A MOHAMMEDAN'S DEFENSE

Pleased With the Fairness of the "Deseret News."

THE CONVERT WRITES THE EDITOR,

Expressing His Thanks and Explaining Emphatically Some of the Features and Aims of Islamism.

33 West 15th Street,
New York, March 10, '93.

Editor Deseret News, Salt Lake City, Utah:

Dear Sir:—I have just received a copy of your journal dated the 28th ult. and containing an editorial headed "Mistaken as to Truth." It is time to be unusually just and impartial that I am prompted to thank you for thus endeavoring to set your readers right upon a most important subject and for, in some, meaning to my defense.

The misrepresentations and gross inaccuracy which have characterized the efforts of many of the newspapers to tell the public what I say and believe and the dense ignorance of the Islamic system and the tenets and the practices of the Mohammedans of the Nile manifested by some of the editorial writers in various parts of the country have caused me considerably and it is, therefore, very refreshing to read your just, intelligent expostulate regarding the teaching of the Koran relative to polygamy. An editorial writer in New York, after devoting half a column to a mingling of the ignorance regarding Mohammed and his teachings, seriously refers to him as "the famous Greek prophet." In my opinion that writer is not competent to express an opinion upon the subject.

I have never said that the Koran inculcates polygamy, nor have I ever said that Mohammed told his followers that they might marry as many wives as they chose. I have not hesitated to tell the truth to make such a mistake or that.

One of the most striking evidences I have encountered of the degree of gross of mind of a large proportion of the Americans with whom I have come in contact since my return from the East is the promptness with which they exclaim "Polygamy!" when the subject of Islam is referred to, the hypocritical expression of horror and disgust which they positively indulge in, and the ease with which they instantly jump to the conclusion that I am arguing in the polygamic relation but an opportunity for the varied and substantial indulgence of the sensual instincts of humanity.

Before my travels in the East I was constantly in the company and home of Mohammedans and I never heard one of them tell a ribald story, to make his companions laugh, display in any way the relation of the sexes, refer to their wives in conversation with other men, or utter a single word or expression that might not have been heard without a blush by the most refined lady in our country. In America I have heard stories and expressions from the so title of humanity, profanities and even obscenities that were spoken, and in some cases, absolutely circulating to me.

The sensual relation seems to hold a very insignificant place to the minds of the thousands of devout Mohammedans I have met; they do not look upon marriage simply as a means of sensual gratification. Our prophet taught that the union of the sexes was a far higher meaning than that and that woman was for far more than the animal place to be used by man as a mere toy or plaything. I have met very few Americans who seem to be able to realize that it is possible for a man to have a wife and never exercise all the rights and privileges of a husband. They seem to be firmly wedded to the idea that all a man needs in order to give full play to the animal within him is to have a legal opportunity to do so. My experience, which has been quite extensive, leads me to believe that the average Mussulman takes a much higher view of the marriage relation than does the average American.

I am an advocate of polygamy under certain conditions, but I am free to say that I would not advocate its introduction into our social system. The masses are not moral enough, are not able to rise above the animal in their nature sufficiently to use the privilege wisely and justly; it would prove a curse. It is not a part of the Islamic system and our prophet clearly contemplated its practice. He found the Arabs indulging in unlimited polygamy and treating their numerous wives as if they had no rights that any one was bound to respect. He modified these conditions, restored the Arab women to their proper sphere and in many places abolished polygamy entirely.

To kill that polygamy is practised by the masses of the eastern Mohammedans is a gross error. The Indian Mohammedan with more than one wife is rarely to be found and in Turkey, Egypt and Arabia the subject universal rule is to have one wife. But there are cases where a man might very properly take two wives; these cases are provided for in the Islamic laws and frequently much misery and suffering are thereby prevented.

Rather an amusing incident occurred last week at one of the up-town clubs in this city and I tell it simply to illustrate a point which you will readily understand. A party of Americans were seated in a corner of the reading room discussing current matters. There were four of them were Vestymen. An old friend of mine who has taken quite an interest in my lectures and is generally supposed to be a Mohammedan in disguise, entered the room and was immediately greeted with:

"Hello, old man, when are you going to start your harem?"

This remark was made by one of the Vestymen and all the rest of the party burst into a loud laugh.

"Well," said my friend when the laughter had somewhat subsided, "I'm sorry that I'm going to have a harem of my own and not one as you fellows seem."

The laughter ceased and the discussion of church affairs was resumed.

Yours very sincerely,
ALEXANDER RUSSELL WEBB.

Investigating Committee Appointed.

