

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, -- Jan. 27, 1875.

THE UTAH DELEGATE.

THE constitution of the United States, concerning Congress, provides that "each house shall be the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its own members, and a majority of each shall constitute a quorum to do business;" also that "each house may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member."

In our dispatches yesterday it was stated that the house committee on elections had completed their report recommending the expulsion of Delegate Cannon, because he was a practical polygamist.

It does not appear that the report had been presented to the House, nor is there any intimation when it would be. After it shall have been presented to the House, that body will have to take action upon it. It is not likely that, when presented there, it will be acted upon out of its order, as the consent of the house probably could not be obtained to such preferred action, which action, however, would doubtless be greatly desired and sought by the enemies of the delegate and of the people of this Territory who elected him by such an overwhelming majority. If the report of the committee shall be left to be considered by the house in its order, it may be some time before that will take place, the report may be crowded out of consideration by the pressure of other and more important and preferred business. The present session is a short one, expiring by limitation before the fourth of March, and there is a good deal of important business to be attended to in the remaining six weeks of the session.

It may be, if the report shall not be acted upon until near the close of the session, that an attempt will be made to push the house to affirmative action upon it in a hurry at the last. This policy would be suspicious, and would not be creditable to the house. Mr. Cannon was regularly admitted to his seat in the house, notwithstanding unprincipled and impudent contestation. He has sat through one session, the longer of the two, and also through half the present or shorter session. To expel a member at the close of the Congress, when it was about to break up for ever, would be a very equivocal proceeding. It would look too much like the manifestation of a personal, clique, or partizan spite, and be entirely unworthy of an intelligent, deliberative body, like the House of Representatives. Such action would go far to convince the general public of what everybody hereabout has long known, that the persistent attempts to have the Utah delegate ousted from his seat have no basis in justice, honor, or patriotism, but are wholly persecutive movements, in the interest of a miserable ring of corrupt political adventurers and tricksters, in whom the people have not the slightest confidence, and whose words would not be regarded in Congress if the utterers were as well known there as here.

The reason stated for the recommended expulsion of the delegate is that he is a practical polygamist. If this charge shall be proved against him, what does it amount to? There is no sin in a man's having more than one wife. It is not a crime, except by construction. It is not a crime in and of itself. It is not an offence against morality. The Bible nowhere condemns it. On the contrary, the greatest Biblical exemplars, the greatest moralists, were polygamists, prophets and holy men of God, men who conversed with and were ministered to by angels, and even walked and talked with God, and were accounted his special friends. In all ages, four-fifths of the human race have been polygamists. Even in

professedly monogamic countries, there is every reason to believe that three-fourths of the men to-day are carnally acquainted with more than one woman each, notwithstanding their great professions to the contrary. Where, then, is the moral consistency in either house of the Congress of the United States expelling a member for the alleged reason that he has more wives than one? We fail to see any.

Further than this, there would be no legal consistency in such expulsion. If the Utah delegate is a polygamist, he is one solely on account of his religion, because plurality of wives is an integral part of his religion, because it is a matter of conscience between him and his God, because plural marriage is and has long been a recognized establishment of the religion of the Latter-day Saints, as much as faith, repentance, baptism, and prayer are parts of that religion. And Congress is expressly prohibited, by the constitution, from making any law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. If, therefore, the house were to expel the delegate from his seat on the pretext named, it would be acting unconstitutionally, it would be exercising a stretch of authority from which the whole of Congress is expressly prohibited, except in one way, and that is by framing an amendment to the Constitution nullifying the provision referred to above. Until the Constitution be so amended, the House has no constitutional right whatever to expel Delegate Cannon or any other man from a seat because he is a practical polygamist, provided that he practices that form of marriage as a part of his religion.

SOME OF THE CAUSES.

AMONG the more prominent causes of the present unhappy condition of Louisiana and other portions of the South, is the simultaneous and forcible liberation of the slaves in the Southern States, the immediate admission of them to full citizenship with the right of suffrage, and the imposing of disabilities for a time upon many of the principal white inhabitants of these States. These measures nullified, to a greater or less extent, the voice of the intelligent and cultivated white people and elevated a great mass of ignorant negro population to the right of suffrage. This could not fail to have a very prejudicial effect upon the prosperity of those States. In the nature of things the sudden lifting up en masse of an ignorant race to great privileges and responsibilities cannot have a healthful political, social, or material influence. For the country to receive the greatest benefits from the emancipation of the slaves, they should have been liberated gradually and admitted to citizenship by a graduated probation, instead of this being done all at once and in a hurry. It was too sudden and violent a change to be healthy to society, or to conduce to the public good.

The liberation of the slaves was a war measure, and re-construction has been continued very largely in the same spirit. The South has been practically regarded as a conquered country and so treated in a great degree. There are two ways of establishing peace—the conciliatory process and the crushing process. The winsome ways of conciliation do not seem to be in favor with the federal administration, but the rigorous crushing process is taken to with a manifest liking. However, the results so far are anything but promising, and the end is not yet.

