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MORALS IN WASHINGTON.

The Newark (N. J.) *Evening Journal* speaks of the state of society in Washington City as follows:—[*Ex.*

The slums of London, the quarters of Paris, the sinks of Rome, the bagnios of Venice, are outdone, and hide their diminished heads. To find a parallel for Washington in the world, we must rake among the sweltering lanes and alleys of Lucknow, we must ransack the feculent wharves of Canton, or hold our noses in the loud-stinking purlieus of Hongkong.

The infection has pervaded all ranks; no corner of society has escaped. The Massachusetts transcendentalist, the New York merchant prince, the Western-Reserve freeholder, the fervid preacher, the smooth-faced country boy, the peach-cheeked girl, the jabbering negro from the rice fields, all of them, as soon as they come here, are caught in the debauched whirl, are sucked into the giddy mealstrom of brutal orgies, are infected with the lickerish pollution, and straightway run races who shall soonest pander away their favors and their virtue for the highest price. Mammon and millinery, lust and lechery, turpitude and selfishness, intemperance, epicurism, sensuality, shoddy and greenbacks, these be your gods, oh Capital of the United States! Four years more of such growth, such progress, and such reform, and hell will have been so cleanly raked of its vampyres and fiends and devils, to people the streets of our national caravansera, that it will be a safer place of residence for ordinary men than Washington City!

Are the foregoing strongly worded statements true? We are not acquainted with the *Journal*, but, from what we heard and observed during a sojourn in Washington in portions of 1850-1, from the known designs and influence of evil, and from numerous prophecies ancient and modern, we are satisfied they are more truthful than could be wished. Even the wild prophecy in the last sentence of the article might, were it in the power of those parties, find a literal fulfillment.

And cannot celibacy, monogamy, so-called Christianity and the boasted progress, refinement and enlightenment of this 19th century prevent the Capital of our nation from becoming a cess-pool of wickedness almost, according to the *Journal*, without parallel in our day? It appears they do not, as the *Journal* most emphatically testifies, and as we have thought for many years. Then why are the praises of monogamy, so-called Christianity, etc., so persistently and loudly proclaimed? That society here may become as debauched and wicked as the *Journal* says it now is in Washington. This fact is difficult of comprehension by those unacquainted with the ways and wiles of the world, and can be thoroughly understood only through the Spirit of truth. For this reason many labor, with great zeal and apparent sincerity, to bring about the very condition they would deprecate; and those who are not valiant for the truth are enticed through their specious pretences.

Fortunately for Utah, 'Mormon' teachings, doctrines and example cannot be truthfully cited for a single item in the *Journal's* dark and lengthy list of Washington sins, for were not the 'Mormons' thirst beyond the then boundaries of the United States, haply to be killed by Indians or starve to death?

Meanwhile how have our censors im-

proved? Taking only one count in the dark catalogue—the so-called "social evil"—the *Journal* says that idolatrous Canton, Lucknow and Hongkong must be sought to furnish "a parallel for Washington;" "That the infection has prevailed all ranks; no corner of society has escaped," &c., and yet, while unable, in their fancied enlightenment, to so much as control the "social evil"—permitting it to go on from very bad to outrageous—they enacted an un-constitutional law against marriage. Alas for the ethical wisdom of this corrupt and conceited 19th century!

MERCHANTS AND MERCHANTIZING.

Perhaps in no country in the world have men engaged in ordinary mercantile trading been able to accumulate fortunes so rapidly, during the past ten or twelve years, as in this Territory. The causes which operated in their favor are very obvious. A large population engaged in agriculture, and kindred pursuits, were dependant upon a few for their supplies of many articles which had come to be looked upon as necessities, and some which the claims of existence and improvement absolutely required. A long—a very long way from a market in which depleted stocks could be replenished; with various hazards attending the freighting of goods hither, and with hardly a nominal competition on the part of traders, they found they could exact a very exorbitant percentage of profit on invested capital, and if the dollar was not quickly turned, it was turned to some purpose; to accumulate a respectable fortune, for these regions, in three or four years, being the rule, not the exception. Produce, of every kind, was almost looked upon with contempt;—there was plenty of it, for years; no pressing demand for it elsewhere within a distance available for business transactions of such a nature, and if imported goods sold for a price that would now be deemed very reasonable, when the products of the earth were offered in exchange for them, the quantity demanded from the producer made the price to him exorbitantly high. Things have somewhat changed in this latter respect. Produce is considered of greater value now, because it is found to be a more marketable commodity than it was then.

