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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

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HE SHOULD MAKE IT RIGHT.

The journalistic criticisms to which the annual report of the Governor has been subjected necessarily exercise him. Indisputable facts which show conclusively that the document contains glaring misstatements necessarily bring the veracity of the source into question, unless the misrepresentation be attributable to ignorance. The latter theory would not mend matters much, as it would imply culpable carelessness in not ascertaining truths that could be easily reached.

What makes Mr. West's position less entitled to consideration than it otherwise would be is the fact that the offense committed in the annual report to the Secretary of the Interior has been several times repeated in his official documents. It is probable that because the community has with almost more than exemplary patience submitted to being officially and outrageously slandered by him he probably forgot that it is possible to reach a point when such submission would not even have the semblance of a virtue.

It appears that yesterday Mr. West, in company with a number of other prominent gentlemen, was at Neph Juab County. This of itself was, somewhat remarkable, the Governor during his official career here, having moved about but little among the people outside of this city. However, on this occasion he took a flying trip southward, and at the town named attended a public meeting, at which he was one of the speakers, and is credited with making the following, among other, remarks:

"There are charges made, I am aware, that I am animated with feelings of malice and hate toward a portion of the people of this Territory in my official acts. I say here before you and before my Maker that I have malice toward no man, woman or child in Utah. I came to you to administer the laws without malice toward any one, with fairness to all and without prejudice. I assure you I have and am doing so to the best of my ability. If I differ from some of you, I will treat you fairly. Back where I was born and raised, men differed, yet they could treat each other with fairness and without malice. I believe I can do so here. It matters not what they say of me; I can only do my duty to the whole people, and do that which I believe is for the good of the people and Territory and hasten the day when this Territory shall be admitted to the Union as one of the greatest of the States as she should be. I only mention this that I may place myself right before you on the start. This is not the place to discuss this matter more than this. I have a right to have the facts known."

It is worse than useless for Governor West to seek to dispose of the question to which he alluded by assuming an air of injured innocence. A reply of that kind is entirely hidden by the logic of facts. That he made serious, unwarrantable and inexcusable misstatements ought to be beyond dispute. Like the blood stains upon the hands of Lady Macbeth, gravely misrepresentative assertions are scattered over the annual report and will not "out." They can only be covered by retraction. So long as they stand, the perpetrator of them must remain in the light of one who has, in an official capacity, perpetrated a gross injustice upon a people, whom, as Governor, it was his duty to protect from wrong.

If such public infractions of duty are to go unchallenged and uncondemned, rectification must indeed be remote. We esteem it as a duty, based on a correct principle, to protest against a wrong, with a view to its correction, almost as much as to refrain from inflicting one; to neglect such protection conduces to the growth of injustice. Hence, when Mr. West makes a flagrant departure from the line of his official duty, he may properly expect that his actions in that respect will be analyzed and censured.

It is not sufficient that the gentleman should assert the purity of his motives, and that he is free from the sin of malice, and without prejudice. The cause of his misrepresentation of the majority of the people over whom he holds the position of Governor is not so much in question as the fact of it. It is not the exciting cause in the breast of Mr. West—whether it be prejudice, malice, or personal or political ulterior motives—that works the injury to the people who are misrepresented; it is the misrepresentation itself that works the injustice. And if he has sought to treat the "Mormon"

people fairly and without prejudice, to the best of his ability, that is, not apparent to any appreciable extent in his report; otherwise his conceptions of fair treatment are as peculiar as the objectionable document itself.

The allusion to the virtue of differing without passion or malice does not touch the question at issue a particle. The point does not hinge upon a difference of opinion. Every sensible properly organized person admits that it is foolish, and even wicked, for one man to dislike or seek to injure another because of a difference of opinion. In the present controversy fact is the element of which the people have reason to complain. The Governor's report is made up almost entirely of materials he alleges to be truths. They are, in a number of instances, utterly untrue. If there were any possibility of the writer of the document being unaware that this was the case at the time he penned the misrepresentative assertions, he cannot now be ignorant upon that point. That fact has entered the realm of demonstration. This being the status of the subject, the way in which Mr. West can place himself right with the people he has wronged is by retraction.

ENLARGING THE REPUBLIC.

