

turned to it till years after it had been settled, improved and built up by the "Mormons."

Here is a question for scientists to solve—How is it that an originally humid climate and intrinsically damp soil, out of which grass a yard high sprouted spontaneously in a short time, underwent such a change? The atmosphere suddenly and permanently becomes dry and rarified, while practically nothing can be raised from the soil without the aid of one of the most complete and extensive systems of irrigation upon the continent, established by the "Mormons" at a great cost of labor and means. But perhaps there has been no change, and the City Council and the clamorers for water generally are subjects of a delusion.

It occurs to us, however, that we gave the genuine explanation under the head of "Mormon Exclusiveness" a few days ago. We treated in that article upon some of Mr. McBride's idiosyncrasies. We put him on the scales in the following fashion:

"Occasionally a man can be found who has a wonderful faculty for presenting inexactitudes with a cold-blooded apparent earnestness and artfully assumed sincerity that are apt to deceive those who are uninformed upon the subjects he professes to treat. We know of no greater adept in that direction than J. R. McBride. He has a faculty for presenting statements made for a purpose, for which he knows there is not the most slender foundation, in a way that is so childlike and bland that the uninformed listener is apt to believe he is telling the truth. In our opinion the gentleman has got his manner so near perfection in its operations that he is enabled to reduce misrepresentation to the status of a fine art."

It is well to be charitable and to put the best practicable construction upon the sayings and doings of others. In consonance with this view we take it as correct that some men get into such a habit of stating falsehoods that they become grafted upon their mentalities. When that is the case they begin to believe their own statements to be correct. May not this be the case with J. R. McBride? True, this does not give him all the credit we would like to accord him under the circumstances, and even that must be tendered in a modified form. We are willing to grant that he himself may actually believe that he visited Salt Lake Valley before the advent of the "Mormon" pioneers, however fallacious may be the belief; but that he himself has the remotest confidence in his own statement about the tall grass, moccasins and dew is

too much for us to swallow at one gulp.

RECEIVERSHIP SQUABBLE

As a matter of course, after asking leave to withdraw from the investigation of the charges planted by himself against Receiver Dyer and attorneys Peters and Williams, Judge Zane did not appear at the time appointed by the court for the hearing of the evidence he had to present before Examiner Harkness. It is now a question—in the light of the fact that the pursuance of the investigation was directed by a mandate of the court—as to whether the ex-Chief Justice is not in contempt.

Even if failure of compliance with the order in question did not constitute an offense of that character, the document in which the intention to withdraw is set forth is liable to be construed to be somewhat contemptuous. It seems to take the court by the ear and say in substance, "You want me to do a job that necessarily devolves on you, and to prevent its being done you tie my hands behind my back, this being the effect of your amended order." That kind of an insinuation reaches, in our opinion, pretty nearly to the domain of an accusation of pettifoggery.

There is one position from which it is scarcely possible for Judge Zane to recede—that of a prosecuting witness. He has made charges of fraud, corruption and unprofessional conduct against three gentlemen of important standing in the community. He has iterated and reiterated his ability to prove the allegations if given "a chance." If they were proved, the subjects of the charges would stand in the light of criminals subject to prosecution. If Judge Zane is unable to bring forth the proof he would stand as a slanderer, liable to pursuit in criminal actions for defamation of character and to proceedings for damages.

In view of the serious character of the charges, does it not become the duty of Mr. Peters, as public prosecutor, to place Judge Zane in the position of a complaining witness? If in that capacity the latter succeeds in establishing his allegations, should not the grand jury indict Mr. Peters, Mr. Dyer and Mr. Williams? If that point were reached it would then become the duty of District Attorney Peters to see that papers were placed in the hands of Marshal Dyer to secure the arrest of Attorney Peters, Receiver Dyer and Attorney

Williams. It will be observed from this explanation that this business associated with "taking a large amount of property from a church," gets more tangled as it goes along.

If the matter takes the shape of a regular proceeding and Judge Zane should fail in the capacity of a complaining witness to establish the truth of the grave charges he has preferred in about as public a way as they could have been made, then it would appear competent for him to be put through the mill in which he has been in the past habit of grinding others?

While there appears to be good ground for the position that the amounts claimed by the receiver and his attorneys for compensation have an abnormally swollen appearance, fair-minded people will decline to believe the wholesale charges of fraud, corruption and unprofessional conduct made so sweepingly by Judge Zane. This declination to believe should exist until the latter be given an opportunity to prove his allegations under circumstances which will not admit of his retreat. Should he fail—"next."

IN ANOTHER FIELD.

PEOPLE in this part of the country are somewhat familiar with the name of Kate Field. A certain limited few in this locality professed a good deal of admiration for her. That was simply because she traveled about with a "Monster" of her own creation, evolved from a diseased and probably highly stimulated imagination.

The drawing of the long bow on the "Mormon" question did not pan out enough of the wherewith, and Kate has forsaken the rostrum and is now practicing at the bar. Let it not be supposed that she has developed into a full-fledged attorney—a disciple of Blackstone. The tender Kate has evolved from a distributor of heavy anti-"Mormon" fabrications into a dealer in light California wines. She has opened an office and agency for the traffic in New York, and leading newspapers have of late stated broadly that she does more than merely look upon the liquid when it is red. In other words that she is in the habit of getting into a state of exhilaration.

A short time since an article appeared in the New York *Tribune* in relation to Kate being the agent of a Pacific Coast wine trust. To this she made a somewhat incoherent reply, the nature of which almost