But though the farmer does, at the present time, receive more in imported goods or cash for his produce, it is not because merchants are any the less anxious to double the dollar and amass fortunes in a limited period of time. They are willing to pay a higher price for produce, because it can be sold readily and with good profit, and because it cannot be purchased so cheap. But the interest received upon invested capital, in the form of profit, is still very high.

It is true, capital is turned very slowly here, about once in a year being the rule; and a heavy profit is required to keep the business of a firm safely floating in a region where the facilities for replenishing stocks are so very limited. Yet, in other places where such facilities do exist, men engaged in legitimate mercantile trading are satisfied if they can acquire a handsome competence with the labor of the best half of a lifetime. Not but what they would like to secure it in less time; but competition is too powerful for the gratification of their desires.

The increased cost of goods in the wholesale markets, and the depreciation of the national currency, are the reasons advanced for asking the high figures for goods which are now demanded. The reasons are cogent enough, as far as they go, but the heavy profits of the past might be considerably diminished and merchants become rich as rapidly as other portions of the com-

munity who toil with brains and hands equally as hard, and are equally as meritorious. We have strong reasons, however, for thinking that there is still another cause; and that is, the probability of this year's purchases being at much higher rates than even last year's, and, to be secured against such a contingency, the retail prices are raised correspondingly. Is this just to the people, or to the moral welfare of those who do so? We think not. The people are made to bear the weight of anticipated high prices, which they will have again to bear if that contingency becomes certainty, and if it does not, the safes of the traders will become the repositories of means which in justice to the community should be flowing in other channels.

When a new establishment is opened, the usual promises are made of "the cheapest goods," "the best value," etc., etc., which if honestly interpreted would read,—"we only want to secure your custom, and when we have got it, and made a good start, we'll pile it on as heavy as anybody else;"—yet human nature, with all its experience, credits these promises and learns, after a time, that this incipient competition dies away, and the prospect of the stock being disposed of before it can be replenished induces the possessor to ask any price for his goods which he thinks their prospective scarcity will enable him in the end to obtain.

When men give themselves up to the spirit of trading, it is nearly useless appealing to their philanthropy, or placing before them the paramount claims of the welfare of a community. Yet sometimes a course similar to that we are treating upon effects a public good, and in the end defeats itself by forcing the people to dispense with many things they would otherwise procure, and manufacturing articles for home consumption which they would have purchased from imported stocks, if the prices had been reasonable. We will not be sorry if the course pursued by some of the merchants here produces this result; it will tend the sooner to bring about our independence from foreign markets and foreign commerce.

If our remarks give offence in any quarter, all we can say is, we advocate the claims of the public, and they are superior to private and personal interests.

We recommend the people to import as much as they can themselves, and bring along all the useful machinery possible, and the means for manufacturing much of what we require among ourselves.

PRESIDENT BRIGHAM YOUNG'S VISIT TO DAVIS COUNTY.

Presidents Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball, accompanied by John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff and George Q. Cannon, of the Quorum of the Twelve, President Joseph Young and several other Elders and friends, left this city on Saturday noon to visit Centreville, where, we understand a party was got up for their entertainment.—Dancing was enjoyed till a late hour, everything going off harmoniously.

Meetings were held on Sunday by the brethren who went in the President's company, in Bountiful, Centreville and Farmington.

President Heber C. Kimball occupied the whole time allotted for the forenoon meeting, in Centreville, preaching one of his most happy and instructive discourses. The entire congregation appeared to be highly edified as well as entertained.

After an intermission of one hour the congregation again assembled, and were addressed by Elder John Taylor, on the building up of the kingdom of God in the last days.

