

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 19, 1877

MORE PROSCRIPTIVE LEGISLATION SOUGHT.

It appears, from dispatches from Washington, that yesterday (Dec. 10) Senator Christiancy introduced again in the Senate, the two bills which he offered last session to regulate elections and juries in Utah, and that Representative Luttrell introduced bills of similar import in the House.

This is the renewal of the chronic struggle for power in this Territory, it is the recommencement of attempts to urge Congress to still further withhold the rights and restrict the privileges of the people of this region, and thereby unjustly deprive many of them of their liberty and their property. No matter in what fair appearing words or high-sounding phrases these attempts are voiced to Congress and the public, the same old, unworthy and persecutive object is ever in view, the cloven foot is ever there, and is plainly visible, through every disguise, no matter how carefully and elaborately made or cunningly employed, because it cannot be hidden from people of intelligence, sagacity, and experience.

It is urged that the movers and supporters of this legislation want honest votes and honest juries in Utah. This is a palpable falsehood, as is well known to every resident in this Territory. They really want dishonest votes and dishonest juries, voters who, legal or illegal, will support the party sadly misnamed "liberal" and "loyal," and juries who will understand that they are impanelled expressly to convict, law or no law, evidence or no evidence, in certain cases, and those neither few in number nor far apart. The pretensions to desire for honesty are all mere sham, perfect humbug, deceiving no person of understanding and discretion.

The legislation that is now sought for by these unprincipled persons is in substance as follows—

Registration of voters.
Secret ballot.
Exclusion of "Mormons" from juries.

To all which may be added, as the main point sought, the pith and germ of the whole business, entire manipulation of registration, elections, and juries by the "liberals."

To all which may be further added the fact that the real object of all these manoeuvres is to deprive the "Mormon" people of life, liberty, property, and the right to the pursuit of happiness in this world.

In regard to the registration of legal voters, there can be no valid objection to it, providing it be done honestly, so as to secure registration to all legal voters and none else. But this is not wanted by the parties who propose registration. What they want is for them to have the registration of voters, so that they can "fix" the registration lists, by insertions and exclusions, to suit themselves. That is the point. To registration of lawful voters by local officers chosen by the people who are legal voters we do not think the people would object, because there is no valid objection to such registration. This, however, is exactly the object not sought by these proscriptive legislation procurers.

As to secret ballot, multiplied experience in all the cities of the Union demonstrates that such secrecy is no protection whatever to the purity of the ballot, but rather an aid and a cloak to corruption and fraud. Open ballot is by long odds the fairest way of voting. It is so considered by other communities than this, for it is not peculiar to Utah. In almost all public and business assemblies open voting is the rule. Why should a man be ashamed of the way he votes, any more than of his politics, or of his special business, or of his religion, or of any honorable act? We can see no reason for it. People are said to shun the light and love darkness and secrecy when their deeds are evil.

The exclusion of "Mormons" from juries is unjust and unreasonable in every respect. Already the Poland bill has taken away from the people and their representatives the choosing of one-half of the citizens to sit on juries, and the unfair challenging of some of the jurors, permitted by some judges, makes that wrong greater at times. Officers appointed by the President of the United States, and not chosen by the people, choose half the names of citizens from whom juries are drawn. This is a restriction of the right to local self-government, which is professedly one of the prime principles of American politics, re-enunciated by President Hayes and also by ex-President Grant in the latter part of his term of office. It was a shame for self-government to be so far encroached upon by congressional enactment as it was in the Poland bill, and it is a greater shame for a still greater encroachment to be urged upon Congress by the self-styled liberal party in this Territory.

If any particular body of citizens are excluded from the jury box, may they not reasonably apprehend that a just trial for any of them before a jury of the balance of the citizens could not be expected? Certainly. There is no constitutional warrant for excluding from the jury box any particular body of citizens, and especially on account of their religion, as is sought to be done in the present instance, and when this is done by any legislative body it is a persecutive measure and a step downward toward disunion, disintegration, and decay.

