

legislative, as many of your readers will be interested in matters relating to the "Idaho Parliament." Both houses are now organized, and the legislative machinery may now be considered in full blast. The Legislative Council was organized on the second day by the election of Colonel E. A. Wall, formerly of Utah, as the President, and the following subordinates: Chief Clerk, J. E. Putnam; Assistant Chief Clerk, C. S. Stoltz; Sergeant-at-arms, G. B. Baldwin; Doorkeeper, J. D. Agnew; Enrolling Clerk, E. L. Curtis; Engrossing Clerk, D. C. T. Dunwell; Watchman, Jas. Twogood; Page, Tim Triscoll; Chaplain, Rev. I. T. Osborne.

On the following day the harmony of legislative proceedings was interrupted by the following resolution which was introduced by the Hon. E. A. Wall, who vacated the chair temporarily for that purpose:

Resolved, That the following oath be administered in addition to the regular oath of office prescribed by law: "And I do further swear (or affirm) that I am not a bigamist, or polygamist, and that I have not (since the 22nd day of March, A. D., 1882) given aid, countenance or encouragement to persons guilty of the barbarous, immoral and unlawful practice of bigamy, polygamy, celestial marriage or concubinage in any form, under pretense of religious rite or duty; or otherwise in any manner or form whatever."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Johnson, of Lemhi and Custer counties, who spoke in favor of the same so also did Col. Wall, who in the course of his remarks charged Mr. Webster, of Oneida, with believing in polygamy and bigamy, and offered in proof of said charge the affidavits of Fred. T. Dubois and W. R. White who were present at the district Court in Malad when Mr. Webster was excused from acting on the grand jury of Oneida County on that account. Mr. Webster admitted in a neat and pithy speech his belief in plural marriage under certain conditions and circumstances, and suggested that if professing Christians would acknowledge and support their aged wives instead of divorcing them as they now do when they want a new wife, it would be far more praiseworthy and honorable. Messrs. Webb, Travis and Peck opposed the resolution, which being put to vote was lost, the two Republicans above named voting in the negative.

The House continued in agony over the speakership until Friday, the 15th, when a compromise was made on Hon. D. W. Fench, of this county, a Campbellite minister, and a republican, but withal a good-natured and honorable man. I need hardly say that the gentleman is stout and robust—girth and goodness are said to go together generally. Stout men are not often found in your jails and penitentiaries. A Boss Tweed may get in limbo once in a while, but such cases are extremely rare.

The organization of the House was completed by the election of the following attaches, namely: J. H. Wickersham, chief clerk; Earl Race, asst. chief clerk; John Taylor, sergeant-at-arms; James Mullany, door keeper; Miss A. Savage, enrolling and engrossing clerk; Miss Belle Baldwin, assistant; Master Walter Boyakin, page, and Charles Welch, watchman.

Mr. J. C. Shoup, of Custer County, offered the same silly resolution in the House, that had been voted down in the Council, which shared the same fate. The House very properly voted it down with well merited contempt. There is not one of our ten members but could have taken the oath suggested without perjuring themselves, which is more than I could vouch concerning other members of the august assembly, not excepting our chaste and immaculate (?) Governor.

The members of the Council were sworn in by the Hon. Judge H. E. Prickett, the House by Judge Curtis, and being then completely organized and ready for business, were waited on by His Excellency John B. Neil, who read his second biennial message.

This communication is already too extended to admit of any comment on the several questions contained in said message. It is hardly necessary to tell your readers that the Governor indulged in his usual frothy vaporings concerning polygamy. Several persons told your correspondent that they really pitied the poor man when he got to that portion of his message, for his hands shook violently, and the message though doubled so as to keep it

still would shake in spite of his manly efforts and made a scene both pitiable and deplorable.

The President's message is a wet blanket to our little Governor and his sympathizers. He gives them no comfort in their anxiety for additional legislation, but "I John B. Neil" had got his usual biennial anti-"Mormon" thunder bottled up for the occasion and wellspiced with rabid invectives, foul adjectives, stale platitudes and silly vaporings, so what could the poor man do? It wouldn't keep for two years, so it had to come, for better or worse. It fell stale and flat upon the audience; no gratulations, no applause, no nothing. The President's wet blanket did it. Alas! poor Yorick. Where be thy jibes now?

Col. E. A. Wall made affidavit before a notary public, that according to his belief, Wm. C. Martindale, a member of the House of Representatives, is now a polygamist. A special committee of the House has the matter under consideration. Your correspondent was introduced to the committee last evening as assistant to the Hon. T. D. Cahalan, who had volunteered to defend the gentleman from the groundless and vexatious charge. We have met twice with the committee but not a particle of evidence has been produced, for the best of all reasons, there is none in it. It is a false conception, and a disgrace to its authors. Mr. Martindale has the sympathy of honorable members of both houses. He has been sworn in as a member of the House, and it would take two-thirds of that body to deprive him of his seat. His position is therefore secure beyond a peradventure.

