

EDITORIALS.

AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE.

A PAMPHLET recently published by the celebrated Dr. H. D. Noyes, of New York, gives a full account of an extraordinary case, in the treatment of which one of our Salt Lake practitioners assisted. The patient's name was Louis Everett Avery, 19 years of age, by occupation a farmer. While shooting snipe early one morning, his gun exploded; the lock was blown off and also the breech pin, and he was knocked senseless to the ground, remaining unconscious for four days. The physician who dressed the wound said his right eye was destroyed, and there was something in the injury which he "did not understand."

Three weeks after the accident he was taken to the New York Ear and Eye Infirmary. He was treated for general inflammation, and had a very large scar from the middle of the nose to the eyebrow, with a fistulous opening, which on being probed disclosed the presence of a hard body. Two small pieces of wood were extracted, and after a free discharge the wound commenced to heal up and the patient in three weeks returned home in pretty good health.

About three months afterwards he went again to the infirmary to undergo an operation, his face and nose being greatly deformed; and Dr. Noyes on taking charge of the case discovered the presence of a foreign body of large extent. The patient was etherized and, without giving the elaborate particulars detailed by the operator, we will state that a piece of iron was extracted 4.7-16 inches in length, half an inch wide and weighing 2 ounces, five drachms and twenty five grains. The patient had suffered neither pain nor inconvenience from the presence of this large foreign body, except a discharge from the nostril and the opening before mentioned, and only went to the hospital for treatment of the deformity.

After the operation he was carefully tended and all the means known to science were restored to for his recovery, but suppurative inflammation of the brain set in, and thirty-nine days after the operation he died. The daily treatment and symptoms are carefully recorded, and credit is given to Dr. Romania B. Pratt, of Salt Lake City, for vigilant care and skillful dressing of the wound from the seventeenth day after the operation till his decease. Drs. John P. Gray, R. F. Weir, T. T. Sabine and E. G. Loring were all called into the case. The final cause of death was inflammation along the base of the brain.

The question is discussed as to the propriety of the removal of the obstruction. The vigorous health and quiet temperament of the subject were extraordinary, considering the size and position of the iron fragment of the gun. But the penetration of the brain was in the frontal lobe, which is more tolerant of injuries than other parts, and a cyst had formed like a thimble around the end of the iron in the brain, and it is possible that the patient might have lived for a long time even with this extraordinary obstruction in his head. Yet many cases of penetration of the brain through the orbit are cited in which 80 per cent. were fatal, and the necessity of removing the obstruction is strongly urged by the writer of the pamphlet.

That the young man should have carried in his head so large and weighty an obstruction without general derangement of health for so long a time, is certainly very remarkable, and it is a matter of regret that the operation was determined upon, as it is possible that he might have lived for many years even with a heavy piece of a gunlock sticking into his brain. The endurance of the human system, like its construction and constitution is wonderful to contemplate.

MURDEROUS MISSIONARIES.

THE London Telegraph tells a story of barbarism and cruelty scarcely credible, seeing that the accused persons are white men and "Christians;" and when it is understood that they belonged to the English Church Missionary Society, and were engaged in the work of converting the heathen, the story appears all the more startling and shameful.

Two men and their wives, who had been in the foreign service of the Society, were charged with wilful murder committed five years ago in West Africa. The evidence showed that two girls in their service had run away—on account of brutal treatment—but had been captured and delivered up to their tormentors, who thereupon tied the unfortunate creatures back to back and flogged them until one died in agony, the other just surviving. That the sufferings of the victims were increased by their being left all day in the broiling sun and having pepper applied to their wounds, is a detail which the court that tried the prisoners does not seem to have considered at all an aggravation of the offence, since the ruffians were only found guilty of manslaughter and condemned to penal servitude for twenty years, eighteen years and a half, and two years respectively—the last being the sentence upon the least culpable of the wives.