The fact that the main object sought in such legislation for Utah is the transfer of the local government, such as exists, from the large majority of the citizens into the hands of the small minority who are unscrupulous enough to seek and to ask such a thing, ought to be sufficient to open the eyes of all, except the wilfully blind, to the real nature of these measures proposed and the real character of their proposers and supporters.

That the ultimate object of the movers of this kind of legislation is the persecution, and to extremities, of the "Mormons," who constitute the very large majority of the population of this Territory, is so patent that he who runs may read. It has been amply demonstrated in years past, and at times is not denied by the vicious parties themselves who seek such legislation, which is of a nature to work the final destruction of the liberties of American citizens, not only in Utah, but throughout the whole Union.

Since the above was written, the dispatch containing an alleged summary of the bills has arrived, showing that it is sought therein to prohibit women from voting, and "Mormon" polygamists from holding office or voting, also to punish reputed polygamists on slight showing. But lack of space forbids further comment to-day.

FORWARDS OR BACKWARDS—WHICH WAY WILL THE COUNTRY GO?

It has been said that revolutions never go backwards, but perhaps this assertion is open to some doubt. For although the general progress of nations in the old world is towards larger civil and religious liberty, this rule can not be said to be so thoroughly established in this land of liberty par excellence, as its people have long and boastfully delighted to term it. Britain was the first free country of modern times and the genius of her government and people still goes out towards greater liberty for her own immediate subjects at home and also for the inhabitants of the various colonies and dependencies. France has long struggled, though often wildly and recklessly, towards republicanism. Spain, too, yet in a less degree. Austria has learned to be more liberal and fraternal with Hungary. Russia, though an iron despotism, and cruel as the grave in much of her ruling policy, has emancipated her serfs. Japan is making wonderful strides forward. Burmah is advancing. China is less exclusive than she was. Egypt has a sagacious ruler, who manifests remarkable pro-

gressive and liberal tendencies. He is one of the most enlightened and enterprising rulers of modern times, though a polygamist. The Shah of Persia visited Western Europe and carried back with him progressive ideas. Turkey has adopted a constitutional government, and in many respects is far in advance of Russia in regard to civil and religious liberty. But here in America, in these United States, an opposite policy is urged, and in a degree adopted, especially towards Utah. While the nations of the old world go forward, America seems to go backward. While the Old World follows cautiously a progressive policy, the New World follows recklessly a retrogressive policy. It is true, these United States emancipated the slaves therein, but even that was not done by the entire voice of the federation. It was not an act of general peace and goodwill, but an act of antagonism and violence. It was an extreme civil war measure. It was emphatically a sectional measure, the people of one section forcibly freeing the slaves held by the people of the other section, against the will of the latter, and sheerly because they could not help themselves. It was done as a firebrand is used towards an enemy's property, for the purpose of disabling that enemy, rather than out of the desire of the republic, clearly and emphatically expressed, for the freedom and welfare of the slaves. Now, however, that the emancipation of the slaves is an accomplished fact, the republic would not see them re-enslaved. That is another thing, for such an act would be executed by the voice of the world. But are there not other particulars, wherein the tendency to adopt a policy leaning towards less liberty is manifest in these United States? Undoubtedly there are, as witness much that has been permitted to be done towards the people called "Mormons." Yet injustice is injustice, no matter upon whom inflicted, tyranny is tyranny, no matter who are subjected to its merciless rigor. It is no more justifiable to oppress the "Mormons" than it is to oppress the Catholics. Persecution is as wicked towards one as towards the other. Justice is not so blind as to be oblivious of that. But it is blind to all distinctions except in degrees of virtue and of vice, of innocence and of guilt, of criminality and of non-criminality.

If injustice is permitted to be done to one part of the community, the time will come in the natural course of things when it will be permitted to be done to another. If the "Mormons" are persecuted by the nation now, the Methodists will be by and by, for things of that kind go from bad to worse, unless the country takes on a general repentance and reformation, of which there are no immediate signs at present.

