

EVENING NEWS

PUBLISHED DAILY, UNTIL 8 P.M., EXCEPTED AS FOUR O'CLOCK.

Thursday, July 8, 1850.

PRIESTLY DICTATION.

"Priestly dictation in civil affairs" is a phrase that has been very frequently repeated on the platform and throughout the press, as an intended motto, at what is popularly known as "Mormonism." That man who organizes as a priest should have anything to say on political or other secular matters, is apparently horrifying to certain classes of minds. But seeing this under our national system, all citizens are equal before the law, and a priest or other ecclesiastic has just as many legal, social and political rights as a human or an animal, why should there be so much concern about priestly influence in civil affairs? If an atheist or a scoundrel or non-religionist wields influence in civil affairs, it is considered all right so long as neither attempts to accomplish by force that which is only lawful by persuasion, argument or other rational and peaceful means. Why, then, should not a religious teacher, or recognized minister of spiritual things, be permitted to use his influence in those civil affairs in which he is just as much interested as a citizen; as the believer, or the church member?

Priestly influence, if lawfully exercised, is just as proper in all secular affairs, including politics, as commercial influence, judicial influence, gubernatorial influence, legal influence, employer's influence, or the influence of any swaying, directing, guiding power or person. If a priest uses any unlawful agency to compel a course of action, he is amenable to the law as a layman. If an ecclesiastic is possessed of judgment, experience, wisdom, or other qualification recognized by others as fitting him to give advice and direction in secular affairs, what is there in the institutions of our government, the law of the land, or good common sense to forbid him from imparting that counsel and giving that direction, particularly when it is sought for and desired?

This hackneyed cry of "priestly dictation," and the institutions of this republic, the gauntiest kind of rubbish. No priest can exercise any power over an unwilling devotee, as in some parts of the world, and should he attempt to do so, there is ample protection for his victim, both in public opinion and in the law. If a priest tells voters how to cast their votes at an election, he cannot compel obedience, and on the other hand he has just as much right to use lawful influence to induce his friends or followers to vote as he wishes, as any Federal officer, club president, political or trade boss, or other leader has or pretends to have.

To bring this right home, where it is intended to apply, the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ, of Latter-day Saints, have equal right to manage a mercantile business, run a railroad, occupy an office of any kind whatever for which they may be chosen, get up a political ticket and try to have it elected, or do any other lawful act, with any person or combination of persons not endowed with religious authority or occupying a sectional position. Those who would deprive them and other religious teachers of that right are the real traitors to the cause of American freedom. For them should be the "scablers and confiners," if any, though we advocate no such means for the punishment of those "unreasonable conspirators." They are the enemies of liberty who strive to "break down the Constitution," which guarantees the same civil rights to preachers and people.

Is not priestly influence, wielded in the fear of God and with wishes for the benefit of the race, as likely to be good? It is certainly as lawful—as the influence of political bummers, office seekers, smoke-dried and liquor-soaked adventurers, loafers, blackguards and ruffians. Or to lift the matter nearer to a level, is not priestly influence in civil affairs as likely to promote peace, create union, secure order, establish righteousness and increase joy, as the influence of scoundrels though respectable secularists, whose souls are centred on the dollar or absorbed in personal aims and private ambitions?

The Latter-day Saints choose generally to follow the advice and admonitions of their Church leaders in many of the civil affairs of life, in preference to the suggestions of persons who presume to find fault with their religion and at the same time to dictate their civil and social policy. The latter are angry at their own failure and the former's success, and raise the silly cry of "priestly dictation." These comparative strangers who know nothing of our motives, history or objects attempt to undermine the confidence of the people in the well-known, tried and proven leaders whose whole lives have been a sacrifice to principle, and whose entire energies have been devoted to the benefit of their fellow men. The confidence reposed by the Saints in these veterans in our cause is represented as "bondage," as "shackles that bind a too-confiding people," and the prophecy is put forth that in the garments of a threat, that Utah will never be permitted to become a State until that influence is thrown off and that confidence is broken. So proclaims the Governor of the Territory on a day sacred to liberty.

Now we wish it to be distinctly understood, speaking for the masses of the "Mormon" people, that we claim the right to choose our own political and religious leaders, and our counselors in social and communal affairs, and if we please to seal for and follow the counsel of the priesthood in all secular things, as in spiritual things, we shall do so whether or not it pleases persons who wish to rule us *sicut volunt*. If we choose to have "priestly influence" in politics or other civil affairs, we shall be guided by whether this exercise of our rights as American citizens keeps us out of the Union of States or not. Our Ap-

peal for a yield larger in excess of any previous year—thanatois in a favorable setting for the granaries and other primeval complaint than usual at harvest-time from the agricultural districts? The outlook for corn and oats is reported as excellent, but many things are likely to intervene to make it less favorable. The heavy rains this morning and last night and the threatening sky are causing much anxiety among farmers. A change to-day for fair weather for two days will be most welcome.

FREE DEMOCRATIC DISCUSSION.

