Hassard's Gazette.

VOL. 22. CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, TUESDAY, MAY 25, 1852. NO. 1159.

Legislative Proceedings.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

CONDENSED REPORT.

WEDNESDAY March 10, 1852.

(Remainder of Debate concluded.)

MESSAGE OF HIS EXCELLENCY, THE LIEUT. GOVERNOR CONCERNING MR. MOONEY'S BILL, TO COMPEL PROPRIETORS TO RECORD THEIR TITLES.

Hon Mr. POPE, in reply to Mr. Palmer, said he accounted all that had fallen from the honorable and learned member, relative to the Message, as of no more consequence or value than an idle flourish of trumpets. The honorable and learned member, he said, admitted that His Excellency's opinion was perfectly just, that the Message, in itself, was all right, and that the Bill ought not to pass; and, yet, he was opposed to the House's acting in pursuance of the view which he himself pronounced to be correct. His aim was evidently to implicate the Government, if possible, in some impropriety of conduct, or dereliction of duty; but his attempt would prove or establish nothing but the impotence of his malice. It would have redounded much more to his credit, if he had assailed the Government in a more open and direct manner. It would certainly have been much more manly and independent to have moved a vote of censure against the Government, than doggedly to oppose the course which, according to his own shewing, was the only proper one. The honorable member then spoke for some time in favour of the Bill (for which, he said, he voted in 1832;) and shewed how such a Bill might, in perfect accordance with the principles of justice, and with due regard to the valid interests of all concerned, be passed into law here, where all Titles to Lands are not only of certain origin, but so recent, (being almost within the memory of persons now living,) as to be traced back without difficulty; although, were such a law to take effect in England, it would, owing to the impossibility of tracing Titles to original Grants, create universal perplexity, and raise up, in many instances, almost insuperable obstacles to the devising and conveying of Estates in Land. The Royal Allowance to the Bill, had not, however, he was satisfied, been withheld out of regard for any principle, but merely in compliance with the remonstrances of the Proprietors at Home. But their remonstrances and representations, it could easily be shown, had not the slightest foundation in truth or justice. The object of the Bill, it was very true, was to prevent persons who had assumed and exercised all the rights of real proprietors to estates to which they had no valid Titles, from imposing upon ignorant individuals, by means of invalid and fradulent conveyances of the whole, or any portions of such estates, for valuable considerations. This had but too frequently been done; and in several instances, individuals who had been so imposed upon, had, in order to retain possession of the improvements which they had made on the lands, honestly purchased by, but fraudulently conveyed to, them, been obliged to take leases of them, and pay rents for them, to proprietors of whom at the time they made their purchases, they had never dreamt. The devising of a means whereby to prevent the recurrence of such fradulent conveyances, was certainly no scheming for the spoliation of proprietors; for whilst that means would effectually protect all who wished to become purchasers of land, from the frauds of *pretended* Proprietors, it would only render the Titles of *lawful* Proprietors or claimants still more secure, if possible.

