

EDITORIALS.

TRY IT ON IN WASHINGTON.

So it has dawned upon the minds of certain officials at Washington, D. C. that some provisions of the Edmunds Act and the law passed to supplement it are applicable to all places over which the United States have "exclusive jurisdiction." If there is one spot more than another where this jurisdiction is and must be indisputable, it is the region known as the District of Columbia. The seat of the National Government is undoubtedly under the control of the National Government and subject to its laws.

The attention of the U. S. Attorney for the District has been called to a house used for improper purposes, so the newspapers gravely inform the public, and the question has been submitted to him whether the provisions of the Utah law in relation to certain sexual offenses are applicable to this case. Whereat the public grins with derision. First, the statement that "a house" is said to be used for such purposes is such a huge joke in a city that is notorious for its fair surface and foul substratum, that no one can suppress a smile at its mention. Second, the idea of prosecuting any one for the common doings of the town strikes most people as excessively ludicrous.

But the answer of the District Attorney has been given, and it is, of course, that the laws against bigamy, polygamy, unlawful cohabitation and certain vulgar crimes mentioned in the statutes supposed to be special for Utah, are of force in the District of Columbia. And it is pretty well known that the Administration is determined to enforce the laws fairly and equally, in every part of the republic so far as applicable. This has made a bit of a breeze. It may develop into something serious. And why not? If it is desirable that social purity shall be established in a Territory many hundred miles away from the national capital, why not inside of its own borders and within sight of the halls where laws are enacted for the promotion of that end?

It will be interesting to watch the progress of the inquiry. Will it be dropped like a hot potato, or will some zealous advocates of reform hold on to it until something definite has come out of it? If the matter assumes no practical form for a few months, it would be quite interesting to have the thing pushed home about the time for the next meeting of Congress. How will it do to set some deputy marshals on the track of certain members who climbed over each other in their eagerness to shout their "ayes" in support of the Tucker bill, and give them a taste of their own medicine? It would cause them to have "a realizing sense" of the meaning of a measure about which they knew nothing and cared nothing only that it was "agin the Mormons."

This may be looked upon as badinage. But, seriously, we are in favor of the enforcement of laws intended for all places over which the United States have exclusive jurisdiction, in some other spot than Utah and among some other folks than "Mormons." What is sauce for this Territory ought to be sauce for the District of Columbia, and if the provisions against polygamy are proper, the provisions against adultery ought to be proper against a Congressman or any other person who violates them where they are in force. And there is no reason which can be urged why spotters and deputies should be used to nose out offenses in Utah, that may not be advanced with equal propriety in support of a similar course in Washington. By all means let the law be enforced impartially and according to its terms and import. This jug-handled justice must go.

THE CORRUPTION CRY.

ONE of the peculiarities of American politics in this age is the persistent charges of corruption on the part of public officials. So general and so common have become the charges, and so well-founded they generally appear to be, that there has grown up in the minds of the people a quiet belief of much truth in the saying, "A change of officers is simply a change of thieves." New York is conspicuous in this regard as it has been for years. Chicago also, and other large cities come in for their share. But it is not confined to municipalities. The State Legislature of New York is having trouble on this score. The Illinois Legislature comes under newspaper criticism for the same reason. Brooklyn is being worked up, and St. Louis is not unspotted. Up from all sources and from all parties come cries of corruption. No place so high that its officer is not liable to a charge of dishonesty, and not infrequently the charge proves well founded. In view of this fact, the boast of honest government by either of the great parties becomes a ghastly sarcasm. It simply proves that corruption is not confined to any party; that in both there are dishonest men who bring principles into contempt; and that the chief

end of the politician seems to be not to win admiration for his own principles but to cast obloquy upon his opponent, and thereby gain a foul advantage. It becomes a sewer argument, where the party that can throw the greatest filth at the door of the other is deserving of the greatest trust and confidence.

Not by such methods is American politics to be raised to a better standard and the people educated to breathe the pure atmosphere of principle. The tendency of the day is to beget confidence in the efficacy of that which is vile and degrading as a power, rather than to turn the hearts of men into directions which elevate. There was a time when the great parties of the day contended for and battled in behalf of great thoughts which were worthy the name of principle. The student of the political history of to-day, however, will find the men who could still wage a warfare on these worthy grounds, are largely relegated to private life; while the great bulk of those who mould the public thought and command the public applause, make but casual and distant references to fundamental principles and rely in serene confidence on the all-powerful effects of some piece of villainy that men conspicuous in the opposite party have been accused of. Not by such means may this nation hope to rise to the heights to which its underlying principles give promise. Such methods are contemptible in those who use them and are debasing to mankind, as by them the current of thought is sent through impure channels seeking for that which is vile, becoming contaminated by it and working out results as deleterious as the influences by which they are surrounded, and for which only the public mind is educated to be on the alert.

