

added by President Brigham Young and others. Also that such ordinances as the Prophet Joseph taught were not to be administered anywhere under any circumstances except in a Temple:

SPRINGVILLE, Jany. 2nd, 1884.

Editor Deseret News:

I noticed an article in the DESERET NEWS of January 25th, 1884, in relation to Church Doctrine. I can testify that on the 3rd day of May, 1842, Joseph Smith the Prophet called upon five or six, viz: Shadrack Roundy, Noah Rogers, Dimick B. Huntington, Daniel Cairns, and myself (I am not certain but that Hosea Stout was there also) to meet with him (the Prophet) in his business office (the upper part of his brick store). He told us that the object he had was for us to go to work and fit up that room preparatory to giving endowments to a few Elders that he might give unto them all the keys of power pertaining to the Aronic and Melchisedec Priesthoods.

We therefore went to work making the necessary preparations, and everything was arranged representing the interior of a temple as much as the circumstances would permit, he being with us dictating everything. He gave us many items that were very interesting to us, which sank with deep weight upon my mind, especially after the temple was finished at Nauvoo, and I had received the ordinances in which I was among the first, as I had been called upon to work in the Temple as one of the hands during the winter. Some weeks previous to the dedication he told us that we should have the privilege of receiving the whole of the ordinances in due time. The history of Joseph Smith speaks for itself. But I can and do testify that I know of a surety that room was fitted up by his order which we finished in the forenoon of the said 4th of May, 1842. And he gave us to understand that he intended to have everything done by him that was in his power while he remained with us. He said his work was nearly done and he should roll the burden of the kingdom upon the shoulders of the Twelve. I am the only one living that I know of, who helped to fit up that room, except Hosea Stout, if he was there.

I am, most respectfully, your brother in the Covenant.

LUCIUS N. SCOVIL.

NEXT-OF-KIN SWINDLES.

AMONG the swindles which have deceived and robbed many honest but credulous persons in this country is the next-of-kin humbug, by which large sums of money are pocketed in London, by pretended law-firms which prey on expectant heirs. An illustration of this swindle is furnished by the so-called "Carpenter estate of England." Not only private individuals, but large associations of people by the name of Carpenter have squandered no end of money, in feeling unscrupulous English lawyers for hunting up a supposed great fortune, left by one Wm. Carpenter, in the year 1700.

It is alleged that this person died at the age of 97, leaving \$200,000,000 to his American descendants, and that several claims have been made by American Carpenters for the money which were disallowed, because proof of heirship was not established. Others have been encouraged by these failures to pay money to trace up their genealogy and enter claims for the property. Among these are the members of "The Carpenter Fund Association." They organized and sent delegates to England to try and recover the property. Latterly one of these associations employed James Usher, of New York, who went to England, and in a thorough and exhaustive investigation established conclusively the utter fallacy of the whole thing.

There is, it appears, no such Carpenter estate in existence. The particulars of the search, with the genealogy of many American members of the Carpenter family, are published in a work issued by Mr. Usher, and the wild goose chase into which many reputable people have been deluded, is plainly shown up.

The deceptions of the so-called claim lawyers and next-of-kin humbugs are laid bare, and we refer to this case and the work of Mr. Usher as a warning to those who may be tempted to spend money on pretended estates waiting for claimants, but which are only baits set by unscrupulous scoundrels to catch the unwary and squeeze them financially dry. Mr. Usher has done a good work in exposing the Carpenter delusion.

DISFRANCHISEMENT FOR BELIEF.

RECONSTRUCTION and revolutionary bills are so frequently introduced in Congress, that their incongruous character does not appear so striking as formerly. Familiarity with their absurdities seems to take off the keen edge of their glaring inconsistency. It is much the same in this regard as with the most flagrant crimes in the world. They are becoming so common that their enormity is not sensed, and they

are viewed as a matter of course. For the reason that so many ridiculous measures have been presented in Congress for the special injury of the "Mormons," perhaps the irrationality of the bill introduced by Representative Poland will not be commensurately realized. This is all the more likely because it will not become law.