Mr. THORNTON opposed the motion for the discharge of the order to carry up the Bill to the Council; and he looked upon His Excellency's Message, in a light, very different from that in which it was viewed by the Government members; and put an interpretation upon it, very different from that given to it by them. Having passed the Bill, and ordered it to be taken up to the Council, Honorable members, were, he said, bound to support it; and, although it was in the desk of an honorable member of the House, they ought to act with respect to it, as if it were actually in the hands of the Council. It ought to be sent up without delay, and the Assembly ought not to take any further notice of it, until they should know how it had been dealt with by the Council; and, if rejected by the Council, it would then be the duty of the Assembly to support the Bill by an Address to Her Majesty. With respect to His Excellency's Message, the honorable member then observed, that it would have been a direct interference with the deliberations of the House, had it been sent or delivered, whilst the measure to which it had reference was still under their consideration; and he could not believe, that one member of the Government would, in such case, have held it to be otherwise than unconstitutional and a direct breach of the privileges of the Assembly. His Excellency, however, when he sent the Message, thought, that the Bill was before the Council; and he (Mr. Thornton) was very far from feeling disposed to put any other than the most favourable construction on His Excellency's act. The course which this House has hitherto pursued with respect to the measure in question, they ought to be prepared to follow up. The honorable the Treasurer has candidly admitted, that he erred with respect to it; and the honorable the Leader of the Government has excused himself for his remissness on the score of his not being in the House at the time the Bill passed. I, myself, was certainly very well aware of the irregularity of the course which was being pursued by the House; but, I knew it would be in vain for me to oppose it, supported, as it was, by the majority; and, besides, I wished to have the sense of the Legislature fully tested upon the measure. We may, I think, take it for granted, that if the Bill pass the two Houses, His Excellency will be prepared to support it by a recommendation to the Home Government; although, by the Royal Instructions he is precluded from assenting to it. Indeed, it can scarcely be supposed, that he will do otherwise, if he regard only the manner in which it has passed the popular Branch of the Legislature, in which the justice and necessity of the measure have been strongly insisted upon by the leading government members, and in which its passage has been opposed by only one or two. In mere courtesy to His Excellency it is, I think, due to him, that his Message should appear upon our Journal; for, notwithstanding its obvious impropriety, it must be quite evident to every one, that nothing could be farther from the intention of His Excellency, than a direct or deliberate violation of the privileges of the Assembly. With respect to the Bill, it has been regularly carried through this House, passed, and ordered to be carried up to the Council; and, notwithstanding this after consideration of the irregularity of its introduction, caused by His Excellency's Message, I am of opinion, that to rescind the order for carrying up the Bill to the Council would not remedy the irregularity, but rather increase it; and, besides, for the House so to retrace their steps, in consequence of His Excellency's Message, would make that Message a positive breach of privileges, how much disposed soever they might be to view it in another light; for, in its effect, it would then amount to an immediate unconstitutional interference with the proceedings and deliberations of the Assembly. Besides, I have always been of opinion, that with respect to every important measure, the Council should take their full share of responsibility. They will see by our Journals, that the Bill should now be before them, and are, therefore, prepared to take action upon it. If they concur with this House respecting it, their concurrence will give additional weight to any representations in favour of it, which the Assembly may make to the Home Government. In every point of view, it, therefore, appears to me, that the only proper course for us, just now, to pursue, with reference to the Bill, is to allow it to be taken up to the Council, and to await their decision with respect to it, before we deliberate with a view to any further proceedings in support of it.

Mr. MOONEY further explained, concerning the course which he had taken with the Bill. He said, that he had been afraid he would be ridiculed, if he proposed an Address to Her Majesty in favour of the Bill, before it had been submitted to the action of the Legislative Council; and he acknowledged, that he had taken advantage of a thin House, in the morning, to make his motion for the third reading of the Bill, that he might get it passed without opposition, if possible. The honorable member also again explained, how the Bill happened to be still in his possession; and added, that he had not been requested to keep it back by any member of the Government, or by any one else. He was very glad to find Mr. Thornton so much in favour of the measure.

Hon. Mr. COLES, in reply to Mr. Thornton, observed, that it would be very improper for the Assembly to send up a Bill to the Legislative Council, knowing that they could not legally pass it; and as to any responsibility which the honorable member (Mr. Thornton) might think would attach to them about the particular measure in question, they would, if it were sent up to them, at once get rid of that, by referring to the Royal Instructions, which prohibit their passing it, without Her Majesty's permission first obtained.

Hon. Mr. POPE. Yes, and record their names upon their Journal accordingly, as we ought to have done.

Mr. MONTGOMERY said, a motion to discharge an Order for carrying up a Bill to the Council, two days after the Order had been made, was certainly a very singular, if not an altogether unprecedented and very improper one. His Excellency believed the Bill to be before the Council; and he (Mr. Montgomery) thought the only proper way to deal with it was to allow it to go up, in pursuance of the Order, that the Council might take some action upon it. There would then, he thought, be nothing to prevent the Assembly from following up what they had already done by an Address to Her Majesty; and there would be time enough to do so.