AN exchange lately remarked that ten years ago few men in Canada would have had the temerity to openly advocate annexation to the United States, and that such a thing would then have aroused overwhelming denunciation; but that now-a-days the proposition is freely and favorably discussed throughout the Dominion, by the press, and in political circles. These facts were cited as going to strongly show a growing disposition on the part of Canadians to become Americans. Members of Congress resort to freaks of many kinds for the purpose of gaining notoriety, and possibly such a purpose was the motive which led a member of the House, during the last days of the session, to introduce a bill providing for the annexation of Canada to the United States. Whatever the object of the member who introduced the measure, he "broke the ice" in the way of further and serious consideration of the matter, in Congress and throughout the Union.

The transforming of Canadian provinces into States of the American Union is generally regarded as a proceeding to take place in the very remote future, if ever; but it is a fact that the retaliatory message of President Cleveland has occasioned considerable grave discussion, on both sides of the boundary line, and especially on the north side, as to whether or not annexation would be good thing for both countries. The opinion has been seriously expressed in the newspapers that if the United States would assume the debt of Canada, which is very heavy, the mother country would not object to annexation.

The matter is at least in a form to serve as a chronic topic of discussion, and it is quite likely that, as time passes, the improbability of such a consummation being effected, will become less and less; while it is hardly likely that objections to it will increase either in number or force. It may be set down that the drift of public opinion, both in Canada and this country, is in favor of a union.

At the Mexican capital there exists a marked distrust lest this country shall seize some pretext for annexing the northern tier of the Mexican states; and this distrust finds frequent expression by the officials of the Mexican government in their intercourse with Americans. The history of Texas, and the results of the war which terminated in the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, are still remembered in the City of Mexico. Another cause of anxiety at the latter place is the consciousness that the Mexican government is unable to hold in subjection the bandit element which lines the south bank of the Rio Grande, and there is no certainty that that element may not at any time commit such invasions of United States territory, or of the rights of American citizens, as will compel this government to make reprisals expensive to Mexico. The recent troubles at Rio Grande City, Texas, are a sample of what may at any time occur.

A century's expansion of the original American colonies, is proof sufficient that growth is the genius and destiny of American institutions, and presumably of the territorial dominion of the American government. The annexation of Mexican territory as the result of the war of 1848, the Louisiana purchase from France, and the purchase of Alaska from Russia, have all added to the wealth, prestige and glory of the American republic, and the prosperity of her citizens; and the same result is confidently predicted in respect to Canada, should her annexation to this country be accomplished.

DANGER SIGNALS.

We have it in mind that about a year ago or so an article appeared in this journal directing attention to certain danger signals that were making their appearance that should act as warnings to the great Republic that breakers were ahead. They were so many notices to those in the command of the ship of state to 'bent ship, lest

she rush upon the rocks on which mighty empires of the historic past have been wrecked. As an auxiliary to the prognosticator's argument leading from cause to result, the prophetic words of inspiration were cited.

When the article appeared a local newspaper of extreme proclivities and not given to any extent to coinciding with this journal, attempted to turn the sober thoughts of the News to ridicule, taking the position that our Republic was such a solid structure that it was practically unassailable. The position of the same paper today is an illustration of the old saying, that "it is never too late to mend," or to get upon a correct line of thought. Time has brought it to view matters about as expressed by the News on the occasion referred to. Its chief had evidently been lately ruminating upon the approaching election and its concomitant conditions. He appeared to be led to consider the probabilities of the future and sought to embody in words what he held to be the reflection that was troubling "millions of hearts," and those words dropped from the point of his pen:

"The thought is how much longer can the Republic survive the methods by which the contest on Tuesday is, in many places, to be fought out?"

This implies that the writer believes that it is only a matter of time when the country will collapse under the operations of the conflicting elements that are at work. Diving deeper into the theme as he proceeds, the writer gives vent to this gloomy expression:

"Just now it seems to us that the morals of our nation are on the extreme verge of their orbit, and unless they are pretty soon drawn back, the frost and the night will come."

Taking this estimate of the moral status of the nation as correct, then is the danger imminent. If the history of the past has taught anything it has taught this one lesson, that no nation can long survive when the tone of intelligence and morality is low. When this is the case the calamity is no longer distant. And even when the status of intelligence is high and that of morality is low, disaster is not much more remote. That the Constitution and laws are as near perfect as anything human can be made does not alter the position, because an immoral people will refuse to be governed by them. When the people are unscrupulous the constitution becomes a nullity, being but the letter of the government, and when disregarded is dead.

On this part of the theme the writer from whom we have already quoted thus concludes the expression of his mental forebodings:

"With us, the States make the terms through which their people vote and through which elections are conducted. Some of these must make new laws and some enforce them, or by and by chaos will first come, and finally over the debris a despotism will be liable to be upraised."

