

## THE MORMON MUDDLE.

THE following, under the above caption, is from the *Alta California* of Sept. 6—

"Is the Mormon question about to be definitely decided, or will recent and present trouble in Tooele County end, as have all others which have arisen between the Mormons and Gentiles during the thirty or forty years since Joe Smith turned from chopping firewood to giving ecclesiastical laws to ignorance and fanaticism? Joe Smith's successor has proven a difficult antagonist to deal with. He has found man's weakness and his own strength. He has profited by studying the history of the Jews, and the later wonder of Mahomet. He has seen how persecution binds the persecuted more strongly together, the more severe the pressure. \* \*

"No one man's influence has ever caused the Government of the country and the people so much trouble and doubt, so much discussion, so much of the parade of warlike preparation, with so little of satisfactory results, so many plans for suppressing the trouble, so many heated harangues, so many editorials. Congress has passed laws; he has in spirit ignored them. A warlike expedition was fitted out to conquer and suppress the Mormons. It ended without any injury to them; but, on the contrary, took a large amount of money into their country, and the great quantities of flour and other provisions, costing the Government fabulous prices, finally supplied the Mormons with the very supplies they needed, at very cheap rates. We do not put any great faith in special providences, of which many speak flippantly. But sometimes a contemplation of the Mormon history goes far towards making doubt give way and faith conclude that Heaven itself is favorable to the Mormon organization.

"But place circumstances in the place of Divine favor, and we probably shall have the key to the Mormon successes. This is a less humiliating view than to attribute the immunity with which all the asserted faults and crimes of the Mormons in former years were treated, to the weakness of the federal government. Congress has found the question one of the knottiest. It beats the Gordian knot altogether, for as yet no Alexander has been found who could solve the riddle by cutting it. It is just possible that a beginning has been made in the laws that have been passed respecting elections. Heretofore the Mormons have not only been, in form at least, a religious community but they have been political, as well. That their politics have all had but one centre, one intellect to direct them, has only added to their force, their directness, their success. It has been an illustration of the superiority of an army commanded by an able leader, to the inefficiency of a rabble, an undisciplined multitude with many leaders.

"In consequence of the law referred to, it came about that at a recent election in Tooele Gentiles proved too strong for the voting host of Mormons and elected their candidate. Lawrence A. Brown, the Gentile candidate for Probate Judge was elected over the Mormon candidate. Having qualified, he presented his bond duly executed to the Treasurer of said county for approval and record. Atkins, the Treasurer, refused to comply with the demand. His reason given was that the election of Brown would be contested, a question with which he, as the approving officer, had nothing to do. Then the question was taken before the Chief Justice McKean, who issued his mandamus to the Treasurer Atkins, commanding him to approve the bond and file it, and deciding generally in favor of the newly-elected Judge. It is not easy to decide how this question will be decided. Ordinarily we should say that it has been decided already. But the Mormons have shown such resources heretofore, or such special favor of Heaven, that they may yet, possibly, carry their point in despite of votes and justice."

The extraordinary cohesion, endurance and success of the "Mormon" people, since their first organization as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, forty-four years ago, notwithstanding

the almost universal prejudice and bitter, and often malignant, opposition which have continually met them, may well excite wonder and stimulate the thoughtful and philosophic to search after the reasons therefor.

The *Alta California* acknowledges that, somehow or other, the "Mormon" people, no matter how or by whom attacked, invariably come off best, virtually at least, and seems half inclined to the conclusion that towards the "Mormons" Heaven or Providence extends special favor and helps them out of the many difficulties and sometimes emergencies into which they find themselves thrown by the force of opposing circumstances.

We have our own views upon these causes, which we have no space to enlarge upon here. But we may remark upon one or two things said by the *Alta*.

Brigham Young and the "Mormons" do not ignore the laws of Congress. There is not a constitutional law on the statute book which they do not respect, and taken altogether perhaps the wholesome laws of the land are nowhere so faithfully observed as in Utah, so far as the people are not hindered therein by the prejudice or malignity of their enemies.

