

WOODS, and that other church appropriations similar in their nature came to an untimely end through his prompt and energetic action. Imagine for a moment the Legislature of the commonwealth of New-York appropriating the people's money to defray the expenses of translating the Episcopal book of common prayer into Chaldaic or Syriac.

#### THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

The Legislature adjourned only to make way for the Constitutional Convention, which is now in full operation. In their frantic zeal for admission to the Union, the Mormon Legislature gave no heed either to the message of Gov. WOODS, vetoing their bill for a Constitutional Convention, or to the passage by Congress of the Apportionment bill, preventing the creation of new States until their population should equal the ratio of representation in the House of Representatives. Determined to have a State at any and all hazards, immediately after the Governor's veto they hurried a joint resolution through both Houses, calling upon the people to elect delegates to a constitutional convention which convened one week ago today. Upon the very threshold of the convention the tools of the priesthood were met by a resolution from the only real Gentile in the body, Judge WILLIAM HAYDON, late of Nevada, calling for an adjournment *sine die*, the principal reason urged in support of the resolution being that the Territory was as yet unprepared to assume the burdens and expense of a State Government, and that its population was too meagre to warrant its admission. The resolution was argued two days, and was, of course, voted down, HAYDON'S vote being the only one recorded in its favor. During the argument TOM FITCH took the floor, and proceeded to deliver a two-hours' philippic against Chief-Justice MCKEAN, which for bitterness of invective, recklessness of statement, and utter disregard of truth, may challenge comparison with anything of the kind in the English tongue. The Convention being called without authority of law, its members receive no compensation, and to this fact is doubtless due the haste which has thus far characterized their deliberations. From present indications, an adjournment may be looked for early in March. The Constitution of Nevada is being used as a model by which to frame that of the new State of Deseret, and is being quite closely followed in its essential features. Twenty days at the most will, doubtless, cover the entire session.

#### SURRENDER OF POLYGAMY.

The most significant feature of the Convention thus far, has been a growing disposition on the part of its members to surrender polygamy as a condition precedent to admission to the Union. FITCH is the champion *par excellence* of this new departure, and he is ably seconded by a few of the more intolligent Mormons, who have never practiced polygamy, and who are desirous of putting Utah in accord with the spirit of the age in so far as it may be done. The movement at first met with but little encouragement upon the part of the hoary-headed patriarchs of the Church, sturdy pioneers of the faith, who insist on polygamy as a divine revelation, and desire to hand it down as a legacy beyond price to their children. It is, however, daily gaining ground, and it is not too much to predict, from the present tone and temper of the Convention, that if Congress should to-morrow offer statehood to the Mormons, on the sole condition of their surrendering polygamy, or rather of promising to yield it, the condition would gladly be accepted. How faithfully such a promise, if exacted, would be afterward kept with the laws enforced through Mormon courts and juries, is another and quite a different question.

#### THE FEDERAL OFFICERS.

Chief-Justice MCKEAN left for Washington a few days since, in accordance with telegraphic instructions from the President to that effect. The object of his journey is to confer with the President and Attorney-General upon the situation here, and to advise with leading members of Congress as to what legislation is needed in the present crisis. Rumors of impending changes in the Federal officials here are in circulation, though I can learn of nothing definite as yet, and it is not likely that any changes will occur until Judge MCKEAN shall reach Washington. A lame effort at his removal was made a few weeks since by certain self-styled Gentiles of the "Jack Mormon" order, the pretext seized upon being his refusal to admit Mormon murderers to bail, in accordance with telegraphic instructions from the Attorney-General. The only effect of the movement has been to call forth an expression of the views of the Gentiles and law-abiding citizens of the Territory, indorsing Judge MCKEAN'S official conduct in unqualified terms, and insisting upon his retention in the position he has thus far so worthily filled. Meetings have been called in every mining camp in the Territory, and the most enthusiastic proceedings have been had in the way of indorsing MCKEAN. A petition in approval of his conduct was sent to the President last week, containing six thousand *bona fide* signatures, and the number could have been swelled to ten thousand in another week. Private advices received here within the past three days from Washington convey the intelligence that the course of the Federal Judiciary of Utah has thus far met with the unqualified approval of the Administration.

#### AN EXHAUSTED EXCHEQUER.

The attention of law-abiding citizens of the Territory is turned anxiously toward Congress in the hope of such legislation as shall relieve the Courts from the embarrassments under which they labor for lack of funds. The gravest criminal causes known to the law are awaiting trial upon the calendar of the Third District Court, and there is not a dollar at hand with which to conduct the prosecutions, procure the attendance of witnesses and jurors, or to pay even the expenses of the imprisonment of the defendants under arrest. Some of these defendants are kept by the charity of the War Department at Camp Douglas, and others are incarcerated in the city jail, already overcrowded with city criminals. Three persons, indicted for the most brutal murder ever committed in Utah, are confined in a small room not far distant from where I write, where they pay for their own subsistence, and pay each of two officers \$2 50 per day, for guarding them. The United States Marshal, Col. PATRICK, one of the most capable and efficient officers in the employ of the Government in the Territory, is tied hand and foot for lack of means to care for the prisoners, and is already largely in debt for past disbursements. What men can do unaided and alone toward the enforcement of law and the punishment of crime, has been done by the Federal officials in this Territory, but there is a point beyond which forbearance ceases to be a virtue, and that point has certainly been reached. The responsibility rests with Congress to determine whether this state of affairs shall continue.

