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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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A SKETCH OF RECENT PROCEEDINGS.

The public mind has been considerably exercised for some time over the proceedings which have been taken to purge this city of some of its social evils. Different views have been entertained as to the policy pursued and the means adopted to effect that object. In order to arrive at correct conclusions it is necessary that the facts should be clearly understood. These have been extensively developed and brought to the surface during the prosecution of B. Y. Hampton for alleged conspiracy. They may be ascertained from the following:

In the attack upon the plural family relations of the Latter-day Saints, the announcement was made in open court by the Prosecuting Attorney, that the Edmunds law under which the assault was made, was not aimed at the common sexual vices of the age, but that it was intended specially to apply to unlawful cohabitation in the marriage relation; in the habit and repute of marriage; or, in other words, to "Mormon" cases alone. The Court sustained this view of the case, and further stated in explanation that sexual crimes were supposed to be punished by the local laws and to be under police regulations.

The character of the crusade was thus openly avowed, and it was made certain that the law, supposed to apply to all persons who, in the language of its third section, "cohabit with more than one woman," was only to be applied to "Mormon" cases. That is, it was to be brought down with all its force upon men who believed they were doing right, but not to touch in the slightest manner men who knew they were doing wrong, although the former class cohabited with more than one wife under strict, religious regulations, while the latter cohabited with as many women as they pleased without any regulations whatever.

This was looked upon by many people as a jug-handle sort of justice. It was thought that the law should be impartial in its intent and impartial in its operations. And seeing that the Federal courts are devoted to the persecution of polygamists, it was thought that the local courts should take the hint of the Federal Judges and prosecute the offenders against law and chastity. But the question was, how is proof against those criminals to be obtained? The natural answer was, by the means of detectives.

It was well known that certain men were in the habit of visiting houses of ill-fame. That among them were some of the Federal officials, some of the picked jurymen selected as suitable to indict and convict "Mormons" for polygamy, and some of the "moral reformers" who were loud-mouthed in urging the crusade for "the protection of home and the family." They were watched going into and coming out of noted haunts of infamy in this city and on its outskirts. But the positive proofs of their guilt, which it was well known would be necessary in such cases, were difficult to obtain. Former experience in which Federal courts had ruled against the municipal officers in vigorous attempts to suppress houses devoted to shameful vice, warned those who entered on this work what they might expect to encounter.

The keepers of the noted established palaces of sin knew that their guilt-earned bread was buttered best by guarding their patrons. There was no hope of assistance from them. It was only by the means that were adopted conclusive evidence could be obtained. Arrangements were entered into with women who were willing, for a monetary consideration, to furnish the appointments by which detection could be made complete. Gentlemen who had some means to spare supplied the money. Mr. Hampton engaged as principal in the work. Others aided him as witnesses. In the houses which those women engaged for their filthy business, access was had at all hours by such persons as Mr. Hampton and his aids chose to be present, in secret, when vile men resorted to those places for lewdness. The evidence was thus obtained.

The disclosures that have been made of scenes enacted in those places, in which howling anti-polygamists and pious, persecutors of the "Mormons" have taken prominent part, are tame in comparison to others that might be made. The bestiality, degradation and foul obscenity of some of the godless wretches who cloak their festering corruption under a garb of respectability, and seek to divert attention by virulent verbal attacks on the "Mormons," are too, shocking and disgusting to

detail or even hint at in a public journal. Eye-witnesses whose word cannot be impeached can be produced to prove all and much more than we have here referred to. Some of those witnesses are not afraid to testify in court of what they have seen and heard. The proofs are complete.

As soon as an inkling of the possible exposure of these things was obtained, the whole "Gentile" fraternity was in a furore. The idea that the male participant in the crime of prostitution should be punished was preposterous and alarming. Proceedings against the female criminals were all right. Not only the beasts who had been caught in their infamy were aroused, but others who knew of their own iniquity at places to which the police had no access, were in a frenzy of fear. Something had to be done to suppress this terrorizing Nemesis. Money was subscribed to defeat the prosecution of the criminals. Some of the guilty ones found business away from the city for a season.

When U. S. Deputy Marshal Oscar C. Vandercook was arrested under a city ordinance that had done occasional service against male as well as female prostitutes for ten years, a mighty effort was put forth to prevent the evidence from being presented. The smirched deputy was taken from the police court by a *habeas corpus*. The ordinance was pronounced invalid by the Federal Court. Then he was arrested under a Territorial statute. This was tested in the same court but was so strong to be treated in the same way. Then an appeal from the *habeas corpus* decision was taken direct to the Supreme Court of the United States, in order that this Federal official might defeat justice. And the boast was made that before the case could be heard, the man who was the means of his prosecution would have served out a term of imprisonment for detecting him in his crime!