Although justice has been tardy, it is gratifying to know that it has to some extent been vindicated, and that the Missionary Society has not attempted to screen the culprits. The sentence is light considering the enormity of the offence, but if the murderous missionaries had belonged to some of the "Christian" societies of this country, in all probability whitewash enough would have been found to cover up the crime, and make the criminals and the society which employed them all right and slightly in the eyes of the public. One great glory of English jurisprudence is the certainty of punishment to the criminal if evidence is sufficient to establish his guilt, no matter what may be his name or station in society.

TITULAR EXTRAVAGANCE.

THE people of the United States are fonder perhaps of titles than any people on earth. Considering that they are so strongly republican in principle, this is rather extraordinary. They are not only greatly attracted by foreign titles, and ready to pay homage to the possessors thereof, but they use such as are available in this country to a ludicrous extent. The name of almost every position to which men may be appointed or elected is tacked on to their ordinary cognomen, and propriety is frequently stretched beyond all reasonable limits in the common anxiety to put a handle to a man's name. The most ordinary pedagogue, or music instructor, aye, even a hair dresser, is dubbed "Professor," a simple attorney is called "Judge," and the "Captains" and "Majors" and "Colonels" are as numerous as wooden toothpicks.

There are two titles frequently bestowed as of right, for which it appears there is no warrant in law; they are "Honorable" and "His Excellency." Every member of any local Legislature, whether of a State or Territory is dubbed an "Honorable," while the Governor of the smallest dependency of the United States is saluted as "His Excellency." The Springfield Republican cites the Constitution of Massachusetts as authority for the bestowal of the title of His "Excellency" upon the Governor and of "His Honor" upon the Lieutenant Governor of that State. But outside of that Commonwealth there is no authority in law for the use of such titles.

A little moderation in scattering these high-sounding marks of distinction would, in our opinion, be more consistent with republican simplicity, and also with good common sense.

AN OLD EXTREME REVIVED.

Ex-Senator Paddock, of Nebraska, says: "Divest the Mormons of political power and down goes polygamy." This is the plan which, we believe, was proposed years ago by Mr. Sargent, now Minister to Germany.—N. Y. Herald, Nov. 4, 1882.

Editor Deseret News:

Being ignorant of legal lore, and unfamiliar with the political policy of the present government, permit me to inquire through your columns what is to be understood by the enunciation of Ex-Senator Paddock, "Divest the Mormons of political power." * * I do this in behalf of my friends, I mean my Mormon friends, not only those located in Utah but the many thousands in the surrounding States and Territories, and indeed throughout the whole United States and Canada, as

so sweeping a declaration will certainly interest them all. The Hon. Ex-Senator being a member of the Commission sent to put into operation the Edmunds bill, it would be quite natural to suppose that he had discovered that the bill in question was not quite equal to the task, that is, "to down goes polygamy" so assiduously sought after by the anti-Mormon party. If this is the view of the ex-Senator it certainly is not very complimentary to the erudite and high minded statesmen that framed the bill, since its incubation has been going on for upwards of twenty years, it is certainly unfortunate, if at its birth it proves to be a malformation, and not capable of taking care of itself. Yet it is somewhat surprising that the hon. gentlemen should go so far beyond the intent and purpose of that bill, as to propose the disfranchisement of all the so-called, "Mormons," for that we understand the gentleman to mean by "Divest the Mormons of political power," we can scarcely accord a high degree moral patriotism, to any one who may urge upon government to deprive many thousands of his own countrymen of all the cherished rights of freemen, and place them in the position of the former negro slaves of the South, merely for a difference in religious faith.

If this kite is flown, to allure popularity, in a political sense, we can only conclude the flyer has not reflected with due consideration upon the fate of all those in the past who have invested their last dollar in this kind of anti-"Mormon" staple, but it is historically true, that every aspiring politician, that has attempted to dabble in Anti-Mormonism, from the great ex-Speaker, ex-Vice-President down to the last little pompous pettifogging lawyer, have inevitably fallen into insignificance and oblivion. The generous American public have long since become disgusted with all those to whose name the reputation of anti-"Mormons" adheres. N. H. F.

THE GREAT MICHIGAN FIRE.

THE CAUSE A PHENOMENAL CONDITION OF THE ATMOSPHERE.

