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Best Table and Most Comfortable Rooms of any Hotel in Great Falls.
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THE MORMON QUESTION.

WRITERS FOR THE TRIBUNE.

So long as the Territorial and local government remain as at present, exclusively in the power of the Mormon church authorities, the public peace will be in a state of menace. The recent exhibition of mob violence in Salt Lake City which necessitated a call on the war department for troops by the U. S. authorities in Utah to sustain the common law of the country, is most suggestive of the state of affairs in the land of polygamy.

The Mormon leaders have been heretofore credited with much craft, cunning and hypocrisy; where has it all gone? In defying the National authority, in attempting to take the law into their own hands they have placed themselves outside the pale of sympathy, a consideration, other than the outraged majesty of the law may give them for trampling upon it. The Mormon authorities are now getting food for reflection, they will be forced to understand that violation of the law is punishable in Utah, as in the States and Territories of the Union, and that what is a penitentiary offense throughout the Union will no longer be tolerated with impunity, or condoned in Utah. Bishop Shaape has already shown them a proper conception of the duties of the citizen, in submitting to the law and renovating the institution of polygamy.

The whole truth in the matter is, power has rested in the church rulers to an imperial degree, prudence and common sense alike would demolish even the twelve Apostles; that defiance open and aggressive to the people of the U. S. must cease; that a line must be drawn somewhere sometime; that the twin relics about to be punished; that it has been a foul blotch on free American institutions, and must go where the "woodbine twines," and the sooner the better for all concerned. The people of the United States has shown the utmost moderation in permitting Mormonism as an institution to exist at all. Thinking all along, and thinking in vain that time would do away with this local debasement, and perhaps that the common sense of the many among the Mormon people would eradicate the cancer of polygamy from out their midst. It is a sad commentary on the civilization of our time that in this Nineteenth Century, there should exist a people in any section of this country, so entirely morally debased, so full of the ignorance, bigotry and superstition of the darkest period of the middle ages, as are to be found in Utah. From the time that ill educated, hypocritical Joseph Smith, formed a partnership with Sidney Rigdon to compile the book of Mormon, to the present period, people are found to believe in the saintly divinity of the Apostles, Bishops and Elders, a combination of greed, deceit, avarice and hypocrisy, almost without parallel in ancient or modern history.

I have heard it asserted by many of the brethren in Utah that the plates from which the book of Mormonism is compiled, was shown to Joe Smith by an Angel of the Lord, and that no eye should look upon them except those of this self-styled, self-made prophet of the church of the latter day saints: And, with this and with this and such assertions, are blended a woman's curiosity, going to know what Smith and her husband were about but without avail. Every night so seems the mythological yarn. Joe Smith when the days inscriptions and interpretations were concluded in obedience to the mandate of the Angel of the Lord, buried the plates out of sight so that no human eye should behold them. But Mrs. Sidney Rigdon cautiously watched Joe to see where he hid the plates, which was near a large tree. Finding opportunity she proceeded to the "tree" to investigate the secret, when lo! and behold two large lions were at the place defending the sacred plates—all brass every bit of it. Now when you find a people, young and old (the leaders excepted) believing such trash as that, believing that there is amongst them individuals who are favored by nocturnal visits from the Angels of the Lord, and empowered to perform miracles, the miracle being at the same time the biggest profigates, liars, and vagabonds beneath the broad blue canopy of heaven.

It may well be asked what can legislation do, however remedial, useful or beneficial in such places as Utah? The Edmunds' bill may do much to guard against outrages and suppress crime, but no code of laws can or will make a people moral or virtuous. Examples are contagious and the low stupid, blunted sensibilities of the Mormons are incited to follow in the footsteps of the numerous councilors of the church in Utah.