The inevitable outcome of such a policy is disaster; yet this course is that most esteemed by political managers, and to preach other doctrines is to proclaim oneself, in the general esteem, as unfit for service among men. This is true if the aim be but for the hour, but when men would build for the future, these are the last and the basest reasons to which wise men and statesmen should appeal. Principles are for ever. Those who would build upon them can make no sacrifices for a day or a week, and this rule applies in all directions and without any exceptions.

THE NEW YORK SOCIALISTS.

A GENTLEMAN of this city, who formerly resided in New York, states that he there made the acquaintance of Herr Most, the notorious Socialist and advocate of assassination. He describes him as being somewhat short, of square build, with bushy hair and whiskers the color of which borders on red. He has a large swelling on one side of his neck, probably a goitre, which he tries to carefully conceal with his luxuriant beard. He is not unpleasant in manner in ordinary conversation, but is almost fierce in demeanor when dilating upon what claims to be the wrongs of society, and speaks unreservedly in justification of the use of bombs and other deadly implements for the "removal" of those he views as the enemies of the masses. His manner indicates the possession of a powerful will and that his extreme ideas are so deeply rooted that nothing will remove them.

Our informant, who was introduced to Herr Most by another socialist, with whom he had business relations, states that the manufacture of bombs and other implements of destruction, is carried on in New York State to an alarming extent. Dynamite is being made and stored in large quantities in numerous localities.

One species of bomb is enclosed in wire, which is wound around its exterior. When the deadly article explodes the wire flies in every direction and cuts deep wherever it strikes.

The Socialists claim that they are simply biding their time, and expect, when their scheme is ripe, to direct a blow at the existing social structure that will strike terror to the hearts of those they look upon as oppressors and tyrants, work wonders in the way of revolutionizing the whole fabric and bring about a favorable change in the condition of the masses.

The gentleman who imparts this information has seen a good many of the infernal machines to which reference has been made, the Socialists having taken no special pains to conceal their operations and designs.

WHAT NEXT?

A NEBRASKA newspaper man claims that a friend of his who possesses an inquisitive turn of mind, with a scientific leaning, recently made an important discovery regarding what he calls the soul of man. He announces that this gentleman and he have had ocular demonstration that the body and spirit of man are distinct organizations, the latter being in shape an exact counterpart of the former.

This keen and inquisitive observer, according to the story, was led into an investigation of the subject by the fact of an acquaintance who was

minus one of his lower limbs being occasionally troubled with severe pains in the absent foot. He caught the idea that the soul (spirit) of man permeated the entire body. He had a large and powerful lens made and finding a person who was minus a portion of one arm he caused him to extend the portion remaining. He brought his apparatus to bear upon the limb, and there he asserts was, extended beyond the stump, the complete form of a hand and forearm, the spirit part being of a clear, transparent substance. He requested the subject to form letters with his finger and, to the latter's astonishment he was enabled to spell out the words he deciphered.

His next subject was a consumptive patient whom, being without friends, he took to his house. As the young man was dying he brought his powerful lens to bear upon him, when he claims he saw the counterpart of the patient leave the body, float over it a few moments and then assume a perpendicular position. The spiritual body, he claims, was exceedingly beautiful.

Of course the story is a myth, without foundation in fact; and illustrates the fertility of the field in which the newspaper genius is pastured. It also shows that unless a prolific imagination is located in some other pate than a shallow one, the journalistic impostor generally gives away his own sensational schemes.

For instance, this Lincoln, Nebraska, genius asserts that the large lens used in making this alleged discovery had a one thousand-fold magnifying power. According to this basis, if the consumptive patient upon whom the experiment was made was six feet in height, then the gaze through the apparatus beheld a form of the prodigious length of 6,000 feet, and of proportionate girth, and the spirit form of similar dimensions. That the beautiful expression of the mild blue eyes of this huge shape, considerably over a mile high, could be given in detail is a dose of hyperbole much too large to be swallowed at one gulp.

While the statement that the spirit of man has capacity for living apart from the mortal body and is its counterpart in shape, is a truth, it never was discovered by mechanical appliances.

The tale told by the Lincoln man bears the earmarks of the fellow who created a sensation a short time ago by the story about the resurrection of the late President Brigham Young. In this latter rignarole the journalist claimed to have witnessed the experiment upon the dying consumptive patient.

MORE IGNORANCE.