The great fire in the State of Michigan, by which immense amounts of life and property were destroyed, was a subject of great interest to many people in this community, who believe we are living in the latter times, a special period of the exhibition of wonderful phenomena. A correspondent of the *Fireman's Journal* who has lately gone over the territory devastated by the great fire in the forests of Michigan last fall, says his observations are conclusive that phenomena aside from ordinary conditions of combustion were developed. In the first place the fire created at least two veritable storm centres which had the essential features of storms, and especially the spiral winds. The evidences are confirmatory of the belief that this storm centre, after it became fully developed, consisted of a heated body of air or gas in a state of combustion, which was constantly fed by the smoke and vapor driven to the center by the whirling winds and the gases generated in the combustion of the pines and other resinous woods. This body of air or burning gas, if it may be so called, by its heat acquired an ascensive force, but by the rapid forward motion of the fire was sucked forward and devoured, actually preceding the fire proper. It is evident that this body was of intense heat, possibly as great as 400° Fahr., at which point oxygen and carbon unite. That such a body of luminous vapor existed, detached from the fire, is asserted by many who saw it from a distance, and by those who were under it, but who escaped from the fact that it passed above their places.

The idea is further sustained by the fact that the fire jumped whole patches of inflammable slashings, and alighted beyond, lifting and falling in its forward motion like a balloon touching the earth. Fences in the center of broad fields burst into a blaze as if by explosion, and others nearer the fire escaped. A man in fighting the fire took off his trousers, fearing they would catch fire and burn him up, and left them in a furrow in the middle of a field remote from any combustible material. When he went to get them he found them burned, and six quarter-dollars that were in the pocket melted together. A set of spoons were served the same way at another place.

Mrs. Lock and five children were burned to ashes, nothing but their bones remaining in the middle of the road, one hundred feet from any heavy timber. Green timber was dried and burned, and perhaps the most conclusive evidence was the appearance of fire in stumps and fences when no sparks were falling. These blazes appeared of white light and indicated a chemical union of carbon and oxygen. Another general feature is the fact that the fire appeared to move forward in parallel lines of varying width, and that in these lines everything was burned, and frequently to ashes. At the edge of the track a fence would be burned square off, just as though it had been cut or sawed perpendicularly; a house would be taken and the barn left; a wagon and a farming mill were within five feet of each other, and the wagon was burned to ashes and the farming mill not charred. It would be impossible under ordinary circumstances, to burn a wagon without piling combustible material over it, but of this nothing but the iron was left.

Finally, the storm and fire disappeared simultaneously; that is to say, the fire was dependent upon the storm, or storms, or secondary to it—that it was prevented from lingering in the track or burning sideways. In from two to three hours the fire was practically out where it had passed, indicating that the prime cause of the rapid combustion was in the storm which had passed and which passing, perhaps, carried in its wake a condition of atmosphere opposed to combustion. This hypothesis explains pretty much all the phenomena except the balls of fire, which exactly correspond with what is known as "ball lightning," but which is a form of electricity wholly disputed by some, but recognized by Professor Loomis.

The statements of Ballentine and Kabocke are confirmatory of this ball lightning idea, and contradictory of the idea that these lights arose from the intense heat, or they themselves could not have survived it. Other statements are to the effect that this ball of fire fell on the ground and exploded, running in all direction. This is explained by some who were not present, who say that it was but the resinous cones of the pines ignited, carried by the wind, falling, scattered the burning pitch about them; but it should be remembered that those people who saw this phenomenon are men who have lived amid forest fires all their lives and have seen all the ordinary phenomena, and are not of a class exactly visionary or imaginative. It is fair to assume the possibility of electrical phenomena incidental to this fire storm, both from the fact that it was a great commotion in the elements and because it differed from a storm only in the absence of rain and the presence of fire.

MORE ANTI-"MORMON" TWADDLE.