E. M. Wilson, of Alturas County and formerly of Tooele County, was selected by the Governor on account of his anti-Mormon proclivities, as the Speaker of the House. But the honorable Republicans in the House treated the matter as the New York Republicans treated Secretary Folger—they let him severely alone. An effort was made by the Governor's party to secure three members of our delegation in the interest of his candidate, Mr. Wilson, which failed in accomplishing its object, so the gentleman was left in obscurity. This said Mr. Wilson claims to have been elected to the Utah Legislature from Tooele County. You can probably throw some light upon his antecedents, and the election frauds on which his claim is based.

The Governor's ring had everything cut and dried for the organization of both houses. Prospective attaches were brought from distant parts of the Territory under their advices, but "the best laid schemes of mice and men oft gang a-glee." I need scarcely say that a part of their programme was to insult and proscribe the representatives and people of Cassia, Oneida and Bear Lake in every possible manner. But if they knew how little the people of those counties think of them, and how little they care for their bombastic insolence, they would take less comfort in impertinence, and less pride in their petty tyranny.

Yours very truly,
JAMES H. HART.

BOISE CITY, Dec. 22, 1882.

Editor Deseret News:

Since my last, your correspondent has exchanged courtesies with the leading citizens of this city, with his excellency Gov. Neil, the Hon. Secretary, now delegate-elect, and not forgetting the several newspapers published here. Judge Kelly of the Statesman suggested an engagement to run his paper during the present session of the legislature. I promised in that event to give his journal a rousing hoist, in which it might change both its politics and religion.

The proceedings of the twelfth Legislative Assembly have been so far a disappointment to Governor Neil, who had his slate prepared for the organization of both Houses of the Legislature. It will not be surprising to those who know his small calibre and vindictive animosity, to learn that his official slate was made up to exclude each and every member from Bear Lake, Oneida and Cassia counties, whom this small-souled bigot supposed had no social, civil or legislative rights, because they chose to worship God in their own way, and follow a religious system that happens to be unpopular. It has transpired however within the last few days that our ambitious little governor reckoned without his host. He had captured a few democratic members, and supposed the republi-

cans were also his humble servants, would adopt his programme, and do his bidding, but in this matter he was sorely disappointed. He coaxed some and threatened others, but to no purpose. They asserted their manhood and independence, and refused to truckle to his arbitrary wishes, and resolutely set their feet upon his presumptuous demands. He was driven to such straits that he called on some of our delegation—one of them a Bishop—to help him in getting his men in such places as they had been promised. I need not tell you our friends refused to be his tools. He had, consequently, the mortification of seeing his anti-Mormon friends placed at the tail end of the committees, and the House, at least, in control of those who will not bow at his mandate, nor worship at his Godless shrine. He abused the Republican member of Ourwyhee to that extent that the gentleman threatened to kick him out of the hotel, and break every bone in his body.

The high-handed outrage planned by the Governor and his two or three followers was by no means a secret. A few of the more unsophisticated republicans went around hunting up democratic colleagues to caucus with the Governor's members for the avowed purpose of excluding our members from the organization of their respective Houses, and ignoring them entirely in matters of legislation, but it resulted in the most ignominious failure. The conspirators were defeated in all their tricks and schemes to deprive our representatives of their rights and liberties in the Territorial Legislature, and heap additional insults upon their constituents.

The Resolution offered in the Council by E. A. Wall, and subsequently by J. C. Shoup in the House, was a part of the Governor's little programme. The Statesman made a laborious effort to defend the policy of this test oath, but it was too thin. It is generally admitted to be a piece of transparent folly, an arbitrary imposition upon prospective members, in contravention of common rules, common sense, and common decency. The Governor and his supporters should have known that neither House could make laws nor rules of action pertaining to legislative government until they were organized, and sworn in as members. They have no right even when so organized, and sworn to prescribe any test oath for their own members and attaches, nor for those of any future legislative body. They owe their legislative powers and very existence to an act of Congress—The Organic Act—Congress has defined their powers and rights. It pays them for services rendered and has prescribed their official oath, and no innovation on what is called the iron-clad oath, or the modified article presented by the General Government, and administered by the judiciary, can be looked upon by any sensible person in any other light than as a piece of presumptuous and consummate folly. It requires no less than both houses of Congress and the President of the United States to prescribe an official oath for members of a Territorial Legislative Assembly, and any pretentious oath lacking these essential endorsements would be absolutely void.

It will be seen, therefore, that the agonizing efforts of these quasi members of our Territorial Legislature who assumed the power to prescribe a test oath for the members of their respective bodies, before they were really members themselves, is not only ridiculous but a piece of rash impertinence, and reflects discredit upon the honor, intelligence and judgment—if they have any—both of those who allowed themselves to be used as puppets for the occasion, and those who laid the plans and pulled the wires.

Yours, etc.,
J. H. H.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

ESTATE OF WILLIAM THURGOOD DECEASED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE undersigned, administratrix of the Estate of William Thurgood, deceased, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against the said deceased, to exhibit them with the necessary vouchers, within ten months after the first publication of this notice, to the said administratrix, at her residence at Bountiful, in the County of Davis.

ELIZABETH THURGOOD, Administratrix of Estate of William Thurgood, deceased.

Dated at Bountiful, Dec. 21, 1882.
S. W. DARKE & Co., Attorneys.

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Salt Lake City, November 15th, 1882.

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