

Mormons and Polygamy.

Twenty-eight years ago Jo Smith, the founder of this sect, who was a tanner in the village of Palmyra, applied with a certain Harris, his first convert, to the editor of the Albany Journal to print his "Book of Mormon," then just transcribed from the "Golden Bible" which "Jo" had found in the cleft of a rock. The editor, not being able to read the book, and being disgusted with its "unintelligible jargon," declined the proposition, although Harris, a substantial farmer, offered to pay for the printing. The manuscript was then taken to another printing-office, from whence, in due time, the original "Mormon Bible" made its advent. Having thus succeeded in making a book which embodied all the dogmas deemed necessary for a basis upon which to erect a church, it was not long before converts by hundreds and thousands began to pour in, and enrol themselves as the followers of the Mormon "prophet." The next thing to be done was to secure a place where the "stakes of Zion" could be placed without fear of molestation. Having been driven from one state to another, the "prophet" finally and unfortunately, it would seem, announced that Missouri was the Zion appointed by revelation for the Mormons as an everlasting habitation.

We ought, perhaps, to remind our readers that polygamy, the grand practical peculiarity of this sect, was originally expressly prohibited in the Book of Mormon.

But as the prophet increased in influence and power, he became less accustomed to yield to the restraints upon his inclinations, and being honored with another revelation from above, or more probably, from below, he gave to the world in 1843 his grand polygamous dispensation.

This extraordinary revelation proved a severe overthrow of Mormonism. By some unaccountable process, however, the Mormons were induced to insert into their creed this licentious belief. Yet, it is a fact, that it was not generally known and recognized as one of their doctrines for several years subsequent to its publication.

It had been from time to time proclaimed by apostates from their faith, and was freely practised by their leaders, whilst their missionaries indignantly denied it and denounced it as a calumny.

It was kept but a rumor or half-beliefed thing until 1852, when their preachers and press publicly proclaimed it as an essential element of Mormon theology. So that, viewing this and other peculiarities of their religion, we may consider that Mormons are, in the first place, polygamists—that is to say, the second, they believe themselves to be saints, or superior beings—and in the third, they are governed by so-called prophets or priests, the chief of whom is Brigham Young.

The Mormons are at present occupying the "Great Basin," or the "Valley of the Great Salt Lake," which is said to be the most remarkable spot on the American Continent, if not in the world. Broad, inhospitable, scarcely traversable deserts and rugged mountains separate it from the Pacific slopes and coast, while the Rocky Mountains, whose wild gorges the winter always renders impassable, frown between it and civilization on the east. Thus isolated from the rest of the world, it becomes a fit home for those who spurn the laws and religion taught by the Bible, and recognised by the people of this great country. The Great Salt Lake is about one hundred and thirty miles long, by seventy or eighty broad, and the water is, so intensely salt that no living thing has ever yet been discovered beneath its surface; it is said to be in fact a vast lake of brine, comparable to no other body of water so much as to the Dead Sea. The whole valley is peculiarly rich in mineral wealth and contains in itself all the facilities which a people need seek to maintain a perfect insulation. The Mormon population is in the neighborhood of 40,000, and they are rapidly increasing both at home and abroad.

The Edinburgh Review says that they keep a perpetual fund in that country to pay the passage of converts over, and that this fund last year amounted to \$34,000.

They have churches in England, Scotland,

Wales, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Iceland,

France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Malta,

Gibraltar, Hindostan, Australia, and the Sand-

wich Isles, and have lately sent missionaries to Siam, Ceylon, China, the West Indies, Guinea and Chile.

We see it also stated that the Book of Mormon has been published in five or six different languages.

In this country they have already organized an army,

which would seem to indicate that they are

determined to defend themselves by force of arms if necessary.

They are understood to have on foot a thoroughly-drilled army of 9,000 men—but little short of the entire regular army of the United States.

Their whole policy is admirably adapted, not only for the extension of their creed, but for the concentration of their power, which must be come in the course of time by no means contemptible.

