

PUBLISHERS' ANNOUNCEMENT.

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THE NEW BERNE JOURNAL, a 32 column paper, is published every Thursday at \$2.00 per annum.

ADVERTISING RATES (DAILY).—One inch one day, 25 cents; one week, \$2.00; one month, \$6.00; three months, \$16.00; six months, \$30.00; twelve months, \$55.00.

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Communications containing news or a discussion of local matters are solicited. No communication must expect to be published that contains objectionable personalities; withholds the name of the author; or that will make more than one column of this paper.

THE JOURNAL.

NEW BERNE, N. C., APRIL 28, 1882.

Utah's Delegate.

The national House of Representatives has by a very decided vote denied the chosen delegate from Utah, Mr. George Q. Cannon, a seat in that body, basing its decision on his practice of polygamy. Most of the Democratic members supported his claims on the ground that he had a right to the place under the Constitution, while the other side of the House opposed him on moral considerations some going so far as to assert that they would oppose his admission even though the Constitution was plainly in his favor.

The position of a Delegate from a Territory is a peculiar one. The Constitution made no provision for such cases for there were no Territories in existence in 1787, and when the new country commenced settling up Congress provided by suitable legislation for a quasi representation in the House of Representatives.

Section 1860, 1862 of the Revised Statutes provides in effect that the Territories may elect Delegates and that said Delegates shall have a seat in the House of Representatives, with the right of debating but not of voting.

Under this law Utah Territory was organized in 1850 and one Bernhizel, a polygamist, was elected Delegate and sat in the House for sixteen years. From 1866 to 1873 Wm. H. Hooper, another polygamist, filled this position, and was succeeded in 1873 by George Q. Cannon, who has been re-elected from time to time and held his seat up to the present Congress, who refuse him admission solely on the ground of his abundance of wives, although he has had the same encumbrance for over thirty years.

The Constitution has no reference in it to polygamy, and up to 1862 it was no crime in this country except where it ran counter to State laws. In 1862 Congress declared it was a crime and since that time the Mormons have had to fight prosecutions in the United States Courts. But still there was no prohibition as to the eligibility of Delegates until the anti-polygamy bill passed by the present Congress went into operation. The case of Cannon, his advocates declare, will not come under this bill since he was elected before the passage of the act.

On the other hand it is urged by some that the House of Representatives has a right to reject him on personal grounds. An idiot or a mad man would not be entitled to membership though duly elected and possessing all the constitutional qualifications. Admission would be denied a person infected with any contagious disease. Should a member-elect, after he was chosen, be arrested and convicted of some infamous offense, punishable by imprisonment in the State prison, it would be admitted that it would be within the constitutional power of the House to refuse him admission.

In 1870 B. F. Whittemore, a member of Congress from South Carolina was charged with selling a cadetship in violation of law. He admitted the charge, was about to be expelled, but resigned in time to out the House of Representatives of any jurisdiction to expel. A new election was ordered, and Whittemore was returned a member to the Congress in which he committed the offense. The House refused to receive him by a vote of 130 to 24.

So in this Utah case, Cannon comes

before Congress and openly admits that he is living in the practice of a great crime against the laws of the United States, and justifies and seeks to shield himself under that broad mantle of religious toleration beneath which all religions of this country have ever found the amplest shelter. Should a murderer be excused who claims that he acted under divine inspiration? Then Giteau should be given high position rather than a felon's cell. Shall a thief or a thief be justified who would pretend to have religious rights and conscientious convictions in pursuit of their calling?

The voice of the civilized world is united in declaring polygamy an infamous crime, deserving of a felon's cell, and the American people have long enough endured the shame of having seated in their high council a man who offends public decency, disturbs social order, defies national authority, and outrages the moral sense of all Christendom.

We add an extract from Cannon's speech before the House. He presents his side of the question very forcibly because the practice of Christendom does not come up to its theory; because the lives of civilized society are stained by moral crimes as great as is charged against the Mormons. He says:

"Why should I stand here and be assailed, abused, and denounced as I have been for lechery, because of marrying wives? Was it necessary that wives should be taken to gratify sensuality? I have no need to take any wife to accomplish that. I have no need to take to myself the burden and responsibility of a family for that purpose. The people I represent would not need to be kept out of the Union (that being, we are told, the great reason that Utah has not sooner been admitted as one of the States) if the motives which have been attributed to them on this floor were the ones which have prompted them to contract marriages. There would be no necessity to place themselves in such a peculiar position if the gratification of passion were, as alleged, the sole object. What, then, is it?"

"Mr. Speaker, the people of Utah have profound convictions concerning many things. They have left their homes more than once for the sake of religion, and have been forced to make themselves new homes in a distant land. Marriage is an institution concerning which they have strong convictions. It may be said that this is not religion; but whether it is or not, they believe it to be religion. The Catholic has ideas as to what is religion; the Episcopalian has his ideas also upon the same subject, so with the Presbyterians, the Methodists, the Baptists, the Quakers, the Unitarians, and others; and who shall decide, until the great day when men shall be judged and rewarded or punished for the deeds done in the body, between them?"

"My constituents believe that God has given a command concerning marriage and that He never gives a command without an object, and that object in this instance is to redeem the human family from the terrible evils and which in modern society it groans. It may be asked how redeem them? We answer by making marriage honorable; by uplifting it, by elevating it above its present condition by giving every woman an opportunity to be a wife and mother. To cut off opportunity for prostitution and concubinage, and to leave no margin for lust to prey upon. It may be said that the sexes are so evenly divided that there is not sufficient disparity between their numbers to justify the adoption of such a principle.

"The people of Utah do not believe that plural marriage ought to be or can be universal. In Utah itself it is not possible, for the males outnumber the females. But give every woman the opportunity to marry, punish fornication and adultery, and what woman would occupy an illicit relation with the other sex? The people of Utah believe that at the present time marriage is falling into desuetude, and in consequence corruption is spreading over the land. And we have felt that the country was big enough to allow us in far-off Utah, not interfering with others, not forcing our views upon others, to test the effect of the patriarchal system of marriage in checking the tide of vice and preventing the spread of evils which modern society acknowledges its powerlessness to extirpate.

"I shall not allude to it from a scriptural standpoint. I may say, however, that so far as the condemnation of the world is concerned we are willing to be placed on the same plane with Abraham. And when we pray to go to Abraham's bosom we expect he will not look upon us as aliens or law-breakers; and when we pray to go to the New Jerusalem over each of whose twelve gates is written the name of each one of the twelve patriarchs, the sons of Jacob, we expect when we pass through those gates we shall not be ashamed to be known for what we are.

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CRACKERS AND CAKES in great variety.

A large Stock of NOTIONS and HOSIERY Wholesale buyers will find a large STOCK and the Lowest prices.

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MORTGAGE SALE.

By virtue of a Mortgage Deed executed by G. W. Mearns and Eugene Mearns to Wm. C. Fields, registered on the 24th day of July 1878 in Book 46 page 681, Registers office of Lincoln county, I will sell at the Court House door, in the town of Kinston N. C. on Monday, the 16th day of May 1882 the tract of land conveyed in said Mortgage being fifty acres of land in Lincoln county adjoining the lands of David S. Davis and others. Wm. C. FIELDS, Mortgagee. Terms Cash. Feb. 24, 3 mo.

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