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The BEE PUBLISHING CO., Props. E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

BRAD SLAUGHTER who had the distinction of counting Loran Clark in at the late republican convention, is again a candidate for his old place as chief clerk of the house. Brad exhibits a good deal of cheek. A burglar might as well ask for a position as cashier of a bank.

TEXAS has become train robbers, headquarters, and Southern Pacific excursionists enjoy the pleasure of an escort of state rangers armed with repeating rifles, bowie knives, and other rib ticklers. There is much romance in traveling through Texas now a days.

NEW YORK has become an awful place for the indolent office holder. A New York grand jury has just indicted the street cleaning bureau for falling to keep the streets clear of snow. The next thing we will hear of will be the indictment of an Omaha policeman for looking on as an innocent little game of keno.

SENATOR McMILLAN has introduced a bill to establish three additional land districts in Dakota. There are bills already pending on this subject in both houses, and if McMILLAN's scheme succeeds Dakota will have thirteen land districts, with twenty-three registrars and receivers driving a lucrative business out of the poor homesteaders. There is no more need of thirteen land districts in Dakota than there is of seven wheels to a wagon.

THE creation of the Utah commission under the Edmunds bill does not seem to have solved the Mormon problem to the satisfaction of those who expect to wipe out polygamy and Mormonism by an act of congress. The Edmunds bill prohibits polygamists from holding office or voting. But as about only one fourth of the Mormons live in polygamy, those who are not under the ban of the law can hold office, do the voting and sustain such measures as the Mormon church sees fit to favor. It is a matter of fact that Mormons who are not polygamists are Mormons still. That fact, however, was never taken into consideration by the impractical agitators who expected to wipe out Mormonism by an act of congress. The only effect of the Edmunds bill has been the disfranchisement of twelve thousand polygamous Mormons. In other respects the church of Latter Day Saints wields as much political power as ever it did. And now the extremists who shouted with delight over the passage of the Edmunds bill are kicking themselves for favoring such a harmless scheme, and demand that everybody in Utah who subscribes to the mormon creed shall be disfranchised and prohibited from acting upon juries. If these zealots would have their way a very dangerous precedent would be established in this country. The founders of the republic made religious liberty one of the corner stones of the American union. They prohibited all religious tests, and placed every creed on the broad platform of universal tolerances.

To disfranchise a Mormon to-day because he is a Mormon would simply mean that to-morrow you disfranchise a Roman Catholic because he is a Catholic, or a Jew because he refuses to become a Christian. It is far better to bear the illa we have than fly to those we know not of. It is safer to let the Mormons temporarily rule in Utah, because they are largely in the majority than to deprive the Mormons of civil rights, and declare them outlaws before they are tried and convicted of crime. Let polygamy be punished by the law in Utah, if the laws against polygamy can be enforced. If the majority of the people who sit on juries in Utah refuse to convict, we must submit just as the people of Kansas submit to the acquittal of violators of their prohibition laws.

It would be a sad day for the government if they were to disfranchise whole creeds because some of the members indulge in criminal practices. With the same propriety an act of congress might be passed declaring all persons who confess the creed that teaches the purging of sin and crime through penance imposed by the confessional as not entitled to vote and hold office.

AN INFAMOUS SLANDER.

Mr. Rosewater makes a pitiful appeal to the old soldiers, and if tradition is truthful this is not the first time he has used for mercy. The other time was when Grant's army overtook the little confederate spy and talked of stringing him up. The right received there made a republican of him, but he is a spy and traitor now, always has been and always will be. The old soldiers will be merciful now as then, and permit him to live, even as the snakes live, despised by everybody.

The above compound of malignant innuendo and infamous slander appeared a few days ago in an obscure sheet published by a sort of political literary bureau that is devoted on the one hand to the defense of jobbery and knavery of every sort, and on the other to the vilification of public men and papers that dare to raise voices against the rogues and frauds that infest our public service. The libel was published in the Omaha Republican Wednesday, and repeated again with evident malicious intent in the weekly Republican of Friday, two days after the editor and manager of that sheet had been called into court, upon my complaint, upon the charge of criminal libel for maliciously circulating that infamous slander.

I have called these libelers into court to put an end, if possible, to their persistent and unprovoked attacks, as well as to vindicate myself from a stigma which they have sought to place not only upon me but upon my family. Treason is the highest crime of which any citizen can be guilty, and it is simply monstrous to stigmatize any loyal man, and especially one who has risked his life in defense of the union, as a rebel spy and a traitor. Instead of coming into court like a man and furnishing even the shadow of proof to sustain their assault, these cowardly assassins of character have waived examination and left the matter to a future inquiry by a grand jury, which will not sit for several months. They have thus compelled me to refute their slanders by personal reference to public records and well-known men who have known my career before, during and since the rebellion.

