

# DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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## THE STRUGGLE COMMENCES IN IDAHO.

D. W. STANDROD, district attorney for Oseida County, Idaho, has ranged himself on the side of the faction which intends to prevent any "Mormon" from voting in that Territory. He has issued instructions, published in the *Malad Enterprise*, to registrars in that county containing a great deal of assumption about the "Mormon" Church, its teachings and practices, and what it ought to do or was expected to have done in relation to its principles, and gives the following as his *ipse dixit* for the guidance of those officers:

"It being so well known, so much so, that the courts could almost take judicial knowledge of the fact, that the so-called Mormon Church is an order or organization which practices and teaches bigamy, polygamy, plural or celestial marriage as a doctrinal rite of said church, I think if the applicant answers affirmatively to the question 'Are you a member of the order or organization commonly known as the Mormon Church?' you should on this answer alone refuse to register him. I have therefore embodied this question in the enclosed draft of questions to be propounded by you to every applicant who may apply to you for registration. This blank I have prepared for your guidance in arriving at the qualifications of applicants for registration. Should the applicant refuse to subscribe to the blank, you may still examine him under oath, writing the answers in the blank as given by him, and stating on the margin thereof that he was sworn to answer them. Clearly, you have the right to do this under Subdivision First of Section 504 of the Revised Laws. If the applicant should answer said question negatively, I think it then becomes your duty to register him, provided he is otherwise qualified; but should you find that he has sworn falsely, and that he is a member of said organization, you will please report the case to me at once."

The "draft of questions" is similar to that published in the *Deseret News* a few days ago. That the question "Are you a member of the order or organization commonly known as the Mormon Church is not authorized by law, is evident to any one with ordinary common sense who reads the statute referred to in the foregoing Judge R. Z. Johnson, the Attorney General of Idaho, in answer to inquiries from a Registrar, answered concerning a "Mormon" applicant for registration offering to take the test oath:

"It is your duty to see that he understands the oath or that he had read it, or that it has been read to him, and if you have reason to believe that he is about to swear falsely you should explain the oath to him and warn him, but these are not questions for you to try. In any view of the law you have no right to reject his application because he will not answer your proffered questions as to what he believes or what he is a believer in. The law does not profess to go into that question."

D. W. Standrod is not U. S. District Attorney for Idaho, he is simply a county officer under the territorial laws. His "instructions" only affect one county. The U. S. District Attorney for Idaho is James H. Hawley, who was nominated by acclamation as Delegate to Congress by the Democratic Convention at Boise City, on Wednesday. Standrod is a very ordinary and as may be seen by his official letter, a very ungrammatical person, who was elected to the Idaho Democratic Convention two years ago and disregarded his agreement with those who elected him, in reference to the test oath. He knows he cannot count upon the support of the people whose votes sent him there, and being extremely anxious for re-election as county attorney, he is seeking to prevent them from taking any part in the election next November.

In addition to the opinion of the Attorney General of Idaho, from which we have made the above extract, D. W. Standrod received from that gentleman, in answer to his own application, a detailed argument establishing the illegality of any question to a voter as to the name of the Church to which he belongs or what tenets it may or may not entertain.

The course pursued by this unreliable and not very brilliant young aspirant is simply one of obstruction, and may bring him and those who are guided by his ill-digested opinions into considerable difficulty. Legal steps will no doubt be taken to vindicate the rights of citizens under the law.

Even on the construction put upon the test oath act by the Idaho courts, no such a catechism as that invented by anti-"Mormons" to accomplish their personal ends is either authorized or justified by that act.

The course of the enemies of the "Mormon" people in Idaho is similar to that pursued in all the attacks that have been made upon the Church and its adherents. No matter how partial, severe and un-American may be the laws which have been framed specially to interfere with their religious liberty, those laws have been exceeded and their execution has been far beyond both the letter and spirit of the statutes and the intent of those who founded them.

It becomes the duty of citizens whose rights are invaded and whose lawful privileges are denied, to stand up, manfully, and at any cost to contend lawfully for all that belongs to them under the law. It is not only their duty to themselves but to their co-religionists and to the cause of human freedom and human rights. We hope our friends in Idaho will be alive to the position and the requirements of the hour.

## RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE.

By letter we learn that James Allen Smith was lately compelled to remove from Piedmont to Seneca, South Carolina, on account of his connection with the Church. It appears that at a protracted meeting of Baptists it was decided that Brother Smith's employer should discharge him and that he be compelled to leave the place. He asked to be allowed to remain a month, but this request was not granted. His employer was opposed to the outrage and said it was a shame that a man should be thus ostracized on account of his religion, but the pressure was too great for him to withstand, so he presented the victim of religious bigotry with a few dollars with which to pay his railroad fare to another place. Only for this Brother Smith and wife, being poor, would have been compelled to walk to Seneca.