In view of the foregoing, then, the Mormon question becomes one of considerable importance—and one which demands immediate action.

Intended Visit of the Emperor of France.

The London Chronicle says, "For some time past rumors have been afloat in Paris of an intended visit on the part of the Emperor and Empress of the French to Queen Victoria.

This visit, which seemed extremely probable since the two governments had become allies in a great war, became almost a matter of certainty from the time that Prince Albert visited the emperor at the camp at Boulogne.

Still there were doubts as to the time when the visit would take place.

In general it was thought likely that it would be postponed till next spring, when Parliament would be sitting and London would be full.

I understand, however, from what would appear to be excellent authority, that the visit will take place in the course of the month of November, but I have not heard that the precise day is fixed. I understand that it is expected that Queen Victoria and Prince Albert will return the visit about the middle of May next, when her Majesty will not only be able to see the French Exhibition, which will then be open, but see Paris in all its glory, with the immense improvements now going on in a state of completion. It is almost needless to say that this exchange of visits is of immense importance. They must not be looked on simply as an exchange of civilities between the sovereigns of two great countries. They are great political events, and will do much to cement the alliance which has already been so cordially entered into between the people of both countries.

Father Matthew.

Father Matthew, the Apostle of Temperance, arrived here yesterday at an early hour in the morning, from Cork, by the company's steamer William Penn. The Rev. gentleman at once proceeded to the mansion of William Rathbone, Esq., Greenbank, where he will remain until Tuesday, when he takes his departure for Madrid. The Rev. gentleman, although much broken down by the painful disease under which he has long suffered, lacks not the cheerful spirits, for which he was always remarkable. It is to be hoped that the sunny climate to which he goes, will contribute to the restoration of his health.

London Chronicle.

Sir John Franklin's expedition consisted of 138 men.

Montrose Democrat.

THE LARGEST CIRCULATION IN NORTHERN PENNSYLVANIA.
E. B. CHASE & ALVIN DAY, Editors.

Montrose, Thursday, Nov. 30, 1854.

On our first page the eccentric genius "Doodles," gives an amusing sketch of the New York election.

The Meeting.

In our paper to-day we give the proceedings of the meeting in the Court House last Monday evening.

At this writing (Wednesday) we have had no opportunity to examine the Resolutions in detail. We heard them read in the Court House, and so far as they embraced a declaration of principles—opposition to slavery extension, and proscription on account of birth or religious belief—for the Homestead Bill or the right of Man to the soil,—and economy in the administration of government, &c. we saw nothing in them that we have not advocated from the earliest moment of our political action. They are ideas which have been sustained by the Democracy of this district, especially, for the last ten years; and we apprehend that no great difference of sentiment among the people exists with reference to them.

As to the formation of a new party, it is a thing about which we have no apprehensions of fear or interest. In fact, we can say that we have no feeling about it. Every day, since the passing of the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, has confirmed us still stronger in the opinion that, for a series of future years, at least, no party organization would exist in the northern states, having about it the elements of perpetuity. The Whig party had disbanded by force of public condemnation of its principles, while the re-opening of the Slave-trade at the Steam Mill now let the Borough bring it in pipes to the reservoirs, without charge for the water! If not, that being the only sufficient stream that can be obtained, should another fire break out, we think it a duty our citizens owe themselves to take care of their own property and let his burn!

Our readers will see that we called no person by name in the above paragraph, but simply spoke of the proprietor of the Steam Mill. Whether there was more than one proprietor we did not know, and therefore used the singular number. This "aged sick man" which the communication alleges we have abused so vilely, though we think any unprejudiced reader will fail to find abuse in our language, is Judge Post; and yet the same communication claims that Judge Post, "the kind and honored parent" of the proprietors of the Steam Mill, is not a proprietor of that establishment! Well, then, if he is not one of the proprietors, or a proprietor, as they claim, we should like to know wherein we have abused him, or even alluded to him. We used the term "proprietor of the Steam Mill." This "aged sick man" is not a proprietor, therefore no allusion has been made to him in our paper at all, by their own showing. Why then do these wonderfully affectionate children distort facts, to drag their "kind and honored parent" before the public? We can conceive of no other object but to create a little public sympathy for themselves and to endeavor to make us appear as the assailants of an "aged sick man!" An object is heartless and mean, as it is low and dishonest! A delicate and tender affection indeed they exhibit towards "a kind and honored parent!" Just that kind of affection, which is exhibited by a man who takes the ancient coat of his grandfather, and places it in his cornfield, well studded, to frighten away the crows. Their aged father, against whom we have no unkind feeling, and have never exhibited any, is used in his last days, by his affectionate children, as a kind of scarecrow, advertisement for public sympathy! Filial tenderness indeed!

