

highest degree of murder, a motive for the crime, appears to be absent; the person who committed the homicide being unacquainted with the deceased, and therefore could not be imbued with malice aforethought that would lead him deliberately to take his life; neither was there a motive of gain resulting from the act. But the jury had a wide range for their finding, grading downward all the way from the highest crime of the homicide to involuntary manslaughter, which involves a penalty of not more than imprisonment for one year in the county jail. It appears to us, after a careful consideration of the evidence, that the case was one of voluntary manslaughter, the punishment for which is imprisonment in the penitentiary for not more than five years.

Our reason for this view is that the involuntary element is eliminated by the reckless and careless handling of a firearm, directed at the person of a fellow being, coupled with threats that if he did not do as he directed he would fill him full of lead. What places this recklessness and unnecessary manipulation of a deadly weapon beyond question is the fact that the killing took place in the presence of several bystanders. This aspect would remain unchanged even if it were admitted that the actual discharge of the weapon was accidental, a matter involving a doubt, which should go in favor of the accused.

We can only express a regret, very generally felt, at the exculpatory verdict rendered in the case. This feeling is not incited by any desire to simply see punishment inflicted upon the accused, but by the fact of our belief that an important and vital law has been violated and should, for the public safety, be vindicated. Any action that tends to cheapen the value that should be placed upon human life and leads to the encouragement of acts of violence is rightfully subject to deprecation.

#### POLITICAL COMPLICATIONS.

In the remote possibility of there being no choice of President by the people next year, through no one of three or more candidates having a majority in the Electoral College, the election would thus be thrown into the House of Representatives and that for Vice-President into the Senate. In such event we would be brought face to face with another palpable absurdity, if nothing worse, in our system, by means of which the minority would be enabled to compass the defeat of the majority. This has been done several times in other ways, the latest instance of the kind being when Hayes was counted in over Tilden, who had received a majority of all the votes cast. If the House should be called upon to elect, the general supposition is that the party controlling that body would elect its candidate, or at least a man of the same political faith as itself, but such would not be the case as things stand now. As it is to make the procedure as cumbersome and complex as possible, the Constitution provides that when voting for President each State shall cast but one vote. The manifest injustice of such a plan to begin with is apparent, for it not only gives Nevada, with less than half the population necessary to entitle it to its one member of Congress, equal power with New York, which has more than enough for its thirty-four members, but gives a State whose Congressional delegation is equally divided politically no voice at all. This state of things would actually exist in the case of New Hampshire, which has two representatives, one Democrat and one Republican. This is a small State and its failure to be represented in the Presidential election would not be so serious in point of the numbers disfranchised; but the principle represented is as bad as though the Empire State had seventeen of each party and its eight millions of people were thus practically unheard in the contest.

Setting aside this plan of injustice and nullification for the time being, however, and taking up the question of the election itself, we find the Democrats have a majority on the rolls of the House of about eighteen, but they have majorities in only seventeen State delegations, while the Republicans have twenty and one is a tie as above stated. Now, suppose by some chance the United Labor, Greenback and Prohibition parties were to come to an understanding and fuse, they would have an even chance of carrying four States—Iowa, Tennessee, Kansas and West Virginia, and if they did there would be nothing accomplished by the Electoral College, as the third element would have a sufficient representation to prevent either of the great parties from having a majority over all. With such a combination drawing as it would more strongly from Republican than Democratic sources, a plurality, which ordinarily operates as a majority for the reason that it represents more voters than any other, would be secured to the Democrats, and any kind of law, logic or ethics would seem to suggest that they were entitled to it and ought to take the fruits of it. But they would be frustrated from so doing by the means previously stated, and the Republicans, who were voted down by the people, would take the places and hold them, notwithstanding the recorded will of the majority the other way. A rather

anomalous condition of things, and yet it is permitted to remain long after its evil possibilities are discovered, and the election clause of the Constitution has undergone revision and amendment (Article XII of amendments).

