

"THE MORMON QUESTION."

The following article is from the London Telegraph:

Mormon polygamy having successfully resisted the arm of the law, is now to be dealt with by the stern process of military suppression. At any rate it is announced that the Governor of Utah has reported to his government the failure of the legislative enactments that were recently directed against the system of "plural wives" which finds favor in the Mormon Territory, and gives it as his opinion that the Federal troops should now be called to the aid of the civil authority. If this advice were to be followed, the world's attention would very shortly be turned towards the Far West, and to one of the most interesting struggles between conscience and force that history has ever recorded. The United States of course can now bring to bear upon the people of Utah the same degree of violence that the British Government in India found itself compelled to resort to for the extinction of the crime of infanticide. The Mormons, however, could not be expected to submit to the terrorism of a military police and a modified form of martial law with the same resignation to "fate," in combination with superior strength, that characterised the collapse of the child-killing clans of Rajpootana when Sir William Muir set in motion against them the machinery at the command of an indignant civilization. The infanticidal Hindus had not only outraged their government and the sentiments of humanity all the world over, but they were actually proscribed among their own kith and kin. The tribes that did not kill their daughters had no sympathy with those that did, and even guiltless sub-sections of a clan gave evidence an assistance for the conviction of the guilty members of their own "brotherhood." In Utah this will not be the case, for the Federal authority will find itself confronted by a unanimity of resistance that will render the application of force even more baffling and more delicate than the application of legal forms. That this resistance will be passive, there is every reason to hope. The character of the present head of "the Church" is in itself a guarantee that violence will not be met with violence, while the common sense of the people of the territory will suffice to assure them of the better chances of ultimate success from purely Constitutional resistance, and of the madness of an appeal to arms. For though the Mormon community feels just as fanatically in the matter of polygamy as ever did any religious sect under persecution, and are certainly not of a sort to submit to military extremities without acting in self-defence, the spirit of the Saints today is not militant. They are too certain of the Millennium being already on the road to think it worth while to provoke a war of extermination. Martyrdom is too long a price to pay for the championship of their principles when the complete triumph of their creed is to be so soon declared to the world from the stately temples which the Saints have built among the Rocky Mountains.

That any civilized country which has fully recognized the social rights and position of woman could ever sympathize with polygamy is, of course, out of the question. It is unfortunate for the United States, however, that they should have set themselves to redress an evil by means which their own leading lawyers have declared to be unconstitutional and tyrannical, and that, when those means failed to obtain the result aimed at, they should seem to be on the verge of taking the last and most characteristic step of baffled power, and call in the army to effect that which the law could not accomplish. Of course it is more than probable that Congress will not consent to the issue of the necessary orders, for not only are the elements of that body now more fully equalized than when the first coercive measures against the Mormons were enacted but it is notorious throughout the States that, owing to a variety of reasons, the American people have within the last two years grown far more just and unprejudiced on the Mormon question than they were before. For a very long series of years the enemies of Mormonism—not merely the opponents of Mormon polygamy, who are of course the most intelligent and honorable adversaries of the Saints, but the foes of Mormon prosperity and co-operation

