

ties of citizens ought not to be vested in one individual who, perhaps, proceeds from passion instead of impartial judgment.

Courts have, in some instances, extended their power to punish for contempt beyond their own precincts, and have endeavored to control the press. This seems to be a great stretch of the authority designed by law to be conferred upon them. There is no good reason why judges, more than any other officials, should be exempt from criticism, and surely the court criticized, however improperly, should not sit in judgment on the offender. All public officers are the servants of the people and judges are no exceptions to the rule. They should have their legal remedy against libel and abuse the same as other citizens and officials, no less and no more.

The precedent set in Ohio ought to be followed in other parts of the United States. The supreme courts ought to have power to reverse or modify the judgments of the lower courts in matters of contempt, and every offender ought to have the opportunity of a fair trial by a disinterested court before punishment is inflicted. The laws in relation to contempt need considerable amendment.

SHOULD BE INQUIRED INTO.

IN this issue we publish a correspondence from John H. Stott of Moroni, Sanpete County. It purports to give the details of a vicious assault made by a deputy U. S. marshal upon a citizen whom the officer was desirous of placing under arrest on a charge of unlawful cohabitation.

The writer of the letter does not state whether or not he was an eye-witness of the scene he depicts. Had he said that he was on the spot when the occurrence transpired, there would have been no room whatever for doubt as to the correctness of his statement, as he is a gentleman of unquestionable veracity. But even if the statement made by him be based on hearsay, there are doubtless enough facts embodied in it to place the officer who was the chief actor in the affair in an exceedingly unenviable light. It also puts Marshal Dyer, who is responsible for the acts of his aids, in a peculiar position. It is not to be presumed for a moment that the latter would sanction or approve of such conduct as that described by our correspondent in any of his as-

sistants. Even if he were otherwise disposed in that direction, its permission would result in no good to him, but the opposite, as no persons with any regard for civilized methods could approve such unqualified brutality; besides such conduct is a breach of the law.

We hold that the U. S. Marshal, filling, as he does, an office of dignity and importance, owes it to himself and the public to see that the affair referred to be freely and fairly investigated, and if he finds the facts to be even approaching the statement of Mr. Stott, the offending deputy should be peremptorily discharged as having disgraced the position he occupies.

The correspondent asks, among other questions, whether a person whom an officer attempts to arrest has a right to hear read the warrant under whose authority he acts. He certainly does, this right being a provision of the common law. The individual subjected to arrest has a right to know by what authority an attempt is made to deprive him of his liberty.

We trust that Marshal Dyer will institute an inquiry at once into the Moroni matter, that a recurrence may be prevented.

A SWEEPING PREDICTION.

THE present generation is growing so infidel in tendency that it is becoming fashionable to repudiate God and drive Him out of every department of life. There is a large class ready to become red-eyed with rage at the mere suggestion that the Almighty interferes in any shape with the affairs of men and nations, so impatient are they at every exhibition of religious faith and sentiment.

One phase of religious conviction specially disturbs the equanimity of the unbelieving class—that calamity is in any way associated with the judgment of God, or is an indication that He is pleading with the people.

This unreasonable and bigoted sentiment gives an idea of how the prophets were regarded in ancient times by the same element, and shows plainly that they would have fared just as roughly had they lived in these enlightened times, as they denounced wickedness and directed popular attention to the hand of God manifested by chastisement.

If a "Mormon" Elder points a moral in the same direction he is denounced as a fool, a fanatic and worse. Yet what he refers to may

be facts that have transpired in exact fulfillment of the predictions made concerning this generation by Joseph Smith, in whose divine mission he believes.

It happens just now that a good many influential people have recently undergone an awakening process by some of the more serious events that have occurred. As an instance, the Rev. Dr. Hannon, in addressing a congregation comprising several hundred members of the Young Men's Christian Association of San Francisco, and speaking of the Johnstown and Seattle catastrophes, said: "They are terrible, startling messages from God." The topic of the meeting was "the lessons drawn from recent disasters." He exclaimed: "They are the handwriting on the wall, but we must remember that while He writes with His right hand He places His other hand lovingly about us. There is as much of God's mercy in these disasters as in the sunshine that pours upon our plains, but we cannot see it in that way. We have been warned to prepare for death, and we ought to get ready to enjoy the bounty of heaven. Get ready, my friends. It is the voice of God speaking to you. You and I must get ready. That is the one great lesson to be learned from the terrible disaster at Johnstown. Even at this time we are blundering along and not making ready."

The reverend gentleman lost sight of the fact for the moment that it is only "Mormons" who believe in prophets and the gift of prophecy, it being fashionable even among religionists to declare that these have been done away. Evidently forgetting this fact, he wound up his discourse with a sweeping prediction concerning the chief city of the Pacific Coast. We give it here:

"We are warned every day that sooner or later the black river of death will sweep over San Francisco, and every mother's son of you will be swept out into the sea. You must get ready for the disaster that is sure to come."

Tidal waves—"the sea heaving itself beyond its bounds"—have been named by the great modern prophet, Joseph Smith, as a prominent phenomenal means of destruction in these days. This being the case, Dr. Hannon may be nearer the truth than most people would be inclined to believe, especially as San Francisco is by no means renowned for righteousness.

Marriage is never a failure when the contracting parties are a man and a woman.