

LAX LUNACY LAWS OF ENGLAND.

ONE of the most detestable public abuses existing in Great Britain is perpetrated under the facility with which people can be deprived of liberty by being placed in lunatic asylums by relatives, for ulterior purposes. The most revolting cruelties have in this way been committed upon perfectly sane persons. The motives which have prompted the perpetrators of such an inhuman method have been various but mostly to gain possession of property in possession of persons to whom insanity has been attributed. In some instances people have adopted this plan to rid themselves of relatives whose eccentricities have caused them to feel scandalized. The latter appears to have been the cause of an attempt on the part of a Mr. Weldon, of London, to place his wife in a lunatic asylum. Mrs. Weldon had a phenomenal voice, which she insisted on wasting in common concert halls, to the utter disgust of her friends. She sued the conspirators against her liberty, and was recently awarded damages to the amount of \$5,000 against Dr. Semple, one of the physicians, who testified to her insanity.

Judge Hawkins, who presided over the trial, on giving judgment, said Mrs. Weldon was entitled to the thanks of the public for the very thorough manner in which she had exposed one of the very worst public abuses of the time. She had shown the world that the English lunacy laws afforded every opening for some of the most serious offenses against personal liberty that had ever been devised. The ease with which, under the English lunacy laws, perfectly sane and useful members of society could be removed from their path by designing persons and be put actually out of the world, Judge Hawkins said, actually terrified him and should be made the subject of immediate legislative correction.

The defense was represented by able counsel, but Mrs. Weldon conducted her own case.

The abuses that have occurred under the lax lunacy laws of England cover so long a period and are so notorious that literary men have woven incidents of that nature into their novels, and even the thrilling and pathetic story of this kind that is introduced into the thread of "Valentine Vox," has probably been equalled if not surpassed in real life. It is to be hoped, for the sake of humanity and the credit of our neighbors over the Atlantic, that the suggestion of Judge Hawkins will be adopted.

THE BEEF MARKET.

BEEF has not been so scarce nor of so poor a quality in Utah for many years as it is this season. The same condition exists in almost every part of the country. With a malignant cattle disease prevalent in some portions of the United States the situation of the beef market is not likely to improve. Cattle dealers say in relation to the malady which has broken out among the cattle herds, "There is no cause for alarm." This is a stereotyped phrase, indicating as a rule the reverse of what it is intended to convey.

The market in this city is well supplied with mutton of good quality, which measurably compensates for the absence of desirable beef.

This season seems to be remarkably unhealthy the world over, both for man and beast. Owing to the general tendency to disease in cattle people should eat but sparingly of animal food, especially during the hot weather. This course is always judicious in the heated term, but more especially now, for reasons already intimated.

DELTA METAL.

"Delta metal" is the name of a new alloy manufactured in England by one Alexander Dick. It is said to be equal to steel in toughness and durability, while it is not subject to rust. It is coming into use for castings of various kinds, and Messrs. Yarrow & Co., the celebrated ship and torpedo builders have just constructed a steam launch of the new metal. The plates and angle pieces are of the ordinary thickness of steel plates and the plating has the advantage of needing no continual painting like steel, to keep it from corrosion. The new metal is likely to make a revolution in metal coating for sea-going vessels.

A PEN PICTURE.

The Utah Journal publishes the following correct description of one of most miserable creatures in existence:

One of the foulest, vilest and despicable slanderers that was ever permitted by an inscrutable Providence to misrepresent human nature, is a certain Josephite missionary in whose field of labor Utah has the misfortune to be comprised. Every now and then he dishes up for the Tribune a putrid mess of slander, the utter vileness and filth of which are only equalled by the venom it contains, which is designed to destroy and poison the happiness and reputation of some worthy and innocent person. The individual of

whom we speak attacks his victims with the malignity of a very devil, his ulterior object in most instances being to make it appear that the Latter-day Saints believe in, practice and encourage the most detestable crimes.

This man was once in his native country (England), a reputable Latter-day Saint. Some 30 years ago he left his wife there and started for Utah, promising to send for her as soon as he should be able to raise means for her immigration.

The vessel on which he sailed contained a company of Latter-day Saints, a portion of whom were Welsh and in charge of a Welsh Elder, but the bulk were English. Among these was an innocent, simple minded young girl whom the villain we are speaking of succeeded in seducing. His conduct on the vessel was so scandalous as to make it necessary for the presiding officers of the Saints to interfere. He came to Utah, but as a matter of course apostatized and became a Josephite Elder, the doors of that sect being eagerly opened to such as he.

