

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

character sufficient to be elected to positions, requiring them to take the oath to support the reconstruction acts and admitting the eligibility of those entertaining precisely the same views, but of less standing in their communities. It may be said the former violated an oath while the latter did not. The latter did not have it in their power to do so. If they had taken this oath it cannot be doubted they would have broken it as did the former classes. If there are any great criminals, distinguished above all others for the part they took in opposition to the government, they might in the judgment of congress be excluded from such an amnesty. This subject is submitted for your careful consideration. The condition of the Southern States is certainly not such as all true, patriotic citizens would like to see. Social ostracism for opinion's sake, personal violence or threats towards persons entertaining political views opposed to those entertained by the majority of the citizens prevents immigration and the flow of much needed capital into the States lately in rebellion. It will be a happy condition of the country when the old citizens of these States will take an interest in public affairs, promulgate ideas honestly entertained, vote for men representing their views, and permit the same freedom of expression and ballot in those entertaining different political opinions.

### The District of Columbia.

Under the provisions of the act of congress approved February 21st, 1871, a Territorial government was organized in the District of Columbia. Its results have thus far fully realized the expectations of its advocates. Under the direction of the Territorial officers a system of improvements has been inaugurated by means of which Washington is rapidly becoming a city worthy of the nation's capital. The citizens of the district having voluntarily taxed themselves a large amount for the purpose of contributing to the advancement of the seat of government, I recommend liberal appropriations on the part of congress, in order that the government may bear its just share of the expense of carrying out the various systems of improvements.

### Government Buildings in Chicago.

By the great fire in Chicago the most important of the government buildings in that city were consumed. Those burned had already become inadequate to the wants of the government in that growing city, and looking to the near future, were totally inadequate. I recommend therefore that an appropriation be made immediately to purchase the remainder of the square on which the burned buildings stood, provided it can be purchased at a fair valuation and provided the legislature of Illinois will pass a law authorizing its purchase for government purposes, and also an appropriation of as much money as can be properly expended towards the erection of a government building during this fiscal year.

### Impositions Upon Emigrants.

The numbers of emigrants ignorant of our laws, habits and customs coming into our country have become so great, and the impositions practised upon them so numerous and flagrant, that I suggest congressional action for their protection. It seems to me a fair subject for legislation by congress. I cannot now state as fully as I desire, the nature of the complaints made by emigrants of the treatment received, but will endeavor to do so during the session of congress, particularly if the subject should receive your attention.

### The Character of Public Officials.

It has been the aim of the administration to enforce honesty and efficiency in all public servants. Every one who has violated the trust placed in him has been proceeded against with all the vigor of law. If bad men have secured places it has been the fault of the system established by law and custom for making appointments or the fault of those who recommend for government positions persons not sufficiently well known to them personally, or who give letters endorsing the character of an office seeker without a proper sense of the grave responsibility which such a course devolves upon them.

### Civil Service Reform.

A civil service reform which can correct this abuse is much desired. In mercantile pursuits the business men who give a letter of recommendation to a friend to enable him to obtain credit for a stranger, is regarded as morally responsible for the integrity of his friend and his ability to meet his obligations. A formality which would enforce this principle against all endorsers of persons for public trust would insure greater caution in making recommendations. A salutary lesson has been taught the careless and dishonest servants in the great number of prosecutions and convictions during the last two years. I am glad to notice the favorable change which has taken place throughout the country, in bringing to punishment those who have proved recreant to the trust confided to them, and in elevating to public office none but those who possess the confidence of the honest and virtuous, who it will always be found comprise a majority of the community in which they live.

In my message to congress one year ago, I urgently recommended a reform in the civil service of the country. In conformity with that recommendation, congress in the ninth section of an act making appropriation for sundry civil expenses of the government and for other purposes, approved March 3, 1871, gave the necessary authority to the executive to inaugurate a civil service reform and placed upon him the responsibility of doing so. Under the authority of said act, I convened a board of gentlemen eminently qualified for the work, to devise rules and regulations to effect the needed reform. Their labors are not yet completed, but it is believed that they will succeed in devising a plan which can be adapted to the great relief of the executive, the heads of departments and members of congress, and which will redound to the true interest of the public service. At all events the experiment shall have a fair trial.

