

distinctly remembers Tarwater coming to the jail, his face all bandaged up. He was conducted inside by the guards, and with them indulged in the most abusive language to the Mormon prisoners; and when Elder Pratt undertook to assert that he himself was innocent of any participation in the infliction of Tarwater's injuries, and began to protest that the action of the mob and not of the Mormons was responsible for the conflict, Tarwater drew his pistol, pointed it at Elder Pratt, and with a terrible oath threatened to kill him if he uttered another word. Mrs. Pratt and her children were present at the time and she threw herself between the infuriated visitor and the helpless prisoner. The action made such an impression on the little girl's mind that she vividly recalls it to this day. In his autobiography Elder Pratt does not mention this particular incident, perhaps because such occurrences were not uncommon; but makes this general statement:

My wife and children soon came to me in prison, and spent a portion of the winter in the cold, dark dungeon, where myself and fellow prisoners were frequently insulted and abused by our dastardly guards, who often threatened to shoot us on the spot.

The battle of Crooked river occurred in 1838. The mob had been treating the Mormons in a most atrocious manner. Houses were plundered and burned; women and children were driven from their homes to perish with hunger and cold, being robbed of beds, bedding, furniture and wearing apparel; they had to seek shelter where they could, travelling in the dead hours of night, and in the midst of dreadful storms of rain and snow, in which they came near perishing. Under these circumstances the husbands and fathers were under arms from day to day, for mutual defense. It was thus when, one dark and gloomy night in October, the signal drum beat its warning of another incursion of the mob. In the south part of Daviess county, the enemy were plundering the houses of Mormons, and inflicting all manner of atrocities upon defenseless men, women and children. Captain Durphy and a deputy sheriff called a portion of the militia to go to the relief of the settlers. About sixty men were in the posse, which included Elders Pratt and David W. Patten. The company pushed forward twelve miles, to where the burning houses and prairie told the tale of destruction. In that locality the posse was fired upon by the mob in ambush, and one, a young man named Obanyon, fell mortally wounded. The posse formed and charged the enemy, who made a sharp resistance, then gave way and fled across Crooked river. Half a dozen had fallen on either side, among them being David W. Patten, of the posse. The party of marauders were from the state militia, and consisted of about sixty men under the leadership of a Methodist preacher named Bogart. Tarwater was wounded in the engagement; and from this brief statement can be understood how ill-deserving he was of a state pension,—he was a member of a vile mob, engaged in murder and pillage.

As an illustration of the character of

the guards who allowed Tarwater and others of his ilk to threaten defenseless prisoners, the following incident is cited from Elder Pratt's description of events in the Richmond jail referred to; on most occasions, however, the guards took their own way:

In one of those tedious nights we had lain as if in sleep till the hour of midnight had passed, and our ears and hearts had been pained, while we had listened for hours to the obscene jests, the horrid oaths, the dreadful blasphemies and filth by language of our guards, Colonel Price at their head, as they recounted to each other their deeds of rapine, murder, robbery, etc., which they had committed among the Mormons while at Far West and vicinity. They even boasted of defiling by force wives and daughters, and of shooting or dashing out the brains of men, women and children. I had listened till I became so disgusted, shocked, horrified, and so filled with the spirit of indignant justice that I could scarcely refrain from rising upon my feet and rebuking the guards; but had said nothing to Joseph [the Prophet], or anyone else, although I lay next to him and knew he was awake. On a sudden he rose to his feet, and spoke in a voice of thunder, or as the roaring lion, uttering, as near as I can recollect, the following words: "Silence, ye fiends of the eternal pit! In the name of Jesus Christ rebuke you, and command you to be still; I will not live another minute and hear such language. Cease your talk or you or I die this instant!" He ceased to speak. He stood erect in terrible majesty. Chained, and without a weapon; calm, unruffled, and dignified as an angel, he looked upon the quailing guards, whose weapons were lowered or dropped to the ground; whose knees smote together, and who, shrinking into a corner, or crouching at his feet, begged his pardon and remained quiet till a change of guards.

ITALY'S MISFORTUNE.

The present does not appear to be an auspicious time for aggressive colonial policies for the nations of Europe. First, England met with difficulties in the way of let Venezuela aspirations and Alaskan extensions, then there was the failure of the Jameron raid in the Transvaar; Spain has had to bear still greater reverses, both on the battlefield and in the diplomatic arena; and now comes the culminating misfortune to European colonial aggressiveness in the awful disaster which has befallen Italy in her attempt to subdue Abyssinia. The uniformity of these occurrences suggests that those nations of Europe which are desirous of extending their foreign possessions or think to repress insubordination in distant colonies by force of arms would better hide a while, till there is a turn in the wheel of fate.

A short time ago there appeared to be every prospect that Italian arms in Abyssinia would prove successful, and that, too, without much more effort than was being made. A large and splendidly equipped army was sent out to reduce the country and finally secure it to Italian supremacy; and this was thought to be virtually accomplished. Hence the news that the expedition had been almost annihilated came like a thunderbolt from a clear sky upon the Italian people, grief, excitement, and anger at the supposed incompetence or over-confidence of those in charge, is racking King Hum-

bert's dominion, and if the disaster is to be retrieved it will be only by a supreme national effort.

There is one thing which the battle of Adowa shows conclusively: supposed uncivilized peoples are not as far behind civilized nations in the art of warfare as they were a few years ago or are now generally thought to be. By the mingling among them of adventurous spirits of a more advanced race, they are being brought to a condition of discipline which formerly was unknown; and through closer acquaintance with civilized commercial methods they are able to supply themselves with improved implements of warfare. In the Abyssinian ranks it may be French officers, or others who have taken up their residence in the country, who have directed the native energy and courage. The outcome establishes the fact that in Abyssinia the inhabitants are pretty nearly as able to govern themselves as any European nation is to govern them, even if this condition has been attained by the aid of European settlers. Italy's experience is a premonition that the future may produce great African powers as well as great European, Asiatic and American powers as factors in the world's politics; and regrettable as is the heavy loss to Italian arms, it may open a way to the settlement of questions between civilized and half-civilized peoples by some other means than the dictum of rifles and cannon.

SCHOOL TAX LAW.

The following is from Mendow, Utah, under date of March 4:

To the Editor:

Please answer the following in the columns of the DESERET NEWS, for the benefit of school teachers who need information: Has the State Legislature passed a bill extending the time of school district elections at which special taxes are voted for the erection of district school houses? Also the conditions of the law.

SCHOOL TRUSTEE.

The law in question was passed by the Legislature and went into effect on the date of its approval by the Governor, February 17. It provides that all school districts which failed to levy a special school tax during the year ending December 31, 1895, for the purpose of building or for other purposes, may levy such tax for the year 1895, in the manner provided by law, if such levy be made before the 30th day of April, 1896.

PERIODICAL PIETY.

The last issue of the San Francisco Wave points out that a wave of religious enthusiasm has swept over a certain fashionable portion of some communities since the advent of Lent. Instead of gaily gallivanting to countless teas, and discussing the last item of gossip over the cheerful clatter of china and porcelain cups, maidens are decorously dressed in somber shades with violet beaded tresses and tippets, demurely wending their way toward church, and patiently listening with apparent devotion to the sermon. To this class it is a new sensation, at first, to go and spend an hour within the precincts of a dimly lighted