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LOOK AT THE RECORD!

The record of crime, misery, suffering, corruption and woe that reaches us by every mail, through the medium of the newspaper press, is black enough to satisfy the most fiendish desire. It fills the mind, that is unblunted by a constant contact with depravity, with horror at its details.

The eye looks in vain over a map of the world, to find a nation that is not rapidly traveling the path of retrogression. We had contemplated publishing a condensed summary of the reported cases of crime, corruption, bloodshed and fraud, contained in some single receipt of our exchanges; but it would form a page too revolting for the perusal of any but a prurient mind or vitiated taste. Item after item, column after column, alternate with "murder," "suicide," "horrible violation," "disgusting depravity," and other headings no more sensational than the details are horrible. That we may not be thought exaggerating we will give the headings of such paragraphs in *one* paper only, now lying on the desk, and that a paper devoted to news and general literature, —not a police gazette.

Here they are, taken as they stand in its columns:—"Poisoning of a child," "Attempted poisoning," "Suicide," "Execution of the murderer of five persons," "Extensive robbery," "Murder," "A horrible tale of guilt and suffering," "Daring robbery," "Attempted child murder," "Housebreaking and robbery," "Shocking case of infanticide," "A villainous murder," "A savage," (bit his wife's lip off, almost killed her, and threatened to "cut her up," when he got out of prison,) "Attempted murder," "Brutal murder," "Shocking murder," "Outrage and death," (a female outraged till when found she was dead, her dress saturated with and body bathed in her blood.) But we give it up; we have gone through one-fifth of the paper, and have not reached the cases of the police courts; nor is it a repetition of the calendar brought before a grand-jury, but simply the ordinary gleanings of a newspaper which aims at furnishing its readers with the latest, most general and most reliable information. We might almost fill a column from this single copy before us, with these headings, if so disposed; but enough has been given to prove that the statements made are within, instead of outside, the bounds of strict correctness.

The state of society of which this is a partial revelation is not confined to one nation, nor to a country the inhabitants of which profess one legalized and dominant form of religious faith. It pervades the most enlightened, (or assumedly so,) most civilized, (so declared,) and most christian nations on the earth. Peoples professing the Protestant, Catholic and Greek religions, present alike the evidences of growing corruption and increasing degradation. Virtue is treated with contempt; and he who can most effectually and frequently destroy it is looked upon, in many circles, as a sort of social hero; a "lady killer" whom match-making mammas angle for with skill, patience and assiduity, instead of shunning the black-hearted scoundrel as if he were a deadly

serpent. Life is growing more insecure, more lightly looked upon; and legislators with their congregated wisdom are unable to stem the rushing tide of crime and wrong.

These things occur in christian (?) civilized (?) enlightened (?) nations—in Christendom, which sends missionaries to the torrid and frigid zones, and collects annually millions to convert the poor, benighted pagans; aye, even, in that Christendom, which in its philanthropic charity would send missionaries to Utah to convert the "poor heathen Mormons," well knowing what a frightful risk said missionaries would run in this far-off, "dark and benighted land!"

Has it taken modern christianity nearly nineteen centuries to produce the state of society we speak of? If so, how much longer will it take to bring about the Millennium at the same rate of progress?

True, there are many well-meaning, pious, philanthropic people, who deeply deplore the evils they daily look upon, and would fain convert the heathen around them, as well as the poor pagans of Africa and India, and the "heathen" of Utah. But do they not see, will they not understand, that facts speak louder than the best arranged theories, and always upset them? What has the proselytizing of modern christian missionaries accomplished? what have the labors of modern christian ministers done? Is the world the better for their teachings and example? Is there less sin, or more? Are nations in their integral parts, as families and individuals, becoming purer, holier and more righteous? or is the contrary not the case?

We have peace, confidence, union, purity and prosperity here in Utah. These are the fruits we present of the dealings of the Lord with us; and until a cleaner record can be shown, as a result of the labors of so-called christian teachers elsewhere, we feel strongly impelled to, and fully justified in repudiating the insinuation and covert statement, "I am more righteous than thou," so frequently made by our would-be teachers who turn up their sanctimonious eyes at "Mormonism."

IRELAND AND FENIANISM.

