



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR

Wednesday.....April 17, 1867.

## NOTICE

Is hereby given to the public, that DAVID J. ROSS has been cut off from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for Drunkenness, Lying and Swindling. The said Ross left this city for California, we think, on Monday, February 18th, 1867, under the assumed name of Donald McBain. That the Saints and the Public abroad may be on their guard against his false representations, and not be deceived into trusting him or loaning or giving him means, we take this method of giving publicity to his past disgraceful conduct.

## THE BIBLE AND PLURAITY OF WIVES.

This is confessedly an age of Bibles, when the sacred volume is disseminated widely and millions of copies are annually comparatively given away. And we think, however much the Bible may be disbelieved by professing Christians and men having education and opportunities, that they should read it sufficiently to know something of its contents before pretending to say what is or what is not contained in it.

An intelligent writer in a popular periodical said, some years ago, that it was useless trying to oppose polygamy from the Bible, it was so strongly sustained by that book. But some of the wide-awake polemics have lately found out that "the Bible does not contain a word approving of polygamy," while they profess to accept the scriptures as a basis of all revealed religion. We have neither time nor space, at present, to reproduce arguments on the subject which have been so often presented to the public; and for those opposed to us and our faith to so assert, argues either the most culpable ignorance on points which they claim to have studied; or a still worse condition of mind, by making assertions unsustained by proof in the face of facts which are incontrovertible.

It will be sufficient now to briefly state that God commanded plurality of wives; approved of it; legislated for it; declared by the mouth of His prophet that *He had given a number of wives* to one of His servants; and that everywhere in the Bible it is spoken of as an institution approved by Him. All this is in the Bible, the accepted foundation of jurisprudence, principles of government, and revealed religion, by all Christendom.

The Almighty gave a direct command to His people that if a married man should die childless, his brother should take the widow to wife and raise up children to the name of the deceased; and this, whether previously married or not. Where previously married, the injunction commands polygamy. He legislated for the inheritance of the first born son of a polygamist husband, if that son should happen to be the child of a wife not so well beloved as another he might have; He declares exemption from certain duties for a man who took a "new wife," intimating, by construction, the husband having a wife or wives living at the time of such mar-

riage; He declared to David, through Nathan the prophet, when reproving him for the crime of adultery, and Uriah's murder, "I gave unto thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom;" and if these things had not been enough the Lord said He would have given David more; but because of his crimes of murder and adultery, the sword was never to leave his house, and his wives were to be taken and defiled, which predictions were fulfilled to the very letter.

For any person to say that the Bible does not sustain plurality of wives, and that God never approved of it, in the face of such facts as these, and a host of others which might be adduced, is so childish as to be scarcely worth the notice of anybody. This twaddling attempt at argument, glossed up in the flimsiest sophistical form, is almost beneath contempt. Why not come out in language as in fact, and throw the Bible aside, discard physiological and moral facts, and assert the superiority of monogamy on the strength of prejudice and the custom of a few nations? The Reese River *Reveille* put the matter in its most honest shape, some time ago, when it said the age is against polygamy, whether it be correct or incorrect, constitutional or unconstitutional, moral or immoral. "The age is against it," and so expositors of religion, expositors of law, and expositors of politics, must make themselves silly in trying to find arguments where none can be found, to sustain the erroneous and unholy prejudice of an age which is drifting more rapidly to the depths of social degradation than any one which has preceded it, while rejecting the only means by which its downward course might be arrested.

## THE PURCHASE OF RUSSIAN-AMERICA.

The United States Government have purchased from Russia all the territory claimed by the latter on the north west of this continent. But little has reached us by telegraph relative to the purchase, or the treaty connected with it, except that the Senate has ratified the agreement, and the United States pay to Russia seven millions and a quarter of dollars for a country containing some 436,000 geographical square miles. The payment of a quarter of a million to Russia, instead of paying certain liabilities which Russia has to meet, has yet, as an alteration from the originally proposed treaty, to receive the concurrence of the Czar, when the vast territory lately owned by him on this continent becomes the property of the United States.

The Russian American territory occupied all the American coast of the Pacific, with the adjacent islands, from about the fifty-fifth degree of north latitude. Its population is not numerous; perhaps 60,000 would more than cover the number, of whom the greater portion are Esquimaux. The country is not valuable as an agricultural region, in consequence of its northern latitude, still the climate is said not to be so severe as the same latitude in other parts of America and in Europe. But it has extensive timber regions, which will yet be of great importance; the products of its fisheries and the chase have been deemed of sufficient value to excite jealousies in the past between the United States and Great Britain, with regard to the simple privilege of trading for them; and the country is said to be rich in mineral resources.

In a commercial point of view, then, the north-west territory of the continent is well worth possessing by such a government as ours. But there is a

political side to its possession, which cannot be very agreeable to British statesmen. The Hudson Bay Company for a long time enjoyed a comparative monopoly of the trading referred to above, granted by Russia. Since 1854 there has been a sort of coolness existing between Britain and Russia, arising from conflicting interests; and as the country now sold bounds the British American possessions on the north-west, and geographically forms a portion of the same territory, its cession to the United States at the present time, when European politics are looking rather stormy, and Russia and Britain may be brought into early conflict, will be apt to be viewed as very significant of future coalitions in the event of war. Besides, it gives to the United States territory on either side of British America; it gives them control of the west coast of the continent from the north sea to Lower California, except a comparatively short distance; and it gives them the advantage, in case of war, of absorbing with ease a portion of territory now claimed by Britain, beside which, for extent, most of the European empires are insignificant.

