

# DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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## AN IMPROPER USE OF THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD.

We print to-day the full text of an interview with Dr. J. M. Benedict as published in Sunday's Salt Lake Tribune. It purports to be occasioned by some remarks of the DESERET NEWS in reference to the unsavory Irons-Fowler case. We did not mention the Doctor's name in our editorial remarks concerning the "marriage" in which he officiated, as our object was not to assail him personally but to explain a principle, draw the line of limit to the authority of men holding the office of Elder in reference to marriage ceremonies, and oppose any step calculated to cover up the crime which had been committed. Now, however, that the gentleman has appeared in person through the medium of the Tribune, we feel at liberty to mention him in further remarks upon this subject.

We did make the explanation that "marriages in the respective Wards are under the direction of the Bishop thereof," and that "no Elder has the right in an organized Stake to administer in that holy ordinance except by appointment." But we did not say that there was "some collusion on the part of Dr. Benedict," nor that he "made the marriage with the deliberate intent and purpose of covering up a crime." We intimated that the object and intent of the peculiar marriage was for that purpose, and this is not disputed. Why did not the author of the girl's shame marry her before the exposure of his guilt, if his only object was to give her the shield and support of his name and position? When he found himself in danger of the penitentiary he was glad to get her under his legal control and personal influence, that the damaging effect of her personal testimony might be turned aside. The proceedings in the Police Court when, after marriage, she repudiated her own affidavit made before marriage, demonstrates this beyond a doubt.

As to Dr. Benedict's part in the transaction, we deprecated it on the ground that it was an improper exercise of the Priesthood which he held. And the interview which we copy makes our position stronger on this point. He admits that the girl's mother, her natural and lawful protector, was opposed to such a union. He knew that Irons had failed to obtain any one who would perform the ceremony. He knew that the condition of the patient was not a fit one to undertake the responsibility of such a step. He knew that there was a Bishop in the Ward authorized to perform marriages according to the order of the Church to which he belonged. He knew that the whole arrangement was in the interest of persons accused of a heinous crime. And yet in a hurried manner, near midnight, after he had "spirited" the girl away from her mother, leaving the latter to be engaged by Dr. A. K. Smith who diverted her attention meanwhile, he officiated by the authority of the Holy Priesthood in a ceremony that no properly authorized servant of God would have performed under the circumstances.

His objects, his motives, his "collusion" to which he refers, we are not calling in question. He knows what they were. The public have the right to draw their conclusions from the facts which he has admitted and allowed to be placed in print. We are simply referring to his act. That he has helped to make public. It is open for public comment. And we denounce it as wrong in principle and evil in effect.

Under ordinary circumstances there might not be any great harm in an Elder's marrying a couple to whose union there was no valid objection. And yet, as we have previously shown, that is a matter that is under established regulations. It must be remembered that this marriage purports to be a Church marriage solemnized under the authority of the Holy Priesthood; not a secular ceremony performed by a civil officer. Therefore it must be viewed in the light of Church rules and the spirit thereof. And, under those rules and in the light of that spirit, it was wrong for an Elder to step over the authority of the Bishop of the Ward and administer an ordinance to which he was not appointed.

But the peculiar circumstances of this case rendered it doubly wrong. It was not only irregular, it was highly improper. We consider it a prostitution of that Priesthood which is sacred and bestowed for holy purposes. If it was right and no ulterior purpose was designed, why was the girl "spirited" away from her mother by the Doctor,

acting in the capacity of an Elder of the Church? Why this haste? Why this nocturnal arrangement and anxiety to urge it to an issue? We do not think there is an Elder of experience and judgment, who on acquaintance with the facts as given by Dr. Benedict himself, will not condemn the transaction as disgraceful to the Priesthood of the Most High God.

We wish it to be distinctly understood that we have no personal controversy with Dr. Benedict. But we have a strong interest in the principle involved in this case, and in the proper exercise of the functions of that Priesthood the authority of which is Divine. And we desire to impress upon the minds of all who have been favored with that authority, that it cannot be lightly treated with impunity, and while it brings blessings and honor when used in the spirit of righteousness and solemnity, it will bring certain condemnation when prostituted to evil.