who are "carpet-baggers" and "wild cat speculators" of all kinds—have assiduously plied the American public with versions of the state of affairs in Utah which were drawn entirely from fancy. Hearing nothing from the other side, the American public naturally accepted these versions as being correct, and the Mormons, because they practised the odious custom of "plurality of wives" as they call it, were set down as so degraded a community as to be a blot even upon a country containing such fearful types of contemporary society as Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico. A law called "the Edmunds Bill" was accordingly passed, which punished, retrospectively, by disfranchisement and other penalties, all who held opinions favorable to polygamy; and a commission was sent across the continent to Utah to find out all the polygamists, and proceed against them according to the provisions of the bill. These Commissioners did their business with no unnecessary gentleness, and some 15,000 Mormons, men and women, were declared unable to vote and deprived of the rights of citizenship. At the same time these officials gave to the world their opinion that the Mormons were not at all what they had expected to find them; that they appeared to be in all respects, except as regards this fanatical devotion to what they considered a divine injunction, excellent citizens. Simultaneously with this revelation, the leading democratic journal of the States commenced a long series of letters describing Utah and its people, giving, probably for the first time, an unprejudiced account of the surprising community, and denouncing the Edmunds Bill and its subsequent Commission as a Republican job got up for the advantage of certain partisans, and altogether unworthy of the spirit of freedom and generous toleration of which America boasted. All this tended to persuade the public that perhaps they had heard too much of one side only, and the result was that Congress, when the Mormon question again came up, exhibited a marked departure from its previous sentiments of unmitigated hostility. For this the Mormons duly offered up their pious thanks in their tabernacles; and they began to think that the gust of popular ill-will had blown over. Now, however, it appears that Governor Murray, who is a brave soldier and a deservedly popular man, but a very indifferent official, has advised that the garrison of Fort Douglas, which, with its guns turned upon the Mormon Tabernacle, dominates Salt Lake City, should be employed for a fresh crusade against the too luxurious Saints; and, if by any freak of Congressional temper, President Arthur should see fit to act upon Governor Murray's advice, the ground is all prepared for one of the most interesting conflicts of modern times. Settled among the deserts which their own astonishing industry has converted into gardens, and shut out by the great walls of mountain ranges from all their neighbors, the Mormon people have developed a spirit of independence which has latent in it all the qualities that a mischievous leader would require to kindle a disastrous conflagration. As a military position they held ground that would require a very costly force of all arms, and co-operating from at least two sides, to make permanent occupation possible; while if matters came to a head and guerilla warfare were the order of the day, the States would find themselves engaged in a war of no trifling dimensions. For the Mormons are almost to a man of hardy habits, admirable horsemen and mountaineers of the true type. The alternative of another exodus, however, is always open to the Saints; and, though probably they would fight rather than abandon their hardily-won homesteads, it is quite possible that they might, like the Boers, "trek" once more beyond the reach of American laws—Mexico, for instance, is most anxious to receive them—and allow their beautiful territory of orchard and garden to relapse into the desert savagery of similar "Gentile" experiments in adjoining States. A year or two would suffice to reduce Utah to its original wretchedness of alkali and sage-brush, and no one but the Mormons could ever be found to devote to these sterile expanses the industry and capital which they have lavished upon their Land of Promise.

There is, however, a far more encouraging view to take of the strained position, for, as we have said, the Mormons do not want to fight, and

the Government are not likely to compel them either to hopeless conflict or calamitous flight. President Arthur will probably not act upon the advice which the "Mormon-eaters" of the West offer him, and Utah will proceed on its way. It is already under the ban of civil disabilities, and the Saints are a proscribed people, disfranchised, and therefore lower than the lowest of American citizens. Thinking men will see for themselves that such a position is in itself quite sufficient to reduce in time even the fanatical spirit of Mormon polygamy, and will not rashly give their support to measures which can only result in the destruction of a colony or the ruin of a Territory which, but for one obliquity in the prevalent creed, would be admitted to-morrow to all the dignities of a State, and be a pride to the Union. There are other and much better means at the command of America for the smothering of polygamy than the clumsy violence of soldiery, for it is notorious that the younger generation of Utah is growing intolerant of the old bigotry, and that "plurality" in wives is distinctly in disfavor among the majority. In a very few years the last of the old pioneers—the men who made so much history in their day—will be gone to join their murdered prophet in another world, and, relieved from the influence of their presence, their successors will show themselves more in sympathy with the sentiments of their times and polygamy will become extinct. It has been said that expensive millinery is the most formidable adversary that polygamy has yet encountered, and that nothing deters a husband from taking a second wife so surely as the foreknowledge of another dressmaker's bill. President Arthur, therefore, would do well to shelve Governor Murray's advice as to the soldiers altogether, and to import into Utah instead, for the extirpation of polygamy, the army of French milliners whom the Sultan of Turkey has just banished from Constantinople. The Turk, with his extensive households, has found robes de Paris more than he or his purse could bear, and it is quite within the possibilities that the Mormon might make the same experience. The former had the choice between giving up his wives and making them give up fashionable dressing, and, with characteristic self-denial, chose the latter; but the Mormons would have no such option, and polygamy, therefore, would have to go before the milliner.

