



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

Wednesday,....October 5, 1870.

## THE PROVO OUTRAGES.

We had a call this morning from Mr. Black, Private Secretary of His Excellency, Governor Shaffer, who handed us, for publication, a copy of a letter which the Governor had addressed to Gen. P. R. De Trobriand, the General commanding the Post at Camp Douglas. We cheerfully give it the desired publicity:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
Salt Lake City, Utah Territory,  
Sept. 27th, 1870.

General.—Several days have now elapsed since the outrages perpetrated by a portion of your soldiers at Provo, and as far as I can learn no action has been taken on the part of the military to bring them to punishment, nor has there been any official report made public by the officer in command, stating all the facts.

I have waited thus long in the earnest hope that you would have taken such action in the premises as would convince the citizens that the soldiery was stationed at Provo to protect and not destroy. Hearing nothing like an explanation from the commanding officer there, and feeling that the outrage is one that should be followed by swift and certain punishment, I now, as Governor of the Territory, sworn to protect all the citizens, ask of you to deliver up to the civil authorities every individual, private or non-commissioned officer, engaged in the outrage, that I may see that they are properly tried, and if convicted, punished. I insist on this for the reason that much feeling exists in this community against the Federal officers and soldiers, growing out of this transaction, and that feeling is extended to all the Federal officers.

As Governor of the Territory I am sworn to execute the laws, which, if possible, I propose to do, and in so doing I shall have as high a regard for the property and persons of Mormons as of any other class or denomination. In short: I know no distinction and shall know none as between citizens of this Territory. All are entitled equally alike to whatever aid, assistance or protection I can give them. In this case the perpetrators of the outrages are men employed by the Government, and paid for their services, to be the special guardians of the rights and liberties of those among whom they are stationed, coming here at the expense of the Government to aid and assist the civil authorities in securing to all men their rights, in place of which they have taken it upon themselves to execute all manner of violence and mob law to satisfy their own individual and personal grievances. If the U. S. soldiery cannot fulfill the high object they were sent here for, then far better for the sake of the credit of the nation and the American armies, we be let alone to ourselves.

Respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) J. W. SHAFFER,  
Governor U. T.

To Gen. P. R. De Trobriand, to the Post at  
Camp Douglas, U. T.

We are glad to learn that the Governor is becoming aroused to the importance of taking steps in relation to the outrages which have been perpetrated at Provo. It is now five days since they were committed, and until we received the forgoing letter we had not heard of anything being done by the civil authorities to show that they felt the least interest in the arrest or punishment of the rioters. This being the case, can it be a cause of surprise that there is "much feeling" in this community, or that many have entertained the idea that this whole affair was a conspiracy on the part of the "ring," and that the soldiers who were engaged in these wanton attacks upon the houses and persons of citizens were "put up" to the job, and had, as they stated, "men to back them?" We find nothing, thus far to warrant the belief that the men who engaged in these deeds of violence had any "individual or personal grievances" to satisfy; but there is sufficient evidence to be found in the affidavits which we published yesterday, and those which we publish to-day, to prove that the soldiers felt that they were carrying out, in their own violent way,

their part of a scheme of which they appear to have had cognizance. All their expressions sustain this idea. And can this, under circumstances, be wondered at? When men in authority say the "Mormons have run this Territory long enough," and then trample upon the laws to get the "running of it" into their own hands, is it to much to expect that the soldiers, with such an example before them, will try and help forward the scheme? They are not acquainted with tricks of law, with subterfuges and all the ingenious dodges resorted to by the shrewd and cunning; but they are acquainted with brute force; they are familiar with the use of weapons, and with ignorant daring they proceed, to the execution of that which, if they were more subtle, they would accomplish, for the present at least, in a less violent but more dangerous and dastardly way.

It is now upwards of twenty years since the settlement of the town of Provo. During that period there have been several Indian difficulties of a serious character, in all of which the citizens there, with the occasional help of their fellow citizens from other places, under the direction of the General commanding the militia of the Territory, have been able to defend themselves and maintain their foothold. But after the lapse of a fifth of a century, at a time of profound peace, when the settlements are numerous and comparatively strong, a detachment of troops must, forsooth, be sent there as special guardians of the rights and liberties of the settlers! A fort must be established, and strict measures be taken to maintain quiet! Is not this a most extraordinary proceeding? Is there any good reason to believe that the citizens of Provo who, for twenty years past, have protected themselves, their families and hearths from lawless violence, are not able to do so to-day? Of this there cannot be any doubt. But it does not suit the "ring" who are bent on "running the Territory of Utah" to have it so. Failing to get the Custom bill passed, they have employed ceaseless efforts to get troops scattered and forts established in the settlements of this Territory, by which the people could be overawed and themselves be aided in carrying out their infernal schemes. The soldiers have known this, and have doubtless thought they were performing their part of the programme by committing this violence, especially when they received, as we are informed they did, two wagon loads of beer from the liquor establishment in this city which was recently abated.