The making of new laws and their rigid enforcement will not save the Union. The system is overburdened with the weight of intricate legislation as it is. The people are the salt of the Republic, and not the laws. If they were upright and moral as a whole, they would be practically above the operation of statutory enactments, for that status would cause them to operate on equitable principles. Laws and their enforcement will not change the human heart. What is wanted is the infusion into the people, by the operation of potent moral forces, a more exalted idea of right and a constant effort to reduce the ideal to the domain of the real.

NOT ALLOWED IN NEW YORK.

It is widely held that in the great west, and especially in the Rocky Mountain region, a greater liberality in respect to social and religious matters, is favored by public opinion, than exists in the older States; and that this condition enters into the spirit of legislation, and the decisions of courts. But that a greater reverence for the constitutional safeguards of religious liberty exists in New York State than prevails in certain portions of the western part of the Republic, was strikingly proven by an incident which occurred in New York City a few days ago.

A man named McDonald, who had all the legal qualifications of a voter, attempted to register. He decided to affirm instead of swearing, and one of two inspectors ordered him to raise his right hand, when making the affirmation. This McDonald refused to do. The registration officers then asked him if he believed in God. McDonald replied that they had no right to put such a question to him, whereupon they refused to register him. McDonald applied to Judge Barrett of the Supreme Court for a writ of mandate, requiring the inspectors to register him.

On a hearing of the matter, Judge Barrett rendered a decision strictly in line with the constitution, and the genius of American institutions. He ruled that a person, in taking an affirmation, under the laws of New York, could not be required to raise the

right hand, there being no statutory provision to that effect. He emphatically declared that registration officers had no right to apply a religious test, and that "their interrogation of the relator's belief in the existence of a Deity was an impertinence to which no citizen, in the absence of any suspicion of his truthfulness should be subjected."

Protection against the application of religious tests is a fundamental safeguard of the liberty of every American citizen. Remove that safeguard from the Union, and it ceases to be a free country. Judge Barrett, of New York, realizes this, and it is a pity that more of his school of jurists are not found on the bench in the territories. Nevada is the fortunate possessor of such a court, but some of her neighboring commonwealths cannot be so congratulated.

WORKINGS OF THE EXCLUSION ACT.

WHEN time shall have modified the influences under which the Chinese exclusion act was passed, its unnecessarily harsh and abrupt nature will be generally conceded. It absolutely and totally prohibits Chinese laborers from landing or entering upon United States Territory, and was made to take effect from and after its passage and approval, notwithstanding that it was known in Washington that a number of vessels were at the time sailing across the Pacific, having several hundred Chinese on board, destined for the United States.

As vessels after vessel reached port on the Pacific Coast, consternation was created among their Chinese passengers by the information that they could not be permitted to set foot upon United States soil. The owners and officers of the vessels were also put to great inconvenience and expense in having to retain on board, feed and return to China large numbers of passengers whom they would never have undertaken to convey to this country. Had they been given a hint that a rigid exclusion law would likely be in force on their return to an American port.

President Cleveland called the attention of Congress to the hardship the law would work in this regard, and recommended that provision be made for the landing of Chinese who were actually en route to this country at the time of the approval of the bill, but his suggestion was unheeded. Apparently not a member of Congress had the courage to advocate simple justice for the Chinese, or the vessels engaged in conveying them to this country.

Under the law, a Chinaman who may have been for years a resident of the United States, and the possessor of property, or permanent interests in this country, but who was temporarily absent from United States soil at the time the bill was approved, cannot be permitted to return. Many such are now languishing in Canada, where the law provides that each sojourning Celestial must pay a tax of \$50; and as many are too poor to pay the tax, great hardship is the result.

The Pacific Coast seems to be satisfied with the law; and the people of that section have no reason to feel otherwise with it, for it is an absolute preventive of the landing of Chinamen among them. But the law might have had its unjust features modified without in the least impairing its effectiveness, and doubtless this would have been done had it not been for the fear Congressmen felt lest some suspicion that they favored Chinese immigration would be created by their political foes, if they dared speak out in favor of some modification of any feature of the bill.

ANTI-"MORMON" INCONSISTENCY.

THE political situation in Idaho is very peculiar. There has never been anything like it, we believe, in the history of this republic. A large number of peaceable, honest, hard-working American citizens, have been prevented from exercising their political rights because of their religious principles and associations. And the individuals who have pretended that their opposition and the extreme methods they have used were based upon hostility to "Mormon" polygamy, seem to be just as much averse to any abandonment of that practice as they were to its alleged establishment and prevalence.

