

GEORGE Q. CANNON,
BISHOP OF THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS.

Wednesday, December 4, 1879.

THEIR SIDE OF IT.

A mass meeting of Mormon women in favor of the doctrine of plural marriage was held in Salt Lake City, about 1,200 women attended the meeting. The women were present, except the reporters, and very few of the women were among the audience. From what we can gather, the meeting was fairly satisfactory. And what do these women, who must know the meaning of plural marriage from experience, say in regard to the twin relics? They were enthusiastic in their approval of it as a company of Methodists would be over a class meeting. They declared plural marriage to be a divine institution and one that was fraught with blessings to the world. This declaration does not prove the fact for we know that many heretofore social courses have been declared blessings. But the distinction to be drawn is that those who profited by the social course have heretofore profited it, while here, on the other hand, the supposed victims are the subjects. We do not remember to have heard that during the existence of slavery the slaves held a mass meeting to praise the peculiar institution. Perhaps this mass meeting simply bears witness to the excellence of Mormon discipline. If so, that discipline can not only keep unruly passions in check, but can change human nature. There can certainly be no objection to plural marriage—there is every reason in favor of discussing the question in all its bearings. The question in this kind cannot justify claim immunity from criticism. But discussion is one thing and repression is another. The people of the United States should carefully avoid anything that savors of oppression for conscience sake. Majorities may shift. The minority of to-day may be the majority of tomorrow. If it is once declared that the majority may prescribe the opinions of the minority, what hope would there be of the continuance of toleration? The practice of plural marriage may be denounced as very odious and reprehensible. And yet there are millions of Mahomedans in India who are polygamists and at the same time good subjects of Her Majesty, the Queen of Great Britain and Emperor of India. The British authorities do not attempt to change their opinions nor degrade this practice into a crime. A practice might be odious and barbarous and yet it might be better to permit it to die out through growth in civilization than to root it out by fire and sword.

The above is clipped from the N. Y. Graphic of Nov. 25th. A previous number of that illustrated paper contained views of several prominent buildings in this city, and a well written description and historical sketch of Utah, undisputed by any of the non-mormon and aboriginal writers. The accompanying contributions to newspaper literature. The Graphic has placed this subject very fairly before its wide circle of readers. We fully endorse the proposition that "there is every reason in favor of discussing the question of plural marriage in all its forms." We do not claim for this doctrine "immunity from criticism." On the contrary we invite it. But, as the Graphic says, "discussion is one thing and repression another. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has never objected to the discussion of any of its principles. It has thrown open its meeting houses and tabernacles to prominent orthodox divines who were vehemently opposed to its principal tenets. It appeals only to the conscience and the judgment of mankind. It attempts to use no force in the promulgation of its doctrine, and therefore repels any repressive measures on the part of its enemies.

"The practice of plural marriage" is denounced as very odious and reprehensible. But denunciation and proof are as different from each other as discussion and repression. And it speaks very little for the talents of the champions of enforced monogamy, or else for the position they assume, that all their efforts against plural marriage partake of the nature of force rather than of argument. Some of them call for the sword, others for mob violence, and the most of them for penitence and prisons to put it down.

Is it not a little singular, if the marriage system of Christendom is so much superior to the "Mormon" method as is claimed, that its immense advantages cannot be made apparent to us, with all the facilities at the command of "Christian" churches, societies, ministers, missionaries, journals, tracts, money, and ability? Why is it that the professed disciples of Jesus appeal, not to the Christian masses, but to the secular law? They do not attempt to convert, but are anxious to punish us. And yet it is generally admitted that the "Mormons" are sincere in their convictions of the truth of their system. Those convictions have even many of their converts, friends and native land. The proofs of their sincerity stand up in shining prominence before the world. The imputations of their most forward opponents spring from base and grovelling nature, and are the offspring of low and bestial suspicions generated in the imaginations of the depraved and dodged.

Does it not seem probable that a body of religionists who are as inquisitive as they are devoted and believing could be reached by reason better than by force? The people who come here from various nations are not gathered up as menial emigrant colonies, with the sole object of bettering their temporal condition. They are all, except the very youthful, persons who have become convinced that the religious system popularly known as "Mormonism" is a divine establishment, and they flock to Utah as its center and chief sanctuary. Such people can be approached by argument and scripture. But any kind of compulsion is persecution. In their eyes, and only tends to confirm them in

