The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

SUNDAY.....OCTOBER 19, 1884

THE MORMON DANGER AND ITS REMEDY.

In his speech at Occidental Hall last Friday night Senator Slater made some sensible remarks in regard to Mormonism and the Edmunds bill. He conceded a good deal—for a Democratic Senator. Further remarks are in order.

It is questionable whether any subject of such vital importance has forced itself upon the attention of American people, and yet be so little understood as Mormonism. Ordinarily, in discussing its objectionable features and its infamies, all else connected with it is passed by as of no consequence, and polygamy, or plural marriage, is held up as the one crime of Utah. And yet, to those who have been in contact with it and have knowledge of its principles and its practices, polygamy, base and infamous as it is, is one of the least of the evils of the system. It is, indeed, but the outgrowth—the product—of the principles underlying it. The Mormon church is a genuine theocracy, in form claiming to be religion, but in reality only a secret political organization, with the machinery and the title of a church, but utterly devoid of all religious sentiment—bound together by the obligation of an oath more binding, more horrible, than ever bound the hands and hearts of bands for piracy or robbery. Its members, whether ten or ten thousand, are a unit. They think, act, and are, as one man in all matters pertaining to church, or state, or whatever else commands their attention. Their principles are at enmity with free government and hostile to the individuality of man. Hence, their whole history has been one of hostility to the government, and at variance with our civilization. Strike down polygamy, and Mormonism would survive the blow. Enforce the laws against its evil-doers, and it will only resort to more subtle and obscure methods to achieve its ends. With great cunning, it undertakes to destroy the law under the forms of law. To reform it is impossible, because it is fundamentally wrong; and that which is fundamentally wrong can never be reformed. Doubtless there are a few cranks who have believed, and do now most earnestly believe that their so-called revelations from God are a verity; but to the greater number of them, and, notably, to their leaders, it is the veriest nonsense and the basest hypocrisy.

Their religion is not dangerous; no intelligent person cares for it. It is a harmless fanaticism, except in so far as it gives effectiveness to their political power. It is as a factor in politics that they are to be feared. Ridiculous as it may seem, they dream of universal conquest: First, the states and territories contiguous to them, and the next, and the next, and so on, until the nation is at their feet—and, then, the world.

Without entertaining for one moment any fear that they will ever effect much in the line of their ambition, it is certain that they began with method, and have accomplished much in a very little while. Of course, Utah is absolutely under their control, as much as if there was not a Gentile or non-Mormon in the territory; for they vote as a unit upon all propositions. Individual opinion is not permitted among the laity. The "bosses of the church" command and the membership as slaves obey. And this "bossism" extends into, and encompasses, all of the walks of life—not only to the exercise of the elective franchise, but to jurors, witnesses, and all official duties and to the commonest private affairs. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Arizona and Nevada have felt their power, politically, in the past; and are now, for the most part, effectively within their grasp. True, Nevada has, for a time shaken off their influence, but not for long, for they have over 700 registered voters within that state. And in Nevada, as, indeed, in all the states and territories adjacent, the two great political parties are nearly evenly balanced—so nearly so that a few hundred votes, thrown as a unit, will turn the scale and constitute the balance of power. Knowing this, and being utterly devoid of political principle—considering all power as only a means to that end, and that end, at all times and under all circumstances, the advancement of the interests of the church—they always vote for the furtherance of Mormonism.

If theocracies have any leading characteristics, it is that they are cunning, aggressive, and persistent. Ground once gained is never yielded up voluntarily. Mormonism is no exception to the rule. It has planted its standard in state and territory, deliberately and for a purpose, and it has no idea of yielding or being diverted from its object. And the people of the several commonwealths where it is established may take notice of that fact, and govern themselves accordingly. Elsewhere it can be combated, under existing laws, as other evils are combated, but not so in Utah. There it is supreme. It has an overwhelming majority at the polls. Its legislature is unanimously Mormon. It enacts laws and constitutes the machinery of local government. It makes up the jury lists, and holds the obligation of an oath in contempt. It disregards justice, and shields its members from the penalties of violated laws. As a political power, it is corrupt, vicious and treasonable. As a religious organization, it is low, vulgar and licentious. As an entirety, it is impelled by the meanest, basest, and most vicious instincts of human nature. It ought to be hemmed in, fought against, and stamped out by the majesty of the law. To accomplish this no ordinary means will suffice. It should be met with such powers as necessity demands. If the civil authorities can crush it, it should be done, and done at once by the civil authorities. But if the civil authorities can not crush it, let it be done by the military. Let it be done by any power that can do it in the shortest time and most effectively. Neither the technicalities of the law, nor a sickly sentimentality, nor blind indifference should be tolerated. It should be extirpated by the shortest and best methods. Its death is demanded by public necessity.

It was hoped by its advocates in congress that the Edmunds bill would go far toward correcting this great evil. But those who were familiar with Mormon conscience and Mormon methods had but little faith in its efficiency. That law was intended mainly to affect the political rights of a class of the citizens—to wrest the ballot from polygamists, as well, also, as the right to hold office. But, unfortunately, the polygamic relations of such parties could only be determined by the oaths of the parties themselves.

