

# DESERET NEWS.

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY  
THE DESERET NEWS COMPANY.

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WEDNESDAY, - AUG. 8, 1888.

## REPORTS FROM COLORADO JOURNALISTS.

The *Denver Tribune*, the *Denver Inter-Ocean* and *Pomeroy's Democrat*, representatives of which were with the Colorado editorial party that recently paid this city a visit, have each something to say on the "Mormon" question. The *Inter-Ocean* article by A. Kaufman, and the remarks by the editor show that prejudice and personal opinion have guided the writers' pencils, and that what was actually seen out but a small figure in the "impressions" described. For instance, A. Kaufman says: "Whatever the Mormon people may claim, they cannot claim to be Americans in nationality. They have not a thought or a feeling in common with Americans." If he had consulted the census of 1880 he would have found that the very large majority of the population here are American born, and if he had conversed with the people he would have learned that his notion in regard to their sentiments had no foundation in fact. The latter part of his article abounds with evidences of stupidity and the closing paragraph is the essence of silliness. In proof of the "inferiority" of the young people of Mormondom and of how little of Americanism abounds in Utah, he tells a story of a little boy aged five years, who, when the excursionists arrived, ran into the house exclaiming "Oh mother, there are fifty Americans just came to town on the Denver." This was related to Kaufman, so he says, by the boy's mother, who is not a "Mormon," but a notorious fraud who gains a precarious living by writing lying romances against the "Mormons." The alleged remark of a five year old "Gentile" child is gravely repeated as proof of the inferiority of the "Mormon" youth. That should be enough to settle Kaufman as a traveling correspondent.

The *Inter-Ocean* editorial is a collection of jerky sentences, designed to make some parallel between Mohammed and Brigham Young, and to show that "Colorado is the battle-field" where must be fought the question "whether or not the entire Rocky Mountain region shall become the licensed home-stead of polygamy." As the attempt at the parallel is a failure, and no such question exists to fight on any "battle field," the *Inter-Ocean* editorial may be dismissed.

The *Denver Tribune* correspondent relates an interview that he had with President Taylor which he evidently attempts from memory, and uses his own phraseology instead of the language of that gentleman. We do not think he designed to misrepresent, but having a very limited understanding of the situation, he has naturally fallen into some errors in attempting to repeat a conversation relating to it. The term "aest of people," which he uses himself in regard to the "Mormons," and places in the mouth of President Taylor, is one evidence of this. He also attributes to President Taylor remarks that he could not have made in regard to the Commissioners. As for example:

"Suppose that your people, or those that are polygamists, were all disfranchised, what would the result be?" querosely asked the writer.

At present I do not desire to go into any discussion on that question. I do not desire to make any statement on that. I am fully aware of what we will do but it would not be policy for us to make it known to the world, you can rest assured however that if such a course is pursued by the government or commission, that stringent means will be taken to counteract the influence it would have upon our people and the coming election. But I am not particularly afraid of that commission doing any disfranchising at present, for, I think, they are intelligent

men and would see plainly that it would be impossible for them to carry it out, and would be barren of good results."

Now the reporter ought to have been aware that all polygamists in Utah have been practically disfranchised, that they did not vote at the last election, and cannot vote at the coming election because they are not registered, therefore the question as given above and the reply are both inconsistent. Such remarks as President Taylor made were no doubt in reference to the threatened disfranchisement of all "Mormons" on account of their religious faith, and not in regard to practical polygamists, who have already been prevented from exercising the franchise. Those who are familiar with President Taylor know that he is not in the habit of making such remarks as are attributed to him, and will put them down to the well-known ingenuity of the newspaper interviewer.

There are other inaccuracies of a similar nature but we believe they are unintentional. The comments of the reporter, signed "A Bohemian," indicate a desire to treat the matter fairly, and he joins with others of the editorial party in crediting the "Mormons" with thrift, industry, temperance, hospitality and a general strict observance of the Sabbath.