### Conclusion.

I have thus hastily summed up the operations of the government during the last year, and made such suggestions as occur to me to be proper for your consideration. I submit them with a confidence that your combined actions will be the wisest and the best for the interest of the whole country.

[Signed],

U. S. GRANT,

President.

Executive Mansion.

## Correspondence.

### CHILDREN.

Children are a continuation of the great life stream of eternity, ever flowing and increasing in volume to occupy immensity. They come to us pure from the presence of the Father, to receive their portion of mortality, in giving which, we but pay the debt incurred to the Giver of life for our own existence. We only initiate them as others have us, into the shadowy regions of death, that they may have the privilege of passing through its portals to a more perfect life beyond.

As parents, we are too apt to throw ourselves upon our dignity, to consider our children too far beneath us, to look upon them as mere novices in the experiences of existence. If the former spiritual life helps to mould and develop the present, may not the egotism of adult age often assume more than the circumstances really warrant?

What is the great difference between the little daughter who smoothes the ruffles of her new apron with complacent pride, and the mother matron who goes into ecstasies over a new dress, or "a love of a bonnet," or between the little son who delights in his rocking horse, and the father who glories in the fast trotter, with which he can distance his neighbors, only that the older has tired of the toys which please the younger? If, as spiritual existences, we were present when the foundations of the earth were laid, the few years we may have passed here more than our children are but a small item in the sum total of our existence; and it ill becomes us to pride ourselves, overmuch, on the great wisdom we may have acquired in so short a time.

There is no part of human existence which appears so full of pleasure, as healthy childhood, when love shields and protects. Such a childhood is ever

a bright spot in the memory—an oasis in the desert of life, which helps to keep the affections alive, while in contact with chilling realities.

Hard is the fate of children whose expanding natures reach out for affection and sympathy to only meet with a cold repulse. Only an honest heart and a kind providence will keep such from vicious ways, for uncultivated affections leave a void for vice to creep in.

The child, whose days are passed with the mere privilege of living, who is fed and clothed, because some one conceives it to be a duty to keep it from starvation and nakedness, because it is a human being, whose little hands are forced to early toil, that it may earn the pittance which charity doles out to it; who retires to rest weary and lonely, with no mother's kiss or kind father's good night, to quicken the impulses of love and peace in its bosom, can never entirely recover from the evil effects of the chills which withered the flowers of affection in the bud, to leave a desolate spot in the heart in after life.

The compulsory smothering of the affections in childhood and youth, often creates a confirmed habit in after life, and throws around us the icy coldness of reserve. This begets reserve in those who would sweeten our existence with the sympathies of real friendship, and shuts out the sunshine, that would otherwise cheer our journey through life.

Akin in misfortune to the real orphan, are those children who see in their father only the dignified guardian, watching for faults, to chastise with the greatest severity. Children, in order to thrive well, need to skip and play, as well as the lambs in the meadow. They need the invigorating influence of love, as well as the light and warmth of the luminary of day. They should be treated with more kindness than severity, with more patience than chastisement.

It speaks ill for the wisdom of a father, and the happiness of a home, when his presence checks hilarity and cheerfulness, and causes his little ones to slip away into the nooks and corners, to watch, like mice a cat, for him to disappear before coming out. Such a reigning spirit in a household is certainly the antipodes of that manifested by our Savior, when he took little children in his arms and blessed them. Children generally remain in such a home but a short time after they are able to leave it, and the parents reap the natural results of their unwise course in occupying their firesides alone in their old age.

JAMES A. LITTLE.

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 4, 1871.

*Editor Deseret News:*—Mankind, as a rule, are prone to indulge in invective, whenever an opportunity presents itself; apparently preferring to overwhelm an antagonist with a shower of adjectives, rather than appeal to the reasoning faculties of the man, and convince him of the error of his ways, by producing convincing argument that will have its weight. Especially is this true as regards the discussion of the subject of polygamy. To judge from the numerous newspaper articles touching on the subject, one would suppose that however much the writers may oppose the flagrantly illegal proceedings of the Mormon crusaders, yet they can only indulge in bitter invective toward the peculiar institution, not condescending to examine into the merits and demerits of the case, but simply branding the practice as barbarous, heathenish, anti-progressive, etc., etc., without stopping to examine into practical results, as to whether society was benefited, as to whether the moral condition of the community was elevated or degraded, as to whether the physical man was improved, or the reverse.

