THE EVENING NEWS.

Friday, . . . May 13, 1870.

The following excellent article on religious intolerance and persecution in general, and on religious affairs in Utah, is from the Belfast (Ireland) *News Letter*, of the 15th of April:

(*Concluded.*)

In the United States, above all places on earth, we should not have expected religious persecution in this enlightened age. The Americans boast loudly about their love of freedom and the enlarged measure of it they enjoy. They exhibit their Constitution as the freest and best in the world; yet when they think it suits their purpose they can be quite as intolerant as any other people; and we have not to travel far for proof. After considerable debate Congress has passed a Bill, the object of which is to fracture the existing state of society in Utah by imposing pains and penalties on the Mormons for exercising their religion, and to support this violent persecution by armed force if necessary. How we blush when reading of the Papal beasts being equipped and marched off to slaughter the Albigenses! How we shudder when we pore over the dragonnades of Louis of France, and his vile cruelties against the industrious, well meaning Huguenots! How the heart-fain is crushed when the deeds of the Holy Office in Spain and Portugal are recited! Barbarous they were all, and done in barbarous times; done, too, in fulfilment of the principles of religious systems. But here in free America, a great Protestant Power—and we hope it may always be Protestant—forgetful of the slur cast on religion by intolerance, and endowing its Government with authority to invade a Territory, and to spoil the property of a people whose industry has changed a wild waste into a fruitful garden. Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormons, may have been an immoral, drunken fellow; and Brigham Young, the present High Priest, or whatever else his admirers call him, may be little better than Joseph; but that is no reason why he should be persecuted and plundered. If Brigham Young were strong enough he would be as much justified in making war on the United States because monogamy and the odious "free love" system are adopted therein, as General Grant would be in sending his troops to invade Utah because polygamy is its custom. In that Territory there are 100,000 people, influenced by religious fanaticism, with millions of property won from the desert, in defence of which they encountered suffering in its most aggravated forms, under the most formidable conditions, and they will fight for creed and country. We wish the Mormon leprosy were removed; but persecution is not the way to remove it. Send in Christian agencies; let commerce and the railway bring truth into contact with the Mormon error, and it is easy to predict on which side will be the triumph. But the world is sick of military missionaries, and sick of religious intolerance; for they have travestied the articles of our common faith, and impeded the progress of Christianity."

THE POOR OLD ROMANS—HOW THEY LIVED.—Not only were the ancient Romans a hard lot, but they were a lot of hard-livers, and hence to them most of the sources of trouble that are common to Christians were unknown. The life of an average Roman was about as exalted as that of a modern hog. The Romans had neither rum nor gin, nor whisky, nor brandy; they had no coffee, no tea, no chocolate, no sugar; they had neither cigars, nor pipes, nor snuff, and tobacco was as unknown to them as Terra Del Fuego; they were unacquainted with the hoop, the revolver, the habeas corpus and the Erie Railroad; they were destitute of daily newspapers, monthly magazines, quarterly reviews, electric telegraphs, and steamboats; they were badly off for soap; and to extend Dr. Arbuthnot's remark concerning Augustus, not one of their Emperors, had either glass to his windows, or a shirt to his back; not a Roman had ever seen a Bible, nor read "The Dairyman's Daughter," nor wept over "Uncle Tom's Cabin," nor become excited over an abolition speech or a woman's rights lecture—they never had a Gretna Green or a Rhode Island to facilitate marriages, nor an Indiana or an Illinois to make divorces as easy as lying. The Romans fed at their troughs by day, and pigged in their straw by night, and when the vermin that haunted their togas became too pressing in their attentions, they held the said togas over or near the fire, and made them too hot for the little pests. The great and gracious Pompeius blew his nose with his fingers, and the mighty Julius himself mopped his eyes and cheeks, after blubbering, with his imperial paws. The baths that became so common in late times were the consequences of attempts to civilize these brutes. Not knowing these and other things, the Romans grew up a robust race, with hides of filth over their skins, and were, in short, a hardy, dirty, virtuous, and care-shedding gang.—*Sac Union.*

Jesse Williams had been doing something which her mamma had told her she mustn't do. She had been eating currants, and, of course, she got her mouth all stained. That's the way she got found out. Mrs Williams said: "You know you were forbidden to eat currants!" "But, mother, Satan tempted me!" "Why didn't you say, Get thee behind me Satan?" "I did say, Get thee behind me, Satan, and he went and got behind me, and pushed me right into the currant bushes."

Coroner Butterworth of New York held an inquest recently over the body of Frederick Rufland, a butcher. Rufland was standing at the door of his shop when his attention was called to two boys fighting on the sidewalk. While he was trying to part them, one Kahoe stepped up and struck Rufland on the head, and next day he died. In the belief that the blow on his head had led to his death, Drs. Warner and Blundell were directed to hold a post-mortem examination. The cause of death was thereupon discovered to be the singular condition of the man's lungs, which had, to all appearance, been turned into soapstone. The lungs were as hard as stone, and on touch felt like soapstone. How the man breathed is a mystery. Of course the coroner's jury exonerated Kahoe.

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