

LETTER FROM LONDON.

THE LAST COMPANY OF THE SEASON—
SCANDINAVIANS AT HOME—WOMEN
AT WORK—WOMAN'S DEGRADATION—
THE WORK IN THE BRITISH METROPOLIS.

LONDON, England,
October 29th, 1885.

Editor Deseret News:

The last emigrating company of the season, which left Liverpool on the 24th inst., contained quite a number of returning missionaries, who have labored in their respective fields with that zeal and fidelity which is peculiar to

"MORMON" ELDERS.

Where upon the face of the earth can such self-sacrifice and devotion to principle be found as is exhibited by the very men who are most despised by the world? Without fee or reward, many of them at their own personal expense for travel, food and raiment, go to any part of the world where duty calls, and promulgate an unpopular creed, often at the risk of life or liberty. Scoffed at, reviled, misrepresented, looked upon with general suspicion, and sometimes mobbed and maltreated, they steadily pursue their course, preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, visiting the poor, administering to the sick, baptizing the few who have the courage to accept the truth, walking many weary miles in summer's heat or winter's cold, defending their faith from all assaults, and shrinking from no peril or privation that it may be necessary to encounter. Two years is now the usual period of their absence from home and family, and when circumstances require a longer detention they cheerfully respond, as in the case of the President of the Swiss and German Mission, who, just ready to return home, was recently told his presence was needed till another season, and answered that the Lord's will was his will, and as long as his services were required he was ready to remain.

There are

NO PURER MEN

in spirit and in act than these same "Mormon" missionaries. They believe it is right, under ecclesiastical rules and ordinances and at the proper time and place, to contract plural marriages by mutual consent of the parties and by divine permission. But they do not believe it is right to commit any of the sexual sins so common in this wicked generation, and it is very rarely that an Elder departs from the strict line of virtue and strays into the borders of vice. When such a case occurs, the effects are soon marked in his character and spirit, and he loses the power of his calling, so that his weakness and lack of light and spiritual vigor become apparent to his associates. It is expected that every missionary, whether married or single, will return home unsullied, preserving the same integrity which is looked for in his wife or sister.

TEMPTATION IS NO EXCUSE FOR SIN,

and he is called upon to be a protector and not a destroyer of virtue, wherever he may be and in whatever circumstances he may be placed. It is gratifying to know that these expectations and requirements are realized as a rule and that "Mormon" missionaries are examples to the world of that purity which they teach and which is an absolute requirement of their holy religion. How happy are they who, having filled their missions with honor, return home with conscious integrity and glorified by patience, endurance and an experience that is priceless!

SEVERAL SCANDINAVIAN ELDERS

went in the company, which was placed in charge of Elder Anthon H. Lund, a Danish gentleman of culture, education and ability, who has presided over the Scandinavian mission with credit. It is often the case that our brethren from Denmark, Sweden and Norway fail to receive that appreciation which is due to many of them, in consequence of their inability to pronounce some English sounds according to rule. This is very unjust and really absurd. An American who visits Scandinavia is as apt to murder the Danish language as a Scandinavian is to trip up on English pronunciation. A visit to

THE NATIONS OF THE NORTH

gives a better idea of the people, their customs, habits, status and qualities than can be obtained through meeting a few of them in other lands. The hard-working peasant from the rural districts of any country is not a fair specimen of its population. In Copenhagen, Christiania and Stockholm, as fine looking men and handsome women may be met in the streets as can be found in any country on the globe. Evidence of taste, skill, learning and progress are to be seen on every hand, and true politeness is shown to a stranger in public and in private. The French have the reputation of being the politest nation on earth. But it is only surface politeness. It consists of apologies, graceful bows and pretty speeches. A Frenchman will push his way in a crowd, knock against you in the street, struggle for a place in a public assembly, smile, shrug his shoulders and ask pardon. But a Danishman will make way for you, avoid contact if possible, behave like a gentleman, and in a place of public entertainment

assist rather than obstruct you, and in the street will salute you with bared head—if not with as easy grace as a Frenchman, at least with as much genuine courtesy. Hospitable, fair-dealing, whole-souled and law-abiding, the hardy sons and daughters of the north show to great advantage in their native lands, and are just the kind of people to mix and mingle with the more nervous and spare-framed American stock for the benefit of generations to come. In the country districts