As a further affliction to the Southern States and to still further complicate matters and retard their pacification and the entire restoration of good feeling with the other States of the Union, the carpetbaggers flooded the country. These unscrupulous adventurers are a curse to any part of the country which they may pester with their presence, and one of the worst signs of the times for any State or Territory is the patronage of such unprincipled rascals by the federal government. The South never will be permanently peaceable and prosperous while the carpet-baggers rule. Nor will any other part of the Union where they are.

FLAT STREETS AND ROADS.

IN these times of thaw and rain and slush and mud, one can see the beauty of flat streets and roads. Such roads are soft all over and puddly almost everywhere, and possibly are the fruitful causes of a vast amount of bad temper and corresponding language. But such streets and roads are by no means necessary. When the frost is coming out of them in the Spring it would be a comparatively easy job to plow and scrape them up towards the centre or otherwise grade them so that they would present a convex cross section, rising in the middle a foot or more according to their width. There are some good road scrapers made and sold in the States, with which miles of country roads can be kept in pretty good condition at comparatively little expense. Anyway, flat streets and roads are a complete nuisance in muddy weather, and they ought to be abated determinedly.

THE CASE OF DELEGATE CANNON.

THE San Francisco *Chronicle* has the following dispatch dated Washington, Jan. 22—

"The minority report from the committee on elections in the case of Mr. Cannon of Utah, recommends that the committee be discharged from further consideration of the subject. The report goes at length into a statement of the relations of a delegate to the House, and argues that Cannon has all the rights and privileges of a member. It is contended that members should not be expelled for political relations, or on account of the existence of any societies in the Territory or State they represent. Nor should they be punished for alleged indulgence in such practices, except after a hearing in a Court of justice. Mr. Cannon is charged with being the first delegate that has been guilty of polygamy; admitting this to be the fact, and that it is intended to strike a blow at Mormonism, is it good policy to strike the blow in this way, by expelling a delegate? The fact that the House recently admitted delegates representing Mormonism, should relieve Mr. Cannon from expulsion. As to the charge that Mr. Cannon had married his fourth wife subsequent to the passage of the act of July, 1874, which declared polygamy a felony, the minority says it goes for naught, because Mr. Cannon has not been convicted, either under that act or what is known as the Poland law. The House should not convict him in advance of the action of the Courts. The report also sets forth the fact that Mr. Cannon is now under an indictment in the Courts of Utah for polygamy, and contends that it would be an act of great injustice to prejudice his case; besides it is a serious question whether the subject of expulsion on moral or immoral grounds should be entertained, and the report puts the very pertinent question, 'If the House is to inquire into the moral fitness of its members, where will the inquiry stop?' This report is signed only by Mr. Harrison, but four other members of Congress, Messrs. Lamar, Crossland, Speer and Thomas, concur in the recommendation that the committee be discharged from further consideration of the subject, in that they fully endorse all of Mr. Harrison's views."

THE UTAH DELEGATE.—As will be seen by our congressional dispatches, the report of the committee on elections embodying a resolution to exclude Delegate Cannon from his seat in the U. S. House of Representatives on the ground of polygamy, was presented to the House yesterday, by Hon. H. Boardman Smith, of New York, and ordered to be printed.

The names of the committee which made the report are as follow: Messrs. Smith of New York, Thomas, Hazelton of Wisconsin, Todd, Pike, Robinson of Ohio, Harrison, Hyde, Speer, Lamar, and Crossland.

Our dispatches say nothing of the vote by which the committee decided on their report. It will be interesting to the people of this

Territory to know who voted for the resolution and who voted against it, as people like to know who are their friends and who are their enemies—their friends, and that they may be held in honorable everlasting remembrance; and their enemies, that they may not be held in any such remembrance.

INCONSISTENCY.

HUMAN nature, illiterate or cultivated, is prone to inconsistency, otherwise how would it have been possible for intelligent and able philanthropists like Gerrit Smith, William Lloyd Garrison, and Wendell Phillips to sustain the semi-military policy of Grant and Sheridan? These men would have favored a third term for Grant, and rejoiced in it, rather than that the Democracy, one of whose cardinal doctrines is the right of the people to govern themselves, should rule.

At the recent meeting in Faneuil Hall, Boston, Garrison and Phillips justified and sanctioned the action and policy of Grant and Sheridan in the recent New Orleans blunder. But Garrison and Phillips evidently are men whose judgments have long been warped by their intense advocacy of the rights of the negro until they have almost lost sight of the rights of the Caucasian. In their great zeal for the rights of the blacks these men seem to forget the idea of equal rights for all. The negro has his rights, but he is not the sort of a being to be set up on a pedestal and worshipped, he is not to be placed on a juggernaut which is to run over and crush Caucasian devotees. Phillips declares he never cast a vote in his life, never held office and never expects to, but that makes him no wiser nor juster nor better a man, no greater a statesman, no safer a guide. Both he and Garrison belong to that class of men who were wont to talk of the Constitution of the United States as a compact with hell and a covenant with death. With men of such decided bias it is perhaps not remarkable that they should sustain military interference in civil matters, especially when they had any idea, rightly or wrongly, that such interference insured the permanence of that which their favorite prejudices favored. But as an exchange truly suggests, it is rather inconsistent for champions and orators of freedom to pour fourth their eloquence in defence of despotism, for life long opponents of slavery to become the defenders of usurpation.

