

and Crawford. The election was thrown into the House and John Quincy Adams was chosen President. In 1828 the Legislature of Tennessee nominated Andrew Jackson for President, and the Republican, which by this time began to be called the Democratic party, ratified the nomination.

In 1830 the first political national convention of the kind now prevailing was held at Philadelphia by the anti-Masonic party. In 1831 it met again in Baltimore, and nominated William Wirt for the Presidency. In 1832 a Democratic national convention was held in Baltimore, and Jackson and Van Buren were nominated. Another national Republican convention nominated Henry Clay and John Sargeant. Then set in the era of national party conventions, and the method of procedure is now as regular and as fully established as if statute law and constitutional warrant were behind them.

THE "MORMONS" AND NEVADA.

THE *Argonaut* of May 16th had a strong article on the subject of uniting Utah with Nevada. This project, which has been put forward many times during the last quarter of a century, has been revived as an original proposition by the New York *Sun*. It is being discussed by the press with a variety of views and conclusions, except by those country papers—and their name is legion—which derive their ideas from some metropolitan daily, and of course they are unanimous in the conclusion that the union should be consummated without delay.

Frank Pixley, the brilliant editor of the *Argonaut*, thinks for himself on most public questions, so it is not surprising that he talks on this topic out of the common run of verbiage. We take from the article the most pertinent passages it contains, and make reference to the matter because what he has said about the "Mormons" has put the anti-"Mormon" organ in this city into a rage, and with portions of the article comments are made in that paper which are unjust to Mr. Pixley and abusive to the people of Utah.

After treating of the proposition to unite Arizona and New Mexico, which is part of the *Sun's* scheme, the *Argonaut* says:

"Nevada resents this recurrent proposition to add to her acres and population by annexation, rightly regarding it as a question of her fitness, as she stands, for sovereignty. It is true that her inhabitants number only 2,370 more than when she was admitted, and that between 1880 and 1890 she lost about a quarter of her people, because of the failure of the Comstock mines and the working out of the ore-deposits in Eureka and Lander counties; but she holds that quality should count for something as well as quantity in judging of a State's right to be. Two or three blocks in the tenement districts of New York make a larger showing in the census than the whole Sagebrush State, with her 110,700 square miles; but then she is peopled by men and women, not by creatures from the bogs of Ireland, the slums of German cities, the starved farming lands of Italy, and the ghettos of Russia, most of whom are little, if any higher, in the scale of intelligence than Chimpanzees."

"The arguments in favor of uniting the most populous portion of Utah to Nevada, however, should not be waived aside by the impatient hand of local pride. Some undoubted benefits at once suggest themselves. Not only would the population be raised to a quarter of a million, but the new Nevadans, being mostly Mormons, would elevate the moral standard of the State. The sagebrusher of the present is more like a forty-niner than any other man now existing on the Pacific Slope. He still has the large, free ways of the pioneer, and all that cheerful, unconventional being's scorn for small change and such of the Ten Commandments as interfere with fun. He regards mining as about the only occupation fit for a gentleman, and such is his love of liberty that, though the ladies scattered over the 110,700 square miles are outnumbered by the males two to one, he seldom marries. The Mormons, on the other hand, make a specialty of matrimony. It is true that under the stress of Federal legislation they have made a declaration in favor of monogamy in preference to celibacy in the penitentiary; but a revelation enjoining recantation of this heresy would swiftly follow the possession of the power to regulate their own affairs which statehood would confer. In the eastern border counties of Nevada there has been, for many years, a considerable Mormon element; and as the Saints in Utah far exceed the Gentiles, they would, of course, control the new commonwealth. Admirable as the Nevada man is in many respects, it would be gross flattery to call him virtuous, whereas a chaster people than the Mormons exist nowhere on earth. Not until their desert refuge was invaded by their monogamous neighbors did the strictly Gentile institution of prostitution make its appearance in their cities and towns. The supplementary wives of a saint may not be so pleasantly circumstanced as a woman who has exclusive legal title to one man; but assuredly they are infinitely better off, and in all ways more worthy members of society, than the unacknowledged plural wives of the Gentiles."