*Pomeroy's Democrat* contains the discourse in full delivered by President George Q. Cannon on the Sunday when the Colorado excursionists attended the Tabernacle services, and a live, vigorous and pretty accurate description of what the writer saw and heard while in the Territory. It is signed J. K. and is the fullest and best account of the trip we have seen. The author took pains to gain all the information possible during his brief visit, and has embodied it in plain, terse and readable sentences in which he gives due credit to the majority of Utah's citizens for the work they have accomplished in redeeming this once desert country. As a sample of this letter we clip the following:

The great trouble with the Gentiles in Utah is that the Mormons hold all the offices, except Federal appointments. That is what hurts politicians. In Utah there are at the present time 135,000 Mormons in Salt Lake City they number 25,000 and the Gentiles 5,000; so it can be readily seen why the Gentiles do not hold office. There is a bitter fight going on between the People's Party (the Mormons) and the Gentiles. The city is under Mormon rule, and a more quiet, orderly city we were never in. The Mormons, as a class, abhor saloons, houses of ill-fame, gambling houses, etc., but as this is a free country, they could not be even kept out of Zion. The Mormons do the next best thing, and regulate them. It costs \$100 per month to sell whisky in Salt Lake. There are but thirty saloons in the city, and all but one are run by Gentiles. There are six houses of ill-fame, patronized exclusively by Gentiles, and only one Mormon prostitute in the whole city. The city ordinances are enforced to the letter. The police are not uniformed, nor do they wear their badges in sight. You cannot tell when a cop is around, but let a disturbance arise, and they appear very quick, as if they sprung from the ground. All places of business close at 8 o'clock, and the saloons at 12 o'clock. On Sunday no business houses are allowed open except drugstores. The saloons are closed, and such a quiet place cannot be found anywhere else in America. We did not see an intoxicated man during our stay of two days in the city, and we looked for them in places where they are generally found."

The Colorado editors were most of them pleasant gentlemen, and the more of such men visit our Territory and tell what they see in their own way, without suffering themselves to be crammed with rubbish by the local enemies of the people, the better it will be for Utah and those in other places who are looking for reliable information.

## WELL, AND WHAT OF IT?

A PRESS dispatch published last evening states that Governor Crittenden, of Missouri, while on his way to California, "made a careful study of the workings of the Utah Commission, and expressed the opinion that while the Commission

had accomplished all the law allows them to do, further and more decided legislation was necessary. The disfranchisement of polygamists, he considered, would not accomplish what was expected of it by the American people."

The gentleman made a flying visit to this city where he was the guest of Governor Murray. He rode around town, went to the circus and met a few of the citizens at a reception held at Governor Murray's residence. That is about all he saw of the place and of the people. He knows no more of the Utah question than he did before his arrival, except what Governor Murray may have told him. He could have studied the workings of the Utah Commission far better at home than in this city under the circumstances with which he was environed. Every sensible person who is posted in the political affairs of this Territory, understands what kind of "information" would be imparted by an official whose great ambition is to rule the Territory, as the head of a commission with absolute powers.

It is possible that under the tutelage of his hospitable entertainer, Gov. Crittenden may have imbibed the opinions with which he is charged in the dispatch. But it is quite probable that those views are simply the ideas of the fellow at Ogden who fabricated the dispatch which bears the ear-marks of the lightning fiend who has forwarded a great deal of bogus "news" about "Mormon" affairs.

Anyhow, what does the opinion of the Governor of Missouri on this question amount to? Nothing more than the notion of any man who has been for a few days in the society of Eli H. Murray. It has no peculiar significance, and no particular force. Every man is welcome to his opinion, even if it is asinine and anti-republican as that ascribed to the Missouri Executive.

