

# How Roberts Turned The Limelight On Utah's Ex-Senator.



HON. B. H. ROBERTS,  
Who Turned the Limelight on the Political Career of Ex-Senator Thomas Kearns of Utah.

FOLLOWING is the full text of the address delivered by Hon. B. H. Roberts on the evening of Tuesday, March 14, under the auspices of the Utah State Mutual Improvement Association, before an audience of more than 2,000 persons, the report being by Arthur Winter.

A report of this speech in a local paper contained many verbal inaccuracies and crudities which in many cases were the reporter's, not mine. It is too much to expect that extemporaneous speech will be free from verbal and rhetorical errors, and I do not claim that the speech as delivered in Provo was free from such defects. In the speech as here reported by Mr. Arthur Winter, some of these crudities have been eliminated so far as they could be and still retain the structure and spirit of what was said. One item has been added, a passage relating to the alleged threats against Gentle Industries in the State of Utah.

Concerning the criticisms that have been made of this speech—one of which extended through seven columns of an evening paper, and another of which was a wordy, wordy, wordy, as it has ever been my lot to wade through—I only care to notice one, that is the alleged harshness of some of my utterances. The conclusion is reached that some of my words were unbecoming both in my calling and the place in which they were delivered. In answer I only wish to say that the propriety of one's expressions is governed very largely by the task one has before him. Even the Son of God, when He had occasion to denounce falsehood and reprove deceivers, no longer used the gentle tones which He comforted the sorrowful or encouraged those bowed down in weakness; but used language suited to the task before Him. To the scribes and Pharisees, who were hounding Him and His friends to their death, and as a preliminary to that purpose were seeking to embitter the minds of the populace, He said:

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## KEARNS' ATTACK.

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## ABOUT ANSWERING.

I regret extremely that the speech was not answered upon the floor of the senate of the United States. The gentleman upon whom duty properly rested may have had duty properly assigned reasons for remaining silent. It is not for me to say. But when I think of the serious charges that are made, and the cunning with which those charges, false though they be, are sustained, I can conceive of no combination of circumstances that would justify the now senator from Utah for being silent on that occasion. The suggestion of friends may be a good thing to listen to sometimes; but occasions can arise—and this, in my judgment, was one of them—when the call of duty should lead one to reject the counsel of well-meaning but perhaps ill-in-

of the territorial law relating to polygamy, and the "unlawful cohabitation" of this state. And why? Because the demand made by the people of the Latter-day Saints did not reach that condition. The demand was only: "provided polygamous or plural marriages are forever prohibited." There were other laws in the constitutional convention, who contended Mr. Varian's opinion, and insisted that this law of the territory would be operative in the state, and therefore there was no need of adopting his amendment; whereupon a protracted and earnest debate took place, in the course of which it was pointed out to Mr. Varian that he had taken the part that defined and prohibited "polygamy or plural marriages" and made it part of the Constitution, but he had left out the part of the law relating to unlawful cohabitation, which would be repealed by implication would be to repeal that part of the territorial law defining and punishing unlawful cohabitation. In the course of the argument made on that point in the convention the following took place:

Mr. Evans (Weber)—I would like to ask you (Mr. Varian) a question. The gentleman will agree with me that your (his) amendment would repeal the old territorial law relating to unlawful cohabitation? Mr. Varian (Answering Mr. Evans)—No; there is nothing to repeal. If you want the law repealed, you must repeal it with your own hands. I will not repeal it for you. Mr. Evans (Weber)—I would like to ask you a question. Suppose the act of the United States, which provided for the law dealing with polygamous and unlawful cohabitation is referred to?

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