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Wednesday, - - January 8, 1873.

THIS is the last day of the old year, a year marked with a bountiful harvest on this hemisphere, with violent outbreaks of the elements, and with many outbreaks of violence among those who have little respect for law and less for that which is just and right. Indeed it has been a year in which the progress of lawlessness has been so uncommonly swift, that now at its close we find the papers discussing the question whether crime is to be punished at all or left to have free course in its own evil way. Temporarily these signs of the times are of very evil omen, but as evils generally work out their own cure, it may be concluded that the existing slackness in the judicious administration of justice generally throughout the country will after a while induce a reaction which will have a sadly needed salutary effect, purifying the body politic and social and establishing a condition of things favorable to the growth of integrity and all public and private virtues.

In our own Territory the prospects are good, peace prevails, and the people generally feel well, and are confident of good times and better times ahead, notwithstanding the disreputable efforts of unprincipled plotters to reduce the Territory to anarchy.

To one and all of our readers, subscribers, patrons and friends we tender our heartfelt wishes for

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

THERE is much talk just now concerning a reconstitution of federal officers for Utah. Of course there is an abundance of candidates for supposed prospective vacant offices, but perhaps one of the first things which President Grant might do in the matter with happy results would be that of rejecting all candidates, and acting upon the principle that it is better for the office to seek the man than the man the office, many who seek office may be well qualified therefor and would honor it if obtained, but experience proves that most of them are not qualified, that their desire for office comes from their desire for pelf, and that even of those candidates who obtain office three-fourths are better qualified for the penitentiary, and not a few of them for the scaffold.

Now as to the officers for Utah, any new ones which may be contemplated, do let us have men and gentlemen, we have had more than enough of the other sort to sicken any community. Further, if we happen to get a good, honorable, efficient public officer, who seeks peace and the interest of the community, pray do not remove him quickly upon the very disinterested and urgent appeals of any ring or clique, but let him remain until the people get tired of him, or until he is removed by the course of nature or by organic changes of the local government. Good men are scarce and as precious as fine gold, as the Bible hints, and good officers are still more scarce, but we like them though they are uncommon, and when we get a good man in office we like to keep him there until we find a better to fill his place, which does not often occur.

ACCORDING to the report of Mr. Joseph E. Taylor, sexton, the mortality of this city, so far as the residents are concerned, for the year 1872, was 426. Estimating the population of the city at 20,000, these figures give the death rate for last year at 21.3 per thousand, or 2.13 per cent. In the country settlements the usual death rate is much smaller.

THE statement of the Chicago Journal's Washington correspondent that an executive order would probably be issued yesterday warning Federal officers in the various States not to interfere with

State matters in any way, but to confine their efforts strictly to the performance of their duties, whether true or not, is in consonance with the feelings of many sober and thoughtful persons throughout the country, and if such a warning were issued, with the idea conveyed that prompt removal would be imminent in case of disregard of the warning, the effect could hardly be other than salutary. The action of officials in opposition to such a policy, so far as we can ascertain, is the main cause of the troubles in several of the southern States.

It would be an excellent thing if such warning were extended to the Federal officers in the Territories, because some of those gentlemen, when they find themselves clothed with that little brief authority, imagine themselves to be little autocrats, little gods even, and act as if they fully believed in the divine right of kings and gods to do as they please, and in the truth of the absurd old fiction that the king can do no harm. So largely responsible have Federal officers in this Territory been for what substance there has been in the reports of trouble in Utah that instead of the people being, as some suppose, inferior to these officials, one is forced to the belief that the people are far superior beings to them, having more morality, more integrity, more prudence, more patriotism, more principle, and much greater regard for wholesome constitutional law, good order, and the rights and privileges of others. Yes, one is impelled to the conclusion that, so far as these little self-imagined kings are concerned the do no wrong saying to be true would have to be reversed and instead of running that the king can do no wrong, it should run thus—these kings do about all the wrong that is done, and what they don't do they sanction. It would be a good reform and a notch to the credit of President Grant, if he were to convert all his appointees to the "Mormon creed"—"Mind your own business." If such were the case the community would not be pained again with the repulsive spectacle of Federal officials defending criminals of every grade, evidently with the express purpose of destroying all law and order and peace and prosperity and reducing the community to a state of anarchy.

