



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

Wednesday, ....Dec. 22, 1869.

#### THE RICHARDSON MARRIAGE CASE.

THE ministers who participated in the ceremony of marrying Albert D. Richardson and Mrs. McFarland, after the former had been shot by the latter's husband in New York, find it necessary to make explanations through the newspapers of their conduct on that occasion. There is evidently considerable feeling in the public mind on the subject, and Beecher, Frothingham and Field are too fond of popularity, and like its sweets too well, to be careless about the animadversions which their action in this case has called forth, so they rush into print with cards. But their explanations have not prevented Recorder Hackett from charging the Grand Jury of the Court of General Sessions of New York (besides indicting McFarland,) to inquire if the crime of bigamy had been committed, and if so, to indict all who have participated in, aided, or abetted it. Should the Grand Jury decide that Mrs. McFarland's divorce, obtained in Indiana, is not legal, its action may be decidedly unpleasant for Mr. Beecher and others who were accessories to the marriage, for they will be held up before the public in a very unenviable light. The ministers justify their action in marrying this couple, because they were informed by others that there were no legal objections to the marriage. They did not seem to think it necessary to inquire into the validity of the divorce. It is possible that the Grand Jury will take a different view.

It is more than probable that the question of the validity of the divorce obtained by Mrs. McFarland will form a very important element in the trial of McFarland for the shooting of Richardson. In every State where this question of a divorce granted in another State, like that obtained by Mrs. McFarland, has arisen, the Courts have decided that if no process was served upon the defendant, and he did not appear and contest the action, the divorce is, for all purposes whatever, wholly void. It has been decided also by several of the States that if a husband or a wife separate from the partner to the marriage contract, and leave the State where they have resided and take up temporary residence in another State, for the purpose of obtaining a divorce, that the divorce thus obtained is null and void. Divorces obtained in this manner, where it has been proved that the removal to and residence in the State selected were not in good faith, but merely for the purpose of obtaining a divorce, have been declared void.

Mr. and Mrs. McFarland were residents of New York; she, according to the statements which appear in the papers, removed to Indiana with Richardson's knowledge, and probably, advice, not for the purpose of obtaining a permanent home, or of becoming a *bona fide* resident of that State, but to acquire a residence that she might obtain a divorce. When this was obtained she returned to her old place of residence. In the arguing of the case an effort will doubtless be made to show that the divorce was obtained through a fraudulent residence, was in bad faith and should be void; and especially so if no notice of her proceedings ever reached McFarland at New York. If such a decision should be reached, it may go far to mitigate the crime of which McFarland stands accused.

Whatever the decision may be, however, the discussion of this case is bound to create considerable feeling, and even if the Grand Jury should not indict them, Mr. Beecher and his companions may obtain a notoriety in connection with the marriage that will be very unpleasant.

COMING FAIR.—The 14th Ward Female Relief Society is greatly in want of suitable rooms in which to hold its meetings, and where its members can perform their labors and transact the business of the Society. They have had the matter under con-

sideration for some time, and have finally concluded to hold a three days, fair, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 22nd, 23d, and 24th of December. The members of the Society feel sanguine that they can make a very nice exhibition, and offer a very large number of fancy and useful articles for sale. The proceeds of the Fair will be appropriated to the erection of the building. It is the intention to charge twenty-five cents per single ticket of admission, which will admit the bearer once; ten cents for children under twelve years of age; and fifty cents will purchase a season ticket which will entitle its bearer to free access to the Fair at any time during the three days of the exhibition.

The plan is a good one and deserves hearty support; and we trust that the ladies will find their expectations more than realized by the proceeds of their Fair. We are glad to see these societies taking steps to make themselves useful, and to pursue the mission which has been assigned them. Much good has already been done. The hands of the Bishops have been greatly strengthened, and the burthen of caring for the poor has been considerably lessened by the exertions of the ladies of these societies; and a wide career of usefulness is being opened before them. The ladies of the 14th Ward have our best wishes for the success of their labors in their laudable undertaking. We hope to see a building erected by them that shall be a credit to the society and to the Ward. Tickets are for sale at the following places in the city: Zion's Co-operative Wholesale Store, 14th Ward Branch Store, W. B. Wilkinson, T. & W. Taylor, Woodmansee Bros.' stores, and at the door on the days of the Fair.