Although we have no apprehension that the bill will become law, the very fact that such men as Mr. Poland, whose views are so monstrously unreplicable, can be elected to represent a constituency in the National Legislature is a serious menace to our system of free government. It is deplorable and dangerous also to the public weal and to popular rights that there are apparently other men occupying similar positions, whose views and inclinations have the same despotic tendency. Should the number of such representatives increase until they gain the ascendancy in the chief law-making body of the nation, then good bye to popular rights and popular liberty, for the tendency to centralization of power will be so great as to ultimately run into a species of autocracy in place of perpetuating a genuine republic. But as with the people, so with their representatives, the rule laid down by a modern philosophical writer being that the people have just such a government as they merit.

Mr. Poland's measure provides for political proscription on account of religious belief. If the measure were to pass, every member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Utah and Idaho would be disfranchised, as they would be unable to take an oath to the effect that they are not members of that religious organization.

This bill is not aimed at any practice of those against whom it is intended to operate, because it has been demonstrated that a comparatively small percentage of the Latter-day Saints are living in the plural marriage system. The greatly preponderating membership of the Church have never been and are not in that relation, consequently it is their belief, pure and simple, for which they would be punished with political serfdom. They are to have, according to Mr. Poland, their political rights ruthlessly torn from them because of the existence in them of a condition of mind over which they have no control, belief, or mental conviction being the result of evidence.

Unhappily Mr. Poland is not alone in his views expressed in his disgraceful measure, regarding the power of Congress to legislate against the religious or other belief of any body of citizens of this country. A measure proposed by Mr. Willits a few years ago, incorporated substantially the same idea. It may be fallaciously supposed that there would be no harm to any other community than this in wiping out the rights of voice in local self-government of the "Mormons." But the principle is the same wherever and on whomsoever applied, and fraught with danger to the country. No entering wedge of this character could be safely permitted. It could not be inserted or driven into any portion of the body-politic without a ghastly split being the result, subject to be widened to a chasm by designing demagogues. Public men who have such loose ideas in relation to popular rights are as dangerous to the commonwealth as the unprincipled socialist. The result of the operations of each, if carried to a successful issue, would be the same—the disruption of the political structure.

Probably the most absurd feature of Mr. Poland's bill and nearly all the measures inimical to the Latter-day Saints is the claim that they are intended to abolish plural marriage, when it does not appear that that is the real object at all. If the genuine aim is to disrupt, abolish or destroy the Church, it does not seem that they would have that effect, but the opposite, for such enactments would certainly come under the head of persecution for conscience' sake, which has the effect of consolidating the faithful. Measures of that character could only put the members of the Church upon their choice between political disqualification and the doctrines of their faith. The overwhelming bulk of selection would necessarily be on the side of the latter.

All forceful or compulsory methods of changing the religious views of any people are necessarily futile. "Convince a man against his will, he's of the same opinion still."

OUR FRIENDS FROM WYOMING.

The excursion of an entire Legislative Assembly of one State or Territory to another is a somewhat novel incident. We do not recollect of such an occurrence before, but something new keeps turning up in the great interior west all the time.

The visit to our city of the members of the Legislature of our sister Territory of Wyoming is a pleasant event, and it is nothing but right that steps should be taken to make their stay here as agreeable as can be. In view of the hospitable treatment accorded them, the Wyoming legislators are more than likely to carry away agreeable recollections of the occasion.

Wyoming and Utah have many interests and objects in common. The development of two contiguous and extensive regions of country that are

comparatively new is the aim of the people of both. The laws necessary for the attainment of such a purpose must be largely if not entirely similar, and while the intents of the law-making representatives are considerably of the same complexion, it is gratifying for an opportunity to be afforded to the members of each of the legislative bodies to become personally acquainted, that the friendly feeling existing on account of a goodly degree of unity of object may be further consolidated by personal contact.

