

## A DISGRACEFUL EXHIBITION.

In another part of this paper we reproduce a lengthy special dispatch to the *Standard* from Atlanta, Georgia. Its statements related to the proposed Methodist University at Ogden, of which the Reverend Sam Small is president. As is notoriously known in this locality, that individual has been delivering lectures in the East under the auspices of the university. He undertook this labor with the understanding that a certain proportion of the proceeds resulting from it should be turned over for the benefit of the proposed institution over which he presides. It has been stated in plain terms, by J. Wesley Hill and others, that instead of accounting to the board of directors of the university for moneys thus received, he has appropriated the financial results of his lectures to his personal use, and that the income thus derived has enabled him and his family to live in a condition of princely extravagance.

It is claimed that if it had not been for the fact that the lectures were delivered under the auspices and for the benefit of the university Mr. Small's receipts would have been in harmony with his name, and we might say, without any risk of getting beyond the line of truth, also with his nature. He is not a large man from any standpoint.

Mr. Small retaliates with great fuss and fury. He makes the forked lightning, so to speak, play around the diminutive head of J. Wesley Hill, commonly known as the "Reverend Kid," on account, we presume, of his limited proportions in every respect. The president of the M. U. accuses the namesake of the founder of Methodism of doubled-dyed hypocrisy, asserting that while he put on sanctified airs and a zealous aspect, he, under cover of the religious cloak, has been guilty of lewd and vile conduct. Mr. Small insinuates that his enemy endeavored to work him as a catspaw to forward his financial interests, by operating the university enterprise as a real estate scheme to enable the pious Hill to fill his pockets with the god of this world while professing to serve the source of divine truth. The president of the proposed educational institution has, in every occasion when an opportunity presented, been exceedingly generous in his abuse of the "Mormon" people. While indulging in this pious sectarian pastime he has never endeavored to make use of the truth, falsehood being his congenial weapon for that purpose. Notwithstanding the vile fabrications and slanders which he has uttered regard-

ing the Saints, he says now, substantially, that there is no "Mormon" who is not infinitely superior to the object of his present assault—the Reverend J. Wesley Hill. Doubtless the reverend libeler knew that to be the case when he indulged in his anti-"Mormon" vituperation.

These two worthies have not the shadow of a complimentary word for each other. They accuse one another of falsehood and dishonesty. Although they have demonstrated to the satisfaction of every intelligent resident of Utah, at least, that both are notorious economizers of that which is true, yet there are occasions when the most consummate falsifiers may be implicitly believed. There will, therefore, be a very widespread suspicion down in the hearts of the people—owing to the course which each of the principals in this dispute has pursued in this Territory—that, at least, a portion of the statements now made by Mr. Small regarding Mr. Hill and *vice versa* is strictly correct.

If Mr. Small were as sharp as he is little he might produce an argument that would have some weight in bearing up his side of the question. In opposition to his claim that he has obtained the bulk of the money which has accrued from the delivering of his lectures because of the work having been performed under the auspices of the Methodist university, he might retort, with some show of consistency, that the "Mormon" people might on similar ground be entitled to a share of the collections obtained. Mr. Small's speeches have been largely made up of anti-"Mormon" fabrications. He has horrified his hearers in many instances with incorrect descriptions of the Latter-day Saints. They have been delineated by this itinerant solicitor of dollars as being in a state of semi-barbarism and as a crime-stained community, when he knew all the time that they are the peers in intelligence, honesty and morality, of any other people on the globe. It was probably as much to aid in the redemption from such a situation of the alleged benighted Saints that Small was enabled to reach down into the pockets of his listeners as from sympathy with the Methodist enterprise.

If a tithe of the statements of some of the parties immediately connected with the proposed Ogden Methodist University are true, it has been steeped in fraud and pickled in iniquity from its inception. When religious institutions are used for personal ends and efforts are made to rear them by the proceeds of the defamation of an offending and innocent community, what other result can naturally

be expected than that which is now associated with this incipient enterprise. The picture presented by this unseemly, unchristian squabble is not only a disgrace to the Methodist Church, but it is a reproach to humanity that there should exist such deep and double-dyed hypocrisy under a cloak of sanctity and religion. The parties connected with it need no accusation from an exterior source. They are their own accusers. The spirit manifested by them is anti-Christian. It is intensely and unmitigatedly satanic.

If the university, which is in the nature of a progressive enterprise, can survive the manipulation and contamination of such characters as some of those who have operated in connection with it, then there must be in it a strength of vitality that has not yet been seen on the surface.

The Methodist church can attend to its own business or let it alone, as it may be disposed. If it has a regard for its own welfare, however, it will sweep a nest of unclean birds that have crept into it outside of its pale, with the besom of justice. If such scandalous and disgraceful exhibitions of depravity had occurred within the lines the "Mormon" Church—God forbid that they should—the community of Saints would have been accused of being corrupt as a whole. The manifestations referred to would have been cited as positive proof of the rottenness of "Mormonism." Far be it from us to take any such illogical and uncharitable position regarding any community. On the contrary, much as many prominent Methodists have maligned the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, that would not lead us to retaliate by perpetrating the injustice with which the "Mormons" have been so frequently treated. Methodism does not teach men to be dishonest nor to bear false witness against any portion of the human family. When the clergymen or members of that church engage in conduct that is perfidious and reprehensible, they act in opposition to the teachings of the courageous and progressive founder of the organization—John Wesley. The conduct which has been exhibited during the last few months in connection with the Ogden Methodist university is not Methodism, but simply the operations of individuals connected with that body, acting in conflict with their professions of religion.

So far as relates to the damaging accusations made against each other by the principals in the unsavory controversy treated in this article, the charges have the appearance of a just retribution for the falsehoods they have uttered