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THE AMNESTY PETITION.

A SPECIAL to the *Herald* states that President Harrison will probably issue his proclamation declaring amnesty to disfranchised "Mormon" polygamists before the close of the present week and that before doing so he has consulted both Republican and Democratic Senators and Representatives of trans-Mississippi States, and they unite in their belief that the "Mormons" are sincere in their professions.

We hope the news will prove to be true. We see no reason to doubt it. We do not know of any one who is rational and fair, belonging to any sect or party, who is opposed to the granting of the request made by the Presidency and Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

A little explanation becomes necessary here, in consequence of some remarks on the subject which appear editorially in the *Herald*. It is complained that there has been "something mysterious about the petition;" that "the whole business has been 'worked' in such a peculiar, if not crooked manner as to excite suspicion;" that the petition was "quietly prepared and passed around for endorsement among Republican officials;" that "the proceedings do not have a proper straightforward appearance, and now the impression is growing that the scheme will not be played to a successful issue;" that "the idea naturally went abroad that the business was being manipulated with the view to helping the Republican party in this Territory;" and that "the indications suggest" that those "engineering the case," "overreached themselves and have had their trouble for their pains, as Mr. Harrison appears to be lacking in courage to do what he was asked," etc.

There was this much of the mysterious about the petition: It was prepared by those Church leaders who signed it, and was not intended for publication or for public signature but to be sent to President Harrison only. Before it was sent, the opinion of Chief Justice Zane was requested as to its propriety and form. He pronounced it a manly document and said he could endorse it. This suggested the idea of having endorsements to it from the Governor and the Chief Justice. They both cheerfully and in the kindest spirit signed the endorsement which has been published, and a few other signatures were appended by influential gentlemen to whom they mentioned the matter.

There was nothing "crooked" or "peculiar" or "suspicious" in this "business." In sending a petition to a

Republican President it was natural that endorsements, if any, by persons likely to have influence with him, should be desired. This is no evidence that any "scheme" was set on foot or that there was any "manipulation with the view to helping the Republican party in this Territory."

As to the failure suggested and the indications that the parties applying for amnesty, or "engineering their case," have had but "their trouble for their pains," the special from Washington published in the same issue of the *Herald* is a sufficient reply. If that dispatch is correct the indications are all the other way, and the "scheme, if it were a scheme," will come to "a successful issue."

It should be understood that some of the gentlemen who asked the President for amnesty for their people occupy different ground from the others in politics. It was not a party document. It was not designed for endorsement. The aid that came from prominent gentlemen here was spontaneous and cordial. Since they recommended the granting of the petition, others, both Democrats and Republicans, have supported it. There is nothing partizan in those endorsements and if the Republican party gains any advantage in the matter, it will be simply in the argument that some persons may attempt to raise that a Republican President granted amnesty to the "Mormons."

We believe there is no ground for the position taken, that there is any "scheme" in this matter to which the most ardent Democrat can take exception, and we are sorry to see anything like partizan politics attached to a matter that is rightly above all such considerations.

A TERRIBLE OUTRAGE.

THE New York Presbyterians have been informed that the "Mormon" authorities have offered the use of the Tabernacle in Salt Lake City to the Commissioners who are to attend the General Assembly at Portland, Oregon, in May. The *Sun* says this has occasioned "some uneasiness" among the good people of Gotham. The *Herald* and *Presbyter* has set a correspondent in Cincinnati to work to verify the report. He has declared himself unable to do so but, he says:

"It is possible that such an invitation has been given out from Salt Lake City, but it is hardly probable that it would be accepted. Such a recognition of Mormon politeness would be a disgrace to the Presbyterian Church."

The correspondent is himself a New York clergyman and the *Sun* says his views are shared by many of his sect who think "it would be an outrage for good Presbyterians to worship in the Mormon Tabernacle." It seems that these Commissioners intend to stop at Denver and Salt Lake on their way, and it was thought that a pleasant feature of the trip would be a regular Presbyterian service in the Tabernacle. Application was made to the "Mormon" authorities and consent obtained. A circular has been printed in which it is said: "It would be an event of note, for it is the first

time that anything but a Mormon service has been held there."

We are sorry that these very pious New Yorkers should be so "outraged" as to hear of Presbyterian services being held in a "Mormon" place of worship and surprised that they are so ignorant as not to know that ministers of various orthodox denominations have preached in the "Mormon" Tabernacle. At the same time we are glad that "Mormon politeness" appears in good contrast to this Presbyterian intolerance and hope that the latter has not a very extensive lodgment in the hearts of enlightened people.

And we suggest to the alarmed and outraged exclusives of Gotham that in the "Mormon" Tabernacle the visiting preachers would have a larger congregation than they would be likely to speak to anywhere else on this continent, and that of the Presbyterians are not "outraged" by preaching to the heathen they may not be greatly injured by trying to convert the "Mormons." Some influential and liberal Presbyterian might do much towards calming the perturbed spirit of the Gotham Presbyterians, by assuring them that "Mormonism" is not "catching"—at any rate by simple contact with a "Mormon" Tabernacle.

EXCITED GERMANY.

THE domestic situation in Germany is critical. Political feeling has not run so high since the fall of Bismarck as at present. Though the dispatches do not state definitely the relations between the Emperor and his ministers, yet it is plain that great dissatisfaction exists. Caprivi, the chancellor successor to Bismarck, is said to have resigned. The resignation of Zedlitz, another minister, is alleged to have been accepted.

The origin of all this excitement can be traced to the education bill now under consideration by the German parliament, the Emperor and his ministers. This bill is a most abominable measure. It is not alone retrogressive in its character, but it is tyrannical and brutal. It designates about half a dozen religious sects, and virtually makes of them state religions. In some one of these sects every child attending a common school must be educated, no matter what the family belief of the child may be. It is noticeable that the religious denominations strong enough to compel recognition are those mentioned in the favored list.

The weaker sects are worse than ignored; they are actually compelled by the provisions of this bill to permit themselves to be quietly swallowed up by the larger and stronger, or be subjected to penal chastisement or to political and social disabilities. In short, the bill stipulates that all education shall be controlled by the clergy of a few powerful denominations, those of the Lutherans and Romanists being the leaders.

It is little wonder that the German people are excited, and it is not strange that many of the German ministers do not endorse the bill. Herr Miguel, the Prussian minister of finance, opposed it. When he found that no modification of the clause could be obtained