WENDELL Phillips has been delivering a very plain talk in Boston lately. His subject was, "The Demands of the Country upon Congress." It is evident from his remarks that the present Administration is not viewed very favorably by him. He says:

"The war made a vast stride from the original idea of the fathers—a President with an idea, and it has almost landed us on the English model—a President, merely a figure-head to mean something and do nothing, to rest the passive symbol in the hands of the legislative power; for the tendency of all modern constitutional government is to the depreciation of the executive and the enlargement of the legislative; and I have no hesitation, after the experience of the last eight years, in infinitely preferring the English model, which gives the English system a Prime Minister, removable by a vote, and not a President under whom we are to suffer for four long, weary years."

He then goes on to remark that, because the war is ended, many people think that the problem is settled; but he begs to differ from that notion. He says there never was a nation that, after having had one rebellion, allowed the matter to rest there. No great sectional soreness was ever trampled out by the victories of a single campaign. In his view the war is only just begun. The great difficulty with us, as a nation, is that a great, shrewd, persistent, bull-dog element at the South hates the Union. He asks of Congress to complete the structure of the government; for there is not any recognised power of this government to protect its own citizens. Slavery is abolished; citizenship is defined; now it is necessary to protect citizenship; and to do so, if necessary, a squad of soldiers ought to be planted in every district of the thirty-eight States, so that if any State neglect its duty, whenever forty householders, in any district, call on the Government to protect its own ballot boxes, it shall be the duty of the President to send a company or regiment to see that the polls are kept open.

The rebellion, he thinks, was made by a few hundred thousand knaves, who led eight millions of dunces. He therefore argued that the government should make popular education compulsory, and if Alabama does not see to it herself, let the Government do it for her and send her the bill.

We are graciously informed by one of our New York contemporaries that "It is announced that no troops have been ordered to Utah, as serious trouble with the Mormons is not anticipated." How gratifying! We breathe more freely! "Serious trouble with the 'Mormons' is not anticipated." Blessed tidings! To those of our citizens who have lost sleep, if any there be, by the war like announcement that a large body of troops had been ordered here to counteract the designs of the 15,000 men encamped near this city, this news will prove a soporific.

THE separation of New York city from the rest of the State is now said to be talked of in some of the Western counties of the State. The reasons given for this movement are the election frauds practiced in New York city, the bad influence exerted by the city on the country members at Albany, the capital of the State, and the contagious example of crime and immorality in the metropolis by which the other portions of the State are corrupted. The New York Times in alluding to this scheme, which is credited by Democratic papers to Republican politicians, says:

"The spectacle which the government of this city has presented for about fifteen years, and the influence it has exercised on

the State Government have been quite enough to disgust decent people in the rest of the State with the connection, and warrant their wishing to cut it."

We believe this is not the first time this proposition has been made. When Mr. Fernando Wood was Mayor of New York he published an elaborate plea for the withdrawal of that city from its connection with the State, and its erection into a free city, like Hamburg.

#### THE DESERET ALPHABET.

ABOUT sixteen years ago, the Chancellor and Board of Regents of the University of Deseret, under the direction of President Young, adopted a new alphabet, which they styled the "Deseret Alphabet." The characters—thirty-eight in number—were entirely new, and were intended to represent every sound in the English language. It has been the continual desire and aim of the originators of this alphabet to have it adopted in our schools and literature, and efforts have been made, from time to time, to teach it; but from a lack of books printed in these characters, these efforts have not been continuous, and those who have learned to read and use the alphabet have allowed it to fall into disuse again.

Within a year, however, first and second Readers have been printed and published in the Deseret Alphabet, under the direction of one of the Board of Regents—D. O. Calder, Esq.—and more lately, Elder Orson Pratt has transcribed the Book of Mormon into the alphabet, an edition has been printed in New York, and the Book is now offered for sale in the Territory. Other books—the Old and New Testaments, the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, a dictionary and probably other works, will doubtless soon follow. But what has already been done should be encouraged. The books that have already been printed should be used in the Sunday Schools, in households, and in every school-room in the Territory. If the books at present offered for sale by the Regency were disposed of, they would then have funds at their disposal with which to publish other works, and we should soon have a literature published in our own characters.

Every one who has given the subject thought, knows how difficult it is to learn to read and pronounce the words of our mother tongue as it is at present written. Some of the letters now in use have a great number of sounds, which sounds must be remembered in order to read correctly, thus requiring great practice and a very retentive memory to make a person a good reader, and making the acquisition of English especially difficult for foreigners. Other words have silent letters in them, which makes the spelling very difficult to learn. It is said by those who are considered good authorities on phonetics, that out of the 150,000 words, of which the English language is said to consist, not more than fifty are spelled as they are pronounced. We are acquainted with men who have received good educations who, with all their practice, cannot spell correctly. Indeed, there are few men who do not have to refer occasionally to the dictionary for the proper spelling of a word.

