

EDITORIALS.

ENTIRELY REASONABLE ACTION.

THE House of Representatives, in the matter of the Utah Delegation, acted in the only way that they could do in reason. There was absolutely no justifiable ground for refusing a seat to Mr. Cannon. He was regularly elected by an overwhelming majority of the legal constituency. Of that there is not the shadow of a doubt, and he had a regular certificate to that effect from the Governor of Utah.

The opposing candidate boasts of only about a tenth of the votes given to Mr. Cannon, many of that tenth in all probability fraudulent. Mr. C. is an intelligent, high minded gentleman, while we consider the opposing candidate to be a person of depraved tastes, dissolute habits, low associations, frowsy, unkempt, uncouth, and otherwise repulsive appearance, vulgar, coarse, and brutal manners, ill-spoken, rude, vile and profane in language, and intemperate in everything, more fit to be a boon companion of brawling pot-house sots than a member of a decent deliberative assembly. We have heard him represented as, with all his faults, the best of his set, which is an exceedingly poor argument for the set.

CANADIAN PACIFIC R. R.

It seems that before many more years shall have passed, there will be two trans-continental railroads north of the U. P. and C. P. roads. There can be little doubt that the Northern Pacific Railroad will be a fact yet, the north-westerners, including the Montanians, the Washingtonians, and the Oregonians will not rest until they have it an accomplished fact. Nor do we blame them. The Canadian Pacific railroad also, there is reason to believe, will be persistently pushed on to completion. Mr. James W. Taylor, United States consul at Winnipeg, having recently visited Ottawa, informs the St. Paul, Minn., Press, that the present Canadian government and the opposition are committed to the project of building a railway from Pembina to Fort Garry, and thence westward to the Pacific, and that it is to be commenced in the spring. The laying of the iron of sixty miles of the graded line of the St. Paul and Pacific, south of St. Vincent, is all that is necessary to complete railroad connection between St. Paul and Pembina, if the Canadians build the road above mentioned, with Fort Garry and the British settlements in Manitoba.

We may say success to the Canadian Pacific, the Northern Pacific, the Union Pacific, the Central Pacific, and the Southern Pacific. All are needed, and each will have a powerful influence in developing the district of country through which it respectively runs. But to the promoters of all these roads now in course of construction we may say, remember the crisis and don't build faster than you are able.

THE SALARY BUSINESS IN CONGRESS.

ON this subject the New York Herald's Washington correspondent, Dec. 4, says, "An avalanche of bills poured in upon the Speaker this morning for the repeal of the increase of salaries of Senators and members. About half the House had bills to offer, and Butler created a laugh by suggesting that the House take a recess of fifteen minutes in order that the remaining members have time to draft similar bills."

This seems to indicate that many of the members had been sent to Washington with fleas in their ears, inserted by their constituents, because of the increase of salary act of last session, and that said members were anxious to have said act repealed or amended as early as

possible. It does look a little unpleasant that the financial crisis, with a general reduction of salaries and wages and the closing or running on short time of mills and manufactories, followed so quickly upon the heels of the increase by Congress of its own salaries, and the salaries of other high public functionaries.

Judging by the above quotation and by more recent advices from Washington, it does appear that some sort of reversory action concerning the salary act will be effected the present session. So far as the President is concerned, Congress can do nothing affecting his present term of office, if the salary act was constitutional in regard to him, as the constitution expressly forbids any change in his salary or emoluments during his period of office. Congressional action respecting his interest in this regard depends upon whether the word "period" in the constitution shall be construed to mean a single term or to include his entire period of office.

DECREASE OF MARRIAGE.

WE may be excused for referring our readers to an article, from the San Francisco Chronicle, and republished in the News of Wednesday last, under the heading of "Is Marriage Becoming Obsolete?" The article referred to was a brief essay upon the growing distaste for and decrease of marriages, a condition declared to be existing on both the Atlantic and Pacific slopes of the United States of America and also in England.

