DESERET EVENING NEWS.

DESERET NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY LESSEES.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1895.

BE NOT DECEIVED!

The NEWS has already alluded to and condemned the conduct of men who for political effect make unwarranted use of the names and utterances of the leaders of the Church, a practice which has resulted in much bitterness being aroused, many false charges being circulated, and great injustice being done. Upright men's actions have been misjudged, their purposes and motives grossly misstated, and their characters assailed as though they were the basest and most hypocritical of mankind. The circumstances in which they did the acts or used the language charged have been overlooked or falsified; and many otherwise conservative men have blindly accepted allegations put forth by designing persons against honorable citizens without ever attempting to verify or consider the facts in their true light.

One such instance is recalled by a recent declaration issued by a great political party. In that document quotation is made of a letter attributed to President Joseph F. Smith, containing a Bishop's letter as to the Church standing of a candidate in a previous campaign. These letters, it is stated, were used as a circular, and intended for general distribution, being reproduced as having been addressed "Bishop ——."

Now the facts are: (1) that the letter as published was never written by President Smith at all, the whole of it being supplied by some one else before it was published; whoever did this, therefore, must be held guilty of a most reprehensible deed; (2) while it is true that President Smith wrote a letter or two on this subject, no one of them was ever written for publication, or for use as a circular at all; each was written in answer to two or three personal inquiries from north and south as to charges being made by opposition speakers concerning the standing of the candidate referred to; (3) these letters were not only not printed by President Smith or by him authorized to be printed, but were never at any time sent by him or with his knowledge to any Bishop or anybody else save in response to direct personal inquiry from correspondents, and even then to less than half a dozen in number; (4) at the time the alleged letter was first published and put into circulation he was absent from the city, and knew nothing whatever about its being used in any such way.

Yet for this, and this alone so far as the particular incident is concerned, he has been upbraided and criticised and charged with using "Church influence," while the head and front of his offending was merely the courtesy of answering a correspondent's letter. The NEWS knows these facts, and now that the alleged letter has been made public, we take occasion to tell the whole truth about it, letting the blame fall where it belongs. We do this for the reason that an honorable man deserves exoneration from a charge of which he is in no way guilty, and as a warning to scheming politicians and excitable men against using such names in an unwarranted and compromising way, and against believing everything they see and hear which campaigners may choose to produce to work upon their feelings. As to the question of disclaimers and denials, the leading authorities of the Church, like busy men everywhere, have too much to do to be everlastingly writing cards, explanations and statements concerning each disagreeable rumor they hear or every dishonest and unscrupulous word or act that may be directed against them. Particularly do they feel warranted in maintaining silence on such matters during the heat of a political campaign, where any attempt on their part to discuss a political trick would not fail to subject them to the charge of "Church interference" by one party or the other.

We have rebuked the dragging of their names and their official positions into politics at all. They are entitled to something better at the hands of the people of Utah. They do not desire to interfere with anybody's civil or political rights—this they have said again and again, and all the people know it. On the other hand they have the right to expect fair and decent treatment from the politicians of all parties. That which is the exercise of their prerogatives they feel called upon to do, they will perform in an honorable, courageous and righteous manner. There need be no misunderstanding about that, and no one need be disturbed, misled or deceived by anything purporting to come from them which is not distinguished by these attributes.

UTES—AND UTES.

The lady in the play says that while consistency is truly a jewel, jewelry is admitted to be vulgar. We suspect this doctrine is peculiarly acceptable to some of our Colorado friends.

For two or three days past the dispatches have been filled with the indignation aroused in the Colorado settlers in the northwest part of the state by the fact that certain Utes from the Uintah Indian reservation had left their proper habitations and were hunting game in the regions to the east. There have been threats that if the courts did not settle the question, the settlers would; and it appears to be agreed that any particular Indian against whom the state desires to prosecute charges will be arrested on his return to his reservation and sent to Colorado for trial.

A good memory may be quite as vulgar as the jewelry of consistency, according to certain Colorado parties. Nevertheless we venture to recall a few facts not more than a year old, which people on both sides of the Utah-Colorado line can scarcely have forgotten. The incidents referred to occurred not in the northwestern part of Colorado, but in the southeastern part of Utah; the Indians who were off their reservation and ravaging other property were not Utah Uintah Utes, but Southern Utes from Colorado. They did not leave their prescribed boundaries merely to hunt game for a week or two as in the present case; but they moved bag and baggage, flocks and herds, pappooses and wickiups, over into Utah with the announced intention of remaining, and declared that they came with the approval if not actually by the direction of their agent. We have not heard of any Utah people who justify the present raid of Utah reservation Indians into the hunting grounds and otherwise comparatively unused lands of northwestern Colorado. A year ago we heard of hardly any Colorado people who condemned the wholesale migration of the Colorado Utes into the winter grazing grounds from which the bona-fide and patient settlers of southeastern Utah drew a large portion of their means of living.

There is no doubt that it makes a great deal of difference as to whose ox is gored, or as to which leg the boot is on; of course Utah settlers sympathize with their Colorado colleagues in the prospect that the dusky aborigines may kill a few deer, mountain grouse and jack-rabbits off their reservation. But this feeling will be accompanied by some grim congratulation that the Uintah Utes have no such designs of locating as the Southern Colorado Utes had last fall when they came over the border by hundreds prepared to stay and eat the Utah settlers in two large counties absolutely out of house and home.

