

EDITORIALS.

A HARD STRUGGLE.

WHEN the Denver *Inter-Ocean* spoke in this fashion, there was some degree of truth in its remark, notwithstanding it was not free from an ironical ingredient:

"Denver *Inter-Ocean* 23d: The *Deseret News*, Mormon organ, which is published in the titling enclosure of the Mormon rulers, has our sympathy in its efforts to stem the tide of public opinion. It is kept busier than any organ ought to be in trying to answer all the foul slanders falling upon the afflicted church. The Mormon rulers ought to publish more papers; for the *Deseret News*, albeit it is a blanket-sheet, is proving inadequate to the mighty task. Let it find comfort in the fact that the affliction of the righteous is but the way that the God of Israel has of purifying His people. Let the Mormon masses remember that this wicked world is still the abiding place of Amalekites, Philistines, Moabites, Amorites, Egyptians, Jebusites, Perizzites, and other tribes of heathen Gentiles."

The task of refutation is decidedly Herculean, and our isolation in the struggle is strongly marked. But we are not disheartened. When calumny comes with a greater rush than usual, we roll up our sleeves, sharpen our Faber, and go to work with redoubled energy. With the truth on our side, we hope to do something toward helping its cause. At the same time, if the *Inter-Ocean* or any other capable journal should have the courage to face the popular flood of senseless rage it may rest assured that it will come out on the winning side in the end. Victory may be a good way off, but it is nevertheless sure. In any case, our colors are nailed to the mast-head. In our lexicon there is no such word as surrender.

FIGURE BLIND.

THE vagaries of Governor Murray in relation to subjects involving plain statements of figures, is now a matter of notoriety. We have heard of many instances of men being color blind, but his is the only case of figure blindness ever brought to our notice. When he gave a certificate of election to the minority candidate for Delegate to Congress from Utah, he was unable to discern that something over 18,000 was a greater number than 1300. Now he is spreading himself over the country, having deserted his gubernatorial post, working up an anti-"Mormon" movement. Among his late tissues of fabrications was an assertion to the effect that the Church immigration to Utah this year amounted to 28,000. This was probably the nearest correct of any statement he made, yet the immigration has not, during the present year, amounted to as many hundreds as he has made out thousands. Mr. Murray is now notorious as a mis-representer of figures. His proclivity is equally conspicuous in relation to facts.

FOLLY OF ORDINARY ANTI-MORMON METHODS.

If the aim of the numerous propositions in relation to Utah and the "Mormons" were the correction of existing evils, no more potent methods could be advocated to increase in place of diminishing them. If the intention be simply to suppress or extinguish a community whose ideas and some of whose practices are obnoxious to the popular sentiment the effect will be precisely the same. The strength and vitality of the object of the onslaught will be swollen.

There is an exciting clamor throughout the country in favor of additional special legislation whose object will be the extinguishment of "Mormonism." But if it be admitted that such a consummation is desirable, in what way could it be reached legislatively? The Latter-day Saints are neither hypocrites nor poltroons. They exhibit traits diametrically opposite to those which characterize people belonging to those contemptible classes. They prefer that their strictly religious oppo-

nents should have a monopoly of those undesirable qualities.

The religion of the "Mormons" is deeply rooted in their hearts. It is, speaking of the community as a whole (there being undoubtedly a number of exceptions) dearer to that people than their lives.

Can anybody tell what kind of a law will, in its operations, tear from the minds of a conscientious people their honest convictions of truth? The fundamental law of the land (the Constitution) may be trodden upon by the enactment of laws that would cause men and women, on account of their religious proclivities, to be put under bonds, imprisonment, hardships of every description; chains might manacle their limbs, but would such a barbarous process confine their ideas, thoughts, opinions or convictions? Would it alter the current of their predilections? Never. Such inhuman means would only fasten the roots of conviction deeper in the minds of a people persecuted.

The spectacle of a community assailed from every quarter by persecutive measures, suffering and struggling against so great apparent odds might afford a fiendish gratification to cruel cowards inspired with the merciless fires of sectarian hate, but the magnanimous, thoughtful and philanthropic would recoil from such a scene with horror, while their hearts would go out in sympathy with the down-trodden.

