



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

Wednesday, . . . June 15, 1870.

DESPICABLE MEASURES.

THERE is a class of men who are resolved, by the use of every means within their power, no matter how base, to bring odium upon the people of Utah, and, if possible, effect their destruction. If the time and energy which they spend in telling lies and plotting wickedness, were devoted to a good cause, their names would be remembered for generations by a grateful posterity. We have recent proof of their disposition in the telegrams which have been sent from here to the Associated Press in the East. The senders of these would like the people of the States to think that the people of this Territory were on the point of breaking out into open rebellion against the government. First, there was the dispatch that the "Mormon authorities" had closed the Court room against a Federal Judge while he was temporarily absent; second, it was telegraphed that the "Mormons" had refused to let United States prisoners be confined in the Salt Lake City jail. When these reports were read by our citizens in eastern papers they were news to them. There were not twenty persons in this city who had ever heard of any circumstance upon which such statements could be based or that would give the least appearance of truth to them. Yet in the East they sounded frightful, and they were seized as texts by nervous editors, who imagined they saw a threatening war cloud looming up in this Territory. Even the New York *Herald* had to write upon the subject, its last article being of the nature of a kindly warning to inform us that "Mormons have a sort of judgment suspended over them as it were, in the Cullom bill." Shrewd as the *Herald* people usually are, they failed to perceive that these dispatches were manufactured especially for the eastern market for the purpose of gulling simple editors and precipitating that "judgment" upon the people of this Territory. It is said that drowning men catch at straws, and the infamous clique who have made it their aim to uproot the "Mormons" and, if possible, destroy them, failing in everything else, have recourse to this despicable method of accomplishing their end. It exhibits, more plainly than words can do, the desperate shifts these poor creatures are reduced to, when they resort to such vile means as this of maligning and stirring up prejudice against the Latter-day Saints.

THE FIRE IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

THE scene in Constantinople on the afternoon of Sunday last must have beggared description. A fire in the Turkish metropolis on such a scale as the one referred to in the telegrams to-day is an awful catastrophe. Some three or four years ago a similar event occurred, but not so fearful in its results as the present one. Under any circumstances a fire in the capital of the Ottoman empire could hardly be otherwise than disastrous. The Turks are behind the age in their appliances and conveniences to resist and check the inroads of such an enemy as fire. Like all Orientals they have much to learn from the western nations. In the large cities of this country and Europe it would be next to impossible for a fire to consume "thousands of houses, and most of the richest stores and shops." The plan of building and the material used in the construction of buildings are very different in the West from those in the East. Here the streets are generally wide, and the buildings substantial; there, streets are narrow, and buildings generally of the most fragile material, little if any better than lath and plaster. Then the organizations to check the progress of fire in Turkey are no doubt centuries behind the times in efficiency when compared with those of the western nations. Un-

der such circumstances, with a "strong wind blowing," as it was there on Sunday, it is no wonder that the consequences of the fire were of the most fearful description.

The loss of property must have been enormous; for though the stores or shops themselves might not have been of the most costly or substantial material, Oriental products are the most costly in the world; and if the fire was of the magnitude mentioned in the dispatches, the sum total of the worth of the merchandise destroyed will foot up to many millions.

Worse than all this was the loss of human life occasioned by the falling walls, and the suffering and inconvenience which will be entailed by so many human beings being deprived of shelter, for the word is that "thousands of houses were destroyed."

This is a dreadful calamity and for amount of suffering, sorrow, and loss of a pecuniary nature, it probably exceeds anything of the kind for very many years. Such an event appeals directly to the sympathies of the benevolent, and it may be that direct appeals to all such throughout Christendom will be made on behalf of their Islam brethren. If such should be the case it is to be hoped that they will meet with the most generous and hearty response, that the sufferings entailed upon thousands of the inhabitants of Constantinople may be ameliorated as far as possible.

INFALLIBILITY TRIUMPHANT.

THE declaration of Papal infallibility, as a tenet of the Catholic faith, seems to have been the chief object for which the Ecumenical Council was assembled at Rome, for from the commencement of its sittings, and even before that time, the scheme was kept prominently on the surface.

Such a principle as the infallibility, or inability to err, of any man, even when claiming to be the successor of St. Peter, is so diametrically in opposition to the spirit of the age that his Holiness and his warmest adherents have had a tough job to induce a majority of the members of the Council to give their adhesion to the project. Opposition and hostility, the most determined in character, have been arrayed against it, and its ultimate triumph seemed for a long time doubtful. Among the most determined antagonists of the dogma, as might have been expected, were the Roman Catholic prelates of this country.

