



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

Wednesday, ... Feb. 23, 1870.

A GREAT EVIL, AND ITS REMEDY.

THE New York Herald is fertile in remedies for existing evils. It has always a solution to offer for every problem that is deemed difficult or intricate. If the success of its plans were equal to the facility with which they are produced, it would be one of the greatest benefactors of the race that has ever directed unremitting efforts towards the welfare of mankind. But many of its remedies fail when they come to be tested; its prospective solutions often come far short of solving the knotty problems they are intended to make clear, and its plans are sometimes very impracticable.

The Herald, of the 7th inst., had an article on the great moral problem of the age—the "social evil," that called forth several communications, for which place was found in its columns. The correspondents, like numerous others and a vast number of journalists, seem to think they have discovered the causes and remedies of this terrible moral plague. One ascribes the immorality of New York to the boarding houses of that city, in which the female boarders are said to be scarcely anything more than "toys," and to the "insane passion for dress" which is manifested by the women. Another places the blame with the police, and asserts that "the first step to redeem lost women is to have a complete change in the police department, beginning with the head." While a third, who is an "anti-woman's rights old bachelor," believes that "the laws are so framed as to greatly discourage marriages because they put an intolerable burden on the male sex to support female vanity and love of dress;" and holds that "the surest way of preventing the evil is to encourage marriages."

This individual, who signs himself "Morton Mulligrubs," hits nearer the truth over his fictitious name, than nineteen out of every twenty "ameliorators" of the evils under which mankind suffer. Perhaps no one thing shows so plainly the impotence of the leading spirit of the age in exerting a truly purifying and elevating influence, than the attempts made to correct and restrain prostitution, and remove the causes which daily increase its magnitude and make it more difficult to deal with. Plans are proposed and schemes tried, by the hundred, to keep the evil within bounds and prevent its terrible consequences; but they are like applying simple salve to the surface of a deep-rooted and deadly ulcer, trying to heal the outside of the sore to the eye, while it continues to spread beneath and eat away the very life of the sufferer.

The fact is, the age, with all its boasted progress, is still the slave of tradition. And while smooth-lipped priests deal in sugared and well-turned sentences, garnished with tropes and metaphors, and the mass of the people are led captive in the bonds of this tradition, with their eyes blinded so that they cannot see the truth as it is in its beauty, there is little hope that anything effectual will be done by the nations of Christendom to remove the cause of the "social evil." The sin may be decied from the stand and through the press; laws, measurably inoperative, may be passed against it, while legislators covertly and openly are its patrons; institutions may be formed to recall back to paths of virtue the unfortunates whose frailties, necessities and confiding natures have made them the victims of masculine lust; but while the causes exist which give birth to it the root of the evil is untouched; and it will grow and increase in spite of everything that may be done for its suppression. An old heathen practice, grafted on to Christianity with other erroneous practices and absurdities, is at the bottom of it. Untaught in pure christianity, or by any of the revelations that the Almighty has been pleased to communicate to His servants,

this thing has become a part of the belief of the nations which profess faith in Christ; and it has produced a moral disease that has corrupted the fountains of life, spread its baneful effect over the globe, and threatens the very existence of the race in those countries where it flourishes with greatest vigor.

Monogamy is not taught in that Bible nor embodied in that Christian code on which the ethics and jurisprudence of Christendom are ostensibly founded. Restrictions, as contracted and unwise as they are contrary to the purity of the gospel, have been placed in the way of marriages; and men have, through tradition and narrow-mindedness, placed so low an estimate upon the relationship of the sexes, that properly regulated plural marriages are viewed from a stand-point no higher than that which marks the low, groveling sensualities that reign paramount through the nations. If the "social evil" is to be overcome it must be by removing the illiberal and unchristian restrictions which now prevent marriages, and the passage and enforcement of stringent laws for the protection of female virtue and chastity. If there is a perfect equality of the sexes, and all desire to mate with single partners, let it be so. If there is a majority of women; or if a portion of the men choose not to fulfill the great command to lawfully propagate their kind, let the statutes so stand that every woman may become a wife if she desires to do so, whether she be the only wife or the additional wife of the man of her choice. And throw the avenues of occupation open to woman, that she may employ the talents and abilities with which she is endowed, for her own benefit and advantage. Do these, and the natural purity of woman will manifest itself so conspicuously that her traducers will be put to shame; and that heart-rending, terrible sight,—a fallen woman, will cease to exist. The temptation that leads to ruin will be removed from her when she has a home and is an honored wife, and when the fear of swift and condign punishment deters lascivious men from seeking her destruction.