It was hoped then that the prosecutions would cease. The lechers began to breathe more freely. But Assistant United States District Attorney Lewis and United States Commissioner Pearson with some others were tried in the Justice's Court and found guilty, on testimony that was not and could not be disputed. Appeals were taken to the District Court. There Prosecuting Attorney Varian publicly refused to prosecute. The convicted violators of law and decency were set free, and proceedings were instituted against Mr. Hampton for engaging with the fallen women to catch the lecherous men. The two women who had engaged in the vile business, and who had left the city after being paid for their detective work by which a long list of whoremongers was made up, were sought for as witnesses, not against their companions in wickedness, but against the man who had detected them.

The women were arrested and brought all the way from Denver. They were impressed with the idea that they were to be prosecuted and that it was Hampton's fault that they were brought into trouble. One of them, after being taken before Commissioner McKay and placed under bonds, again left the city and the bondsmen are liable for \$1,500. The other was kept in prison till Mr. Hampton's trial. He was indicted for "conspiracy." The evidence against him was the testimony of that wretched woman to the effect that she had opened a house with money that he provided. To corroborate this two grand jurymen testified that Mr. Hampton admitted before the grand jury that he had furnished her money for that purpose. The "conspiracy" charged consisted of the alleged arrangement with the woman for the hiring and opening of the house to entrap men into crime. Abundant testimony was brought to prove that Mr. Hampton made no such arrangement about the house but simply agreed to give the woman money for each person detected in crime at her house.

But a jury selected by Marshal Ireland, purposely and intentionally, according to his own testimony under oath, from a class of the community that is hostile to Mr. Hampton and his faith, none being taken from the class to which he belongs, had been empaneled to try this case. Most of those jurors admitted that they had formed an opinion upon it before the trial. The Prosecuting Attorney who would not prosecute the men proven guilty in the lower court of a gross and flagrant crime, emptied the vials of vituperation, of which he held a full stock upon the head of Mr. Hampton, and the defendant was convicted of "conspiracy" on the evidence which it is said he gave himself, when explaining the whole case frankly to the grand jury. That testimony he swears he did not give, and the witnesses only claim to relate their impressions of what he said, two other grand jurymen testifying to a different impression.

Now what has Mr. Hampton done according to all the evidence raked up on his trial? He has worked with energy for a worthy end, that is the prosecution of vile wretches who corrupt the social atmosphere, who pretend virtue and practice vice, who persecute good men and women and prostitute themselves, who assail the "Mormons" as criminals and are steeped to the eyes in crime, who cry out for marital purity and wallow in the cesspools of sexual corruption. If Mr. Hampton adopted questionable means to accomplish this object what

others, pray, were open to him for the purpose?

To accuse him of partnership in the business of running a vile house because he engaged to pay the women for detective work is simply a dastardly excuse to bring him under the lash of the law. His real offense in the eyes of his persecutors is the detection of the male lechers. Those who have aided him, either by money or as witnesses of the crimes committed, have endeavored to do a service to the public. Their motive was good. They should have been sustained by the officers of the law and by the courts. If their methods are condemned by the guilty and the friends of the guilty, that does not affect the motive and purpose of the detective work which they have accomplished. If they have failed to bring the guilty to justice whose fault is it? Not theirs. The fault lies with the Federal prosecuting officer.

If their methods can be rightfully condemned that will not make the blackness of the detected lechers white. If Mr. Hampton is technically guilty of any offense against the law—which we by no means admit—that does not prove the creatures convicted in the Justice's Court innocent. The public will look upon the whole prosecution for "conspiracy" as a conspiracy itself to set the guilty free and to make the innocent suffer. The bluster and rant of the Prosecuting Attorney against the men who have been instrumental in exposing the sexual criminals will not justify his refusal to conduct the cases appealed from the lower court. It was clearly his duty to prosecute the men who resorted to houses of ill-fame for lewdness, even if Mr. Hampton was really guilty of conspiring to entrap them.

The public should take note of this fact: No juvenile "innocent" has yet been accused of frequenting those abodes of sin which have been under surveillance. The parties caught are not guileless creatures led astray. They are known offenders. The object was not to draw the unsophisticated into sin, but to prove he guilt of double-dyed debauchees. The work was one of suppression not creation. This proves the allegations of the prosecuting officer against Mr. Hampton untrue. He has detected crime not promoted it, and if he had been sustained in his work by the Federal Court and officers, the crime of prostitution in this city would very soon have been reduced to its lowest limits.

Let the responsibility for the prevalence of common sexual crimes rest where it belongs. The Edmunds law does not aim to suppress them, the Federal officials do not appear to want them suppressed. Judge Zane has charged a grand jury twice to proceed against vile houses, those who keep them and those who visit them for lewdness. So far, so good. But who will detect the guilty? Who will furnish information? Who will attempt to proceed in that direction with the kind of encouragement(?) which has been given to it in the Third District Court.