The very defiant attitude of the Mormon hierarchy toward the United States Government will yield to a more respectful and humble mood if the provisions of the Edmunds bill are strictly carried out; but as it will be at best many years before this vile tree can be killed by the girdling process, the news that President Taylor is forcing single priests and bishops of the faith in polygamy is not without interest for Gentile communities. A dispatch from Salt Lake City brings the news that at a recent meeting of the higher priesthood Taylor warned the prelates that they were not eligible to serve in the church unless duly qualified by a plurality of wives. Some of the priests have resigned, and some have taken more wives. This looks very much as bravado—a spiteful daring of the government to do its worst. In ordinary communities there are penalties for the atrocious act of compelling others to commit crime, but we have so long permitted the Mormons to be a law unto themselves in all things, that it is by no means clear that anything can be done to stay the compelling hand of President Taylor, laid heavily on his brethren to make bigamists of them against their will, unless, indeed, passive tolerance of this nastiness is to give way to a sterner policy.

There is one point, however, at which the Mormon faith may be attacked, and at which the Government should strike at once. It is well known that recruiting agents of the brotherhood are actively at work in Europe. These men go over to England, Sweden, Norway,

Denmark, and other countries, and in a stay of two or three years, by zealous propagandist work, reinforced by liberal misrepresentations of the kind of life the Latter-day Saints lead, they prevail upon hundreds of foolish people to follow them into their foul den in Utah. They bring over two or three thousand recruits every year in this way, and are thus enabled to greatly strengthen their sect in numbers. This business should be stopped, so far as the telling of the plain truth about Mormonism will stop it. Our ministers and consuls in foreign countries, by representations in the press, put a check upon this work, and perhaps stop it altogether. It is not to be believed the European States would permit a Mormon agent to remain within their boundaries after being officially informed of their true character and business. A secret propaganda might be met and defeated by an occasional ventilation of the subject in the native provincial press.

The foregoing is from the New York Times and was doubtless inserted by way of variety, to divert attention in some small degree from the subject of the Republican disfigure, which has been the prevailing topic since the memorable seventh day of November.

The "very defiant attitude of the Mormon hierarchy" does well enough to dilate upon for the purpose aforementioned, but it has no actual existence, and the Times would be very much puzzled if put to the proof of anything tangible in support of its hackneyed accusation. Its news about President Taylor "forcing single priests and bishops into polygamy," is a piece of manufactured information, sent over the wires by a person in this city whose oath would not be credited by any body who knows him in his normal character of a wolfish and unprincipled "Mormon-eater."

It would be a tough task for any one to undertake to make "bigamists against their will" of either bishops or priests or lay members, male or female, in the "Mormon Church. And we will inform the Times and all other papers in the habit of publishing stuff like the above quotation, that in the very nature and character of the ceremony of marriage as solemnized in the "Mormon Church," force is an impossibility, because the free will and consent of all the parties is an essential without which it cannot be administered. As further, the idea of force in any aspect is foreign to the spirit and the letter of the "Mormon" faith. There is no authority in the priesthood to compel people either to believe or profess to believe, to act or agree to act. "It's all free grace and all free will," and the untrammeled agency of man and woman one of the cardinal doctrines of the Church.

Eastern papers are too eager to gobble up any piece of falsehood and slander about the "Mormons" therefore they are continually falling into error, exposing their ignorance and making ridiculous marks on the "Mormon" question. There is no defiance of the United States Government here, but have this much defiance of the Times and similar papers: We do them to produce any proof whatever of their silly statements.

Just of the same character as the rest of the Times article is the alleged "point at which the Mormon faith may be attacked." Our missionaries do not make any such representations as stated. "Tell the plain truth about Mormonism" is their regular business. If a minister or consul can tell any more plain truth about it than they do it will be that much in their favor; it will help them in their work. It is "the plain truth about Mormonism," which enables unprejudiced people to see clearly how false are such statements as those repeated by the Times and other anti-"Mormon" journals. And if the ministers and consuls of this Government will take the trouble to find out, they will learn that our Elders have need to try to "prevail" upon people to come to Utah; they cannot devote means to bring away a fourth of the people who wish to gather with their friends. The missionaries are not recruiting agents in any sense; they are preachers of the Gospel, and when they turn they simply take charge of such of the members of the Church as are emigrating at the time.

By all means organize some scheme for telling the truth about "Mormonism." It will not only