

THE DESERT WEEKLY

PIONEER PUBLICATION

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.

ESTABLISHED

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

JUNE 1850.

NO. 20.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1890.

VOL. XL.

DON'T FRET, BUT SMILE.

It isn't worth while to fret, dear,
To walk as behind a lifeasee,
No matter how vexing things may be,
They easily might be worse;
And the time you spend complaining
And groaning about the load,
Better be given to going on,
And pressing along the road.

I've trodden the bill myself, dear—
'Tis the tripping tongue can preach,
But though silence is sometimes golden,
Child,

As oft there is grace in speech—
And I see, from my higher level,
'Tis less the path than the pace
That wears the back and dims the eye,
And writes the lines on the face.

There are vexing cares enough, dear,
And to spare, when all is told;
And love must mourn its losses,
And the cheek's soft bloom grow old;
But the spell of the craven spirit
Turns blessing into curse,
While the bold heart meets the trouble
That easily might be worse.

So smile at each disaster
That will presently pass away,
And believe a bright tomorrow
Will follow the dark today.
There's nothing gained by fretting;
Gather your strength anew,
And step by step go onward, dear,
Let the skies be gray or blue.—*Ex.*

THAT RELIGIOUS TEST.

The House Committee on Territories has finished its consideration of the bill to disfranchise the "Mormons." Two reports are to be made, the republicans supporting the bill. Here are the proceedings of yesterday, as stated in a *Herald* special:
Washington, D. C., April 28.—The House committee on territories this morning, by a strict party vote, agreed to report favorably on the Mormon disfranchisement bill with the following amendments and after the oath:

"Section 2—And any person who shall take said oath shall be entitled to have his name entered on the registry for said election, but if he swear falsely he shall be deemed guilty of perjury and on conviction thereof shall be punished accordingly."

"Section 3—That any person convicted of the crime of perjury under the provisions of this act or of the

act hereby amended, or to which this act is supplemental, shall have the right to appeal upon any question of law or fact to the supreme court of the United States."

Section 3 of the printed bill becomes section 4. The amendment previously agreed upon making the bill applicable to all the Territories was reconsidered and stricken out. There were a few verbal amendments made in the body of the bill without changing the sense.

Mr. Springer offered the following as an amendment, but it was voted down by a party vote: "Provided that no person shall be deprived of the right to vote, hold office or sit on a jury on account of his religious belief or opinions."

Struble's report on the bill which was already prepared before the meeting today, is being considered by the republican members. The democrats will make a minority report.

A special to the *Tribune* gives the following:

Washington, D. C., April 28.—The Mormon disfranchising bill was taken up in the House committee on Territories this morning and a favorable report ordered by a strict party vote. It now goes on the House calendar, to which it was ordered shortly after the House convened.

Following is a synopsis of the report of the committee:

"The Edmunds-Tucker act provides that an oath should be taken precedent to voting. In accordance with the law, the Utah commission prepared an oath (the form of which is embodied in the report). Referring to the law it will be seen that it was the intention of Congress to bind the voters to an observance of the laws passed for the suppression of polygamy. At the time the law was enacted, an opinion was entertained by many persons that no Mormon would take such an oath without having formed a clear intention to obey it. Doubtless this opinion had a controlling effect in the passage of the law. The People's Party issued an address to the voters with respect to the oath, its effect, meaning, etc., using the following language:

"The questions that intending voters need, therefore, to ask themselves are these: Are we guilty of

the crimes in said act, or have we a present intention of committing the crimes or aiding, abetting, causing or advising any other person to commit them. Male citizens who can answer these questions in the negative are, under the existing laws, voters and office holders."

"Probably no language could have been used more misleading than the above. The very purpose of Congress in passing the law and the plain letter of the law contemplates that the voters and office holders of the Territory should give the law for the suppression of polygamy a firm, loyal support. Yet the Mormon voters were instructed by the leaders that unless at the time of registration they then and there had an intention to violate said law they were eligible for registration and qualified to take the oath."

"It cannot be successfully denied that it was the purpose and intention of the law that those who registered, held office or acted as jurors should have formed a purpose to thereafter obey its requirements, but the results of the registration under the action of the Mormon leaders rendered the law absolutely nugatory in accomplishing the purposes for which it was enacted. In fact, with respect to the purpose and intention of the Mormon voters concerning polygamy, the law has had no effect and is today a dead letter."

An extract from the Utah Commission's report is quoted: "It will therefore be seen that additional legislation is necessary to give full force and effect to the existing laws."

The bill reported will, in the opinion of the committee, meet the difficulty. Similar provisions have been successfully enforced in Idaho and the Supreme Court has affirmed their validity. The decision of the Supreme Court is here quoted. The committee further says that no religious right is invaded by the bill, and no constitutional objection can be urged to its passage. It will close the door to the evasions which have made the present laws inoperative, and will be effectual in extirpating polygamy. Extracts are appended to the report from reports of Governors West and Thomas and the Utah Commission.

The bill will be pushed and there are excellent prospects of its passage.