Hon. Mr. WHELAN. Some honorable members appear to entertain a rather extravagant regard for precedents; and, in their opinion, no course can be right, unless it can be shewn to be in accordance with precedent. But, for my part, I am of opinion, that too much weight is frequently attached to the existence, or to absence as the case may be, of a precedent for a contemplated course of action; and all considerations concerning precedents, might often, I think, be very well dispensed with. If a course proposed be right, it requires no precedent to confirm it. If it be wrong, no precedent should have force to sustain it. For the House to send up the Bill in question to the Council, knowing that the Council cannot pass it, in the face of the Royal Instructions to the contrary, would be to practice sheer humbug and delusion upon the people. I was not in the House when the Bill passed; but if I had been present, I would not have been prepared to oppose it, on account of the Royal Instructions; for, I confess, I was not aware, that the introduction of the Bill had been contrary to them; but I do not think there is any thing culpable in such ignorance; for it cannot be supposed, that we are at all times bound to know what are the measures to which the Royal Allowance has been refused. It, however, now appears, that the Bill in question was disallowed by His Majesty, King William the 4th; and that, therefore, in accordance with the Royal Instructions, it ought not to have been re-introduced into the Legislature for enactment, without express leave for that purpose, first obtained from the Sovereign. Its introduction into, and passage through, the House, was therefore, positively wrong; and as what was wrong yesterday, cannot, by any possibility, be right to-day, it ought to be quite evident to the House, that having fallen into error, the best thing they can do, is honestly to confess it; and at once to stay all further proceedings in a wrong direction, with respect to the business, as it fortunately happens to be in their power to do so.

Mr. MACAULAY. If, we do not know what to do without His Excellency's recommendation, we are worse than babies. The Government members of the House have given it as their opinion, that the necessity and justice of the measure cannot be disputed; and it is an opinion in which I fully concur. Besides, according to their shewing, all that is requisite, to secure it a favourable consideration at Home, is an exertion of His Excellency's influence in support of it, which they have not hesitated to promise us, provided we will adopt the course which, they say, it is his wish we should pursue. But, indeed, if all that is necessary to ensure the complete success of so just and necessary a measure, be His Excellency's recommendation, we cannot, for a moment, suppose, that—however great and manifest the irregularity of our course may have been, and even although we should not just submit to his implied dictation—he will not be so unmerciful to us, poor blind creatures, as to withhold his recommendation. If such a Bill had been passed into law thirty years ago, it would have prevented the ruin of many who have been victimized by the frauds of illegal claimants of land; and, as its enactment, even now, is scarcely less imperatively demanded, for the prevention of similar frauds in future, every means ought to be had recourse to, which will be likely to expedite its enactment. The Bill would unquestionably be much strengthened by its receiving the support of the Council; and, with a view to their concurrence, it should certainly be sent up to them: and, if they agree to it, I cannot see what is to prevent their adopting a course, similar to that proposed here, with respect to it; for, I suppose, they will have a copy of His Excellency's Message as well as we.

Hon. Mr. POPE. The course now proposed is, I admit, rather a novel one; but there can be no impropriety in our pursuing it. So long as the Bill is within the walls of this House, it is under our controul; and if we find, whilst it is so, that we have fallen into any mistake or error, with respect to it, it is not only perfectly competent to us to endeavour to rectify that mistake or error, but it is our duty to do so. It is surely more honorable, at any time, to retract an erroneous opinion, than to persevere in error. The old adage says, "A fool never changes, but a wise man often." Let us then act, not like fools, but like wise men; and, having discovered an oversight, let us acknowledge it, and as it in our power, amend our mistake. Persuaded that the only wise course is to do so, I beg leave to move that the Order for carrying up the Bill to the Council be discharged; and that the Bill be referred back to the Committee of the whole House, with the view of adopting an Address to her Majesty the Queen, praying the Royal leave to be given to the enactment of such a Law.

