

DESERET NEWS

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - APRIL 3, 1878.

A MODERN PATRIARCH.

ACCORDING to eastern papers, a man named Owen Adkins, who has reached the advanced age of ninety-six, has been living in practical polygamy, in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, for the last sixty-six years.

He was married when twenty-three years old, and at the age of thirty, through reading the Bible, became convinced that the holy book taught and sustained the doctrine of a plurality of wives. Accordingly he added unto his faith works, and unto his first wife three more. He built a separate house for each family, raised seventy-four children, and his grandchildren number one hundred and ninety-six. "The family is altogether so large and prosperous," so says the *Germantown Telegraph*, "that the town is called Adkins. And the number of voters that he has reared is said to have been a safeguard against prosecution for bigamy."

Of course Adkins is put down as a "Mormon" by newspaper noodles who seldom stop to think when anything "Mormon" is on the tapis. Seeing that there were no "Mormons" sixty years ago, and that plural marriage has not been a tenet of the "Mormon" faith for more than thirty-five years, it is evident that Adkins did not obtain his marriage notions from the "Mormon" church. The Bible, when read without prejudice, very plainly supports the principle of a plurality of wives, and Adkins, very reasonably, thought that as "faith without works is dead," he would risk any consequences that might arise. In this respect he is a step in advance of some actual "Mormons" who are yet in full standing and fellowship. And it appears that his voting power is respected more than his polygamy is contemned. Adkins is a modern patriarch and will not, likely, be ashamed to sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and other Biblical polygamists, in the kingdom of God.

GETTING A GOOD READY.

ENGLAND is making diligent and extensive preparations to maintain her rights and beat back the Russian tide flowing towards the South and East. Recruiting officers are busy in the United Kingdom and everything in barracks, dockyards, arsenals and camps, indicates the expectation of an important and gigantic campaign. Horses for cavalry have been purchased in large numbers, and extensive orders given for Armstrong 100-ton guns and Whitworth gun carriages, as well as torpedo vessels and torpedo sinkers.

But although anxious to enlist men and fill up every regiment to its full capacity, the government is not indifferent to the physical status of the new recruits. The regular minimum standard for infantry has been for a long time five feet four and a half inches in height, and thirty-three inches chest measurement. The standard has been raised, and the present minimum is five feet five inches in height and thirty-four inches chest measurement, an advance of half an inch in the former and an increase of one inch in the latter.

This will give the British troops an advantage in size over the Russian soldiers. The popular idea of the Muscovite warrior is of a tall, stolid person, but the rank and file of the armies of the Czar are made up principally of small, wiry men. For the purposes of modern warfare medium sized men are best adapted, and England is evidently selecting with care the troops to be hurled against the legions of the Czar.

The Ogden *Amateur* for March 27 is out on time and contains a number of well written articles very creditable to the young people of the Junction City.

RUSSIAN CIVILIZATION.

HERE is an item for admirers of the Russian champions of mercy for the Christian subjects of Moslem tyranny. It has been freely published in the principal German newspapers under the title given above:

"An atrocious punishment has been inflicted by the Governor of Kieff, Prince Dundukoff-Korsakoff, on five Polish ladies, for expressing sympathy with the Turks. While the Turkish prisoners were being conveyed through the town, these ladies distributed among the Turkish officers baskets containing wine, cigars and other refreshments. The Russian Governor, under the pretext that nothing had been given to the Russian soldiers forming the escort, ordered these ladies to be taken to a madhouse five versts from Kieff. They were liberated only three days after, and had to perform their journey home on foot. Such is Russian civilization!"

How much better off would the Christians of Bulgaria be under Russian than Turkish dominion?

FENIANISM IN AMERICA.

THE riot in Toronto on St. Patrick's day, some particulars of which have appeared in our dispatches, has brought into prominence again the name of O'Donovan Rossa. He is an Irish Fenian, who was engaged in two or three of the "risings" which used to heat the blood of the sons of Erin to boiling point, which always resulted in a fiasco, without accomplishing any good thing, and inflicted little injury upon any one, except those who actively participated in those burlesque rebellions.