Marriage is one of the highest and most sacred duties enjoined upon men and women, one of the most serious and important responsibilities they are placed under, as well as one of the most exquisite and pure delights that they are capable of enjoying. It is the state of legitimate, unvitiated, chaste, hallowed desire, unrivalled, incomparable. It is the condition of human development, satisfaction, happiness, par excellence, fraught with all the blessed charities, all the delicious extasies of the closest, sweetest, most grateful, most endearing, most entrancing relationship, the peculiar condition of superlative harmony and union. There is not, nor can be, any justifiable excuse, only in special exceptional instances, for neglect of or opposition to marriage.

The decrease of marriage means the increase of licentiousness. Marriage is honorable in all, but licentiousness is dishonorable and disgraceful in all. Therefore he who is a friend to marriage is a friend to mankind, a friend especially to womankind, a friend to dear little children, of whom the Saviour said suffer them to come and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven. A wondrously contracted kingdom of heaven some people would make, so far as their own contributions and influence go.

Therefore it is the duty and the interest of every friend to Jesus, every one who prays, "Thy kingdom come," every lover of humanity, every patriot, every good and loyal citizen, every man who wishes to be worthy of that name and to honor the glorious gift of manhood, and the equally glorious gift of womanhood, to be a friend to marriage, casting to the winds all objections, most of which are of a narrowly selfish and miserably paltry kind. Marriage means gratification, satisfaction, health, peace, joy, life, endless chains of lives, the orderly and honorable continuation of the race, the godlike perfection of human nature. It is glory, alleluiah, now and forever. But licentiousness means filthiness, sorrow, shame, the cultivation of the worst passions and the abuse, debasement, and debauchment of the best. It means sickness, disease, moral and physical leprosy, death, the demoralization, degeneration, and degradation of the race and its ultimate extinguishment in a seething mass of loathsome rottenness and horrible corruption.

Therefore it becomes the special duty of our citizens to do all that they reasonably can to counteract the guilty defection of others and maintain the balance of congeniality at a healthy standard. It is infinitely better to be "much married," as the phrase goes, than to

be not married at all, provided that the marrying be well and wisely done, that is, that it be of the nature of a perfect union. Such is the verdict of every comprehensively intelligent mind, and such will be the final verdict of an unprejudiced and impartial posterity.

NOT SMALL POTATOES.

CALIFORNIA and Nevada have been discussing the matter of big potatoes. Seven pounds was the maximum weight for a while, but subsequently Nevada ran up to twelve pounds for a single murrphy.

Now the Colorado (Pueblo) *Chieftain* comes along with a statement not only as to individual monsters, but as to gross yields, which is very remarkable. These Colorado potatoes were raised by Mr. Elisha P. Horne, of the "Garden of Eden," Wet Mountain Valley, on his ranch. The following is a portion of the statement of Mr. Horne: "I cultivated three acres of potatoes this season, one of Brese, one of Early Rose, and one of Neshannoc. The Brese yielded full nine hundred bushels to the acre, the Early Rose eight hundred and thirty bushels, and the Neshannoc full six hundred bushels to the acre."

Mr. Horne says [his statements can be fully substantiated by others, and the editor of the *Chieftain* says there appears to be nothing novel in Mr. Horne's manner of cultivation, and therefore the soil of the valley must be peculiarly adapted to potatoe raising.

The figures given make 2,330 bushels for the three acres. At the rate of the one acre of the Brese variety, the three acres would have produced 2,700 bushels. Nine hundred bushels an acre is at the rate of a little more than five bushels and a half per square rod. Five rods of that sort would potatoe a moderate family all the year, and not on a small potatoe scale either.

MEDDLING WITH THE MORMONS.