## EXPOSURE OF THE "WHITE CAPS."

ATTORNEY-GENERAL MICHENER, of Indiana, has reported that the outrages by the White Caps in Crawford and Perry Counties, where he has been to investigate them at the request of Governor Gray, are in some localities much worse than was represented. Many of them had not been made public because of the fears of the people who were threatened with the vengeance of the marauders. The press of that section, too, was awed into silence, or published the notices of the White Caps when required.

A detective who was engaged by some Harrison County people to investigate at all hazards, has given to the *Chicago Mail* particulars of his discoveries. He joined the organization last June, taking a blood-curdling oath and depositing \$200 as an earnest of good faith. The oath contains a confession of criminality which is held by the head of the order to be used in case of secession. Several ordeals were passed through by the detective as tests of his fidelity, and these being successfully undergone the purposes of the order were explained to him. These consist in the enumeration of "a long list of mock morality precepts concerning the defense of virtue, the sanctity of the domestic circle, and the disapproval of drunkenness and licentiousness in all forms. These were really a cover to the chief design, which was the prompt avenging of any wrong, real or imaginary, to any member of the organization. No feature was more marked than the strict injunction that loyalty to the order demanded obedience to every order issued by a superior officer, whose word really was law, absolute and supreme. Upon any pretext which he deemed sufficient he could order the flogging of any man or woman, even though they were unknown to the balance of the clan. This identical thing often happened. The members of the organization do not believe in the use of firearms except as a last resort.

The chief headquarters are near English, though each county and even each township has a separate lodge. The membership embraces a most startling roll of prominent names, including leading farmers, merchants, and even many officials. There are men belonging to the order whom the general public would never dream of having any such affiliations. It is this fact which makes the conviction of members almost impossible. Being unknown they can color a jury to their liking, thus rendering their suppression a difficult matter.

Their mode of operating is as follows: "The head of a district lodge is informed that a certain party shall be warned, whipped, or ordered to leave the country. He calls a meeting, and without even putting the matter to a vote, delegates certain parties to perform the work, which they are compelled to do without hesitation. Usually six men, but sometimes more, are required to carry the mandate, and the degree of severity of punishment is also nominated by the presiding officer. Whenever a case resulted in the White Caps being foiled by the object of their intended punishment, or

through other causes, a second attempt was never advised until such time as the victim would be off his guard and taken unawares."

The *Mail* publishes the following as one of the orders of the White Caps, when it became known that Governor Gray intended to bring the marauders to justice:

"ON THE OHIO, Aug. 8, 1888.

To all White Caps:

It has been announced in the press that Governor Gray has seen fit to interfere with our organization in answer to clamorous lies which have been circulated concerning our organization. As our own counties are the best judges of the cause of the 'White Caps,' and they have not interposed their authority to molest us, this interference upon the part of the state authorities is unwarranted and uncalled for. We are willing to be judged by our acts and by our own neighbors and fellow-citizens, but declare our unalterable opposition to the invasion of our counties by the minions of Gov. Gray in order to persecute the 'White Caps.' It has therefore been decided to resist the interference if necessary with blood. The first one of our members who is subjected to injustice shall either be released or revenged."

It appears that some depredations have been committed by lawless persons and cunningly charged to the White Caps to avoid detection. But Governor Gray has obtained sufficient information to warrant extensive measures against the organization, and he is expected to push the matter to the utmost. The full official report of Attorney-General Michener is looked for with interest. He has stated without reserve that the order is little better than a transfer of the Ku-Klux practices to a northern state, and should by all means be dealt with in a manner that will insure an early suppression.

## BULLDOZING IN THE SOUTH.

The large vote in Louisiana at the last election startled the Republicans, and they refused to believe that so many negroes as claimed cast their ballots for the Democratic candidates. They cried "fraud" and charged openly that it was corruption and not colored votes that gave the great majorities. But, allowing for the opportunities of Democratic election officers and returning boards and the bulldozing said to be common in the South, it appears that there has been quite a change in the colored vote of late.