WOMEN WORK

in the fields with the men and perform labors that seem too arduous for any of the "gentler sex." But they do not appear to mind it. They dig potatoes, drive team, pull carts and sometimes actually help drag the plough while a man holds the handles. But sights like these may be seen in other parts of Europe. In Prussia, Bohemia, and indeed throughout Germany the women seem to work as much as the men in the fields, and to carry as heavy burdens. It is amusing to hear people abroad speak against Utah as a place where "women are compelled to work out of doors like slaves," while the fact is that in any European country, England included, more female labor is employed in agriculture in a day than in Utah in a year, difference of population being duly considered. The truth is, that one thing which Utah lacks is employment for youth and unmarried women. Not that field work is desirable for the ladies or that they would be easily persuaded to follow it, but there are too many idle young women in our Territory who would be the better for some steady employment while the community would be enriched by their handiwork.

THE DEGRADATION OF WOMAN

is charged against the "Mormons." But it is another case of "the mote and the beam." The "Mormons" marry the women, their accusers defile them; that is the difference. It is the fashion in the world to exalt woman in song, and drink wine in her honor at the festive board; to glorify her in literature and bow to her in public. But millions of women in Christendom are driven to starvation or the streets, and many millions more struggle desperately for a miserable subsistence without hope of improvement. The white shirts that gentlemen sport while toasting "woman, lovely woman," are made and stitched in miserable garrets, where hollow-eyed women fret out their souls in ceaseless toil for enough bread to keep them from perishing, and the cast off victims of the lip-worshippers of woman linger out a life of shame or run riot to the grave while they help to fill up the cup of the world's deep iniquity. They who profess to see degradation in the women whom a "Mormon" has placed by his side as his honored wives for ever, shut their eyes to the damning infamy of the world which relegates millions of the daughters of God to

BESTIALITY AND CORRUPTION.

But this must not be talked about. "Mormon" polygamy may be denounced in unmeasured terms, but the social iniquities that are gnawing at the vitals of "Christian" society may not be mentioned in respectable circles. For attempting to expose a little of the sin and shame of England's chief city, the editor of the *Pull Mall Gazette* drew down upon himself the wrath of the upper-ten-don and will have to pay the penalty with a shaved head, in a convict's suit, behind prison walls, and be compelled to pick oakum instead of pointing out with his pen the immorality and hypocrisy of wealthy Pharisees. This appears to be inevitable. The truth of his exposures cannot be denied, but he sinned against society in printing that which may be done but not spoken of, and in procuring proof of that which was desired to be kept under cover. However, prison or no prison, his persecutors will hear from him again.

"MORMONISM" IN THE METROPOLIS makes a little headway spite of the opposition it encounters. Sixty odd new members have been added during the last six months, several intelligent inquirers are investigating and some are only waiting for a convenient time to be baptized. This conference contributed twenty more souls to the number of emigrants in the last company of the season. Travel on the Continent and visits to other British conferences have prevented frequent communications to the News, but when opportunity offers further facts and scraps will be received from

EXILE.

CHARGE TO THE GRAND JURY.

DELIVERED BY ASSOCIATE JUSTICE O. W. POWERS, AT OGDEN, ON TUESDAY NOV. 17, 1885.

