HOOD.

Arguments For and Against before the Committee on Territories-Lucid and Able Presentation by the Constitutional Delegation-Baskin Reads a Rigmarole and is a Brilliant Success as a Fatipre-A Racy Resume of the Scenes and Incidents by our Correspondent.

> WASHINGTON, D. C., March 12th, 1888.

The hearing accorded the constitutional delegation by the Senate Committee on Territories, for the purpose
of presenting Utah's claims to Statehood (which closed on Saturday, the
10th,) may be truly said to be a remarkable one. A Washington gentleman
who listened attentively to the whole
proceedings and who evidently was
favorably impressed thereby, volunteered the remark, that the presentation of Utah's claims to Stalehood,
taken in connection with the
peculiar condition she is in
politically, was one of the most
remarkable scenes ever witnessed in
any of the committee rooms of the
national Capitol. It certainly was
dignified and masterly, and the ground
on which her claims for statehood
were based is unassailable.

Herctofore the voice crying frost the Editor Deseret News:

were based is unassatiable.
Heretofore the voice crying from the desert has not been heard. Politicians said it was the voice of polygamists, and there was no place for them under the Constitution. Instead of being heard, therefore, it was hushed, and the polygamists themselves politically discussed of

heard, therefore, it was hushed, and the polygamists themselves politically disposed of.

It was very apparent to your correspondent that the committee was not familiar with this new cry that had gone forth, that they had prejudged it, and had about made np their minds that polygamy was not dead, but was still speaking. Before the hearing had proceeded very far, however, their at tention was arrested, there was something about it that seemed to impress them with the belief that the voice that was crying so numistakably for help was that of their own class and kind, and for the moment, after the arguments were all insthe expression of their countenance, seemed to indicate that their better nature was striving with them. At last Mr. Cullom said he wanted "to hear the other side." This remark coming from one of Utah's oldest foes, and that too after Mr. Dubois had undertaken to answer the delegation, was full of meaning.

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coming from one of Utah's oldest foes, and that too after Mr. Dubols had undertaken to answer the delegation, was full of meaning.

Speaking of Mr. Dubols, his demeanor, the spirit he manifested, as well as the character of the effort he produced, were in such marked contrast with those of Utah's representatives, as to produce a feeling of chagrin plainly visible in the countenances of the committee. When he inished, and the hearing was adjourned, one of the Senators remarked in tones loud enough to be heard by all, "Mr. Dubois, if you expect to faverably impress tols committee I would advise you to drep your expletives."

I repeat, the arguments of the gentlemen representing the majority of the people of Utah were sweeping and carried with them the weight of conviction. The speakers were listened to intently, and, indeed, their attitude was such as to command the respect that was paid them I heard Senator Paddock even congratulate Delegate Caine, and Chairman Platt was heard to say that the sincerity of Richards was unmistakable. Common place as it may been to the readers of the News, but altogether unusual and remarkable here, there was a spirit, a force, an influence, a power, a something, call it what you may, attending the arguments that brought Utah's political enepies face to face with the question in such a way that they cannot ignore it, much as they might like to. I will undertake to say that those of the committee in sympathy with the "other side," are thrown into doubt. Their questions were straightforwardly and unequivocally answered are the the wither of the salient points of Utah's political status. The impression conveyed was that something had either broken or was about to crack, a giving-way-kind-of-feeling; and rumor has it that the fieleds of the "other side," are beginning to fear that the majority of the committee have been converted. It is clear to your correspondent that dining to fear that the majority of the committee have been converted. It is clear to your correspondent that the "other side" is out-pointed, and out-generated, and that they them-selves know It and feel it.

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The session of Saturday was for the purpose of listening to "the other side." In the absence of Mr. Platt benator Culiom occupied the chair. Mr. Baskin was the oracle. He was reading his argument when I entered the committee room; I therefore did not hear his opening remarks. When I entered he was dealing with the offers motives and intentions. As proof of their lusincerity he referred to the refusal of certain pilhars of the monogamic order of marriage who had declined to take the oath framed by certain "political anttorities" and adopted by Judge Zane as the test of qualification of jurors. Mr Baskin did his best to impress the committee that the Mormons, (already married) who had taken the lest oath prescribed by congressional action, and who were now applying for statehood, and who all their lives

THE APPLICATION FOR STATE- have been "true" to their only sponse, would be the first to break loose on

have been "true" to their only sponse, would be the first to break loose on the advent of stateheod to join the ranks of the muchly married. While some may take to sas a reflection on the moral courage of the gray-haired monogamist, it was certainly a compliment to his ability to command the attention of the fair sex. Mr. B. did not tell how and where this army of men were going to get and find their plural wives; that was left to the imagination of the senators who, unfortunately for the argument, were anything buttspring chickens themselves.