BY TELEGRAPH.

FOR VERIFICATION FROM TELEGRAPH LINES.

AMERICAN.

GALVESTON, Texas, 15.—New Escour Lake special: Twelve tramps were noticed about this depot last night. The agent, suspecting they intended to rob the coming train, wired the superintendent, who ordered a posse of twenty men aboard at Liberty. As the train pulled in to Escour Lake, the tramps rushed for the express car, but were halted by a score of Winchesters. The passengers, especially the ladies, were almost panic stricken. Valuables were hurriedly secreted or thrown away. The gang, however, were unarmed, and asserted they only wished to steal a ride.

Belvidere, N.J., 15.—Peter Smith, horse thief, who fasted 38 days, escaped from jail to-night.

Cleveland, 15.—A Massillon, Ohio, special to the *Leader* explains the report of the murder of a family near Canal Dover thus: "George Shaw was taken violently insane yesterday, and when arrested by the constable said he had killed his wife and children. His clothing being profusely stained with blood, lent credit to the story. Investigation proved that the family was uninjured."

San Francisco, 15.—The facts of a singular seizure have just been made public. Commander Russell under orders of the Navy Department seized the monitor *Monadnock*, being constructed at Vallejo, and removed it to the navy yard. The Navy Department made their contract for the construction of the vessel with Phineas Burgess of New York, each for separate work. The first contract, \$410,000, was for its completion and equipment for one year's sea service. Secretary Thompson annulled this, as it was not renewed by his successors. Under the second contract, Burgess

holds approved claims against the Government for \$212,000. His representatives were holding the ship against these claims, and also with the expectation that they would be allowed to file a final account. When the vessel was seized and carried off, no reasons were assigned.

Denver, 15.—One of the most brutal robberies that ever occurred in Colorado was enacted in Petersburg Grove, seven miles from this city, last night. At that place resides an old bachelor, P. Olson, who usually kept small sums of money hid about his premises. Last night four disguised men went to his house and knocked as customary in the country. The farmer asked the visitors to come in. As soon as they were inside they seized Olson, threw him on the floor, held him, then demanded where his money was. He replied he had none. After thoroughly searching the house to no purpose, Olson still refused to tell where his money was hid, the robbers got willow switches, and whipped his bare feet and legs until they were covered with blood. Olson still resisting, they built a large fire in the back yard, carried Olson out, and proceeded to execute their threat to roast him alive. They placed his feet in the fire and literally roasted them. Even this terrible treatment would not open his mouth. The old man was then compelled to walk back to the house, where a scuffle ensued, during which the stove overturned, disclosing a money box containing \$600, which the robbers took and decamped. No clue. Olson will probably recover.

The trial of Martin and Coffin, charged with complicity in the Grand Lake assassination, last July, was called at Golden this morning. The prosecution moved to dismiss the case on the ground of insufficient evidence to convict the prisoners were discharged.

Port Rowan, Ont., 15.—A vessel struck Long Point beach, six miles from here, at noon to-day, in a heavy snow storm. A lifeboat has gone to the rescue.

New Orleans, 15.—A *Times-Democrat* special reports that a fire at Rusk, Tex., destroyed all the building on the west side of the public square. Loss, \$60,000, insurance, \$40,000.

Chicago, 15.—A fire broke out this afternoon in the heavy hardware, carriage and wagon stock warehouse of S. D. Kimbark & Co., Nos. 32 and 34 Michigan Avenue, adjoining the Illinois Central Railroad general office. The third and fourth stories containing all the lighter portion of the stock, were destroyed. Goods in the basement, belonging to Reid, Murdoch & Fischer, wholesale grocers, were damaged to an unknown extent by water. The Illinois Central offices were saved by a fire wall. Loss on stock, \$200,000, on building, \$25,000. Insurance on stock, \$235,000; on building, \$45,000.

A fire occurred at midnight in the upper floor of Mandel Brothers' store, one of the largest retail dry goods stores in the city. Loss on stock, chiefly by water, \$25,000; on buildings \$5,000. Both were fully insured.

Goodrich, Ont., 15.—Another heavy gale to-night on Lake Huron. It is feared the result will be disastrous to shipping.