President Brigham Young followed with a brief discourse, giving instruc-

tions upon general topics; also exhorted to diligence and faithfulness in the path of duty; the necessity of gratitude for the great blessings enjoyed by the Saints in these mountains, and of making every effort in their power to extend the kingdom of God.

A good spirit prevailed in the meetings, and the First Presidency blessed the people in the name of the Lord, with all the choice blessings of heaven and earth.

President Joseph Young and Elder Edward Stevenson staid at Bountiful on Saturday evening and held one meeting on Sunday, at which there was a good attendance, considering the weather.

Elders Wilford Woodruff and George Q. Cannon left Centreville on Sunday morning on a visit to Farmington, where they met with the people, and preached to them the comforting things of the kingdom of God. After meeting, they returned to Centreville in time to accompany the President back to this City, where they arrived between six and seven o'clock in the evening.

HOME ITEMS.

SABBATH MEETINGS.—Elder Joseph F. Smith and President George B. Wallace delivered short addresses to the congregation on Sunday forenoon, both treating upon the Lord's way of preaching the gospel to the nations, that instead of ministers rolling in luxury as man-made ministers do, they, the Elders of Israel, go forth without purse or scrip, thus following the example of Jesus and his apostles. They exhorted the people to diligence and faithfulness in the truth revealed to the Latter-day Saints.

In the afternoon Bishop John Sharp and Elder Wm. C. Staines preached on temporal salvation, advocating among other important principles, the necessity of making canals and water courses for irrigation purposes, impressing upon the minds of those present the great benefits to be derived from the canal about to be built in this county, and advised all to take an active part in helping the work forward.

Owing to the heavy snow storm of Saturday night, and the continuation of the storm during the whole day of Sunday, the meetings were not so numerous as they usually are.

SNOWY AND RAINY, Wednesday and Wednesday night, 15th; sunny and sloppy, 16th; cloudy, windy, snow-squally, 17th; snowing some, thawing, 18th; during the night of the 18th snow fell to the depth of some 6 or 7 inches, and continued falling plentifully all day and night of the 19th, gently on the 20th, until past noon, when the new snow averaged some 13 and new and old some 19 inches in depth. This has been one of the longest snow storms experienced in this valley, since its settlement in 1847.

INFORMATION WANTED.—If William Lunn, of Gosport, England, who came in last fall and stayed at Weber, will write of his whereabouts to George A. Burgen, St. George, Washington county, Utah, he will hear news to his advantage.

THEATRICAL.—The playing on Wednesday night was rather dull. Poynt Arden is not a character to show Mr. Snow's parts to advantage. As Seth Swap he was more like his former self; and at the close of the second piece answered a call from the audience by appearing before the curtain. The members of the Association played in their usual spirited manner.

The Iron Chest, produced on Saturday night, is rather a heavy piece, inclining to the wordy, and some of the characters seemed as if a little more rehearsal would have been of service to them. Mr. Snow, as Sir Edward, in the more forcible scenes showed that the old fire and pathos were still alive. Mr. McKenzie's Fitzharding was played as he plays everything, with care and spirit. Mr. Graham manifested ability as Wilford, but his halting in the text detracted somewhat from it. Miss Emille evinced marks of study and improvement in Lady Helen. The other characters were creditably rendered. The robbers' chorus, at the close of the second Act, was very good.

Of the farce Out to Nurse we cannot speak in terms of sufficient commendation. The laughter was so continuous that it was positively a luxury to have a respite from it. Miss Delle's performance of little Susy was one of the most artless and natural pieces of acting we have ever seen. Appreciative adjectives were flung about in the audience without stint;—"rich!" "splendid!" "wonderful!" "extraordinary child!" &c., &c., were heard popping out between the bursts of laughter; everybody seemed more than pleased, and very much astonished that a child only a little over six years of age, could play with such ease, vigor and life-like vivacity. Apart from the character of little Susy, it is a splendid farce. The characters of Groundsel and Bobbins, in the hands of Messrs. H. B. Clawson & Dunbar, would have made the thing a success; but the child carried everything before her and took the house by storm. A hearty call brought her before