We have in the United States Mission and Evangelizing boards without number. Millions of dollars are contributed annually to propagate the gospel to the heathen. It is not necessary to go abroad to seek him, he is at our door and no effort made to instruct, reclaim or regenerate him. Dr. McWilliam of Deer Lodge Institute, representing the Presbyterian board, done good work in parts of Utah by establishing schools, and teaching the Mormons himself in school and church—opposition, threats and menace were used to intimidate him, but he held the "fort" against terrible odds and could no doubt give a very interesting account of his missionary labors. The birth of Mormonism took place under the manipulations of Smith and Rigdon, and advanced to its highest pitch of power under Brigham Young. Distance lends enchantment to the view, and most certainly distance lent largely to Brigham, investing him with sublime qualities, natural endowments and extraordinary administrative abilities, which would bear considerable pairing down. I am inclined to think that audacity, experience and a vast amount of cheek were the weapons that gave Brigham Young such power over the Mormons as a people. In many respects he was inferior to Orson, Pratt or John Taylor, but overshadowed them in being the recognized head of the Mormon church and civil Governor of Utah, under Buchanan's administration. It was perhaps in the latter capacity that he showed to greatest advantage in the eyes of the Mormon people, for power and patronage remained at his disposal to distribute to his followers. Brigham's policy was to exclude the Gentiles, or according to his saintly harangue in the Tabernacle, "to send them to hell across lots" and this great christian savior, chief of the twelve Apostles, prophet, seer and revelator in the church of Latter Day Saints, was not above suspicion in conniving at if not encouraging the putting out of the way obnoxious individuals, by the hands of the "Avengers" and destroying Angels—a typical band of assassins. The trial of John D. Lee, Bishop of the Mormon church at Salt Lake City for inciting the Indians and for participation in the Mountain Meadow Massacre, developed the fact that Brigham Young was an accessory before and after that massacre, according to Lee's testimony. There is no denial of this, nor can there be for if Lee was the instigator and participator in a massacre of innocent people, men, women and children, (the rehearsal of which is enough to cause the blood to run cold) and Young was entirely ignorant before the atrocious deed was committed, he was quickly informed thereof, and instead of punishing Lee or bringing him to justice, he showed place and position upon him, making him a probate judge, and giving him the privilege of taking unto himself twenty six wives—the latter considered a very great honor among the Mormons. The reader will understand the whole gist of this matter better when bearing in mind that Brigham Young was governor of Utah, and bound to execute the law, but instead discourage inquiry or investigation.

Howard was a richer man by \$50,000 or \$60,000, leaving Salt Lake City than when he came there. On the other hand it may be considered that great difficulty existed in getting testimony, as no witnesses would appear against Brigham Young. Besides it was impossible to get a conviction in Lee's case without the connivance of Brigham Young, and hence a compromise was entered into. Be that as it may, Lee was thrown over by the Church and Saints, of which he was ornamental and exemplary, and justice, slow but sure, was avenged by his execution. There can be but little doubt but that Brigham Young found at this time, the sceptre of power and authority, departing from him. The execution of Lee impressed him with impending fear. The railroad he could not destroy. The Gentiles could not be kept out. There were besides, too many apostate Mormons; of all, these were the enemies most to be dreaded; they knew all about the Endowment, Avengers and Destroying Angels. Times were not as they used to be in Utah, had they been, six feet of soil would entomb every apostate opposing "fithing" or the will of the rulers in Israel, which is Salt Lake City. But there was still a strand of the old rope left; that strand was polygamy. The more men and women drawn into the vortex of guilt, the more supporters were to be reckoned upon; as all such were living in open defiance of the United States, and must of necessity sustain Brigham Young. It was the boast of the prophet, seer and revelator of Utah that he could have any law passed by a Mormon legislature, sanctioned by congress. Money was an important factor, and no man understood better than Brigham Young the force of addition, division and silence.

It must be that the followers of the prophet are not so cute as he was, or probably the fault is with the titling returns. Or it may be that the United States officials are more honest, and more diligent in the line of duty. It would be a part of wisdom on the part of the Church leaders to disavow polygamy and throw the vile thing into the Great Salt Lake. Tell the unthinking multitude what the President of the United States thinks about it. He says: "There is no future for it, or the system that sanctions it, which is not opposed to all that is of value in our institutions. There should be no relaxation in the execution of the law now in operation, and I will gladly approve of further discreet legislation which will rid the country of this blot upon its fair fame." As already shown, Bishop Sharpe, one of the cleverest men in the Mormon church, has gone back on polygamy. He will not remain in a defiant attitude towards the United States. The law he says is too strong for him and he bows in submission to its strength and justice. It would be well for all the Mormons to follow his example, and abjure this twin relic of barbarism. The Edmunds Bill, however stringent, does not apply to the majority of people in Utah who discontinue polygamy. They can be Saints as long as they like, and believe in Brigham or Joseph, or both, but they must not sin against the law. It was enacted to be enforced wherever it became necessary, and it is past denial that the laws have not been respected or enforced in Utah, as they have been throughout the country.