J. L. H.

## AFFAIRS IN UTAH.

### The Snow Blockade Broken—The Japanese Embassy—Adjournment of the Legislature—The Constitutional Convention—Surrender of Polygamy—Financial Perplexities.

From Our Own Correspondent.

SALT LAKE CITY, Monday, Feb. 26, 1872.

At last the blockade is broken, and we are once more in communication with you of the Atlantic sea-board. The first of the delayed trains, snow-bound and storm-locked among the Black Hills for well nigh a month, worked its way through the drift and reached Ogden one week ago, and the others have been coming in ever since, like stragglers in the rear of a mighty army, buffeted and worn out with their almost superhuman struggle with the elements which barred their pathway. Passengers who came through on the first of these trains, and successfully "ran the blockade," were looked upon by their friends on arriving here very much in the light of shipwrecked mariners who had at last made land, and in truth they had much the same story of hardship and suffering to tell. Few, however, are disposed to complain, all thought of repining being swallowed up in gratitude at their safe transit. The utmost praise is accorded to Superintendent SICKLES, Col. CARR, and other officers and employes of the Union Pacific Railway for their herculean efforts to open a passage for the trains, and to minister to the comfort of the passengers. What men could do they did to remove the obstacles accumulating in this way, and after a three weeks' hand-to-hand fight with the elements they came off victorious.

Isolated as we have been almost since the New-Year, the telegraph has advised you of the outline of our history meanwhile, and your readers are doubtless apprized of the leading events of the past weeks west of the Rocky Mountains. But the discomfort and inconvenience, at times amounting to downright hardship, of being mountain-locked for thirty days in the dead of Winter, cut off from all communication with the East save through the overworked telegraph, one can understand only through experience. The presence of the Japanese Embassy in our city during three weeks of the blockade served to vary the tedium of the slow-moving day, and without their cheerful, good-natured countenances, and the festivities incident to their reception and stay in our midst, we should have been lonely indeed.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The Mormon Legislature adjourned ten days since without having accomplished very much of either good or ill for the would-be State of Deseret. A more purely ecclesiastical body was, perhaps, never convened on the Continent than this same Utah Legislature. Loyal Mormons all, they numbered between the two Houses nine of the twelve apostles of the church, besides a dozen or more bishops and presidents of districts, or what are denominated in the church vernacular, "Stakes of Zion." The Utah Legislature is undoubtedly the only legislative body on the Continent whose members profess and practice one and the same religious faith, and worship at one and the same altar. The churchly nature of the body cropped out in a thousand ways. Almost their first official action was to vote themselves supplies of the "church papers," and to tender the editor of those papers the freedom of the halls, leaving all other representatives of the press to kick their heels in the lobby. Members rising to address the House are recognized not as the "gentleman from Salt Lake," or whatsoever locality they might represent, but as Brother YOUNG, Brother PRATT, Brother CANNON, &c.

#### CHURCH AND STATE.

Another striking illustration of the intimate blending of Church and State, and of the theocratic tendencies of this people, was witnessed in the passage of a bill appropriating over \$6,000 to Apostle ORSON PRATT, Sr., Speaker of the House, for services in translating the Book of Mormon into the Deseret alphabet. The Book of Mormon, as your readers are doubtless aware, is the assumed revelation to JOSEPH SMITH, and constitutes the chief corner stone of the Church. It is to the Mormons what the Koran is to the devout Mohammedan, or the Bible to the followers of Christ. The Deseret alphabet is the result of an abortive attempt made on the part of some of the Mormon leaders, a few years ago, to establish a language and literature of their own. It is a rude, awkward, and cumbersome system of hieroglyphics, exceedingly difficult to learn, and of no earthly use when acquired. It was the fruit of a design on the part of BRIGHAM YOUNG, ORSON PRATT, and a few other leaders in the Church, to more completely isolate this people from the outer world by establishing a language and literature of their own, in which should be recorded the history of the Church and the doings of the prophet. Of course the effort was a complete failure, and there are not a dozen men in the Territory who can read these absurd hieroglyphics. But PRATT wanted his pay for the translation, and the church exchequer being somewhat depleted, as the result of heavy drafts thereon, to defray the expense of defending sundry prophets and apostles charged with divers high crimes and misdemeanors, this modest apostle asked the Legislature to foot the bill. I need hardly add that it did not receive the signature of Gov.