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Charles W. Penrose, . . . Editor
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SALT LAKE CITY, JANUARY 31, 1899.


## POSSIBLE BUT IMPROBABLE.

Some of the influential papers of the country are stirred up to a pitch of excitement over the statements of ex-Senator George F. Edmunds, in a New York journal, that, "It is within the legal power of Utah and of every other State, to make polygamy lawful if it chooses," also that the House of Representatives "cannot constitutionally refuse a seat to a regularly elected polygamist from any State. The House of Representatives, like other bodies of that character, may be a law unto itself and violate the Constitution which fixes the qualifications of members, to seat, or refuse to seat, whomsoever it pleases, with or without just reason, but this would be a dangerous course and practice."

Why should this simple explanation of fundamental principles and construction of statutory law produce such a startling effect on the minds of editorial writers in the United States? It is not surprising that the ex-Senator's remarks should make a furor among ladies and preachers, who are so greatly concerned about the wickedness of far off Utah and so little concerned about the corruption under their own noses. They exhibit the most profound ignorance both of the laws of their country and the facts in the case. But editors are supposed to know something about the powers of the respective States and their relation to the National Government.

As to the power of a State to establish polygamy by law, there can be no doubt with anybody who can read the Constitution of the United States and understand what he reads. Nor can there be any sensible dispute as to the right to a seat in Congress, of any person lawfully elected and having the qualifications required by law. The only question related to this subject which can naturally arouse attention, is the probability of the establishment of polygamy by law in any state of the Union.

"There is less likelihood of such an event in Utah than in some other parts of this country where polygamy is "forever prohibited" by the State Constitution, as required in the Enabling Act under which Utah became a sovereign State. The power to change that instrument, it is true, is carried with it itself, that such an amendment would be in violation of the contract implied in the terms of admission into the Union, and could not be effected without a radical and overwhelming change in public sentiment, local and national.

There is no movement in Utah looking to such an end. There is no intention on anybody's part that we have heard of to inaugurate such a scheme. It would be buried at once under an avalanche of dissent. It is not counted or hinted at among the "Mormon" people or their Church leaders. We speak of what we know, and without the shadow of a doubt as to its absolute truth.

We remind our excited friends in the East that when the "Mormon" people had full control of affairs in this region they never attempted to establish polygamy by law. No such enactment appeared in the statutes of the Territory. That was when public sentiment here favored the system as a religious institution, and there was no law of Congress forbidding it. Now that both the Nation and the State have declared against it and there is no desire on the part of the people here to make any change, it is amusing to see the grounds from which some editors derive a sensation. Some made a little capital out of the remarks made about it by people and papers that ought to have better sense.

There is an excitable and silly element in American society, as there is at the French capital, and when it is exercised over a matter of such importance as this it is amusing to reason and argue with it. Facts are a trembling rush range as to a murderous frenzy. The society will cool down after a while and will then, perhaps, look on the subject with a little calm common sense and see that between possibilities and probabilities there is often a very wide difference.

## CONTRADICTION IN POLITICS.

When it is found that opposition to the so-called expansion policy and a demand for an extended army in some instances proceed from one source, political inconsistency is not apparent. If we are not going to hold or keep the Philippine Islands, there should be no need of a standing army of those men. Yet, at present there is much opposition to the ratification of the peace treaty, while at the same time the Army bill is about to be passed by the House, and there are many who seem to accept the contradiction as perfectly logical.

Against the acceptance of the Philippine Islands it has been urged that an expansion sentiment has already injured the interests of the East, so future growth in the direction might prove fatal to those interests. There seems to be a fear in some quarters of adopting any national policy which might further aid the great West in rendering its evident destiny. Another objection is the alleged dire consequence in the shape of the "invasion" of cheap labor, that would follow expansion.

There is no record for the actual experience of other countries in these showy forecasts. Great Britain has not been accursed by Hindoos, nor has Holland been impoverished by her colonial possessions. It is a question whether much of the opposition to expansion is not based simply on the fact that it is the declared policy of the administration. Partisans sometimes act as if they thought it their first duty to oppose everything outside of their own party issues.

No such partisan objections can be framed against the expansion of the army. The bill provides for hundreds of new officers of all the ranks, many of which are to be appointed as rewards, presumably, for political services. It makes room for hundreds of staff officers, many of whom may be retired at a certain age with a considerable salary for doing nothing. It makes it possible for anyone who wore a uniform a few days in the late war to claim preferment and salary, whether his services are needed or not, provided he has influential friends to manage the business for him.