It appears from the evidence in the case recently decided by Judge Berry, that for over two years polygamy has not been taught or advised in Idaho, and that plural marriages have never been solemnized there. The test oath, passed by Republicans who hated the "Mormons" because they would not vote for their party, and a few reformed Democrats who were equally hostile because the "Mormons" would not vote for them, disfranchises American citizens for belonging to a church a minority of whose members are or have been polygamists. It punishes people for the alleged wrong-doing of others. It does not in terms disqualify men from voting for belief, but it does so in reality and effect. It was

nominal framed to aid in the suppression of polygamy.

But the very persons who passed the law, or promoted it, or who have aided in its enforcement, are now afraid lest they have accomplished what they pretended to be laboring for. The cessation of the teaching, advocating and encouraging of the doctrine and practice of plural marriage is adverse to their wishes and devices. It takes away the pretext they had for the evil legislation which they obtained. For the present they have succeeded in getting a judicial decision which assists them a little. But they fear it will not stand, and they would far rather that the doctrine they affect to abhor should be widely preached and practiced in Idaho, than that there should be any departure from it in theory or in fact.

Some members of the Church have concluded that, as their membership is the great fault in the eyes of the law under the ruling of Judge Berry, they will withdraw from it and thus place themselves beyond the pale of lawful objection. But even this does not please the anti-"Mormon" conspirators. One would suppose they would rejoice over this defection and hail with delight a secession of a number of "Mormons" from the organization which has so much excited their ire. But it seems to have enraged them more than anything else. They loam at the mouth and threaten all kinds of vengeance. They want to have all the "Mormons" who have thus seceded from the Church organization indicted and imprisoned for their action. Why is this? If those "Mormon" haters were sincere in their pretended opposition to polygamy, they would feel gratified at the success of their measures and congratulate themselves that they had accomplished so much. But the truth must be apparent to all that their pretensions are vain, their course hypocritical. They know the "Mormons" will not vote for them or their candidates, therefore they want to prevent the "Mormons" from voting at all. There is no question of principle in anything they do.

It is the same with the leading spirits of the opposition in Utah. The "Mormons" cannot be induced to favor their schemes, and so they would reduce the Territory to complete political vassalage. They cannot rule, therefore they would rule and destroy. And all the pretended opposition to a social practice that is out of the ordinary custom of the country, is a sham and a subterfuge.

If the "Mormons" of Idaho would have sustained the Republican nominations they would have been secure in the right of suffrage to-day. Every Republican nominee for office there, from the Delegate down, at any election, would have jumped at the privilege of gaining the votes of the "Mormon" people. There has never been an election since there have been contests in the Territory, but overtures have been made by the very party which has sought to destroy the "Mormon" people.

This is a matter of politics. And all kinds of political tricks have been played by adventurers to gain the winning hand. The "Mormons" have been made the victims of those cunning conspirators. They have been oppressed and defrauded of their rights until they feel determined to deliver themselves from political bondage. A number of them have taken a serious step to accomplish this. They have done so on their own volition. It has not been by advice from the constituted authorities as some people foolishly suppose. It is the result of conversation among themselves, and a combined determination to make an effort to free themselves from the yoke that vile men have placed upon them. They must bear the responsibility of their own acts.

But it is amusing to an onlooker, to see the pretended opponents of polygamy afraid that the "Mormons" have renounced it, angry because they have ceased to teach it, and determined if possible that no "Mormon" shall leave the Church even if he wants to, but shall be prosecuted for attempting to withdraw from Church membership. This is the attitude of the anti-"Mormon" party in Idaho today. The "Mormons" should take particular notice of this. Whether in the Church or out of the Church, so long as they will not unite with the wicked in their schemes and favor their men and measures, they will be singled out for vengeance and marked for vindictive treatment.

It is, after all, a matter of faith and principle. And disguise their measures as they may, the enemies of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are seeking to break down the safeguards of religious liberty which were set up by the fathers of our country and which appear in the national Constitution. Persecution and proscription for religious belief and conviction are rampant today, and the events now occurring in Idaho indicate this in a most striking manner.

CORRECTING THEIR OWN RECORD.

A WEIGHTY significance attaches to some remarks, alleged to have been made by Mr. M. J. Forhan to a representative of a local newspaper, which are reproduced in its issue of this morning. The gentleman named, as is generally known among