To the average Mormon an oath is but a means to an end. To all orthodox "saints" their duty to the church is paramount to their duty to the nation; and all statutory crimes, including perjury, are permissible, justifiable, if they are deemed necessary to serve the church. Hence the Edmunds bill has practically proved a failure, as evidenced by the fact that the number of votes cast in that territory is practically the same as before the law. The methods of governing ordinarily applied to other communities will not apply to Mormons, for the reason that their religion is not in harmony with our civilization, nor have they any sympathy with the government, nor any respect for its laws, nor any intention to obey them, if they can escape so doing by evasion, perjury, or covert treason. This being true, the government will be compelled to adopt extraordinary means to stop its progress, and extirpate it from the land. Ordinarily, it is neither wise nor proper to deviate from the fundamental idea of self-government, but in cases like the one in question just such power should be exercised, and such methods adopted as necessity demands. The power of congress over the territories under the national constitution is absolute.

It generously exercised that power originally by giving to them a local government, the same as was given to the other territories; but from then, until now, through a period of thirty-two years they have been insolent, rebellious, defiant—a kind of independency—a foreign government, so to speak—within the republic maintained at the government's expense, but in defiance of its authority. Since mild measures have failed, the government should deal with it with a strong hand. The organic act should be repealed, and the territorial statutes as an entirety be swept from existence, and a form of government be substituted similar to that which was adopted for the government of the northwest territory. A commission should be appointed by the president to draft a code of laws, and such laws be subject to revision only by congress; let there be district and supreme courts, as now, with the United States marshal and his deputies as the only summoning officers of such courts; let the judges, their clerks, and the marshal prepare the jury lists; let all persons who believe in the rightfulness of polygamy, and all those who believe that their duty to the Mormon church is higher than their duty to their country, be declared to be ineligible to act as jurors; let these things be done, and faithful men—competent, courageous and unpurchasable—be appointed to draft and execute the laws, and Mormonism will wither and perish. Senator Slater's idea of education is an excellent one but it is too slow for safety.

THE public debt less cash in the treasury on the 1st of October was $1,425,467,055, a reduction of $12,047,039 for the month and $24,438,181 for the first quarter of the fiscal year of 1884-85. This is about the average for the previous year, and indicates an absorption of abont $100,000,000 for the year. The only way of now cutting down the debt is to pay off the three per cent bonds, over $10,000,000 of which was paid off last month and $100,000,000 during the past year.

THREE hundred Blaine speeches were delivered in Ohio every twenty-four hours during the last week of the campaign.

NEW TO-DAY.

Picked Up.

ON THE FORT STEVENS BEACH, on the 16th, a black skiff, four oars, hook, etc. in boat. Owner can have her by applying to Thos. Stanfield, Astoria, or John Stanfield, Ft. Stevens.
Astoria, Oct. 18, 1884.

Notice to Contractors.

SEALED proposals will be received at the office of the Auditor and Clerk of the city of Astoria, until Monday, October 20, 1884, at one o'clock P. M., for the improvement of the crossings of Jefferson and Hamilton streets and the crossing of Jefferson and Olney streets, by replanking the same to their full width with new plank and raising the crossing of Jefferson and Hamilton streets one and one-half feet and raising the crossing of Jefferson and Olney streets one foot, in the manner provided by ordinance No. 656. Bids must be accompanied with a guarantee signed by two responsible tax-payers, to the effect that if the contract be awarded such bidder that he will within forty-eight hours after notice of such award enter into contract therefor with good and sufficient surety for the faithful performance of the work. The right to reject any and all bids is hereby reserved.

By order of the Common Council.
THOS. DEALY,
C. G. SMITH,
Committee on Streets and Public Ways.
Attest: T. S. JEWETT.
Auditor and Clerk.
Astoria, October 15, 1884.

House To Let.

FIVE ROOMS; NEW; GOOD LOCALity. Inquire at E. C. HOLDEN'S.

HAS RETURNED.

J. P. LEATHERS HAS RETURNED and is ready to turn out some fine fishing boats for the river. Shop on the beach between Kinney's and Elmore's canneries.

Rooms to Rent.

SEVEN ROOMS SUITABLE FOR HOUSEkeeping; in the business center; apply at this office.

Furnished Rooms to Let,

WITH OR WITHOUT BOARD. Enquire of MRS. E. C. HOLDEN.

For Sale.

A GOOD GENTLE HORSE. Inquire of ALEX. CAMPBELL.

Picked Up.

AT BARNEY'S POINT, A SKIFF. OWner can apply to H. OLSEN, Master *Union*.

To Rent.

GOOD DWELLING HOUSE, Apply at ASTORIAN Office.

Settlement Notice.

ALL PERSONS INDEBTED TO THE late firm of A. Van Dusen & Co. are requested to call and settle such indebtedness immediately. By reason of the decease of one of the members of the firm it is necessary to settle up the firm business at once.

B. VAN DUSEN,
H. J. VAN DUSEN,
Executors and Trustees.
Astoria, October 2, 1884.

Tax Notice.

THE ASSESSMENT ROLL OF SCHOOL District No. 18, Clatsop County, Oregon, is now equalized and the Hon. Board of School Directors for said district have issued warrants for the undersigned to collect the school tax now due said district. Taxpayers will save cost by paying the same to the School Clerk or his deputy who will be found at all times at his office on West 6th street, one house south of Wall street.

C. W. SHIVELY,
Clerk School District No. 18.
Dated at the City of Astoria, Clatsop Co, Oregon, August 30th, 1884.

Stockholders' Meeting.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE annual meeting of the stockholders of the West Coast Packing Co. will be held at the company's office, on Thursday, October 23rd, 1884, to elect officers for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting.

By order of the president.
S. E. MORTON,
Secretary.

Notice.

ALL PERSONS HAVING BILLS against Wherry & Co., contracted by me will please present them at once. In future all debts due should be paid to Wm. W. Wherry who alone is authorized to receipt for the same and carry on the business of Wherry & Co.

WM. D. SMITH.
Astoria, October 1st, 1884.