But notwithstanding these considerations, the fact remains that the introduction of an foreign an element as Hawaiians, Filipinos and Porto Ricans will be a menace to this country. The maintenance of 50,000 men voluntarily choosing a military career in preference to civil life may not be an intolerable burden, but when the free step in the wrong direction is taken, others are almost sure to follow. In Europe, too, it came gradually. The load, at first comparatively light, has been gradually increased until today the nations groan under its weight. History teaches the impossibility of building permanent empires on swords and bayonets. The most hearty armed giant has some vulnerable spot which may become exposed to the fatal sling of the valiant shepherd boy.

## THE APOSTLE THOMAS IN AMERICA

The current number of the American Ecclesiastical Review gives space to a learned article in which the author maintains that there is some foundation for the tradition that St. Apostle Thomas actually visited America and preached the Gospel among the inhabitants.

The tradition, it appears, is of ancient date. Clement, a contemporary of the Apostle, is supposed to refer to this continent in a letter to the Corinthians, and if so, he may have obtained his information about the "other world" from Thomas himself. Tertullian, too, is supposed to have had America in view when he asserted that the Gospel had been preached to the inhabitants of "many strange countries and lands unknown to us." The early Christian writers generally asserted that the Gospel message was carried to the "uttermost ends of the earth" by the Apostles and their immediate assistants. Whether in this expression the Western Hemisphere was included, is not clearly apparent.

More important in this discussion, however, are the traditions and relics found on American soil. Peruvians tell of a white-bearded man named Thomapa Arieva, who in some remote period of time came from a southerly direction. He was clothed in a coarse garment and a red mantle, and taught the people to worship God. He healed the sick and performed other miracles. Tradition has it that he pronounced judgment against the city of Tanapan, which was afterwards engulfed in the ocean, on account of its wickedness. He was then taken prisoner but was set free by a beautiful king. Later, however, he suffered death and his body was placed on a canoe which was set adrift into the open sea.

It is supposed that the hero of this Peruvian legend is no other than the Apostle Thomas, the name "Thomapa" being the same as Thoma-papa, and the surname "Arieva" being the Peruvian word for baptism. Among the Chiluans there is also a tradition about a bearded man who visited their forefathers and performed many miracles. Nicaraguan tells of similar traditions in Brazil and Lacantun relates the following:

The great missionary of the Brazilians, John de Lerl, exclaimed one day to them the origin of the world, and now they should believe in the Creator. They listened him with the greatest attention and evident signs of astonishment, but when he had finished his discourse, one of the Elders rose up to answer. "You have told us wonderful things, he said. "That have brought back to our minds what we have often heard from our ancestors relative to a certain man who came to this country, that very long since, certainly long before the Inca, and clothed strangely, had been amongst them, and had sought to turn them to the God whom he announced to them, and he spoke as you speak now to us. He they would not be led. Which he directed another man, who, to enforce his words, distributed arrows amongst them, with which they have ever since been killing one another."

There are other traditions preserved in relic in the Sources and labors of the Apostle Thomas in various parts of South America, and it is by some thought probable that the great Mexican civilizer Quetzalcoatl was none other than that Apostle. Two relevant contents that Colonel Squier, not "serpent," but twin, the Greek surname of Thomas Didymus.

There is very little historical material extant for biographies of the first Apostles. Tradition follows Thomas through Parthia, Media, Persia, Bactria and India, where, it is supposed, he suffered martyrdom near Coromandel. The article in the Ecclesiastical Review is of special interest, as showing that the possibility of communication between the two hemispheres, in those early ages, is no longer a subject outside the pale of scientific discussion. The fact that such communication took place if not both in the Book of Mormon, and traditionalists corroborate and confirm that record.

## AMERICAN SHIPPING.

Among the various interests which at this time claim the attention of the nation is the need of an American merchant marine. The addition of ten steamships to the great West, and the service of the United States under the sense of activity of European powers, call for some effort towards enlarging and multiplying opportunities of trade for our own people, to transact with the nations around us as well as with foreign ports. Congress should see to it, as far as it was power to do so, that the American flag is given an opportunity to wave at all the great centers of commerce. This is of as much importance as the extension of our army and navy.

The national importance of a merchant marine, is shown in the present prosperity of the little kingdom of Norway. When that country in the beginning of this century obtained independence, it was absolutely destitute. Its forests were few, and it commenced with twelve sails against neighbors. Yet today, Norway has an advanced position among the nations of Europe. This is to a large extent due to the fact that her vessels are spread to the ocean in nearly every port. Though one of the smallest countries in population and in number and tonnage of vessels she ranks third, as before. Her merchant marine has given her the position to which no army or navy at her disposal could even have hoped to aspire.