Now about the water from the Steam Mill, they say they have provoked the expense. Dare those "proprietors" deny that an application was made on the part of the Borough, or by some gentlemen of the Borough, for the privilege of conveying the waste water from the Mill in pipes to the reservoirs in the avenue, and that their application was refused unless the Borough would pay the interest on one thousand dollars per year (\$60), for the privilege? No, they dare not deny it, for it is a fact as well known in this Borough, as is the fact of its existence. Why then this studied attempt to deny by implication what they dare not deny openly and squarely?

It is well known by everybody here, that this waste water is the only stream in the Borough that can be depended upon to fill, and keep full, the reservoirs. Probably three or four days in a year would be sufficient for the purpose. And for the use of this waste water, which is of no kind of service to anybody, to protect the Borough from fire, in which these proprietors have a more than equal interest with anybody else, the Borough must pay the yearly interest of one thousand dollars! We say it is an outrage, come from whom it may, and so says the public generally.

We have no doubt that the use of that waste water to fill the reservoirs, would have saved four fifths of the property destroyed by the late fire, for had they been full of water, the engine would have worked well enough to have stopped the fire where it first broke out. We say we have no doubt of this, nor are we the only ones who think so.

But, the most amusing part of the communication, is that which assures the public that the Steam Mill was not built from the proceeds of the Susquehanna Bank swindle. Well, who has said it was? We made such allegation in our article, which they reply, nor dreamed of marking it. Why then this sensitiveness on that subject at this particular time? Is it because "a guilty conscience needs no accusing," that it is referred to now, when nobody had accused them of such a transaction? Or has the destruction of property by the late fire, set some people reflect in what manner that property had been acquired? We will not attempt to answer.

Now if the proprietors of the Steam Mill

bettered matters any by their communication, we hope they will feel comfortable and let the subject drop.

Address post paid, Charles J. Peterson, No.

of radical American democracy is to be found in his doctrines. There is a substance in them, and that substance we are after. It is worth more to the nation and the world, than all the modern dogmas of all our modern political philosophers. It is the vital spark of republicanism, of living, breathing, God-created democracy. It is the pure metal—the unloyed "Old Bullion."

This is the platform on which we stand, and where we shall stand, and we therefore look upon all organizations with very much of indifference. We expect that the next presidential campaign will be pretty much a "scrub race," in which everybody will be "on their own hook." We have started on ours early—and those who are for Benton shall work with those who are against him we shall work against. We have not, nor shall we abandon or compromise a single democratic idea that we have ever advocated, or which has formed a distinctive article in the creed of a Democrat. Benton embodies them all—we are for him and for them all. Those who have democratic principles at heart, have no excuse, for not going for him, and those who have not, we want nothing to do with. This is just where we stand—just what we feel and think. Others may make the best of it—it is a matter of indifference to us.

Reply.

In the Register of last week appeared a communication from the "proprietors of the Steam Mill," in which we are accused of exhibiting a revengeful spirit towards an aged sick man," in our article two weeks ago giving an account of the recent fire. This "revengeful spirit" is extracted from the following language which we used:

"Will not the proprietor of the waste-water at the Steam Mill now let the Borough bring it in pipes to the reservoirs, without charge for the water?" If not, that being the only sufficient stream that can be obtained, should another fire break out, we think it a duty our citizens owe themselves to take care of their own property and let his burn!"

