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THE UNDERLYING OBJECT.

U. S. DISTRICT ATTORNEY W. H. Dickson is in San Francisco. A few days ago he emptied himself on the anti-"Mormon" crusade question, to a reporter of the *Alta California*.

Mr. Dickson is a hard man to please. In speaking of the enforcement of the Edmunds law, he took occasion to animadvert upon that statute.

This reflection from him looks like the acme of ingratitude. Why should he forget the debt that he owes to that measure, whose elasticity is simply marvelous? It has afforded him a field for the exercise of his subtle ingenuity that he could not otherwise have possessed. It enabled him to conceive and bring forth his "holding out" theory, an expression that has passed from legal and judicial to domestic circles, until the phrase has become a household one. The District Attorney, with the aid of the courts, has been enabled to convert the Edmunds law into an engine of terror—a genuine torture inflicter—and yet he is dissatisfied with its character.

It is not sufficiently wide in its scope to suit him, because it does not make the offense of polygamy "continuous." But for this defect the unfortunate victims pursued under it could be incarcerated in prison for a term of five years, coupled with the infliction of a commensurate fine. The penalty of six months' imprisonment and a fine of three hundred dollars, under the "unlawful cohabitation" provision constitutes a punishment altogether too insipid to suit the taste of this kindly disposed and mild mannered gentleman.

It appears likewise from the remarks attributed to this model persecutor that his soul is somewhat troubled because the pains and penalties of the law cannot be imposed upon women. He also shows the quality of his humanity, while speaking of the effects of the enforcement of the statute under his regime. Besides those who have been thrust into jail for conscience sake, he estimates that about 800 people of this city are, in consequence of the condition that obtains here, in enforced exile or retirement. The man who can contemplate such a condition of things, knowing the concomitant misery and distress involved by the situation—not only coolly but callously, must be a phenomenon. He is certainly not an ordinary mortal. At least it is so to be sincerely hoped.

However much we may dislike Mr. Dickson's unscrupulous methods and wanton cruelty, we have no desire to withhold from him the credit of being the possessor of considerable shrewdness. In order to discover his objects, it is necessary to peer under his conduct, which is misleading to the casual observer. Some people might believe that he is greatly exercised in relation to the existence of polygamy. He and his fellow anti-"Mormon" conspirators only use that social question as a cat paw. The "true inwardness" of the crusade was let out by him when, in reply to an interrogation of the reporter of the *Alta*, he said:

"The Mormons have control of everything except the Federal offices and the Courts. They vote solidly and are known as the People's Party."

The absorbing object of the whole anti-"Mormon" business is to revolutionize his condition by giving a small and unscrupulous minority the control now properly in the hands of the overwhelming majority. Of course this point needs no argument to sustain it with people conversant with the local situation. But we will let the concluding paragraph of the interview tell the tale:

"Mr. Dickson concluded his chat with the remark that he agreed with the gentlemen who had advanced the idea that the best medicine for the Mormons would be to deprive them of all political power whatever, and put the affairs of the Territory into the hands of a commission."

That exhibits the position of Mr. Dickson and his anti-"Mormon" confederates. This being their view, it may be fairly held that all their manœuvres point to the attainment of the pet desire. An examination of their conduct will reveal this fact clearly.

When the Edmunds law was passed it created great dissatisfaction among the rabid political hacks. The very best any of them ever said concerning it was that it was simply "a step in the right direction." It was the abolition of all form of Republicanism that was wanted. Nothing short of the extinguishment of the Territorial system and

the appointment by the government of a legislative commission, empowered to make the local laws and fill autocratically every office would satisfy the cravings of the clique. The appointments would, as an anti-"Mormon" matter of course, be thrown as bones to dogs, to the hungry horde of office-seekers who are eagerly panting for a chance to prey upon the people.

With this underlying object in view the Edmunds law remained practically a dead letter upon the statute books without any special effort being made to enforce it for over two years. Powerful efforts were put out, however, during that period to induce Congress to give the much desired legislative commission. The Governor of Utah himself journeyed through the country and to Washington as an emissary to work up the scheme. Failing then, the crusaders began the extralegal and extra-judicial raid—the reign of terror—which has existed more or less for nearly a year past.

The object is still the same. The main intent of the cruel crusade is evidently to enable the political schemers to go before Congress at the earliest possible date and represent that the law has been pushed for all it is worth, but that it has failed in the attainment of its object.