NOBLE WORDS.—The New Orleans *Times* thinks the words of John Curran before the Irish Parliament in 1790 are particularly suited to the present times—

"A new principle of government is advanced, and that is the—bayonet. We are to be silenced by corruption within or quelled by force of arms without. Nor is it necessary that these avowed principles of bribery and arms should come from any high personal authority; they have been delivered by the known retainers of the administration. For my part I do not know how it may be my destiny to fall—it may be by chance, or malady, or violence, but should it be my fate to perish the victim of a bold and honest discharge of my duty, I will not shun it. I will do that duty; and should I become a victim to the public cause, the most sensible of my regrets would be that on such an altar there should not be immolated a more illustrious sacrifice. As to myself, while I live I shall despise the peril. I hold that the administration which can give a sanction to menaces like these is responsible for their consequences to the nation and to the individual."

GOLD IN GEORGIA.—There's a big bonanza in Georgia, so the papers say. Here is one statement—

"Gold has been found in upper Georgia in large quantities. Rumors have been afloat for several days concerning a new mine of immense richness, where many lumps in a pure state had been picked up on the surface, varying from thirty to forty pennyweights. It is within an hour's ride of Chatta-

nooga, and miners say its riches promise to eclipse anything on the continent."

Local and Other Matters.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, JAN. 22.

Harper's Bazar for Jan. 30 contains "Our Male Citizens," "New York Fashions," "Umbrellas," "Cheapness, Comfort and Luxury," "Sayings and Doings," "Princess of Wales and Princess Dagmar," "My Father's Will," "Carriage Toilette," and other articles, and is also profusely illustrated.

Gave Bonds.—John Cummings, accused of seducing the daughter of Mr. Charles Davey, gave the necessary bonds to-day, and was released from custody, to appear at two o'clock to-morrow, for examination. Messrs. H. E. Brown, liveryman, and Stevens, butcher, are the bondsmen.

Littell's Living Age for January 16 contains: "Modern Scientific Materialism," "Three Feathers," "Contrasts of Ancient and Modern History," "Valentine and his Brother," "Early Eastern Travellers," "On the Vatra Jokul," "Life of the Prince Consort," "Advice to Young Housewives," etc.

His Name.—The name of the man mentioned in yesterday's News as having been run over by a freight train, at Kaysville, on Wednesday night, was Simon Johnson. He was a Scandinavian, and was about twenty-four years of age. We understand his mother lives at Denver, Colorado, and he has a sister who resides in Blair, Iowa.

Enjoyable Party.—We are informed that the social party which came off last evening at the 17th Ward new school house was quite a success in every particular. It was one of the largest that has been held in that house this season, about two hundred being present. At 12 o'clock, the hour that parties terminate there, all went home appearing well satisfied with the evening's entertainment.

Suspicious Transaction.—Last November a wagon was missing from the yard of President B. Young, and its whereabouts was not discovered till the other day, when it was found in possession of a resident of the 5th Ward, who said he found it about three blocks west of his residence, but he acknowledges to never having acquainted anybody with the manner in which he came into possession of the wagon, and that he did not make the least attempt to find the owner. He will have to give an account of himself before Justice Pyper.

A wagon is rather a large article to find casually lying around loose.

More About Coal and Things.—Last evening Mr. Jeremiah Gibson, an indefatigable prospector, who has made quite a number of useful discoveries, showed us a genuine specimen of coal, which he said was taken from a deposit recently discovered by himself and Mr. James R. Shaw, within five miles of this city. There is no question about the genuine character of the specimen, the only question now necessary to decide as to the great importance of the discovery is the extent of the deposit. Accompanying the specimen of coal were some pieces of shale, which material was taken from the location before the genuine carboniferous material was reached. Also a specimen of plumbago, or black lead, suitable for the manufacture of stove polish, lead pencils, etc.

Discharge of J. W. Haskin.—J. W. Haskin, under arrest for forgery on a requisition from the Governor of Utah, and who was to have appeared before the Fourth District Court to-day on a writ of *habeas corpus*, is out of his trouble. An order from Governor Booth revoking the warrant of arrest was received yesterday by the Chief of Police. This settles the matter. The warrant was issued on the requisition during the absence of Governor Booth, by one of the clerks at the capital, who had in his possession blank warrants with the Governor's signature attached. *S. F. Chronicle, Jan. 19.*

The evidence presented to the Governor does not corroborate the charge that Haskin was a "fugitive from justice."—*Sacramento Union, Jan. 19.*

The Bodies.—A man who left the scene of the disastrous snow-