The empaneling of a grand jury for the First District Court was completed on Monday afternoon last, the following named persons constituting the panel, the first mentioned being the foreman: J. W. McNutt, D. Thorburn, J. S. Lewis, L. B. Stevens, W. M. Chapman, S. Peterson, S. S. Schramm, F. A. Shiels, O. G. Hill, C. B. Payson, J. Crandall, Geo. G. Griffith, I. Rubel, H. C. Wardleigh, John B. Hopkins. Judge Powers then proceeded to deliver the following charge, the text of which we copy from the *Ogden Herald*:

Gentlemen of the Grand Jury:

You have been called by your country to act in a most important capacity. You have been taken from the ordinary affairs of life, to serve as grand jurors of the present term of court. None of you have sought this duty, and I feel certain that all of you would have preferred to remain at home as private citizens, rather than take up the grave responsibilities which you now assume. But jury duty is one of the burdens of citizenship. It must neither be sought nor shirked. It is a public duty which the government requires of its citizens in return, in a slight degree, for the blessings that are showered in such abundance upon those who live in this land of liberty.

I am sure that you fully appreciate the importance of the position which you occupy, and I trust that you are willing to withdraw yourselves from the malice, prejudice and envy that too often sway men's minds in the affairs of the world, and that you will consecrate yourselves, without fear or favor, to the great public trust that our laws have placed in your charge. Upon the very threshold of your duties, let me urge you to resolve that you will be faithful to your oaths, that you will indict no man through prejudice or malice, and that you will leave none undicted through fear or through favor. In all things let me admonish you to be brave, firm, fair and just. In other words, be faithful, fearless and conscientious jurors.

I desire to impress upon you the absolute necessity for fairness and impartiality in all that you may do. You must not be influenced by matters that you have no right to consider. You must, in your deliberations, simply consider the evidence produced. You must not take thought of the consequences to yourselves, if a certain line of action is pursued, but you must simply seek to do your duty. You must not inquire whether your action will be popular, or whether it is politic to do or not to do a particular thing, for you must simply consider whether it is right. You must not consider whether men, subject to your investigations, are rich or poor, powerful or weak. Your eyes must be closed and your ears must be sealed to all outside or irrelevant matters.

The institution of the grand jury is of very ancient origin in the history of England; it goes back many centuries. In the struggles which at times arose in that country between the powers of the king and the rights of the subject, it often stood as a barrier against persecution in his name, until at length it came to be regarded as an institution by which the subject was rendered secure against oppression from unfounded prosecutions of the crown. "In this country," says a distinguished judge, (His Honor Justice Field, of the Supreme Court,) "from the popular character of our institutions, there has seldom been any contest between the government and the citizen which required the existence of the grand jury as a protection against oppressive action of the government, yet the institution was adopted in this country, and is continued from considerations similar to those which give to it its chief value in England, and is designed as a means, not only of bringing to trial persons accused of public offenses upon just grounds, but also as a means of protecting the citizen against unfounded accusation, whether it comes from government or prompted by partisan passion or private enmity."

From these observations it will be seen, gentlemen, that there is a double duty cast upon you as grand jurors of this District, one a duty to the government, or more properly speaking, to society, to see that parties against whom there is just ground to charge the commission of crime, shall be held to answer the charge; and on the other hand a duty to the citizen to see that he is not subject to prosecutions which have no just foundation.

You will direct your inquiry, in your investigations, to such subjects as are called to your attention by the Court in this charge, or are submitted to your consideration by the District Attorney. Some other matters may come to your knowledge, which it will be your duty to investigate. While you are inquiring as to one offense, another, and a different offense may be found, or witnesses before you may, in testifying, commit the crime of perjury. So, also, some of you may have personal knowledge of the commission of offenses against the laws of the United States, or of this Territory, or of facts which tend to show that such an offense has been committed or possibly attempts may be made to influence corruptly or improperly your action as grand jurors. If you are personally possessed of such knowledge, you should disclose it to your associates; and if any attempts are made to influence your action corruptly or improperly, or to intimidate you in your action, you should inform them of it also, and they will act upon the information thus communicated as is presented to them in the first instance by the District Attorney.

I instruct you that your investigations are to be limited:

First—To such matters as may be called to your attention by the court; or,

Second—May be submitted to your consideration by the District Attorney; or,

Third—May come to your knowledge in the course of your investigations in the matters brought before you, or from your own observations; or

Fourth—May come to your knowledge from the disclosure of your associates.

