

DESERET NEWS

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - SEPT. 25, 1878.

A WELL-DESERVED EULOGY.

WHEN a great name is assailed with repeated calumny, and the world joins in the hue and cry, it is pleasing to hear the voice of a thoughtful and influential man, uttering the truth and commending where the unreflecting condemn. The brightest and noblest of earth's sons and daughters have had to suffer from misrepresentation and abuse. While they lived they were slandered, often they were pursued into their very graves with undeserved ignominy, but sometimes justice was afterwards done to their memory.

We are pleased to note some remarks made by General James A. Williamson, Commissioner of the General Land Office, in the course of an interesting speech delivered at Keokuk, on the 10th inst., before the Old Settlers' Association of Iowa. They were in relation to the late President Brigham Young, and show some correct appreciation of his labors and services to mankind, from the standpoint of political economy. We clip from the *Sigourney News*, which gives the General's address in full:

"If my statement in regard to the persons who first settled in Iowa are not true, I can cite another instance of the settlement of a distant Territory by a people who were as poor as poverty in its worst form. Many of the people to whom I refer were taken from almshouses in western and northern Europe, and placed on shipboard as steerage passengers, and shipped thence to Chicago via New York. They were helped thus far on the way by charity. From Chicago thousands of these men and women walked, and pushed or pulled handcarts to the valley of the Great Salt Lake, a region naturally sterile and barren, and then overcame the rude forces and omissions of nature by artificial means supplied by an indomitable industry, and won for themselves homes and prosperity. I, of course, refer to the Mormon people under the leadership of Brigham Young. I have nothing to say about the religious opinions or social habits of these people; I am only speaking of their material success and what may be achieved by a determined and industrious people. I feel called upon to refer to the example set by them in this public manner, in the hope that it may stimulate others to win independence and plenty without a tithe of the labor, hardship and suffering that it cost these people to do the same thing. I have visited the homes of Mormon people in Utah who themselves pulled carts containing all their wealth a distance of more than fifteen hundred miles. At the end of a dozen years from their arrival they were living in affluence surrounded by much that makes life desirable; all of which was wrought by energy and toil from one of the most barren and sterile places on the continent, until its reclamation by man. One such man as Brigham Young was, in each State working to instruct the people how to avail themselves of the public lands under the laws, and to organize emigration societies, could make suffering poverty among the honest poor who are willing to work; a thing of the past, within a very few years, and cause labor to command its full value, without inflation, or the issue of more greenbacks than could be converted into gold at par."

"LIBERAL" OFFICIALS.

A FEW days ago, so we are informed, a boy was brought before Justice Bethune, at Stockton, Tooele County, charged with stealing a calf valued at \$10; he was committed to await the action of the Grand Jury, and in default of \$1,500 bail ordered to be imprisoned in the Salt Lake County jail. Subsequently \$1,000 bonds were accepted, and the boy was liberated.

Now in the first place the bonds required were vexatiously excessive, in view of the extent of the alleged crime and the youth of the

accused. In the next place the Justice had no right under the law to commit the prisoner to a jail outside the county in which the alleged offence occurred. If there is no jail in Tooele County, or if there is one and it is unfit for the purpose, the law provides that "the County Court may, by an order, designate a suitable place for the confinement of their prisoners." And finally we would like to know why this person Bethune, who stands convicted, but not sentenced, for obtaining goods under false pretences, should be allowed to profane the judgment seat by his felonious presence?

Does any person in this Territory suppose for a moment that if the convict Bethune had been a "Mormon" he would have been permitted to stay out of jail, let alone act as a magistrate to pass decisions affecting the liberty and property of uncondemned citizens? Three months ago, a jury in the Third District Court, found this person guilty—after he had narrowly escaped on another charge—yet he is still unpunished. Sentence was "suspended" and the criminal sits as Justice of the Peace, and commits unconvicted persons to jail. Is not this extremely "Liberal?"

Another "Liberal" Justice, who is the fabricator of falsehoods in Beaver County for an unprincipled paper, is sitting as magistrate in Frisco, when he was elected for the Shantie precinct. Business was not brisk enough in his own precinct, so he hies himself to another, where he has not even the right to vote, and there he has had the impudence to commit several persons for trial in the District Court. So we learn from the *Beaver Square Dealer*. And here is a specimen of his logic and law which we have clipped from the same journal:

"While the plaintiffs in this case have failed to prove conclusively that the property in dispute belongs to them, yet the defendants have also failed to prove that they came lawfully and honestly by the same. A cloud of suspicion still rests over this matter, which the defence have failed to dispel.

The presumption of the law is that in absence of positive proof, circumstantial evidence can be taken into consideration. When a party is charged with any crime or misdemeanor, it is presumable that he will take all steps and make every endeavor to prove away the charge against him. This the parties defendants have failed to do, beyond a reasonable shadow of a doubt.

This Court desires to at all times give the benefit of a doubt to the defendants. There is, however, circumstantial evidence enough in this case to sustain the attachment of the property held by order of this court, and to bind over the defendants, Frank Duncomb and Michael Free, in the sum of three hundred dollars each, to await the action of the Grand Jury for the Second Judicial Court for the Territory of Utah. But in regard to one of the defendants, M. E. Richards the court believes there has not been sufficient evidence to hold said Richards guilty of the crime as alleged in the complaint, and therefore discharge Mr. Richards from custody.