As to the cases detected, they should be prosecuted as far as the local courts can proceed. The work has only begun. The laborers therein should go on. They should not be deterred by the obstacles placed in their way by those who ought to have aided them. Neither should they care for the ungenerous comments of pretended friends. The work was dirty, it is true. But it was necessary, and was not made dirty by the detectives but by those whom they detected. Let the work be completed so far as it can be done, and let the world see how much the officials here who make war upon polygamy are interested in the cause of morality and virtue and in "the protection of the American home."

THE DEPARTING YEAR.

The hand of Time is now uplifted ready to strike the bell which will signal the departure of another year. It is but one pulse-beat of the great heart of the universe, one tick of the eternal clock, one step in the endless procession of the ages. To us it is an important portion of a life; to Deity it counts as less than the minutest fraction of a second. But it has cut its figure in the designs of the Almighty and performed its part in the drama of human progress. And it marks one more step towards the goal of this mortal probation. It brings the world a trifle nearer to the grand consummation.

Eighteen hundred and eighty-five has been an eventful year to the people of these mountains. The hand of Death has been busy among the aged, and the youth and tender little ones have not all been spared. The soil of our dreary cemetery covers the form of many a loved one, and but for the hope and assurance of a future, bringing life and reunion, the joys of many a beating heart would be buried with the forms of the departed. Far more sorrowful than the temporal death which is but a necessary change and a brief separation, is that spiritual death which has come upon some, whose names are now erased from the records of the faithful. Far better that the clouds of the earth had covered their bodies than that the blight of sin and shame should have withered up their souls.

The birth of the now dying year was the signal for the opening of a new

campaign against the Latter-day Saints. For living in accordance with sacred covenants revealed by the Almighty, many of them have been hunted and bounded from their homes or thrust into prison in company with felons. Peaceful domiciles have been raided under color of law, spies have lurked around pleasant homes, wives and little children have been forced before inquisitions and browbeaten by brutal attorneys. Women have been incarcerated with vindictive severity because they would not betray their husbands or divulge the fathers of their offspring. Judges have poured out their spleen in flagrant insults upon defenseless victims. The law has received special interpretations to inflict penalties on peaceful citizens. As good and honorable men as ever lived have had to forsake their homes or submit to unjust imprisonment and spoliation. A fair trial before an impartial jury was not to be expected. Virtuous men and women have been the objects of vexatious persecutions, while the vilest of proven offenders against law and chastity have been set free without rebuke.

Falsehood and misrepresentation have run riot, and the pulpit, the telegraph and the press have combined to malign the Saints and prejudice the public. Wholesale robbery and confiscation of their property and violation of their natural and political rights has been advocated and attempted. Their pleas for a fair hearing and impartial investigation have been scoffed at and denied.

But these trials are only such as the Saints have been taught to expect. They are but incidents in their momentous career. They should stimulate them to good works and render them strong to endure. And the passing year has brought far more blessings than difficulties. It has been a prosperous time to the farmer, and agricultural success is the basis of general prosperity. Crops of all kinds have been abundant. There is plenty of food for man and beast. The cattle and sheep multiply upon the hills and plains. Trade has been somewhat injured by the pressure of the crusade, but commercial interests are at least as forward and promising in Utah as elsewhere. The manufactures of the Territory are increasing. The mountains continue to yield up their mineral treasure and the smelters to put forth their precious bullion.

The seasons have been pleasant, the air balmy and the skies serene. Healthy and vigorous immigrants from the upper world gladden the families of the Saints, which increase like a flock in spite of sin and Satan, lawyers and the courts. Co-religionists from abroad have flocked into these peaceful vales and the population grows with great rapidity with each succeeding year. The temples of our God are filled with His spirit, and the ordinances are performed for the living and the dead. The sacred edifices not finished are going on towards completion. The settlements are extending and the sons and daughters of the faithful are pairing and strengthening the outposts of Zion. The tabernacles and meeting houses are filled with zealous throngs and God is glorified in the congregations of Israel, while union and closer brotherhood are the consequences of persecution. Faith is increased in the Lord, and trust in His promises is magnified. The base motives of our enemies have been demonstrated before heaven and the world. The endurance and integrity of the Saints have been exemplified.

Abroad, the Gospel has been preached in many nations. Hundreds of believing souls have cast in their lot with the people of God. The missionary field has been occupied by able laborers whose circumstances have pressed into the service. Our leaders have been wonderfully preserved and their guiding minds direct the Church affairs without hindrance, although their presence is not seen. Confidence in the ultimate triumph of right inspires the bosoms of the people of God and there is neither faltering nor fear. Cheerfulness is felt in every circle and recreations are plentiful. The wants of the poor are supplied and pauperism is unknown in our midst. Patience, good will, helpfulness and sympathy are exhibited in a marked degree, and the blessing and power of God are felt in public and in private, giving joy, pleasure and peace beyond expression.