If laws that are now advocated by the cruel and unscrupulous should be enacted to further rob the majority of the people of Utah of their dearest and most sacred rights under the Constitution, and place them at the mercy of unconscionable mercenaries who are urging and awaiting the opportunity for material pillage, what figure would such enactments cut as factors in the solution or abolition of "Mormonism?" The operation of such means would not only increase the faith and determination of its followers, but attract under its religious banner, hosts of the noble and good of the earth.

Mr. Beecher hit the nail on the head in a recent lecture on the "Mormons," in the course of which he said many kindly things concerning them. He pointed out that there could be but two modes of treatment. One was "the sword," the other to "let them alone." The first he considered preposterous, leaving no alternative beyond the adoption of the second.

But surely civilized measures have not been exhausted. If they have, the fact is a standing reproach to sectarian Christianity. Viewing the matter as a purely religious question, and considering the wealth of resources of the various churches, do they not constitute, when amalgamated, a gigantic whole? They are united on the matter of "Mormonism" to a marvelous degree. It is about the only question upon which they can consolidate. On the other side of what should be a silent, Christian-like, humane, benevolent conflict, is incipient "Mormonism." It would seem as if such a contest would be unequal and unfair, the immense preponderance being on the side of modern Christendom, with its vaunted potent and peaceful influences as pitted against a comparative infant in age, experience and wealth of resource.

It has always appeared to us the acme of cowardice for such a gigantic combination to call to its aid the law, the sword and other militant auxiliaries in what should be a pacific engagement. When the boasts of Christian enlightenment are listened to from pulpit and press, they make it appear as if an army of elephants was arrayed against a single mosquito, and that after a brief battle the cumbersome host had been driven back with trunks in the air, shouting lustily for reinforcements. This is a discreditable spectacle. Let the churches lay aside their hypocrisy by abandoning appeals for aid from coercive methods and try upon "Mormonism" and the "Mormons" the only weapon consistent with their profession—the sword of truth wielded in a Christian spirit. The course they are now pursuing is unchristianlike, cowardly and unfair besides being an admission of imbecility and defeat. If they think the "Mormons" are misled, show them wherein. If they resort to forceful methods in what ought to be a pacific contest with the triumph of truth as its aim, they manifest that that they constitute a relic of barbarism, which, according to their own theory, should sink to oblivion under the flood of civilization.

If the question is viewed from a moral standpoint, then let the "Mormons" be shown by precept and example a superior phrase of morality. If they are in error in the conviction that their system is not only in accordance with the divine will, but a purifier of the social structure, surely the enactment of pitiless laws, or a resort to the sword are not proper methods when the aim to be achieved is the changing of their views, involving a mental process beyond the reach of accomplishment by physical pains and penalties. Let there be at least a little cleansing of the national moral structure, if for no other purpose than to make the "Mormons" believe that those who desire their abatement are not steeped in the essence of hypocrisy. In the midst of the anti-"Mormon" maelstrom throw in a moderate quantity of consistency, for appearance sake, if for no other object. It would be so new and refreshing.

Viewed politically the folly and unfairness of special legislation is again apparent. Inimical and unjustly discriminating laws could only result in political disarmament of the "Mormons," placing them at the mercy of human vultures, ready to devour them the moment they are defenceless. But "Mormonism" remains all the same.

From a political argumentative standpoint, the chief charges against the "Mormons" are their unanimity, and influence alleged to be held by a certain class of men respected in the community. If these awful crimes were admitted it would only be conceding the existence of an attainment that is being sought everywhere throughout the country. It is a notorious fact that a comparatively limited class of men control the leading political affairs and issues of the nation at large.

In every phase of the anti-"Mormon" crusade consistency is conspicuous for its absence, and the folly of attempting to crush "Mormonism" by special and oppressive measures is apparent. Peaceful and non-coercive modes are the only ones that should be used in the endeavor to change the deep-seated convictions of men and women. All other methods appeal to their lower and less noble instincts. However, in the present apparently irrepressible contest, the ultimate triumph of truth looms in the dim distance like a beacon of hope to encourage the righteous in their struggle for the maintenance of human rights.