Yesterday afternoon a committee consisting of District Attorney Varian and Judge Andrew Howat and Thomas Maskell was appointed by the court to investigate the charges of unprofessional conduct against certain United States commissioners. Full power was given them to summon and examine witnesses and take any other action they deem advisable to make the investigation complete. They are to report to the court within the next ten days.

The accused commissioners profess themselves ready and anxious for an investigation, and exhibit no fear as to the outcome.

Whether the doings of any of the other fifty-eight United States commissioners in the Territory took from mentioned yesterday, also to be investigated remains to be seen.

PROVO LETTER.

Utah County Ahead—County Roads—Business Changes.

From the Provo Enquirer Correspondent.

Provo, March 16.—At the session of Utah county court held yesterday, the attendance of the selectors was called to the fact that the territorial treasurer's report shows Utah county to be the only county in the Territory which has proceeded under the statute to realize to school lands, in leasing school lands, and paying the proceeds into the territorial treasury for the benefit of the public schools. The matter was referred to Selectman Evans, with instructions to confer with the territorial school commission and ascertain the reason why other counties have not complied with the law.

The matter of the county roads system was also discussed by the county court, and finally referred to the probate judge, the county attorney and the county surveyor with instructions to issue a circular letter to road supervisors to results to exercising greater care in keeping the respective roads and bridges in perfect repair; also to number the various road districts in the county and the bridges in each district, and then propose to the next of the county court place of the various road districts.

W. H. Wilson, alias Jones, alias Jones, who was recently arrested by Sheriff Fowlerton a telegram from the sheriff at Grand Junction, Colorado, to the effect that the man was wanted on the charge of obtaining money under false pretenses, has been released, the governor of Colorado having refused to issue requisition papers or so trivial an offense.

The half interest in the Troy laundry of this city, owned by E. D. Pace and which they probably inclose to Thomas Biggs, formerly one of the employes.

Dr. Shores has gone into the hotel business. He has shipped one carload of horses to Nebraska, and expects to ship another in the near future.

L. W. King has resigned his position as manager of the Knight sting store. He is succeeded by a female clerk, Alex. Bergman, Jr.

OGDEN NEWS.

Iron Works Land Sale Ratification—Detective Sam Howe After a Twelve Pounder.

Detective Sam Howe of Denver will reach Ogden tonight, and on Friday morning return to Colorado with Dr. Hoppenberger, who was arrested at the depot yesterday on Tuesday night. Dr. Hoppenberger is charged with passing fraudulent checks. The charges against the Dr. in Denver over a week ago and left on Sunday night. During his stay he won the confidence of a number of men in Denver. After he had left it was discovered that he had suffered some broken of supplies. He had passed one on E. Brunswick of Seventeenth and Blake streets for $15, and another on Louis Rippel, 1255 Fifteenth street. Now Brunswick of the Western Brewing company sold two for $25 each, and it is supposed there are a number of others not yet heard of. All the checks were on the German National bank of Denver, which would not honor them.

Sheriff Bishop has three candidates for the Reform school in his keeping at the county jail. The youngsters are John Peterson, Oliver Hanson and Ben Bryham, who is in attempt on the charge of robbing the cottage of various chicken coops about the city. For some time past people living in the vicinity of the Fair place on the north side of the Ogden river have been troubled with poultry thieves. These young offenders of the fire were suspected as being the perpetrators, hence their arrest. It is said that they have several associates in the same business who have not yet been detected. A preliminary hearing will probably be accorded the youths in a few days.

The stockholders of the old iron works have ratified the sale of sixteen acres of land, which comprise what is known as the old iron works site, to the Rio Grande Western railway. It will be remembered that Ogden appropriated $6,000 last year, the amount necessary to purchase nine acres of the land, to the railroad company upon condition that during the approaching month the company erect extensive car and machine shops upon the property. The railroad company signed a contract to that effect, and after the agreement was consummated it was believed that nine acres would be insufficient and therefore seven additional acres were purchased.

Early yesterday morning a wreck occurred on the Oregon Short Line near Soda Springs, Idaho. But little information could be obtained but enough out as merry as can be ascertained it was caused by nearly eleven drifting onto the track.

The east bound passenger was derailed, the engine left the track a few coaches cost down a slight incline. Fortunately no one was injured. The passenger train for Portland which leaves the union line of the Union Pacific at Granger, Wyoming, was brought around by way of Ogden arriving here about 6:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

The long expected report from the committee on paving of the council, on the subject of Twenty-fifth street, is ready to submit for action on Monday. The Commission have failed to make positive decision for the consideration of the Council and will refer back to them for the work, so the matter is left in statu quo for the present. The city council will have to do the work, or the commission will have to do it. The city council will have to do it, or the commission will have to do it. The city council will have to do it, or the commission will have to do it. The city council will have to do it