We are one year farther on the journey of life. Our experience has been enlarged, our knowledge has been increased. We are better prepared for the future. The lessons of the year have been valuable. The hand of the Lord has been many times visible in its interposition in our behalf. The year's history is an encouragement. Its trials are stepping stones to the victories of the future. Its blessings are so numerous that its troubles are almost covered out of sight. Let us profit by its lessons. Let us gather wisdom from its outgrowth. Let the follies of the past be buried with its departing form. And as the new year dawns upon the world, may light, liberty and joy come to Utah and its people, the best and purest on the earth. To them and all who desire the welfare of the race, may eighteen hundred and eighty-six prove a Happy New Year.

LIBELS ON THE CHURCH AND THE CITY.

The New York Mail and Express has had considerable to say about the so-called "conspiracy" to entrap "Gentile" officials in this city and now in-

timates that, "The concoction of the scheme may be traced to the Church organization, and that men high in its councils may be indicted for conspiracy." The *M. and E.* continually exposes its ignorance of Utah affairs because it draws its information (?) from the columns of the Salt Lake Tribune, and all who place any dependence on that source are sure to be misled.

The name of that sheet in this region is a synonym for falsehood. Its regular patrons do not rely upon it for anything that relates to the "Mormon" question, because its distortion of facts and determination to misrepresent render its statements entirely unreliable.

When the expected exposure of its friends and supporters—the nasty beasts who had been wallowing in impurity, rendered some desperate measure necessary to divert public attention, that unprincipled sheet started the story that the city authorities had entered into the business of opening and keeping houses of ill-fame, and that they had been prompted, directed and supported in this by the "Mormon" Church. It was charged upon the Church and the municipality alternately, and then in concert. Sometimes one was blamed sometimes the other; and then both were attacked simultaneously. These charges found their way into other papers through the medium of press reports, a creature attached to the Tribune being the Associated Press agent in this city. Most of those press reports are condensed libels from Tribune fabrications divested of their blackguardism.

People will believe any monstrosity or absurdity about the "Mormons." For this reason papers will print the vilest rot that may be furnished them about the "Mormon" Church. The object of ringing in the Church and City officials was to turn the odium from the debauchees, to make the public look in another direction, and to furnish an excuse for official interference for their salvation. The grand jury were specially directed to investigate this matter. Everybody that was supposed to know anything about it was subpoenaed before that inquisition. Nothing was left undone to try to implicate city and church authorities in the dirty business. It was all in vain, so far as the mainly desired object was concerned.

An indictment for "conspiracy" was made up and an alleged trial took place, and this was all that was developed: One man, not a city official, was shown on his own candid admissions as well as the testimony of others, to have engaged with two women in a scheme to detect the frequenters of vile houses. He was supplied with money by a gentleman who is one of the selectmen of the county, but who did not act in this matter in that capacity, and who supplied the money from his own private purse. Some policemen when off duty acted as detectives.

No evidence of any kind connected the city authorities with the scheme. Not a scrap of testimony traced the matter in any way to the Church. But the Prosecuting Attorney, who would not prosecute the exposed lechers, made a strong point against the man on trial for detecting them, in the fact that neither the Mayor, the City Marshal, the City Attorney nor the City Council had anything to do with the alleged "conspiracy," and that the defendant was not acting as a city officer but as a private citizen. And the vile paper which started the story that the city authorities entered into the conspiracy, and which charged them with spending municipal money for the purpose of opening houses of ill-fame, alleging that they had fraudulently pretended it was for street purposes, joined in the tirade against Mr. Hampton because he had not acted under the authority of the city officers and they knew nothing of his scheme!

How is that for truth and consistency? And how is that for journalistic impudence. The *M. and E.* relies on the truthfulness of the Tribune, so it says. We only ask that the New York daily will refer to the Salt Lake Tribune file of the past few weeks, compare the different lying stories that it has told on this matter from day to day and see its own refutation of its own calumnies.

It is not true, as charged, that bad women were imported into this city to entrap "Gentile" officials. The two women paid for detective work were here engaged in their filthy business, when Mr. Hampton hired them. The only importing in this case was done by Federal officers, who brought the women from Denver after they had left this city. Women known to be plying their trade and who had kept their houses open for the accommodation of vile men were not interfered with by the moral (?) officers. Only he two women who had cleared out were hunted up and brought back. And that was not to put down prostitution, but to use them to convict the man who had tried to put down prostitution by striking at the root of the evil—the demand, the support, the filthy men who cause the base traffic by calling for and purchasing the supply.

We ask the press, east and west, to sift the testimony in this case, and see where there is a scrap of evidence to warrant the charge they have repeated against the City and the Church. We defy them to prove anything of the kind. And we ask them, as a matter of common justice, to retract