A copy of the opinion and decision rendered by

B. A. SPEAR,

Justice of the Peace.

I hereby certify that this is a true copy.

B. A. SPEAR,

J. P.

Here are parties committed because they do not prove a negative. The prosecution fails to prove them guilty, but as they do not prove their innocence they must go to jail in default of bonds each in \$300 dollars. This is an absolute reversal of the axiom that an accused person is considered in the law innocent in the absence of proof that he is guilty.

These are specimens of "Liberal" selections. These are the kind of officers the "Liberals" elect to office! Will any "Mormon" after this be so supine and careless as to neglect interest in local politics, or stay away from the polls on election days, when there is the slightest danger of such burlesques on justice and decency being imposed upon a suffering community? We hope that in every precinct in the Territory THE PEOPLE will see to it that such outrages are not repeated, as the elevation to any position of honor and trust of individuals resembling the two specimens we have presented in this article.

ARIZONA AND MEXICO.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Arizona Miner* gives an account of a trip from Santa Fe to Prescott, in which he alludes to the recent floods on the Little Colorado, and makes the following remarks in relation to one of the "Mormon" camps in that locality:

"Elder Richard's camp, on the Little Colorado, is quite an inviting spot. He is very genial and hospitable. The Mormons, there, live comfortably but not luxuriously, at present. They were in hopes of not losing any considerable quantity of their crops. The Elder said the present high water had convinced them they must find a higher location for their permanent buildings, and that he regarded the flood as a blessing, in some respects, because they would otherwise have gone on, very probably, and did many things where they were which they will not do now, and would have sustained heavy loss years hence. He does not believe in the use of tea and coffee, but is not opposed to those using them who can afford the luxury. The families in this community live separately, yet collectively, in what is called 'the fort.' Men, women and children looked healthy. Their apartments were quite tidy. A community dining hall has been commenced, but probably will not be completed now, owing to contemplated changes of location."

The *Miner* speaks very indignantly of numerous robberies committed in that Territory, also the murder of two officers of the law by Mexicans, and advocates the annexation to the United States of the North Western portion of that country of conspiracies and violence. The cry raised in Texas is echoed in Arizona, and it appears that Mexican banditti commit depredations in that Territory along the whole border line from San Diego to the Rio Grande. "Stages are stopped, the horses taken, the mails and treasure abstracted, the passengers insulted, frightened, spoiled and left a-foot upon the desert."

This is a very deplorable condition of things; and as Mexico seems to be incapable of restraining its lawless ruffians from invading the territory belonging to this government, a lesson should be taught which will be remembered, or the United States should extend its protecting and governingegis over the volcanic and unstable republic, which cannot preserve the public peace nor decently manage its own political affairs.

THE "MORMON" CHURCH AND EDUCATION.

THE old adage that "Falsehood will travel seven miles before Truth can get its boots on," is illustrated by the misrepresentations which are wilfully sent abroad and widely entertained, in spite of the facts, concerning the attitude of the "Mormon" Church and its leaders towards education.

It has been repeatedly asserted by editors and preachers that there are no schools in Utah except those established by "Christian churches." This has been modified lately, so many travelers having learned better, and the statement substituted that the "Gentiles" have started the only "free schools" ever opened in the Territory. Next the falsehood is circulated that none of the "Mormon" schools teach anything but the Book of Mormon or have any of the modern school appliances, and that there is no place except the denominational schools where the "higher branches" are taught. Finally, when it becomes well known that there is such an institution as the University of Deseret, the untruth is started that this is the only "Mormon" school in the Territory worthy of the name, that this institution was opposed and discouraged by Brigham Young, that "success in its establishment has only been won by vigorous and persistent battling with the priesthood," and that it has been turned out of a suitable building into an old adobe place where it was expected to expire.

It is much to the discredit of

some of the ministers of various denominations, now resident in this Territory, that they repeat these falsehoods, started by an unprincipled press, and assist in their dissemination throughout the land. They not only know better, but may be reasonably expected, in consequence of their calling to do better.

The facts are that the leaders of the "Mormon" Church have always been the promoters of secular as well as religious education. They have encouraged the establishment and conducting of day schools as well as Sunday Schools, in every settlement in the Territory, however small and insignificant. A Legislative Assembly principally composed of influential "Mormons" has assisted the cause of education from year to year, ever since it had power to do so, by enacting laws for its partial support by taxation, increasing the amount as the improved condition of the people warranted. The consequence is that no settlement of Utah is without its schoolhouse—invariably the first public building erected therein—in which, at least, the rudiments of an English education are imparted, while in many places, notably in Salt Lake City, Ogden, Provo, Logan, etc., the higher branches are taught, and young men and women trained for the profession of teaching.