As will be seen by a dispatch in another column General De Trobriand is at Provo, and is doing all in his power to ferret out those who were engaged in the riot. Whatever feeling there may be in this community about these outrages there is no disposition to attach blame to the commanding officer of this post. Since the officers of the regular army have been in charge here we have been fortunate in having gentlemen in command. They have known what was due to themselves and the citizens. Strict discipline has been maintained, and infringements upon the rights of citizens have been promptly punished. We speak understandingly when we say that none but kind feelings have been entertained by the community for several years past towards the army officers generally. We trust that the thorough investigation of these Provo outrages will have no effect to change these feelings; but exhibit in still stronger light the disposition of the officers in command to hold themselves aloof from all schemes and cliques.

## THE PLATFORM OF THE "RING."

ONE of the "ring" in writing to a Chicago paper from this point, gives the public the platform on which the "ring" stands. The most striking features in it are that they (the "ring") "are contending for the right to employ their time and spend their money as they please, to eat and drink what they wish, to buy and sell as they like."

This is a very honest expression of the feeling which actuates the "ring." They would like to have the right to employ their time in raising riots, in resisting law, in destroying virtue, in overriding law and order—the right to spend their money in upholding rum holes, supporting gambling hells, patronizing brothels—the right to buy and drink all the liquor they crave, and to sell their liquid poison until they reduce the people to their own filthy and degraded level. These are the "rights" for which they contend; and their anger against the 'Mormons' is prompted solely

by their not being able either to wheedle or frighten them into compliance with their wishes. Another point for which they of the "ring" contend, according to this writer, is "for the right of every man to have a wife."

This is not so honestly stated as the preceding points. It is not the right of every man to have a wife that is contended for by the "ring"; but it is the "right" of every man to have the use of his neighbor's wife when it suits him that is desired. There are too many wives in this community, and their honor is too jealously guarded and respected to please the "ring". There is too much exclusiveness in this relationship. The "Mormons" have no objection to men marrying wives; but they have decided and very strong objections to men keeping mistresses or using other men's wives. The "ring," of course, is displeased with these views; and hence, the opposition and outcries of its members. Let the "Mormons" throw down the barriers which they have erected around the female sex; let them say to the "ring," you are at liberty to gratify your lusts as you please in this community; further, let them permit whiskey to be sold and drank, gambling to be carried on unrestrained in their cities and settlements, and then would the "ring" complain or feel under obligation to have a platform? Certainly not. The "Mormons" would be capital fellows. Who would denounce them? Certainly not the politicians, the office-holders, the adulterers, gamblers and drunkards, not one of these classes or any others which compose the "ring," at least, no more than they do each other at the present time; for the "Mormons" would be standing on the "ring's" platform, and they might even hope, if they continued to pursue this course to get into the Union after awhile.

## THE SURRENDER OF STRASBOURG.

THE telegrams to-day announce the surrender of Strasbourg. After enduring all the horrors of a rigorous siege and bombardment, and resisting gallantly without hope, the Commander, Ulrich, has been at length compelled, by pressure from the garrison and citizens, to assent to the hoisting of the white flag—the sign of capitulation.

Strasbourg is one of the large commercial cities of France, and is the Capital of the department of the Lower Rhine. It is famed the world over for its magnificent Cathedral, possessing the highest spire in the world, being higher than St. Peter's at Rome. This famous building with its equally famous astronomical clock, has been so seriously damaged during the bombardment that its spire is expected to fall. The library of the city is, or rather was, very famous, for it is said that it has been burned during the siege. The city has also been the seat of many important branches of manufacture, among which are beer, leather, mathematical instruments, and woolen, cotton and silk fabrics; it also carried on an extensive trade in the manufacture of jewelry, clocks, cutlery, musical and mathematical instruments, chemical products, &c. Its commercial importance has been created by canals, and, latterly, by railways, connecting it with the principal rivers of France, the Danube, and an extensive trade with Italy, Switzerland and Western Continental Europe. This city is the birthplace of Kellerman, Kleber, and Schœffer, the two former celebrated as military men, the latter as contending with Gutenberg the honor of the invention of printing.