Congress has found the "Mormon" problem the hardest of Gordian knots simply because Congress has had no just cause for adverse action towards the "Mormons."

The "Mormons" have never caused the Government and the people of the Union any trouble whatever, but the Government and the people have frequently made to themselves a great deal of trouble when there was not the slightest necessity for any at all. They have not merely met trouble half way, they have imagined frightful hobgoblin troubles when there was none of any degree or kind.

In regard to the Tooele election matter, the people are satisfied that the "Liberal" candidates who are represented as elected for that county were elected by a vote far more numerous than the precincts which gave that vote were entitled to in total. That's the trouble in Tooele.

## That Charge.

Judge Boreman has enriched the legal literature of the day by a contribution entitled a charge to the Grand Jury of the Second District of this Territory. It is an interesting disquisition on the social and political status of Utah, viewed from the Judge's standpoint. Were it a quadrupel, we should at once say that it had no pride of ancestry and entertained no hope of posterity. As a literary production merely, it challenges the admiration of the world by the beauty of its diction, the vigor of its thought, and the prolixity of its elaboration. As a legal document, it may be classed with the emanations of those mighty minds who have adorned the bench for ages, and on whose utterances the world has hung, as did the Israelites of old, on the thunders of Mount Sinai. As illustrative of the benign spirit which actuates the junta of Christian gentlemen, who have been sent to this isolated land to build up "the kingdom" amongst the Latter-day Saint barbarians, it is entitled to the highest consideration, as an honest exposition of their faith, an open avowal of their purposes, and should be considered as a friendly warning to all those who have not the fear of the federal carpet-bagger before their eyes. Judge Boreman is no ordinary mortal—he has the resolution of the pioneer in the great work of reform. He is the second John the Baptist, crying aloud in this wilderness, "Prepare ye the way," etc. True, his raiment is not of camel's hair, but his loins are girded with the thongs of congressional legislation, and while he may not feed on locusts and wild honey still his purse is plenteous with "scrip," that panacea for the ills and wants that carpet-bagging flesh is heir to. As the embodiment of judicial wisdom, he presents the anomalous spectacle of a judge, who, like necessity, knows no law, and who by his assurance verifies the saying that

open confession is good for the soul. Deeply impressed with the sanctity and solemnity of a juror's oath, he seems at the same time utterly oblivious to his own, and, in regaling his jury with his peculiar views in their relations to the commonwealth, as such, has burst the fetters of legal precedent and kicked the musty tomes of legal learning from out his path as unworthy the intelligence and enlightenment of the 19th century. The old and familiar rule that a grand jury may summon witnesses for the defence, when, in their opinion, the case made by the prosecution could be explained away by so doing, finds no favor at his hands, and hence the jury are instructed that such is not the law in Utah. With a mind stored with legal truisms, and a tongue flippant with glittering legal generalities, he announces, in an oracular manner, the startling fact that the duties of a grand juror are "dual" in their nature, that congressional legislation has superseded the statutes of the Territory, and that while in the past he had been prone to make the law, in the future he would leave that matter wholly to Congress.

A general defence is then attempted for all the officers of the government in Utah, and the usual Fourth of July platitudes are revamped about life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The public domain is next adverted to, and the despoiler of public lands is held up to public scorn. He also who fraudulently enters public lands is also held up to public execration, while the illegal voter and he too who marries celestially are also the recipients of his attention. On this latter theme the suit in that relation now pending in this district is made to point a moral, and is pressed upon the consideration of the jury with all the gravity the subject will permit. The arguments of old women and disloyal men are next anticipated and then refuted. The subject of free schools is dilated upon, and the curse of ignorance portrayed in vivid language.

As an expounder of constitutional law the Judge also makes his mark, and as an exponent of the *Book of Mormon* gives evidence of a familiarity with the peculiar doctrines of the church that puts to blush the pretentious Newman and makes us wonder how it is that he has not become a brother and an Elder here. As the representative of forty millions of American freemen he informs the jury that polygamy is doomed to die and that he is the first man to throw himself into the breach that is to seal its doom.