Both Territories have shown an advancement of liberality that is worthy the emulation not only of other Territories, but the States, as they are in the van of progress in regard to the recognition of woman's true standing in politics, giving her a voice in the choice of those in whose hands is placed the reigns of official power. In common with the great bulk of our citizens we bid the Wyoming legislators a cordial welcome.

The programme of entertainment for the excursionists has, so far as published, been prepared and was to be conducted under the direction of the Territorial civil authorities. A new feature was, however, added to-day. Seeing the objective point of our Wyoming friends is Salt Lake City, the municipal authorities have entered into arrangements to give to the members of both Legislatures a grand ball, which will take place at the Salt Lake Theatre on Friday night. Doubtless it will be a brilliant affair, as its management will be in hands eminently fitted to give it that character.

BANCROFT'S HISTORY OF THE PACIFIC STATES.

We have received volume ten of Hubert Howe Bancroft's magnificent work to which we have several times made extended reference. This volume is the sixth that has been issued, although it is numbered X. in the series. Some of the reasons for this are thus given by the publisher:

"It has been deemed advisable, for several reasons, to deviate from strict numerical order in the publication of the several volumes of this History, and pursue a more chronological course. This, instead of continuing the annals of Central America, as presented in the second volume of the series, the fourth volume of the series is next issued, which is the first volume of the history of Mexico. The three succeeding volumes will bring the histories of Mexico and Central America, side by side, down to about 1800. These will be followed by several volumes on regions toward the north, for approximately the same period; for example, the earlier volumes on the North Mexican States, California, the Northwest Coast, and Oregon, New Mexico and Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Washington, Idaho and Montana, British Columbia and Alaska may be issued at any time.

This plan of publication has been adopted, not without careful deliberation. The reasons for such a plan are these: First, the territorial peculiarities of the subject seem to demand it. There is a natural order in which to present events, an order alike best for the author and for the student. So presented, the work, as a whole, constitutes a more continuous and unbroken story, and therefore better holds the attention of the reader. Again, this method gives to the people of the several sections, parts of their own history at much earlier dates than would be possible otherwise."

The value of this great work of Mr. Bancroft's cannot now be estimated. Each new volume as it issues from the press, bears additional evidence of the vast research, immense labor and marked ability which have been devoted to its production. Original Spanish manuscripts, the existence of which is comparatively unknown, have been brought out of obscurity to add to the importance of the volume just printed, and the History of the North American States from 1531 to 1800 is told in fine language, and a style that cannot fail to interest the ordinary reader, while it furnishes a feast to the cultivated mind, and especially to the student of American history. The information embodied in the volumes that have already appeared is of priceless worth, and when completed, the work will take its place among the greatest literary productions of the age.

A VIGOROUS PROTEST.

A PLEA FOR CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS RIGHTS AND FREE INSTITUTIONS.

The following pungent articles are from *The Sword of the Spirit*, of Hart Michigan:

"Madness seems to rule the hour," coupled with humbug and inconsistency. One of the latest exhibitions comes in the clamor for Congress to abolish a republican form of government. The excuse now is the Mormon question. But under whatever garb or guise it may come up it is still the same question, can our supposed free government establish a monarchy? If it can under that pretext, it can make another pretext to establish it in other places under other pretexts. The staid Senators Edmunds and Hoar have brought forward bills to do that very thing. People can do a great many things under a religious intolerance and a popular clamor that would look heinous

stripped naked of its deformity and oppression. For instance in the land of Hoar and Edmunds, once in its short history it could burn witches and quakers with as much gusto and in as great a sense of right, as it can now assume to tear up free government root and branch in the far west, under the plea of God and morality.