Strasbourg is a bishop's see, has a chamber of commerce, societies of agriculture and art, faculties of law and medicine, has a mint, a cannon foundry, &c. It was formerly a free city, and governed as a republic; it became subject to Germany at the beginning of the tenth century; but for close on two hundred years has been under French rule.

The sufferings of its inhabitants during the siege have been almost appalling, and the destruction of property immense; and the present struggle between France and Prussia would be memorable in future history if nothing of greater moment than the siege of Strasbourg had occurred during its progress.

It is supposed that the city will henceforth belong to the German Confederation, for its cession by France is said to be a point upon which Bismarck imperatively insists in any negotiations for the settlement of the war.

## PROVO NOT A MINING CAMP.

THE miserable crew of which the "ring" is composed that is now operating for

the destruction of the liberties of the people of Utah meet with no better luck thus far than their predecessors who engaged in the same business in years past. Despite their cunning and shrewd management they contrive, in some way or other, to miscarry in all their schemes. It is in vain that such officials as Branderbury, Brochus, Harris, Day, Drummond, Holman, Burr, Hurt, Eckels, Sinclair, Cradlebaugh, Hartnett, Forney, Harding, Dawson and Drake, besides numberless non-officials, have lived and plotted for the same cause and have shamefully failed. Their failures have been of no benefit to the "ring" which is banded together at present; they derive no profitable lessons from them. We have repeatedly said that it only required a little patience on the part of the people of Utah, and they would see these who now feel so consequential drop into the same oblivion that has entombed those whose names are mentioned above. The "ring" is determined to make our words true.

It was only a short time since that a disturbance was made at or near a house where a person was entertaining General Augur and a few others, by two men who were the worse of liquor. Immediately a dispatch was sent over the wires by a tool of the "ring" here, who does the mendacious work for its members, giving so false an impression of the transaction that General Augur felt himself called upon to correct the statements which it contained. The object in sending this dispatch was transparent. The great public east and west were to be stuffed with the idea, which the "ring" is so anxious to disseminate, that the "Mormons" are a dreadfully wicked people and are in a condition of chronic rebellion. Every circumstance, however trivial, even to the abatement of the liquor saloon and the affair that occurred on the street one night not long ago that made such a smell at the time, is thus magnified and harped upon by the "ring," both in the telegraphic dispatches and newspaper letters, to create public opinion adverse to the citizens of Utah Territory.

But one week ago a series of terrible outrages were committed in the adjacent town of Provo. A peaceful city, at the hour of midnight, when its inhabitants were quietly slumbering unconscious of all danger, was assailed by a large party of armed and disciplined ruffians, and deeds of shameful violence were committed, houses were broken into, citizens were captured, women and children were nearly frightened to death, property was destroyed and valuable lives were endangered. Here was a splendid opportunity for sensational dispatches. Have the members of the "ring" improved it? Where are the telegrams they have sent? We look for them in vain. When their letters come back, as they will through our exchanges, this entire transaction will be made light of, or be so distorted and colored as to make the citizens to be the offending parties. It would not do to have it otherwise. It would count too much in the "Mormons" favor to tell the truth, so the usual course will be pursued of falsifying and torturing every circumstance so as to make the case as little favorable to the people injured as possible. But how would it have been, if instead of the town of Provo being attacked by the soldiery, it had been a mining camp that had been disturbed by the citizens of this Territory? If there had been no real disturbance, but only a reported one, how would the members of the "ring" have acted? Let them be judged by their past actions. Such a howl would have gone forth from this Territory as would have stirred up all the anti-Mormons in the nation, and they would have ravened for the blood of the people of Utah as our mountain wolves do for their prey. The Executive of the Territory would have been so startled at the outcry that not five hours would have elapsed, much less five days, till some decisive action would have been taken to gratify the clamors of the "ring." Do we state this too strongly? Our readers and the "ring" themselves know that we do not. There is no more fairness about the actions of the men who compose it than there is about so many tigers. They prate about honesty and the rights of men, while at the same time they do all in their power to bring misery, destruction and death upon an innocent people, and if they saw their blood being shed by mobs would derive the highest gratification therefrom.

Is it any cause for wonder, then, that such men have none of the respect of this community? Can it be surprising that office-holders who are linked with the "ring" and led by it have no influence?