



GEORGE Q. CANNON.....EDITOR

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## VIGILANCE COMMITTEES.

For some time past the newspaper press, in different parts of the country, has occupied a portion of its space with accounts of the acts of Vigilance Committees. These committees have not been confined to the great West, nor to newly settled localities; but they have been operating east as well as west, in places where the rough elements which are often found associated with pioneer and frontier life cannot be said to predominate.

Quite recently three persons were hung by a Vigilance Committee in Nebraska. Something over three weeks ago—on the 20th ult.—the citizens of Seymour County, Indiana, acting as a Vigilance Committee, stopped a railway train, took from it three prisoners, who were in the custody of officers of the law charged with having, a short time previously, attempted to rob an Adams Express car, and hanged them on a tree, one of them protesting his innocence up to his death. On the night of the 24th ult., the same combination of citizens, acting as a Vigilance Committee, again took three prisoners from the officers of the law who were charged with the same crime, and hanged them. In both these last named cases there is no evidence that the prisoners would not have had the law justly administered in their case; but those who wrested them from the charge of the law, in the person of its officers, and became their executioners without trial and without sufficient proof, declared they were part of a confederated gang of law-breakers, who were guilty of many other crimes.

If men can assemble, and, with impunity, acting under the influence of passion, justly excited or not, become the executioners of alleged or real criminals, without trial or defence, setting aside and ignoring the law and its agents and executors, there is no safety in legislative enactments, and society becomes the slave of a hydra-headed mob, irresponsible, unwise and easily goaded to commit the most terrible crimes under the plea of duty, claiming for them the semblance and color of virtues. Such acts mark a transition in society, where they occur, leading to a radical and fearful change. Where the law has not power, and respect to its majesty cannot be enforced, it has been deemed wise and necessary, at times, for men to combine together to purify society; but where the machinery of the law is in full and free operation, it shows a growing power of mobocracy, defiant of healthy restraint, which augurs ill for the country in which it exists.

We have just reason to feel proud of the settlement and growth of this Territory, with the authority which the law has ever exercised in it. While the neighboring States and Territories have been compelled to witness the organization and movements of Vigilance Committees; and now, while they are manifesting themselves in what to us is the Eastern States; we have never had occasion to resort to such extreme measures that law and order might be maintained in Utah. The officers of justice, few as they have been, with the strong sense of right exhibited by the people, have ever been found sufficient to sustain the supremacy of the courts, even when we were cursed with the largest number of lawless individuals that has ever been in the Territory.

## THE "OCCIDENT" AND THE "MORMONS."

THE San Francisco *Occident*, a religious paper, of the 8th instant, has the following notice of our emigration, which is replete with that love and charity dealt out so liberally to the "Mormons" by nearly all classes of people, but especially by professing Christians:

"More than three thousand recruits for Utah have been landed in New York within two months, and most of them

are now able to judge whether the blessings of Mormonism are equal to the representations of the glib-tongued emissaries Brigham Young has sent abroad to represent him. The account given of the appearance of these ignorant and degraded people as they were collected at Castle Garden, is itself a commentary on the sentiment which has attracted them to their new home. They are evidently fit subjects for the delusion they have adopted, and will find themselves in congenial society when they reach Salt Lake. Yet the fact that an establishment like that of the Mormons, supported by such means, exists and grows strong in the interior of our Territory, may well excite the serious reflection both of patriots and Christians."

Now it does seem that some people cannot refer to us as a people without using the most contemptible and opprobrious epithets, "ignorant," "degraded," "deluded," and so on through the whole vocabulary, showing themselves possessed of either a vast amount of ignorance or of the most unbounded, illiberal and really unchristian prejudice.

The assertion of the *Occident* that our emigrants are "ignorant and degraded," is false and uncharitable. Ignorant they may be in many instances; for as it was anciently it is now—"to the poor is the gospel preached"—and the poor, at least, in the greater part of Europe, being deprived of very many opportunities of culture, are naturally enough ignorant of most things save poverty and its innumerable disadvantages. But that they are "degraded" we utterly deny.

