

IS UNION THE DEATH OF LIBERTY?

It is of no earthly use to dispute with an opponent whose mind is so dense that he cannot understand how two, or a dozen, or a hundred or more persons can be brought to understand a given idea or principle alike, without losing their individual liberty. Yet that is the condition of the sophist who undertakes, almost daily, to prove through a local sheet that the "Mormons" are and must be in bondage because they are in unity.

But it ought to be clear to every sane and thinking person, that if two persons see the same thing in the same light, a greater number of persons may also be brought to similar understanding. And if neither of the two loses any liberty by becoming convinced that the other is right, neither would a unity of faith or comprehension interfere with the freedom of any of the whole number, great or small, who thus should come to a common understanding.

According to the logic of this poor creature, in order to be perfectly free every individual must differ in all things from every other individual, both in sentiment and in action. The union of States must be a sign of their slavery. The organization of a party means the loss of liberty to every one of its members. Combination of capital or of labor signifies serfdom to all who join in it. Education is a means to destroy freedom, and the acceptance of a truth by more than one mind means the death of liberty to all the others.

If a hundred students learn the multiplication table perfectly, do they not all come to the same mind in reference to given mathematical principles? Do they lose their liberty in their unity? Are believers in a protective tariff serfs because they are agreed as to that policy? Are workers for free coinage slaves because they are united in a common cause? If a thousand men agree as to any principle or fact, or to engage in any enterprise or labor, does this necessarily involve the loss of personal freedom? And what difference would there be if the union of mind and of effort between a number of persons was in regard to religious doctrine and religious work?

Our position is that the unity of faith and of purpose among Latter-day Saints, such as it is, is not the result of any coercion or compulsion in any degree, but of agreement in mind aided by the light of the same spirit. And that instead of this bringing them into bondage it really sets them free. For the truth makes men free, as stated by a reasoner

and religionist of old, while our misleading sophist and perverter of words and their meaning, takes the ground, virtually, that truth and its perception establishes bondage and destroys liberty. Does this need further argument?

A PIGMY TO A GIANT.

In the Nevada Legislature a joint resolution has been introduced which reads as follows:

"Whereas, It has come to our knowledge that a number of members of the Chicago Board of Trade petitioned Congress not to pass a free coinage act; and

Whereas, It is apparent that the people of Chicago felt no interest in our welfare, but on the contrary have manifested a positive enmity to the great industry of our State; therefore, be it

Resolved, That Nevada as a State take no part in the World's Columbian Exposition to be held in Chicago in 1893. Nevada is indignant at this condition of things, which has awakened feeling among mining men of the great West, that section of the United States which furnished specie for the East when it was on the verge of ruin."

This is a hard blow for the Fair, probably the hardest it has yet received. Just fancy what the result will be if the mighty Sovereignty of Nevada should lift its puissant arm against the unimportant Congress of the United States. There are 45,000 persons, Chinamen and Dagos included, in the whole State of Nevada. It is to be hoped that powerful community will not withdraw its support from the great World's Fair. There are a few more people in Nevada, than there may be seen on Main Street, Salt Lake City of a fine Saturday evening, and we can judge of the vastness of its population by this comparison.

The Chicago Board of Trade had better take steps to appease the wrath of Nevada. If Carter Harrison is still alive, and we believe he is, Chicago should send him at once to Carson City. He is the only man who could teach a mighty State like Nevada a lesson on common sense.

Notwithstanding the belligerent antagonism of Nevada, the World's Fair is making marked progress. Latest reports from Director-General Davis state that Chicago has firm confidence in the fact that every State and Territory will be creditably represented at the exposition. Twenty-six States have already taken action in the Fair matter. The proposed appropriations from these States aggregate \$4,062,000, for exhibits, buildings, and so on. The sums being collected by private subscription will amount to as much as the State appropriation. California and Texas are raising in this manner \$500,000 each.

WHAT CAN THE MATTER BE?

To The Editor:

HAS the Salt Lake "Tribune" suspended payment, have the creditors discovered the fraud, has its managing editor been suddenly converted, has its soap-grease man gone into the hen business again, is its editor dead or is the whole concern bankrupt?

I find in the *Tribune* the following official announcement:

"An indecent paragraph found its way into the *Tribune* yesterday. It was unrelieved by any suspicion of wit or any symptom of sense. The publication is most sincerely regretted, and while apologizing for it to the public we add the assurance that steps have been taken which, it is believed, will prevent in the future any need of repeating the apology."

It will seem strange not to see the "indecent" *Tribune* any more in Salt Lake. But I predict that the city will soon clean up amazingly and become a much more healthful place than it has been. In fact, I believe the entire Territory will at once take on a highly improved condition.

I wonder if the police shut the *Tribune* upon account of its "indecentcy." Strange it is that they did not do so long ago. A more vulgar, unclean, "indecent," scurrilous, obscene and blasphemous sheet it would be difficult to find than the *Tribune* has been at times. Even its editorial pages have been soiled with dirty attempts at wit that should have shut the paper out of clean houses long ago.

I congratulate Salt Lake at having got rid of its "indecent" Old Man of the Sea and I take to myself some share in the glory of having knocked the *Tribune* out. I am a trifle sorry, however, that it has gone. I can have no more fun with Hollister, cannot "stir up the animal" again, and life will scarcely be worth living.

CHARLES ELLIS.

SIGNS OF RAPID FAILURE.

THE answers given by the gentlemen who were summoned as jurors at this term of the Third District Court, and who were rejected because of their abstract belief on a question of ethics, were definite and perspicuous, and we think no one can doubt the sincerity of the "Mormons" who utter them. What is their position briefly told? It is this. They believe that polygamy and unlawful cohabitation are both legally and morally wrong, because the law of the land prohibits the practice, and the Church to which they belong forbids it. But in the absence of any law of God or man against it, they do not think it would, under certain circumstances, be a crime in and of itself.