The blacks claim they have found out that the Republicans have no use for a "nigger" except on election day. This is a publicly expressed sentiment in Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee and Alabama. The *Nashville Star*, which is Republican in politics, gives the facts in these words:

"Every time the negro sticks his head up for office he is slaughtered by those with whom he affiliates and for whom he always works and votes. Beginning with Knox County, we see a negro running for assessor on the republican ticket defeated, while every white man is elected by good majorities. The same is true in Hamilton County. In this city all the colored men on the republican ticket for magistrate were defeated, although five or six white republicans were successful. Since the election a white republican club has been organized. White republicans here say they want to get rid of half the negro vote. It is an open secret that certain republicans do not want Tennessee carried for the republican party, but that they want to keep up the organization so they can control the campaign funds to their individual advantage. A part of the program is to cut off a portion of the blacks, especially those who clamor for pie for Ham. Although the negroes do the republican voting in Tennessee, the whites want to control the patronage and campaign funds, out of the negroes' sight.

Whatever may be the real cause, it is clear that a great many colored voters have gone over to the Democratic party. And it is also established, on good evidence, that in a great many instances the bulldozing reported to prevail on the part of the whites against the blacks, to prevent their voting for Republicans, is actually resorted to by the colored Republicans to prevent the stampede among their own people towards the Democratic ranks. "A northern man" who has lived in the South for eight years, thus describes in the *New York Herald* the manner in which this is done:

"A colored voter desires to vote for a Democrat, and as soon as his intention is known he is set upon by a number of his own race, who taunt him with 'voting against his own color' and set his wife and children against him, in some cases even threatening his life. The minister of his church will publicly abuse him and tell him that he will have no hope of heaven. All this because he desires to exercise his constitutional right of selecting his own candidate.

If he had sufficient moral courage to withstand these attacks, he must procure the assistance of some white man in whom he has confidence to see that he gets the right ticket and to protect him until he can deposit it, otherwise it would be taken from him.

A Republican leader always stands at the poll and examines the ticket of all colored voters, insisting that they vote for his candidate, whether they exercise their own judgment or not.

But if he has courage enough to succeed in getting the ticket of his choice deposited in the ballot box, he is then ostracized completely by the peaceful colored people, while the roughs throw stones through his windows, and, in short, make his life as miserable as possible.

I have known a number of colored men to vote a Democratic ticket, but it is very rare that one is found with sufficient courage to do it a second time."

This is a kind of "terrorism in the South" that Republican politicians will not care to dwell upon, either in or out of Congress. But in spite of it, the defection from the carpet-bag influence is of considerable proportions, and the colored voter is learning the true inwardness of that interest in his welfare which prompted the movement granting him the suffrage. His ballot is wanted for the party that conceived the scheme, and if he doesn't use it in that direction the Republicans have no further use for him. There are two sides to the stories of political bulldozing in the South.

## REJECTION OF THE FISHERIES TREATY.

THE message of President Cleveland upon the fisheries question furnishes interesting reading. As usual with all he says that relates to the weal of the nation, it is a clear, concise document. He goes directly to the point.

The treaty was one which the country could have accepted as a dignified solution of a vexed question. By rejecting it the Senate—or the Republican portion of that body—imagined that the President would thus be placed at a disadvantage. This idea is strengthened by the fact that the rejection of the treaty was attained by a strict party vote. The Republican Senators and their party are injured by this repudiation, as shown clearly by Mr. Cleveland. The responsibility for any trouble that may arise and that is likely to result from the strained relations that must ensue between this country and Great Britain rests upon their shoulders and not upon the Executive and the Democratic party.

As Mr. Cleveland very properly states, the Senate has rejected the treaty without any suggestions as to how a better arrangement could have been consummated. It throws the measure overboard without offering anything better. This was because the Senate had nothing superior to suggest. If not, why was it not tendered? If the Senate had a better plan for solution, it was its duty to exhibit it.

As the Chief Executive, Mr. Cleveland points out the potent fact that he must do something to redress and prevent the alleged wrongs perpetrated upon American fishermen in Canadian waters. Having been driven by the Republican Senators from attaining the result by amicable treaty stipulations, his only recourse is to institute a policy of retaliation upon the British Canadian colonies. Existing laws are not sufficient for the purpose, and Congress must legislate in order to place the necessary power in his possession. If it does not the question must remain in its prolonged unsettled and unsatisfactory condition, and the blame or responsibility for the wrong must rest upon the Republicans of the Senate and their party.