Rossa was arrested in 1858 while enlisting men in the north of Ireland for an uprising. He served nine months in prison. In 1865 another attempt was made for the "freedom of Ireland," and Rossa with many other Fenians was captured, and, after waiting in jail three months for his trial, he was convicted of treason and sentenced to penal servitude for life. He was incarcerated for a long time in different prisons, and was subsequently released, when he came to this country and is still engaged in plotting against the Government of Great Britain.

The riot at Toronto was occasioned by the atrocious sentiments which O'Donovan Rossa has uttered through the columns of the *Irish World* in support of the National Fund, otherwise called the "Skirmishing Fund," to which the laborers and servant girls who have immigrated from the Emerald Isle are liberally contributing. The windows of St. Patrick's Hall were smashed, Rossa escaped in a carriage, jumping out of the window of the vehicle on the opposite side from the mob and proceeding to the house of a friend. The assailants, numbering near ten thousand, then attacked and wrecked a house known as "Cosgrove's," and in a fight with the police, who acted most gallantly, a large number of persons, not less than sixty, were wounded, and at least three killed, as pistols were freely used besides brickbats, bludgeons, stones and clubs. One policeman was dangerously and two others severely injured.

The movement now in progress among the Irish Americans with Fenian sympathies seems to have no definite object in view, except preparation for an attack on England when opportunity arrives. The society of which Rossa is Secretary claims to have on hand \$50,000, not a very formidable sum with which to supply the sinews of war against such a Power as Great Britain. Some are of the opinion that Rossa and the chief conspirators will continue to coax the dimes out of the Paddies and Bridgets until a million has been accumulated, when they will quietly pocket the proceeds and disappear. But Gen. Thomas F. Bourke, who is one of the six trustees in charge of the "Skirmishing Fund," says the money is invested in United States registered bonds, and is so arranged that it cannot be touched without the order of the trustees and the presence of at least three of their number.

The idea of an onslaught upon England with such an insignificant fund as could be raised for the purpose in this country may seem ridiculous. But when the devilish plans proposed by Rossa are considered, the necessary cost will not appear unattainable. Here are a few quotations from a back number of the *Irish World*, hinting at what the agitator suggests:

HUMANE WARFARE.—The shortest, swiftest, and cheapest warfare—that which does the greatest material damage to the enemy with the least loss of life to either side—is the most humane warfare.

CHEAP WARFARE.—This is the age of dynamite and torpedoes—agencies with which nature has come forward to aid the weak, the poor, and the enslaved. Cheap warfare! Let this be the motto. War against England with the smallest number of men and the least possible expense.

REGULAR WARFARE NEARLY OBSOLETE.—Fleets are now almost useless. As the ironclad drove out of existence the old-fashioned wooden ships, so the torpedo will drive out the ironclad. The fleets of Europe and America are at the mercy of the stealthy, little enemy; and the best type of the torpedo boat carries no crew.

ENGLAND'S FEAR.—Three men and a few pounds of dynamite are more than a match for the mightiest frigate. Months of preparation, hundreds of men, the biggest guns, and all the latest improvements go down before the apparently insignificant assailant. England to-day is beginning to count the cost of her expensive and cumbersome ironclads, and a vague and unpleasant idea is just shadowing itself on the British mind that all this preparation for the defence of the island may have been useless.

As skirmishers, it behoves us to acquaint ourselves with such appliances as are calculated to crown our efforts with success. In this connection I should wish to draw the attention of the skirmishers generally to an item appearing some time ago in the papers with the caption "Bottled Death." "At a recent meeting of the Paris Academy of Sciences, a member exhibited a small vial of osmium, the most deadly poison known. In a short explanatory address, he remarked that 20 pounds of the metal would be sufficient to poison the entire population of the world. One thousandth part of a grain of osmic acid, set free in a volume of air of 100 cubic yards, would possess such a deadly influence that all persons respiring this air would be poisoned. What makes it the more dangerous is the fact that it has no known antidote." Some persons with fine-drawn consciences may exclaim that this would be a terrible way of making war.