The Mormon rulers in Utah are more potent than the President of the United States. They possess a distinct and separate government. The legislature is composed entirely of Mormons; also the local government, police and county officials. They issue their own paper money; good only in the section where it originates. Some of this money is good in the stores and some is not. There is "shingle" money, which will purchase shingles and nothing else. So with "store" money to purchase dry goods and groceries, and "leather" money to purchase leather.

Outside of Salt Lake City and the mining towns, no one outside of the Church can go into business, because the money circulated will not pass in any other place, and besides, dealings with the Gentiles is strictly prohibited, except by the leaders. Freedom of speech does not exist, and of what is going on in the world outside of Utah, the masses are stupidly ignorant, and ignorantly indifferent. J. A Squaw Taks a Bath. At a late hour last night the Indians now camped near the river were called upon to howl over the narrow escape from drowning of one of their coy and demure brunettes. Several squaws were prowling about on the

river in the hope of finding some article of clothing or valuable implement, which might be left on the ice by the men now engaged in cutting the frigid material. A splash, an agonizing Ki-yi and a chorus of discordant wails aroused the slumbering bucks, who rushed to the rescue. The squaw who dropped into the chilly waters was loaded down with heavy blankets and it was with the utmost difficulty that she was saved. Just as she was reached by one of her associates she was disappearing beneath the ice, but her long and flowing tresses served as a preserver. The unfortunate being was nearly dead when taken back to camp.—Bismarck Tribune.

Chinese New Year. The custom of celebrating their New Year has been kept up by the Chinese in this country since their advent, and for two weeks from the 2nd of February of each year the time is devoted to mutual entertainments and congratulations, and is observed as a general holiday by the celestials. The better class of the Chinese issue little slips of red paper, on which is printed in Chinese characters an invitation to call at his home or place of business and partake of his hospitality. These invitations are sent to friends and acquaintances, and mutual calls are made and general good feeling prevails. On the tables may be seen all kinds of meats, Chinese candies, bottles of Chinese whisky and gun, cigars and cigarettes. The custom, when at first observed by the Chinese in San Francisco, was imposed upon the lower classes of the white element, who entered every "open house" in the Chinese quarter, and not only helped themselves to whatever they desired at the time, but filled their pockets with cigars and cigarettes. At present persons wishing to see the sights in the Chinese quarter at New Year's are escorted around under charge of a police officer, and many ladies and gentlemen take advantage of this to satisfy their curiosity to see how the heathens live and enjoy themselves.—Town Talk.

A Curiosity. An Nevada exchange says that away down in the southwest of Nevada there is a remarkable cave in the side of the mountains. Near by a little rill of water pours down the slope, soon to be swallowed up by the thirsty soil. The broken-off shafts of arrows are to be seen sticking in the soft rock that constituted the roof of the cathedral-like dome. It is said that many years ago a party of the race of Shoshones were driven into this cave by their hereditary enemies the Putes. Their defense was so stubborn that the Utes proposed a peace, and in this cave the council was called, and the peace made was to last so long as a single arrow remained imbedded in the rock overhead. One by one the lore of Indian tradition is folded up and steals on moccasin tread into the realms of shade. His canoe is disappearing from our lakes. In the fastness of Arizona he utters now his last red and lurid protest. Who can witness the passing away of the only real American race without an emotion of pity for their fate.

No Rest for Chinamen in Alaska. On the 15th ult. the mining town of Juneau, Alaska, was startled by a terrific explosion about 5 o'clock in the morning, when everybody was asleep. Everybody rushed to find the occasion of it. On investigation it was found that somebody had put a large case of dynamite under a house occupied by a half-dozen Chinamen. The explosion was so great that it completely destroyed one side of the house but fortunately it did not hurt any of the Chinamen. The explosion was so heavy that it did a great amount of damage to several stores in the neighborhood and especially to some drug stores that were in the same block. On the following day the citizens held a meeting and raised a sum of \$1,500 as a reward for the arrest and conviction of the parties who caused the explosion, but to the present have not been able to find the guilty ones, and if they had been found, with the feeling there was in Juneau, there is no doubt they would have been lynched by the citizens.