## A STRAINED QUESTION.

The question as to whether a meeting convened in a school district to decide whether or not a tax shall be levied for the purpose of procuring funds with which to increase educational facilities is or is not an election, is shortly to be elaborately discussed before the Utah Commission, that body being requested to give a decision on the matter. Of course there are other points involved in the question, but that which we now state is the main one, upon which the others hang. If such a meeting is not an election, then the subject is one with which the Commissioners have nothing whatever to do. And how any person can get it into his head that something is an election that is not one in any sense whatever is indeed an anomaly.

It will now be in order for some over-anxious member of the anti-American party of office hunters to have a cow taken before the Commission and ask that august body to render a ruling on the question as to whether or not the animal is a horse. The absurdity would be but little more conspicuous in the one case than the other.

## THE TALENT OF A YOUNG UTAH ARTIST RECOGNIZED.

By letter from Mr. Thomas Dallin, of Springville, we learn that the committee in whose hands was the awarding of the contract to execute the Paul Revere statue has given it to his son, Mr. C. C. Dallin. A telegram from the latter, who is in Boston, to his father, on Friday last, conveyed this welcome intelligence.

The statue is one of the most important ever given to an American sculptor, and, if we recollect aright, will probably cost in the neighborhood of ten thousand dollars.

We, together with the many friends of Mr. Dallin, congratulate the talented young gentleman, who is now in the very front rank of his profession.

The contract for the execution of the statue is to be signed to-morrow.

## HE WOULDN'T POSE.

ONE of the most ludicrous incidents that has occurred of late has been the refusal of a certain limb of the law to become a martyr. Mr. Dilley is the person referred to. Our readers have heard of him before, his name having had a frequent and conspicuous place in the police reports. He has, to use the Tribune parlance, been "struggling upward," and every time he ascended toward the pinnacle of excellence in accord with the standard of that journal and got into the hands of the police that paper described him as a martyr to "Mormon" hate.

Poor Mr. Dilley has not, however, struggled sufficiently "upward" to be lost to a certain sense of honor, so he, over his own signature, as was shown the other day, repudiated the "Mormon" hate and martyrdom business, thus metaphorically taking the Tribune scribe's nose between his thumb and finger and giving it a tight pinch. In other words, the scribbler got a cuff on the ear from one whom it persistently held up as a victim of "Mormon" malice.

The Tribune man will now be under the necessity of hunting up another martyr, seeing that Attorney Dilley positively refuses to longer pose in that role. He should not experience a great deal of difficulty in finding some one who is determinedly "struggling upward."

## LOCAL POLITICAL ASPECTS.

THE Salt Lake Tribune is "all things to all men," according to the kind of axes it has to grind. Journalistically it is on the same footing as Mr. J. R. McBride, individually, that gentleman having stated in a Methodist anti-Mormon meeting in this city some time ago that, for the occasion, he felt that he was a devout, and out and out orthodox Methodist.

The Tribune has been a combination of ultra-"Liberal" or anti-American, and red-hot Republican. It is now beginning to intimate to the latter political party that it has no further use for it, on account of its being popularly kicked out of power.

Although evidently impatient to throw aside the Republican garment unceremoniously as "old clothes," it is restraining itself just a little and doffing a sleeve, or perchance a piece of the back and breast at a time. Indeed there is now but little left except a small piece of the tail. The cloak of Democracy is being assumed in patches in proportion as the other habiliment is disposed of, leaving a large number of unsightly seams.

Here is what the morning Cameleon said shortly after the election:

"At this writing it is reasonably certain that Blaine is elected President. He carries all the Northern States with the exception of Indiana, New Jersey and Connecticut, and possibly one or two of these, as the latest returns cut down the Democratic claims constantly. He will have 10,000 to 12,000 majority in New York, which will give him 218 electoral votes, being 17 more than enough to elect. Nothing is heard from the Coast, but Blaine could lose all of it and still win, though he has a good chance of carrying West Virginia as he has of losing either California, Oregon or Nevada.

