

"In the early days the line separating this town from Sharon was not marked, and for some time Solomon Mack was supposed to live in and paid taxes to the town of Sharon, and hence the statement that Joseph Smith was born in Sharon. The line, when established, was found to be several rods south of the Mack homestead, which bordered upon a road running north from Sharon over the hills of Royalton to Tunbridge and the towns beyond. This was the principal thoroughfare of this vicinity in the early days, but a large part of the road has been abandoned for many years."

### MOB RULE AND LAW RULE.

WE have already referred to the forcible expulsion of "Mormon" Elders from Hanover County, Virginia, by seventy-five alleged "Christians," who declared by public resolution that they would not tolerate "Mormonism," because they were determined that they would only have a "Christian community." A number of papers endorsed this action and we took occasion to express our opinion of their Christianity and their tolerance. Now we find the following in the Richmond, Virginia, *Times*, and we take pleasure in noting that one influential paper, at least, takes a rational American and civilized position in regard to "Christian" mobocracy. The *Times* gives a brief account of the expulsion, expresses its disapprobation of "Mormons" and especially of polygamy, and presumes that the objection to the Elders was their preaching of polygamous doctrines. It goes on to say:

"But even though they were engaged in preaching Mormonism in its most polygamous and odious form, the *Times* intends to record its most solemn protest against the method by which the preachers were silenced. If there is no law of this State forbidding persons to preach Mormonism, even in its most offensive form, then every person has a natural right to preach it and those who undertake to prevent that right by physical force are performing an act in no respect different in its nature from any other unlawful combination intended to enforce an individual opinion or execute the decree of a mob. If there is no law against the preaching of such doctrines and the good people of Hanover want one they should come to the legislature and ask that one be enacted.

"If there is a law against it, then the way to have that law enforced is to have the parties indicted, tried and punished for violating the law. But no man or set of men has the right to take the law into his or their own hands and administer it according to his or their will, and the body of Hanover citizens who drove the Mormon preachers away were themselves as much violators of the law as those preachers could have been.

"The distinction between the rule of the mob and the rule of the law lies exactly at this point.

"These gentlemen had a perfect right to tell the Mormon preachers that their doctrines were offensive to the good people of Hanover and that those good people would be glad never to hear or see them again, and so peacefully urge them to depart. That is one thing, but a threat of violence and force is quite another. Our Hanover friends, however, may claim that their demonstration was no more in effect than this. But when seventy-five men go in a body on horseback to two persons, and in that array deliver their views in a matter of

this kind, the logic of the occasion is very much what operated on the mind of Gil Blas in a certain event.

"That voracious and immortal chronicler tells us that as he was one day riding along the road he came upon a man who looked like 'a kind of soldier.' He was sitting on the side of the road with a long gun resting upon two crossed sticks, 'which,' says Gil, 'he seemed to be pointing at me.' This 'kind of a soldier,' in piteous tones, prayed Gil. 'For the love of God give a poor soldier a penny,' and Gil immediately produced and left with him his entire purse.

"A request from seventy-five gentlemen under such circumstances is as near to a command as the 'kind of a soldier's' will, and it is to be regretted that in a country governed by law they did not pursue a different course."

### THE VENEZUELAN QUESTION.

DISPATCHES from New York and Washington contain significant particulars in relation to Venezuela. Admiral Walker, on board the man-of-war "Chicago," is on the way to that country, armed with plenipotentiary power to represent the United States. It is said that he will make a formal demand for the return of the six political refugees taken from the steamer "Caracas," a vessel flying the American flag, about two weeks ago. These were Venezuelans, and members of Congress under Palacio. Their forces were vanquished by Crespo and they sought this vessel then in the harbor, and engaged passage to New York. Shortly after their embarkation Crespo's soldiers boarded the "Caracas" and took the Venezuelans away by force and against the protest of the American captain.

Venezuela has been the scene of civil war since March last. It is difficult to trace the real origin of political troubles in these South American countries, but as near as can be ascertained the present disorder originated somewhat as follows: Andueza Palacio was President of the republic. Last March his term of office expired, but he refused to vacate his office. He was a man of large wealth and personal influence. He succeeded in preventing the assembling of a legal quorum in Congress, and thereby brought on a deadlock. Finally a majority of the Congress was brought together. It denounced Palacio, and ordered a dissolution. Crespo was then a member of the Senate chamber. He opposed Palacio's methods from the first. He became head of a party calling themselves Legalists, and organized an army. He succeeded in driving Palacio and many of his leading adherents from the country. The six refugees above mentioned were Palacio men. It looks as if Crespo had the law and the Constitution on his side. And the fact that he called himself a Legalist shows that he believes himself right.

Though Admiral Walker is said to be under instructions to demand the return of the refugees, yet it is thought that the matter will be settled amicably. There is another little trouble on the tapis in that country. Ever since 1887 a misunderstanding has existed as to the boundary lines of British Guiana. England claims that its possession comprehends what is now regarded by Venezuelans as a large tract

of their country. Shortly before Mr. Blaine retired he was asked to help Venezuela in its controversy with England. Owing to the disturbed state of the country for the past six months England has been preparing to absorb what she claims is hers, and it is thought she is behind Palacio in some of his schemes. Admiral Walker will acquaint himself of the real situation, and act accordingly.

In 1884 Guiana produced 250 ounces of gold, that is the Venezuela frontier of it. This year over 125,000 ounces have been taken out, and the indications are that very rich mines exist further in on the Venezuelan territory.

### THE TAX RAISE.

THE County Court has instructed the County Attorney to take legal proceedings for the purpose of preventing the ten per cent addition to the county assessment, proposed by the Territorial Board of Equalization. That is quite proper. Everything that is legal and necessary should be done to prevent the contemplated injustice.

But we do not think the additional assessment can be lawfully made. Not only have a great many taxpayers obtained receipts in full for their territorial, county and school taxes and could therefore resist payment of the extra levy, but, as we have pointed out in these columns, the Board of Equalization have left their action until it is too late. The law of 1892 provides:

"Sec. 11. That the county court of any county in which it is proposed to increase the assessed valuation as a whole, or of any class of property, shall have ten days' notice to appear by representative and resist such increase.

"Sec. 12. That said Board shall file a full and complete report of all the changes made by it with the Territorial Auditor of Public Accounts, on or before the first day of September, of each year, and immediately after any change is ordered, the secretary of the Board shall notify the county court of the county affected by said change, of the same."

There is, however, what the Board may consider a saving clause in another section of the same law, which says:

"Sec. 17. No act of the Board shall be invalid for any irregularity, not affecting the merits or justice of the act, or for a failure to do or complete any act within the time required, if it can be and is done later without injuriously affecting substantial rights."

The question is, taking all these sections and the facts we have named into consideration, whether at this late date the additional tax can be collected without injuriously affecting substantial rights. Can the tax be collected of those who have evidence that they have paid in full for the year 1892? If not, can it be collected of those who have not yet paid their county taxes, thus making the tax unequal?

We think the County has good grounds for resisting the proposed change, and we hope the Board of Equalization will not be blind to the disadvantages that will arise if they insist upon this addition.