O'DONOVAN'S LAST LETTER.

THE last letter of O'Donovan, the intrepid war correspondent who perished with Hicks Pasha's command, written to a friend and published in an English newspaper, is full of serious premonitions of what was about to happen. There is a vein of pathos about it too that charms its peruser. The following extract will give a fair idea of its character:

I am writing almost as near death as it is possible to be without being under sentence of execution. However, to die even here, with a lance head as big as a shovel through me, will meet my views better than a slow sinking into the grave. We are 1,500 miles south of Cairo, in the midst of a wild, unexplored country. The Egyptians with whom I am camped on the banks of the Nile will have but one chance—one tremendous pitched battle.

The enemy are as courageous and fierce as the Zulus, and much better armed. Our army is that which ran before a handful of British troops at Tel-el-Kebir. We are obliged to march in a square with our baggage and water camels, 5,000 in number, in the midst, lest the enemy's cavalry surprise us. We only march ten miles a day. After 12 o'clock the heat is frightful. It takes four days to get from one set of wells to another. Then we find the wells filled with stones or earth or the rotting bodies of men and camels. Then we go back again, with the enemy hanging on our flank, watching every opportunity to make a dash. I am pretty well accustomed to dangers, yet I feel how terrible it is to face a deadly peril in the company of cravens.

President W.B. Preston, of Cache Lake, was kicked by a mare last Monday, knocking him about twelve feet, against a pole fence, and cutting his hand and head. He lay insensible for a minute and then recovered. The accident occurred at Portneuf, Idaho.

BY TELEGRAPH.

FOR THE WEEK END THE DESERET NEWS.

AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 3. — Ex-Senator Spencer and counsel are engaged in the preparation of replies to the interrogatories of counsel for the government. Spencer will aver that he was not hiding, but traveling upon an important business matter in Nevada, and when he came to Washington to answer the subpoena remained two weeks occupying a room at the Arlington, near Col. Bliss, and the latter refused to see him. He will assert that he knew nothing that would be of value as evidence in regard to the case in connection with which he was subpoenaed, and Wm. E. Chandler on his behalf made a statement to this effect to Bliss before Spencer left Washington. Spencer will say that the statement that he saw Dorsey pay money to Brady, is false. He never in his recollection saw them together. He will say that the Star route investigations were gotten up at his instigation, and upon the request of Postmaster General James he consented to remain in Washington at his own expense without compensation during their progress, upon condition that he should not be known in the matter. He will assert that he received the promise of both President Garfield and Postmaster General James, that his connection with the investigation should not be known.

Issue of silver dollars for the week ending December 1st, 343,487; same time last year, 802,000.

Coinage of the mints for November, \$5,824,010, of which \$2,350,000 was silver dollars.

Postmaster General Gresham has returned to Washington.

It has long been a custom for friends of candidates for the Speakership to send flowers to his desk the day of his election by the House. Two Kentucky ladies prepared and sent Carlisle to-day a beautiful and original device in flowers and satin. It consisted of a gavel in the shape of a George Washington hatchet, resting on the mossy stamp of a tree, in such a way as to show both sides and handle. One side was composed of beautiful flowers, and the other of hand-painted satin. Through the centre of the blade on white satin appeared in illuminated old English letters the following:

"May eye be keen as blade of hatchet,
When worthy members rise to catch it,
And rulings true as steel to match it,
And lawful business to dispatch it."

On the left the inscription was a trump of fame blowing out gables, and beneath it on the left, a little nude George Washington, hatchet in hand, cutting down a cherry tree. On his right was a larger hatchet and a felled tree. In the upper right hand corner appeared against the sky background the dome of the capital with a waning moon in the west and a rising sun in the east. On the white satin ribbon turned about the handle were the words, "G. W. to Speaker XLVIII." The card the ladies sent with the floral gift bore the following advice to the Speaker, with regard to the manner in which the double-ended instrument is to be wielded:

For noise use hammer end as gavel,
And blade when knots you can't unravel.

Senator Warner Miller will soon introduce a bill for the retirement of the trade dollar.