The act of driving the Executive to the enforcement of a retaliatory policy on this question is most injudicious, and is all the more inexcusable because its performance was incited by partisanship. Patriotism had nothing whatever to do with it. The solution of international questions by treaty is a civilized, statesmanlike and dignified method. Retaliation is not. It is a method instituted to force one or other of the parties to terms, and often culminates in war. When there is an honorable way of avoiding it it is an egregious error to adopt a course likely to lead to international ruptures and consequent bloodshed and general disaster. Such may not be the result in this instance; but retaliation is a dangerous means of adjusting difficulties between nations, and when pacific agreement is within reach there should never be any recourse to it. But whatever difficulties may grow out of the fisheries complication, from present appearances at least, no proper blame for disaster will attach to President Cleveland. His position on this question will strengthen his prospects in the campaign, and that is the opposite of the effect which the recent act of the Senate was intended to produce.

## VICTORIA'S GIFT TO IRELAND.

QUEEN VICTORIA is noted for her virtue and the purity of her court. She is also noted for her parsimony. With immense wealth at her command she often acts the niggard. Numerous instances of her stinginess, considering her income and savings, might be cited, but her latest financial dole exhibits the bent of her miserly disposition.

Just at a time when the Irish people need consideration, and when a policy

of kindness and conciliation should be pursued, Her Majesty contributed the paltry sum of £50 towards the Irish constabulary fund. The donation is likely to do the giver more harm than it will do good to the constabulary. It is looked upon in Ireland as an insult. The Nationalist papers are extremely bitter in their comments on the Queen's indifference to her Irish subjects, who would be loyal to the crown if they had a little encouragement. One of them says:

"Her good woman's heart that has been so loudly vaunted, has not been touched by the poverty, the want and the piteous struggles of the Irish, who have been driven from their homes by English landlords. The misery of thousands of a nation which has largely contributed to her security and greatness, has not impelled her to turn in compassion and sympathy toward them, to seek their relief by so much as a word of comfort. On the contrary the sovereign has seized an opportunity of insulting the Irish and taunting them in their distress, by lending her aid to those who, in the pay of her government, assist in robbing the Irish."

The Royal Family seem to be in harmony with the policy of coercion, that has been carried out by the Conservatives since coming into power. It is wrong in principle and cannot but produce unfortunate results, both to the afflicted people and to the government which seeks to suppress them instead of striving to ameliorate their condition. Some generosity and a few visits by Royalty to afflicted Erin, would do far more to still the turbulence which is a constant menace to England, than all the Crimes Acts and political imprisonments that a policy of force can invent and attempt to execute.

## THE NEW GERMAN GENERAL.

THE glory of the German Empire radiates more from the genius of Bismarck than from the royal personages who have occupied the throne. When Germany is spoken of Bismarck is thought of, and his statesmanship is universally recognized as the ruling force in the nation. Intimately associated with his fame is that of Von Moltke, the great soldier, who has long been the central figure in European military history. What Bismarck has been to the civil power, Von Moltke has been to the army. And the names of these two eminent men will go down to posterity as the main sources of Germany's success and prestige among the Great Powers in this eventful century.

But the Old General has passed the zenith of his usefulness and has had to give place to a younger arm and brain. The new Emperor is cast in a military mould and his mind runs to a military policy. An active, vigorous head of the army is needed for this, and so the old hero and tactician who guided the German forces to their great victories is retired, and Gen. Von Waldersee comes to the front at the head of the military staff of the Empire.

The appointment is proper, as the General is a man of ability, and was one of Von Moltke's chief aides and associates, and will doubtless carry into his position the methods and the spirit of the master mind under whom he has served.

It is not generally known that Gen. Waldersee owes something of his position and fortunes to American influence. His wife is the daughter of David Lea, an American banker. She captured the attentions and gained the hand of Prince Frederick of Schleswig-Holstein, and on his death the widow, a charming and clever woman, held estates valued at \$4,000,000.

Count Waldersee was fortunate enough to attract the rich widow and married her, and through her exertions at the Prussian capital he became prominent in German affairs. He exhibited great prowess in the war with France, and now succeeds the foremost military genius of the age as next to the Emperor—the head of the German armies. General Waldersee will be heard from with some frequency during the next decade, when Germany will figure prominently in striking changes that will be attempted in the present map of Europe.

## RELIGIOUS REVOLUTION IN JAPAN.

It has been reported for some time that the ruling authorities in Japan are endeavoring to make Christianity the religion of the State. Of course an Imperial edict cannot change a people's faith. An acceptance of Christian principle can only come through Christian conversion. But the national adoption of the form in yogue among the most advanced nations, will have a very different signification to that new birth which is the essential feature of a change to Christianity.

The proposition is advanced from a secular standpoint. It is with a view to material and social advantages. One of the most ardent of its advocates is Mr. Fukuzawa, an eminent writer, who avows that he takes no personal interest in any religion; but he considers Christianity "the creed of the most highly civilized nations." He thinks that religion is something that can be changed at will.