Ireland appears to be again on the eve of trouble. The scenes of 1798 threaten to be re-enacted. Will the results be any different? Dependent as then upon external aid, this time it is not looked for from France, but from self-expatriated natives in other countries, principally in the United States. The United Irishmen and the Ribbonmen are succeeded by the Fenian Brotherhood, with the accounts of which the telegraphic despatches have been lately burthened. What are its prospects of success? Is it likely to involve England and the United States in a quarrel? Will the Irish at last be able to shake off their dependence on England and organize a republic? These questions are being frequently asked.

The strength of this movement evidently lies in this country. The most of the wealthy Irishmen who would be likely to peril their means in such an enterprise are in the United States. There are turbulent spirits enough in Ireland to keep it a state of chronic agitation, desperate enough to risk life and fortune in an encounter with England, but their number, means and influence are comparatively limited. One of these, a Belfast lawyer of some notoriety, who was presumed to know, said eight years ago, that there was more disaffection in Ireland then than previous to the outbreak of '98. But what of that? The very element of success, supposing that success possible, is wanting among the Irish. This is not a national movement; it is a sectional one. True, by far the largest section is likely to sympathize with or enter into

it; still, there is disunion amongst themselves as a people.

The Orange or loyal element is strong in the northern and north-eastern parts of the island. The opposite party have the traditionary remembrance of sanguinary defeats. Without a very powerful external influence at work they would not make a demonstration that would have even the appearance of respectability. It was tried in '48 and was a contemptible failure. As in '98 and 1803, the query was, "Is Bony coming?" so now it will be, "Are the boys coming from America?"

There is much exaggeration used in speaking of the number of the Irish at home and abroad. It is laid down at twenty millions. Facts and figures will disprove this. In 1841 the census showed a population of about six millions and a half. The famine of '46, '47, the epidemics which followed, and emigration reduced that number to about five millions. Perhaps nine millions would more than cover the entire number of Irish in Ireland and other parts of Britain and in the United States. Of these, four-fifths in round numbers may be called Roman Catholics. The others, except in a very limited degree, would not sympathize with any attempt to overthrow the English rule in Ireland; they will be more likely to defend it,—at least those of them who reside in Ireland. The disaffected there cannot drill, except in very small numbers. They cannot keep arms, unless by stealth, except they are registered. Disaffection in a parish, barony or county would immediately cause it to be proclaimed, when arms would be searched for and taken, and 30,000 well trained and lynx-eyed constabulary are scattered over the country, independent of the regular troops, to watch every movement. True, many of these are Catholics and would favor if they could any similar movement of their co-religionists and countrymen; but they are closely watched. The system of espionage adopted by the English Government is very effective; so much so that several attempts at insurrection have been crushed just when their leaders fancied they were on the eve of a successful result.

England has wealth, greatness, power and prestige. She can put a most effectual blockade around the Irish coast. She has all the principal towns and many smaller ones garrisoned. In the event of a serious outbreak she would receive the assistance of one part of that very mob which so disgracefully held possession of Belfast a short time ago, and which extends to other places as well. These give her great advantages. Her rule in Ireland of later years has been far from tyrannical. This has increased her influence. But the Fenian movement is becoming formidable outside of Ireland, and is likely to make trouble. It may bring unpleasant relations between this country and Britain. It is unquestionably stirring up the hot-blooded, hair-brained and thoughtless portion of the Irish in their own country. And yet the great mass of the people have not the strong causes which drive men to acts of desperation, in the outrageous tyranny and acts of cruelty which characterized the British rule in Ireland at one time.

The news now coming to hand seem as if leading to serious results. Blood may be shed, and the condition of the country be much worse in the end than it is now. Sectional differences and party spirit are worse foes to Ireland's prosperity than the form of government by which she is at present ruled.

HOME ITEMS.

SABBATH MEETINGS.—Elder George Reynolds briefly expressed the feelings he had entertained on arriving in Zion, and bore testimony to the truth.

Elder F. A. Hammond spoke of his mission to

the Sandwich Islands, and the manner in which the missionaries had been received by the government, who had furnished them with seeds, cuttings and other things useful in carrying out that part of their mission which related to planting and cultivating, but was opposed to the spread of the gospel among the natives.