As a community credit is given to us for good order, industry, perseverance and every other characteristic indicative of a well regulated state of society. This meed of praise is awarded to us by nine-tenths of all who are brought into actual contact with our community, even if completely antagonistic to our religious views; and yet we are made up to no small extent, and every year receive large additions from those "degraded" recruits referred to by our cotemporary, the *Occident*. Now, if our people, or our foreign converts who emigrate to this Territory, were such a degraded set as our friends delight in representing them, we should have innumerable proofs of it on their arrival here; for a journey from Europe to Utah, and the many trying circumstances into which they are thrown upon settling in a new country like this are certainly not calculated to develop the brightest and best phases of human nature. But our citizens—many of them from among the poorest of the nationalities of Europe—come here and live in the utmost harmony, and almost without an exception are industrious and orderly. This is as complete a refutation as can well be given to that part of the statement our cotemporary has made in reference to the degradation of our people.

The last sentence in the above paragraph is really true. We feel to endorse it most heartily, and as heartily to recommend it to the consideration of all thinking beings under whose observation this short article may happen to fall. The sentence referred to runs thus: "Yet the fact that an establishment like that of the Mormons, supported by such means, exists and grows strong in the interior of our territory, may well excite the serious reflection both of patriots and Christians."

Really our cotemporary has told a vast amount of truth in a very few lines, and we think, to our credit and greatly in our favor. It was no doubt never intended; but is nevertheless a fact. We will analyze and comment thereon. That the "Mormon" establishment, as he terms it, should exist and grow strong in the heart of the American Continent, is indeed a matter worthy the serious reflection and attention of all true Christians and patriots. Here may be observed the absolutely unique spectacle of a whole Territory, containing probably 150,000 people, most of them belong to the poorer and laboring classes of society, and yet among them all not a beggar, and scarcely a drunkard to be found; while crime and rowdiness are almost unknown. Now, in a day when the press of the whole country, more or less, teems with accounts of crimes of the vilest hue; and articles from the ablest pens are written, lamenting over, and commenting upon their rapid increase, we think that the fact "that an establishment, like that of the Mormons, can exist and grow strong in the midst of our Territory," is indeed worthy the attention and serious reflection of every man in whom the love of country exists, or who desires to see the principles of that glorious system of ethics taught by the Redeemer prevail. It is proof incontestable that in one

portion of our national domain life and property are respected, and that the people are governed by a system that it would be well for the whole nation and the world to adopt. We are well aware that the hue and cry against the "Mormons" is pretty general; and that in the estimation of a great many people—some very ignorant, others very prejudiced or wicked—the name of "Mormon," or "Mormon Elder," is deemed synonymous with all that is evil. But "by their fruits ye shall know them" was said upon one occasion by Him whom all Christendom professes to reverence; and by that standard we have as much right to be judged as others; and that right we demand.

If amongst us life, female chastity, and property are inviolate, law respected, good order, harmony and peace the invariable rule—as they most certainly are—the same high principles which we honor, if applied to human action and government in any other Territory, State or nation would produce results similar in every respect to those enjoyed by the people of the Territory of Utah. And where is the man, who would not rather see peace, harmony and morality prevail universally than to see them the exceptions? Every true Christian and patriot earnestly desires to see such a time inaugurated, and none deserving those truly glorious titles would for a moment reject a system of human government that would inevitably lead to such results, even though they should emanate from and be introduced by "Brigham Young" and his "glib-tongued emissaries."

For the Deseret Evening News.

## By Telegraph.

## GENERAL.

Harrisburg, Pa., 14.—The body of Thaddeus Stevens passed through here at four o'clock this afternoon. Minute guns were fired and bells tolled, an order having been issued by the Governor for paying respect to the memory of Stevens.

Reading, Pa., 14.—The planing mill of Garland & Mastand, and the car shop of Showler & Johnson, in this city were destroyed by fire this morning; loss, \$20,000, except a small insurance.

Lancaster, Pa., 14.—The remains of Thad. Stevens reached Lancaster this evening at 6.15 p.m. On the arrival of the train at the depot, the procession moved to the residence of the deceased statesman, where his remains lie in State, guarded by the Zouaves. A large meeting of citizens, irrespective of party was held in the Court House, and arrangements were made for proper ceremonies.

Green River, 14.—Asa Rosenthal was murdered in the streets, Aug. 12th, by F. W. Johnson, who was arrested by the police and turned over to the military for safe keeping. The people are excited about it and fear that for the want of the necessary civil organization the murderer will escape justice.