Of course the party chiefs and a great many who are not chiefs have had their eyes open to this contingency ever since the last elections for the House of Representatives. The Republicans quietly rejoice over the prospect, and well they may. By diverting their forces to a third party candidate in the Southern States, all of which are Democratic, they could make a possibility a certainty by carrying enough of them for such party to defeat the election by the quorums of electors and thus place the contest where they could decide it. But the Democrats are not napping; meanwhile, enough contests are now before the House to enable them to change the political complexion of the delegations from two States—Indiana and California. By unseating two Republicans in each and giving the places to the Democratic contestants—which they could do, having a clear majority—they would have nineteen States and the Republicans eighteen, with one tie. This would not be an election, as a majority of all the States is needed and the Democrats would have only half of them, in which event the person who was elected as Vice President by the Senate would be President, and he would be a Republican of course. It would in that view be necessary to fix up a contest in Virginia and arbitrarily put a Democrat into a Republican's place to enable the former element to win. They may do this and may not. It would certainly on its face be transcending the axiom that all is fair in politics but would it be any worse for the Democrats to undo the will of the people in a few Congressional districts than it would for the Republicans to set aside the choice of the whole nation? That is the question.

#### INTERESTING RELICS IN SALT LAKE.

OCCASIONALLY the NEWS has made reference to discoveries of ancient relics of a great civilized race which once inhabited the American continent. The reason we have taken an unusual interest in such matters has been that each development has not only harmonized with but been confirmatory of the authenticity of the Book of Mormon as a record of the race of which the objects discovered are relics.

Not long since we reproduced from the San Francisco Chronicle an article descriptive of a number of mummies which had been found in Arizona in a wonderful state of preservation. The embalmer had not even disemboweled these remains of ancient individuals, and some of them are wholly intact, not only including the teeth and nails, but even to the preservation of the facial expression, according to the statements of those who have seen them. They have been examined by a large number of scientists of the Pacific Coast and pronounced genuine, and there appears to be no doubt that they are probably not less than two thousand years old.

The chief reason for this reference to the subject is that those mummies are now in this city, having been brought hither from San Francisco on the way east by three gentlemen, one of whom is Mr. Charles H. Robinson, who is a scientist, has accumulated an extensive fund of information relative to the ancient races of America, and is prepared to give evidence going to demonstrate that a prehistoric people who attained a high degree of civilization inhabited all that immense scope of country extending from Salt Lake City down through Texas and Mexico. It includes also numerous traditions of the race in question as well as information in reference to discoveries that have been made exhibiting the fact of its existence. We have met Mr. Robinson and the gentlemen accompanying him, and so far as we could discover from his explanations, he appears, although probably unconscious of the fact, to be in possession of a formidable array of facts that sustain the authenticity of the Book of Mormon.

Salt Lake is the initial point of Mr. Robinson's lecturing tour east of San Francisco, and it is appropriately so, as it would be difficult for the gentleman to enter a locality where he would find a people who ought to be more deeply interested in his subject than inhabit this region. As soon as a suitable building can be secured for the purpose he will deliver his lecture in this city, and in connection with it will exhibit the lately discovered mummies, by the presence of which the audience will be brought face to face with the remains of individuals who lived, moved and had a being on this continent in the ages that are past, and doubtless they belonged to that people whose historic vicissitudes, including the shifting scenes of peace, prosperity and bloody turmoil, are simply though graphically depicted in that truthful, though popularly repudiated record, the Book of Mormon. Mr. Robinson and his companions appear to be straightforward gentlemen, and the contemplated lecture and exhibition should cause any building that may be secured to be well filled.

#### AN EXPLANATION.

We are taken to task by a correspondent of this city. He has *prima facie* cause for complaint. The point in question was a complimentary notice of a book entitled "What the World Believes," which appeared in the NEWS a few days ago. On account of the lucid explanations it contains in reference to the religions of the world, we recommended it as a valuable work to be placed in the hands of the young people who have been reared in Utah, enabling them to compare other faiths with that with which they have been associated from birth.

Our correspondent has a copy of the book bearing the title herein cited, and the cause of his disapproval of the endorsement given by the NEWS is that it contains what purports to be a statement of the origin and character of the religion of the Latter-day Saints. It has hardly the merit of even being a distorted presentation, being a wholesale tissue of incongruous rubbish. It is a fabrication, the warp of which is falsehood and the woof absurdity.

The gentleman very naturally requests us to give an explanation of the matter. It is due to him and the public, more especially to those who possess copies of the work containing the scandalous article in question. We learn that the volume in possession of the correspondent and the one to which we alluded in complimentary terms are identical with the exception of the statement in reference to the religion of the Saints. The book was first introduced into Utah some time ago, and the attention of the publishers was called to the absurd, inaccurate and unjust character of the article concerning which our correspondent complains, and they at once set about the rectification of the wrong by procuring a statement consistent with truth, and inserted it in a new edition. The book as it is now presented for sale is, so far as we know, unobjectionable, especially in its treatment of the Latter-day Saints and their religion. The article on that subject is ably and intelligently written, and is consequently clear and comprehensive.

