

# DESERET NEWS.

## WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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[From Wednesday's Daily, Dec. 7.]

### UTAH AND THE MESSAGE.

THE message of President Arthur, a portion of which we published last evening, is concluded in this evening's issue of the NEWS. It is a voluminous but statesmanlike document. It has evidently been prepared with great care. All the prominent national topics are treated of to some extent, and many recommendations are offered which will doubtless receive due consideration from Congress. The absence of all attempts at flowery language, and the plain, straightforward manner of approaching every subject touched upon, are distinguishing features of this able state paper.

To the people of this Territory, that portion of the message referring to polygamy will be of the greatest interest. It has been the custom for the Executive to refer to the marriage system which exists in Utah, at the opening of each Congress for a great many sessions. It has been exalted into a national question by the ill-advised and intemperate zeal of its opponents. Properly it is but a local matter, being confined within the limits of this Territory and having no bearing upon national affairs. But President Arthur has found himself, like several of his predecessors, in a position requiring him to take official notice of a subject which, but for the factitious importance which has been attached to it by zealots, would not be likely to figure in the politics of the United States.

The whole country has been worked up into great excitement over the simple fact that a small community in one of the Territories believe in the rightfulness, under certain religious regulations, of having more wives than one at the same time, and that a portion of the people carry their belief into practical effect. This has been magnified and distorted by sectarian preachers and a few reckless persons with designs on the property and positions of the leading "Mormons," one side of the subject being held up to public view while the other has been studiously kept down, until the most absurd and incorrect ideas concerning it have obtained and now pass for acknowledged facts, and the head of the nation finds himself so beleaguered by excited anti-polygamists, that he is compelled to notice the object of their mania in his address to Congress upon national affairs.

President Arthur had to say something on the polygamy question, or he would have been assailed from every quarter whence the voice of religious bigotry arises in the land. It is quite probable that he understands the facts no better than many others who descend upon the subject. He has no reliable information that the law of 1862 is being violated to any extent in Utah. He has merely accepted as true a common rumor. Those who circulate it admit that they have no means of determining whether their stories are true or false. They go on repeating them all the same, the pulpit and the press catch up the story, it is wafted upon the wings of the lightning, it is forced upon the attention of Congress and the President, and statements are made concerning it in official documents which would be found extremely difficult of proof.

The President complains that the law has in very rare instances been enforced. Whose fault is that? Certainly that cannot be consistently laid at the door of the "Mormons." If officials have been tardy and inefficient, let the blame rest where it belongs. He also states that polygamy is the "corner stone" of the "Mormon" Church, which shows that he has not been correctly informed. The "Mormon" Church existed for many years without polygamy. Indeed, correctly speaking, polygamy is not now and never has been even a tenet of the "Mormon"

faith. Our religious system of marriage is different altogether from that which is known in the world as polygamy. But setting that consideration aside, our plural wife system is not and has not been the "corner stone" of the Church. It has become an essential part of our creed, but not more so than many other features of our faith. Its opponents have forced it into prominence and given it that position in the public mind, while it is in reality but one of the constituent parts of our ecclesiastical institution, not chief nor of greater importance than many others.

The settlement of members of our Church in other Territories besides Utah, referred to by the President, should be a matter of no "apprehension" to anybody, much less to the Congress of the United States. The "Mormons" make the best colonizers who ever grappled with the difficulties of a desert country. They are spreading fertility and beauty upon the barren spots of the public domain in the West, and making wealth for the nation. They keep the laws of the Territories in which they penetrate and conduct themselves as peaceable, thrifty and valuable citizens. Their success and extension are indeed "calculated to excite the liveliest interest," but the "apprehension" is all manufactured by their enemies and is a bug-a-boo to excite the country still more on the "Mormon" question.

