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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

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MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE.

WE are pleased to notice that the remarks of President Harrison on his recent visit to Salt Lake City have suggested to some of our exchanges that "the glory of the American home" as they understand it is menaced in other places than in Utah. The Springfield (Mass.) *Union*, for example, thinks that the President's remark has a broader application than one is at first disposed to accord it; he stated a principle which is or ought to be constitutional with the whole American people. "The American home is the bottom fact of our American civilization and institutions, and any evil invasion of the home, whether under political, social or religious guise, is to be resisted to the extreme of force, if necessary. We have been admitting to our shores hordes of people whose home habits are not like ours, and who have little appreciation of what we mean by home. We need not only to make the rite of marriage more sacred, and to guard the marriage relation with the strongest sanctions, but to make it possible for every family living on our soil to have a true home, guarded from all intrusion and consecrated to American family life. In the purlieus of our great cities and perhaps in the poorer quarters of our smaller cities, home life is scarcely possible. And while we are thinking how to make the Mormons obey the law, we have problems nearer home which are quite as difficult to solve, but which must be solved if we mean to preserve the integrity of American home life."

Alluding to another phase of the same interesting subject, the New Orleans *Picayune* quotes statistics which show that in the United States for the twenty years ending in 1880, there were 328,716 divorces granted, of which 129,382 were of couples with children. This prompts the *Picayune* to ask what is going to be done about it. Congress having never undertaken to interfere with the institution of marriage in any of the States beyond an effort to suppress polygamy in Utah, may it undertake to interfere in cases where the

institution of divorce is becoming so alarming in its extent and tendencies? That it ought to, or that an attempt at uniformity in State legislation on the subject should be sought, few persons will dispute who are familiar with the variety of the usages that are to be met with in different parts of the Union. In South Carolina, for instance; there is no cause that can lead to a divorce, not even the scriptural one, while in Arizona a period of desertion extending over six months is a sufficient plea. Habitual drunkenness is a cause in many States, but in Massachusetts alone the opium habit is recognized as a justification for legal separation. In Kentucky "ungovernable temper" is a legal plea; in Florida, "cruel treatment, outrages, or such excesses as to render their living together insupportable;" in Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas, "such indignities as to render life burdensome;" in Georgia, "three years with any religious society that believes marriage unlawful;" in Virginia, "fugitive from justice;" in Illinois, "refusal of wife to move into the State;" "imprisonment for felony" in all States except Florida, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Utah, and, of course, South Carolina.

Then, as to restrictions on remarriage by divorced persons, we find that only in Connecticut, Maine, Kentucky and Illinois are both parties allowed an unrestricted choice in the matter. In other States the plaintiff may remarry, but the defendant is prohibited during the lifetime of the plaintiff, or for a term of years, and in some cases remarriage in violation of the law is declared bigamy.

All these reminders go to prove the truth of the Springfield *Union's* first observation: that the President's remarks may find applicability in other parts, indeed in all parts, of the great American republic, wherever the American home is supposed to exist. We agree with that view most heartily.

THE DISFRANCHISEMENT ISSUE DEAD

ALL classes of citizens in this Territory who have the least love or reverence for American institutions, are to be congratulated on the death of an issue which was a disgrace, especially to its supporters, as long as it was imbued with life. We refer to the proposition to disfranchise a class of citizens on account of religious faith.

As has been noticed, the Democratic party has emphatically condemned it. Local Republican leaders on their part declare that the question is so com-

pletely extinguished that no direct reference to it will be required in their forthcoming platform. Their argument is that while they utterly repudiate it, they would be undignified and guilty of demagoguery if they came along lardily to express their disapproval of it; and they will oppose anything in their platform that can have the appearance of a competitive bid for votes as against the Democrats, though asking to have the platform so framed as to clearly indicate that they condemn, quite as emphatically as do the Democrats, the hateful proposition. It is but simple justice all round to note that when petitions were circulated asking for the enactment of the odious measure, they were signed by both Democrats and Republicans; and that, on the other hand, the signers of the protests against its passage, were not confined to either one or the other of the national parties. Neither party as organized today can be charged with all the favor the infamous project received here at home, nor can either claim all the honor for resisting and stigmatizing the atrocity as it deserved. It is refreshing to see that both parties are ashamed of it; for that much manhood and justice they are entitled to credit. Only the *Tribune* appears anxious to continue its old career of hate and despotism without stop or shadow of turning. We hope it may have to run the course alone.

THE DENVER CONGRESS.

THE Western Congress convened on Tuesday, the 19th inst., at Denver, Col. It is expected that over 1200 delegates will be in attendance, and that all the States and Territories from the British line to the Gulf of Mexico will be represented. The aims and objects of this congress are to consider the best interests of the great West. Several important questions will be discussed. Those which will receive the most attention are irrigation and the storing of water in reservoirs, the free coinage of silver, a deep sea harbor on the southern coast and the Nicaragua canal. Incidentally a number of other issues may come up, such as transportation, labor and capital, the tariff and some of the hobbies of Farmers' Alliance men.

A number of the delegates who will be present are men of national repute. There will be a number present who attended the Kansas City congress a few weeks ago. It is to be hoped that these delegates have profited by their experience there, and that they will endeavor to make the Denver congress worthy of the attention of the