CUBA'S GRIEVANCES.

Owing to the sympathy manifested in this country in many quarters for the Cubans, in their present struggle for independence, a statement of the prevailing conditions in that island is of interest, as giving an idea of the real cause why the people desire to sever their connection with the old country. One of the friends of the insurgents, Emilio Menez Coronel, tells the story in a recent issue of the New York World.

He says the island is governed by a nation four thousand miles away, and by men unacquainted with the true needs of the people. Until 1879 there was a purely military government, but after a civil war extending over ten years, slavery was abolished, and the absolutism was somewhat mitigated, but still there are in Cuba two great castes—the Spaniards who enjoy all privileges, and the Cubans who are made to bear all the burdens. The tax-payer is treated by every petty government employe as a vassal and has to pay enormous salaries to these officials.

An idea of the amount yearly drawn from Cuba in the form of salaries alone may be obtained from these figures:

Governor general, $50,000 per annum and perquisites; director general of finance, $18,000; archbishop of Cuba, $18,000; bishop of Havana, $17,000; commander general of the navy yard, $16,000; president of the supreme court, $15,000; lieutenant general or deputy captain general, $15,000; governor of Havana, $8,000; first secretary of the government, $8,000; general of a division (of which there are several), $7,500; brigadiers, $4,500; colonels, $2,450; lieutenant colonels, $2,200; naval captains, $3,500; commanders, $4,000; lieutenants, $3,070; chief of administration of the first class, $5,000; chief of administration of the second class, $4,000; chief of administration of the third class, $3,000; collector of revenue, $4,000; administrator of customs, $4,000.

The very administration of justice is made a source of revenue to the state, amounting to $500,000 annually, for every sheet of paper used before the courts of justice is stamped by the government and no application or petition of any kind is received by court officials unless written on this paper, which costs all the way from 25 cents to $25 a sheet, according to the nature of the business to be transacted.

After the last civil war representation in Parliament was granted to Cuba, but the franchise is such that one million Cubans have eight representatives, while 140,000 Spanish residents have sixteen. This is brought about by giving the right to vote to every Spaniard, but denying it to every Cuban who has not a certain income.

How Spanish rule in Cuba affects her trade with the United States, the writer sets forth as follows:

Cuba consumes a million bags of flour a year. During the existence of the reciprocity treaty with the United States all this flour came from the United States. Very little now goes directly from the United States to Cuba. The majority of it goes to Cuba by way of Spain, from which country it is introduced as Spanish flour, thus benefiting the revenues of the mother country, as each bag has to pay in the custom-houses of Spain $ .75, or as much as ... of $2.42 on each bag of flour. If it were imported directly from the United States, the cost of each bag would be $4.50.

According to the tariff now prevailing in Cuba, all machinery from the United States has to pay at the rate of $60 per ton in wrought-iron construction; cast iron ones machines pay $20 per ton. This is practically a prohibitory duty, so that amounts to much more than the machinery is worth. The result is that machinery is imported into Cuba from England, Belgium and other European countries through the Spanish custom-house in Europe, thus again giving the mother country the benefit. There are many other American products that could be imported to Cuba, but which are now barred out by the tariff, as it is cheaper to import them from Europe through Spain.

That the system of taxation is almost unendurable is a natural consequence of the enormous debt of the island and the dominant condition of its natural resources. Every opening in the houses of the native, such as windows, doors, etc., is taxed. If he wants to paint his residence or store, a permit must be had and a tax paid. Merchants pay taxes for every letter in the signs over their door. No receipt of any kind can be given without a tax being paid for it. The killing of cattle, whether private or public, for consumption or sale suffers the imposition of a tax. A country wagon pays $25 per year, presumably for repairs of roads, although roads are never repaired by the government, and every Cuban is compelled to carry identification papers, for which a fee of from 50 cents to $50 is charged.

In this way the revenue derived from the Cubans amounts to $15 per capita, exclusive of municipal taxes, while the public debt weighs upon the people at the rate of $115 a head. To appreciate the significance of these figures, it is well to compare them with those of other countries. In the United States the national budget distributed among the population amounts to $6, and the public debt to about $22 per capita.

The way in which the revenue is expended is highly characteristic of the conditions. Thus it is stated that Cuba pays the expenses of the Spanish legations in America, the expenses of the war of San Domingo, the Spanish invasion of Mexico and the Spanish convict establishments in Africa, while 11 cents per capita (out of the $15) is used for educational purposes.

The governor general appears to be clothed with almost absolute power, for according to existing law, whenever he judges "that an action taken by the provincial council may be contrary to the general laws and interests of the nation, he shall suspend its execution and shall himself adopt such measures as may be demanded by the public exigency; and he is also vested with the right to dismiss a number of members of the council provided he leaves a quorum." When it is remembered that two of the highest Spanish ecclesiastics on the island are members of his advisory council, the significance of this may be imagined.

The present uprising in Cuba dates since February 24, this year, and the movement has spread with great rapidity. The question of recognizing the insurgents as belligerents will soon have to be considered by the United States. An intelligent statement of the grievances of the people is necessary to a correct understanding of the duty of our government, one way or the other, in the matter.

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