The President's recommendations for the modification of the law of evidence will no doubt be well weighed before action is taken. The laws of evidence are not founded upon the statutes of the United States, but upon well established principles of justice and equity which have become interwoven with the jurisprudence of all English speaking peoples. To subvert or unsettle them may prove a serious matter to many more people than those against whom the measure is designed. And it will be found that rules of evidence and enactments specially framed to work in but one direction; may be turned in other channels and produce effects never intended in the original departure from venerated rules and principles.

The concluding sentence in the President's remarks on this question will not greatly please those who are at the bottom of all the excitement about Utah. He announces his "determined purpose to co-operate with Congress in any lawful and discreet measures which may be proposed" to suppress polygamy. This shows that President Arthur does not endorse the wild and violent schemes which have been put forward for the purpose of breaking up the "Mormons" and destroying every vestige of republican government in Utah. He does not pipe to the tune of the extremists and conspirators. He would proceed in a conservative manner, and would not endorse anything unlawful or indiscreet. This evinces that, however mistaken he may be as to the actual facts of the case, he is given to the methods of the statesman and not to the vagaries of the political or ecclesiastical fanatic.

There are many important features in the message, some of which will displease the people of the West and gratify the people of the East, and others that will be approved by the whole country. But we have not space to discuss them at present. President Arthur has disappointed the prophets of evil who predicted disaster to follow his accession to the Presidency, and is growing rapidly in the confidence of the country. His message will aid in still further advancing him in the public estimation.

### THE DELEGATE'S SEAT.

THERE has been a rumor on the streets to-day that the seat of Delegate to Utah had been awarded to the person not elected. This has not been confirmed up to the hour of our going to press. If it should prove to be correct, it should cause no particular apprehension. The seating of the Delegate is not final. The contest is consequent upon it. The dispute of to-day turns upon the question of who holds the certificate. If it is decided that Murray's false document given to Campbell is a valid certificate, while his true official statement, certifying to the facts of the election, is not a certificate, Campbell may be seated. But the inquiry into the merits of the case will ensue, and when the

facts are made plain, only wilful trampling upon the plainest principles of justice and republicanism, will prevent the People's Delegate from securing the position to which he has been duly elected by almost the entire vote of this Territory. Some particulars of the progress of the case will be found in our dispatches.

### THE DELEGATE'S SEAT.

THE Omaha Herald has this to say on the delegateship:

"If the election of Cannon as delegate for Utah does not hold, it looks as if the people ought to have a voice in saying who shall have the place. Campbell, who claims the seat, can not make any stronger pretensions to it than that he was a candidate, for he was absolutely snowed under at the polls. Cannon received about ten votes to his one."

"This view of the case is clear and the argument is sound. There would be but a short dispute over it in Congress if the country was not excited so foolishly over what is called 'the Mormon question.' It is only by linking the two together that the promoters of the conspiracy can hope for any degree of success."

The present position appears to be this: The possession of a certificate of election is usually taken as *prima facie* evidence of the right to a seat. In the case of a contest from Mississippi, Lynch and Chalmers each claimed the seat. While Lynch is said to have had the majority of votes, Chalmers obtained the Governor's certificate and on this *prima facie* evidence was sworn in as a member, leaving Lynch to contest the seat. The same rule is claimed in Campbell's case, and in support of the claim it is argued that on objection made to the swearing in of Mr. Cannon when Gen. Maxwell contested, the possession of the Governor's certificate decided the objection, and Mr. Cannon was admitted on the strength of that certificate.

But there are two points in the present dispute which are not to be found in the cases alluded to. They are these: Mr. Cannon has a certificate of election in fact, though not in the usual form. The Governor has certified over his signature and the official seal of the Territory, that George Q. Cannon received the greatest number of votes. And it is the person having the greatest number of votes who is, according to law, to be declared duly elected. But Mr. Campbell also has a certificate, which is not in due form any more or scarcely more than the other. It does not certify that Allen G. Campbell had the greatest number of votes. This would have been too glaring a lie for any man in his senses to certify to. But it declares that Campbell "is the person being a citizen of the United States who received the greatest number of votes." This implies that the Governor has decided a question of citizenship, over which he has no more jurisdiction than a shoeblack. It discloses the fact that he has assumed the functions of the House of Representatives in passing upon the qualifications of a member-elect. It proves that he has presumed to exercise judicial authority. And all this goes to show that the certificate of Campbell's election is a fraud, and not such a document as is contemplated in the law.