their faith and give them determination and resistance. They naturally reason with themselves that force is attempted in the absence of logic; that threats and prisons are used to supply the place of proof and logical quotations. Who can say that they are not right as well as consistent? This periodical carry against the "Mormons" is started by a very few and very insignificant individuals. It begins in Salt Lake City, and, catching the popular ear and being in accord with popular ignorance, it soon swells into a great noise, but generally subsides, like loud thunder unattended by lightning, and doing us little appreciable damage. The object of its originators is self. Utah can be made a rich Territory or State. If the "Mormons" could be driven out, they would be from Missouri and Illinois, either by mob violence or repressive laws executed by hostile officials, the conspirators imagine that they would find a fat thing. Officers, real estate, municipal and general treasures, control of the whole region and its resources. No matter how much it may be a matter, this is the whole matter in a nut shell. Our faith, our marriage relations, our peculiarities of practice or doctrine, have no real bearing upon them nor the nation. They affect us alone, and, as we consider, favorably. The prospect of delivering the "down-trodden plural wives" is the paltriest kind of rubbish; the "Mormon" women do not want to be "jellivered" in any way that their pretended champions can help them, but ask to be let alone to carry out what they most earnestly believe to be a divine command. The legislation demanded, the general pressure called for, have for their object the personal enrichment of a few adventurers and nothing else. And if the expected "Christians" of different denominations will only pause and reflect, and endeavor to be guided by the spirit of the Nazarene in their assault on what they conceive to be gross error, they will hesitate about playing into the hands of a few plotter, who care no more for God and truth than they do for the motive in our glittering schemes, or the little midgets that float on the bosom of our saline lake.

Let them agitate if they choose. Let them criticize, denounce, argue, ridicule and berate if they will. But let all Christian sects beware how they aid in the introduction of religious repression into the scheme of government in this country. For interference with the freedom of conscience and action of the "Mormons" will prove the thin end of the wedge of bigotry and intolerance, that will ultimately be driven home to the very heart of every sect but that which, at some not distant date, happens to be the dominant ecclesiastical system of the country. Their side of the question will, about that time, be as important to them, as our side of it is now to us.

BY TELEGRAPH.

THE NEW ORLEANS HINT SUPERINTENDENT.

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parts of the west in favor of repudiation than you, western people think. I have seen figures showing the low prices of all kinds of farm products, the custom of the people to attribute the hard times to the action of the Government and the belief that it is in the power of government to grant relief, have caused a dangerous sentiment to grow up. I hope the assumption will be a success when it comes John Sherman master of the United States.

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CLOAKS, CLOAKS, CLOAKS.

Ladies', Misses' and Children's

FURS! FURS!

WATERPROOF CLOTHS, ETC.

AT VERY LOW FIGURES.

H. S. ELDERIDGE, Superintendent,

Z. C. M. I.

DELTA.

F. AUERBACH & BRO.

WINTER STOCK

WE OFFER A FIRST CLASS ASSORTMENT OF

Deluxe Goods from 10c per yard upwards.

Imitation Camel's Hair Dress Goods @ 25c worth 40c.

Alpacas, best English brands, from 25c upwards per yard.

Elegant Cashmeres in black and colors at popular prices.

Genuine Camel's Hair Goods, single and double width, @ \$1.00 and \$1.75.

Heavy all wool Dress Goods, in navy blue and seal brown, @ 50c.

Double width Polonaise Cloth @ 80c per yard and upwards.

Best French Drap d'ete, from \$1.50 up; best value ever offered in this city.

Elegant Henrietta, crepe and Tulle, in black and white, @ 1.00.

Black Navy Serge, Garment, Plum, Myrtle and Olive Silks, and Silk

Elegant, very cheap.

NOVELTIES! NOVELTIES! NOVELTIES!

WALKER BROS.

LIQUORS

PICARS & C.

WHOLESALE & RETAIL

ST. LOUIS

EXCELSIOR

LAGER BEER!

Which we offer at LOWER

RATES than any other first

class beer in the market.

FULL LINE OF ALES, WINES, LIQUORS

AND CIGARS, AT BOTTOM FIGURES.

WALKER BROS. & CO.

55, MAIN STREET.

NOTICE.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

THE Boot and Shoe business of Mr. W. H. Rowe is now consolidated

with the Decker Tanning and Manufacturing Association. Mr.

Rowe has been appointed Superintendent.

WM. JENNINGS, Vice-President.

NOTICE.

TO FRIENDS AND PATRONS.

HAVING consolidated my Boot and Shoe business with the Decker

Tanning and Manufacturing Association, I hereby extend to you and

respectfully call your attention to the same. The Association is now

opening for business, and the same goods and services will be

afforded you as heretofore. Very truly yours,

WM. H. ROWE.

NOTICE.

THE Decker Tanning and Manufacturing Association is intended to meet an urgent

need of the people of Utah, and the establishment of an extensive

whole country, and to the benefit of the people of Utah. The Association

is now opening for business, and the same goods and services will be

afforded you as heretofore. Very truly yours,

WM. H. ROWE.

NOTICE.

WM. H. ROWE, Superintendent.

Manufacture and Wholesale at the Old Stand,

THE OLD BOOT

and Shoe business of Mr. W. H. Rowe is now consolidated

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