The free institutions and notions of America and such a dogma as human infallibility are as antagonistic as anything can be; and even Catholics can not live long in our country without being tinctured pretty strongly with the spirit of liberality and free thought which pervades everything American. Among the protestants against the dogma were twenty-one Americans, archbishops and bishops, twelve of whom are native Americans, five natives of Ireland, two natives of Germany, one of France and one a Spaniard.

But despite the protest of the liberal portion of the Council, the extremists and infallibility have triumphed. The 29th of the present month is set for its formal proclamation, which, it is said, will be celebrated with the grandest pageantry witnessed during the present generation.

The following is the text of the article on infallibility, to which all orthodox Catholics throughout the world will be expected to yield implicit faith, after the 29th inst:

"The Holy Roman Church possesses the highest and completest supremacy and predominance over the whole of the Catholic Church, which she truly and humbly recognizes to have received with the fullness of power from the Lord Himself, through St. Peter, Prince of Apostles, whose successor is the Roman Pontiff. And as she is bound to defend before others the truth of the faith, so also any questions which may arise regarding faith must be defined by her judgment, because, moreover, the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, saying, 'Thou art Peter,' etc., are not to be passed over. These words have been confirmed by subsequent events, for the Catholic religion has ever been preserved immaculate, and its doctrine has ever been celebrated in the Apostolic See.

Hence, we teach, with the approval of the Holy Council, and define as a dogma of faith, that by the Divine assistance the Roman Pontiff, of whom, in the person of St. Peter, it has likewise been said by our Lord Jesus Christ, 'I have prayed for thee,' etc., cannot err when, acting as the highest teacher of all Christians, he authoritatively defines what should be adhered to by the whole Church in matters of faith and morals; and that this prerogative of the incapability to err, or infallibility, of the Roman Pontiff, is equally extensive with the infallibility of the Church.

If any one should presume to contradict this, our definition, which may God avert, let him know that he hereby falls away from the truth of the faith."

The passage of such a dogma might have augmented the influence and power of the head of the Roman Church before the days of the Protestant secession—before Luther and the great lights of the Reformation shed their influence and revivifying power over Christendom; but the human race has progressed since then if Romanism has not, and a decree designed to control the faith and consciences of millions of intelligent beings, passed now, is behind its time; and the struggle and scramble that have taken place among the hierarchs who favored it, and the ultimate triumph of the scheme, have little more real importance than a struggle among a parcel of lunatics for the possession of a soap bubble.

THE correspondent of the *Catholic Mirror* furnished to that paper recently, an account of a singular scene witnessed, on Holy Thursday, in St. Peter's Church, Rome. On that day, after the mass and procession of the Blessed Sacrament, his Holiness the Pope went through the ceremony of washing and kissing the feet of twelve pilgrims, one of whom was a full-blooded negro, named Samba, from Senegambia. Being according to annual custom, there was nothing particularly singular or noticeable in the ceremony of washing feet; but the fact of his Holiness condescending to wash and kiss the foot of a negro should gain him many ardent admirers among the negro rights' folks in this country. Such an act of condescension from the head of the Roman Catholic church towards a negro pilgrim, is going beyond the most orthodox abolitionist in this country in paying honor to the negro race.

How different such a statement reads from that furnished by a Washington correspondent to one of the Eastern papers in relation to Senator Davis, of Kentucky, and Senator Revels, of Mississippi. This correspondent says that among the luxuries and comforts provided for the national Solons at the Capital is an elegant bathroom. Sometime after his admission to the Senate Mr. Revels availed himself of the right to the Senatorial bath, and while doing so Mr. Davis came along with a similar intent, but seeing the bath occupied by a negro, he turned quickly away, disgusted with the sight and declared that he would no more vote for an appropriation to defray the expenses of Senatorial ablutions!

Whether the story be true or false there is no question but the feeling said to have been manifested toward Senator Revels by the gentleman from Kentucky, is that which is generally entertained by those who make the most parade of partiality for the negro race. The manifestations of love for citizens of African descent, which are so popular in these days, are of a very questionable character, and do not have a very substantial foundation; and it may pertinently be asked, would the Pope have washed and kissed the foot of the Sengambian Samba, if formality had not required it of him? We think not; all such demonstrations amount to little more than a farce.

IS IT A CANARD?

THE Great Salt Lake, of Utah, from its vast dimensions, its inland situation, and the fact of its having no known outlet, has long been regarded by scientific men as one among the anomalies and wonders of creation.