This treaty also shows the existing feelings between this country and Russia, so far as the two governments are concerned; and, with the unsettled causes of acrimony still acting as irritants between the United States and Great Britain, may give to the next European war a different complexion from the last one in which Russia and the western European powers contended. So significant did Sir Frederick Bruce deem the matter, that he telegraphed to Lord Derby for instructions; which, however, can be of but little value to him when received, since the treaty is concluded in everything except the signature of the Czar to the amendment noticed.

## THE SECRET OF OUR GROWTH.

The rapid advance made by the Saints, since the Church was organized thirty-seven years ago, is matter of astonishment to those who, ignoring the guiding Hand which has continually directed our destinies, can only see in this work a curious phase of social existence under the guidance of one master mind.

It is not alone the numbers that have been gathered together under the most peculiar, trying and disadvantageous circumstances, professing one faith, with a united object, to make a home of peace, plenty and happiness in the midst of the great American desert, that excites surprise and wonder. The indomitable energy and perseverance, the faith and hope, with which our Elders have traversed the nations of the earth—bearing comfort and consolation to the honest of almost every land—suffering privations, enduring fatigues, without purse and scrip, trusting in the God of Israel to succor and save them and make their labors successful, show a self-abnegation which rises far above the ordinary selfishness of mankind. The persecutions and barbarities which the Latter-day Saints have had to endure at the hands of professed Christians, and in a nation whose proudest boast is that liberty and freedom of conscience are sacred to all; their continued growth notwithstanding; their rapid development; their industry and thrift which have made them rich where others would not have existed; their faith in God and their union of belief and action, have all been causes for astonishment to thinking and unprejudiced observers.

Difficulties of the most imminent and appalling character have arisen and have

threatened to overwhelm us, but, when it seemed as if impossible for them to be averted, they have been found to suddenly disappear, and the journey of progress has been for the time unobstructed. Talent and influence have brought all their forces to "crush out" that which is called "Mormonism;" power has assumed the aggressive to scatter its believers to the four winds of heaven; they have been hunted, driven, plundered, and wherever they have found a resting place the wolves of evil have howled around them, and snapped at their heels as they journeyed on the unbeaten tracks marked behind them with the graves of their weak and worn-out ones. Yet through all they have lived, thriven, and grown in numbers, wealth, property and power.

Why this continued and bitter antagonism? Whence this prosperity and progress in the face of such difficulties and obstacles? No one with ordinary common sense, who knows us, will surely presume to say that the former exists because of our being more wicked than the rest of mankind. We are admitted by our worst enemies, to be peaceful, orderly, industrious, sober and persevering. These are qualities which should command respect instead of exciting antagonism. We think and act, in matters of religious faith, different to the rest of the world. But the members of every religious creed do so, and differ from the members of every other religious creed. Is that a reason for all the world to combine against them? Facts and experience prove that they do not do so.

The antagonism manifested against us springs from the opposite of the cause of our success. The work is Jehovah's: it is not man's. If it were, it would find favor with the world; or if it excited such opposition, it would succumb before the terrible pressure that has been brought to bear, in the past, on the scattered, peeled and driven Latter-day Saints. God has sustained this work from the organization of the Church up till the present moment; and and if men of observing eyes and candid minds would seek for the secret of its success in this source, instead of in others which human efforts furnish them, they would cease to struggle against it, lest they should be found fighting, not against man, but against the Almighty.

Men may sneer at this, but truth lives in despite of sneering, as it does regardless of the wrath of man and the efforts of the enemy of all righteousness.

## HOME ITEMS.

SABBATH MEETING.—The morning meeting was principally occupied by a number of the out-going missionaries, who expressed their faith in the work of God, bore testimony to its truth, declared their willingness to go on the missions appointed them, besought an interest in the prayers and faith of the Saints, and desired to be useful, while absent, in subserving the interests of the work of God.

Elder John Taylor followed with some appropriate remarks; and exhorted the missionaries to study to make themselves efficient ministers of the gospel, to put their trust in God, and seek ever to have the Holy Spirit with them, that the power of the Lord might attend them in their ministrations.

## AFTERNOON.

A number more of the missionaries who are about to leave spoke briefly, expressing their thankfulness that they were deemed worthy to be called to go on missions, and their earnest desires to be faithful and do good to their fellow men in the nations of the earth.

Pres. B. Young said he arose as a missionary called of God as such, to bear testimony to the truth. He said to the Elders selected to go on missions, that if they went with the spirit of lightness and frivolity in their hearts, and not with their minds fixed upon the cross of Christ and the object for which they are sent forth to the world, they would go and return in vain. He exhorted them to "go forth weeping, bearing precious seed," and they should "return bearing many sheaves;" to go filled with the power