Montreal, 15.—Another of the Richelieu Company's steamers, the *Abyssinian*, is sunk. She is valued at \$40,000.

New Orleans, 15.—A *Picayune* Natchez special says: Lehman & Rothschild's mammoth store at Blackhawk Landing, Concordia, Parish, is burned, with contents.

Bangor, Me., 15.—First reports of the damages by the gale gave but a slight idea of the havoc wrought. Many localities are yet unheard from, but enough is known to demonstrate that the calamity was of great magnitude.

The greatest damage appears to have been caused within a belt some miles wide, crossing Piscataqua county and northern Penabscot into Aroostook. The same belt probably crossed Somerset county. At Shirley the storm was very severe. It followed down the Piscataqua Valley and crossed the Gulf and Croas, Longa and Indian townships to the lower lakes, and thence to a point near Patten. There are great stretches of country where the forests are levelled to the ground, and millions upon millions of feet of valuable timber destroyed. Whole townships in some instances are said to be nearly flat. Losses are certainly several hundred thousand dollars. A well-known lumberman estimates the total damage throughout the State at a round million.

Kington, Ont., 15.—The *Thompson*, which left Charlottetown, for Kington with the Senator and Milwaukee, coal in tow, arrived to-day, with former only. The Milwaukee ped her tow-line when at the main docks, and has not been seen since. It is believed she has gone down, with all on board in number.

Halifax, N.S., 15.—An explosion that occurred in one of the buildings of the gas company caused damage; no person injured.

Times Boston: The cyclone from Ford and Franklin Counties, caused a loss aggregating \$150,000.

Bismarck, Dak., 15.—The thermometer below zero; wind blowing at 8 o'clock this morning.

St. Paul, 15.—Advices from parts in the Northwest to show the thermometer ranging 15 to 40 degrees below zero, strong wind blowing. No snow trains are delayed on account of wind. Navigation has been completely suspended here for days. The river closed to navigation.

WINNIPEG, Man., 15.—The convention formed here to take up redressing the grievances of Manitoba at the hands of the Dominion, at its last meeting, had a committee which met this morning with closed doors. It is understood it made progress and adjourned Saturday to complete its labors, which it will report to the convention. It is understood the form will be a demand upon Dominion for the removal of monopoly provisions of the Railway charter; greater engagement to settlers by opening land reserves; removal of duties on implements, and dress of other articles. In the country, the of the farmers is becoming inflamed at the oppressive transportation imposed on grain, and terrorism believed to be to one strong milling. Meetings are being held in northern Manitoba to send remonstrances to Ottawa. A meeting held at Brandon on the 26th, to organize a farmers' association, principles similar to the grain Secession, however, will be a last resort, but the agitation become general if redress does not come. The people of Manitoba attached to the Canadian constitution; they are indignant at the doings of Parliament and Administration.

OGDEN, Utah, 16th.—About this morning a fire broke out in a frame building on Main Street, occupied by Smuin & Thomas, in general merchandise. The were confined to the building, it originated, which is a total loss. The estimated loss on stock is on the building \$1,200; on the building \$3,400.

WASHINGTON, 14.—The Washington monument reached the top of 369 feet yesterday afternoon, when course 396 was completed. Considerable more work done on the shaft before the closes.

CHICAGO, 16.—The nation's convention of stockmen called action to stamp out contagious diseases among live stock resumed this morning, Senator William Kentucky presiding, two delegates being present. The committee appointed to outline a plan of action submitted a series of resolutions, which after being amended, read as follows: "Whereas the extent of contagious pneumonia in certain portions of the States on the Atlantic seaboard, constantly tending to spread contagion to the States and western States and Territories, and whereas the disease is of a character that state legislation the part of Congress to arrest the disease in infected districts imperatively demanded, and should the great ranges of become infected with disease that it would be impossible to stamp out plague, except by the total destruction of herds at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars; therefore resolved, that we urge upon proper authorities the imperative necessity of a thorough inspection not only of all the live stock also of all meat products shipped from foreign countries. The committee also endorsed the action of the Treasury in its quarantine against all imported cattle, and decided to petition Congress to confer authority on the Treasury department, by which