Elder Geo. Q. Cannon reasoned on the evidences of the divine authenticity of the gospel in the testimonies of the Holy Spirit accompanying the preachings of the Elders, however illiterate and humble they might be, and in the testimony received by those who rendered obedience to it. The object of the gospel and the aim of the leaders of Israel are that the people may increase in knowledge, wisdom, intelligence and the power of God.

Afternoon.

Elder W. Woodruff preached a very edifying discourse in the difficulties that have had to be encountered in every dispensation in seeking to establish and build up the kingdom of God, and on the promises and evidence which the Lord has given us that the work now commenced will continue till the purposes of Jehovah are consummated, and the kingdoms under the whole heaven become the kingdoms of our God and of His Christ.

PROBATE COURT.—Frodsham and Kreamer were brought up before the Court, on Wednesday, 8th inst., charged with burglary and larceny on the 15th ult.

Frodsham pleaded "guilty." Kreamer pleaded "not guilty," and his trial was set for Monday, 23d inst.

THEATRICAL.—On Tuesday evening, 17th inst., the Irwins, supported by the Association, played to a very crowded house, and were warmly received. The comedy of Our American Cousin was presented for the first time here, followed by In and Out of Place. In the first piece, the playing was very good, taken as a whole. Asa Trenchard, in which Mr. Irwin appeared, created no inconsiderable degree of mirth, with his Yankee eccentricities and broad humor. Mary Meredith represented by Mrs. Irwin is a neat and quiet character. Mr. McKenzie's Abel Murcott was a strongly marked character. Lord Dundreary was very creditably rendered by Mr. H. Rainforth; Mr. Margett's Binny was extremely unctuous. The lady characters were in the hands of Mesdames A. Clawson, M. G. Clawson, Miss Alexander, Miss Emelie, et al., as lawyers say, and were handled neatly. The farce, as is well known, was admirably adapted for displaying Mrs. Irwin's versatility. At the close of the play Mr. and Mrs. Irwin were called before the curtain.

On Thursday evening Pauline was presented. It is a piece, depending more on scenic effect and tableaux, than on passionate, emotional, or fine language for its success. In this respect it is not so good a vehicle for Julia Dean Hayne to display her eminent histrionic abilities as some other pieces which have been played since she has appeared here; yet Pauline was most admirably rendered by her. The character of Horace, most successfully rendered by Mr. Waldron, is one rarely seen on the stage; its force and power lie in the quiet magnetism which characterizes it throughout, and which makes the deeds of blood recounted and enacted all the more thrillingly terrible. If it were not for the heavy "sets" which keep the curtain down, and the frequency with which the act drop falls, Pauline would be one of the most effective of sensational stock pieces.

Turn Him Out was received uproariously.

On Saturday evening, 21st, the fine play, The Wife was again presented. There was a very good house, and most excellent playing. Julia Dean Hayne's Marianne is an exquisite portraiture, full of fine touches, artistic grace and beautiful reading. The other characters were sustained with the correctness and ability manifest in the previous performance of the play.

In Out to Nurse of course little Dellic was the great attraction as Susy, which she sustained with even more abandon, genuine humor and natural gaiety than on the previous performances of the piece. The whole farce went admirably.

On Saturday evening the fine comedy of Masks and Faces will be presented with Julia Dean Hayne as Peg Woffington. This is a character that Mrs. Stirling the "Queen of Comedy," has made world-renowned. No doubt the habitues of the Theatre will be anxious to see Mrs. Dean Hayne in the part. The comedy is a most excellent one, and when well played, which the Association is capable of doing, is always well received by an intelligent audience. A laughable farce will conclude the performance.

CREDITABLE.—The 8th Ward is being graced with a strongly built, roomy, well-lighted and fine hall, for public purposes, standing west of the old school-house and north of emigration square. Passing on Friday evening, 20th inst., we saw Bishop Sheets energetically moving around, and giving the building a share of his attention. The roof, now going on, will cover a ceiling 17 feet from the floor, the extent of the hall being 50 by 32 feet. A strong foundation of red sandstone, three feet through, rises sufficiently high to avoid injury from the melting snows, and supports the adobe work which is well and strongly done. We wish the Bishop and our friends in the 8th Ward continued prosperity in progress, and are pleased to note this evidence of their energy and liberal spirit.