Hon. Mr. COLES. That is exactly the sum and substance of my motion.

Mr. HAVILAND. After a Bill has been regularly passed by the House, and ordered to be carried up to the council, they have no constitutional power to retain, it: it has then virtually passed from their hands. To agree to the motion of the honorable the Treasurer, would be to establish a precedent which might prove very detrimental to popular rights and privileges. Suppose, for instance, that just immediately before the close of a Session, some very important measure should be carried through this House, with the general concurrence and approbation of the members; and that, the business of the Session being supposed to be over, a number of the country members, who had supported the measure, had returned to their homes; and that such of the members as had been opposed to it, finding they then constituted the majority of the House, should make a motion for withholding the Bill from the Council, the motion would be carried, and a Bill which had been passed with the full concurrence of the majority of the whole House, and which might be of great importance to the generel interests, would actually be abandoned, for the time, and, perhaps, altogether lost, to the detriment of the public interests. This is, I think, quite sufficient to shew how dangerous a precedent the House will establish, if they consent to the motion of the Hon. the Treasurer. But why is the House thus called upon to act unconstitutionally and endanger popular rights and privileges? Why, for no better a reason than this: because the members of the Government in this House have been, if not ignorant, oblivious of their duty, and to save their credit, the House must consent to stultify themselves, and betray their constituents. That the Bill in question was irregularly introduced, and has been carried through the House in contempt of the Royal Instructions, cannot be denied; but for such irregularity and contempt, no one has been to blame except the members of the Government themselves; and with them, the censure should rest. As to the Message of His Excellency, it is an undeniable violation of the privileges of the Assembly, and the assumption of a right which the Queen herself cannot exercise, with respect to any measure in progress through Parliament.

Hon. Mr. POPE. The Bill to which the Message has reference is not in progress through this House.

Mr. HAVILAND. So much the worse. That only makes the interference so much the more unjustifiable. The honorable and learned member then concluded by reading, in support of his opinions, the following extract from a Treatise upon the Law, Privileges, Proceedings, and Usage of Parliament, by Thomas Erskine May, Esq., a favorite work, he observed, with the Hon. the Treasurer.

"On the 12th November, 1640, it was moved, that some course might be taken for preventing the inconvenience of His Majesty being informed of any thing that is in agitation in this House, before it is determined. In the remonstrance of the Lords and Commons to Charles the First, 16th December, 1641, it was declared, 'That it is their ancient and undoubted right and privilege, that your Majesty ought not to take any notice of any matter in agitation or debate in either of the Houses of Parliament, but by their information or agreement; and that Your Majesty ought not to propound any condition, provision, or limitation, to any Bill or Act in debate or preparation in either House of Parliament, or to manifest or declare your consent or dissent, approbation or dislike, of the same, before it be presented to Your Majesty in due course of Parliament.'"

Thus, concluded the honorable and learned member, it clearly appears, that the only time at which tha Governor can constitutionally express his sentiments, to either or both Houses of the Legislature, concerning any measure which has been before them, but which is not finally disposed of, is when it is presented to him, by the Colonial Secretary, for his assent or dissent.

Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY. The reasoning of the honorable and learned member for Georgetown (Mr. Haviland) is not in point. The close analogy which he supposes to exist between the Queen and the British Parliament on the one hand and that of the Governor of a Colony and its Legislature on the other, is not real. The supposition that it does, is in fact, an absurdity. The honorable and learned member is very fond of laying his constitutional opinions before the House; but they do not always prove that he is infallible in his interpretations.

Mr. HAVILAND. Such opinions, although urged upon the notice of the House by me, are not crude notions of my own. They are opinions which pass current with all who are intimately acquainted with the laws and usages of the British Parliament. They are, in fact, the express and confirmed declarations of the British Parliament itself.

The Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY then concluded his observations by saying, that the only way to secure the speedy passage of the Bill into law, was to discharge the Order for carrying it up to the Council; and to refer it back to the Committee of the whole House, with the view of adopting an address to Her Majesty, praying the Royal leave for its enactment; and he believed such a course would be in accordance with his Excellency's views, and have his support.

The Hon. the SPEAKER then put the question on the motion of the Hon. the Treasurer; and the House divided:

YEAS—Honorables Messrs. J. Pope, J. Jardine, G. Coles, E. Whelan, and J. Warburton; Messrs. Beaton, Laird, Davies, Fraser, Flynn, Macneill, Mooney and Clark.

NAYS—Messrs. Palmer, Montgomery, Haviland, Thornton, Yeo, MacAulay, Wightman, and Douse.

So it was carried in the affirmative.

Resolved, That the House will to-morrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take the subject matter of the foregoing Resolution into consideration.

WEDNESDAY, March 24.

Resolved, That the House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to take into further consideration the Bill referred back to the Committee of the whole House, to require Landlords, or Claimant of Rents, to put the Titles by which they claim, upon record, in the proper Offices of record in this Island, with the view of adopting an Address to Her Majesty the Queen, praying the Royal leave to be given to the enactment of such a law.

The House accordingly resolved itself into the said Committee.

The Hon. Mr. Jardine took the Chair of the Committee; and after some time spent therein.

Mr. Speaker having resumed the Chair,

The Hon. Mr. JARDINE reported, that the Committee had agreed to a Bill to compel the registration of the Original Grants or Patents of Lots or Townships of Land in this Island; which Bill being again read at the Clerk's Table was agreed to by the House. The Hon. Mr. Jardine also reported, that the Committee had agreed to an Address to the Queen, which Address being again read at the Clerk's Table, was agreed to by the House, and is as followeth:—

ADDRESS

"To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty;

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY;

We, the Representatives of your Majesty's faithful and loyal people of Prince Edward Island, in Colonial Parliament assembled, most respectfully submit the inconvenience and insecurity arising from the want of a law to oblige the original Grantees, or Patentees, of the Crown, of Lots or Township Lands, to put their Grants, or Patents, on record, in the proper Office in this Island.

The frequency with which Lands in new countries change hands, and in particular in this part of your Majesty's dominions, together with the conflicting claims, sometimes of parties to the same land render an Act such as is referred to, indispensable.

The Assembly, in order to remedy the want complained of, have agreed to a Bill for that purpose, which is herewith transmitted.

An Act, bearing a title somewhat similar to the present, although varying in its principles, was passed in the year 1832—the second of the Reign of His late Majesty King William the Fourth—but disallowed by the Crown. Since then, the Government of this Island applied to that of Nova Scotia, for Copies of the several Original Grants of Township Lands of this Island, recorded in that Province, previous to this Colony becoming a separate Government; and incurring considerable expense and some trouble, they obtained Copies of those Grants so recorded, and which were copied into the Public Records of this Island; by the addition of which to those previously recorded, the great majority of the Original Patents from the Crown, are now recorded in this Colony. But a few Proprietors, namely, those of Townships Nos. Eight (8), Twelve (12), Twenty (20), Twenty-five (25), Forty-four (44) and Forty-six (46), still continue to withhold the recording of their Patents in the Registry Office of this Colony, which is deemed essential to the security of property, and the contentment of the People residing thereon:

The Assembly, therefore, humbly submit, that those Proprietors, above enumerated, ought to have their Original Grants from the Crown recorded. They further most humbly submit, that a request so reasonable, which does not infringe upon private rights, and is considered requisite in matters of reference, when disputes arise between parties, ought no longer to be withheld from this Island.

May it therefore please your Majesty, to cause instructions to be transmitted to the Lieutenant Governor of this Colony, that it is your Majesty's pleasure, the Bill herein referred to, be passed into a law.

Ordered, That the said Bill and Address be engrossed.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to prepare an Address to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, praying that His Excellency will be pleased to forward to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, the said Bill and Address, for the purpose of being laid at the foot of the Throne.