We solemnly warn the government and people of these United States to consider well their ways, and so order their steps as to advance towards the more perfect liberty of the gospel of Jesus Christ, instead of towards the dire policy of the cruel persecutors of conscientious religious people of any sect. The pages of history have been sufficiently stained with the dark and bloody deeds of past ages, when men, who assumed a little brief authority from heaven, and many who did not, took upon themselves to proscribe, oppress, persecute, despoil and destroy others who could not see, by the light God had given to them, that it was their duty to renounce their own peculiar and conscientious views of truth and duty and their practices in development thereof, and adopt the views and practices of their inhuman persecutors. A repetition of such scenes in this country will be a downward step of dreadful portent to the advancement and perpetuity of civil and religious liberty in this professed land of the free, and our earnest and emphatic advice to all citizens is, don't take any such step, or you will see sorrow, more ultimately than you will inflict upon the poor and helpless victims of your mistaken policy.

The Washington Star says, "Anxious inquiries are being made as to who the 'Sir' is, to whom the Secretary of the Treasury addressed his recent report to Congress, as there is no connecting thread to that fragment of a name either at the beginning or close of that document."

Local and Other Matters

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY, DEC. 13.

From the North.—General C. C. Rich, from the Bear Lake country, is in town.

Bound Over.—James Goddard and H. Debenham were each held in the sum of \$300, to answer to the grand jury. The first named, having found the necessary security, was released from custody. The other is still in jail.

Cyclopædia.—We have received Vol. VII. of Appleton & Co's "American Cyclopædia," one of the most valuable works of the kind in the English language. Mr. R. M. Powers is the agent for Utah.

Musical Times.—The Utah Musical Times for December 1 contains the usual amount of interesting musical, dramatic and other intelligence, also two pieces of sacred music, one by Prof. G. Careless and the other by Mr. W. C. Clive. The Times is conducted with taste and ability.

District Court.—Thursday, Dec. 13th.

Thomas J. Masters vs. The Iris Mining Co., of San Francisco, Cal.; case dismissed, the same having been settled.

Geo. Blackburn vs. R. Tice; on motion of plaintiff, the appeal not having been docketed within 30 days, the same is hereby dismissed.

E. A. Fargo & Co. vs. W. E. Bleny; judgment on the pleadings; twenty days stay of procedendo.

An Impudent Disturber.—Late last night or rather early this morning a fellow giving the name of Henry Hull forced his way into a room in the Salt Lake House, took possession and remained till daylight, without paying for lodging. He also used abusive language towards the proprietor, who had him arrested. He was fined \$15, and being impecunious, he will have to work that amount out upon the streets.

Hotel-keepers are frequently annoyed by fellows of his stamp.

Utah County.—From the Enquirer.

Bishop J. T. Lisonbee, recently returned from a mission to the southern States, where he went nearly two years ago, having caught a severe cold on his lungs while traveling towards his home at Monroe, Sevier County, died last Sunday evening, at Springville, his former home. His family had come to Springville to meet him. He was conscious to the last.

Ten miles of the survey of the narrow gauge railroad have been surveyed.

Typhus fever prevails at Payson. Five deaths last Sunday.

The bell used in the Provo Meeting-house, having been broken recently, has been shipped east to the makers and another one will be forwarded to take its place.

Fleeing.—A sharp has appeared daily for some time past at the Elephant corner, in a livery carriage. He pretends to put three hundred dollars, in separate lots, in a number of envelopes. He places them in a box and one of the envelopes is given to each purchaser of a small box of pens, for which he pays one dollar. The rapidity with which the sharp takes in the dollars, evidently to the tune of thousands, is really remarkable. It is no more wonderful, however, than the slowness with which prizes reach the purchaser, neither is it more astounding than the facility with which some people can be gulled and fleeced.

Gambling on the streets should be stopped.

Woman Suffrage.—A woman suffrage meeting was held at the office of the Woman's Exponent, yesterday, at 11 o'clock a.m., the ladies of Utah having been solicited by the National Suffrage Association at Washington, to take measures to obtain signatures to the Sixteenth Amendment and the Constitution of the United States. Some of the most prominent ladies of the City were present. Emmeline B. Wells was elected chairman and Elizabeth Howard secretary. Mrs. M. I. Horne opened the meeting with prayer. Arrangements were there and then made to canvass the city upon the subject and a meeting was appointed for Salt Lake County, when further measures will be taken to canvass the entire

Territory. After the transaction of immediate business in this interest, the meeting adjourned. Dismissed with prayer by Mrs. Zina D. Young.