REV. Hugh Stowell Brown, the popular Baptist preacher and lecturer to the working classes, of Liverpool, since his return from his recent visit to the United States, gave a favorable report of this country and of its people. He thought the southern people were still very bitter against the North, and that it would be a long while before the former forgot the dreadful time of the war. In America he saw very tall and very short men, but a "full-fed Englishman" was regarded with pity. He did not see on this continent the pigmies that were so common in such towns as Blackburn and Bolton, the Americans being generally large of stature. The pale, parchment faces so frequently seen in America he attributed to the system of dietary, the limited exercise taken by the people, and the artificially high atmosphere in which they lived. Cattle drovers and farmers rode on horseback, but he did not recollect seeing any body else do so. The Americans were superior in personal cleanliness to the people of Liverpool. Cleanliness was the order of the day, the table linen in Rocky Mountain hotels was more cleanly than what he had found in most coffee rooms in London. The best hotels of Dublin and Glasgow would not be tolerated in America. He had seen small signs of poverty in this country, but the signs of comfort seemed universal. In the streets of New York, Boston or Philadelphia he did not see a beggar nor a union workhouse anywhere, although he was told New York's million of inhabitants supported 1800 persons by rates. In a hundred yards in Liverpool they would see more dirty, ragged characters than they would in a hundred miles in America. The people seemed satisfied and hopeful of the future. He met none who "could not get on," except in the Southern States, and the discontent there was political. He thought the people in this country well-to-do, and in a better condition than were the people of England. The Americans were a sober people. In many thousand miles travel he saw only six men and no women drunk, although a most exciting political contest was going on, and he saw no drunken man at any political gathering. Love of finery and of grand language were American weak-

nesses. He himself was called the "great Liverpool sensationalist." The American people spoke good English and were easily understood. They used strong language in their political contests, but in the whole of the recent campaign he had heard of no more degrading incident than had occurred in Liverpool (a case of giving the lie). In America great distrust prevailed in regard to the administration of the law, but the best guarantee of the future greatness of the American people was their adherence to those principles of freedom so dear to the Pilgrim Fathers, and which, he might have added, the inhabitants of Utah in particular contend for and seek to perpetuate in prevalence.

The Rev. gentleman had evidently formed a very favorable opinion of this country and its people during his visit. Personal visits and interchange of opinions and courtesies are excellent means to induce broad and liberal views and bring about a more perfect understanding.

SAYS a dispatch, hundreds of agricultural laborers out of employment in England because the farmers will not give the increased wages demanded, are preparing to emigrate to Brazil. It is only a short time since the dispatches reported that certain British emigrants already in that part of the globe were very anxious to leave it and return home or try some other country.

There are two things which all British emigrants, or Britons who desire to emigrate, should consider—one is, that in very few places upon the globe will they find a climate so mild, equable, and genial as that of their native land; and the other is, that in no country under the sun will they find as impartial and just administration of justice, as sound an administration of government, as great a respect for law and good order and constituted authority, and as complete personal liberty combined with so great security of life and property, as in their own native land. These may be hard words, but they are true.

Still that country is of such limited extent that many of its inhabitants must emigrate, and most of them, if poor there, would be peculiarly benefited, many to a great extent, by emigrating to a new or more sparsely inhabited country. Those who are rich or comfortably situated, as a rule, will not improve their circumstances, everything considered, by emigrating to any country, and in no other country is it possible for them to be more comfortable than in their own, all things taken into account.

Yet some are necessitated to emigrate, and for such as are or such as do so from choice merely, we would say that semi-barbarous or semi-civilized countries generally are not desirable places. For Latter-day Saints, or other people who desire to live with the best people on the earth, we would say, come to Utah. For others, if ordinarily decent people, we would say the best places are these United States, or Canada, or Australasia. We have no reason to think that Central or South America, though rich enough in material resources, are desirable places for British or European emigrants. The population of those portions of this continent are so permeated by the old Spanish leaven that governmentally and socially they are not congenial to the Anglo-Saxon mind, the Spanish races having demonstrated over and over again their incapacity for liberal or self government. Anglo-Saxon emigrants will find themselves most at home where Anglo-Saxons rule.

