



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR

Wednesday.....Mar. 20, 1867.

THE WORLD—ITS VIRTUE AND CONSISTENCY!

What a pious world this is! What a consistent world, too! Perfection, it appears, is so nearly reached, that it is almost hopeless to look for any further improvement—just at present! We did think that there were a few men on the earth at various times in what are called "the days of barbarism," who understood some principles which the world would be the better for knowing and living according to now; but if we are to credit one half of that which is written in laudation of this age and the people who now live, we must have been sadly mistaken. We thought that such persons as Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, the Prophets, and the Savior and his Apostles, were among the most truly enlightened of all those who ever tabernacled on this earth; but it seems we thought incorrectly! It was reserved for this age and generation to alone enjoy the full blaze of light, the full glory of perfection!—excepting, of course, the "Mormons," who are sufficiently barbarian to entertain respect for those whose names we have cited, and believe that the principles which they taught, were and are full of light, life and salvation for man.

These reflections have been induced by thinking over some highly flavored articles on the "barbarism, abominations and woeful state of the Mormons;" and the excellence of the people, institutions, and social and moral condition of the rest of the world. It is a little strange that after residing here so many years we have not been able to see how much lower this community is in the scale of social, moral and intellectual excellence than other communities. It is curious that we could not see the perfection which is said to exist in so many other places of which we have considerable knowledge. And stranger still, that the degradation, shame, prostitution, intemperance and corruption existing there, should not be what they seem, but merely the outcroppings of a glorious system of perfection! How weak-minded the people here must be, when they cannot see that contention, depravity, blasphemy, and their numerous kindred, are but the skin eruptions which mark the healthy state of the body social! How obtuse they must be to prefer peace, virtue, sobriety and such like practices, taught by holy men in the "barbarous times" when Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, and the Son of God Himself trod the earth!

We are accused of having a plurality of wives. We have, and we honor, love and cherish them; but it is horrible in the eyes of this very pious (!) generation. They tell us it is adultery, a sin which, of course, they only know in name! We cannot see it so; do not know, in honorable plural marriage, where the adulteration commences; but this must be because we are slow of intellect. We are but simply honest, and mark our opinion of adultery by adjudging, with common voice, that the adulterer is worthy of death. But this the

virtue (!) of the world shudders at. The shedding of blood is an awful thing, unless it should occur in a bar-room, or in a street brawl, or under the influence of liquid poison; then it is a "shooting scrape," or a "stabbing scrape;" or unless it should occur on the battle field; and there it is glory,—the deed is sanctified by its magnitude!

We are told that in advocating plural marriage, we defend the illicit communion of the sexes, "which every civilized nation repudiates and reprobates." Yes, they do repudiate and reprobate—and practice it. This is where the beauty of consistency appears! This is where the world's sanctimoniousness shows its delicacy! With smooth phrase and honeyed tongue, it reproves the man who drags a daughter of Eve from virtue and innocence down to degradation, death and destruction; but courts and pets him as the hero of a great and meritorious act, when the scoundrel should be whipped with scorpions to the hell to which he has won a title. "Every civilized nation" shakes its head with mournful motion at the increasing "social evil," laments the decadence of virtue, and cries out against the sin; while it sneaks into dens of infamy, and puts the light of heaven to blush with its abominable orgies and lascivious corruptions. Out upon the hypocritical cant that abuses Utah for her open, honorable advocacy and practice of a principle approved by Heaven, endorsed by the actions of the best men who ever lived on the earth, and commanded by Jehovah; while those who employ such cant are spreading rottenness throughout the land by daily and nightly polluting the fountains of life. They may reprobate prostitution and illicit intercourse, but while the warm breath of the words floats upon the air, the lips that uttered them are too often seeking the embraces of the wanton and unvirtuous.

Gentlemen, who seem interested in the social affairs of Utah, we will make you an offer. Dry up the fountains of corruption at home; overcome the moral leprosy that clothes the face of the land in horrid ghastliness; stop unvirtuous conduct, and repudiate unvirtuous actions throughout your cities, towns and villages, by precept and example; make adultery have an end and adulterers cease their horrible crimes against God and nature; let every man keep to his own wife and to her alone, walking the earth a virtuous man, not a perjured wretch who before Heaven swore to keep himself for one, yet lives forsworn and ridicules the marriage vow: Do these, and we of Utah will own your greatness, your goodness, and your virtue,—your right to teach us and impose restrictions; and you will find an honest, truthful people here, who will keep their vows and will honor all that excel in virtue, goodness, and truth. But while you cry virtue, and practice corruption; while you preach peace and permit contention and strife to enter even your sacred places, with the land full of hatred and fierce dissensions; while you proclaim that God lives, yet reject His interference and will not recognize His right to rule; while your precepts point to heaven, and your practices to misery and death, we cannot own, we cannot see, your superior right to drag us again down to the social degradation from which we have escaped.