## DAKOTA WILL ASSERT HER RIGHTS.

SOME time ago we noticed the expressed determination of the people of Dakota to assume the right of self-government whether Congress was willing to grant it or not. It appears that there is something more in the movement than many people are prepared to admit. Dakota has population enough, and has progressed sufficiently to be entitled to the freedom and privileges of Statehood. Application for admission into the Union has been unsuccessful. Now the people intend to organize a State government with all the necessary machinery for its operation. The Constitution will be submitted to Congress, and if that body acts so as to sustain the motion of the people, all will be plain sailing. If not, the proposition is to go ahead with the State government, pay no attention to the Territorial officers and then see what the Federal authorities will do about it.

This to many has the appearance of rebellion. But the Dakotans have no desire or intention to "rebel." They merely want their rights. Under the Territorial system they cannot enjoy the privileges of citizenship, but are compelled to bear many of its burdens. They object to being vassals. They claim the right to be free men and demand a republican form of government, to which they are just as much entitled as the people of any of the States. They do not wish to secede from the Union, they want to be admitted. They should have the right of self-government in common with all organized communities in this free country. They will therefore organize a State and elect its officers. If Congress will not recognize it and admit the State, they will go on and mind their own business, and it will then remain for the Federal Government to act as it shall see proper, and by such action the course of the State authorities will be determined.

The Dakotans have somewhat of a precedent for this course. Michigan was a State fourteen months before it was recognized by the General Government. Vermont broke off from New York and had a State organization of its own fourteen years before being formally admitted into the Union. It is true that the Constitution says that new States may be admitted and that it rests with Congress to admit them. But at the same time the people have rights

which ought to be respected, and the Territorial system is something not only unprovided for in the Constitution, but entirely opposed to the spirit and genius of that sacred instrument and to the general institutions of the country.

The plan proposed is thus explained by Hon. R. F. Pettigrew, Delegate to Congress from Dakota at the last session, to a correspondent of the *Chicago Inter-Ocean*:

The different counties will elect delegates to the constitutional convention. The convention will frame a constitution and provide for all the machinery of a State—in fact organize and create a State. If it is ratified we shall take it to Congress. If Congress refuses to admit, we shall proceed in the spring to exercise our rights as a State, and Congress can do nothing except to deny us representation on the floor of the National Legislature. We shall elect a Governor and State officers, a State legislature, establish a Supreme and Circuit Court, and go ahead.

We shall not recognize Governor Ordway, because we shall have a Governor of our own, which we have elected. We shall fail to elect a Territorial Legislature, but choose a State Legislature instead. There will be not only no Territorial Legislature, but we shall repeal every law passed during the existence of the Territory. The Territorial Governor, Secretary, Auditor, Treasurer, and the courts will have no laws to execute. We shall appoint the present Territorial Judges, States Judges of our own Supreme Court. No business will be brought before them except in their capacity as State officials. The Federal plunderers who have been sent out here to rob us will simply have nothing to do, because no one will approach them on official business."

We do not propose for Utah to follow the course of Dakota. But that she has a perfect right to do so we do not doubt for a moment. It would be inexpedient in her case for many reasons. But we would like to see Dakota assert her rights and obtain them, as we have no doubt she will if her people are but sufficiently united to carry out the programme prepared.

## ANOTHER EXCURSIONIST SPEAKS.

THE Tin Cup Miner of July 28th contains a very fair account of the visit of the Colorado editorial party to Utah, entirely divested of that partizan spirit and desire to pander to popular notions about "Mormondom" which is so common with knights of the quill. The writer speaks strongly of his disgust at the penitentiary "enclosed by a high adobe wall from which the guard looks down on 56 dirty, ill-clothed, manacled beings, whose quarters are two dingy houses in the enclosure," and does not think it much credit to the United States Government. He visited the insane asylum about which so many untrue reports have been circulated, and "took special pains to examine it in detail." He and his companions found it, he says, very different to what he expected, "the patients comfortably dressed and clean, the food good and wholesome," but the cell in which persons are put whose close confinement is necessary too small for their convenience. It appears that he visited the city fourteen years ago, and on this occasion is "wonderfully impressed with its growth and prosperity," and says:

"Our party, while using every means to get at the bottom of all detail, were somewhat surprised to find that the great scare-crow polygamy had been grossly magnified, and that the Mormons and Gentiles were living in a harmonious spirit; churches of all denominations grace the city, while the inhabitants all strive to make their city prosperous."

