

A BEAUTIFUL MUDDLE

THE City Attorney advises the City Council that in his opinion the action taken with a view to erecting the joint city and county building on Washington Square, and selling the ground already devoted to that public purpose, is illegal. That makes no difference to the headstrong and masterful incompetents who are attempting to exercise sovereign power in this municipality. The general opinion remains that the majority of the Council are pleased at the thought that the project will be stopped, their proceedings be enjoined and the whole matter be brought to a standstill, because that is what they chiefly desire. This seems also to be the opinion of some members of the City Council.

We do not see how the projectors of the movement to change the site, supposing they are in earnest, will get around the objections of the City Attorney. First, that the square had been set apart for other purposes than for the erection of a public building, and a part of it could not be deeded legally to the county. Second, that the county having obtained a half interest in the ground chosen as the site for the building on condition that it should be used for that specific purpose, the county could not now sell that interest nor use it for any other purpose than the object for which it was conveyed.

The City Masters are getting up a beautiful muddle for lawyers to quarrel over and to create more expense for the taxpayers to liquidate. Meanwhile the needed public building is likely to languish and remain simply a very costly and useless hole in the ground.

PRIVATE VIEWS NOT CHURCH AUTHORITY.

THE disreputable *Tribune* tries to wiggle out of its falsehoods in relation to an isolated extract from an article that appeared many years ago in the *Millennial Star*, which it declared was delivered by an Apostle in the Tabernacle. But it will not do. Its object in manufacturing this new version of an old story, which it has told in several different ways, was to make it appear that the sentence was current, authoritative and official. After failing to explain its reason for lying in this way, it dodges the question in characteristic fashion and says:

"We presume that the News takes Elder J. W. Cummings as an authority that expresses its opinion."

It then goes on to make a purported quotation from alleged remarks of the gentleman named, who has been dead for many years.

To this we reply, the *Tribune* "pre-

sumes" a great deal. Indeed presumption, assumption and wilful falsehood make up the sum total of its fanatical assaults on the "Mormon" people. We do not know whether the gentleman named ever made the remarks attributed to him or not, and we do not care. We express a doubt on the matter because we know the *Tribune* is given to the trick of putting words into men's mouths that they never uttered, and intentionally misquoting the language of its opponents. But whether the gentleman made the remarks attributed to him or not, the News does not take him or his alleged words "as an authority that expresses its opinion." His views were his own. They are no authority for the News. The opinion of this paper is that which it expresses in its own column. When the News refers to any established doctrine or regulation of the Church it quotes from the recognized standards, and not from the personal utterances of individuals who ventilate their own views and are alone responsible for them.

When the *Tribune* culls from old discourses and articles sentences which, when cut away from the context, it thinks suitable to aid it in misinterpreting the belief of the Latter-day Saints, and ignores the authorized declarations of principle and practice which the Church has accepted and which are contrary to the individual notions thus made prominent, it is doing dirty work, suited to its pages and congenial to its writers. But every reasonable person who examines it will see, that it is a very poor cause which depends upon such unauthorized utterances of old time individual opinion as the basis of its contention, and refuse to notice the present authoritative declarations of faith on which alone fair argument in reference to the question can be founded.

The views of public speakers and writers on questions of theory are one thing, the adopted creed and discipline of the Church are another thing. And when the two come in conflict the former is without force and the latter stands as the end of controversy.

It is time that opponents of "Mormonism" come down to living issues and existing conditions, and leave the dead past to its place in ancient history. And if they wish to obtain any hold on public respect, they will cease the kind of work of which the *Tribune* makes a specialty and which renders it necessary for us to make an occasional exposure of its meanness and mendacity.

Motals has electric lights.

WYOMING AND THE "MORMONS."

SENATOR WARREN, of Wyoming, while in New York recently, was interviewed by a reporter of the *Times* of that city. He stated that the people of his State were not so radical in their ideas on silver coinage as many western folks, that the McKinley bill was in the main satisfactory to them, and that they were not troubled with the Farmers' Alliance movement. In response to a question about the "Mormons" he said:

"When Idaho adopted its constitution, which contained the test oath disfranchising Mormons, there were stories afloat that the Latter-day Saints would move out of that new State and come to live with us. When the Supreme Court declared that part of the Idaho constitution valid the stories were again afloat. But I believe they were circulated for some political effect. There has been no movement toward our State. We have, along the western strip of Wyoming many Mormons. They are not, however, polygamists, and when our Constitution was adopted it was not thought necessary to insert a test oath or any other provision to disfranchise them. Should they come from Idaho or Utah and interfere in politics or make themselves obnoxious by practicing polygamy, they could be shut out as they have been from Idaho. The Mormons in Wyoming are a quiet, law-abiding people."

Wyoming has never had any trouble with the "Mormons" because they have been treated like other citizens. Therefore there is no "Mormon question" thereto be solved. They are not discriminated against, nor oppressed, therefore there is no need for them to band together for vigorous self-defense. They are Republicans or Democrats, as their convictions and preferences may lead, and they support at the polls such candidates as they believe will best subserve the public interest. The "Mormons" are nowhere the aggressors. But they are usually ready to contend for their rights when assailed, and that is all there is of conflict, whenever it arises, in which they feel compelled to take an active part.

COMPLEXION OF THE NEXT CONGRESS

IN the Fifty-second Congress the number of Senators are 88. Of these, 47 are Republicans, 39 Democrats and 2 Independents. The latter are Peffer of Kansas, and Kyle of South Dakota. They were elected, however, by the Farmers' Alliance, as were Gordon of Georgia, and Isby of South Carolina. But these Southern Senators are classed as Democrats. Even, if the Independents vote with the Democrats there would be 41 Senators all told.

Pettigrew of North Dakota, Plumb of Kansas, and Paddock of Nebraska are in the Republican roll, but they voted against the McKinley bill. They are pledged to tariff reform and to a