It is good enough, and a great day for Utah and loyalty in this dark spot of the moral vineyard. The Tribune congratulates the country and its readers on the splendid result. Hip, Hip, Hurrah!

The "missionary misrepresenter" has been gradually slipping, on all fours along the plank which crosses the gulf separating the two great political divisions of the country, and has well nigh reached the winning side. This morning it says editorially:

"We confess to forebodings for the future,—for the country and especially for Utah,—but we do not propose to pit our judgment against the country, or to be unfair. Whatever of good comes, we shall be quick to discover and to give credit for. A country such as ours is good enough for us; a government which suits the majority of the American people will always be good enough for us. Privately, we think the nation has made a mistake; but, if it has, the fact will be found out in due time, and if it has not, it will be a great deal more pleasure for us to acknowledge that we were wrong, than it will be to say, 'Did we not tell you so?' for this is a matter which we have no possible interest in, except for the good of the country and its continued glory."

In another part of the paper the flop is made more complete by another paragraph, showing how ready these "American gentlemen" are to change the stream of their red hot enthusiasm:

"Some of the best local orators will address the Democratic ratification meeting to-morrow night at the Opera House. The ratification will be one that will be an honor to Utah. Let the enthusiasm be unbounded."

"Hoorah for Blaine, Logan and Republicanism. Oh! no. I beg your pardon; its the other side that wins. Hoorah for Cleveland, Hendricks and the Democracy."

The Tribune reminds one of the story of the widow who was busy arranging for her second marriage before the funeral ceremonies over the remains of her deceased husband were consummated. It might, for the sake of decency, have waited until the Republican party was properly buried before it lopped.

Now it will be in order for the few alleged Democrats who have issued an edict like unto those of the "Medes and Persians," to fall upon the neck of the Tribune, and weep from pure, unalloyed fellow-feeling. The truly Democratic gentlemen who have issued the decree are much too liberal in their ideas. They merely require that their documentary display of supposed principles shall be signed by all who will be permitted to join the Utah Democratic ranks.

We protest that there should be a limit to this almost unbounded liberty accorded to intending adherents of the party, who will soon be as thick as flies in August. They should be compelled by the Democratic autocrats, in addition to affixing their signatures, to take oath, to be duly attested by a notary public. There should be no half-way course. A portion of the anti-marriage relation oath could be introduced to give tone and strength. When the spirit of absolutism is introduced into Democracy, it should be by wholesale and not by dribblets.

## SEASONABLE.

THE late protracted and unusual spell of fine weather is broken, and King Winter has begun his reign again. Parents and guardians of children should see, to the extent of their power, that the little ones are seasonably clad; especially that their feet and lower limbs are suitably protected from damp. These precautions will prevent disease from making inroads into the ranks of the juveniles. The same will apply to older folks.

Those whose duty it is to look after the poor and see that they do not suffer, should be on the alert to discover the more urgent cases, that none may be without the necessities of life. This is substantial Christianity, to prevent suffering and administer comfort.

## THAT NOCTURNAL MARRIAGE.

"TRIBUNE" INTERVIEW WITH DR. J. M. BENEDICT.

HOW THE DISREPUTABLE AFFAIR WAS BROUGHT ABOUT.

From the Salt Lake Tribune of Nov. 16th:

The Deseret News on Saturday, Nov. 8th, having asserted that Dr. J. M. Benedict as an ordained Elder, had no right to marry any parties in an organized stake without the permission of the authorities, and having intimated that there was some collusion on the part of Dr. Benedict in regard to the marriage of John W. Irons to Miss Lizzie Evans, a Tribune reporter, on meeting the Doctor yesterday, asked him whether he would object to being interviewed concerning the matter.