A COMMITTEE REPORT ON UTAH.

The report of Cullom, from the committee on Territories, of the House, on the bill against plural marriages, has been received and is in keeping with the precious bill to which it relates. A weaker or wicked document has not passed through our hands for a long time. It opens with a milk and water argument to show that Congress has the power to legislate for the Territories; and, during the course of that argument, says: "It does not forget that a provision in the Constitution declares 'that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;' but the committee does not regard the proposed action of Congress by the passage of the bill which they present, as in any possible way affecting the rights of the people under that provision of the Constitution." And "the committee expressly disclaim any disposition or intention to recommend anything which will interfere with the proper exercise of the religious worship of any people."

Considering that the report and bill are leveled directly against a salient doctrine of the religion of an entire community, one hardly knows whether the cool effrontery or unblushing mendacity of this assertion is the more conspicuous. In another place the report says:

"The practice of polygamy by the Mormon people of Utah is the result of a pretended revelation of God to Brigham Young."

Independent of the fact that the revelation came through Joseph Smith and not through Brigham Young, we are not informed on what authority it is declared a pretended revelation; nor is the revelation from God given which pronounces it erroneous, for nothing but a communication from the Almighty could prove that He had not given the one on Patriarchal Marriage to the Prophet Joseph. Yet the committee assert it is the result of a "pretended revelation;" and declare they have no disposition to interfere with the exercise of any religion, while presenting this report and the bill which accompanies it. Do they not know that there are members of Congress who, on the same principle, would not hesitate to assert that the revelations on which the Christian faith is based are pretended ones, and that all religion is a humbug?

The report dips into the Book of

Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants for support. We are willing to accept these books as standards; will the gentlemen who quote from them do the same? If they will, we are ready with a reply. But this report, to find cause against the people of Utah, falls back on sources which show how poorly the committee were supplied with material for their purpose. The report of W.W. Drummond, alleging the burning of the court records, in this city, in 1857, which was publicly proved and is now universally admitted to have been an infamous falsehood, is quoted as authentic testimony. To what shifts will politicians next resort to make a charge against the Latter-day Saints, when the exploded falsehoods that were made the pretext for a crusade against us in 1857, are resurrected in 1870 and placed before the House of Representatives as genuine, by the committee on Territories? We could blush for Congress at receiving such testimony; and wonder that the man who could present it should be chairman of any committee, or even have a seat in such an august body.

General Hagen's report is also quoted from. He inferred and believed, or said he did; and this is presented as direct testimony. And then an English, Oxford professor is quoted to prove that plural marriage is wrong. We may simply dismiss the professor—Cookson—by saying that he has traveled a long way beyond his knowledge, and shows that he is an antiquated specimen of foggyism, that does not seem to have any clear understanding of physiology or social relations. Then follows an abstract of the laws of the several States and Territories on polygamy; and the testimony of the pettifogging lawyer on whom the fathership of the bill is usually laid, closes the report. This individual shows that he has studied the art of evasion, if nothing else, and can direct replies so as to avoid the imputation of perjury without telling any more truth than is necessary to make them presentable. Were it not that the report is printed by order of the House of Representatives, before which body it was presented, it and the matter contained in it, would be beneath the contempt of all honest, truth-loving honorable men.

The committee did not think it necessary to send to Utah for witnesses, and if they had done so only those would have been chosen who were bitterly opposed to the people here; but they can rake up old assertions that have been proved false by the most indisputable evidence,—such as Drummond's report, positively repudiated by Governor Cumming and declared by him to be flagrantly untrue—and accept the testimony, uncontradicted, of a virulent partisan and avowed enemy of the people of Utah, who is without reputation or character for veracity.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DESERET.