It will be your duty to inquire whether any of the laws of the United States have been violated. It is my duty to charge you specifically, to make due and diligent inquiry, whether the laws of your country relative to polygamy and unlawful cohabitation are being infringed in this district. I therefore charge you to investigate this matter. For years the laws relative to the marriage relation have been set at defiance in this Territory. This is a fact of such common notoriety that the court is bound to take judicial knowledge of it. But this state of affairs cannot be allowed longer to exist. The government is in earnest. The laws of the land must be enforced and guilty parties taught that, if they continue in their evil course, they must pay the penalty. People must learn that the law can no more be violated with impunity in Utah than it can be in the States. They must understand that the great moral sentiment of the nation is opposed to plural marriage. The sooner they learn the lesson, that they must learn sooner or later, that the law must be obeyed, and that Utah is a portion of the United States, the better it will be for all. It is strange that any will pursue the path that the people of this Territory seem determined to take. Here, amid these mountains, nature's great treasure vaults, enclosing valleys so fertile that they need only to be "tickled with the hoe in the spring-time to laugh with the harvest in autumn," could be framed an intelligent, enterprising state. Some day this will be done, but it will not be until our people learn to love their country, learn to obey its laws, and learn to reverence that great institution of civilization, the home, with its wife and mother, revered and honored by the husband and father. The laws relative to the marriage relation, which the court expects your aid in enforcing, are just laws, and are constitutional laws. As was said by the Supreme Court of the United States: "No legislation can be supposed more wholesome and necessary in the founding of a free, self-governing commonwealth, fit to take rank among the co-ordinate States of the Union, than that which seeks to establish it upon the basis of the idea of the family as consisting in and springing from the union for life of one man and one woman in the holy estate of matrimony, the sure foundation of all that is stable and noble in our civilization; the best guaranty of that reverent morality which is the source of all beneficent progress in social and political improvement."

The crime of bigamy or polygamy, consists in entering into a bigamous or polygamous marriage. The offense is complete when any person who has a husband or wife living marries another. It is also complete when any man simultaneously, or on the same day, marries more than one woman. This, however, does not apply to any person by reason of any former marriage, whose husband or wife by such marriage has been absent for five successive years, and is believed by such person to be dead, nor to any person by reason of any former marriage which shall have been dissolved by a valid decree of a competent court, on the ground of nullity of the marriage relation.

In this Territory there is no law regulating marriage. No form or ceremony is required, and no record of marriage is kept. Marriage is left as it was at common law. There need be no witnesses present. If the parties are competent to contract, all that is essential is a present agreement. The marriage is complete when there is a full, free and mutual consent of parties capable of contracting. Proof that parties have treated each other as husband and wife, have lived together as such, and have held each other out to the world as such, is sufficient to enable a court or jury to find that at some previous time the parties did, as a fact, consent to be married, and as a fact agree to be husband and wife. The mode of life, the holding out, the declarations or admissions of the accused, and the like, are circumstantial evidence from which the fact of marriage may be inferred.

The offense of cohabitation is complete when a man, to all outward appearances, is living or associating with more than one woman as his wife. [His Honor laid particular stress upon this definition, and that it might be thoroughly understood by the jury, he repeated it.] To constitute the offense, it is not necessary that it be shown that the parties indulge in sexual intercourse. The intention of the law-making power, in enacting the law against cohabitation and polygamy, was to protect monogamous marriage by prohibiting all other marriage, whether evidenced by a ceremony, or by conduct and circumstances alone.

An indictment may be found against a man guilty of cohabitation, for every day, or other distinct interval of time, during which he offends. Each day that a man cohabits with more than one woman, as I have defined the word "cohabit," is a distinct and separate violation of the law, and is liable to punishment for each separate offense. A grand jury is vested with very large discretion in limiting the time within which a series of acts may be alleged as constituting a single offense.