Our readers will see that we called no person by name in the above paragraph, but simply spoke of the proprietor of the Steam Mill. Whether there was more than one proprietor we did not know, and therefore used the singular number. This "aged sick man" which the communication alleges we have abused so vilely, though we think any unprejudiced reader will fail to find abuse in our language, is Judge Post; and yet the same communication claims that Judge Post, "the kind and honored parent" of the proprietors of the Steam Mill, is not a proprietor of that establishment!

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Filial tenderness indeed!

Friends of Humanity! Shall not this work go forward?

We leave it to you to answer.

A few days will determine.

CHASE & DAY, Publishers.

No one need pay his subscription till it shall be ascertained certainly that the paper will be issued.

Court Proceedings.

Friar Wask.—Friday—Comitt vs. Benj. Saunders. This was an indictment for assault and battery upon the person of John Long Jr.

It occurred in Lathrop township at a singing school. Jury rendered a verdict of Guilty, and the deft. was sentenced to pay a fine of \$10 and costs.

Stowell, Brown & Co. vs. J. F. Sprague, in doubt. Verdict for def't.

Bon. Marriott vs. II. L. Marriott. This was an action of ejectment for a piece of land.

The jury rendered a verdict conditioned that the def't. should pay the plif the sum of \$24, 67, with interest and cost, within two years, and possess the land.

SECOND WERE.

Cornelius Lester, in Ejectment. Verdict for the plaintiff.

Elizabeth Osborne et al. vs. A. C. Tompkins et al. Ejectment. Verdict for def't.

Sime vs. L. N. Bugle, Ejectment. Verdict for Def't.

Sime vs. S. N. Doud, Ejectment. Verdict for Def't.

Sime vs. Franklin Doud, Ejectment. Verdict for Def't.

Thomas J. Wade, and Phila. his wife, vs. Richard L. Sutphin, on trial to day. This is an action to recover the amount of property which was willed by Lincoln Hall, deceased, to said Sutphin. Mrs. Wade is the only child of said Hall, and it is alleged in her behalf, that she will be made when her father was insensible from the use of liquor, furnished by Mr. Sutphin. This cause will probably occupy the remainder of the week.

Mr. Peterson's Magazine, for December, has been received, and although it is now one of the best of periodicals, the publisher designs to make great improvements for the coming year. The reading matter will be increased to 900 pages. Every number will contain a steel engraving, colored fashion plate, and numerous wood engravings. Mrs. Ann S. Stephens, the celebrated author, is one of the editors, and writes exclusively for it, assisted by many popular writers.

The terms are a dollar less than those of other magazines of similar rank—\$2 a year, instead of \$3. To clubs the terms are cheaper still, three copies being sent for \$5; five copies, \$7.50; eight copies \$10, with a splendid premium to the person getting up the club.

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Address post paid, Charles J. Peterson, No.

PROSPECTUS.

The undersigned propose to issue from their office in Montrose, once in two weeks, a paper to be called

"THE MOUNTAIN RILL."

To be edited by talented writers, and to be devoted to the dissemination of the great principles embodied in the temperance movement, and other moral reforms of the day. It will be printed upon fine white paper, one size larger than the Montrose Democrat and Register, in quarto form of eight pages.

Subscription terms, one copy \$2—2 copies

\$4—4 copies \$10—9 copies \$20.

Address Richard H. See & Co., Phila.

To new subscribers to the Democrat, we will furnish the Magazine and the Democrat for \$3 50 per year, which will bring the paper at fifty cents per year to the temperance appearance second to none in the Union.

It will be a paper of rare literary attractions—a paper for the home circle, and for the centre table,—nothing will be admitted into its columns that does not possess a high moral tone,—the sentiment of which is not pure and refined.

It is believed that the present is a most favorable opportunity to advance temperance principles.

Old party issues and

organizations are at rest, and the people have

now an opportunity to direct their attention to those social vices which corrupt society,

and deprave its morals. Tempered organizations need an organ,—need a fearless exponent of their principles, if they would reach