

## THE PROGRAMME.

IN treating, yesterday, upon the ruling of Chief Justice McKean, in the matter of Sandberg and Horsley's applications for naturalization, we criticised the Judge's course in asking the questions which he did of the applicants, and then rejecting their applications because they did not answer "to the satisfaction of the Court" that they were men of good moral character. We wished to know whether the Judge was equally careful to question applicants for naturalization as to their belief in and practice of acts which were clearly and universally recognized throughout Christendom as immoral: for instance, Sabbath-breaking, blasphemy, whoredom, adultery, and the telling of lies. We did this, not because we think for a moment that polygamy, as practiced by the Latter-day Saints, is an act to be placed in the same category with these we have mentioned, but because Judge McKean called the belief in it immoral, and taking him on his own grounds, we were desirous of showing him and the public that to be consistent with his own professions he should extend his inquiries further and to other subjects than he is evidently in the habit of doing. Polygamy as believed and practiced in Utah does not come, we contend, within the meaning of the word immorality. It is the very antipodes of immorality; for it has the tendency, as honorable marriage ought always to have, to check everything of that character. But we will not argue that subject at present here; we have other points in view.

We think we have already shown, in our articles upon this ruling that the object sought for by Judge McKean has not been the checking of immorality; for had it been so he would not have stopped at asking men whether they believed plural marriage to be right and of God or not. He would have catechised them upon other points as well, and we feel thoroughly assured in our mind that if a man notorious as a blasphemer, rowdy, or an adulterer, who was known not to be a "Mormon" were to apply to the Chief Justice for naturalization he would get his papers without any difficulty. We may do the Chief Justice an injustice in entertaining this opinion; we should be much pleased to find that it is incorrect.

We state plainly our feelings when we say we believe that Chief Justice McKean, in doing as he has in the case of these applicants for naturalization, is only carrying out that part which he has undertaken to perform of a certain pre-arranged programme. Are we warranted in entertaining these feelings? Look at the facts, and see whether there are not abundant evidences of a plot, and a programme to which the actors therein were to conform. See how systematically the plan embodied in the Cullom Bill has been carried out, though that bill failed to become law!

Step by step has the plot developed itself. First by the ruling out of the Territorial Marshal from the Courts. Next, the attempt to limit the jurisdiction of the Probate Courts. Next, the selection of jurors, the Territory being raked with a fine-toothed comb to procure non-Mormons enough to serve on juries. Next, the ruling out of the Territorial Attorney-General. Next, the destruction of the militia system and the disarming of the men. Next, the refusal to naturalize alien "Mormons." And so we might go on and enumerate act after act, all tending to the same point, all having for their object the destruction of the superstructure of law which has been carefully built during the past twenty-odd years, the complete abolishment of all liberty and the introduction of a hateful system of despotism, which should either crush the people into submission, or goad them into the perpetration of some overt act which could be seized as a pretext for the inauguration of still more violent and proscriptive measures!

There is a "ring" here, few in numbers, contemptible in talent, destitute of respectability, who aim to rule this country. They cannot do so as long as the "Mormons" possess the rights enjoyed by other citizens. The great object, therefore, with them is to deprive them of those rights. Every measure that we have alluded to has been pushed forward with this view. It is so transparent that a man with half an eye can see it. If this is not so, why these attempts to deprive citizens of their rights? Why select such juries? Why attempt to deprive the Territorial Marshal, the Attorney-General and the Probate Courts of the powers conferred upon them by the

General Assembly? Why refuse to commission officers regularly elected by that Assembly in accordance with the precedent and practice of the last twenty years? Why refuse to men for their religious belief the rights of citizenship?

Do the men engaged in the plot and in the carrying out of this programme imagine that the "Mormons" are so blind and simple as not to see through their schemes and to penetrate their intentions? If the people of this Territory submit to these outrages and do not get excited over them, perpetrators of them make a grand mistake if they imagine that they do not read their designs. They understand them thoroughly, and they also know that nothing would please these schemers better than for them to grow restive under their oppressive acts and resent them. We firmly believe the raid at Prove was urged on by certain parties with the hope that some of the soldiers would get killed in the attack, and an opportunity be afforded them of raising an outcry and excitement through the country against the "Mormons." The "ring" wants a victim; but none of its members wishes to be that victim himself. They do not have the least objection to the blood of any of their friends being shed to accomplish the desired end; but each one wants to keep his own skin intact.

There is one lesson that we hope the people of this Territory have not learned in vain, and that is patience. Judges may decide as suits their notions or prejudices, Governors, Marshals, Attorneys and others may enact such measures as meet their whims, indeed, Chief Justices may refuse to naturalize aliens because they are "Mormons" and believe the Bible; but what does it all amount to? What have all such proceedings amounted to? Has the sun shone less brightly, the water run less pure and sweet, the earth been less fruitful, the seasons been less propitious? Have not the crops been as plentiful, the climate as healthful, and the air as clear and exhilarating? Have not marriages been as frequent, births as common, and all the beautiful operations of nature gone forward with their accustomed regularity as much so as if such men were not in the country? And will they not continue to do so? We certainly are of that opinion, and think we live in good days.