O'Donovan Rossa is the writer of these extracts. His plan is neither more nor less than to blow up some of the chief cities of England, poison the inhabitants, destroy her shipping and spread death and destruction without resorting to the general modes of civilized warfare. But it is due to Bourke and other more rational conspirators to say, that they do not endorse these fiendish projects of the Fenian Rossa, but wish to wait until a favorable opportunity occurs to strike a blow for the independence of Ireland in a fair fight according to the usages of modern armies.

But whether the proposed assault be conducted with powder or dynamite, with the poison of the wholesale assassin or the weapons of the soldier, the fact remains that an expedition against England is being organized and money to support it is being collected on American soil, within the purview of the United States. It is also a fact that this is in violation of the spirit of a treaty made with Great Britain in 1871. Therefore it appears to be the duty of the government to put its foot down promptly upon this "skirmishing" scheme, and flatten it out before it brings any trouble between two nations that ought to be in a mity.

It is not enough to pool! pool! the idea of such a wild scheme by a handful of agitators. The past history of Irish uprisings shows what may be expected of the hot-headed natives of the Emerald Isle, when their patriotism is perverted under the treasonable eloquence of Fenian demagogues. "Ireland for the Irish," the "Repaleuv the Union" and "Home Rule or Death," may be all very well as cries for "the boys" on the

"ould sod," but Irish men and women who have become citizens of the United States should sink their national enmities, and remember that they are now part and parcel of a nation under treaty obligations to the government which they formerly regarded as their oppressor, but from whose dominion they are now entirely free. And if they will not conform to the requirements of their new position, the United States has a duty to perform in relation to the matter which ought not to be neglected. Let the anticipated war with Russia be inaugurated, and unless this Irish rebellion on American soil is crushed in its incipency, Ireland will be arrayed against England at an early period of the struggle, with the United States as the base of supplies and a fosterer of the enemies of the British Government.

There is no wonder that the Canadian Orangemen were aroused to fever heat at the advent of such a firebrand as the liberated Fenian, and while the violence of such demonstrations is to be deprecated, the riot at Toronto is an indication of what the conspirators may expect if they attempt any more nonsense in the Dominion.

GLADSTONE DECLINES.

MR. W. E. GLADSTONE, ex-Premier of England, was recently invited to deliver an address before the graduates of Yale College at the next opening. Mr. Gladstone has replied in two letters, one addressed to President Porter and the other to Secretary Everts. The text of both letters has reached us by telegraph. That addressed to Dr. Porter gratefully declines the invitation and refers to the other for particulars. That addressed to Mr. Everts, after explaining as the cause of delay in replying, the hope that he should be able to respond to the call, and stating that neither lack of health or pressure of business prevented, says that he does not think himself "equal to the effort of visiting America and of encountering its busy and pre-eminently sympathizing life." He closes with a Latin classical quotation, and wishing for the prosperity of this great country.

It is a matter of regret that the distinguished statesman cannot honor the new world with a visit and also that he has no more definite excuse to offer. Gladstone is generally considered a master of language. His letter to Everts will not be treasured as a specimen of perspicacity, a gem of English eloquence or a graceful mark of deference to the wishes of a great people.

CHANGES AND POSSIBILITIES.

THE British army is about to lose one of its distinctive peculiarities, which have made it very formidable in appearance. The huge and ponderous shako is to give way for the Prussian helmet. The shako is hot, heavy and inconvenient; the helmet is comparatively light and healthy; it is made of black felt, with a brass spike on the crown and brass ornaments in the front. It has a military aspect, although it does not give a body of men such a massive and powerful appearance as the shako.

