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A MOMENTOUS QUESTION.

THE action of the City Council, supplemented by the resolutions adopted at the Stock Exchange and Chamber of Commerce meetings, has been blocked by a snag in the way, which is said to have arisen in the shape of the cunning and two-faced person who occupies the position of Governor of Utah. It will be seen whether the obstructive tactics of one individual are to destroy the good intended by the leading commercial men and city officials.

By this one individual we do not mean the person of small calibre who figures in the front of this delay, but the wire-puller behind who moves the strings that make the puppet dance. It comes to this: Will the gentlemen who determined to do something practical and sensible in order to counteract the influence of published slanders against the people of Utah, which hinder business and are likely to retard material progress, be headed off by a single schemer, who manages both a libellous paper and the official person that assumes the role of dictator to the committees and those whom they represent in this affair?

It is the Salt Lake *Tribune* which is really responsible for the lie told in the *Illustrated American*, for they are principally copied from its rabid fabrications. It is that paper that now stands alone in the way of this movement in the interest of Utah's good name. It virtually acknowledges the fact this morning as "an honest confession." The Governor and the *Tribune* mean about the same thing. It is a common remark that the same hand pulls the strings that move them both. Do the solid men who have acted in this matter intend to let that hand govern them, make them back water and force them to spoil their own work?

That paper this morning labors to make it appear that the *DESERET NEWS* tried a year ago to bring about a collision. To any sensible reader the *Tribune* simply disproves its own assertion. That is its usual style of logic. Suppose the *DESERET NEWS* did anything of the kind, either a year ago or

ten or any number of years ago, is that any argument against a movement to show that statements to the effect that the "Mormons" are ready to fight the Government today are gross and ridiculous falsehoods? If this or any other paper did wrong a year ago, is that a reason why the right thing which the commercial men and officials of this city propose to do should be stopped, or hindered, or butchered by one pig-headed obstructionist?

But the statement that the *DESERET NEWS* has ever tried to provoke a conflict is a palpable falsehood. The evidence adduced by the *Tribune* is proof to the contrary. The facts are well known to the residents of this city of a year ago. To new comers they may not be so clear. Parades were then the order of the day or night. Each party indulged in them to an extravagant and perhaps ridiculous extent. Some unpleasant things occurred, and an arrangement was supposed to have been effected whereby a collision between the two parties would be avoided, and that the "Liberals" would parade on given nights and the People's Party on other nights. The "order" quoted by the *Tribune* for "Liberal" clubs to parade where they pleased, as long as they pleased, and as they pleased, each club marching "independent of all others," was viewed as in violation of that agreement. The order was deprecated by conservative "Liberals" as well as People's Party men.

More than that. It was a fact that the "Scott Zouaves" "were armed and drilled." The *Tribune* says now it was with "toy guns." This is an absolute falsehood, for these same Zouaves fired off their rifles in the public streets in violation of the city ordinances and in conflict with a proclamation of the Governor, of years before, that had been enforced upon the "Mormons" even to the extent of marching to Fort Douglass and confining there, men who had paraded on drill with fives and arms which were actually "toy guns." This interesting episode in official anti-"Mormonism" was known as "The wooden gun rebellion."

As to the danger of a collision a year ago, what was meant by this telegram sent to eastern papers by a noted "Liberal" of this city?

"There can be little doubt that trouble will result over this election, and hundreds of deputy marshals will be provided to maintain the peace, and if these fail, the Gentiles will have peace if they have to call on Fort Douglas and fight for it."

The article in the *NEWS* from which the *Tribune* clips a couple of paragraphs was designed to prevent a conflict and preserve the peace. This may be seen

from the same article but which, of course, the *Tribune* does not quote:

"Should there be a disturbance it will not be because the people whom it is proposed to rob of their rights take the initiative. They will avoid anything of that character to the last extremity, and we advise them not even to give the rabidists the shadow of an excuse for a resort to violence."

This has been the policy of the *DESERET NEWS* from the beginning, as the course of the *Tribune* has been to make trouble. It has lied for this purpose again and again. It has been the means of bringing troops into this city when there was no more probability than now of any need for them. The same hand that manipulates the present gubernatorial figurehead, so worked on Governor Murray that he deceived the President of the United States into ordering troops to this city when it was as quiet as the most peaceable village on the continent. This, with other fooleries cost Murray his official position.

It was in the same line of libel as the stuff in the *Illustrated American*. It is a sample of *Tribune* falsehood, and the means employed by that infamous sheet to prejudice the American public. So with the lying letter fabricated by the *Tribune* as a send off for the same Murray when he was going east, and known as the "bogus Bishop West article." It was a lie throughout, and the statements it contained as threats against the Governor were put into the mouth of an alleged "Mormon" Bishop who had no existence. It was exactly in the same style and spirit as these *Illustrated American* articles.

No wonder the *Tribune* and the official who jumps at its direction do not want any action taken by the Gentiles which will serve to put the "Mormons" in their true light before the American public. That is quite consistent with the course of both. But will the gentlemen who have gone so far in the direction of fairness for the good of the whole community, be stopped on the road by one obstructive anti-"Mormon" who is the real block in the way of this movement?

That is the whole matter in a nutshell. It is "the momentous question." And the conservative non-"Mormons" of this city are beginning to see that it is useless to seek to counteract the baleful influence of a deceptive magazine in New York, while the same kind of agitation is kept up by a lying sheet in Salt Lake City.

Rev. Hallin, one of the court preachers of Stockholm, has embezzled a large amount of money, how much not yet exactly known.