

religionists in Colorado and we are pleased to see that they are well spoken of by the press of that State, and that the scheme of the Arizona politicians does not meet with favor from those Colorado editors who understand the situation. The *Denver News* recently had an able editorial discussing the question, the concluding paragraphs of which are here reproduced:

"If this law is being violated in Arizona, it is the duty of the officers in that Territory to see that the guilty parties are indicted and punished.

"Mr. Murphy has fallen into the error of a good many people in classing all Mormons as polygamists. This in the face of strenuous denials to the contrary on the part of the highest dignitaries of that Church. If there are polygamists among the Mormons, and no doubt there are, the law is ample for their punishment. But it is a great wrong to stigmatize a whole people because some of them are guilty of practices which the law declares to be a crime. It is the duty of the officers of the law to ferret out and bring to trial the violators of this as well as other laws. Those who do not uphold and practice polygamy have as good a right to their religious belief as any other denomination in the land.

"There are some Mormons in Southern Colorado. The evidence of those who are acquainted with them is that they do not practice polygamy; that they are intelligent and industrious, and model citizens in every respect. What would be thought of the people of Colorado if they were to enact laws disfranchising these people simply because they are Mormons? With the same show of justice Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians, or any other denomination of Christians might be proscribed.

"The Edmunds law, which provides stringent measures against the practice of polygamy, while enacted specially for Utah was made applicable to all Territories, Arizona included. So that, under the law, if any one is guilty of this crime in Arizona he is liable to indictment and punishment. This law, however, does not go to the extent of the Idaho constitution. Under the latter every Mormon is adjudged to be a polygamist until he proves to the contrary. Under the Edmunds law every Mormon is presumed to be innocent until proved to be guilty. If the law is violated ample provision is made for the punishment of the offender, but only after a fair trial has been had in the courts. This is the correct rule, for no citizen should be condemned without a hearing."

#### THE "LIBERAL" ORGAN SHOWS ITS OWN CORRUPTION.

WE have been amused to observe the flow of falsehood that has issued from the chief "Liberal" organ within the past few days on the subject of morality. It has been assailing the Saints from that standpoint, and we have exhibited some of the rottenness of the gang which runs that paper and compelled it to furnish the proof. We made the following quotations from its columns:

"Apropos of the new and petty war recently started by the manipulative government on the women of the State, the liquor dealers and the gambling fraternity, one of the 'enemy' said to us the other day: 'It may be a hard thing to say, and perhaps harder still to maintain, but I believe that billiard halls, saloons and houses of ill fame are more powerful reforming agencies here in Utah than churches and schools, or even than the *Tribune*. What the young Mormons want is to be free. So long as they are slaves, it matters not much to what or to whom, they are and they can be nothing. Your churches are as enslaving as the Mormon Church. Your party is as bigoted and intolerant as the Mormon party. At all events I rejoice when I see the young Mormon hoodlums playing billiards, getting drunk, running with bad women—anything to break the shackles they were born in, and that every so-called religious or virtuous influence only makes the stronger. Some of them will go quite to the bad, of course, but it is better so, for they are made of poor stuff, and since there is no good reason why they were begun for let them soon be done for, and the sooner the better. Most of them, however, will soon weary of vice and dissipation, and be all the stronger for the knowledge of it and of its vanity. At the very least they will be free; and it is of such vital consequences that a man should be free, that in my opinion his freedom is cheaply won at the cost of some familiarity with low life. And while it is not desirable in itself, it is to me tolerable, because it appears to offer the only inducement strong enough to entice men out of slavery into freedom.'"

We also inserted the following comment on the above taken from the same article.

"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 is not you who are responsible, when it comes to that; it is those that have enslaved you."

In reply to this, the organ of all that is false and vile cited a case wherein a Church official was alleged to have been guilty of immoral conduct, for which he had been deprived of his office and cut off from the Church. It thus killed its own argument, simply showing that the Church does not tolerate immorality. Happily, it also makes perfectly clear that the highly moral condition of the "Mormon" Church rendered necessary—in the opinion of the editor of the *Tribune*—the "Liberal" policy defined in the above quotations. In order to wean the young men away from the wholesome moral restraints of the Church it was necessary they should be steeped in vice—a most damnable doctrine.

Speaking of the instance of the official who was excommunicated from the Church the organ of slander asserted in the first place that, "He ought to have gone to the penitentiary, but his crime was concealed until he got away, as is every other crime among Mormons when it is possible to keep the matter still."

We knocked this statement on the head by showing that the man was indicted and tried by Gentile juries; so he didn't get away.

This libel on journalism, in the face of these facts, says: "But the secret priestly court, as they always do, kept the crime a secret." We re-assert that instead of doing this the court referred to published its judgment in the columns of the *News* at the time.

After having stated that the "crime was concealed until he got away," the mendacious sheet now tries another trick by saying: "The Saints took good care to spirit away all the witnesses so that the criminal could not be convicted." The absurdity as well as diabolism of this falsehood is clear. The offense had already been given publicly by the Church court, and "the Saints" had no more interest in the case. The individual was no longer a member of the community.

The organ of vice re-asserts its former statements which we completely refuted, and we defy it to furnish names or proof in reference to the case wherein it says a woman who was confined in the penitentiary refused to disclose the paterfamilias of her child for an immoral reason. This and its other slanders are utterly untrue.

There are men prominent in the "Liberal" Party who have shown almost unparalleled opposition to the Church, but who have never attempted to accuse the community of sexual impurity. On the contrary they have commented officially on the repugnance with which the Saints view sexual sins, and on the fact that almost universally the associations of the sexes have been within the lines of their marital relations. Among those who have thus spoken are Mr. W. H. Dickson, Mr. C. S. Varian, and later, Mr. E. B. Critchlow. Their statements are of record and can be quoted if necessary. These men are well informed on the subject, and neither of them surely can be accused of pro-"Mormon" disposition.

#### A FAIR STATEMENT.

SO MANY persons professing to be "prominent Gentiles of Salt Lake City," air their ignorance and vent their venom when talking to eastern newspaper men about the "Mormons," that it is refreshing to see any approach to the truth from such sources in journals published at a distance. The *Chicago News*