We have already said that Mr. Dickson is a man of penetration, and not likely to be deceived in the character of a people of whose composition he is in a situation to judge. He has had sufficient experience among the Latter-day Saints to enable him to form an opinion as to whether they will, under pressure, renounce their religion and break up their family organizations. He must be aware before now that they will not do so. To take any other view would be almost equal to questioning his sanity. We take it that he has not the remotest idea that they will renounce their religious principles under any circumstances. The opinion on this point of those who are developing the same political lead as Mr. Dickson may be assumed to be identical with his. It is therefore safe to infer that the real object of the anti-"Mormon" persecutive process is not to get the Saints to yield, but to enable the schemers to represent that they will not. The refusal of an oppressed people to relinquish their religious rights will undoubtedly be used as the principal basis of a future plea for more legislation in the form of a legislative commission and its concomitant innumerable petty despotisms. We shall see.

MAKING IT STILL MORE CLEAR.

THE U. S. District Attorney for Utah is acting as if he were on a mission. If this be so it must have two leading objects—to bolster himself as a great man and maliciously misrepresent the Latter-day Saints.

Yesterday we furnished an idea of the character of elaborate statements made by him to a representative of the *Alta California*; to-day we give the full text of an interview between him and a reporter of the *Post*. Although the malicious assertions made on each of these occasions are not precisely similar, they belong to one piece of cloth.

He reiterates the expression of his grief that the penalty for "unlawful cohabitation"—a man acknowledging his wives when he has more than one—does not include imprisonment for five years instead of six months. This is a stale as well as a cruel statement, having been frequently voiced by Judge Zane, who for a time habitually explained his position on the subject when a case was before him, probably for the consolation of the victims of the raid.

The definition of the situation alleged to have been given by a prominent "Mormon" has the appearance of having been manufactured for the occasion. But providing it was given by a person professing a standing in the Church, he is principally prominent because of the absence of clearness in his understanding, and the lack of faith that is possessed by every true Latter-day Saint.

The assertion about the rebellious character of the "Mormons" is worse than nonsensical—it is a positive untruth. No more loyal people live than they are. Mr. Dickson and the clique with which he is connected, who are seeking to abolish republican principles and supplant them by despotic methods are the greatest enemies to free government in Utah.

He again lets the "cat out of the bag" when he says that the "Mormons" being in the overwhelming majority, and firmly united, form "a compact political force." This is the chief sin of the Saints in the eyes of those who have political axes to grind. This is the problem they are seeking to solve—how this political compactness can be rendered unavailable and powerless, that the insignificant minority may rule with a rod of iron, with unlimited opportunities to plunder the people.

Mr. Dickson says the suppression of polygamy will not solve the "Mormon" problem. Then why all the fuming and fury regarding that doctrine? If the solution of the "Mormon" problem is the object aimed at by all the prosecutions and persecutions to which an innocent people are subjected, why is a line of action pursued whose utility is understood?

But the real position is gradually

being admitted even by the conspirators. They are gradually making their paramount object as plain as day. Before long it will be as clear as if it were written in the form of preamble and resolutions:

"Whereas, The "Mormons" are in a majority of at least five to one, and form a compact political force in Utah, by which they are enabled to exclude from local office men in whom they have no confidence, therefore, be it

"Resolved, that we bend all our energies, by spreading falsehood and misrepresentation, toward the abolition of the Territorial organization, and have it supplanted by a legislative commission, because while the people rule we will be left out in the cold. Should we succeed the political force of the 'Mormon' majority would be destroyed and we would rule with a high and unscrupulous hand."

Gradually the attempts to disguise the real design of the anti-"Mormon" crusade are being abandoned, and before long some of the excuses which have heretofore been used will no longer be heard. This morning the organ of the raiders asserts, in so many words, that nothing short of depriving the "Mormons" of all political power will commensurately meet the requirements of the situation.

The mask of anti-polygamic hypocrisy is gradually being taken from the faces of those who have heretofore sought to conceal their real characters and designs behind it.

The whole anti-"Mormon" motive, so far as its local aspects are concerned, is the inducement involved in the hope of consummating the theft of a Territory.

IS IT BECAUSE HE IS A KENTUCKIAN?

