

## INTEGRITY OF COURTS IMPERILED.

The people of this country are naturally jealous of any interference with the courts of justice from sources outside of their own immediate sphere. Declarations of the existence of that species of control are regarded with distrust and repugnance.

As a matter of course we have reference now to the sentiment of the nation at large, the local feeling in some quarters not being so scrupulous in that regard. As an instance of local laxity in that connection, a prominent anti-"Mormon" active politician said, some time ago, in a "Liberal" political gathering, "We already have control of the courts in this Territory." Such an announcement or claim made in a political gathering in any other part of the country would have raised considerable of a breeze around the ears of the person who so expressed himself in behalf of his party. We noted the fact of the utterance at the time, and made several subsequent references to it, but no disclaimer came from the speaker's political associates, and not even a gentle protest emanated from the judiciary of Utah, upon whom a dark imputation had been cast.

No such intimation from a national official quarter is to be tolerated. Popular sentiment is pronounced upon that subject. No other theory must be enunciated, at least, than that the courts which are the bulwark of the liberties and rights of the people, are beyond the pale of political manipulation. If they are to be governed under political considerations, then is the country on the edge of a precipice, over which it is liable to rush to destruction. The law, interpreted and administered without fear, favor or hope of reward, is the theory of our system. Under our institutions no one of the three departments of government can properly or safely invade the domain or prerogatives of the others. Any attempt, or semblance of it, to break over the prescribed boundary, is necessarily viewed with disfavor.

This healthy sentiment is precisely what has caused so many of the leading journals of America to so sharply criticize the basis assumed by President Harrison, as expressed through the Attorney-General, for the removal of Chief Justice Sandford. Taking up this fruitful topic, *America* speaks thus pointedly:

"President Harrison's Attorney-General has put his foot into it in giving the reason for the removal of Chief Justice Sandford, of the Supreme Court of Utah. In his letter to the Chief Justice, he said: 'The President has become satisfied that your administration of the office was not in harmony with the policy he deemed proper to be pursued with reference to Utah affairs.' As the Chief Justice is appointed to administer justice according to the law, irrespective of policy and politics, this letter naturally afforded Judge Sandford a good opportunity to step down with dignity after writing a stinging rejoinder to the Attorney-General."

Although the view embodied in the foregoing quotation tends in the proper direction, it is in some respects open to analytical criticism. We hold that, except as a matter of discretion, the introduction of the foot into a bad place was not in "giving the reason for the removal of Justice Sandford of the Supreme Court of Utah," but in the adoption of the reason. An offense of any kind is surely much worse than the inadvertent confession of it.

## ANOTHER SYMPTOM.

LATE news received direct from Palestine will doubtless be of marked interest to Latter-day Saints, who believe that the literal gathering of the Jews will, before many years, be an accomplished fact. The report is to the effect that Baron Rothschild recently bought a whole town, contiguous to the Lake of Tiberias, in the Holy Land. The purchase includes farms, fields, houses and all pertaining to the place. The town is ancient Magdala, the native place of Mary Magdalene, now known as Medjel.

In the hands of the Arabs the village is little better than an accumulation of huts, but the surrounding country is very beautiful and exceedingly verdant, and will serve admirably for colonizing purposes, that being the understood object of the purchaser. The amount paid for the town and its belongings was the sum of \$8000.

Here is another among the numerous evidences in support of fact that the prophecies concerning the Jews are about to be fulfilled. Gradually, and apparently from natural causes, the remnants of the ancient people of God gather, those only who are looking for the signs of Christ's coming being able to perceive the preparatory work at its present stage. Even now the work of the Father hath commenced among all nations to prepare the way for the

gathering in of the remnants from their long dispersion, according to the divine promise made to the ancients, who, by faith and inspiration, saw this day and were glad. But a little while and the times of the Gentiles will be fulfilled.

The information conveyed in the foregoing was embodied in a note from Elder Sjodahl, our special Palestine correspondent.

## THE FIRST VICTIM.

THE first execution by electricity that ever occurred in modern times at least, will take place in New York some time during the coming week. The precise date is not known and will not be until it is all over; the condemned himself will be informed of it only on the morning of the execution, but he will be given time for such religious exercises as he may desire before the death penalty is inflicted.

These being over he will be strapped upon a reclining chair very much like that used by barbers, excepting that it will be destitute of cushions or ornamentation and very much stronger. The similarity will be further carried out in the matter of a foot rest. His shoes will have been removed and a pair containing a powerful sheet conductor, connected by means of wires with the battery, put on; his hands and arms will be securely pinioned, a black cap also containing a conductor as its lining and connected like the shoes to the battery will be put on him, a black curtain falling over his face, and then, at a given signal, the electric switch will be turned, a current of 3000 volts will pierce the brain, and death will be instantaneous and painless. There will be a stiffening of the body, the least nervous flutter of the heart and no other perceptible demonstration of the invisible agency's work.

The victim's name is William Kemmler, and on having the procedure explained to him he said he "would rather be hanged a dozen times than go through that awful ordeal."

The necessity of executing a certain class of criminals has been recognized in all ages of the world and among all its people. It is not only sanctioned but commanded by Holy Writ, and the wisdom of such a provision is not now to be questioned. Those who would abolish capital punishment on humane or sentimental grounds