## FATE OF A PROMINENT "RINGIST."

MAJOR OFFLEY, whose late dastardly attempt at assassination has brought him prominently before the public, is more destitute of friends than we supposed, or than he probably imagined himself he was. It surprises us now to learn that so low, mean and contemptible a fellow as we are told he has been, should have had such influence as to be made a Deputy Postmaster, an Agent of the Associated Press, and, as has been asserted, a Deputy U. S. Marshal. Why, it is only a few weeks ago since he was thought a fit associate for the elite of the "ring" at a private party, and distinguished himself, if report speaks correctly, by his zeal in telegraphing such glaring mis-statements concerning what occurred at that party, that an influential officer, no less a person than General Augur, felt himself called upon to deny the statements contained in the dispatch through the public print, and then several members of the "ring" were so anxious to whitewash the sender of the dispatch, which, if we may believe common rumor, was no less a person than Major Offley, that they united in signing a letter in which the mis-statements of the dispatch were in substance re-affirmed! How rapid is the change which a few weeks have brought about in his circumstances! We understand that the most of his former associates are now anxious to disown him, and to inform those with whom they converse that he never was of any account; he has always been a low fellow, of bad habits, and was known to be such when brought here, etc., etc. Strange that this did not transpire previous to his late cowardly attempt at murder! From all that we had heard about the fellow, and judging by the exertions made to sustain him by at least one prominent official, under whose auspices he came here, and who could not have been ignorant of his antecedents, we supposed that he was as respectable as the other members of the "ring." Of course we are not surprised to hear that he is low and vile. It is the estimate we have placed upon the whole of the "ring" outfit. Give the links of the "ring" a chance to exhibit their true characteristics, and if they do not turn out to be at least as bad as

the man whom they now discard, then we will acknowledge that we guessed wrong.

The remaining members of the "ring" ought to take warning from Offley's fate. What he is now suffering, they will in all probability sooner or later experience—the openly expressed contempt and desertion of their smarter and more cunning confederates, who like the Devil, only use a man as long as he can be their pliant and useful tool, and when he ceases to be of any further service discard and throw him aside as men do their old worn-out boots.

## NOT SENT BY THE GOVERNOR.

We have just learned from an influential gentleman that His Excellency Governor Shaffer disclaims all sympathy with Major Offley and his recent acts, or with whatever may be the result of those acts, and he wishes it understood that it was not at his instance that his private secretary, Mr. Black, went, on the evening of Major Offley's attempt to assassinate Mr. Sloan, to the City jail to obtain Offley's release from custody. We take pleasure in giving the public the benefit of this information, that the Governor may be relieved in the public mind from the discredit of extending aid and comfort to a guilty culprit and interfering, as a high official, in a transaction of a criminal character. The impression has been general, from the known relations of Mr. Black to His Excellency, that his visit to the jail was in compliance with the Governor's wishes.

## DEATH OF GENERAL R. E. LEE.

Our dispatches to-day bring intelligence of the death of General Robert E. Lee, which took place at Lexington, at half-past nine o'clock yesterday morning. Thus has passed away another illustrious member of one of the most illustrious families in Colonial and American history. General Robert E. Lee is the descendant of Mr. Richard Lee, who emigrated from England to Virginia in the reign of Charles the First. The family was both ancient and honorable, and was among the staunchest adherents of the royal cause in the stormy days of the Revolution in England, which terminated in the establishment of the Commonwealth under Oliver Cromwell. The founder of the family in Virginia was so determined in his loyalty, that through his influence, combined with that of the Royal Governor, the Virginians remained true to the cause of the Stuart's, and though Cromwell sent out a fleet to bring them to terms, his efforts were futile and Virginia was proclaimed an "Independent Dominion."

Among the descendants of this Mr. Richard Lee, there are above a score, male and female, who have made themselves both name and fame, in connection with American freedom and independence, and in various walks of life have secured eminence. The deceased General was the immediate descendant of Henry Lee, surnamed "Light-horse Harry" or "Light-horse Harry," so famed in the war of the Revolution. General Robert E. Lee has long been known as a military man, and a man of learning; but was brought into special prominence through his connection with the Southern Confederacy, he being commander-in-chief of its forces; and there is no doubt that had he been as zealous in fighting for the perpetuation of the Union as he was in his effort to secure the triumph of the Southern cause the nation would have conferred upon him very high honors. Gen. Lee, however, was not by any means a rabid secessionist, but his native State declaring for secession from the Union, he ventured all for Virginia. He soon became commander-in-chief of the Southern armies, and remained so until the capitulation of the forces at Richmond, when he and his entire army surrendered to General Grant.