Is Governor Murray's penchant for invoking martial aid to suppress the "Mormons" attributable to his having come from Kentucky, where military force is occasionally required to keep the hostile inhabitants from completely wearing one another out, like the famous Kilkenny cats are said to have done? One of our exchanges alludes to that very enlightened State from which our Governor came and its peaceable (?) citizens as follows:

"The Governor of Kentucky has again found it necessary to send part of the militia to one of the several counties in the eastern or 'mountain section' of that State, in which the settlement of disputes by a sort of private war seems to be the chief occupation of the main body of citizens. The county (Rowan) in which troops are now quartered for the purpose of bringing about a semblance of law and order is traversed by a railroad, but is on the edge of a section noted for its illiteracy as well as for its lack of railroads and telegraphs. Indeed, in much of that section passable wagon-roads are almost unknown. It should be remembered that part of Kentucky, covering some 12,000 square miles, contains, according to the geological surveys, more coal and iron than all Pennsylvania or England, and more and better walnut and other hard timber than any similar area on the globe. These vast natural resources are almost wholly undeveloped, although within less than half a day's journey from either of the commercial centers, Louisville, Ky., and Cincinnati, Ohio. The resources of this section are undoubtedly very considerable, and it would under ordinary circumstances afford a promising field for the employment of capital, but owing to the inefficient administration of the laws by those in authority the agencies which might be used to develop the region are repelled and a rich tract of country is given over to outlaws. To insure a proper development of its resources Kentucky needs, and needs badly, a vigorous enforcement of the laws."

THE PLAGUE IN SPAIN.

SPAIN is sorely afflicted. The death rate from that awful scourge, the cholera, is attaining most alarming proportions. No less than 1,701 persons are reported to have died from it there within the past twenty-four hours, and it is by no means likely that nearly all the deaths from the disease are reported, as it is said that the populace are strongly opposed to the restrictions imposed upon the people in the infected districts by the health officers, and they would consider it to their interests to hide the effects of the malady in many instances. Evidence of the fact that the truth in regard to the spread of the plague has been suppressed is afforded in to-day's dispatches, too, in the mention of its having prevailed for some time past in the jail at Carthagena, while a knowledge of it has been withheld from the public, and that no less than 200 of the convicts were afflicted with it. A fearful panic is said to have occurred among those of the prisoners who were not stricken with the disease, and it required the aid of the soldiery to prevent them from succeeding in their desperate efforts to escape.

The jail at Granada is also said to be infected with the dread scourge. The mortality from this cause

throughout Spain has doubtless not averaged much if any less than 1,000 per day, for the last month or six weeks and at the rate it is spreading now in France as well as in Spain it is painful and sickening to contemplate the result of its ravages in the future.

LOOK TO YOUR TITLES.

We have received information, from a source which is deemed reliable, that a band of unscrupulous scoundrels has been formed for the purpose of perpetrating one of the worst forms of robbery. They have already commenced operations in their particular line—land jumping. These birds of prey are making a business of discovering instances in which the holders of improved lands are not in possession of perfect titles, with the purpose of taking steps to wrest the property from the possession of the owners. A case of this kind has already occurred in Wasatch County, the land jumped by these sharks having been long settled, and improved to the extent of many thousands of dollars, including besides building, etc., valuable crops not yet harvested.

We are informed that some of these worse than highwaymen have gone southward for the purpose of farther extending the operations of their rascally vocation.

It appears they have seized upon the present as a suitable time to rob the ignorant, careless and defenseless with impunity. They doubtless imagine that they can carry on their scheme of robbery with impunity so long as their victims are "Mormons." They probably think that they will be sustained by an anti-"Mormon" popular sentiment and the courts, under the circumstances. We believe, however, that they have reckoned without their host, and that they are laboring under a hallucination from which they will receive a rude awakening. We refuse to believe that even the most rabid anti-"Mormon" of the ordinary type would sustain or countenance any such outrageous scheme. No one with a spark of honesty will. Everywhere in this country there is a deep detestation of the genus land jumper, for whom it is made exceedingly hot everywhere. It should be rendered, irrespective of classes or opinions, equally warm for this class of thieves in this region.

The fact that *bona fide* settlers who have lived upon and improved their lands have, through want of a proper understanding or otherwise, failed, to secure a full and perfect title to their possessions, forms no excuse for the sharks. All the equity, to say the least, is on the side of the possessors and improvers, who should, at all hazards, be protected against being plundered by a combination of unmitigated rascals, whose only pretext for action is at best a shallow technicality. The thieving crew to whom we refer will receive neither sympathy nor support from any quarter that has a shadow of claim to respectability.

In the meantime, as a matter of protection, the people should examine their land titles, and where any defect exists, have it remedied without delay.

POPULAR APPRECIATION.

THE circumstances developed in the last illness, the death and proposed burial services of General U. S. Grant are suggestive of a few profitable thoughts. They ought to furnish a salutary popular lesson, but it will be unheeded.

It has fallen to the lot of few of the prominent sons of the United States to be so bitterly denounced during a public career as was the deceased soldier. To enumerate the charges that have been hurled at him would make a formidable list. One of the most conspicuous complaints was perhaps his alleged departure, during his Presidential administration, from the genius of Democracy and leaning to the centralization of ruling power. This was claimed to be a menace to the popular governmental fabric. All kinds of charges were hurled at the man who, in the hands of Providence, was perhaps the chief instrument in the preservation intact of the Union in its hour of greatest peril. The evil genius of denunciation followed him after his retirement to private life. And long-suffering charity stood aghast at the spectacle.