"Not at all," replied the doctor. I have no objections to telling you all I know about the case, and if you will step up into my office where we can be more comfortable, I will give you all the facts."

Ascending a flight of stairs and being comfortably seated, the doctor with a cigarette as a comforter began to talk and the reporter, with a three for five as a soother, prepared to listen.

Said the doctor: "As an ordained elder of the church I had a right under the church law, and I certainly as an individual had a right under the civil law to perform the ceremony of marriage. The impression as conveyed by the News is that I made the marriage and solemnized it, with the deliberate intent and purpose of covering up a crime, and for the purpose of shielding supposed criminal parties. I say at the outset that I know nothing of the case, by inference or otherwise, except as learned from the newspaper reports. I say now that I absolutely know nothing else about it."

"Now as to my connection with the affair. On Thursday night, November 6th, about 9 o'clock, I was summoned by telephone to see one Moses Abrahams, supposed to be chocking to death at his home somewhere in the Kimball Block. Being a bright moonlight night and having a cousin (the only one I have), a Mrs. John Neff, of Mill Creek, visiting me, I proposed to take her and my wife with me for a ride up town and back. We drove to the Kimball Block where Abraham lives, and after seeing him I came out and said to my folks, 'You drive up to Godbe's drug store and I'll walk up.' They drove on and I walked. When opposite the Z. C. M. I. shoe factory, I met Spencer Clawson, who was much excited and out of breath. He said 'I am glad I met you. I am almost crazy and don't know what to do.' I said 'what's the matter?' He said 'That girl Lizzie Evans bounced into my parlor door almost crazy and I don't know what in the devil to do with her. Won't you go up and see her?' I said I would as quickly as I could, after leaving a prescription at the drug store. 'What can I do?' asked Mr. Clawson. I responded, 'Send her to the Sisters' Hospital; it is the best place for her.' Mr. Clawson then said, 'All right; if you can arrange it, I'll go at once and get a carriage.'

"I went to the drug store, wrote the prescription and drove to Spencer Clawson's residence immediately. I went in the back way and found Miss Evans in bed, John W. Irons sitting on the side of the bed talking to her, and her mother and other ladies being in the room. Miss Evans was in a profound hysterical condition, and neither spoke to nor recognized anybody, and was in a great deal of pain. I was informed that she had

## JUMPED FROM A WINDOW

And had gained the ground by means of a tree. I made an examination to ascertain the extent of her injuries received from this source, and found a few scratches. That was all. As to her condition, I made no examination and know nothing about it. I then advised them again to send her to the hospital at once. The question was asked, 'Can't she be taken to the Deseret Hospital?' I replied, 'Yes, she can; I'll go with her there, but I can't attend her there.' Mr. Irons said, 'I want you to take care of this young lady.' I repeated that in that case she would have to be sent to the Sisters' Hospital. I had by this time administered a full hypodermic injection of morphia. After she quieted down and found that she was with friends, she consented to go with me to the Hospital. I wrapped her in a blanket, carried her out in my arms and put her in the carriage. I then gave my word of honor to Officer Salmon that I would be responsible for her appearance at any time she was needed, and that she should be visited by no one without my written consent. I did this because the lady was frightened and did not want to see any one but Mr. Irons and her mother. She was driven to the hospital, several parties being in the carriage with her, and I followed in my carriage. I carried her into the hospital and administered another hypodermic. I did not ask her or Mr. Irons a question, I acted for her physical benefit alone. The following morning (Friday) I saw her again and her condition was much improved. She was feeling more cheerful and much better. Late that afternoon I received a telephone message asking me to be present at 8 o'clock that evening at the hospital; that Mr. Irons, two witnesses and a magistrate would be there to perform a marriage ceremony. I answered that I would be there.