THE General Assembly of the State of Deseret met this morning at ten o'clock, in the City Hall, and immediately proceeded to organize, Hon. Orson Hyde being elected President of the Senate, and Hon. Orson Pratt, Speaker of the House. After organizing, a committee from the Senate and House waited upon his Excellency, Governor Young, to know if he had any communication to make to the Assembly. Soon after the Assembly went into Joint Session, and Gov. Young, Lieut. Gov. G.A. Smith and Hon. D.H. Wells, Secretary of State, were introduced. Patrick Lynch, Esq. Secretary of the Senate, then read:

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

SALT LAKE CITY,
February 21st, 1870.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Deseret:

GENTLEMEN:—Through the blessings of our Heavenly Father we are once more permitted to meet in the capacity of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Deseret, to take into consideration matters relating, both to our present condition and prospects, and also to our future prosperity and happiness.

Though, since we last met, the people have had to suffer from the ravages of the devouring insects, which materially injured our fruits, vegetables and grain, yet I am thankful to be able to state, to-day, that enough has been saved to meet the wants of our population until another harvest.

The manufacturing interests of the State are being steadily developed and

our manufacturers have been very generally successful in their operations. This is especially so in the production of woolen goods. At the late Fair held under the auspices of the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society, this gratifying improvement was particularly noticeable. The production of wool has greatly increased during the last two years. I would respectfully recommend to your honorable body the encouragement of the growing of the finest and best qualities of wool.

Our schools are now in a highly prosperous condition. This is especially a subject of congratulation, when we take into consideration that as yet we have received no annuities from the parent government to aid us in the diffusion of knowledge among our youth. Every encouragement that can consistently be extended to our schools would be eminently proper and just.

Gentlemen, I am happy to repeat the gratifying statement I have so often drawn your attention to in your assembly, that we are entirely out of debt, a circumstance almost unexampled in the records of our nation.

Since our last session the great transcontinental highway has been completed, and the Atlantic and the Pacific are united. To the early accomplishment of this vast undertaking, much credit is due to the citizens of Deseret. Indeed, with an energy worthy of the highest praise they not only graded several hundred miles of the road across the continent, "but have also graded, built and equipped a branch road to the capital of our State, thus connecting it with the great centres of manufacture and art in the far off East, and distant West. This wonderful work, when the circumstances of the body of the people are considered, was inaugurated, carried on and completed, entirely without assistance from those whose interests are not identified with the growth and development of our much loved "Mountain home."

I presume that you will adopt and sanction the laws which have been enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah, that the same may be valid and of full force in the State of Deseret. And in connection with this subject I would here remark, that during the past year our citizens assembled in mass meeting and respectfully but earnestly petitioned Congress for those rights, which by the Constitution of our country are legitimately ours. What action Congress may have taken on our petition we have not yet learned. We wait in patience, full well assured that the Great Controller of human affairs will work all things for our good, and whether the Honorable Senators and members of the House listen to our petition or turn a deaf ear thereto, it will in either case tend, by the mercies of Heaven, to our benefit and the development of the purposes of God.

There is but little business that needs your attention, and I shall not detain you longer. May the choicest blessings of the Heavens rest and abide upon you and your constituents, and upon these mountain valleys is the constant wish and heartfelt prayer of

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

Joseph Bull, Esq., was elected public printer, and one thousand copies of the Message were ordered printed. Several official vacancies, were filled, and, in response to motions, remarks were made by his Excellency the Governor, by the Lieut. Governor and the Secretary of State.

The Joint Session then dissolved, and the Assembly proceeded to the consideration of the Governor's message.

An Act afterwards passed the Assembly, adopting and giving full force in the State of Deseret, to the laws of the Territory of Utah, passed during the recent session of the Legislature.

Correspondence.

HYRUM, CACHE COUNTY, U. T.

February 15th, 1870

Editor Deseret News:—Dear Sir:—It is now some time since you had any communication from Hyrum; still we feel warmly interested in the welfare of Zion, and eagerly look for the news from headquarters, but are very frequently disappointed through the miscarriage of the mail. The fault is not with the Cache mail contractor, but somewhere in Salt Lake valley.

Our crops have suffered from grasshoppers the past four years, and last season only one hundred and fifty bushels of wheat were raised in this settlement, yet none have suffered for