If it be decided that Mr. Cannon's certificate is informal, by the same reasoning Mr. Campbell's document must be also condemned. This would leave Utah without a Delegate and another election would be the consequence. And this would be far more reasonable and republican than to admit to the seat a candidate who was overwhelmingly rejected by the people who are to be represented; who polled many less hundreds than the Delegate polled thousands; and who does not truly represent any section of the community.

If it were not for the present unpopular outcry against "Mormonism," there is no doubt that the McBride-Murray infamy would be stamped upon by the House of Representatives with the indignation which it should arouse in the breasts of both Democrats and Republicans. And yet it is a matter as separate and distinct from "the Mormon question," as the tariff is from the management of Alaska. But there is so much unreason in the anti-"Mormon" agitation, that it is not surprising to see men who depend upon the popular vote for their positions pretending to con-

found the two, and allowing the voice of prejudice against "Mormonism" to influence them in deciding on the delegateship because the rightful claimant is a "Mormon."

An effort is being made to bring party politics into this issue, the Democrats to support Mr. Cannon's position and the Republicans Mr. Campbell's. But it is not a party question. It affects all parties alike. If an Executive may overleap the bounds of his authority and presume to decide on the merits of candidates in one place, the same thing can be done in another, and thus a most dangerous precedent would be established, destructive alike to Republican and Democratic principles. There is something more in this contest than the mere seating of a Delegate for the Territory of Utah. It is not connected with "Mormonism" any more than with another religion. It is a question of countenancing a palpable fraud, of strangling the voice of majorities, of winking at Executive usurpation, and of setting at naught one of the fundamental rules for the government of the political system of this free republic. The conclusion will be awaited with more than common or local interest, and will not be reached by the seating of either claimant. The case will have to be tested on its full merits.

### THE WORK HAS COMMENCED.

THE anticipated special legislation against the "Mormons" for the present session of Congress, commenced on Thursday, by the introduction into the Senate of "a bill for recording religious marriages in the Territories; also one to make a wife a competent witness in a trial for bigamy in the Territories of the United States." These bills were both presented by Senator Vest, so we learn by telegraph.

There will no doubt be quite a number of measures proposed to deal with the "Mormon" question, as many members will be anxious to please their constituents and be ready to yield to that Church influence in State affairs which is being exercised to a very great extent in these times. There is a big noise over alleged connection between "Mormonism" and Utah politics, while at the same time Methodism and other isms are interfering in national politics, and urging legislation with all the Church influence they can command. It appears to be a heinous offense for "Mormon" Elders to have anything to do with public secular affairs, but quite proper for Episcopal bishops, Presbyterian priests or Methodist preachers to engage actively in political affairs, especially in bringing a pressure to bear upon Congress antagonistic to the Latter-day Saints.

We may expect many bills to be introduced designed to "settle the affairs of Utah," and some of them may find a place among the statutes of the country, but it would be a wise thing for the Government, before endorsing anything of this kind, to find out the facts of the matter in hand, and not proceed to enact special laws to meet conditions about which there is so much ignorance, nor rush into extreme measures at the dictation of prejudiced and violent sectaries.

The attacks upon "Mormonism" are not new or unexpected. They will be renewed from time to time, as the Adversary of the truth finds opportunity to work in the souls of men, and the effect will be to keep it is great work prominent before the world and aid in its diffusion and ultimate victory over error. The hand of the Lord is in it all.

### LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY, DEC. 8

**Taken East.**—Myers, the alleged forger, was taken east on this morning's train, by Sheriff Miller, of Omaha. Good riddance.