"I left my table full of company that evening and went to the hospital. I waited nearly an hour, but no word came. I met Dr. A. K. Smith, of Chalmers, who had a patient at the hospital, on whom I had been operating. I asked him to wait, stating that Mr. Irons and Miss Evans were to be married, and that I would then take him down in my buggy. He decided to wait. Somewhere about 9 o'clock I received a telephonic message from town, stating that no magistrate could be obtained and asking me whether

## I WOULD PERFORM THE MARRIAGE

ceremony. I said I would as senior in charge of the hospital. I immediately went down and asked her mother whether she would consent to a marriage then and there. She wanted to know if that would stop the law suit. I told her I did not see how it could, but that both were willing and anxious to be married and wanted me to perform the ceremony. I asked her if I should do so. She said she would rather wait until after the preliminary examination and for further counsel.

"I then asked Miss Lizzie Evans if she wanted to be married to Mr. Irons, and if she wanted to be married that night. She said, 'Yes, that's what I do want.' That was before she knew they were coming up. I said to her, 'Mr. Irons will be here in a few moments with two witnesses. Are you willing that I should perform the ceremony?' She replied, 'Yes, if it is right.' Said I, 'All right; when they come I'll notify you.'

"I then and there assured her that I was an Elder of the Church and had the right, as I supposed, to marry them. When they came from the city I placed them in another room, and while Dr. Smith was talking with Miss Evans' mother, pleading with her to give her consent to the marriage, I spirited Miss Evans out of the room into the other room in the presence of John W. Irons, Major G. S. Erb and Joseph G. Davis. It was then about 9.30 o'clock. In their presence I said, 'Mr. Irons and Miss Evans, this is no nonsense on my part; you have asked me to marry you and I am here to do it.' I said to Miss Evans,

## DO YOU WISH TO BE MARRIED

to John W. Irons?' She replied 'I do.' I said to Mr. Irons, 'Do you wish me to marry you to this woman, Lizzie Evans?' He replied 'I do.' I then said 'Now understanding these facts and in the presence of these witnesses, and what may be said hereafter, if you mean what you say, join hands and I will marry you. I then and there married them.

"Miss Evans returned to her bed. When Dr. Smith came from her mother's room, Mr. Irons was sitting at her bedside. I said to her, 'Are you satisfied that you are married to this man and do you acknowledge it to be a valid marriage?' She replied 'I do.' Turning to Mr. Irons I said, 'Do you acknowledge the same? Is this woman in this bed your wife?' He replied 'She is' and then

## KISSED HER.

"I told him then that the rules of the hospital did not permit of his remaining there and he rode back to town with us."

The reporter here arose, re-lit his alleged Havanna which had gone out shortly after the Doctor began his entertaining story and was about to depart when the Doctor concluded: "You can see from these facts that there was no collusion between Dr. Fowler, myself or anyone connected with the case. What I did I believed I had a right to do and would do again under the same circumstances. I am thoroughly satisfied that what I did was for the best interests of all, and I did exactly what I would have done for my own sister. My personal and private opinion is that the publication of a scandal can be of no possible benefit to anybody, and the more it is stirred up the worse it is for all parties concerned, their families and their friends."

## ROTTEN PROPS.

A GOOD many facetious remarks have been made by our cotemporaries about Mr. C. S. Varian's "underground railway," by which he alleges witnesses are conveyed to obscure parts. What about the judicial subterranean tunnel constructed specially for anti-"Mormon" crusade purposes? It is a process by which any citizen, whether innocent or guilty of any offence under the law, can be deprived of what is as dear as life—his liberty.

The roof of the slimy judicial passage-way is propped by open venires, packed grand and trial juries, a fiercely partisan prosecution and a court that refuses to admit to bail, in polygamy cases pending appeal to higher courts.

The whole concern is an abortion of jurisprudence, a disgrace to humanity, and unworthy an existence under this government. It places every man in jeopardy who happens to incur the animus of a number of tyrannical conspirators, who are overstepping the bounds of the constitution, good law, common sense and justice.

**An Invaluable Article.** An article like Ely's Cream Balm has long been praised for cure of Catarrh and Hay Fever. Dr. W. E. Buckman, W. E. Hamman, Druggist, and others, all recommend it in the highest term.—