I was located at Oberlin, Ohio, the most radical anti-slavery community in the United States at the time of the celebrated Wellington fugitive slave case when the professors of Oberlin college were arrested and lodged in the Cleveland jail upon the charge of aiding in the escape of a fugitive slave. Professor John M. Langston, late minister to Hayti, now in Washington, will bear me out with the fact that in that exciting period I carried correspondence from their families at Oberlin to the imprisoned professors in the Cleveland jail. In the spring of 1859 I accepted a position as telegraph operator at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Three months later I was discharged, and the superintendent, A. E. Trabee, wrote substantially as follows:

"Your services as manager of Murfreesboro office are no longer required. We cannot employ men who entertain free soil sentiments as you do. You were a northern man, and we have no fault to find with your services."

I did not obey the injunction because I am naturally stubborn, and went further south. At the outbreak of the war I was living in North Alabama and went through the most exciting struggle over secession as a Union man. It cost something to be a Union man in that turbulent section in those days. Before Alabama had seceded I wrote a letter to Gov. A. B. Moore that I would not serve in any war against the Union and when Alabama did secede I went into Tennessee which had voted down secession.

I was in Nashville during those terrible riots that followed the capture of Fort Donaldson, and under my personal direction the first wire across the Cumberland river was strung for the use of the Union army, a service for which Thomas A. Scott, then assistant secretary of war, expressed his personal obligations. A few weeks later enlisted in the United States military telegraph corps and accompanied General John C. Fremont through his entire campaign in Virginia. Judge Savage, who was a colonel with General Fremont's army, will verify that General Fremont, during a visit to Omaha three years ago, expressed his personal satisfaction with my conduct while with him.

After a brief stay in the Washington navy yard with Admiral Dahlgren, I was, upon personal request, assigned to accompany General Pope in his "on to Richmond" campaign. I was with that army in its march to the Rapidan and its retreat across the Rappahannock, and was on the ground at the second battle of Bull Run. This fact can readily be attested by General Ruggles, now assistant adjutant general, and then chief of staff of General Pope.

At the close of Pope's campaign I was assigned to the war department in the office where Lincoln and Stanton and the commander-in-chief were in communication with the army by telegraph. With my own hands I transmitted from the original document the emancipation proclamation of Abraham Lincoln out of the war department to New York and the country. That I left the department in good standing is evidenced by the fact that I am now the vice-president of the

Omaha branch of the society of the United States Military Telegraph Corps. At the national convention of that society, held at Niagara Falls on the 20th of September, 1882, the following committee was appointed to present the claims of the ex-army telegraphers to congress: George C. Maynard, Washington, D. C.; William B. Wilson, Lancaster, Pa.; Edward Rosewater, Omaha, Neb.; Col. W. L. Gross, Springfield, Ill.; Capt. T. B. A. David, Pittsburg, Pa. I was in Omaha at the time this reunion took place and my selection would indicate that my comrades in the service have no suspicion of my alleged disloyalty or disrepute.

And now a few words about the men who have published me far and wide as a traitor and confederate spy. For more than ten years I have been hounded by a gang of villains, who have resorted to every means that devilish ingenuity could invent to destroy my character and drag me into the mire of public contempt. They have heaped upon my head the vilest epithets, created prejudices and hatred among people who know nothing of my past career, and poisoned the minds of people against me by the most vindictive libels. Not content with all that, they have incited bullies and rowdies to make personal assaults upon me, and have assisted such parties in escaping the just penalties of their crimes.

In 1876 the district attorney of this district certified over his name to the postmaster-general as follows:

During the investigation and trial of Richard D. Curry, indicted with Smith Coffey by the grand jury of this county at the February A. D. 1876, term of the state district court for an assault with intent to murder Edward Rosewater, editor of the Omaha Bee, the sworn testimony of various witnesses, including the parties implicated, disclosed and substantiated the following facts: That the assault upon Mr. Rosewater was talked over in the private office of Postmaster Yost, in the government postoffice building, in the presence of Mr. Yost, some days previous to the assault, and it was then understood by Mr. Yost and Paul Vandervort, chief clerk of the postal railway mail service, that a certain card should be inserted in the Omaha Republican by Mr. Miner, the local editor, purporting to come from R. D. Curry, and directed to Mr. Rosewater, the object in view being to bring about a personal difficulty between Curry and Mr. Rosewater. Although the evidence was insufficient to justify prosecution of Mr. Yost and Mr. Vandervort as accessories, there is no doubt in my mind but that the murderous assault upon Mr. Rosewater was the direct result of the understanding and arrangement referred to.