A special telegram received this morning, per Western Union Telegraph Line, makes the somewhat startling announcement that a subterranean outlet to the waters of the lake has been discovered. If this be true, a considerable portion of the mystery in regard to the Lake will be done away, as well as the wonder to which that mystery has given rise.

The dispatch reads as follows:

"CORINNE, 9.—A subterranean outlet to Great Salt Lake has been discovered opposite Corinne, and between Fremont and Kimball's Islands. The schooner *Pioneer*, Capt. Hannah, sailing in the vicinity last Tuesday, was drawn into the opening, which is an immense maelstrom or stupendous whirlpool, and the descent and circular motion of the water were so rapid that the vessel was made to spin round in it with frightful velocity, and it was only by a high wind prevailing at the time that she was enabled to sail beyond the influence of the awful chasm. Captain Hannah reports that he has no doubt whatever that this opening, never before discovered, is the grand outlet of the Lake.

A party of scientific men will leave here immediately on the steamer to investigate this greatest of modern wonders. The result will probably show how, for ages, the accumulations from a thousand mountain streams, have disappeared through the earth's surface."

We shall await with considerable interest further developments from the investigations and explorations of the party of "scientific men," referred to in

the telegram. Our faith in the report, at the present time, is very slim indeed. Science, however, has proved many things, and it may prove the truth of this report. Until it does we remain skeptical.

THE REDUCTION OF INCOME TAX.

OF THE various methods of taxation resorted-to by governments the direct is most obnoxious. The necessity of taxation is apparent to all, but a poll tax, or income tax, no matter how light, is always regarded with aversion by the people; and indirect taxation, though much heavier, is more palatable. The reason for this is not difficult to explain: let a man be subject to a tax of five cents on the dollar, and if it be collected indirectly, that is by taxing, and so compelling him to pay an increased price for, the necessities or luxuries of life; he will bear it with some show of patience; while a tax, say of three cents on the dollar, if collected directly, as the income tax is, is looked upon as an intolerable nuisance, and thousands will resort to any device rather than pay it. This is the experience and feeling general in the country at the present time.

The enormous expenses entailed upon the Government by the late war led to a system of taxation in this country, so general in character, that from being one of the most lightly taxed people on the globe, directly the reverse is now the case; but not one of all the taxes it has been found necessary to impose has been regarded with so much aversion as the income tax. When the law imposing it was passed there was a pledge given that the tax should cease with the close of the year '69. That pledge has not been kept, and the enemies of the Administration are not slow in reminding it of this promise; and because of this and the fact that the popular feeling against it is so strong, if the tax be not repealed, there is every probability that its rigor will be considerably modified. The House of Representatives has already taken action in relation to it, and the modifications they have resolved on reduce the tax from five to three per cent, and fix the point of exemption at two thousand dollars. This action of the House will most likely be endorsed by the Senate, the popular demand being so strongly in this direction, and thus this burden will be materially lightened.

Quite a number of the members of the House were in favor of total abolition, their reasons being that abundance of revenue could be raised without it. Judge Kelly, of Pennsylvania, in his argument in favor of total repeal, showed that the national revenue for the coming fiscal year, exclusive of the income tax, will amount to \$410,000,000; and that \$291,000,000, according to the estimates of the Secretary of the Treasury, will cover the total expenses, which will leave \$119,000,000 to be used towards liquidating the national debt. If so large an amount as that could be raised yearly for a similar purpose, enormous as is our debt, it would not require many years to extinguish it; and viewed in this light alone the income tax might be repealed without clogging or impeding the machinery of the government.

But the majority of the members of the House were against total repeal and in favor of the modifications mentioned above. Their action, we think, was judicious, being probably based on the fact that a general reduction of taxation would be more acceptable and beneficial to the people at large than total repeal in this particular case. The number of income tax payers is very small when compared with the whole population, and while the few feel and complain loudly of direct taxation, it is the many who endure the burden of indirect taxation; and in the new tax bill, clauses are included to modify the latter by reducing the tariff on many articles used, and regarded as among the absolute necessities of life, by everybody. Now if the income tax had been repealed, reductions of the tariff on sugar, coffee, tea and many other articles of almost equal importance would not have taken place. Hence, we think the action of the House in legislating for the benefit of the whole people will give the most general satisfaction.

TAKING THE CENSUS.

THE time set for commencing the work of taking the census—the 1st instant, having now passed, the officers appoint-