

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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AN INFAMOUS INSINUATION—A HORRIBLE CRIME UNCOVERED.

THE Salt Lake Tribune of yesterday morning contained the following:

A young gentleman, well known in this city, was arrested on Sunday, charged with procuring an abortion on the person of a young woman residing in the 17th Ward. He was purposely arrested after dark in order to prevent his having an opportunity of procuring bail and was thrown in a cell at the jail with the chain gang. He asked that some of his friends might be informed of his fate, and even offered to pay the policemen for the trouble of informing some one of his friends, but they persistently refused to inform anyone of his whereabouts. He was released yesterday morning on giving the \$5,000 bail demanded by Justice Spiers. The complaint, which is sworn to by Milando Pratt, charges that the abortion was produced by drugs. The hearing in the case will be had to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Last evening one of the leading physicians of the city was arrested as being implicated in the crime. The whole matter is looked upon as a piece of spite work, and people generally believe that the charge was trumped up in order to blacken the characters of gentlemen as a sort of set-off to the blow given the church in the Clawson case.

In our Monday's issue we did little more than mention the fact that the horrible crime had been committed, being averse to cases of any kind being tried in newspapers, believing that such matters should be left to the courts. The infamous insinuations of the Tribune, the apologist of the prostitute and abortionist, and the villifier of the innocent and pure, have rendered it imperative that a position of reticence should no longer be maintained on the subject. Persistent attempts that have been made by a number of persons, some of whom should be specially interested in seeing that the law is enforced, to smother the facts, and, to use one of Judge Kane's favorite expressions, "defeat the ends of justice," makes it still more needful to tell the revolting story in general terms. It cannot be told in full detail because of the sickening character of many of the particulars. Some of the leading facts will be found in our local columns, obtained from unquestionably reliable sources.

What a picture of depravity this narrative reveals. A beautiful and trusting young girl is deceived and seduced from the path of virtue; the evidences of sexual criminality began to take shape; at the solicitation of the vile wretch who consummated the poor girl's ruin, a well-known physician is alleged to have procured an abortion, the unfortunate victim undergoing, in consequence of the operation, untold torture. The girl's reputation and hopes are blasted beyond repair, and her mother and other relatives thrown into the wildest grief and ultimately despondency.

The base insinuation of the Tribune; that this charge has been trumped up to off-set the Clawson case, is truly worthy of that sheet, and a full and scrutinizing examination is rendered necessary by this slanderous insinuation of the organ of seducers and abortionists. That infamous sheet abused and slandered Mr. Rudger Clawson, who was sent to jail on Saturday for conscientiously marrying, living with, providing for and protecting a second wife. No epithet was too virulent to hurl at him. But here is an alleged case of seduction and abortion, committed by one of its own kind, and it immediately attempts to smother up the horrible crime, pat its perpetrator on the back, and insinuate that the damnable outrage against the laws of God, nature and man is a trumped up charge, instigated and formulated by "Mormons" for an ulterior purpose. The infamy of that vicious sheet can reach no greater depth than this.

A great effort is being made to compromise this horrible affair by the friends of the principal of the two persons accused of the crime, by his marriage with his hapless victim. Let parents ask themselves the question whether, if they were in the position of the maternal guardian of this injured girl, they could consent to a union of their daughter with a moral monster, who even carried with him upon his person to the City Hall the evidences of his depravity, when he was arrested. Can any confidence be placed in such a being, or could it be expected that he would do otherwise than

cast his victim off with contempt whenever he considered it safe for him to do so? The very effort that is being made to consummate this compromise with crime, is in itself an admission of guilt.

It is necessary that society should be protected from moral vultures who prey upon it, and if such men as Irons is allowed to go unwhipped of justice it will be an encouragement to others imbued with similar brutal proclivities to pursue a like course, as they would feel assured that there would be no lack of sympathizers to aid in covering up their crimes and help them to elude the consequences of their infamy.