Misfortune overtook the "Man of destiny." His wealth disappeared like snow exposed to heat; an accident deprived him of the free use of a lower limb, while irresistible disease played havoc with his formerly robust frame.

These conditions surrounding the prostrate hero silenced the voice of calumny, except in a few persons to whose natures magnanimity is a foreign ingredient. And against a few who had the temerity to speak disrespectfully of the fallen chief a popular roar of condemnation was directed.

Everywhere mild charity threw its mantle over the weaknesses of a leading son of America, and uncovered with ready hand his more heroic and his nobler deeds.

Finally death closed the eyelids of

the veteran in that final slumber in which all mortality are doomed to be wrapped, and the last spark of tendency to blame him, was extinguished. His foibles, whatever they were, were as effectually buried as his body will be entombed on Saturday next. Those actions only of his career which exhibit the true patriot and unwavering friend are mentioned or remembered.

Thus is seen the effect of misfortune and death. Neither of these conditions changed in its general aspect the life of the honored deceased. The services he rendered to his country were just as valuable and great before as after he was thus overtaken. And he was just as much entitled to universal consideration before as subsequently. But it is ever thus, or nearly so. While men live in mortality their heroic virtues are obscured by a too ready remembrance of the weaker side of their natures. It is not until death claims them and they are beyond the reach of being benefited by a kindly manifestation of appreciation and sympathy that the good that was in them receives a ready recognition.

All this shows how fittingly the breeze of popular estimation blows, and how destitute its sentiment is of a real philosophy. That kind of charity which is so tardy as to wait until death has overtaken the object of its solicitude, is a piece with the kind of faith delineated by the Apostle John—dead because unqualified by works. The charity which is genuine is necessarily a continuation after death of the which was manifested toward its object in life. But the lesson will not be learned.

THE EDUCATORS OF OUR CHILDREN.

Now that the district and high schools throughout the country are about to resume their sessions, it may not be out of place for us to say something in regard to the class of teachers that should be employed.

Every parent who has the welfare of his children at heart will be interested in the selection of their instructors, and should see to it that the teachers under whose care they are placed at school not only possess the necessary education to qualify them for their profession, but that their character is such that they could approve of the children patterning after. This latter qualification is even more essential than the former, for it is possible for a teacher if he be studious and possess the necessary tact, to make up the deficiencies in his own education by engaged in training his scholars who are less advanced; but if his character be not above reproach, his influence sheds a blight over his pupils and taints them with his moral leprosy to an extent that no amount of scholastic training or tact as a teacher can compensate for.

A teacher does, and it is right that he should, possess a great influence over his pupils who are apt to regard him as a paragon of perfection whose example they should emulate. His private life is seldom entirely hidden from his scholars, and if it be not so, as to comport with his example and precepts in the school room, the pupils, influenced by their admiration for his talents and captivated by his polished manner, are apt to look with charity upon his peccadilloes and in time come to consider them as not inconsistent with the character of a gentleman and highly proper for them to imitate.

Evils of the gravest character have resulted in so many instances in the past from the employment of teachers whose characters were unworthy of imitation that the ideas of thought and observant people upon this point might be expressed in a paraphrase of a scriptural axiom: "as with the teacher so with the pupils."

Not only should the morals of teachers have influence in his selection, but his manner also, for this will have weight in shaping the character of the children whom he trains. Place a boisterous, rollicking, ill-mannered buffoon of a teacher among a lot of children, and you may expect to reap a crop of hoodlums. Give an immature teacher the control of the tender and pliant minds of a school and you may count for a certainty on reaping as the result, tainted morals in the children; and just the reverse is the case where the teachers are as they should be. There is no greater lack of good teachers now in this community—good in character as well as in point of education. In the latter particular Utah is not much if at all behind the average of the States and Territories, and she is certainly ahead of some. We were recently reminded of the inefficiency of teachers in some other parts on reading an account in the *Sacramento Bee* of the examination of teachers in that State. It seems among other points upon which a teacher's proficiency is there tested is that of defining the meaning of words, and though he may utterly fail in this very important particular if he happens to answer the questions propounded to him upon other subjects satisfactorily, or sufficient of them to get a certain number of credit marks, he is accepted and furnished with a first-class certificate. The following definitions, which we submit as a sample, were given by one who, strange to say, obtained a first grade certificate by reason of her general average upon all the studies: