salt Lake City.

John B. Furay, the special United States mail agent, who has done some good work in Utah, has caught another mail thief. It is a saddle-colored individual, employed as janitor at the Omaha Post Office, who was not suspected by others, but who has appropriated

considerable money, and was doing a "land office business" until the government in its fury pounced upon him and proved it.

Professor Hughes of London, is gaining great distinction as the discoverer of the microphone, by which the sounds transmitted through the telephone are wonderfully increased, so that the step of a fly is loudly heard at a distance. But Edison steps up head, and claims that the essential principle of the microphone was patented by him in England over six months ago, and now the intimation is that Hughes "discovered" it in the Patent Office.

Let the Californians take courage. Ten thousand Chinese were killed in a terrible tornado in the Flowery Kingdom last April, according to the report of the consul at Canton to the Department of State. It came from the sea like a whirlwind, and smote the city, burying that number of people, and the removal of the debris and the dead was so slow that a pestilence was feared as the result of the stench of the decaying bodies.

The Albany Argus says: "Mrs. Van Cott never grows weary of preaching." The Omaha Herald says that while in that city "she stipulated for and received \$35 per day for her labor of love and piety." No wonder she doesn't grow weary. There are retired preachers in Congress who would develop a wonderful amount of religious energy at the same figure, and the Methodist Church has hundreds of them who would keep it up at less than half the amount. Thirty-five dollars a day is a strong stimulant.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, has for some time been able to boast of a giant. But now he is no more. That is, he is no more alive. He was more, however, in avoirdupois when left a dead weight upon their hands than when he stood up in the height of his six feet three and a half inches, and his seven hundred and twenty-eight pounds. He and his coffin weighed a ton. The window of his domicile had to be enlarged to remove the body, and a derrick had to be brought into requisition at the funeral. All luxuries are expensive, and it cost Newcastle considerable for its giant.

Bellschneider is the euphonious cognomen of a sixteen-year old boy who was recently arrested for attempted murder and robbery, a short distance from New York City. The boy novels of the period turned his head in the direction of adventure. He left his home, went to Texas, was associated with cattle thieves, returned, stopped a gentleman in the true Claude Duval and Dick Turpin style, on the highway, fired a revolver at his breast, and was captured and sent to jail. He gloried in his achievements, and his only anxiety appeared to be that his name should be put into the papers. More fruits of crime from the tree of yellow-backed literature. His name would be more appropriate if commenced with an H.

[For the DESERT NEWS.]

## INFIDELITY.

BY CHAS. W. STAYNER.

Chapter III.—Infidel reasoning continued. Subterranean discoveries. Refutations. Fulfilment of Prophecy.

Another objection of the skeptic is founded on the discovery of some bones under a rock, 600 feet beneath the surface. This wonderful (?) incident is tenaciously grasped by the champions of infidelity as undeniable proof of the false chronology of the Bible, because they think it incredible that 600 feet of rock and dirt could be formed above these bones in 5,000 years. But one doubt begets another. Such persons seem to ignore all that is shown by the traditions of the heathens as well as the scriptures, relating to the deluge. This enormous flood which was occasioned by the "breaking up of the fountains of the great deep," is said to have submerged even our highest mountains, and as it is plain that these waters again retired, we can readily perceive that the sinking billows must have been very powerful, and no doubt sufficiently strong to carry bones, and even more massive bodies into the deepest caverns of the earth; and such mighty waves could easily wash down hills or even mountains of clay, and sand, and rocks, till bones