With such drawbacks as these, education may well be irksome, and difficult for children to acquire, and they have to spend years in acquiring what they could learn with an alphabet founded on a phonetic principle, in a few weeks or months. A child or a foreigner learning to read with the Deseret Alphabet, has no difficulty in understanding how to pronounce and spell the words of our beautiful tongue, for every word is spelt and printed as it is pronounced; and if a person knows how to pronounce a word, he knows how to spell it; for there are no silent letters in the new system, and no letter represents more than one sound.

The Sandwich Islands is considered a very heathenish land, but they have a law there which requires that every male and female shall be able to read and write before he or she can marry. If they had such a system of orthography as we have, and this law were rigidly enforced, with their indolence, marriage would almost become obsolete, for but few of them would ever become sufficiently proficient to pass an examination. But they learn very quickly there; for the words of their language are written as they are pronounced; hence, when they become familiar with the characters of their alphabet, they can write with ease and accuracy.

What a great advantage it will be to us to have a means of writing and printing which even children can learn with

such ease and despatch! The advantages of such a system are apparent. Philologists have long perceived them, and many have denounced our present system of orthography as barbarous and utterly unsuited to the progress of the age, and have advocated the adoption of the Phonetic system of spelling; a number of books have been printed, and at least one paper is published in Phonotype. But there is really no good prospect of the system becoming general in its use. It has the prejudices of the age to contend with, and it meets with strong opposition. If the system of spelling the English by sound shall ever become general, it will have to be through the efforts of the people of this Territory. We have effected a great reform in religion, in politics, in social matters, and in many other directions; it remains for us to correct the faults which exist in the present method of writing our language.—We are better prepared than any other people to accomplish this; for we are united; and let it be known by the people of this Territory that a new and better system should be adopted, and they will not hesitate to carry it out.

Every child in the Territory should be taught the Deseret Alphabet; the first and second readers and the Book of Mormon, printed in the character should be in every house. By giving them a wide circulation the Board of Regents can pursue their labors, and but a few years will pass away until we shall have all our Church works and many standard works on history and science printed in our own characters.

#### DISCOURSE

By Elder WILFORD WOODRUFF,  
delivered in the Tabernacle, Salt  
Lake City, Dec. 12th, 1869.

REPORTED BY DAVID W. EVANS.

The few of us who met here this forenoon had the privilege of listening to a very interesting discourse from Bro. Penrose, on the first principles of the gospel. I say the "few" who were here, for there were few, and there are every Sabbath in the fore part of the day. I think if the Latter-day Saints prized their privileges as they ought to do, there would be more attend meeting on a Sunday morning, there would be more of us faithful to the Lord our God and to the covenants we have made if we did but realize the rewards that, in the future, will be awarded for the deeds done here in the flesh.

There was one principle referred to by Bro. Penrose this morning, upon which I wish to make a few remarks, for the benefit of the elders of Israel. It is a very common saying with us, as elders, in our remarks concerning the gifts of the gospel to speak of confirming the gifts of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands. There is no difference with regard to our faith, opinions or views, as a church, pertaining to this principle; it is only in the manner in which we use our language. There is a difference between the gifts of the Holy Ghost and the Holy Ghost itself. As Brother Penrose said this morning, we repent of our sins, are baptized for the remission of them and we receive the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost; but the elders, when speaking on this principle, instead of saying so, not unfrequently say "for the reception of the gifts of the Holy Ghost." Now we have no right, power nor authority to seal the gifts of the Holy Ghost upon anybody, they are the property of the Holy Ghost itself. To explain this I will say, for instance, Prest. Young may go and preach in every ward in this city; yet it is President Young in each ward. When in the 14th Ward he may give a man an apple; in the 13th Ward he may give another person a loaf of bread; in the 10th Ward he may give a man a dollar in money; in the 1st Ward he may give a man a horse and carriage. Now they are all different gifts, but he is one and the same man who bestows them. I merely bring up this figure by way of illustration.

We lay hands upon the heads of those who embrace the gospel and we say unto them, "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ receive ye the Holy Ghost." We seal this blessing upon the heads of the children of men, just as Jesus and His Apostles and the servants of God have done in every age when preaching the gospel of Christ. But the gifts of the Holy Ghost are His property to bestow as he sees fit. To one is given the spirit of prophecy, to another a tongue, to another the interpretation of tongues and to another the gift of healing. All these gifts are by the same spirit, but all are the gifts of the Holy Ghost, to bestow as He sees fit, as the messenger of the Father and the Son to the children of men.

The Holy Ghost, as was justly presented this morning, is different from the common spirit of God, which we are told lighteth every man that cometh into the world. The Holy Ghost is only given to men through their obedience to the gospel of Christ; and