Organizing.—David O. Calder and Joseph E. Taylor, of the presidency of this Stake, met with the Elders, Priests, Teachers and Deacons of the Mill Creek and East Mill Creek Wards on Sunday, Dec. 9th, in the Mill Creek Ward Meeting-house, when the following brethren were unanimously sustained in the positions named:

As the presidency of the Elders' Quorum composed of the elders in the above named wards, Amos B. Fuller president; John Henry Osgathorne and David Woodmansee counselors.

Of the Teachers' Quorum of Mill Creek Ward, Levi P. Helm president; Richard C. Wilking and Edward Howick counselors.

Of the Deacons' Quorum of Mill Creek Ward, First Quorum, Charles H. Spencer, Jr., president; Orson Calder and William Winder counselors.

Second Quorum, John H. Bowden president; William F. Murphy and George Lann counselors.

Third Quorum, Allen Park president; George Hanson, Jr., and Francis P. Carlisle counselors.

Of the Deacons' Quorum of East Mill Creek Ward, James M. Fisher, Jr., president; Joseph Sharples, Jr., and Benjamin Chapman counselors.

Special Meeting.—There will be a special meeting at the Fourteenth Ward Assembly Rooms on Saturday, Dec. 22, 1877, at 2 o'clock p.m., for the purpose of organizing a Presidency of the Relief Society for Salt Lake County, and also to transact political business in the interest of Woman Suffrage. All the officers of Relief Societies, and members of the same in Salt Lake County, and other ladies interested in these matters are respectfully invited to be present. This meeting is called at the suggestion of Miss E. K. Snow, Mrs. M. I. Horne, Mrs. Zina D. Young, Mrs. Phebe Woodruff, Mrs. B. W. Smith, Mrs. Priscilla M. Staines, Mrs. Hannah T. King, Mrs. S. M. Haywood, Mrs. Lydia Ann Wells, Miss Elizabeth Howard, Mrs. Rachel B. Grant, Mrs. Margaret Mitchell, Mrs. E. B. Wells and many others.

Dedicatory.—From Brother Francis McDonald we have the particulars of the dedication services of the Big Cottonwood Ward New School-house, last Thursday. The assemblage on the occasion was a large one. It was called to order by Elder Wm. H. Walker. The dedicatory prayer was offered by Elder William Taylor. Brief and spirited addresses were delivered by Elders David Brinton and Hosea S. Out, Bishop Brinton, Elders Wm. H. Walker and William Taylor and others. The speakers alluded in commendable terms to the trustees and all others who had aided in erecting so excellent a structure in so brief a time. The building of the School-house, from the time ground was broken till its completion, only occupied about nine months.

At night a social party was held in the School-house, and all enjoyed a social time.

On Monday the winter term of the school of that district opened, with Brother Samuel Brinton as teacher and an enrolment of forty-nine pupils.

Fatal Accident.—On Tuesday, George Rean, about sixteen years old, and William Read, about twelve years old, sons of Mr. Thos. Read, of Hooper, accompanied by a boy about seven years old named Wilson, went on the range to get a load of sagebrush. They took with them a loaded musket, for the purpose of shooting game if they saw any. The gun was left on the wagon. They traveled to within about a mile of Ogden City. When they had cut and piled up their brush, they went to the Weber river to get a drink of water. Seeing a rabbit on the way, William Read asked if he might go and get the gun. Being answered in the affirmative, he started off for that purpose. A few minutes after a loud report was heard, when Geo. Read ran to the wagon, where he found his brother lying in the last throes of death. It appears that while William was taking the gun from the wagon, it was accidentally discharged, and the ball with which it was loaded entered just under the boy's left eye, tearing off the top of the head and scattering his brains in all di-