THE Springfield Republican endorses the action of the Utah Commission in refusing to accede to the oath proposed by the "political authorities" here as preferable to that formulated by the Commission itself, agreeable to the law. But, like nearly all other papers, when handling this question, it seems ignorant of the law it discusses. The purpose of the oath formulated in the law of March, '87, was not to exclude polygamists, though it operates to that end. The exclusion of polygamists had already successfully been accomplished by the act of March 22, 1882. This fact was conceded by the Commission and it has not been disputed. It is forgotten by the papers that there are among Latter-day Saints men who are not polygamists and that the point is not, as the Republican puts it, that the oath was designed to exclude polygamists, but to root members of the "Mormon" church, (whom no new law that might be made could touch) of the right of franchise. That this law failed is due to the ignorance of those who made the law, when they failed to recognize that men could be "Mormons" and not polygamists.

There has been a great deal of talk about "Mormon" perjury, in taking the oath—which is so much rubbish. Soon after the bill passed, and when the new oath was first given to jurors, a leading New York paper went painfully astray on the subject and refused to be put aright when given legal proof of its error. There were jurors who took the new oath, and yet were rejected for jury service. It was assumed, on this showing that these jurors had perjured themselves. The fact is that the law of 1882 made it a cause for challenge to a juror that he so much as believed in polygamy. There are men inside the "Mormon" Church who think polygamy right, but who have no intention whatever of practicing it. There are members of the Church who can conscientiously take the oath prescribed (stretching its construction to the utmost limit) and who yet would not be permitted to sit on certain juries or act as a grand juror. It was ignorance of the fact that belief was cause for challenge that misled journals discussing this matter, and that ignorance is fed and its appetite whetted by the unscrupulous anti-"Mormon" journals of this city. It would be as just to say that a man excused for cause at any time had perjured himself, as that a "Mormon" who had taken the new oath and was yet challenged for belief, was untrue to his vow.

The same spirit of ignorance pervades the article of the Republican. The proposed oath of the "political authorities" which the Commissioners rejected was never

in the remotest manner designed to touch polygamists. That they cannot vote is conceded on all sides. The design of the "political authorities" was to apply an oath which it was thought would touch the faith of a Latter-day Saint and thus, by a religious test, cause him to be kept from the polls. This is the difficulty. This is what was designed. Robbery and office are the watchwords of political scoundrels the world over, and Utah is no exception; but we have a press so generous to the political tramps of this Territory that they are willing to give them credit for every virtue under the sun and forget that those here resemble unscrupulous politicians everywhere else.

In spite, however, of this ignorance, the Republican can see through the gauzy pretenses and takes exception to the methods of the Utah organ of filth, and because it does so, that disgrace to journalism itself finds the Republican guilty of ignorance, and discovers no language adequate to express contempt of the Republican. This is a cheerful spectacle.

EQUAL TREATMENT.

THE springing of the question of the applicability of the Edmunds law and the provisions of the later supplemental act to a number of other places besides Utah, and some other people besides "Mormons" continues to excite considerable comment. Some of the leading journals are exhibiting a broad grin when they venture to touch the subject. Should the law be enforced in all sections of the country over which the United States have exclusive jurisdiction it will be found, to the disgust of a good many people, that legislation of that kind is double-edged, and can cut in more than one direction.

If the crusade prosecution tactics continue to be applied—enforcing the law against one class of people only and in but one region of country—there should be an active and vigorous protest against this unjust discrimination. Now that the question of more extended applicability has been sprung, it should not be allowed to slumber so long as the powers that be continue to break into the principle of equality of all citizens alike before the law.

It has been the rule here, under crusade legal tactics, to be very strenuous to set up some anti-"Mormon" theory regarding the intention of the legislature which passed the laws and to push prosecution in that line. This was, for instance, a favorite theme for some time in relation to the purpose of the provision of the Edmunds law regarding cohabitation. It was held that its object was to break up the polygamous relation. While that was doubtless an element of the intent, there is no warrant for the exclusive application of the law in that direction. Its terms are strictly general. The offense, as defined by the statute, is to "cohabit with more than one woman." Nothing whatever is stated in relation to a form of marriage existing between the parties. It will not be denied that a man may cohabit with more than one woman without any marital ceremony having been performed, and in such cases the law is as applicable as in instances where there had been some rite of that nature. It is against the theory of the institutions of our government to legislate against a class unequally, and Congress has no right to do so. Consequently even the provision in relation to unlawful cohabitation was as applicable to non-"Mormons" living in that relation as to "Mormons."

With regard to the later law—the Edmunds-Tucker act—there does not appear to be any possible escape from the conclusion that its provisions specially aimed at sexual crimes are applicable to non-"Mormons." In this regard there must be no one-sided line of prosecution.