From what we have said, our correspondent and all others possessing the original edition of the book, when they see that we were treating upon the later one, will observe that we were correct in stating that it would be a useful work in the hands of the youth. In relation to the former edition if the publishers were, where the volumes have not sustained damage, to exchange them, on the basis of a small sum to cover expense, for the later work where subscribers desire it to be done, they would be doing a handsome and proper thing.

As we do not wish to be wrongfully placed in the light of having recommended that which is far from being commendable, we have deemed it proper to be explicit in the foregoing explanation.

#### THE GOVERNMENT-CHURCH CASES.

This issue contains an article reproduced from the New York Sun that has a good deal of local interest. It sounds a note of warning, not to say alarm, concerning the measure under which the suits against the Church are being conducted and the possible abuses that may be perpetrated under it.

It notes the class of property which the statutes exempt from the abrupt and, as we stoutly believe, unconstitutional process prescribed by the law. The Sun will probably be somewhat surprised when it learns that the exemptions have not been respected in the manipulation of the proceedings, and that the theory enunciated by Senator Edmunds while the measure was pending respecting the satisfaction of parties having just claims to the property involved, can only be seen at the present stage of the subject through "a glass, darkly." The protection of such claimants by the transfer of the property to branch organizations, to whom the statute requires legal title to be transferred, is also kept in the dim distance. The people who are the owners of the property have complied with the law in that regard in the manner which it clearly defines, yet it is being seized by the court in the person of its agent.

The force of the point raised regarding the appointment of the U. S. Marshal as receiver is broken by the fact that both sides were agreeable to it. In the matter of bondsmen it is only just to say that they are of a character that gives satisfaction, as they are well known in the community to be financially solid. The check upon the receiver in that regard would appear to be ample to protect the defendants against devastation of the property, the genius of the law being to disturb it to as small a degree as practicable, pending final adjudication.

The warning of the Sun in relation to the necessity of care in the carrying out of the congressional enactment is well timed and appropriate. Otherwise it is capable of being made the engine of outrageous oppression and abominable

and un-American persecution." That is exactly the light in which it stands today, and the fact will yet burst forcibly upon the country. The concluding paragraph has a good deal of significance in it. Investigations are an excellent means of throwing abuses to the surface and bringing odium and retribution upon their authors, aiders and abettors. How true it is that certain matters should be scrutinized, not altogether that justice may be done to the victims of outrages perpetrated in the name of law, but in justice to the United States government and the common rights of citizens, without reference to their religious faith.

Because the parties defendant are acting noiselessly, it does not follow that they are not watching as well as waiting, that the right may come upmost, wrong be brought under the full glare of light, to be seen in all its hideousness, and justice be accorded to intended victims. Let the people retain the calm deportment that has thus far characterized them under the present deprival of their rights. It sometimes happens that justice comes all the sooner when it seems most distant. It has transpired that when those who have been operating against its claims have imagined because there were no special obstacles in immediate sight they could transcend certain lines with impunity, they have done so. This blindness has often been the forerunner and cause of a salutary reaction for the right.

#### MR. BRIGHT AND THE HOME RULERS.

JOHN BRIGHT, M. P., imparts to the Anglo-Celtic controversy a new and peculiar distinction, if the telegraph wires and those who manipulate them report him correctly. He calls those of the Liberal party in England and Ireland who espouse the cause of home rule for the latter "rebels," and goes on to use that designation as a prefix to his opponents' names with as much freedom as though there had been recently or is now an actual rebellion against the Crown, in which those gentlemen are engaged or have contributed aid and sympathy. This, we think, will prove one of the conspicuous instances in which calling names merely because there is an enforced and self-constructed aptness in doing so, not because they fit, is more likely to result in harm for the inventor than for anyone else.

Mr. Bright is a man of learning and experience. In some of the things of this life which go to build up reputations, he is by common consent a great man. He was a prominent figure in public affairs and had a certain amount of influence at home and abroad before many who now criticize his conduct frequently, ably and severely, were born. But that matters not. Experience and a reputation alone do not round out nor fill up a career. The fact that so much capital is in possession is one of the best of reasons why present actions and utterances should be gauged more nearly to the standard of wisdom, and this, to an impartial observer, Mr. Bright seems to have lost sight of altogether.