To the student of history this charge is invaluable, as it covers the entire period from Utah's first settlement up to the present moment. Fifty years hence the antiquarian will ponder on this quaint production and wonder what manner of man its author must have been. With the exception of a few brief allusions to the dry details of the law generally, the burden of such a charge, we cannot too highly commend it to our readers. Of course, like a Fourth of July oration, it would not be apropos unless it contained some of the usual stock in trade for such occasions, and the decent respect that the Judge has shown for the feelings of the jury in omitting so much that is usually found in such emanations deserves and will receive unbounded commendation. On the whole, we like the charge. It has been spoken out of the abundance of the heart and no one need mistake its import.

## MONTANA CAPITAL LAW ELECTION FRAUD.

AN indignation meeting was held at the Court House, Helena, Montana, Sept. 5, to give vent to the intense feeling of the community in regard to the alleged tampering with the election returns from Meagher County, whereby the total vote of the Territory was changed from for to against the Capital Removal Law. Judge Robert Lawrence in the chair.

The meeting was addressed by Judge Lawrence, W. F. Chadwick, Cols. W. F. Sanders and A. M. Woodfolk, U. S. District Attorney Page, and Surveyor General Smith.

The following preamble and

resolutions were unanimously adopted—

"WHEREAS, it appears from affidavits and other evidence before us, that on the 3rd day of August, A. D. 1874, the electors of Meagher County cast 561 votes for the approval of the Capital Law, and twenty-nine votes for the disapproval of said law, and that upon the 10th day of said month, the County Commissioners of the county of Meagher, together with the Probate Judge thereof, met and canvassed said vote, and it was found to stand for the approval and disapproval of the said law as above stated; that the abstracts of the said vote were made out in duplicate and both signed by the County Commissioners and Probate Judge; that on the 12th day of said month one of the abstracts so attested by said Commissioners and Probate Judge, with the certificate of the County Clerk and Recorder of Meagher county attached, was delivered in an envelope, unsealed, by the County Clerk to William Davenport, a trustworthy citizen of Lewis and Clarke County, to be taken to Helena and from there transmitted by express to the Hon. J. E. Callaway, Secretary of this Territory, at Virginia City. That the said Davenport brought the abstract of votes on the Capital Law to Helena aforesaid, and in the presence of H. A. D'Achuel and Henry M. Parchen, delivered the same to D. C. Corbin; that the said Corbin, Davenport, D. Acheul and Parchen then and there examined the abstract of votes cast on the Capital Law in Meagher county and found therefrom that 561 votes were for its approval and 29 were for its disapproval. That after the abstract had been so examined the said Corbin retained the same in his possession for about one day, and after sealing the same then delivered it to the agent of Wells, Fargo & Co. at Helena, to be transmitted by their express to the Secretary at Virginia City. That the agent of the express company immediately transmitted the said abstract to the office of the company at Virginia City. That the abstract setting forth the said vote on the Capital Law was never in any manner altered or changed before the same went into the office of the express company.

"And whereas, It appears that the package containing the aforesaid abstract was allowed by the Secretary to remain in the express office at Virginia City for the period of about 18 days, and that when the same was taken from the office and the vote of Meagher County was examined by the Board of Commissioners, it was found that the vote had been transposed so as to read 561 votes for the disapproval and 29 for approval of the said Capital Law. Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, By the citizens of Lewis and Clarke county, that it is with feelings of indignation, mingled with regret, that we review the gross fraud that has been perpetrated by designing villains, in the interest of Virginia City, upon the electors of the entire Territory, and more especially upon those of Meagher county; with indignation that an election fraud so monstrous and subversive of our most vital interests should be perpetrated in our Territory, and even to meet with the sanction of those high in official station; with regret that any community within our borders should shelter and countenance the persons who would be guilty of such a crime.

*Resolved*, That we will devote our time, our energies and our means to the detection and punishment of the miscreants who planned and executed this fraud upon the decision of the electors and violated the election laws of the Territory.