Some months ago this lecherous rascal came to Logan, called on a well-known citizen and introduced himself. The citizen invited him to dinner, which invitation he accepted, but at the table he violated every rule of hospitality by denouncing certain principles of his host's religion. The lady of the house, knowing his history well, though not acquainted with him personally, at a time when he was denouncing with a great show of virtuousunction the principle of plural marriage, adroitly informed him that she was the daughter of the Welsh elder (above referred to) who crossed the sea in such a year and such a ship. He at once surmised that she knew his past history, his chin dropped, a look of confusion suffused his face, he stammered something about taking his leave, and left the house at once, notwithstanding that he had a short time before announced his intention of spending the day with his host.

We believe that Josephites as well as all other sects should enjoy perfect immunity from persecution, and be permitted to go and come as they please, and preach what they please, where, when and to whom they please, provided they do not break the law, and we would not like to see any community in Utah disgrace itself by mobbing even such a human polecat as is the creature we are speaking of. But while according this wretch perfect personal liberty and safety we take this occasion to brand him as one of the most disreputable men that ever had an existence upon this iniquity-burdened planet.

WILL THE VOTES BE COUNTED?

OUR readers are aware that the Utah Commissioners have ruled that territorial officers are not to be elected by the people but appointed by the Governor and Legislative Council of the Territory. That they have no authority to pass upon this question and that it belongs solely to the Courts, is as certain as anything can be that is in dispute. But as the election returns are practically, though not legally, under their control endeavors to obtain justice from their hands by every lawful means are proper and imperative. The Commissioners base their decision as to the appointment of territorial officers upon a construction of a clause of Section Seven of the Organic Act with which many lawyers differ. That Act was approved Sept. 9th 1850. But Congress has since passed a law in reference to one class of territorial officers that relieves them from the operation of the disputed clause in Section Seven of the Organic Act, supposing the view of its meaning entertained by the Commissioners to be correct. This point has been brought to the attention of the Utah Commission very clearly by one of the candidates to the office of Commissioner to Locate University Lands, who was elected on the 4th inst. We here append the correspondence:

Office of Chas. W. Stayner,
Attorney-at-Law,
SALT LAKE CITY, Aug. 4, 1884.

To the Hon. Commissioners for Utah,
Salt Lake City:

Dear Sirs—As one of the candidates for the office of Commissioner to Locate University Lands, and in behalf of the other candidates for said office, I would respectfully call your attention to the following grounds, on which we claim that the votes or ballots for said office should be counted, as cast at the general election now being held in this Territory.

The Act under which said officers are voted for, was approved Jan. 21, 1850, and is entitled "An Act to provide for the selection and location of a quantity of land equal to two townships, for the establishment of a university," (see Compiled Laws, p. 241), and is based upon an act of Congress, entitled, "An Act to establish the office of Surveyor General of Utah, and to grant land for school and university purposes," approved February 21, 1855. The Act of Congress above referred to is found on page 611, volume ten of the statutes at large, and expressly states that the lands so appropriated for university purposes are "to be selected under the direction of the Legislature,"—referring to the Legislature of Utah Territory. This special Act of Congress was passed in 1855, over five years subsequent to the pas-

sage of the Organic Act, hence its provisions are not in any way affected by any construction upon section seven of said last named law. According to the language of the act of '55, the Territorial Legislature had the power to express and declare such means as they deemed proper for the selection of said lands, and they wisely gave to the legal voters of the Territory, in their Act of January, '59, the right to express at the polls, who should be their choice to fill said Board of Commissioners. Said officers have been duly elected and counted every year since the passage of the act, until the ruling of the Hon. Commissioners last year classed them with other Territorial officers, and ordered the votes or ballots for said officers to be thrown out of the canvass. The legality of the acts of these land commissioners has lately been declared by the Hon. Secretary of the Interior. In his letter (Com. Lr. "G.") of June 26th, 1883, addressed to Messrs. Stayner & Simmons of this city, he refers to said University lands and states that the location thereof has been declared valid, and leaves the disposal of them to the Legislature, according to said act of Congress, authorizing their selection and disposal.

As will be seen from the above statements and references, to which the attention of your Honors is respectfully directed, the said officers are acting under special laws passed since the Organic Act of the Territory, and strictly in harmony with the views and intention of the Government of the U. S. Their election is a matter of absolute necessity, from the fact, that unless so elected under the statute quoted and the law of Congress, there is no other method prescribed for choosing them. There is not a line of law which can be construed to apply to their case, except the acts above given, which provide for their election on the first Monday of August in each year. They cannot be appointed, as their acts would not be valid. To change the method of their selection now, in the presence of the conclusive legislation on the subject, would be to endanger the titles to large tracts of university lands, and jeopardize the interests of many honest settlers upon the same. The lands now selected are duly reserved by the Government, and the title is undisturbed as long as the same method which has prevailed, and which has been passed upon by the highest law authority in the United States, is continued and sustained in our elections. But there is no telling what complications may or may not arise if these methods are changed. On these grounds which are both legal and equitable, we would respectfully ask that the ballots cast for said office, at this election be counted, and that the duly elected candidates be commissioned according to law.