Dick Curry went to the penitentiary, but the men who set him up have gone scot free. They are still at their cowardly work, but I propose before long to bring them face to face with justice. E. ROSEWATER.

The retail merchants and the trades people of Omaha complain of dull trade during the holiday season. While some of the larger number have fallen way below the estimate of the usual sales. The question is frequently asked what is the cause of this dullness in the retail trade. What has become of the money that is paid out in wages to clerks, mechanics and laborers? Most everybody in the city has employment at fair wages, the price of living is not as high now as it was last year, food and raiment are cheaper. The weather has been very favorable for outdoor work and large sums are earned by masons, bricklayers, carpenters, and other mechanics who are usually laying idle at this time of the year. Has Omaha been struck with a spasm of economy? Are our people disposed to hoard their money, or have they become indifferent about the customs of the holiday season? Those who have given the subject some attention will agree with us that there is a very good reason for this unusual dullness in the holiday trade.

Omaha has enjoyed a very attractive operative season. For more than two months we have been regaled nearly every night with grand concerts, operas and sensational shows that have drawn great crowds of people to the theaters and public halls and taken out of the city thousands upon thousands of dollars of hard earned money that had been saved up by merchants, clerks and mechanics. These people have thus deprived themselves of the use of this money for the purchase of Christmas gifts and that accounts partly for the dullness in the holiday trade.

There is another and a good deal more potent cause for the shortage in cash among workmen, clerks and merchants. It is a sad commentary on the morals of Omaha but it is nevertheless a fact that hundreds of men of high and low degree squander every dollar they can save in gambling. There are dens in Omaha where boys and men gather nightly around keno and faro tables and indulge in a passion that do even them and their families to give them the very necessities of life. Among young mechanics this is especially disastrous as well as demoralizing. Take for instance the printers of Omaha who are mostly single men,

and we know whereof we speak, when we say a majority squander every dollar they earn, beyond the cost of board and lodging in gambling halls. These men earn from fifteen to twenty-five dollars a week, but when the month rolls around they have not money enough to pay for decent clothes to put upon their backs. Gambling is at best a terrible vice. It may be indulged in by men of large means as a diversion, but when a whole community becomes infatuated with it; when the laborer, mechanic and clerk are enticed into gambling houses and stripped of their wages it becomes a curse. It is a habit that seriously impairs the public welfare. It is true that professional gamblers will spend their money again, but that money only reaches a very limited number. These are the channels that are diverting the surplus funds in Omaha from the merchant, and to this we attribute very largely the unusual dullness of the holiday trade.

This senate committee on public lands has directed Senator VanWyck to report favorably on his bill to compel the land grant roads to take out patents on their lands under penalty of forfeiture. There is no doubt now that this bill, when it is reached, will pass the senate; and inasmuch as a similar bill, introduced by Mr. Anderson, of Kansas, is pending in the house, there is a fair prospect that the present congress will enact the law to compel the railroads to pay their taxes on their subsidy lands. The Van Wyck bill, unlike the bogus bill introduced by Valentine, includes every land grant railroad in the United States and is a broad measure, national in its scope, which appeals for support from every honest member of both houses of congress. The Valentine bill is a fraud on its face. It is sectional, and includes only the lands of the Union Pacific railroad in Nebraska. It does not cover the railroad lands in Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, California, Montana and Texas, where there are millions upon millions of subsidy lands which if not included in this act would go untaxed for years.

The election of Mr. P. B. Sturdevant to the position of state treasurer will create a vacancy in the treasurer's office of Fillmore county. The unexpired term of Mr. Sturdevant as county treasurer is to be filled by the commissioners of Fillmore county, but it will make considerable difference whether his successor is appointed by the present board of commissioners or by the new board that convenes in January. The outcome will be watched with more than ordinary interest, not because anybody outside of Fillmore county cares a penny about Mr. Sturdevant's successor, but because the change will afford an opportunity to Mr. Sturdevant to give vitality to the anti monopoly cause. His manifest duty is to withhold his resignation until the new board, made up of anti monopoly men, has

SANTA CLAUS is a dangerous chap to be allowed to run at large. He is a nihilist, or at any rate a Russian with a countenance that gives him away as a dangerous man.

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS.—The event of the past week in Great Britain was the change in the cabinet and the advent of Lord Derby into a ministry with which he differs very materially on important questions. Derby is the great apostle of common sense. He belongs to a very large type of Englishmen who make seeing things as they are the great business of their life. On this side of the water Lord Derby would be regarded as a political trimmer. When he was foreign secretary of the Beaconsfield cabinet he used to furnish the deputation who came up to see him about the Russians, or about the Turks, with such excellent summaries of the facts for their action and inaction that he completely dumfounded them. He can talk common sense and economy by the hour, and for this reason he is a very popular lecturer on wages, thrift, or land tenure. In discussing on such themes to plain people he has the tact to play a great part in the African drama, he never makes a mistake in getting the very most out of it on an income of about one thousand dollars a year.