THE New York *Graphic*, of Dec. 9, has some sensible ideas respecting the new crusade against the "Mormon" religion, and some also in which we cannot concur—

"One of the recommendations of the President in his message looks to an interference with Mormonism on the part of Congress. His suggestions are designed to run a ploughshare through the greensward of Mormondom and turn polygamy under the sod forever. A strong party in Congress favor measures of direct interference for the suppression of polygamy in Utah. It is thought that such measures will hasten the downfall of a disgraceful custom, be popular in the country, and cover its advocates with honor, especially in the eyes of religious people. Brigham Young is neither venerable nor interesting, and a war upon him and his peculiar institution might be as popular in the country as the Crusades were in Europe a half-dozen centuries ago. Who knows that the Home against the Harem might not prove as powerful a rallying call in the nineteenth century as the Cross against Crescent was in the twelfth?"

"It is easy to excite popular prejudice against polygamy. But statesmen do not dabble in sensations. The fact that a particular policy falls in with vulgar prejudice, and will be popular with the ignorant and passion-moved masses, may stimulate demagogues to advocate it, and there are always men enough of this species in public life to seize upon such measures in order to gain a cheap notoriety and political elevation. There is no question that a raid on polygamy would be popular in certain quarters, and that political adventurers might make capital from its advocacy. But would it be wise? Is such a persecution of the Mormons called for at the present juncture of affairs? Is it in accordance with the genius of our institutions? Is polygamy so successful and powerful in Utah and so likely to spread over the whole country that it is necessary to use the whole machinery of the government for its overthrow? Is it not one of the customs that can safely be left to the intelligence and moral sentiment of the community in which it exists, and the laws of economic and social welfare?"

"Such questions admit of only one answer. An unprovoked warfare on Mormonism would wear the aspect of persecution, and excite a sympathy more dangerous than the ism it is waged to suppress. It was the persecution in Ohio and Missouri that built Nauvoo, and it was the destruction of Nauvoo that settled Utah. There is no denying the fact that Brigham Young has converted a desert into a garden, and built up flourishing and populous cities in what was a barren and inhospitable wilderness. He led a fanaticism. He organized an illiteracy into a church with political functions. But his institution is an anomaly and an anachronism. A fanaticism cannot co-exist with intelligence, and constantly tends to burn itself away. It seeks isolation in order to protect itself from its foes and perpetuate its flame. But in this the Mormons were unsuccessful. Their retreat proved to be in the main highway of the continent. The Pacific Railroad has shattered their ecclesiastical supremacy. The discovery of rich mines within two hours' ride of Salt Lake City is inundating the Territory with a Gentile population, which will soon leave the Mormons in an unpopular minority in their own stronghold. The new colonists carry new fashions, and the Mormon women are no longer content to drudge and dress as in the old days. They are more and more unwilling to be 'sealed.' Only the wealthiest men in the Territory can afford to support an establishment and dress a dozen wives in the prevailing fashion of the time. And the Mormon women rebel against bare floors and linsey-wolsey. Economy tells against the institution. The press paralyzes it. The younger generation of Mormons condemn it. The schools are hostile to it. The whole spirit and movement of our Western civilization are against its continuance. And it would seem that it could be safely let alone, save as it interferes with the administration of justice, to drop to pieces of internal decay, or to be blotted out by the combined influences operating against it with so much force. As a social experiment it is a failure, and will never be tried on this continent again. There is no need of legislation to prevent our people from investing in bankrupt enterprises, and no use in dragging a body already in the death-gasp up to the gallows. The licentiousness and vice and crimes against domestic purity in our great cities hardly justify us in making a national raid against a community which, with all its sins and shortcomings, has abolished the social evil from its borders and provided every woman with at least the semblance of a home."