In granting a favorable ruling upon this application, we know that the Hon. Commissioners will be filling the utmost technicalities of the law, and doing justice besides, to many interested settlers upon the public lands in this Territory.

Very respectfully, Yours,
CHARLES W. STAYNER.

In reply to this communication Mr. Stayner received the following from the Secretary of the Commission most of the members of which are absent:

OFFICE OF THE UTAH COMMISSION.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah,
Aug. 5th, 1884.

Chas. W. Stayner, Esq., Salt Lake City,
Utah,

Sir:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of Aug. 4th, 1884, addressed to the Utah Commission, and to say that the same will receive due consideration by the Commission at the proper time.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
ARTHUR L. THOMAS,
Secy. of Utah Com.

We do not see how, or on what pretext, the Commission can claim that the votes for these territorial officers, elected under the provisions of the Act of Congress of Feb. 21, 1855, and of the Utah Legislature of January 21, 1857, should not be counted. The whole matter of the selection and disposition of the lands in question was placed by Congress under the direction of the Legislature. The offices created by the Assembly for the purpose of locating the lands are to be filled by the voters of the whole Territory, so in one sense they are territorial officers. But they form no part of the Territorial Government and are simply a Board chosen for a special purpose to transact business, the whole of which is placed by Congress under the direction of the Legislature. A more definite answer to the comprehensive plea of Mr. Stayner will be looked for with much interest.

DISGRACEFUL POLITICAL METHODS.

THE corrupt courses of politics are exhibited in times of prominent campaigns, such as that now being conducted in this country. The candidates are subjected to cross-fire fusillades of filth. Journalistic and political scandal-mongers dig deep into the currents of the lives of the objects of these assaults for the purpose of discovering putridity of every de-

scription and bringing it to the surface of the stream, that its horrid appearance may greet the eye and its effluvia the ear of the public. Should the channel be found comparatively clear and pebbly, and the water clean, extraneous nastiness is thrown into it, that the desired appearance of defilement may be attained, in the hope of creating a popular nausea, that the object of all this virulence may be vomited from the political stomach, which, however, possesses a remarkable degree of digestive power.

What a humiliating spectacle such a picture presents. Truth and decency stand aghast at the scene, while sensitive people are filled with infinite disgust. The almost utter absence of political amenities in the country are appalling. It is reprehensible in the highest degree. It is high time there was a reaction in favor of common respectability.

Under existing conditions when so many men aspire after positions of political prominence, conflicts are inevitable, but they should be properly any fairly conducted, based upon real issues without resorting to hideous personalities. If in physical warfare any nation claiming to be civilized should lay aside modern weapons of destruction and seek to demolish the enemy by resorting to the "stink pots of China," the rest of the world would hold up their hands either with disgust or amusement, yet such a step would be parallel with the course taken in this country in political controversy.

In prominent campaigns the objects of venomous assaults and their friends are kept busy replying to and overthrowing aspersions upon their private characters, or, if at all sensitive on the subject and they consider silence the better way to answer, gnawing their thumbs in unexpressed vexation.

But a serious effect, detrimental to the country, produced by the disgraceful custom of besmudging candidates is the keeping of the better and more capable class of men outside the range of such undesirable besmearment. Men of capacity who, doubtless, could serve the nation in a devoted and patriotic spirit are not willing to be made the targets of such vile abuse. In these days of venality and corruption the truly good and great would have but a limited chance of success anyway, for men of that calibre would scorn to resort to such base methods as appear to be the rule now; neither would they consent that the filthy process should be conducted by deputy in their behalf. The political situation is not favorable for obtaining the right men for the right places. A man to be a candidate now for a prominent national office has to be as lacking in personal sensitiveness and as thick-skinned as a rhinoceros. And to meet the subtleties and devices of opposing persons and combinations, he is compelled to resort to ways that are more or less revolting to a broadly honorable and conscientious mind.

It is fortunate that throughout the country generally the venomous and abusive feature of political controversy is only periodical, according as occasions arise. If it had no cessation the nation would be in a constant condition of political indigestion, creating fever and a general demoralization of the entire structure without any ameliorating symptoms. Locally in Utah a chronic condition of that kind can exist without any special damage to the general weal, because it is one-sided here and the disgusting political disease is quarantined, being confined to a mere handful of insatiable malcontents, who make it a life-business to abuse the "Mormon" people in every conceivable shape that is dishonorable and disgusting. Their false and villainous flings are generally special and personal, and the truth is of no use whatever to the maligners when a lie even will, in their view, serve a better purpose. As truthful statements adverse to the integrity, honor, purity and honesty of this community can rarely be made, the scandalizers seldom have recourse to it. Their line of policy in relation to the "Mormons," who are almost entirely members of the People's Party, is sharply and clearly defined. It is to seldom if ever say anything good concerning them and never fail to cast upon them the vilest and most malignant aspersions.