We do not believe any sect in the universe is right, and all of the rest wrong. We believe there is some good in nearly all of them and much error, prejudice and unrealized superstition. But we believe that all have the 'inalienable right to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences.' We do not except any where there is no violence or force perpetrated. If you except any from the rule, except all. Be no respecters of persons or sects. The arguments in favor of the punishment and destruction of witches and quakers in former New England times, were just as potent then as the arguments now are for the proposed trampling of the Constitution of the United States under foot and establishing a kingly or viceroyal despotism in the western territories.

There are millions of people who believe differently from what we do—yet we would not have them disfranchised for that reason. We are not a convert to the tenets of Catholicism, Judaism, Shakerism, Mormonism, Swedenborgianism, Spiritualism, and a thousand of the other isms of the day—but we would raise a rebuking voice against divesting any of them of their civil rights just the same. The great popular hobby and clamor of to-day is to strip the so-called Mormons, not only of what they believe to be their religious rights, but besides that their civil rights. Persecute them if you will for their religious opinions; but when grave statesmen propose to wring from them their civil rights; to take from them their right to vote on account of their religious opinions, they become violators of the Constitution they have sworn to keep inviolate.

OUR VISITORS FROM WYOMING.

THE welcome extended to the Wyoming Legislature and the visitors accompanying them, proffered by the Utah Assembly and the municipal authorities of this city, is but an expression of the general public sentiment. We are all pleased to receive our friends and to show to our sister Territory that we hail her as one of the growing commonwealths of the nation, that are yet to develop into mighty States and give greater glory to the Union than any of their predecessors have been able to impart.

Although Utah is joined by territorial ties to our neighbor on the East, there are many features of our social and political life which are not clearly comprehended by the people of Wyoming. During the brief stay of these welcome guests it will be impossible for them to obtain much insight into all the peculiarities which distinguish Utah from other communities. But they will be able to perceive that the majority of the citizens of this Territory are men and women with sound hearts, hospitable feelings, progressive ideas and good motives, all unmistakably manifest in what has been done towards the development of the resources of this mountain country and the beautifying and adornment of homes and cities.

Our visitors give evidence of culture and advancement, and their appearance and expressions speak well for the growth and progress of the Territory they represent. We trust that they will thoroughly enjoy their brief sojourn in the "City of the Saints," and that they will carry to their homes many pleasant memories of Utah scenes and Utah People.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A boy has recovered \$10,500 damages from the New York Central Railroad for the loss of a foot. Speaking of the incident an exchange says, taking the value of this foot as a basis, and figuring up the remainder of his anatomy on that estimate, it will be observed that a whole boy is worth a great deal of money. So much, indeed, that very few people would care to invest in a boy at those figures.

An exchange says: "At last accounts Austin, the Capital city of Texas, was in the hands of a drunken desperado named Ben Thompson. He had cleaned out the banquet hall of the Cattle Men's Convention, whipped a correspondent, driven out all the type-setters on a daily paper, pled the forms, and taken possession of the court before which he was arraigned. The Governor will probably declare the town in a state of siege.

An exchange very truly remarks: "This world is not made for a tomb, but a garden. You are to be a seed, not a death. Plant yourself, and you will sprout; bury yourself and you can only decay. For a dead opportunity, there is no resurrection. The only enjoyment, the only use to be attained in this world, must be obtained on the wing. Each day brings its own benefit; but it has none to spare. What escapes to-day is escaped forever. Tomorrow has no overflow to atone for the lost yesterday."

Important from Egypt. There is more important news from Egypt. El Mahdi's forces have captured Sinkat,

utterly destroying the garrison with the exception of a few prisoners, who were taken by the Arabs. This makes the fourth point of greater or less importance taken by the rebels within a couple of days or so. Suakim, a still more important place, is considered in great danger, and as the inhabitants of that city are paralyzed with fear, probably but slender resistance would be offered to the distinguished personage known as the "False Prophet." The British Government feels apprehensive, the situation being exceedingly grave. El Mahdi is reopening the Eastern question most effectually.



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