It has been argued by some that if a grand jury can find an indictment for each day that a man cohabits with more than one woman, they can find an indictment for each hour or each minute. The learned lawyers who have raised this point, and they are not members of the bar, have probably forgotten that the law takes no

notice of fractions of a day, hence you cannot find an indictment for any less period than a day.

I also charge you, that if you should find that a man is guilty of cohabiting with two or more women, one of whom resides in this district and the other in some other district in this Territory, you should indict him; for the offense is deemed by the law to be completed and committed here. The statute of the United States says, "Where any offense against the United States is begun in one judicial district and completed in another, it shall be deemed to have been committed in either and may be dealt with, inquired of, tried, determined and punished in either district, in the same manner as if it had been actually and wholly committed therein."

I also charge you to investigate whether any person has knowingly and wilfully obstructed, resisted or opposed an officer of the United States in serving or attempting to serve any process or warrant, or any rule or order of other judicial writ of this court, or assaulted beat or wounded any officer or other person duly authorized in serving or executing any writ, rule, order, process or warrant of this court.

Also, whether any person corruptly or by threats or force, has endeavored to influence, intimidate or impede any witness, or officer of this court, in the discharge of his duty, or has corruptly or by threats or force, obstructed, or impeded the due administration of justice.

And I also charge you to inquire whether any persons in this Territory have conspired to deter, by force, intimidation, or threat, any party or witness from attending this court, or from testifying to any matter pending herein, freely, fully and truthfully, or have conspired to injure such party or witness in his person or property on account of his having so attended or testified.

I call your attention to these last three points because it has come to the knowledge of the court that certain parties in this Territory have set at defiance the laws, have publicly advocated that an oath taken in a court of justice can be properly violated, have obstructed the officers while engaged in their duties, and have threatened the officers of the government with serious consequences if they continue to aid in enforcing the laws. Such things impede the course of justice.

You will not confine your investigations to the determination of the question, whether the laws of the United States have been violated, but you will ascertain whether there have been infringements of the laws of the Territory. You will inquire whether there have been any murders committed; whether any persons are guilty of rape, larceny, riot, robbery, embezzlement or any of the various offenses upon the statute books.

You will find these various crimes and misdemeanors defined in the statutes of the Territory, to which you will have access, and to which your attention will be called by the attorney for the people.

I charge you particularly to investigate whether parties are guilty in this district of the offense of grand larceny by stealing stock from farms and ranches. The stockmen of this Territory complain grievously of the manner in which their stock is run off and appropriated by thieves. Men must learn that they have no more right to take stock that does not belong to them from ranches, than they have to take a horse from a farm. The court proposes to do all in its power to put an end to the state of affairs now existing, and it desires your aid in the matter.

In the investigation of a charge for the purpose of an indictment, you can receive no other evidence than such as is given by witnesses produced and sworn before you, or furnished by legal documentary evidence, or the proper deposition of witnesses. You can receive none but legal evidence, and the best evidence in degree to exclusion of hearsay or secondary evidence. You are not bound to hear evidence for the defendant; but it is your duty to weigh all the evidence submitted to you, and when you have reason to believe that other evidence within your reach will explain away the charge, you should order such evidence to be produced, and for that purpose you may require the District Attorney to issue process for the witnesses. If any of your number knows, or has reason to believe, that a public offense, triable within the district, has been committed, he must declare the same to you, and it is your duty to make proper investigation.

You must inquire into the case of every person imprisoned in the jails within the jurisdiction of this court on a criminal charge, and not indicted; you must inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons, and into the wilful and corrupt misconduct in office of public officers of every description within this jurisdiction. I should say to you, perhaps, that you are entitled to free access at all proper times to the public prisons.

At all reasonable times you may come into court and ask its advice on questions of law, and the Court will deem it a pleasure to aid you all in its power. You will have the assistance of the attorney for the people in your labors, and he is at liberty to appear before you at all times for the purpose of giving information or advice relative to any matter cognizable by you, and he may interrogate witnesses before you whenever you think it necessary. But no other person can be permitted to be present during your sessions except interpreters and