The Tribune's New York special says: "Signs indicate an intense war in the democratic camp. It is said that 150,000 Republicans are to appoint Tammany inspectors of elected in this city. Hancock will lose the State by a hundred thousand votes."

NOMINATION.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., 8.—A special to the Republican says: The democrats of the 15th Dist. Convention to-day, at Greenup, nominated J. W. Filler for Congress.

ONE GOOD TURN DESERVES ANOTHER.

The New York Times shows as follows:

"The Times," Washington's special to the Tribune, gives the following details in regard to the passage of the Star route bill. There is reason to believe that large sums of money were spent by those who represented the mail contractors, and the most prominent of those representatives was "Joe" McKibben, formerly congressman from California. Having once been Congressman this man and the principal author of the bill of the House, and made use of it. After the amendments which had been supported by the reformers had passed between the House and Senate, and been thoroughly debated in the House, it was adopted one which would have rendered it impossible to pursue in the future the objectionable "Star route" bill which had been introduced in the Senate and also voted on in the Senate and although the vote was in its favor in the House had been 118 to 58, the House to the greatest astonishment of all who had been watching the struggle, concurred in the Senate's action. This was a victory for the Star route contractors and their skillful lobbyists. The most tenacious defenders of these contractors in the Senate and who probably did more than any other to present to the great addition to their party which had been bestowed upon them by Mr. Brady, was Wallace of Pennsylvania, the manager of the movement which resulted in the nomination of Hancock; and Hancock's choice for the position of chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Conspicuous among the enthusiastic supporters of the bill was the editor of the Cincinnati "Daily

McKibben," the lobbyist and representative of the contractors on the floor of the House of Representatives. With him were other members of the band who had transferred the scene of their labor in Washington to the democratic headquarters. Wallace and McKibben had paired together for the star route, and they were pulling together for a Presidential candidate. There are some persons suggest that McKibben was preparing the Senator for the lively interest he had taken in the contractors. At any rate it was plain that the money which the preservation of their fat contracts placed in the hands of the contractors and their lobbyists played a part in the nomination of Hancock, Senator Wallace's candidate.

BLACK DENIES.

The World publishes the following cable dispatch:

Editor of the World, New York:
I am not the author of Hancock's letter of orders concerning Louisiana. I knew nothing of them until they were printed.

J. S. BLACK.
Cable Addressed.

SAN FRANCISCO, 8.—In the police court today the case brought by Alexander Reid against Wm. Nelson for libeling Mayor Kalloch in an obscene publication, Judge Rex said he believed the prosecution had not been in the interest of the people and on motion dismissed the case.

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FOREIGN.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Foreign Notes.

LONDON, 8.—A Berlin correspondent of the Times reports the balance of the budget of the German empire during the financial year of 1878, ending March 31, shows a total surplus income of \$86,016 marks. During May the imports of wheat, corn, oats and rye were 10 percent larger than the exports. Reports from different provinces of the French monarchy on the harvest prospects prove that the alarm which arose after the cold days of May was in a great measure justified. The corn harvest will be very small in all the northern districts, and it is reckoned that only 60 percent of the ordinary harvest will be got in. Reports from Austria, Hungary and Czecho-slovakia also announced that a great deficit is expected.

The same correspondent, discussing the relations between China and Russia says: There seems to have been an idea of purchasing ships and cannon in America and putting American seamen among the dealer-labourers forming the bulk of the Russian crews, but there is little prospect of this scheme being carried out.

The *Republique Francaise*, of Paris, congratulated the government on the effect of the decrees in ridding the minister of Justice of 63 ultra-montane procurators who resigned.

The relations with the Vatican being strained, the expulsion of other mayors may be delayed until after the date of July 14.

The *Cambria* was successfully launched at Glasgow yesterday by the Grand Duke Alex. Prince Loran, Admiral Bopoff and several thousand spectators. Three Greek priests celebrated and sprinkled the vessel with holy water.

The new amnesty bill voted by the French Chamber of Deputies yesterday consists of a single clause as follows: "All persons condemned for participating in the insurrection of 1848 and 1851, and who have been condemned up to July 14, shall be considered as amnestied."

As the government intends to pardon all with exceptions, this bill is the same in effect as the one the Senate rejected.

There can be no doubt that Fenianism as engrossed on the land agitation in Ireland, and imparts to it the most atheist organization and formidable character. The peasants have been trained to move in military array and understand how to act together in disciplined order, and every opportunity is taken to collect arms.

The St. Petersburg *Globe* raises its voice in view of the Chinese difficulties to point out the bad condition of the country and how much worse it will become in the event of another war demanding a loan upon its already exhausted resources and the great Northwest—indications being that the wheat crop will die before the average yield—and that the wheat never be better, while prices and negotiating power may be a failure.

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The Tribune from the several

states has full of complaints of

pests, blights, flies, beetles and

worms, hunger and poverty among

the peasants, rapid increase in the

price of everything, the increase of

the cattle plague, large increase of

disease, etc.

WILLIAM REEDER AND CO., WARDERS.

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