The next point was to prove the existence among the "Mormons" of a theocracy. To do this ne quoted from the title page of the Doctrine and Covenants, the late Elder Orson Prati's "Kingdom of God," and some of Elder F. D. Richard's writines in the Millennial Star on the same subject. Mir. B. then took the committee through the Endowment Honse, and the oaths, and pensities, and secrecies thereof were detailed apparently to the entertainment of the committee. It is remarkable how prone is man to kindly take and give Credence to anyentertainment of the committee. It is remarkable how prone is man to kindly take and give credeace to anything enveloped in doubt and mystery, and if your correspondent was competent to judge, these grave and reverend seniors were no exception to the rule in this respect. The point sought to be made was that the "oaths" taken in the ceremonies of this House were the secret of the immense influence wielded over the people by the "Mormon" hierarchy. Carry Owen, Mrs. Stenhouse and John E. Hyde were given as direct authority for all that was said on the Endowment House, while other apostate "Mormons" who had become hist lends, but whose names were not mentioned, were referred to were not mentioned, were referred to as correborative proof. Mr. B. was asked if he himself believed all he had

asked if he himself believed all he had said about endowment ceremonials; he answered that he did; he acknowledged, however, that he had never gone through the ceremonies himself. On this branch of the argument Mr Baskin enunciated the startling Mormon "doctrine," that no man can become a citizen of the kingdom of God except he go through the Endowment llosse. How intelligent men can have the gall to undertake to expound Mormon faith and doctrine, to the spirit mon taith and doctrine, to the spirit and knowledge of which they are alien, is to me irreconcilable with consistency; and the only way I can account for such conduct is to take it for granted that they have a superabund area of cheek.

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By this time the committee were showing signs of weariness. The fact is that all this time Mr. Baskin had been dealing with "Mormon vagaries" and "tomfooleries," while the committee had oeen expecting him to say something to furnish them grounds to sit down, so to speak, on this state movement. Senator Payne had already expressed his familiarity with all those things; he had heard and known of them forty years ago, and he was in isvor of the speaker skipping them and coming to the points. But Mr. B. read on, The Standard Oil Senator again munifested uneasiness; he thought the time of the committee should not be taken up on the spiritual things of the kingdom, or words to that effect.

Senator Stewart squirmed, and Manderson holding a pencil in both bands, were his even the event the risk of the nice of the even the risk of the risk

words to that effect.
Senator Stewart squirmed, and Manderson holding a pencil in both hands, kept his eyes steadily fixed on the nih. A kind of a phintul pause ensued. The cnair (Cullom) asked Mr. Baskin to read a little louder, informing him that Senator Payne was hard of hearing, and on that accourt, perhaps, the argument was not so interesting him. Senator Payne's right hand was immediately drawn over his nose, and some unintelligible afterances of assent were made. Mr. Baskin braced himself and proceeded in higher key. He had not gone far when Senator Butler wanted to know if there was any religious test among the "Mormons" for office holding, whether or not a Baptist, Presbyterian or Roman Catholic was not as eligible to office as a "Mormon." Poor Mr. Baskin! he was hot in his usual featner, and he looked at the Senator in blank astonishment. He lowered his voice and answered in rather measured tones, that no such law could exist except by an act of the Legislature, approved by the Governor. Virtue had gone out of the speaker; it was evidently too much for him, and signs of weakness were beginning to show themselves. The chair, nowever, revived him by asking if there was not some such arrangement in the "Mormon" system which enabled them to reach such a test. The old fire came back to Mr. Baskin: he said, "Yes, they reach it through the Endowment House." Senstor Butler was not satisfied with this attempt at switching him off; and after

Christendom repeated Sabbath after

Christendom repeated Sabbath after Sabbath, and which, it was claimed, the Mormons believed.

By the time Mr. Baskin had reached his views on "Christian Marriage" he had become really tiresome to the committee generally. I can only account for it in this way. The members of the constitutional delegation had had a field-day with the committee. Many questions were asked and much information imparted, with no Mr. Baskin to interrupt or annoy them. The senators bad become fairly well posted, especially on the question of marriage. Senator Stewart admitted that he had been informed, that the "trick" the Mormons were playing consisted in this: That while they in their constitution interdicted bigamy and polygamy, they had carefully and studiously avoided saying a word about celestial marriage. And the way the senator went through the Doctrine and Covenants, and the familiarity with its pages, that he seemed to evince was astoolishing. And it took quite a while to satisfy him on this vital point; but, to his credit be it said, he expressed himself satisfied at last. To show you how well posted the Senators were on "Mormon" marriage, I will refer to a question asked by Senator Turpie, of Indiana. Mr. Turple had sat patiently and listened attentively and, perhaps exceptionally so; but when Mr. Baskin order of marriage, so called, and they should then be desirons of going through their celestial ceremonials, they should be dealt with as crimleals for so doing. For the mormor asked the Senator to repeat the question.