It will be a matter of some interest to note the course of the prosecuting attorney in this matter, in view of the heroic methods he employs in pursuing alleged polygamists with the terrors of the law. One man has just been convicted and sentenced for unlawful cohabitation with his wife, and is now in jail, the prosecutor having prevailed upon the Court not to admit him to bail pending an appeal to a higher tribunal. Here is a case in which Mr. Varian, Mr. Dickson's assistant, has taken an initiative interest in behalf of the accused, from which he has probably by this time outwardly withdrawn. In this instance the facts, so far as they appear, incorporate the criminal elements of seduction, unlawful cohabitation and the procuring of an abortion. We are aware of the efforts that are being made to cover up these alleged infamies, and it remains to be seen how much influence the endeavors will have upon those who are so actively engaged in the anti-"Mormon" crusade.

The Tribune's attitude on this case is what might have been expected. That sheet is the journalistic advocate of the drinking saloon, the brothel and the gambling den as proper mediums for corrupting "Mormon" youths and winning them over from the moral restraints of Mormonism to its own side. It said on this subject: "Freedom is the first requisite of manhood, and if it can be won without excesses, so much the better. If it can't, never mind the excesses, win the freedom."

It appears that John W. Irons is a victim of this immoral mesh that the Tribune and those whose organ it is have laid for the feet of the unwary, and now they seek to protect him from the consequences of the terrible crime alleged against him, which, in the eyes of all intelligent men is pronounced murder.

It is with profound sorrow that we learn of such horrible criminality as is alleged in this case, and it is a matter of great regret that Mr. Irons is in the position he is found in to-day, and the keenest sympathy is felt for his hapless victim, her family, and the relatives of the person named himself. But a man of his class is a menace to morality in society and those whose duty it is to administer the law should not hesitate to perform it.

MORE IN RELATION TO THE CASE OF SEDUCTION AND ABORTION.

THE uncovering of the corruption and depravity in the Irons-Fowler seduction and abortion case by the News of last evening created considerable excitement. Much as it is against our inclination to further handle the filthy subject, we are compelled again to direct attention to it by the Salt Lake Tribune, the advocate, defender and apologist of the seducer, the libertine, prostitute and abortionist.

This morning's issue of that vindictive anti-"Mormon" sheet contained the following in reference to the abominable wickedness it has exhibited such marked anxiety to smother:

"All the newspaper offices in town were visited on Monday by the friends of Mr. Irons and the managers of all the papers agreed to suppress names and the facts as much as possible, until a hearing had been had in the case. The hearing was set for yesterday morning at 10 o'clock before Justice Spiers, but by request of the prosecution it was postponed till next Tuesday, at 10 o'clock a.m."

THE DESERET NEWS on Monday last gave a few facts concerning the matter, the local editor having agreed to suppress the names. The Evening Chronicle had a two-column article set up in type for its last Monday's issue, but by request and on the assurance that none of the papers would say anything about the matter, it suppressed the article. The Herald and Tribune, by reason of their promises, also suppressed names and said as little as possible concerning the case, preferring to wait till a hearing was had before commenting on the matter. Another reason for suppressing the facts was on account of the seriousness of the charge and the gravity of the offence, the Tribune preferring to believe the accused innocent until the contrary was proved in a court of some kind. The past record of the parties charged with the crime, their general good character and their standing in the community, warranted the belief that the charge was unfounded and no harm could possibly come from keeping the facts from the public until some evidence was produced implicating the accused. If the parties were guilty no condemnatory language sufficiently strong could be found to characterize the diabolism of the deed, and if they were innocent the wisdom of the course

taken by the papers would be plain to see.

The News of last evening, notwithstanding its promise, for some reason or other gave the alleged facts in the case, setting them forth in all their filthy and disgusting details. We adhere to our original resolution, preferring to await the result of the investigation on Tuesday next.