As considerable interest is manifested by some parties just now in relation to the replies of Hon. George Q. Cannon to questions put to him when under inquiry on subpoena for a juryman in the 3rd Judicial District Court in this City, September 18, 1871, Chief Justice McKean presiding, we republish the following correct report of that portion of the proceedings relating to Mr. Cannon's examination on that occasion, that the memories of our readers may be refreshed concerning the facts which then and there actually did transpire—

Skipping upwards of a dozen names, our name was then called and we were addressed, the attorney apparently reading the questions as he asked them, though he afterwards denied having written them.

Pros. At. "Are you a citizen of the United States?"

Editor of DESERET EVENING NEWS. "I am."

Pros. At. "How long have you been a resident of this Territory?"

Editor. "Twenty-four years, though I have not resided continuously in the Territory for that period."

Pros. At. "Are you a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints?"

Editor. "I am."

Pros. At. "Is not polygamy one of the fundamental doctrines of that Church?"

Editor. "Plurality of wives is a doctrine of the Church."

Pros. At. "Do you believe the revelation which teaches this doctrine to the Church to be from God and binding upon his people?"

Editor. "I do."

Pros. At. "Which do you believe ought to be obeyed, the revelation or the law?"

Editor. "When a case arises in which they come in conflict, then I shall be able to decide."

Pros. At. "Do you not think the revelation superior to law?"

Editor. "My views upon this are known through my public utterances."

Pros. At. "Do you believe that a man, in marrying more than one wife, commits adultery?"

Editor. "I do not, if he marries them according to the revelation."

Pros. At. "Do you not believe this to be adultery?"

Editor. "I do not."

When this last reply was made the attorney turned to the Judge and submitted that the Editor be excused from the jury, as it was the intention to try and indict a man for adultery who had more than one wife, and probably other cases of the kind, he would not suit their purpose as a juror. The Court at this juncture was particularly bland, his manner was almost affectionate as he asked the question:

Judge. "Did I understand the gentleman to say that he did not believe it to be adultery for a man to have more than one wife at a time under the revelation referred to?"

Editor. "Your honor understood me correctly."

At this the bland look and accent changed, and the judicial voice was resumed, mingled, however, with a deprecatory tone that reminded us of the report that the Judge had once been a preacher. He said that the Court had decided that a man who had been proved to have three wives had committed adultery under the laws of the Territory, and that decision was law until overruled, though the trial of the man was yet to be proceeded with. The gentleman not agreeing with his decision he did not see how he could be a juror. He then inquired if there were any more questions to be asked. No response being made, the Editor inquired:

"What am I to understand from your honor?"

Judge. "That you are excused."

The prosecuting attorney, apparently sure of his men who remained, made a lumping job of them; after asking them if they were citizens of the United States, he said:

"If there are any of you who believe that a man who has more than one wife does not commit adultery, stand up." They all sat still, though one apostate squirmed, or we fancied he did.

Again the marshal sallied forth to pick up jurors. He soon returned, and the Attorney asked them:

"Are you citizens of the United States?"

"Yes."

"Are you members of the Mormon church?"

"No."

"You'll do."

THE Washington correspondence of the New York Herald of Dec. 30 has the following—

"Associate Justice Strickland, of the United States Court of Utah, called upon the President yesterday (Dec. 28) to explain the reasons for his resignation, which is soon to take place. Among them is the insufficiency of salary, which is \$3,000 a year."

Judge Strickland has never yet earned his \$3,000, so far as the proper performance of his legitimate duties is concerned. If a man wants higher wages or an official wants a higher salary, let him first demonstrate that he deserves the wished for increase of remuneration by a diligent and faithful performance of his real duties. Then there might be good grounds for complying with the request, but not otherwise. The Utah federal judiciary have much to do before they are entitled to an increase of salary. They are now far too well paid for the work they do, when the nature of their performance of it is carefully considered.