*Resolved*, That we call upon Wells, Fargo & Co. for a prompt investigation of this outrage upon the people, by tampering with the election returns of Meagher county, which was evidently committed in their office at Virginia City; and if it shall be proven that this fraud was perpetrated while the said returns of the Capital vote were in their office at said place, then we demand the dismissal of H. S. Howell from their employ as Agent.

*Resolved*, That we call upon the Hon. Jas. E. Callaway, as Secretary of the Territory, to give us such information as he may possess relative to the care and custody of said election returns from Meagher county, after their arrival in Virginia City, and if the same

were allowed to remain in the express office for the period of 18 days, or thereabouts, instead of being deposited in the Secretary's safe, in his office.

*Resolved*, That this high-handed outrage upon the laws of the Territory and the dearest rights of an American citizen demand the condemnation of every honest man in the Territory. And we cordially invite all who are not in favor of fraud and forgery, in every county in the Territory, to co-operate with us in detecting, exposing and punishing the offenders and their advisers and abettors.

*Resolved*, That this meeting appoint a committee of thirty-one, with power to appoint sub-committees, for the purpose of raising means and directing measures to arrest and convict the perpetrators of this crime against our laws.

"The Committee of Thirty-one, contemplated by the sixth resolution, were named by the meeting, and is composed of the following gentlemen:

"S T Hauser	A M Woolfolk
"W F Sanders	Moses Moore
"L H Hershfield	H M Parchen
"W F Chadwick	James Fergus
"C J Lyster	John E Blaine
"C A Broadwater	Abraham Sands
"A J Smith	A G Vawter
"W E Cullen	J C Kerley
"A M Helter	Henry Klein
"R E Fisk	H H Tatem
"John H Ming	C W Cannon
"John Kinna	Cornelius Hedges
"D C Corbin	S M Hall
"Robt Lawrence	D A G Flowerree
"Con McHugh	Maj Devenport
"John Jones"	

## Correspondence.

## Sabbath School Doings.

BOUNTIFUL, Davis Co.,  
September 14, 1874.

Editor Deseret News:

The half-yearly examination of the three Sabbath Schools of this place came off on Friday, 11th instant, in brother Robert Ure's field, who, let me say, did all in his power to make our enjoyment a success. The proceedings of the day were under the direction of Elder Henry Rampton, the ward superintendent, and the managing committee. The exercises of the day commenced with singing by the Sabbath school choir, under the able leadership of Brother James Weight, then prayer by the chaplain, and singing by the choir.

Bi-hop Anson Call delivered an appropriate address to the assemblage, which numbered about one thousand persons, we being favored with visitors from Salt Lake City and Centerville. Miss Eliza Barnett's recitation was delivered most excellently well. Brother William Perkins' song, "Three Cheers for the Quorum by whom we are led," infused life and animation in both old and young. The meeting was closed with prayer.

The after part of the day was spent in various amusements, such as cricket, running and jumping in sacks, Master Johnson bearing off the prize in this exercise, young ladies racing, pole climbing, wheel-barrow racing, swinging and dancing. All passed off very agreeably and pleasantly, with nothing to mar in the least degree or cause regret to young or old. The outdoor amusements closed about 5 p.m.

The proceedings concluded with a dance in the evening in the Holbrook Hall.

North Canyon Ward extends about seven miles north and south, necessitating our having three Sabbath Schools for the accommodation of the children. They are directed by good and reliable men, who are supported by a goodly number of teachers, male and female. Elder John Kynaston superintends Bountiful City Sabbath School, L. M. Grant the West District School, and Wm. Parkin the South District School.

Respectfully,

CHAS. R. JONES.

The Temple and the Tabernacle—The United Order—Fruit and Wine—Scarlet and Typhus—Two Days' Meeting.

St. GEORGE, Sept. 9, 1874.

Editor Deseret News:

Work upon the Temple is still progressing slowly, as the number of hands engaged thereon is very