Free schools, supported entirely by taxation, have been provided for by a local option law, for many years, and have been established in different parts of the Territory, some of them still continuing, and others having abandoned the method after trying it with unfavorable results. The general plan at present is the building and furnishing of schoolhouses, and the partial payment of teachers, by taxation, the balance of payment being from those sending children to school. This is under a system of District Schools provided for by Territorial statute. Complaint has been unfailingly made, for outside effect, that no portion of the school tax is given to the denominational schools. We believe that if such a misappropriation of public funds were made, those who now urge the objection would be the first to cry out. The district schools are open to all, without regard to sex, race or creed. No "Mormon" private school receives any benefit from the public school money, and it would be unjust and impolitic, as well as unlawful, to expend any of it among the private "Christian" schools.

Most of the District Schools are provided with comfortable seats and desks, with maps, charts, blackboards and other school implements, and not a few with the best modern improvements and school furniture and appurtenances. Generally speaking, the teachers are competent for their task, and improvement in teachers and scholars is gratifyingly apparent every year.

The Deseret University, instead of being opposed by the late President Brigham Young and having to "battle against the priesthood," is an actual creation of that great man's, and owes its life and continuance to the leading men of our Church. It was established before Utah was organized into a Territory, and an Act incorporating the University of the State of Deseret, was passed by the provisional government, Feb. 23, 1850. At the first session of the Territorial Legislature, that Act was adopted and legalized. The Board of Regents held their first meeting in the following March, and in October of that year the Institution was opened for students.

Thus, the University was organized by "Mormons," supported by "Mormons," attended by "Mormons;" its Chancellor and Regents, its Principal and Professors were "Mormons," and this was done before any "Gentile" influence had penetrated into the Territory. It was not till 1869, however, that the University could, possibly, assume anything like the position designed for it. At that time "it was more fully organized as an institution for scientific and classic instruction." It has been supported by liberal legislative appropriations, annually, and provision is made for the free attendance of forty normal scholars each year, their sole obligation being that they will act as teachers for one year in the counties from which they come.

The University has had to "battle" so much "against the priesthood," that for many years it was

allowed to occupy the Council House of the Church, and was recently removed, only to enter a more suitable building, while the Church authorities are contemplating the best means for its permanent establishment, in a building and on grounds of its own.

It is open to both sexes, has four academic terms of ten weeks each; and instruction is divided into three departments—the Preparatory, Normal, and Academic. It has a library with over three thousand volumes, and a cabinet, yet in embryo, but containing several hundred specimens. The preliminary course consists of Reading and Elocution, Practical Arithmetic, English Grammar, Modern Geography, Orthography and Punctuation. The Normal course comprises, with the foregoing, Zoology, Physiology, Composition and Rhetoric, United States History, Theory and Practice of Teaching, etc. The academic course embodies, mathematics—including Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry and Surveying; Ancient, Medieval and Modern History; Natural History, Astronomy, Geology, Mineralogy; Zoology, Physiology, Botany; Civil Government, Political Economy; Inorganic and Organic Chemistry, Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis and Practical Assaying; English Literature, Latin and Greek. Mathematical, Philosophical and Chemical apparatus and other means of illustration are provided. Students are admitted for special courses, and an examination is made at the close of each semester. Dr. John R. Park, M. D., is the President of the institution; Prof. Joseph B. Torontois is instructor in Ancient Languages and Natural Science, and Prof. Joseph T. Kingsbury is instructor in Chemistry, all capable and accomplished gentlemen.

President Brigham Young and the present leading authorities of the Church never opposed, but have always encouraged education. Their hostility, whenever exhibited in this direction, was against that false instruction which leads to infidelity. Anything that really tends to enlighten the human mind and prepare the youth of either sex for a useful and virtuous life, they have fostered and promoted by word and deed. Our late President, as a proof of his "dislike to education," originated the University of Deseret; founded, endowed and established the Provo Academy, a most excellent institution; deeded a large and very valuable tract of land in Northern Utah to trustees for the establishment of a college, and a fine piece of property in this city for a High School. He advocated practical education in preference to mere theory, and desired to see boys and girls trained for all the various positions in life required to make up an industrious community, rather than for a generation of fine gentlemen and fashionable ladies, unfit for anything but offices and professions and the frivolities of society.

There are many egregious untruths circulated industriously concerning the "Mormons" and their leaders, but not one is blacker, or continues to stand with less foundation or excuse, than the press and pulpit falsehood that they are opposed to education.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CEDAR CITY, Sep. 16, 1878.

Editors Deseret News:

BRETHREN.—Please permit me, through the medium of the DESERET NEWS, to ask a few questions—the answers thereto may probably benefit others as well as your correspondent.

1st.—Prior to the last amendments to the city charter, the officers of the city appointed by the city council, such as recorders, etc., etc., the last amendments state that the recorder shall be elected. At the last election, a city recorder was elected, but being a non-taxpayer, directly, the mayor did not administer the oath to him, consequently the recorder of the old council is acting. The question is, can the appointed recorder hold office in the new council, or must there be another election, or can the council appoint one, either the same one or another person?

2d.—Is a person a taxpayer who pays taxes indirectly through the cooperative institution, or has his property assessed in his mother's name?

3rd.—Is a person eligible to hold office in a city council who resides