The late springing of the question of the extended applicability of the provisions of the Edmunds law and its supplementary enactment, is but the initiatory indication of the danger of one-sided or class legislation. One community or people cannot be improperly or unconstitutionally treated without others being liable to be drawn into the vortex. Whatever applies in this regard to criminal matters does so equally in reference to the rights of property. There are, in this connection, some dangerous provisions in the Edmunds-Tucker act. Any extreme steps taken under them would imperil the proprietary rights of other religious communities. As the question upon the criminal features of the legislation has been sprung in the District of Columbia, so, in certain contingencies, would questions doubtless arise regarding the rights of property. This latter phase of the special anti-"Mormon" legislation is one of particular interest to the Catholics.

This community demand that they be regarded and treated with equality as other citizens before the law. If they continue to receive unfair treatment, they will continue to protest against the injustice, and take all possible and legitimate steps to remedy the wrong until even-handed justice is vindicated and established.

A section band named Benjamin Strickner was killed by being run over by a train four miles east of Soda Springs on Wednesday, May 11th.

VICTORIA AND BUFFALO BILL.

ON Wednesday of last week Queen Victoria visited Buffalo Bill's Wild West show and witnessed the performance, now exhibiting in London. An interesting episode connected with the incident was the presentation to Her Majesty of several members of the company. The correspondent of the New York World thus describes it:

"The Queen advanced to the opening of the box and stood upon the floor, which is about six inches above the level of the track. 'Red Shirt' advanced and stood upon the tan bark. When he was presented by the interpreter the latter was very much overcome, but 'Red Shirt' remained as self-possessed as the Queen herself. He half nodded and smiled. The Queen directed the interpreter to say to him that she was glad to see him, that she had admired his riding very much, and bade him welcome to England. 'Red Shirt's' face lighted up when this was communicated to him in husky whispers by the interpreter. He responded in the guttural of his native language, which the bashful interpreter translated in such a feeble tone of voice that the Queen could not understand. Orator Richmond, however, repeated the phrase so that the Queen heard it. It was as follows: 'I have come many thousand miles to see you. Now that I have seen you, my heart is glad.' The Queen nodded at this flowery sentence, and 'Red Shirt' stepped back.

Then 'Yellow Striped Face,' the half-breed interpreter, was presented, and then came two squaws, mothers of the two papoosees in the camp. The little girl papoose was first presented. The Queen patted her cheek with her black-silk gloved hand, and then the little thing stuck out her brown paw, and the Queen shook it. After this the Queen stepped back, but the mother was not content. She walked up and stuck out her hand, and the Queen shook hands very gravely and bowed. Then the other squaw came up and said: 'How,' and offered her hand, and finally a little brown boy papoose came up and offered his hand. The Queen shook hands with them all, these being the only members of the Wild West party who were thus honored. Then Messrs. Cody and Salsbury were presented. Both of them bowed gravely and Col. Cody smiled pleasantly at the compliment paid him by the Queen. She told him that she had been very much interested and that his skill was very great."

The visit of the Queen to the show will make the exhibition all the rage and prove a bonanza to the proprietor.

GEREYMANDERING.

ELBRIDGE GERRY was a great and good man in some respects; he was a signer of the Declaration of Independence which, politically considered, ought to be regarded in all ages in this country as glory enough. But when the long and bloody struggle with Great Britain was over and independence was firmly established on this soil, the patriotic impulse which lit the fires of revolution and blazed the path to liberty commenced to dwindle because the fight was ended and those who had fought it were entitled to a rest. The enervating effects of a prolonged struggle ending in a peace that must for a time have been insipid, were noticeable; and that disposition in man which prompts him at times to shake himself and go out for a walk when ennu and lethargy are making the world assume a dreary blankness, got hold of some of the patriots and they branched off into political parties; thus they could go on contending in a milder way and the blood would not become so sluggish as it would if treated to no greater excitement than purely domestic life afforded in that early day. Gerry was not unlike others who preferred activity and he found himself in a short time in the Massachusetts Legislature, having previously been in a similar body during the latter part of the war. He was a born politician, as the sequel shows, and was clever in the matter of organization by means of geographical lines and mathematical equations. When his party was not in power, he could by looking upon townships, precincts, districts, etc., as the squares of a chessboard and the voters as the titular dignitaries by which the game is played, so arrange the situation that the enemy would encounter defeat when least expecting it; and if his friends were already holding the reins, it could be so arranged that they need not give them up. He was the Riche-lieu of the colonies; for he had force of character and signal ability; he became Governor of the State and Vice-President of the United States; but the system by which those who knew less of political methods and men than himself were defeated, set them to complaining.

It is related of an aspirant for Congressional honors in the southern part of Indiana, who had some kind of hold on the machinery of his party (the Democratic) in that State, that he had the Legislature reconstruct his district two or three times, but it was no use; he got the nomination only to be upset at the polls. Finally, wearied with his importunities, the leading