Since then his life has been passed in obscurity, he having been engaged, chiefly as principal of a college, founded by him, in which young men were trained and drilled in the various branches of military education and science. General Robert E. Lee, being so prominently connected with a most gigantic attempt to destroy the Republic of the United States, his name will occupy a prominent place in American history; and though his course in that eventful period of the nation's history will diminish the lustre of his record, his name will hold a prominent rank in the annals of his native State, and his memory be cherished by its people. The General was sixty-three years old.

## THE EXCURSION YESTERDAY.

YESTERDAY morning, at 5 o'clock, an excursion party started from this city on a trip to Evanston. The company consisted of Prests, B. Young and Geo. A. Smith (Prest, Wells was unavoidably detained on business), the Twelve Apostles, Joseph A. Young, Esq., President and Superintendent of the Utah Central R. R., W. Jennings, Esq., Vice President, Feramorz Little and C. Layton, Directors, Bishops A. M. Musser, John Sharp, Lorenzo D. Young and a number of other gentlemen, making a total of forty-five.

It was a lovely morning and the clear, bracing air was pleasant and invigorating, as the train moved smoothly and steadily towards Ogden, where it arrived at seven o'clock. Here the main part of the train was detached, and the car containing the party, with the engine and caboose, was switched on to the Union Pacific line, and at 7.45, after the regular eastern train had departed, the Utah Central excursion party started out on the U. P. road. The journey to Evanston, a distance of ninety miles from Ogden, was made in four hours, including stoppages for coal and water. Brief glimpses only were obtained of the sublime scenery of Weber and Echo canyons, as the train moved onward at a rapid rate, but Devil's Gate, the Narrows, the tall peaks, overhanging rocks and quiet nooks of the mountains, each gained their share of admiration.

Evanston is at present but a small village, though it promises to be quite a large town as the U. P. company intend building there extensively. It is a beautiful location, not far from Bear River, but in consequence of its altitude will likely be a bleak and snowy place in winter.

The chief object of this trip was to meet the following named gentlemen, on their way from the East. They had already arrived in a special train of two Pullman cars with engine and tender: Oliver Ames, Esq., President U.P.R.R., Sidney Dillon, Esq., Vice-President, Oliver Chapman, Esq., Director, L. Fillmore, Esq., Superintendent Laramie and Utah Division, and T. J. Carter, Esq., Prest, Colorado Central Railroad.

The two parties exchanged cordial greetings and inspected the ground for the U. P. Company's works, Bishop John Sharp having obtained the contract to build there a roundhouse and some machine shops, then started for Ogden, the U. P. special train taking the lead. At Wasatch, the regular train from the East having arrived, and the news having circulated that President Young was there, great curiosity was exhibited by the passengers to catch a glimpse of the President, who, with several of the company, accepted an invitation to travel to Ogden with the gentlemen of the U.P.R.R. in their train.

Ogden was made at 4.30, the Pullman cars were attached to the U. C. train, and the two parties proceeded together to Salt Lake City, arriving at 6.45 p.m.

Both the U. C. and U. P. roads are in excellent condition; President J. A. Young and the officials present were exceedingly courteous and kind, and every one was gratified and pleased with the trip.

## THE BALANCE OF POWER.

The balance of power in Europe is now the most knotty question among the nations of that continent. To preserve the equilibrium of what are termed the Great Powers was the ostensible if not the real object of Napoleon in inaugurating the present Franco-Prussian war which has proved, thus far, so disastrous to himself, his dynasty and his country. It is impossible at present to see when a settlement of this prominent question will be attained. It is almost certain that, even if a peace be concluded between France and Prussia by France consenting to the demands of Prussia in ceding Alsace and Lorraine, the question is still far from being settled. The acquisition of French territory to gratify the territorial aggrandisement of Prussia, will inevitably disturb the balance of power in Europe and give the latter power a preponderating influence on that continent. This will in all likelihood, arouse the jealousy of the other powers, which, if we may believe the dispatches, is already the case with Russia, and thus the torch of war may be enkindled in other nations and spread until its flames envelope the entire continent. Truly we live in a remarkable age when thrones are thrown down in a day and other powers rise, phoenix-like, from their ashes. In viewing the situation of the affairs on the eastern hemisphere, there appears but little prospect of peace until the question of the balance of power is solved; and how it is to be settled is one of the most difficult nuts that European politicians have ever had to crack.

It was regarded as a strong case of circumstantial evidence in a Pittsburg court, the other day, when the plaintiff produced the skillet with which his wife struck him, and showed the jury how nicely the three legs fitted into the holes in his head.