While English troops are adopting Prussian head-gear, it would be a startling arrangement in the present crisis if Great Britain were to form an alliance with Germany. Austria exhibits a leaning towards Russia, and the Czar makes no secret of his earnest desire to propitiate the Austrian Emperor. If the latter can be alienated from England, and, by promises of territorial acquisitions, be induced to join with the Czar in defying John Bull and driving the Turks out of Europe, it would not very much surprise critical lookers on.

Now, as the policy of Russia is to obtain a sure maritime outlet in the south, so it is the policy of Prussia to complete the autonomy of the German States. England and Germany combined would be more than a match for Russia and Austria, and success in such an alliance as we have hinted at, would not only drive back the Northern Colossus and

prevent his encroachment on the South and his march to the East, and thus save the threatened possessions of England, but would open the way for the extension of the German Empire, to the obliteration of Austria except as one of the States of Germany.

Strange moves are made upon the chess board of European diplomacy, and unlooked for alliances and complications may be effected at any moment. One thing seems almost certain; without the interposition of Providence a vast and bloody war will soon convulse the western part of the eastern continent, which may extend even to the rich possessions of Her Majesty Queen Victoria in British India. England and Germany united could sweep the field, and spread terror and achieve swift victory upon the seas. It would make a mighty alliance.

Local and Other Matters

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, MAR. 29.

Exhibition.—Twentieth Ward school exhibition to-night.

Called.—This morning we were pleased to receive a call from our old friend Bishop L.E. Harrington, of American Fork.

Opened an Office.—Dr. Romania Pratt has opened an office on East Temple Street, over the Richards drug store, nearly opposite Z. C. M. I. The lady has given special study to obstetrics, diseases of women and diseases of the eye and ear.

Another Little One.—It will be seen, by obituary notice, in another column, that another child of Bishop John Sharp departed this life this morning, making two deaths within a week. The bereaved parents have the sympathy of many friends.

Fourteenth and Seventeenth.—The Elders Quorum composed of the Elders reading in the 14th and 17th Wards, will meet to-morrow (Saturday) evening, at 7 o'clock, at the Council House, and every subsequent last Saturday of each month.

[Special to the DESERET NEWS.]

Incendiary Fire.

PROVO, March 29, 1878.

Editors Deseret News:

Last night an incendiary fire occurred at Smoot, John & Co.'s lumber yard. A large amount of finishing lumber, sash and doors was burned. The loss is about \$2,000.

Good Place.—The Museum is a good place for schools to visit. This morning, Mr. Robert H. Smith, principal, with assistants and pupils of the 15th Ward School, to the number of about 50, called at that excellent institution.

They appeared much interested with the numerous objects on exhibition and with the explanations of Prof. Barfoot, the curator.

Postponed.—Owing to the inclemency of the weather last evening, the lecture on "London and Paris" to have been delivered by Professor Riggs, was postponed until next Thursday in the Tenth Ward school house at 7 p. m.

Mutual Improvement.—A meeting for the purpose of electing officers, was held last evening by the members of the 19th Ward M. I. A., resulting as follows: Lorus R. Pratt, President; Wm. Asper and Wm. Noal, Counselors; J. R. Mathews, Secretary; Wm. Woods, sr., Treasurer; Robert Haslam, Librarian; Wm. J. Silver, J. R. Mathews, John South, committee on programme. The term of office is one year.

Blankets Returned.—Last Tuesday five men came to town from Fort Herriman on some land business and put up their team at the Tithing Yard. Just before starting for home one of the number gathered up the things belonging to the party, and, by mistake, included some blankets belonging to other persons. The mistake was not discovered till Herriman was reached. The blankets have been returned to the Tithing establishment, where they can be obtained by the owner.

Canon Road.—About ten miles of the new wagon road in American fork Cañon is completed. The work is being done by a company, incorporated under the laws of the territory. The directors are: Mr. Hiesel, John Duncan, Richard