The reason why this situation is perpetual in Utah is simply because the People's Party comprise the sweeping majority here, and as a natural consequence, elect their friends to office and leave the little hungry office-hunting clique out in the cold. But the people of Utah can stand this kind of treatment from political tricksters better than any other community, because they have got used to it. Conscious of their own integrity and good intentions they can afford to pay as little attention to the vile falsehoods of these political schemers as to the yelping of small dogs who create a good deal of noise notwithstanding their comparative powerlessness to hurt. The filth which they have been attempting to fling at the "Mormons" has fallen short of its mark, having dropped around in the immediate vicinity of its shovelers, until they are neck deep in the mass. What with the effluvia it emits and the effects of repeated and prolonged disappointments, their position is not one that people desiring a fair share of mental peace would be likely to envy.

But while this kind of political miasma can be maintained here without any great hurt to the more respectful and respectable people of the community, it is not so with the country generally. Here the tainted air is breathed

only by those from whom the noxious gases emanate. Nationally, the foul emissions flow from many sides and the loaded atmosphere is inhaled more or less by the people as a whole. The unavoidable conclusion however, is somewhat sad. Although the demoralizing state of affairs political is plainly apparent, there seems to be no cure for the evil. The cry of "reform" has a hollow, sepulchral sound, as if coming from a place filled with "dead men's bones;" for so long as putridity and corruption float in mammoth quantities upon the campaign current, the befouling of the official lake to which it is tributary is inevitable.

ALARMING NEWS.

THE New York Mail and Express endeavors to startle the country with the news that,

"A leading Mormon has reached Washington from Utah direct. He says Cleveland is popular there, and that his election is looked forward to as an event that will be full of promise and better times for them."

Prodigious! Why did not that "leading Mormon," whoever he may be, by some indirect route to Washington. And why has he chosen as a time to "direct" to the nation's capital the worst of all seasons—when the city's magnificent distances is a good place to get away from, and when it is forsaken by Congressmen and leading public officials?

But the news that Cleveland is popular in Utah is really alarming. We business have the "Mormons" to "hopeful of better times," and to anticipate a change for the better with change of national administration. True, this is the hope of many millions of voters throughout the United States, while the "Mormons" have vote or voice in national affairs. anything that the "Mormons" say, do, or do not say or do, has some social and important significance to the Mail and Express.

We do not know who "the leading Mormon" is that has so disturbed the New York daily by speaking in favor of Cleveland, but, whether he is a man or a myth, he only expresses the feeling entertained in every State of the Union. A change of administration means a change of officials for the Territory as well as many other parts of the country, and that means the relegation of a number of rogues to the proper oblivion, and a bare chance at least that more decent men will be placed in positions of public trust and responsibility. This is "a consummation devoutly to be wished" and the "Mormons" share in the wish for obvious reasons.

Of all the know-nothing journeymen that are continually harping on anti-"Mormon" string, commended to the Mail and Express for ignorance of the true and discordant silliness and for making a "Mormon" mount out of an imaginary mole-hill.

A VERY WIDE DIFFERENCE.

IN the course pursued by the politicians during the present presidential campaign, there has been too much throwing of mud and cries of "you another." But those who deprecate this kind of "civilized" warfare, ought to distinguish one great difference between the arraignment of the Republican candidate and the assault upon the Democratic nominee. The objections urged by the independent against Mr. Blaine are solely on his grounds. The retaliation on Cleveland is directed toward his private character. It is no answer to Mulligan letters to allege that the Governor of New York is a liberal. Blaine is no honest if Cleveland is ever so lustful. And the fact set out prominently that to offset the charges on Blaine's official career, there are no charges worth a five cent newspaper against Cleveland's public administration.

This is a distinction with a very great difference. Mr. Blaine's supporters take their stand against him in the ground that while occupying an important official position he used his influence in favor of certain railroad schemes, and then sought to obtain pecuniary favors and advantages on the plea that he had thus made himself useful to the companies and deserved substantial reward. In reply to this, the gentlemen of his own party who say he cannot vote for him on this account, are called all kinds of names, and their former eulogiums of other sides to Mr. Blaine's character are quoted. But this makes no relevant answer. The question is, not the former opinions of these seceders, but the truth of the facts which they now set forth. If the are true, is Mr. Blaine a proper person for the Presidency?

Again, the champions of the Republican candidate cry out "if it is pure you are after, look at the conduct of Cleveland with the widow at Buffalo. But this does not meet the issue at all. The charges against Mr. Blaine relate to his official conduct, and it is in official capacity that he is objected to. Mr. Cleveland may have been unchaste in his private acts several years ago, alleged, but that is not the point. What is his public character, and do you accuse him truthfully of any pub-