

the father of any such illegitimate child, are hereby disapproved and annulled; and no illegitimate child shall hereafter be entitled to inherit from his or her father, or to receive any distributive share in the estate of his or her father; *Provided*, That this section shall not apply to any illegitimate child born within twelve months after the passage of this act, nor to any child made legitimate by the 7th section of the act of 1882.

Here, then, is the first clear and unqualified declaration of Congress of its disapproval of the legislation of Utah recognizing the inheritable capacity of the issue of polygamous marriages; and so careful is Congress of rights acquired or existing under these laws that it excepts by special proviso all children declared to be legitimate by the 7th section of the act of 1882, as well as all illegitimate children born within twelve months after the passage of this act.

These several acts of Congress, dealing as they do with the same subject-matter, should be construed not only as expressing the intention of Congress at the dates the several acts were passed, but the later acts should also be regarded as legislative interpretations of the prior ones. *United States v. Freeman*, 3 Howard, 558, 564; *Stockdale v. Insurance Co.*, 20 Wall, 323. Now if it had been intended by the act of 1862 to annul the Territorial act of 1852, fixing the inheritable capacity of illegitimate children, why did Congress in 1882 recognize the legitimacy of children born of polygamous or Mormon marriages, prior to January 1, 1882? Or why, in the act of 1887, did it save the rights of such children as well as of all others born within twelve months after the passage of that act? The object of these enactments is entirely clear. Not only does Congress refrain from adding to the odium which popular opinion visits upon this innocent but unfortunate class of children, but it makes them the special object of its solicitude, and at the same time offers to the parents an inducement, in the nature of a *locus penitentiae*, to discontinue their unlawful cohabitation.

Our conclusion is that the appellant George A. Cope is entitled to share in his father's estate, and the decree of the Supreme Court of the Territory must, therefore, be reversed.

ANTI-"MORMON" SLANDERS.

At the Chamber of Commerce a large meeting of Salt Lake City business men was held Thursday, January 29th, to discuss certain matters pertaining to local affairs. The meeting was really an adjourned session of one held on Wednesday evening last at the same place. At that meeting the rumored removal of the Union Pacific offices and shops from Salt Lake City to Ogden was considered. A committee was then appointed to wait on Mr. Bancroft of the Union Pacific, and ascertain the truth of the report.

The meeting last night was called to order by Mr. Donnellan acting president of the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Scott was called to the chair. On assuming it he made a few remarks, stating the purpose of the meeting and the aims it sought to accomplish.

REMOVAL OF THE U. P. SHOPS.

First in order of business came the Union Pacific matter. Judge Colburn, on behalf of the committee, appointed to wait on Mr. Bancroft, presented a verbal report. This report was by no means satisfactory. Mr. Bancroft's utterances were of the nature of a Delphian oracle response. However, the impression left on Judge Colburn's mind was that Mr. Bancroft was favorable to Salt Lake and he would do what he could to prevent the removal of the Union Pacific offices and shops. Several members of the committee spoke on this matter, but it appears that Mr. Bancroft's words were uttered with such beautiful political dexterity that each one received an impression peculiar to himself.

After the committee matter was disposed of, Judge Colburn spoke a second time, saying that he had reliable authority for saying that the offices and shops of the road would be transferred to Ogden in the near future. When this transfer took place he was in favor of organizing a boycott of Salt Lake merchants against the road, and in this way teach it a lesson. Several members spoke endorsing Judge Colburn. Very strong language was used against the U. P. charging it with building up the Northwest at the expense of the Salt Lake Territory.

The matter was finally disposed of by leaving it in the hands of the transportation committee of the Chamber of Commerce, the railroad to be closely watched.

THE "ILLUSTRATED AMERICAN" LIBELS.

The chairman addressed the meeting once more, saying that the discussion of the libelous articles published in the *Illustrated American* regarding Utah, was now in order.

Herbert Pembroke took the floor, made a short speech, reviewing the matter published by the obnoxious paper, and the injury it was calculated to inflict. This matter could not hurt the Mormons as religionists, because of its absurdity, but it would hurt the prosperity and development of Utah's resources. Mr. Pembroke presented the following

RESOLUTIONS,

based on those adopted by the City Council on the 27th inst:

"Whereas, the city of Salt Lake, at the last session of its city council, Tuesday, January 27, 1891, determined, in connection with the Chamber of Commerce, Territorial officials, real estate exchange, stock exchange and clearing house association, to refute the slanderous comments upon the citizens of Utah, appearing in a recent issue of the *Illustrated American*, and which comments are as follows: 'Exterminate the Mormons. In a series of articles published herewith the *Illustrated American* will give the Mormon reply to President Harrison's message. His tone was pacific, theirs warlike. He proposed to legislate. They want to fight. Let nobody underestimate their fighting power. They have an invincible faith to inspire them. They have an enormous wealth to equip them. They have an admirable strategic position to aid them in battle. They have the Rocky Mountains to cover their retreat. Will the government take up the gauntlet which they are flinging down? To uphold that principle these simple farmers are preparing to butcher women and children, and as for gaining troops, they

are taught every Sunday in their meeting-houses that a collision is inevitable, and they have long been prepared for it. Observers in Utah say that the collision cannot be delayed."

Whereas, The general commercial condition of Utah is first class and in which all classes of citizens are mutually interested, thereby preventing the disruption of social affairs, in fact, at no time has there been a period when greater general prosperity, or causes for the same in any portion of this community, than exists at present in Utah. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we refute the words printed in said journal and quoted above, as a base calumny, directly against a peaceable, orderly and prosperous people, city and territory. And be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this preamble and resolutions be printed in the *Illustrated American* and other eastern newspapers.

Mr. Pembroke spoke in favor of his resolutions, saying that the commercial interests of Utah demanded a forcible refutation of such articles as those published in the *Illustrated American*.

Judge Colburn said the resolutions were not strong enough. He favored prompt and emphatic action. He would use the telegraph and denounce such infamous libels as these referred to.

W. H. Sherman said that resolutions were hardly strong enough. He was of the opinion that the *Illustrated American* articles were gotten up by traitors in the camp; that as long as the *Salt Lake Tribune* continued to libel Utah at home there was little use in trying to stop libels abroad.

The speaker then related an incident which illustrated his point. During his visit to the east last year, he and another merchant of this city endeavored to present the bright side of Utah in a commercial sense. In this they were for a time remarkably successful and induced by their representations a number of capitalists to largely invest means in this Territory. Before the arrangement was completed, however, some copies of the *Salt Lake Tribune* containing the same kind of material as that published by the *Illustrated American* arrived. The result was that the capitalists became timid about investing as they intended and withdrew from the agreement.

Charles Ellis said that a document completely refuting the libellous articles, and signed by Governor Thomas, Judge Zane and associate justices, the members of the Utah Commission, the United States Marshal and all federal officials, should be sent abroad and published in every city and town in the country. Over a dozen other gentlemen spoke, and all condemned the libellous articles as foul, false and villainous, the work of demons rather than of American citizens.

Colonel Lett read a copy of a telegram prepared by members of the Real Estate Exchange with a view of having it sent to the *Illustrated American*.

Here is a copy of it:

To the publishers of the *Illustrated American*, 142 Dearborn Street, Chicago, and Bible House, Astor Place, New York:

The Salt Lake real estate exchange, representing over \$50,000,000 of new investments in Utah Territory, and composed of all classes of religious belief, respectfully and earnestly protest against the publication of the series of articles