

Lancaster Intelligencer.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAR. 26, 1884.

The Mormons and Their Faith.

A disinterested and intelligent English gentleman, traveling in this country, who contributes some account of his experience to the Nineteenth Century, was very forcibly impressed with a community which he found on the western side of the continent. Its capital city was the most attractive of the places of its size that he had seen; it was a city of beauty, with its streets and squares shaded by the tall, slender trees of a clear stream of water, passing through its gutters continually, kept them purified. In every hamlet the church and school house peeped through the foliage of clustered shade trees and orchards. Naturally sterile soil had been reclaimed by an extensive system of irrigation, established by the Mormons. It was established by patient industry, until it had increased in value from \$2 to \$100 per acre. Railroads and telegraph lines had been built; manufactures established and ten thousand land holdings bloomed with all the signs of agricultural industry, thrift and neatness. With a single exception its religious doctrines were those of the New Testament and that exception was the sanction and tolerance of a domestic institution borrowed from Abraham, Solomon and other patriarchs of the chosen people of God. The community is an enlarged family bound together by privileges and duties, one of the principal obligations being to care for the helpless and needy. At the same time individual freedom of action is allowed, and some of the most prosperous merchants in the community are apostates from the prevailing faith. Tithings of their increase in property are given by the people to religious purposes. Less than a third of this population are foreign born. A state constitution, adopted by the people of this community seeking admission to the union, provides for religious and civil liberty, impartial public education and equal political rights regardless of sex. The taxes are lighter than in any other state or territory and the public debt smaller. In their social life the people are temperate, peaceable and industrious; nations, haunts of vice and social evils are rare and are mostly established and kept up by outsiders; the pauper and criminal statistics show a state of public morals superior to that of almost any other part of the country; the educational system exhibits better results than the average of public school operations, and altogether, this English traveler and writer says: "I went to Utah prejudiced against the Mormons, but, after seeing and investigating for myself, I came to the conclusion that, apart from polygamy, there is much in the Mormon organization to admire and respect, and that the Mormons are the subjects of a greater amount of misrepresentation and unjust abuse than any other community with which I am acquainted. It is notable that this is the report and the conclusion of nearly every unbiased investigator into the actual condition of the Mormon community; and by toward Utah at one gets nearer to it; and in view of all that can be said in its favor, it is a grave question whether the drastic political measures, proposed from time to time for the extermination of their society, the extinction of their civil rights and the spoliation of the property of these people, afford the best way to suppress polygamy. The oppression and injustice which excite their fanaticism or appeal to the sympathy of the public for them will only strengthen the Mormons. There are many reasons why, as they became less isolated, the moral pressure from the outside and the assertion of their rights by the women themselves—who have votes and perfect freedom and woman's nature—will abolish polygamy. The non-polygamous Mormons are already largely in the majority; they must remain so, seeing that there is always a preponderance of males among them; polygamy was not an original article of their creed and it is not likely to remain such. The vice can be cured more effectively, we sincerely believe, than by delivering a whole community to fire and sword or political plunderers."

The Congressional Conference.

The Democratic congress has determined that a bill should be passed at this session "for the reduction of duties and war tariff taxes." One hundred and fifteen members voted for this resolution and fifty seven against it, so that two things seem to be settled; first, that the tariff shall be amended, and second, that it shall not be amended by the Morrison bill. The fifty seven congressmen who voted against the present agitation of the tariff question may reasonably be expected to vote against the Morrison bill in its present shape. It may be capable of some amendment as to win for it their support, but this will probably be an amendment that will amount to a regeneration.

The result of the caucus is not of any great importance.

After the introduction of the Morrison bill, and the discussion it has caused, it became necessary to meet the tariff question, and the only way in which the Democratic party can meet it is by the affirmation of its desire to establish free trade when and wherever it can be done without injury to established interests. The caucus then resolving to pass a bill of some kind to reform the tariff did nothing of startling import. Those who voted against the motion did so because they thought that the tariff issue should not be the prominent one in the coming political canvass. But it would have had to be treated by the Democratic convention and debated before the people whatever Congress might have done. The fortunate result of the caucus was to show the good feeling prevailing among the Democratic congressmen, and to refute the many allegations of their body feelings toward each other. They are all for harmony, evidently.

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SHOT THEIR WIVES.

Two men who shot and killed their wives.

Two men who shot and killed their wives. Tuesday morning Geo. A. Riley, of St. Louis, having been nursing his wrath all night and having staid his nerves by copious intemperance, entered the yard in front of 234 Morgan street, armed around to the kitchen and opening the door, smiled lovingly on his wife, who was at work there. Still smiling, he remarked: "Mamma, I guess I'll go upstairs and lie down awhile."

She faced him as he entered, but made no answer. His purpose was to get a chance to shoot her in the back and he had probably the loaded revolver in his pocket at the time to make the slaughter certain. When she looked him in the eye, therefore, he was driven to a sudden change of purpose to have an innocent mission, and he withdrew to wait for a better opportunity to get her at a complete disadvantage. Presently he returned from the front room and walked out through the kitchen door again into the yard at the side of the house and Mr. Riley said nothing to him and evidently expected nothing.

In the kitchen with her was a colored woman named Josephine Davis, who for years has done the laundry work for the family. Mr. Riley was talking to her fully to the laundress and had just approached a towel, which hung alongside the kitchen door, to wipe her hands when the door again opened and Riley entered. He moved as though to pass on into the front room, but seeing that she had her back towards him and was looking at him, he suddenly turned and drew a revolver from his pocket as he did so. Without a word and before either of the women could comprehend the danger he fired two shots, the first striking the woman in the breast, the second passing through her side and striking her in the chest. She fell backwards in the doorway, and Riley turned and looked at her. She was still alive, but very low and no hopes are entertained for her recovery.

Dr. Barnard, who came to see the woman and says that he was talking to Riley, says that he had lived with her for six years. Riley was an experienced brewer, earning one hundred dollars per month. While on a late trip he received word that his wife was together two intimates with her family physician Dr. W. A. Barnes, and this seems to have made him jealous and led to the murder and suicide. He was 43 years of age, while his wife was but 39. She is still alive, but very low and no hopes are entertained for her recovery.

A LIKE CRIME IN NEW YORK.

George Russell shot his wife while she was asleep in bed at their residence, in Brooklyn, Tuesday morning. The deed was done through his insanity. The wife was probably laboring under an attack of mental aberration. His wife kept boarders and Russell was made violently jealous by the slightest attention shown any of them.

A Destructive Storm.

A destructive storm visited Dayton, Ohio, at dusk on Tuesday evening, sweeping through the southern part of the city. No one was injured in Dayton, but Oak Ridge, a small place 8 miles from Dayton, was laid in ruins. The storm, which was accompanied by high winds, was accompanied by high winds, was accompanied by high winds. The storm, which was accompanied by high winds, was accompanied by high winds.

PERSONAL.

PETER A. JORDAN, of the well known firm of Philadelphia type foundry, MacKellar, Smith & Jordan, died yesterday.

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THE CONVENTION.

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