There is a hitch about getting Sir Charles Dilke into the cabinet. He first appeared in political life in 1858 as a republican and created a sensation in politics by several fierce attacks on the queen's civil list. He denounced the annuities to the queen and her numerous family as extravagant, and accused her of not paying the income tax. He fell into many mistakes in matters of fact about which it is difficult for an outsider to get information, and the general effect of his crusade on his political prospects was supposed, so far as office is concerned, to be fatal. But hardly any mistake is fatal to a man who is young, rich, accomplished and clever; and all of these Dilke was. In the house of commons he began to cultivate silence, and grew a little more conservative, distinguished himself as a debater and man of business while the liberals were out of office, and got over the social discredit brought on him by his republicanism and his criticism of the queen, so far as to become even hand in glove with the prince of Wales. Consequently, when Gladstone called Dilke to the cabinet, he was not very long in making a conservative ally. English politics certainly makes strange bedfellows. Dilke declared in 1871 that he is a republican, and has traveled much, and made a close study of foreign politics.

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Dilke shall not go into the cabinet as strongly as Chamberlain insists that he shall. Mr. Chamberlain, once "a local wire-puller of Birmingham," is now, next to the prime minister, the most powerful man in the day.

Within the past two or three years the French government has been displaying a remarkable eagerness to plant colonies and acquire dominions in some barbarous countries. The same spirit showed itself during the latter part of the eighteenth century and the early part of the nineteenth century. Extensive territories were acquired in America, and a very large emigration for those days was poured into them, and settlements were made in India which seemed to promise at one time the rise of a French empire in that region to compensate France, as England was afterward compensated, for the loss of her possessions in America. The republic is now turning to the foreign colony enterprise for the same reasons that brought about the conquest of Algeria. The seizure of Tunis has been followed by an attempt to establish a protectorate over the western and northwestern coast of the island of Madagascar. Madagascar is a very important island. It is larger than France itself, being 1,000 miles long and 350 miles broad. It has 2,000,000 inhabitants and they are now as being the only black people who show a capacity for progress. The Hovas have gradually become the dominant tribe, and among them France has missionaries, including several Americans, have met with gratifying success. The present queen was captured in 1863, and saw a proof of the sincerity of her conversion by ordering all the idols burned. The richness of the natural products of the island make it a tempting offer to the Gallic free booters. It is in just such quarters of the world that France can most profitably carry out the policy of acquiring colonies. Madagascar is compensating herself in Africa and elsewhere for her loss of territory and power in Europe. The Republic Française declares that France can never become a great colossus. "Never shall we repair the unhappy loss of the Indies, of Canada, and of the Louisiana which a Bonaparte sold without even consulting the corps législatif. But let us carefully preserve what we have got, enlarging our possessions if opportunity offers in Madagascar and Tonquin." This frankness is commendable. But France administers her conquests badly, and it is to be feared that neither the people of Madagascar nor those of the Louisiana which she has acquired will be benefited by this new enlargement of her possessions. It is pretty certain that the French people will not support these schemes, because they are not disposed to emigrate. Once the novelty has worn off these colonies will simply prove expensive garrisons and not homes for French settlers.

Lord Derby's proposed relief for all the distress and misery in Ireland is "assisted emigration." One hundred years before the great famine, when the population of Ireland was only some two millions, the sufferings of the people were so frightful as to call for the name Swift the savage suggested that the population could be brought within the means of subsistence only by roasting and eating one hundred thousand babies annually. In the great famine of 1846 the distress was no greater in the more thickly settled districts than in those where the population was scarce, and while all the world was sending food in charity to Ireland, the roads where men lay dying of starvation witnessed the export of grain and provisions going out of Ireland to pay the taxes and rents which had ruined the country, just as in Bengal during the regularly recurring famines the rice is exported to make money for the British government. It is not surprising, therefore, that the British government should be so ready to send food in charity to Ireland, the roads where men lay dying of starvation witnessed the export of grain and provisions going out of Ireland to pay the taxes and rents which had ruined the country, just as in Bengal during the regularly recurring famines the rice is exported to make money for the British government. It is not surprising, therefore, that the British government should be so ready to send food in charity to Ireland, the roads where men lay dying of starvation witnessed the export of grain and provisions going out of Ireland to pay the taxes and rents which had ruined the country, just as in Bengal during the regularly recurring famines the rice is exported to make money for the British government. 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