Utah is unpopular; she is not fashionable; her people do not believe in theorizing on virtue and practicing vice. They seek to square their practice by their professions, and both by the revelations of Heaven. They do not believe in persecuting those who differ from them in matters of faith because of

that faith, while declaiming in favor of freedom and liberty of conscience. And they who exhaust Webster, in the use of unsavory adjectives against the "Mormons," may profitably take lessons from us in honesty, virtue, consistency and genuine piety. "Charity begins at home." Gentlemen, purify yourselves, your domestic and social circles, your cities and towns, and then come with the benefit of your experience to us; but in consistency, do not in the same breath, rail against the corruption of Utah where houses of prostitution do not exist, and lament your own impotence to restrain the flood-tide of vice which is overwhelming you.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

The Eastern question again looms up in the political horizon with lowering aspect. This time it is not the "Holy Sepulchre" that is the cause of, nor the pretext for, it assuming a threatening appearance; but the Christian revolt in Candia. We pointed out a few weeks that the Cretan revolution, though apparently insignificant, might produce grave results. Had the Candians yielded after a brief struggle to the power of Turkey, there is every probability that the matter would have excited but little interest among the great European powers. Or had there been no interests at stake which those powers watch with vigilant eyes, the Candians might have struggled on as the Poles have done in more than one instance, until crushed by a too powerful foe, without any interference from governments possessing the power to make their interference effective. But any fair pretext is gladly seized upon by Russia, who watches for such an opportunity, to hurl her battalions against Turkey. So when the little kingdom of Greece assumes to brave the Porte, in defence of the Christians in revolt, the question is deemed one of sufficient importance for Russia to interfere, and with Russia, the Western Powers.

England and France find it necessary to watch the motions of the Czar in this matter, for there is danger to them both in his obtaining possession of Turkey, and adding it to his already colossal dominions. With Turkey in his grasp, he would be within striking distance of the British possessions in India; and the present autocrat of Russia, with a favorable opportunity, might be found as ambitious as the late Nicholas, and as desirous to extend his sway into the east. Again, the possession of Turkey by Russia would give the latter such a preponderance in European nationalities, that the "balance of power" would be virtually swept away; and she be placed in a position to dictate to the rest of Europe. Thus France and England reason, and others of the Western powers; and there are good grounds for their feeling and thinking so. With Turkey and India in the hands of Russia, she might control the commerce of half the world, and find no rival sufficiently powerful to resist her demands until she reached this continent.

This is why the insurrection on the little island of Crete is vested with such importance. It awakens these questions, with the half hidden hopes of Russia that an opportunity may offer to pour her forces down upon Turkey, crush the Porte, and obtain possession of that empire. Greece has aided the insurgents from the first with men, and means, and sympathy. Russia demands certain concessions for the Christians from Turkey. What these concessions are is not yet stated in the dispatches; it is only declared that additional concessions have been demanded, probably such as Russia believes will not be

granted; and the Western Powers have failed to agree on them; while the Porte is determined to continue the war for the suppression of the Candian insurrection.

Is another war between Russia, France and England, again looming up, with Turkey as the bone of contention? It is highly probable; and that before it is fairly ended European Turkey will have been blotted from the list of nations, while the map of Europe may need further revision.

If this continent presents a belligerent aspect, not gratifying to lovers of peace, Europe has but little to boast of. This eastern question is daily growing in importance again, and threatens an early repetition of the Crimean war. England has the Irish rebellion on her hands, which by latest accounts seems to be assuming proportions of greater magnitude than was expected; Spain is in little better than a condition of chronic rebellion; somewhat analagous to the state of Mexico; while Italy, Austria and Prussia have each secret and open reasons for believing that the peace which they are now enjoying is not of a permanent character. All the signs of the times indicate the fulfillment of the prophecies; and show that peace is taken from the earth; that the sword of war is drawn, not to be returned to its sheath until its mission of blood is fully accomplished.

ANNEXATION TO NEVADA.

After considerable talking and writing about the annexation of Utah to Nevada, the solons of that little State appear to have concluded they had better not proceed any further in the matter. One thing Nevada has done, through the ventilation of the subject, if nothing else;—she has given the nation to understand that her finances are in a very deplorable condition; and the result may be that the State debt will not become much larger in a hurry; for but few people feel willing to prop up the falling, if they are likely to be losers by the operation. Nevada has been acting out the reverse of the Be-just-before-you-are-generous principle. There has been a very extraordinary amount of over generous liberality exhibited there, especially in the matter of salaries and official pickings; and the mining for precious metals, however it may have enriched a few individuals, has not kept the State out of very serious embarrassments.

We should be sorry to think that the people of Utah would ever appoint as their representatives in a legislative capacity, such a set of men as some Nevada papers declare their legislators are; or, indeed, that there could be found among our resident citizens, men of sufficient prominence to gain seats in a legislative assembly, so dead to every principle of honor and honesty as the Nevada legislators are said to be by those who should know them best. But it may be that they are maligned, for this is a wonderfully slanderous age, and rival politicians in their wordy wars are neither dainty nor classical in the choice of expressions, bespattering each other nearly as unscrupulously as some people do the "Mormons."

Still, however little honesty there may be, they have some shrewdness among them, probably sharpened by the arguments elicited in various quarters on this annexation question; for they have concluded not to annex. Having first thought that there was an excellent opportunity to ease off the State embarrassments, by taxing the wealth of Utah, they have at last come to the conclusion that we might have something to say in the matter and in