**Committed to Jail.**—Yesterday, John Peterson and Alma Evans, charged with committing burglary at North Ogden, Weber County, on Monday, were brought down to this city by deputy U. S. Marshal Vandercok. In default of \$300 bonds, they have been committed to jail to await the action of the grand jury of the Third Judicial District. Both are young men.

**Floating Ties.**—The Territorial Enquirer says:

"Dan Jones is engaged with a

number of men in getting ties recently floated down the river to the railroad bridge, on to the cars for transportation to the Salt Lake and Western road near Lehi. Mr. Jones' venture in cutting ties in Provo canyon and floating them down the river, a distance of thirty miles, has proven a success in every respect, despite the unfavorable predictions of many. He expects to get out several thousand more ties by the same course before winter is through."

**Accidents at Brigham City.**—Our correspondent A. C., wrote from Brigham City on the 7th: A serious accident happened to William Bowden, aged about 18 years, last Sunday about four p. m. In riding on horseback at a rapid speed and turning suddenly at the corner in front of the residence of W. L. Watkins, the animal being poorly shod, fell on the slippery ground, precipitating its rider under it, which caused his leg to be broken in three places.

A couple of days before this Bowden's younger brother Benjamin, aged 16, hurt one of his eyes dangerously by pouring hot lead into what he supposed to be an empty cartridge, which exploded. He may, by care, save the sight of the eye. Dr. Davis is attending to them both at their father's house, whose name is William Bowden. The community deeply sympathize with Bro. Bowden's family in their affliction. He himself has long been deprived of the active use of one of his arms on account of paralytic strokes. The case of the unfortunate family should be well considered, which we have no doubt it will be.

**For Sore Throat.**—In these times when throat complaints are prevalent in this locality, the following, taken from an exchange, may be useful. Anyhow it is simple, harmless, and worthy of a trial:

"For many years past—indeed, we may say, during the whole of a life of more than forty years—we have been subjected to a sore throat, and more particularly to a dry, hacking cough, which is not only distressing to ourselves, but to our friends and those with whom we are brought into business contact."

Last fall we were induced to try what virtue there was in common salt. We commenced by using it three times a day—morning, noon, and night. We dissolved a large tablespoonful of pure table salt in about a half small tumbler of water. With this we gargle the throat most thoroughly just before mealtime. The result has been that during the entire winter we were not only free from coughs and colds, but the dry, hacking cough has entirely disappeared.

We attribute these satisfactory results solely to the use of salt gargle, and most cordially recommend a trial of it to those who are subject to diseases of the throat. Many persons who have never tried the salt gargle have the impression that it is unpleasant. Such is not the case. On the contrary, it is pleasant, and after a few days' use no person who loves a nice clean mouth and a sharpener of the appetite will abandon it.

### SUDDEN DEATH AT SMITHFIELD.

MOTHER NOBLE DEPARTS TO THE LIFE BEYOND.

A very much respected lady, Mary Ann Harper Noble, daughter of John and Rachel Harper and wife of William G. Noble, died suddenly at Smithfield, Cache Co., on Wednesday, Nov. 30th. She was greatly respected and widely known, especially by the English Saints and many of the Elders who went on missions to England in earlier times.

Deceased had been visiting a few of her neighbors during the day, and seemed in her usual health. At supper, she was hearty and jovial. She rose from the table and stepped out of the house. Not returning in from 10 to 15 minutes, her daughter Laura became anxious and went to look for her and found her dead a few yards from the door. Assistance was soon at hand, and various means were tried to resuscitate her, but to no avail.

She was born at Pudsey, near Leeds, Yorkshire, England, in December, 1809; married Wm. G. Noble, December 7th, 1830.

She was baptized February 27th, 1840, at Irchester, England, and emigrated to Utah with her husband, in 1863; settled in Smithfield in the fall of the same year, where