Ordered, That Mr. Mooney, Mr. Davies and the Hon. Mr. Jardine, do compose the said Committee.

Miscellaneous.

(From the London Times, December 12.)

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE HOSTILE TO FREEDOM.

From the assent given to Louis Napoleon's usurpation by millions of votes, we draw a most important lesson. It demonstrates beyond all argument, that universal suffrage, which secures nothing, does not even secure the maintenance of freedom. The passions of social democracy are certainly not extinct in France, for they constitute the principal elements of her present national character; but those democratic passions are not necessarily or constantly allied to the love of free institutions. In truth, where the principle of popular omnipotence is absolutely and unconditionally recognised, that power may be employed, as in the present instance, to abdicate its own functions, and to rivet its own chain. The masses of the population may be so distracted by fear, or duped by falsehoods, or led astray by enthusiasm working upon ignorance, that, losing all direction and correct judgment, they embrace the very thing which in clearer moments they most abhorred. In other words, the chief security of free government lies not in the numerical force of the multitude, but in the strong moral and independent action of the middle and upper classes. It may even occur, as is now the case in France, that whatever attachment to constitutional government lingers among the higher classes is absolutely crushed by the voice of a popular majority. Nor is this fact, though it seems paradoxical and strange to the shallow politicians who identify freedom with democratic institutions, at all inconsistent with history or with reason. It is the old spirit of the lazzaroni of Naples demanding the restoration of that absolute power which the intelligence of the country had laboured to overthrow; it is the cry of "*Viva el Rey netto*," which more than once greeted a Ferdinand from the populace of Madrid, and which armed the rural districts of Portugal in favour of Don Miguel. It is not, by the lowest classes, especially in countries were education is rare, that the great blessings of liberty are most fondly cherished, and the martyrdom of oppression most impatiently endured. On the contrary, popularity often acompanies successful force. Governments of the most despotic character may sometimes in one sense be termed popular, they rest on popular superstition in favour of absolute authority, though they crush every thing between the army that surrounds the throne and the populace which supports it. This is the present condition of the Russian empire, this to a considerable extent the condition of the Austrian empire in its provinces of Lombardy, Gallicia, and Hungary, where the resistance to the Government comes chiefly from the aristocracy and the towns. This will probably be for some time the condition of France. It is by no means difficult for a Government, jealous of every species of liberty, to conciliate the classes which are numerically the strongest. Liberty of the press is of no account to men who neither write nor read. Liberty of the person is of little moment to citizens too obscure, to have the measure of their daily toil broken in upon by the suspicions of a powerful Government. Taxation may be so adjusted as to throw its heaviest pressure on the educated, the independent, and the rich. Military conscription and forced labour are, in fact, the only burdens which fall with extreme severity on the poor rural population of military States under despotic rule. * * * * Popular measures have not only no necessary connexion with political liberty or constitutional Government, but may literally be used against it. Supposing the recently emancipated serfs of Russia or Austria to be invested, as the French peasantry have been, with universal suffrage, it is highly probable, that this power would be used by them, not only against the interests of the upper and middle classes, but in favour of a very absolute form of supreme authority. This tendency may be distinctly traced in the actual course of events in France, since the Revolution of February, 1848; for each successive exercise of the elective power, has been a stronger protest than the last, against the principles of liberal government. The Constituent Assembly was chosen under the influence of an extraordinary panic, heightened by M. Ledru Rollin's emissaries and by the electoral tricks of the Republican clubs; nevertheless, the majority returned was by no means favourable to the extreme doctrines of the revolutionary faction of that day. The election of the 10th December, 1848, was still more decisive, for the French people chose, with instinctive unanimity the name most hostile to liberal institutions, and most allied to military power. The Legislative Assembly elected in 1849, has been covered with abuse by many of those who profess to be the defenders of free government, and we do not dispute, that many of its acts were of an arbitrary character. But whatever the Legislative Assembly of France might be, this much is certain, that it was the pure product of universal suffrage; and it fell into disrepute much more from the impediments it opposed to the direct action of the Executive, than from its indifference to the rights of the people. Lastly, the Assembly is dissolved by arrant treachery and force. The men who stood foremost in military renown, in civil government, and in the eloquence of the senate or the press, are crushed by the Executive power; the whole thought and speech of the nation is intimidated or silenced; but to sanction these measures Louis Napoleon appeals once more to universal suffrage, and the vote of the masses is to complete the subjugation of all that did honour to the country. It is impossible to arrive by a closer series of facts and process of reasoning at the conclusion, that the tendency and effect of universal suffrage in France have been to establish absolute power, and to destroy all the intermediate liberties of that nation. A despotism thus founded by the army, and thus supported by the peasantry and the populace, must necessarily prove the most absolute form of government that has ever existed; for the moral force which resides in the educated and independent classes is effectually disjoined from the regular forces of the State, and controlled by the numerical force of a population to which it seems the very existence of free institutions is not only indifferent but repugnant. We affirm, then, the proposition we undertook to prove, that universal suffrage does not secure the maintenance of freedom, and may even be used against it.