Commerce consists both of trade and transportation. Prices are affected by the cost of carrying as well as of production. Shipping furnishes labor for a number of people, both directly and indirectly, and is thus a great factor in the sum of a country's prosperity.

## COMMENTS ON ROBERTS.

The Washington correspondent of the Scientific Republican of January 15th contains some comments on what he calls a complicated case.

So long as Representative-elect Roberts of Utah expects to bring his several families to Washington with him he cannot be admitted for delegate and to the District of Columbia. The so-called Edmonds law which prohibits plural marriages and cohabitation applies only to the territories and to the District of Columbia. It is true that the Territorial law of the State which he is to represent in Congress prohibits polygamy, but the Federal authorities have no means of enforcing that law any more than they have the right to interfere with the local ordinances of any municipality of any State of the Union. Ex-Senator Edmonds, who, during his term in the Senate, took the most active and energetic part in the attempt to suppress polygamy within the confines of the United States for all time, says that only by a Constitutional amendment can the United States acquire the right to interfere in the police power of the States; that the laws affecting marriage and divorce are State institutions and that the Federal authority can in no manner interfere with them without violating the Constitution. Mr. Edmonds says that the State of Utah in playing a conditions game upon the people of the United States when its constitutional convention solemnly pledged the new State to forever suppress polygamy within its borders, "but," added the senator, "the only way in which the general government can enforce its contract is for its own laws to be declaring war against the State."

Inasmuch as no center has been filed by Roberts's political opponent against his right to occupy the seat for which he holds the certificate he will be seated in which he appears at the bar of the House at the first session of the Fifty-sixth Congress, and once having been seated in his place he can only be unseated by being formally expelled. At present it appears that he is fully qualified as a member-elect to sit, but he holds that his former conviction and sentence for the crime of unlawful cohabitation disqualifies him from holding any office either in Congress or under the general government. It is doubtful if any such action will be taken, but there is much more doubt as to the ability of those who have raised all the commotion over Roberts's marital affairs to secure the votes of two-thirds of the House in favor of a resolution to unseat him.

The idea which has been advanced in some of the newspapers that it requires the concurrence of two-thirds of the Senate to unseat a member guilty of polygamy is evidently based upon the supposition that polygamy is a crime against the Constitution or statute law of the United States. This supposition is probably based upon the belief that the Edmunds anti-polygamy law applies to the States generally. But it does not, and can it, because Congress has no power to regulate the matrimonial affairs of the citizens of the States, except in the Territories and those under the general government. It is doubtful if any such action will be taken, but there is much more doubt as to the ability of those who have raised all the commotion over Roberts's marital affairs to secure the votes of two-thirds of the House in favor of a resolution to unseat him.

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The whole case is one of the most complicated that has ever come up in Congress and while the outcome will, in all probability, be the declaration that Roberts is not entitled to the seat, this will not be accomplished without a very vigorous contest which may eventually lead to a constitutional amendment which will prohibit such crimes against decency as that with which he is charged.

The question of American sugar took a prominent position yesterday in the Premier "Tout."

The constant babbling of French politics seems to be necessary to prevent a boiling over.

The Mirror's outward curves was checked in the mountain chain east of Clarke indicate a tendency on the part of the weather manager that is duly appreciated.

It is a gratification to some old women to have the last word. Our anti-Mormon contemporary is one of them and is welcome to its latest monologue.

Secretary of War Alger is going to the West Indies to ascertain the military necessities there. The secretary should have made the trip about eight months ago.

Walt Mason is pressing the desires of the East, Utah is enjoying spring weather and bright sunshine. This is indeed a favored spot and we might be more than his delighted.

Under the "hurry" orders given by the war department today, regarding the relinquishment of the Philippine Islands, there is a brightening prospect for the early discharge of the volunteers now in the Philippines.

Now the Cuban when does, directed against Americans, prove to be equally effective in shutting Cuban out of Africa. This is a good illustration to show Britishers how capital they should be, for statesmen, to fear are a consolidated sound, cutting both ways.

Giving effect to the proposition to give Cubans as U. S. soldiers to garrison the island, and to withdraw the American troops there now, would produce a practical demonstration of how Cubans would control where about as certainly as it is stated that has been suggested up to date.

If it is the best policy to tinker with the National Constitution, it is bad policy also to tinker with the State Constitution. Our legislators should bear this in mind, and withhold their support from proposed amendments that are not absolutely essential to the general welfare.