Excessive zeal in behalf of one's party, or even of one's country, is not always the best indication of loyalty to it, any more than the loud-mouthed ranting and general demagoguery of the stump and the hustings are indicative of sound statesmanship. The conditions may be united, but the chances are greatly the other way. Such procedure is always expected in embryo politicians and is easily overlooked or even applauded in them for obvious reasons; they lack ripeness and therefore soundness, and it is better that the native qualities be encouraged with the hope that by abrasion with mankind the baser parts will wear away and the pure metal alone remain. But no such expectation can be found for the veteran of three-score-and-ten whose reputation is in the past rather than in the future.

There are statesmen on both sides the all-absorbing question in Great Britain, men who honestly and conscientiously espouse their respective views and have no selfish or sinister purpose whatever to subvert. They have devoted much time, study and thought to the solution of a problem which must in the nature of things be solved one way or another before the present generation runs out, and in most instances they receive no compensation for the services thus rendered other than the consciousness of duty performed. As we said before, these men are not confined to any field of view on the question of self-government for British annexes. Some of them are so extremely in favor that nothing short of absolute autonomy for Ireland at least will satisfy them, while others go to the extent of desiring the Emerald Isle's complete disfranchisement, leaving it without even representation in the National Parliament. Between these two extremes the medium and proper ground must exist somewhere, and upon it, we take it, will Celtophobia and Fenian anarchy find a common grave.

It will be a matter of regret to the more judicious and far-seeing of Mr. Bright's admirers that he so far set aside the dignity of his years and the reputation of his labors as even for a

moment to permit himself to dally with the rabble by resorting to expletives which are not based upon facts nor backed by reason. He should have reflected that some of the men whom he holds up to the world as "rebels" are as aged and as able as himself and in point of actual service to the British Empire have greatly exceeded him in all respects; they are men who hold the honor of England too high to admit for a moment that such reforms as are needed at home will not be effected at home, and that their country is never so great as when she is most just. Out of such sentiments as these the political alchemist, whose personal popularity has never at any time approached that of Gladstone, coins the epithet "rebel." Yet, he would scarcely admit that many of the people in England, Scotland, Wales and the Isles, and nine-tenths of the Irish, are "rebels;" but they are, according to his lexicon; for, as the elections that have taken place since coercive measures began abundantly show, they are in favor of home rule and against the party in which Mr. Bright has certainly put forth strenuous efforts to be like his name, a consummation which just now would seem to be further off than might have been the case.

#### A COMMENDABLE CUSTOM.

In another column appears a statement, furnished by a correspondent, to the effect that the young men of Pleasant Grove, Utah County, are engaged in going into the mountains with their teams for the purpose of procuring a winter's supply of fuel for the widows of the town. The moral status of a community whose young men will unite in such a move as this, cannot possibly be low. "Pure religion and undefiled" exists in it as an actual and governing motive. The young will not take such a course as this in the absence of the precept and example of their elders.

The young men of some of the towns in the northern part of the Territory—notably in Cache Valley—have repeatedly, in the fall, turned out in a body with their teams, gone into the cañons and hauled thence to the homes of the poor a supply of firewood, sufficient to last the recipients until the deep snows in the mountains disappeared in the spring.

Usually, when the young men have finished this task, imposed upon them by their own generosity and kind-heartedness, the young ladies have signified a hearty appreciation of these qualities by preparing a feast in honor of the unselfish toilers. On such occasions a general invitation to be present is given to all classes of the community, and a scene of innocent and joyous festivity follows. Class distinctions are obliterated, and donor and recipient, the fortunate and the unfortunate, the poor and the well-to-do, meet as peers, as they in reality are, and participate in social enjoyment, which is heightened by a realization of the existence of the feeling of brotherhood and sympathy which was the main-spring of the demonstration.

It is an admirable custom. The good resulting from it cannot be measured by a pecuniary standard. While it affords grateful and much needed relief to the poor and destitute, it adds wealth to the moral riches of the community, by strengthening love and confidence, and cultivating a feeling of sympathy for their fellow beings. In the hearts of all classes of society, and sympathy is, after all, the true measure of the greatness of any man or people.

#### Clothing Lost.

Two sacks of clothing were lost from a wagon by a party journeying northward between Provo and Lehi on Saturday afternoon last. If the party who found the same will leave them at the Spanish Fork Co-op Store, or communicate with John Moore, Spanish Fork, explaining where they can be recovered, a great favor will be conferred upon the poor and worthy owner, and any reasonable charge will also be paid.

When Miss Sadie Aiken of Reeves, Ga., eloped the other night, she took with her the family watchdog. After the marriage ceremony had been performed she wrote a note to her parents acquainting them with the fact and imploring their forgiveness, tied it to the dog's collar, and sent him home.


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