He describes the Tabernacle and makes the following remarks about the services:

"The preaching of George Q. Cannon and John Taylor, who is president of the church, showed that they fully understood how to present their views of the case, in an impressive manner that was listened to attentively by our party, who were bent on seeing and hearing everything, tending to a knowledge of a people, who, for years, have toiled to make a desert one of the garden spots of earth."

Tin Cup is a flourishing town in a

mining district of Gunnison County, Colorado, and the *Miner* is a live sheet published there by C. S. Nichols.

## SUGGESTED INVASION OF UTAH.

THE *Rocky Mountain News*, published at Denver, has the following humorous editorial on the blood-and-thunder disposition manifested just now by some writers and stamp-speechners on the "Mormon" question:

The bloodthirsty editor of our esteemed contemporary, the *Times*, seems to have had his head turned by the brass bands and military parades of the week. Nothing will do him now but to turn the Grand Army loose upon the Mormons. The believers in that peculiar doctrine will have to be exterminated root and branch before our ferocious contemporary can sleep peacefully again. The sanguinary editor asserts that Mr. Van Der Voort, late commander-in-chief of the Grand Army is of the same opinion regarding the necessity for an application of force to Mormondom.

If this is the fact why would it not be a good scheme for the editor and the ex-commander to mobilize themselves at once and begin the war? We are all agreed that polygamy is pernicious and that some means of prevention should be found. If a massacre of all the Mormons is an absolute necessity it cannot begin too soon. There are two good railroads leading from Denver to Salt Lake. If the heroic editor and the eloquent ex-commander will make two divisions of themselves and move, sword in hand, simultaneously on the city of sin by different routes, the whole matter can be settled in a fifty. Less ink and more blood is the need of the hour.

## LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY, AUG. 2.

**More Hose Stolen.**—Of late there has been a regular systematic raid of thieves upon lawn hose and sprinklers. We are informed that Mr. Lynn, of the Twelfth Ward had his stolen last night. This species of thieving is unusually difficult of detection, owing to the readiness with which the article can be disguised, rendering identification next to impossible.

**At Randolph.**—From a correspondent ("J. S.") at Randolph, Rich County, we have an account of the celebration of Pioneer Day at that town. We cannot give the report in full, but the occasion was made pleasurable for the settlers, and the proceedings were highly creditable to the place.

**Daily Mail to Grantville.**—The good people of Grantville are naturally delighted over the improvement that has just taken place in their mail matters. They are now favored with a daily mail, which places them in more immediate communication with the outside world, and doubtless numbers of them will take advantage of the situation to change their semi-weekly for daily papers, that they may have fresher news in relation to how the world is wagging.

**Tour on the Continent.**—President John Henry Smith left Liverpool on Saturday for a trip to the Continent, expecting to be absent from a month to six weeks. He will visit throughout the Scandinavian and the Swiss and German Mountains and perhaps also go to Italy and France before his return. Our readers will, we hope, be posted in regard to his progress and observations by occasional communications from him. He is accompanied by Elder James Wrathall. *Millennial Star*, July 16th.

**State Conferences.**—Apostle F. M. Lyman and Elder John Morgan purpose attending the Conference of Emery Stake, at Huntington, on the 1st and 2d of September; on the 8th and 9th, of the San Luis Stake, at Manassa. On the 15th and 16th of the same month they will meet with the Saints at Barnham, on the San Juan River, and from there they will proceed to Bluff City and attend Conference of the San Juan Stake at that place, on September 22d and 23d. They expect to return here by the 1st of October.

**Pursuing His Studies.**—Last evening we were pleased to meet with