The first paragraph of the quotation is a square admission regarding the untiring efforts on the part of the friends of the alleged criminal to cover up his misdeeds, and if this could be done so far as the newspapers are concerned, it is fair to infer that he could, by the same influence be screened from the operations of the law and be allowed to go scot free. This belief is not weakened by the fact that Messrs. Dickson and Varian, as stated in another article of the Tribune, are attorneys for McCormick & Co., the gentleman last named being one of the most active in the attempt to suppress the facts of this case. This, however, must be taken in combination with the fact that Messrs. Dickson and Varian are the U. S. Prosecuting Attorney and assistant, the latter being the lawyer who drew up the bond for Irons' release on bail. The fact of his taking this initiative step in favor of a person charged with crimes of great enormity at the request of Mr. McCormick cuts no figure in the matter. It rendered his position questionable, especially when taken in connection with his well known intimacy with the accused.

The statement of the Tribune that it preferred "to wait till a hearing was had," is characteristically incongruous as well as false. We gave plain proof of this from an article on the subject in its issue of Tuesday morning, which we reproduced in full, and from which we now quote:

The whole matter is looked upon as a piece of spite work, and people generally believe that the charge was trumped up in order to blacken the characters of gentlemen as a sort of set-off to the blow given the Church by the Clawson case.

Ordinary people of fairness and sense will not only take that as a comment upon the case, but in effect pronouncing the alleged criminals innocent and accusing the "Mormons" of one of the most unexcusable of crimes—bearing false witness by trumping up an abominable charge against innocent persons to blacken their characters, for a special object. Had there been any agreement on the part of all the journals of this city to pass by this great infamy that has been perpetrated in comparative silence, this villainous comment on the case would have been a complete breach of it and would have warranted the News in defending the innocent against so foul an aspersion by publishing the full facts.

These statements, however, that the News entered into any such arrangement is totally and unqualifiedly false, and we presume that Mr. McCormick will be ready to make an admission to that effect, as he was the gentleman who called at this office to induce this journal to refrain from the publication of the details.

To make the matter clear we will give the substance of what occurred at the interview between Mr. McCormick when he called at our office and the representative, on the occasion, of this journal, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Penrose, Chief Editor, being temporarily absent in the north.

Mr. McCormick made known his wishes in relation to the matter, and stated that all the other papers had been visited and had agreed to suppress details and names.

Mr. N.—We cannot agree to do anything of the kind. We propose to do what we conceive to be our duty as journalists in this as well as every other matter.

Mr. M.—The young man who is accused is respectably connected. My object is to have the feelings of his parents spared. I believe that Johnny Irons has had illicit intercourse with the girl Evans, but I do not think he had anything to do with procuring an abortion. He denies any connection with such a deed, and I never knew him to lie to me before in his life. The charge against Dr. Fowler is ridiculous. He says all he did in the world was to give the girl a hypodermic injection of morphine. I do not think a young man should be crushed because he commits an indiscretion. Why should your paper show a vindictive spirit when the others agree to be easy regarding this matter?

Mr. N.—Do you suppose that if Dr. Fowler were guilty that he would tell you or anybody else that he had procured an abortion? You should not talk about vindictiveness to us. Look at that villainous paper down the street (the Tribune) which constantly pursues, vilifies and slanders innocent men, women and children in the most relentless manner. Its depravity is unsurpassed on earth.

Mr. M.—I wish you to understand that I do not agree with that kind of thing.

Mr. N.—I do not think you do. But in relation to other papers and this matter of which you speak. You are a banker, a man of financial influence in the community, and there are some journals (meaning the Tribune and Chronicle) to which you doubtless have but to express your wishes, and they would be complied with. Not so with us. There is one paper particularly (meaning the Chronicle) whose silence or voice I presume you could purchase for the insignificant sum of ten dollars. There is no sum that could be named

that could purchase the News. It is not in the market.