"Polygamy is permitted and approved by most of the nations of the earth, and while it is, of course, not so holy an institution as monogamy, it certainly is superior, morally and socially, to the practical promiscuity, within well-defined limits, which monogamous men have established. The hard-working, plain-living, soil-tilling, pious Mormon, besides being a special gift of Providence to the platform-builders of both the political parties, is the best conceivable kind of settler for a new State whose native wealth lies in barren waiting for the arrival of the laborer. Join Utah to Nevada, and throughout the sagebrush, where now is heard only the whoop of the Piute and Shoshone, or the still more objectionable and sinful vocal efforts of the hull-puncher and disappointed prospector, the morning and evening hymn would rise to sanctify the clear, rarefied air. Temples reared in honor of the Almighty, the worshippers in each pledged to obey the divine command to increase and multiply, would take the place of the gin-mill, the faro den, and the unsightly cabin of the wifeless pioneer. By coming under Mormon domination, the moral sense of the Nevada man would not be shocked; he has none."

The disadvantages Nevada has been under through discrimination in railroad rates is next discussed and vigorously condemned, and the writer adds:

"Nevada is an immensely rich State. Millions of acres of her sagebrush lands need but irrigation to render them highly productive. Her climate is one of the best in the world, and whatever is grown

is of superior quality. In the southern portion, tea, coffee, and tobacco have been cultivated with success experimentally, and in the pre-historic graves of Lincoln County cotton has been found. Hemp flourishes, and every kind of fruit can be grown. Her wheat brings the very highest prices. As for mineral wealth, Nevada is impregnated with it; and were railroad charges reasonable, hundreds of mines that can not now be worked at a profit would be producing.

"It will be time enough to talk seriously of handing Nevada over to the Mormons when she has been given a fair chance to utilize the gifts bestowed upon her by nature. She has never had that chance, and never will until the Central Pacific shall be compelled to take its left hand from her throat and its right from her pocket."

"The men of Nevada see no need of inviting the Mormons to come in and govern them. They are not without pride in their State, which, by the way, is out of debt, and has managed, despite the common sneer at her political rottenness, to send pretty regularly to Congress senators and representatives who have not had to blush for their character and intellect in the presence of the statesmen furnished by New York and Chicago, the newspapers of which are most worried about her small population. Nevada will never consent to surrender her sovereignty. Let the Interstate Commerce Commission enforce the long-and-short-haul provision of the law, and Nevada, rescued from the larcenous tyranny of the Central Pacific, will astonish her critics."

The comparisons made in the foregoing between "Mormon" and mining morality are like stinging-nettles to the hide of the "Liberal" editor. He is compelled to admit the talents and brightness of Frank Pixley, but, as usual, when anyone differs from him on the "Mormon" question, he cannot understand how this can occur except from "a perverted soul" an infirmity of mind or bad streak in the blood of his opponent. He ascribes this language of the *Argonaut* writer to "some infirmity which he inherited from his parents, either a streak of total depravity or that other something which blinds his eyes so much as to make him believe that for money a journalist has a right to make an argument for a cause through his paper the same as a hired attorney would before a court."

This is an attack not only upon the personality of the gifted writer but upon the mother that bore him, and is a quite common method with the *Tribune* scribe when he cannot bring reason and truth against an adversary.

We do not wish to endorse all that the *Argonaut* has said on this subject. But we think the article is worthy of consideration, and that it bluntly presents many facts and skillfully uses several strong arguments. But while we believe that "Mormon" industry, perseverance and skill would make vast material improvements in the sage-brush State, and that "Mormon" morality would be of equal advantages in a higher sense, we do not think it would be a good thing to make one State out of Utah and Nevada. Utah has territory enough within her own boundary lines. She has resources enough of all kinds to be developed and to make her rich, and populous enough for companionship with any of the other States of the