Over the Range. Charles C. Conley, well known to Montana and Dakota cow men, died recently at Hot Springs, Ark. He had formerly been an inspector for the Wyoming stock association and of late years worked for the Hashknife and E.B. outfits. He leaves a widow in the Black Hills.

Uncle Sam's Debts. According to the statement issued by the treasury department, the principal and interest on the public debt amounted to \$1,269,063,342, Feb. 1.

MELANGE. Col. Nelson of Indiana, tell the Pioneer Press that "if Senator Voorhees stands by R. C. Pollard he will be confirmed judge of the first judicial district of Montana, notwithstanding the warfare being waged against him. Still, Senator Harrison will make a strong fight against Gen. John Coburn's successor." The Glendive Times says the late glove fiasco in that place was a one sided affair from the start, and that it is well for one of the bruisers that it ended as it did. The Sun's Washington special says: The disposition to help the Red man along by liberal legislation in the path towards self-support and citizenship is growing very strong. Nearly all the general and comprehensive Indian bills in the present Congress aim to assign lands in severalty and to empower the Government to buy the surplus lands of the Indians at a generous price and to invest the proceeds so that the various tribes will have a large annual income from this source. Captain Paul Boynton is selling his large collection of trophies, preparatory to an exploration of Lake Titicaca, in Peru, which is said to be the home of the descendants of the Incas, and on the island of which it is believed the ancient temple still stands, filled with golden vessels. The captain believes that the lake is the true source of the Amazon, although it is 1,000 miles from what is now considered head waters of that river. Seven editors are members of the present house of representatives. They are Boulette, of Maine; Burksdale, of Mississippi; Haynes of New Hampshire; Pulitzer and Merriman, of New York, and Scranton and Swope, of Pennsylvania. It is understood that there is considerable opposition to the confirmation to Mr. Beecher, who was appointed collector of customs at Port Townsend, Oregon, simply as a reward for the political services rendered during the last Presidential campaign by his father—the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher. Mr. Beecher was formerly a pursur on one of the steamers running on the Pacific Coast, and the reputation he acquired in that occupation appears to have been such that both democrats and republicans are now opposing his confirmation. It Was Not From Montana. In St. Paul, a Swede named John Hanson choked to death with a piece of meat that he was trying to swallow. Can be Accommodated. We believe that Mr. May, who has been on the Northwest Cattle company's ranch, intends to start for himself and is going down to Montana to buy stock.—Calgary (Alb.) Herald. Coming, Yes, Coming. The time when in gentle spring-time twilight the horned toad sings his sweetest lullaby, is nigh. The time when the "whangdoodle" and toad will sit in the eve and tune their jewsharps to the music of a spring zephyr, is nigh. In other words, spring, gentle spring, is nigh, gentle Anni. Rather Tame. The great Grit authority on the Northwest has the following to say regarding the rebel Indians in Stony Mountain: "Big Bear is learning to be a carpenter. He plies his saw and hammer with great steadiness, and it would be hard to read in his deep, black eyes the longing for the wide plain, the swift shaganappies and the trusty rifle." Roosevelt on Cow Boys and Indians. In a recent lecture in New York Theodore Roosevelt gave additional evidence of his admiration for the cow boy and his contempt for the Indian. Here is an extract: "I suppose I should be ashamed to say that I take the western view of the Indian. I don't go so far as to think that the only good Indians are the dead Indians, but I believe nine out of every ten are, and I shouldn't like to inquire too closely into the case of the tenth. The most vicious cow boy has more moral principle than the average Indian. Turn 300 low families of New York into New Jersey, support them for fifty years in vicious idleness and you will have some idea of what the Indians are. Reckless, revengeful, fiendishly cruel, they rob and murder, not the cow boys, who can take care of themselves, but the defenseless, lone settlers on the plains. As for the soldiers, an Indian chief once asked Sheridan for a cannon. 'What! do you want to kill my soldiers with it?' asked the general. 'No,' replied the chief; 'want to kill cow boy; kill soldier with a club!'

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