Mr. M.—Well now, the way I look at the matter is this: Nothing can be gained by publishing the matter at present. It would only injure the feelings of the family of Irons, and suppose an investigation should show that this case is not so bad after all. Suppose it should come up for investigation, an examination be waived, and the case go to the grand jury. It happens in other instances and so it might in this, that the grand jury might ignore the case by failing to find an indictment, in the absence of sufficient evidence to warrant it. Suppose this should be the result, who would be injured?

Mr. Nicholson at this point found certain suspicions he entertained strengthened and concluded to end the interview, which he did, in this way: He took the proof (printed slip) of a short article on the abortion case and said to Mr. McCormick, "Here is what the local editor has written." He then marked out most of the names in it. This seemed to satisfy Mr. McCormick, who left the room. Returning in a moment, he put his head in at the doorway and said, "Thank you, Mr. Nicholson, that is, I thank you for Mrs. Irons, the young man's mother. He then departed, and the article that appeared in the News of Monday was that now referred to. Messrs. George J. Taylor and Orson F. Whitney were in the room a portion of the time the conversation was conducted and heard fragments of it. The substance of it is given, with the exception of an explanation as to how Mr. Varian came to make out the bond in behalf of Irons, which is not material as we have already shown.

The reasons for the erasure of the names in the first article were—

First—To end the interview, as it was nearing the hour of going to press.

Second—To publish limitedly until the most full and complete details could be had, which were obtained at the earliest subsequent opportunity, and await developments which soon appeared in the shape of an accusation by the Tribune to the effect that the "Mormons" had trumped up a charge to blacken private character and off-set an existing situation. It became necessary to hurl back this aspersion by the publication of the full statement made yesterday.

Third—We considered it an imperative duty as journalists to take more than ordinary pains to obtain the full details and connections of the foul crime, because of a suspicion that the attempt to cover up the case would be carried into the grand jury room, where Messrs. Dickson and Varian McCormick & Co.'s attorneys have a most powerful official influence as U. S. Prosecuting Attorneys. This idea was heightened by Mr. McCormick's allusions to the possibility of an indictment being ignored. We did not propose to be in a position to allow an attempt of this kind to be made without possessing ourselves of facts that would expose a plot of that description.

Besides we confess to a lack of confidence in grand juries that are packed by open venire process, for when it is desired by the packers, men who will find indictments in a certain class of cases and ignore them in others can be readily found. And what with packed juries, bitterly partizan and prejudiced prosecuting attorneys and a judge who says in one breath to a man convicted of marrying a second wife and living with her, that a person could not be punished for his belief, and in the next breath telling him that his sentence had been increased in severity because of his belief, how much assurance is there of justice being done in any instance? It is a disgraceful state of affairs judicial, dangerous to the public weal.

Not only is the Salt Lake Tribune the apologist and advocate of the seducer, libertine, prostitute and abortionist in a strictly editorial sense, but its columns are the receptacle for communications from fellows of its own fraternity. An article of that class appears this morning over the signature of "S. O. L. Potter, M. D." whoever that individual may be. His correspondence is a labored defense of Dr. Fowler, whom he does not believe to be guilty of the crime with which he is charged. The closing paragraph will suffice to exhibit him in his proper light. Here it is:

"In this matter I have no interest whatever except to defend a brother physician from what I believe to be an outrageous and indefensible attack on his character. I have little more than a speaking acquaintance with Dr. Fowler, but from what I know of the stand he has made in past years against others guilty of this crime, I believe that he would be the last man in this city to be connected with such a deed. I also firmly believe that the woman did the business herself as she was well qualified to do it, both by inclination and by education."

The person who can cast such a stigma upon the poor, helpless, injured, crushed, more sinned against than sinning girl who has been wronged beyond the possibility of repair, is himself a wretch in whom the last spark of manhood has evidently been extinguished long ago. Now will not some more moral vultures of the Tribune kind come out in defense of men who destroy the innocent and virtuous, and magnanimously shoot poisoned darts at their helpless victims?