To the philanthropist and statesman, the foregoing summary method of disposing of this great social problem, I should judge would not be entirely satisfactory.

In selecting a tree from the nursery for transplanting, one naturally enquires as to the nature of the fruit it bears, so the thinking man, when a principle that affects society is presented before him for endorsement or rejection, naturally asks what is the nature of the fruit it bears. So I judge will thinking men view the question of polygamy. The animadversions of a certain class of men in Utah, will not succeed in blinding them to the fact that the results of polygamy have so far surpassed the expectation of its most sanguine advocates in its practical results. In fulfilling the first great command, Utah stands preeminently

higher than any other portion of the known habitable globe. To "multiply and replenish the earth," has been a divine injunction to this people, and the numerous progeny that surround our family hearthstones are ample evidence that there exists no desire to evade this life-preserving mandate. To the observing eye the strong bodies and quickening intellect of our youth must present a subject fraught with interest, coupled as it is with the fact that physical life throughout civilization is daily on the retrograde, and that the "social evil" is sapping the very life blood from our social system, producing a state of society bordering on chaos, fraught with calamities that the mind starts back aghast at.

A number of years' experience as a teacher has led me to the conclusion that in all probability, if those who so earnestly desire the extinction of the so-called "twin relic" would compare the status mentally and physically of the two classes of children, polygamous and monogamous, they would find abundant reason to change their way of thinking.

I have carefully noted the two classes under a variety of circumstances and find that in point of natural ability, in the possession especially of reasoning faculties, in point of government and control, in physical development, the children of polygamous parents are decidedly the superior of those of monogamous. All of this can be explained upon common sense principles, and if any impartial persons will take the trouble to investigate the subject, they cannot but be forced to the conclusion that the above ideas are practically correct. That they can be substantiated in any of our Ward schools is a foregone conclusion.

As it is with nations, so it is with families, the family simply being a nation in embryo. If there is but one person to constitute the nation, then, with Selkirk of boyish memory he could assert, "I am monarch of all I survey." But place two individuals on the island, and the assertion is simply tyranny. The one child of the family is king, or queen, as the case may be, and carries these ideas to school with him, soon to ascertain that others have rights which he is bound to respect, but which he does not naturally wish to, owing to the circumstances by which he has been surrounded. On the other hand, the numerous household of a polygamous family learn to know that others have equal rights with themselves and, at even a tender age, imbibe the spirit of reason, that stands them in good stead in more mature years.

This stands out so plainly, that it cannot but attract the attention of the observer, and the humanitarian will certainly draw conclusions from it, that will do much to deaden the effect of preconceived notions and biased ideas, so prevalent at the present time. That the great social problem peculiar to the Mormons, is to-day being more extensively investigated than ever before, is a fact patent to the eyes of all. The result of this investigation, even "he that runs can read," and we can now confidently look forward to the time when the world at large will to a certain extent comprehend the beneficial results that flow from obeying the behests of God, even though it be polygamy. Certain it is that our enemies have done more to spread a knowledge of the gospel, than could the united efforts of our Elders have accomplished in treble the same length of time.

Judicial mandates, warping of the law from its proper meaning, nay, persecution even unto death itself, will not change the facts as they exist. American intelligence, as enunciated through the press of the country, is too quick to allow the mass of the people to remain in ignorance of the fact that the results of polygamy are beneficial to society at large. Already the word "Mormon" has become synonymous with order, temperance, sobriety, virtue, and good government. May we not then hope that at no distant day, the honest of the earth will turn to the principles of "Mormonism," as a refuge from the storms and strife of political, social, and ecclesiastical warfare?

Respectfully, EXTEMPORE.

In a street car, recently, some ladies fancied that they "smelt small pox," and vigorously questioned the conductor on the subject. All the occupants of the car were greatly perturbed for awhile, but finally peace returned when it was discovered that a youthful German lady in the car was only taking home a can of sour krout.