

March 22, 1882," at, before, or since the taking effect of said act, except so far as it shall appear in respect thereto that there is a lawful private right, shall be devoted to the use and benefit of public common schools in the Territory of Utah; and the Secretary of the Interior shall take and receive the same and dispose thereof to the uses aforesaid in such manner as shall seem to him, with the approval of the President, to be most expedient. And the supreme court of said Territory is hereby invested with power and authority to make all necessary and proper orders and decrees for the purpose hereinbefore mentioned."

The amendments are not important except as technicalities, the original object being maintained, that is to take certain funds from the people who contributed them for a specified purpose, and devote them to another and different purpose, and for the benefit of individuals who never contributed one cent thereto and who have no claim whatever upon them.

By a species of *hocus pocus* known to a class of lawyers commonly styled *pettifoggers*, this sort of manipulation of that private property which the Constitution says shall not be turned to public uses without just compensation, may be made to appear within the power of the national legislature. But to ordinary minds, cast in the square mould of rectitude and justice, it will savor very much of robbery by Act of Congress.

The amendment offered by Senator Butler can only be assailed by ribaldry and that sort of abuse in which malignant anti-"Mormons" indulge in the absence of argument and sound sense. He recognized the fact that this property, by every rule of right and every precedent known to American jurisprudence, if in the condition claimed for it by the promoters and supporters of the disincorporation act, belongs to the unincorporated body or association for whom the former corporation was but the agent. But seeing it had been claimed that the funds were likely to be used for an unlawful purpose, he proposed to restrict their use to purposes that could not be declared or deemed unlawful.

Now, prejudice, passion and thievery aside, is not this proposition of Senator Butler's in accordance with sound law, unbroken precedent in this country, straightforward honesty and simple justice? Granting for argument's sake all that is alleged against the "Mormon" Church (much of which, however, is the most unmitigated falsehood), what right or reason is there in taking funds—personal prop-

erty, possession of which to any amount is not limited by law, from a religious association, and devoting them to a secular use and for the benefit of persons who make no claim upon them and who cannot be shown to have any right or title to a dollar thereof?

In plain, blunt language the process and the purpose of the promoters of this measure, as exhibited in the Senate on Saturday, were those of high-handed robbery and of might over right.

The attachment of this dishonest provision to a law enacted against bigamy, is part of the scheme to deceive Congress and induce members strongly averse to polygamy to support the supposed amendment to that law. The truth is, it has not the slightest real connection or association with the matter. It has no bearing on bigamy or polygamy, and those who pretend that it has are either wofully ignorant or wilfully mendacious. It is simply a bill to take private property from a religious society and devote it to a public use, without any compensation, for the purpose of crippling a religious body that is unorthodox and unpopular.

The bill now goes to the House, where, it is to be hoped, will be found sufficient men of honesty and independence to do what is right, free from the influence which is exercised by a bitter partizan in the upper House of Congress.

#### MORE MOBBIING.

It appears to be probable that a number of ruffians belonging to the lawless element of the State of Georgia have committed a dastardly outrage upon a "Mormon" Elder. The dispatch purporting to give the information seems to be authentic. A number of similarly disgraceful scenes have been enacted in the same States, one being in the nature of a tragedy—the murder of Elder Joseph Standing, in 1879.

The latest victim of miscreant brutality is, according to the dispatch, Elder Beckstead. The crime for which he was murderously whipped and tarred and feathered was that he "enticed people to go to Utah." The fact is that the Elders do no enticing of that character. People who receive the message proclaimed by the missionaries, and who repent of their sins, are baptized by immersion for the remission of them, and receive the Holy Ghost, need no enticing to cause them to gather with the main

body of the Church. They, as a rule, get the spirit of gathering and act upon the prompting.

Hardly any phase of cowardice is so despicable as that exhibited by a crowd of armed ruffians attacking and abusing a single, defenseless man, incapable of offering resistance, on account of being overpowered by superior numbers. The class of people in any community who engage in such brutish poltroonery and lawlessness should be pursued with the rigors of the law at the instance and demand of all decent and courageous people. Those who are in sympathy with such despicable assaults upon unoffending citizens are of the same stamp as the actual perpetrators. Some of them exhibit their quality by covert expressions of approval.

#### "MORMONISM" IN IDAHO.

UNDER this title a very readable article leads in *Belford's Magazine* for July. It is from the flowing pen of Captain John Codman, and is evidently written in sincerity and as the subject is viewed by the gifted writer.

Following is an epitome of the several items treated of in the article:

Polygamy, newly committed and continued in practice since the passage of recent laws, should be punished, after conviction, and the full power of the courts to this end should be exercised. But the subjects for the marshal and the sheriff are found chiefly among the aged, who might without danger to the community, be left to end their days peaceably in the harmless society of their partners. The dragging of old men to prison for no other cause than an occasional visit, in open daylight, or taking a meal sometimes in the house of a plural wife, forms a frequent and painful scene which justly arouses indignation. Disfranchisement for the offence of polygamy may be just and right, but the disfranchisement of men against whom there is not even the suspicion of any criminal act, is egregious folly, and more than Congress has yet provided.

The Mormons of Idaho number about 25,000, are chiefly farmers, are for the most part quiet folk, dwelling in brotherly love and open only to the charge of unity in politics as well as in religion. About 5000 claim the right to vote; not more than 200 have ever been polygamists.

Both political parties in Idaho