We do not think marriage, either singular or plural, disgraceful. On the contrary we believe the Scriptures, that it is honorable. We know of no home or harem antagonism in this country. We are quite willing to leave polygamy and every other question to the intelligence and moral sentiment of the community and the laws of economic and social welfare—if it is not of God, it will ultimately fail; if it is of him, it will ultimately triumph and its enemies will appear in their true characters as enemies of virtue and righteousness, and will be regarded and treated as such. We do not consider "Mormonism" an anomaly and an anachronism. We do not seek isolation, only so far as persecution thrusts us out and obliges us to retire from "civilization." We do not consider fashionable extravagance commendable in any community, but we consider the domestic virtues far superior, whether at Salt Lake or New York. We have always found more women willing to be "sealed" than we have wished "sealed" to us, both among the "Mormons" and among the "Gentiles." Even wealthy men are not infrequently ruined by the extravagance of one wife, which is nothing to her credit, and in no wise conducive to conjugal happiness, or private or public virtue. We do not fear either economy or the press. We decidedly approve of the former and have the honor to belong to the latter. Some young people, some schools, and a certain kind of Western "civilization," are hostile to "the institution." Other young people, other schools, and intelligent, true, real civilization are favorable to it. Nevertheless it can be safely, most safely, let alone, so far as opposition to it is concerned, for it never interferes with the administration of justice—the abuse of it,

like the abuse of anything else, may, but "the institution" itself does not. We are willing for those who wish, to believe that "the institution" is dropping to pieces of internal decay, that it will be blotted out, that as a social experiment it is a failure, and will never be tried on this continent again. We do not care what people think of it. But we have one request to make, and that is, that we be allowed to enjoy the civil and religious liberty guaranteed to all American citizens, whether in a State or a Territory, by the glorious constitution of the Union and the genius of American government. This general request granted, theoretically and practically, we shall never be under the unpleasant necessity of making the more special one—"Hands off!"

LABOR PLENTIFUL.

THAT there is an abundance of unemployed labor in New York, is certain. Previous to the production the other week of Fox's new pantomime of "Humpty Dumpty Abroad," at the Grand Opera House in that city, Mr. Augustus Daly's call for supernumeraries was responded to by upwards of 2,000 persons, two-thirds of them genteel young girls. The stage door in Twenty-fourth street was besieged every day for a week by a clamorous throng. Two hundred were wanted, and this complement was soon made up, and a notice to that effect posted up early, yet the demand for employment was long in ceasing, nor did it moderate until the door was closed for several hours and the cold caused the crowd to retire. The fortunate ones engaged gave vent to their joy by a perfect merrymaking in the great reception room at the rear of the stage.

Besides these two hundred supernumeraries, this pantomime, says an exchange, employs 32 of the regular company, 47 first-class variety performers, a ballet of 60, 40 children, 22 sceneshifters, 30 carpenters, 10 men in the flies, 14 cellarmen, prompter, callboys, and other regular assistants to the total number of nearly 500. The pantomime was five months in preparation, seven scene painters being constantly employed during that time, and the total cost before the admittance of the public is estimated at \$50,000.

EXPECTED SPECIAL MESSAGE.

CALIFORNIA papers publish a dispatch, dated New York, Dec. 6, as follows—

A Washington dispatch says there were two subjects which the President was anxious to speak of in his message, but the importance of which he thought was worthy of a special message—the Labor movement and the Grange question. Both, he says, have engrossed his attention for some time, and when he has the opportunity he will present his views to Congress. That which most deeply concerns the President is the tyranny of Trades Unions, and the reluctance their members have of allowing boys to learn trades. This he thinks is an injustice to the rising generation, and is inviting foreign labor, which in the end will result disastrously to our own artisans.

PLENTY OF WORK ON HAND.

The Washington *Star* says that two hundred and forty-eight bills and resolutions were introduced in the House of Representatives, Dec. 4, and referred to appropriate committees when appointed.

A bed of marl, identical with the celebrated New Jersey marl, has been found in Mare Island, Cal.

The journals of California are now boasting of their first-class snow storms.

The population of Santa Barbara, Cal., is increasing at the rate of one hundred a week, and the city is growing wonderfully.

The people of Portland, Oregon, are all flocking to see that shark, which is said to be twenty-six feet long from the snout to the tail and twenty-six feet back again, making the magnificent proportions of fifty-two feet.