

generally would find little cause for re-

gret if they were to do so, for the

provocation which the French had for

making war upon China was but slight

to begin with, and it has been

justified to an unreasonable extent

without justification.

If, as is asserted, the Chinese have

European officers, it is not at all

improbable that success will be

attended to them now that the tide

has turned. Though not a fighting na-

tion, it is reasonable that the Chinese

have learned something in regard to the

art of war through their intercourse

with other nations since the time of

their former invasions, when a handful

of Europeans could rout their hordes

as if they were so many sheep.

The probability is that some mighty

changes will soon take place among the

ruling powers of the earth, and it is

not unreasonable to regard the present

war clouds which are hovering in

various quarters of the earth's horizon

as foreshadowing them. The Latter-

day Saints will look with interest for

their development.

Your Brethren,

JOHN TAYLOR,

GEORGE Q. CANNON,

Of the First Presidency of the Church

of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

MAN PROPOSES BUT GOD

DISPOSES.

According to the dispatches published

elsewhere in this issue, the Utah

Commissioners have had an interview

with President Cleveland, who listened

to a verbal report of their proceedings

in this Territory and a statement of

their plans for the future, and not only

fully approved of the same, but prom-

ised to help the Administration

in the efforts being made

to "root out the practice of polygamy."

It is also asserted that the Attorney-

General has given them similar assur-

ances.

From this and the fact that the Senate

has adjourned without any changes

being made in Utah officers, it would

seem that the unfavorable system of

persecution which has been waged

against the Latter-day Saints for some

time past, under cover of law, but in

opposition to the Constitution of our

country, as well as justice and the com-

mon rights of human nature, is kept

up until a higher Power than that of

man shall intercede in behalf of this

oppressed people.

It does not yet appear that the Presi-

dent or Attorney General have ever

thought to inquire, or considered it

necessary to do so, whether there is

another side to the story they have

heard, or whether there is a possibility

of the clamoring of the populace for

harsh and extra-judicial measures in

dealing with the "Mormons" being but

a repetition of that which greeted the

ears of Pontius Pilate when the death

of Jesus was demanded—a call for

vengeance upon the innocent. Possibly

they have had no very serious

thoughts in connection with the loosing

of the victim, or the withdrawal of the

protective power that they might

extend to the same, in response to the

popular clamor. We prefer to think

that such is the case to believing that

the more deliberate course was

recruited to them with a full know-

ledge of the situation and imagined

they could wash their hands and free

themselves from all guilt in the matter.

Realizing the condemnation that such

action would involve, we still, for

their sake at least, cherish the hope

that they will see the injustice being

done to their people and use their power

to avert it.

The Latter-day Saints, however, are

not relying upon the power of man to

deliver them. They look unto God, the

Author of their religion, the Being

whom they worship, to afford them

the necessary succor in the hour of

trial, knowing that "man proposes, but

God disposes," and that He will suffer

their agonies to go no farther than

the gates of their empire, but it now

seems that they have presumed a little

too much on the non-combative dispo-

sition of their opponents. It now ap-

pears that the Chinese have had a pur-

pose in submitting to the aggressions

of their enemy until the army of the

latter advanced to a position in which

they could be resisted to the best pos-

sible advantage, and the resistance

then offered with such telling effect

was evidently a complete surprise, not

only to the French army but to the

French nation.

Their present humilation and char-

ge must be fully equal to their former

arrogance and bragado. There are

probably no more effective warriors in

the world than the French while they

are successful—they are dashing, im-

petuous, desperate, but when once

defeat overtakes them, a sort of har-

dic spirit is apt to take possession of

them, under the influence of which

they are as likely to injure one an-

other as the enemy. The principal

destruction in and about Paris during

the Franco-Prussian war was caused

by the French people themselves—the

Communists, who, Vandal-like, des-

troyed without discrimination. As a

nation they are very mercurial—up one

hour, down the next; excited and

very readily panic-stricken and de-

moralized—and if the reports that reach

the telegraph are to be relied upon

their condition is approaching the

EXPRESSIONS FROM THE

PEOPLE.

THE SOCIAL PHASE OF AN IMPORTANT

QUESTION.

Editor Deseret News:

There is a social side to the

PLURAL MARRIAGE PROBLEM,

which certainly should attract some at-

tention from those who are endeavor-

ing to subject the Saints to legal pros-

ecution for polygamous cohabitation. It

is very noticeable that the majority of

the cases for which prosecutions have

been commenced, are not those in

which the law of 1862, after its constitu-

tional amendment had been de-

clared by the Supreme court, but for

cohabitation with wives long since re-

ceived into the polygamous households.

Some of these relationships were