The Tribune, as we have frequently shown, has shamelessly advocated the seduction of the young "Mormons" from the paths of rectitude and virtue, as a means of solving the "Mormon question." It has called it freedom for the youth to revel in sensual excesses, and has invited young Utah to fall into its polluted arms and taste the sweets of liberation from the control of "Mormonism," which enjoins the strictest morality.

We will again quote what it has said on this subject in an endorsement of the drinking saloon, the gambling den and house of prostitution, as mediums by which the youth of Utah could be seduced from the influence of the Priesthood:

"Freedom is the first requisite of manhood, and if it can be won without excesses so much the better. If it can't, never mind the excesses, win the freedom."

John W. Irons is one of those young men who listened to such seductive wiles and was won over to the side of the anti-"Mormon" corruptionists. When he was charged with committing an infamous and horrible crime the Tribune was ready to come to his rescue as one of its converts who had become free. He had broken the moral trammels with which "Mormonism" had held him fast in the embrace of virtue in his earlier years, and the vile sheet was ready to rejoice over him as 'one redeemed.'

Now mark the change. This morning that paper, having discovered that the evidences of his crime are out notwithstanding the efforts made to suppress them, it kicks him off contemptuously, saying: "It was all about a Mormon Bishop's son and the daughter of a blessed saint." Take into consideration what utter hatred the Tribune folks entertain and constantly express for anything or anybody "Mormon," and it will be seen at once what a savage kick they have given their former pet.

Any of the youths of Utah who may so far forget their duty to themselves, to their connections, to society and to God, as to plunge into the filthy stream in which the Tribune fellows are constantly inviting them to float, may anticipate their probable fate by the instance now so prominently before them. Not only will they be wrecked upon the rock of crime, but so soon as they are no longer of use to their tempters, they are by them despised and cast off.

THE "GENTLEMEN" OF THE "TRIBUNE."

THE fastidious gentlemen of the Salt Lake Tribune have completely deluged us with a flood of their invincible logic. They have, in their own peculiar style, hurled at us an irresistible avalanche of reasoning, and we presume it is in order for us now to go down into the depths of humiliation consequent upon our irretrievable defeat.

We had supposed that we had exhibited the perfidy of the self-styled "American Gentlemen," and their ilk and successfully shown their depravity in connection with the Irons-Fowler seduction and abortion case. Doubtless these refined gentlemen thought so for a time themselves, and the general public felt positively certain about it. But they marshalled their energies and fired a broadside which has had a telling effect—on themselves. They were at a decided disadvantage too, for, being situated on the lowest depths to which humanity is capable of reaching, they had to point their guns upward, at an angle of forty-five degrees.

Here are specimens of the ponderous logic with which we have been deluged from our proved position.

"The bastard in charge of the News—psalm-singing male prostitute—God-deformed wretch."

These are a few specimen phrases, addressed to a member of our staff, taken from an article in this morning's issue of the paper edited by "American gentlemen," who by this display of rage are making themselves food for our merriment.

Their impotent anger is so furious as to throw them into grotesque contortions. They remind the spectator of the agonized antics of a group of barefooted lunatics dancing an involuntary jig upon an iron floor brought to a white heat, the stimulating flagging consisting of the complete and unanswerable arraignment by the News, which has exhibited in their true inwardness the advocates and apologists of the libertine, the prostitute and abortionist.

When these refined gentlemen do not arouse the risibilities or disgust of decent people, they excite in them a feeling of mingled pity and contempt. They are sadly disordered and need a sedative to calm their troubled nerves. They should try a teaspoonful of soothing syrup, and they should be sure to wipe their mouths with a handkerchief, as the internal filth that fills them is oozing from their facial openings.

Here is a quotation from the mild mannered, gentlemanly editors of the Tribune in relation to our arraignment of them and their kind in connection with the Irons-Fowler seduction and abortion case:

"The thought struck him that it would be a stroke of genius on his part to involve some innocent names;