A RETURNED MORMON.—The Swansea Herald (England.) contains the following letter, just received from a Welsh miner named Evan Powell, who embarked last year, with his wife and family, to join the Mormons in America. It is dated St. Louis, Dec. 7. The deluded victim says—

Myself, together with my wife and child, have been ill here for five months, and now I am somewhat better, but I have lost all my comforts, for I have buried both wife and child, in the same grave, in Illinois. I am now living at Missouri. It is very unhealthy here, and I beg you to use all your influence to persuade my friends to stay where they are, rather than suffer themselves to be blindfolded into such a system of roguery and plunder as Mormonism. It is nothing but a mere humbug—I have found it so to my heart's sorrow. It would have been better for us, not to have been born, than to have come here to be Mormons. They will take all from you at home, and starve you when you come here, if they have the chance, and take your wives from you. Their chief, Bingham Young, has twenty-four wives, and nineteen of them have infants at their breasts at present; and those lower in office than he, have a smaller number, in proportion to their office, according to their station. Some have fourteen, some seven, and others different numbers. And now they are trying their best to insult the officers of the United States, who have left their places and gone to Washington, and as Congress is now sitting, we shall hear what it will do. The Mormons are very unkind to one another. I had to dig my wife's grave myself.—She had a decent burial, but the Mormons did not put their hands to help at all. The men who gave them so much money, had promises of land and every thing else when they reached here, but they have been left to die in the workhouse. I wish to tell you also, the Sabbath is no more regarded here, than any other day.—There is gaming of every description here on the Sabbath—such as horse-racing, rolling the ten-pins, playing cards, &c., and the leaders of the Mormons indulge in these to a great extent, together with dancing, swearing, and everything else that is beyond decency.

THE FLIGHT OF TIME.—In reference to the flight of time, Dr. Spring once closed a discourse in the following graphic language:

"I shall never address this audience again.—I shall never again meet them, but at the bar of God. That interview seems indeed far distant. But it will be as soon as Time, with his eagle wings, shall have finished the little remnant of his short career.

"After death the judgment.' We die; but intervening ages pass rapidly over those who sleep in the dust. There is no plate there, on which to count the hours of time. No longer is it told by days, or years; for the planets which mark these periods are hidden from their sight. Its flight is no longer noticed by the events perceived by the senses, for the ear is deaf and the eye is closed. The busy world of life, which wakes at each morning and ceases every night, goes above them, but to them all is silent and unseen. The greetings of joy and the voice of grief, the revolution of empires and the lapse of ages, send no sound within that narrow cell. Generation after generation are brought and laid by their side; the inscription upon their monumental marble tells the centuries that have passed away; but by the sleeping dead, the long interval is unobserved. Like the dream of night, with the quickness of thought, the mind ranges time and space without a limit. There is but a moment between the hour when the eye is closed in the grave, and when it wakes to the judgment,"