

## THE AMNESTY MOVEMENT.

It is gratifying to see the common sentiment in favor of the movement for general amnesty to the people of Utah. All parties and classes seem to approve of it. The hesitation of the President, we believe, is due to over caution. He does not want to commit himself to so important a measure without such backing as would preclude all blame to him by the country. It is for this reason, no doubt, that Congress is asked to take some steps in the matter.

Senator Paddock has introduced a bill to amend section six of the Edmunds Act. The *Tribune* says it is to repeal that section, which is a palpable mistake, as that would take away the amnesty provision of the law instead of enlarging it. As we have previously explained, the provision now gives the President power to grant amnesty to offenders before the passage of the act. It is proposed to extend this power so as to meet all the requirements of present cases. It is quite likely that the amendment will pass and that the President will then proceed to grant the petition.

However, we take the ground that the President's power in the premises is ample under the constitutional prerogatives he possesses, independent of the Edmunds act or any other Congressional statute. Moreover, he has exercised this executive clemency in individual cases a number of times, and the same principle is involved in that action as would be in a general amnesty.

We still see remarks made about "restoring citizenship." It should be understood that citizenship is not lost or restored by any provisions of the anti-polygamy laws. When a man loses his franchise he does not forfeit his citizenship. That remains intact, whether he can vote or not. A great many citizens, including women and males under twenty-one years of age, cannot vote or hold office. The franchise is a privilege conferred by law and does not inhere in citizenship.

If a general amnesty was granted, unless some change in the Edmunds and Edmunds-Tucker acts was also effected, but very few men would receive any political benefit. Only by a repeal or revision of section eight of the Edmunds Act and of section twenty-four of the Edmunds-Tucker Act would the voting and office-holding franchise be restored to persons who are in the status of polygamy.

The benefits of general amnesty would be general, in so far as it would be an official mark of reconciliation

between the "Mormon" people and the Government and a settlement of long pending difficulties, and would tend to cement the union existing and to promote a better feeling throughout the country in regard to Utah. They would be individual, in that persons who have been convicted or indicted and are not yet freed from the law, would be pardoned, and those of that class who are now disconnected from polygamy would be enfranchised. Persons who are freed from polygamous relations may vote and hold office without amnesty, and so can all other persons who can take the registration oath.

We make these explanations that the scope and effect of the amnesty proposed may not be misunderstood. It is a subject of considerable discussion and should be viewed in its proper light. The sentiment in its support is an encouraging indication of a better public feeling towards Utah, and we regard it as a significant sign of the times.

## THE CHAMPION BLATHERSKITE.

THE "Liberal" cause in Utah finds a fitting champion before the congressional committees in the person of O. W. Powers. Unscrupulous to the last degree, he can twist facts, torture circumstances, make black appear white and blow hot or cold with the same breath in his professional capacity of political juggler.

On the stump in this city the sincerity of the "Mormons" was one of his chief objects of ridicule, and to cast doubts upon it a prime subject of his servid oratory. In Washington that very sincerity he openly admits and makes his chief reason for opposing both the statehood and "home rule" movements. Here the "Mormons" must not receive any political power because they are insincere in their promises and actions; there they must not be admitted to the rights and privileges of true liberty because they are sincere in their religious belief and profession.

Another little piece of characteristic Powers jugglery was the introduction of a dispatch from prominent Ogden men, obtained through misrepresentation, disclosed in the annexed telegrams.

OGDEN, February 16, 1892.

C. C. Richards, Washington, D. C.:

Telegrams say that "Kentucky" Smith attacked Judge Miner's moral and judicial integrity. If false, deny or repudiate. Powers has telegraphing project signed by all lawyers and bankers here.

HENRY H. ROLAPP.

Wednesday afternoon the following reply was received:

WASHINGTON, February 17, 1892.  
H. H. Rolapp, Ogden, Utah:

Dispatch evidently false and sent for political effect. Smith emphatically disclaimed all personal attack on anybody. Gave two instances and cited records. Did not charge Miner with lack of moral or judicial integrity. Miner's telegram to Powers read before committee today.

C. C. RICHARDS.  
H. W. SMITH."

He also presented a letter from an Ogden man of no particular prominence, relating a conversation said to have been held with Mr. Smith just before he left for Washington. Mr. Smith denounced it as a lie, declaring he had not spoken to the man this year. Powers read the alleged Barton letter published in the *Tribune*, which we ventilated a few days ago, and attempted to draw from it inferences totally unwarranted by the letter.

He misrepresented the action taken to dissolve the People's party, assailed the veracity of gentlemen on the other side and attacked their motives, but in opposing the "home rule" measure admitted he and the "Liberals" would rather have statehood at once.

As to character, Powers' Michigan record might be entered as part of the proceedings, as a companion document to his two years' old speech which he desired to file. The report furnished to the "Liberal" organ shows that he resorted to falsehood, which will no doubt be exposed before the investigation is finished, and to sophistry of the most transparent kind.

The whole tirade does not exhibit any sound reason why the people of Utah should be longer deprived of political liberty, but was chiefly a direct defense of some persons who had been incidentally blamed by the other side, and mingled praise and defamation of the "Mormon" people, with exaggerations of what the "Liberals" have done for Utah. Powers is the champion blatherkite of the "Liberal" faction, but has one virtue, he does try to earn the money which he receives for his nefarious work.

## JAFFA AND JERUSALEM.

NEXT summer tourists to Jerusalem will be enabled to make the trip from Jaffa to the sacred city surrounded by all the modern comforts afforded by railroad transit. The French company engaged in building the line expect to have it completed in a short time.

It is only a few years since there was anything like a respectable road between the two points. For the present tolerably fair wagon way, travelers in that part of the world are indebted to the visit, a few years ago, of an Italian prince. As soon as the Sultan of Turkey learned of the intention of the