The act of annexation in Cuba is declaring remarkably free, it is stated with the statement that such a proceeding is contradiction. It is safe to say that when the matter is fully weighed the American military government there will not allow such in the way of confiscation without compensation.

It is announced that Senator Rawlins has been assured of the recognition of Major Richard W. Young's political services at Manila. The major is to be brevetted lieutenant colonel. The recognition is well merited. The country is acquainted with the work of Major Young's Utah battery in repelling the Spanish night attack at Manila.

A dastardly murder is told of to a dispatch from Kingman, Arizona. One of the victims is said to be John Blake, a "Mormon" emigrant from Utah, who leaves a wife and children. Nothing is said as to his place of residence in this State. It is to be hoped that the perpetrators of the crime will be traveled out and punished.

Our contemporary, the Herald, is reminded that jokes mount in earnest are sometimes taken very seriously where they can do much harm. Besides, the joke is not in it, it refers to of the kind that ought to be labeled before being placed on the market, most people would take it for dry serious.

Queen Victoria has allowed the Englishman who married Miss McCormick of Chicago to assume the name of McCormick. Evidently there is one man who thinks there is something in a name—such, for instance, Roberts, this be a recognition of "women's rights"—leaving her's instead of her husband's as the family name—that may not have occurred to many people heretofore.

A telegram from Havana says that Gen. Gomez insists on the American government paying his army nearly sixty million dollars before disbanded. The dispatch puts the old general in a strongly mercenary light, and in many respects is as inconsistent with what is known of him previously, that the story needs corroboration before receiving full credence.

Word comes from Havana that the Catholic Bishop refuses to allow a Protestant minister to take part in the funeral service over the victims of the Maine disaster, and bases his refusal on the alleged reason that it would be desecration of consecrated ground. Surely if it was not desecration to place the bodies of non-Catholics in the cemetery, it is no more so to have the service proposed. The refusal smacks of such bigotry and intolerance that, under the circumstances, there arises a doubt as to the story of the Catholic official's action being said correctly.

## PINGREE AND THE TRUSTS.

[New York Evening Sun.]

But does Pingree really mean all he says, and why is he crying "Wolf"? Perhaps nobody has made him mad enough to make him. It cannot be called by performance of the duties of a governor of Michigan. This time he has set Democrat against and given a cold chill even to Anarchist Altgeld and "Bloody Bridles" Waite. Next we may hear of him assaulting Mr. Cleveland and trying to take his State with him. Perhaps he will declare war in person upon the pirtuatic East.

[New York Evening Post.]

It means something when a politician with such a record, who is strongly on condition for the Presidency, denounces the expansion policy of the McKinley administration, and who has for years aimed a national leader against the trust, and a Republican rival of the Democratic Bryan in his assaults upon the courts. It signifies that one of the ablest judges of public sentiment to be found in the Middle West believes that by the fall of 1900 there may be a strong sentiment against expansion, and an uprising against the trusts that thrive under Republican rule, which will be strong enough to make its leader the next President. Pingree may be "off on" in this view, but the fact that he holds it and acts upon it is a sign of the times that should not be overlooked by any careful observer of our politics.

[Cleveland Plain Dealer.]

The idea that reported to have been expounded a few days ago is declared by its organizers not to be a "trust," but merely a new sine company, into which several concerns now established will be merged. Just so. There are to be "economies" in the business. They are all "new companies," mostly organized under the laws of New Jersey, which are as accommodating to the promoters of charters that need to be granted by the legislatures of Pennsylvania and that were turned to the uses of the robbers of the present combinations. The new companies with shadowy capitalization all set about merging into their "concerns already organized."

## EXPANSION.

[Richmond Dispatch.]

At the beginning of the war of the Revolution, the territory claimed by the thirteen colonies formed less than a third part of the existing area of the United States. The Declaration of Independence was not yet made when the Ordinance of 1787 was passed by Congress, and for the benefit of the great Republic, then in the infancy of its great Republic, then a Spanish village. At the beginning of the present century Louisiana had been made to the territorial limits of the Republic. Florida had divided with Spain the territory west of the Mississippi, and the Florida country had passed from England to Spain. Then followed, after the Declaration of Independence and the great expansion, to a American statement, war called to the White House, and the country entered upon the broad path of expansion which has carried the flag south to the Gulf of Mexico and west to the Pacific ocean. This policy was opposed by Jefferson against Greenland and Napoleon, and the acquisition of the Louisiana purchase, and the United States, the reference to the will have to obtain the consent of the people in their cases. For they will see that if so great a case was obtained, in spite of the expansion, the present day contractionists may also be mistaken.


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