Here I would say, that the noted Belva Lockwood was present paving

ed time to consider; he therefore asked the Senator to repeat the question.

Here I would say, that the noted Belva Lockwood was present paving close attention, and when Judge Baskin asked the Senator to repeat the question, Mrs. Lockwood's risables commenced to move, evidently appreciating the box Mr. B. was in. The question being repeated, Mr. Baskin answered in the silirmative. Mrs. Lockwood laughed, and we all laughed. Judge Baskin did not laugh, be was awfully and painfully in earnest Mr. Baskin's idea was that by making the peculiar religious ceremonal a crime, it would do away with the Endowment House. In answer to a question put by Senator Stewart, Mr. Baskid that the "Mornons" married nowhere else except in the Endowment House or Temple, and to Senator Butler admitted that the Roman Catholics made marriage a religious sacrament. He told Senator Stewart that if a man refused to pay vis tithing he was given the cold shoulder, and eventually apostatized. I should here remark that the reading of Mr. Baskin's argument had become so thresome, that the chairman suggested that further reading be dispensed with as it would appear in the printed report.

dispensed with as it would appear in the printed report. With that the judge planked down the balance of the arguments as "fat" for the reporter. Senator Manderson appeared eager to draw from Mr. B. a disproof of the facts as stated by Mr. Richards in the unlawful cohabitation cases referred to by that gentleman in his argument. In the talk about these cases Senator Culiom, both at this and the former hearing, referred to Judge Zane as a personal friend and an excellent judge. Mr. B. heartily endorsed Mr. Culiom in all the good the senator had said about Judge Zane, and the Soow case was particularly referred to. Mr. Baskin endorsed the action of the Mr. Baskin endorsed the action of the court in ruling that implied cobabita-tion with the legal wife in the absence

tion with the legal wife in the absence of any evidence to prove it, was combibitation—the ruling that imprisoned Mr. Snow.

Here Mr. Jere Wilson interposed, holding in his hand the dissenting opinion of Judge Zane in that case—the judge whose legal attainments, fairness, etc., a few minutes before Senator Cullomatone end of the table and Mr. Baskin at the other had both highly praised. Poor Mr. Baskin, how he did squirm! But true to his instincts, he didn't care, the dissenting

opinion was not the law! Here Mrs. Lockwood's risables fairly shook, and the staid Mr. Turple was not impregnable to Mrs. L's hearty laugh.

Mr. Wilson, having had permission to interrogate Mr. Baskin, commenced to address himself to "the other side" on the O. P. Arnold case, but Mr. Baskin did not know anything. Jere Wilson resumed his seat, Mrs. Lockwood smiled, and Judge Baskin rested himself on the soia.

During Mr. Baskin's speech he said there were 35,000 Gentiles in Utah, and that if Utah were given statehood, the whole 35,000 Gentiles to a man would either have to join the "Mormon" Church or leave the country. Just think of it, the ifty-live thousand Gentiles in Utah, including the busy B's, repenting of their sins! Senator Butler at the time could not swallow this; and while the Judge was resting the Senator called his attention to this extraordinary statement, and asked him to cite some facts by way of sustaining it. The lying spirit that volunteered service in the mouth of the false prophets in Ahab's day had evidently forced an entrance into the committee room of the Senate Committee on Territories; for no sconer had the invitation been extended to cite corroborative facts, than Mr. Baskin rose to the occasion; the miners had been interfered with when they first commenced to prospect. How, asked the Senator. The were headed by a class of men headed by Port Rockwell (Poor old Port he's dead) who told the miners if they didn't stop roaming the hills it would not be healthy for them. A ooy, too, had been interfered with while making salt on the lake shore. Then (in 1867) Brigham Young ordered his people to put up an all seeing eye over the doors of the busiless houses, and the order went out forbidding the people from trading at any store that did not have the sign of the busiless houses, and the order went out forbidding the people from trading at any store that did not have the sign of the busiless houses, and the order went out forbidding the people informed the committee that if statehood were gran

The reading of Mr. Baskin's argn-The reading of Mr. Bassin's argn-ment was not up to the mark at all; it had the effect to make one feel that his effort was a failure. I believe, how-ever, it will read better in type than it appeared as it was delivered. One great and, I fear, iatal oversight of the "other side" was the failure of Mr. B. to again arraign the pioneers for gob-bling up City Creek Canoa.

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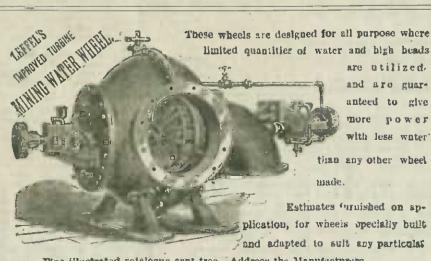
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