The Adjutant General of the Army has received information of the surrender at Camp Poplar River of five lodges of Sitting Bull's forces from the British provinces.

In the House, when Kansas was reached, Peters, representative at large for that State, at the request of Springer, was asked to step aside. Springer stated that the governor of Kansas had forwarded him a petition signed by himself and other State officers and a large number of citizens, protesting against the admission of Peters on the ground that under the constitution and laws of Kansas he is ineligible to hold that office. He, however, withdrew his objection, and Peters took the oath.

Converse, rising to a question of privilege, said the clerk of the House this morning stated that he had a certificate from the governor of Mississippi that had been presented by Manning, a person claiming to be a Representative from the second district of that State, and he would place his name on the roll. For reasons satisfactory to Manning he had chosen not to present that certificate until action had been taken by the House. He (Converse) had

called upon Manning and asked permission to present Manning's credentials to the House. It had been the policy of the House by an unbroken train of precedents, to seat the member who held the certificate of the governor. He asked to have the certificate read.

Keller said Manning had never accepted the certificate, and put on the clerk's file a statement, that showed he had been beaten by 980 votes. He had also in effect stated he would not ask to be seated on that certificate. Did the gentleman propose to force Manning to do what he would not do himself?

Converse replied that not only Manning held the certificate and was *prima facie* entitled to the seat, but on the contest it was shown that he was entitled to it on the merits of the case.

The certificate was read after a short discussion over the right of the republicans to demand the reading of other papers on file in the clerk's office.

Converse offered resolutions reciting that Manning holds the certificate of the Governor of Mississippi, and providing he be immediately qualified as a member of the House without prejudice of the final right to the seat.

Kasson doubted whether the House had a right to order a man who did not claim the seat to be sworn in.

Converse replied that Manning did claim the right to the seat.

The previous question was ordered on the resolution, yeas 162, nays 128.

Calkins offered a resolution providing that the certificate of the Governor of Mississippi, certifying the election of Manning, together with the certificate of Secretary of State, and all other papers handed to the clerk of the House touching the right of Chalmers to the seat, be referred to the committee on elections, when appointed, with instructions to report without delay which of the parties, if either, is entitled *prima facie* to be sworn in. Pending a decision on the merits of the case, and pending action the House adjourned.

A democratic caucus takes place this evening.

CHICAGO, 3. — Mrs. Ruth Everett, of Salt Lake City, is in the city, and stated to a reporter of the *Times* that a petition was being numerously signed by Mormon women protesting against further anti-polygamy legislation by Congress. A great many women who signed this petition (said Mrs. Everett) did so under misapprehension and threats. At the recent election, polygamists generally abstained from voting, and then compelled their wives to vote the church ticket. While polygamists are disfranchised under the Edmunds bill, it is almost impossible to prove that they are living in polygamy, and consequently they can swear in their votes. There is as much marrying and giving in marriage now as before the passage of the Edmunds bill, but disfranchisement and punishment are obviated by maintaining a separate establishment for each family, and claiming the only wife. In a great majority of cases the wives support the husband, or rather maintain their own household. Mrs. Everett stated after close observation she could see but very little if any benefit from the Edmunds bill. It is not strong enough, too easily evaded. The evangelist would recommend abolishing woman suffrage as the first step toward the suppression of polygamy and the ultimate downfall of the Mormon Church. She thought it a strange commentary on women suffrage that the only place where it exists it is used to debase and enslave those whom it should ennoble.

WASHINGTON, 4. — The postal telegraph bill introduced by Edmunds provides that a board consisting of the Secretary of State, Secretary of War and Postmaster-General shall cause to be located and arrange for four trunk lines of postal telegraph connecting the northwestern, northern, western, southwestern and southern parts of the United States, with the city of Washington. Along such lines offices shall be established at such places as shall be for the public interest, there being from time to time lines extended and additional offices established as Congress provides. The rates for the use of lines shall be established by a board consisting of the Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury and Postmaster-General. The lines will be constructed and kept in repair under the direction of the Secretary of War and a thorough corps of engineers. The Secretary of War is authorized and directed to