New York, 13.—Reports of the crops by telegraph from all parts of the country, are on the whole quite cheering. The wheat crop is larger than last year in Ohio, Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire, and the quality is regarded as excellent. From Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama and Texas the reports are not so good, the yield being indifferent. In Louisiana, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Maryland and southwestern and central Tennessee, North Carolina, Delaware and Vermont the crop is an average one. The corn crop is very large and the quality remarkably good. The yield this year is fully one-third more than last; this is especially so in the Southern States. In Kentucky, Tennessee, west Virginia, Indiana, Maryland, Kansas, Ohio, Nebraska, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Vermont, New York and Illinois the yield is large; while in Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and other southern States it will not be more than the average. The rains injured the crops in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Maine.

Nashville, 17.—Last night, about 12 o'clock, a party of masked persons, some fifteen in number, rode into Franklin, and broke open the door of a store of a Prussian Jew, named Bierfeld, a radical. Bierfeld attempted to escape by flight, but he was fired on and fell dead, pierced by five bullets. Lawrence Bowman, colored, Bierfeld's clerk, was also shot and mortally wounded.

Kansas City, 15.—There are additional reports of Indian troubles in Kansas State. The Indians and settlers are still fighting on Asher Creek; three more men had been killed. The Indians are

coming down Solomon Creek. Large numbers of people on Asher Creek and all about that district are cut off; they are out of provisions, and their ammunition is nearly exhausted. Later reports say the Indians are murdering settlers on Solomon Creek, and that seven men were killed yesterday. A settler came in this morning with his family; he says he had a running fight for quite a distance. Governor Crawford has gone to Solomon and Sholina, and is making preparations for arming and organizing the settlers for defence.

## FOREIGN.

New York, 11.—European mail advices to August 1st have been received. The London cabmen are on a strike.

Espartero has declined to accept the office of President of the Spanish Cabinet.

A secret printing office has been discovered at Valencia, Spain, where one of the recently published revolutionary journals was issued. Four compositors were arrested and sent to Fernando Po.

Ottawa, 14.—An order has been passed in Council prohibiting the importation of horned cattle from the United States into the provinces of Quebec or Ontario.

Paris.—*La Liberte* asserts that a new difficulty has arisen between the French government and the Bey of Tunis.

The *Courier du Levant* publishes the following news from Candia: A battle took place between the Cretans and the Turkish troops on the 27th of July, in which the Turks were badly beaten.

Paris, 14.—There was a magnificent military display to-day; the national guard were reviewed by the Emperor. The Empress, Prince imperial and a large number of the nobility were also present. Fifty-two battalions of troops passed in review. The city was gaily decked with flags, and vast multitudes thronged the streets; the enthusiasm was unbounded. The royal family were loudly cheered.

New York, 15.—Toronto city is greatly excited over the arrest of several citizens, charged with the robbery of the Merchants' Union Express Company on the Hudson River Railroad, in May last. A large sum of money and bonds were found in the possession of those arrested.

Large fires are raging in the woods in the neighborhood of Ballsblaw and Leroy, and on the northern railroad millions of dollars worth of lumber and forest are destroyed.

London.—Further advices from Tipperary, Ireland, were received this evening. The agent of the landlord, Mr. Scully, was not killed as at first reported. He endeavored on Tuesday to serve some ejectment notices on several of the tenants in the vicinity of Tipperary, when he was attacked by a large body of them, including many women, and was obliged to fly into the city to save his life. Yesterday he started on the same errand, accompanied by a large body of armed police. On reaching the hamlets of the tenantry, his efforts to serve the notices were met with derision and threats of violence. The police endeavored to disperse the mob, when a fierce fight ensued, during which the police fired on the rioters several times, the shots being returned by some of the crowd. Several of the mob were wounded, as were a number of the police. Scully was seriously wounded, and the police retired unable to make any arrests at the time. Tipperary is in a high state of excitement and further trouble is apprehended.

London, 15.—Dispatches received, to-day, from Constantinople state that a serious encounter took place at Pera, two miles from the city, between the Greek residents and Turks in consequence of the violation of the grave of Prince Meridates. The troops of the Sultan were called out to suppress the riot and fired upon the Greeks, killing and wounding a large number. Many of the latter fled to the residences of the foreign consuls for refuge. The trouble was finally suppressed by the active measures of the soldiery.

London, 15.—Dispatches have been received from Ireland giving the particulars of the deeds of lawlessness which occurred yesterday near Tipperary. It seems that while one of the great landlords of that region, named Scully, was serving the usual notices on various tenants, he was shot and killed by some unknown person. A strong body of police soon after made their appearance on the scene, and attempted to arrest the culprit. The police, in turn, were attacked and two of them shot dead, and four of them badly wounded. Several arrests were subsequently made. At the latest advices quiet was restored.