

OUR CHICAGO LETTER.

While glancing over the papers a few mornings ago I noticed a paragraph relating to Utah, and as it is a fair sample of hundreds of such which appear from time to time, it is here submitted as it originally appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*:

New York dispatches in yesterday's paper stated that the advance guard of an army of 1,200 Mormon converts had landed in New York from the steamer *Wyoming*. It was said that this was the first batch of Mormon proselytes forwarded this season under the personal conduct of regularly commissioned agents of the Mormon Church. H. C. Decker, who registered from Utah at the Leland yesterday, had something interesting on the subject.

"It is generally supposed," he related, "that the Gentile victory over the Mormons a few weeks ago had completely crushed these law-defying people. This is a mistake. While officers are laboring to enforce the law on country, numerous cunning agents are gathering recruits in the Old World and sending them over here in large numbers. It is a fact that the majority of the recruits are young women and girls. They know nothing of the true condition of the Utah Mormons, but come over here on representations made by the smooth-talking agents, who picture the Mormon settlement as a sort of paradise. The truth is not learned until these girls are slaves of the church and of scheming men. From what I've seen of these foreigners I don't believe that one recruit ever had an accurate idea of the scorn in which the Mormon Church is held by respectable people. When Mr. Evarts was Secretary of State he advised all diplomatic agents from the United States to warn the common folk against the seductive stories told by the Mormon missionaries. For years these agents have infested certain sections of Europe, and Mr. Evarts' precaution was as wise as humane. The people of Utah are working hard to suppress this abominable hierarchy, but their efforts are handicapped by these foreign missionaries."

I read and re-read the above utterances of Mr. Decker, whoever he is. To say that such statements are nonsensical would be taking too mild a view of the matter. The fact is no really sane man would believe himself of such folly, inanity and paltry falsehood. Or if he is sane he is a living libel on the English-speaking races. He is a satire in buckram, a Congo savage in American citizenship. Whether his name be Decker or Wrecker, his only human prototypes were those infamous wretches who by treacherous signal lights used to lure unfortunate mariners on to the rocks of maritime coasts. Mr. Decker is but one of a numerous class as far as Mormonism is concerned. We must go back a century for his political prototypes. In a letter written by the famous Junius to the Duke of Grafton, we will find such vampires as Decker truthfully portrayed. Here are the opening sentences of this letter:

To His Grace of Grafton:

(My Lord—If nature had given you an understanding qualified to keep pace with the wishes and principles of your heart, she would have made you, perhaps, the most formidable minister that ever was employed, under a limited monarch, to accomplish the ruin of a free people. When neither the feelings of shame, the reproaches of conscience, nor the dread of punishment form any bar to the designs of a minister, the people would have too much reason to lament their condition, if they did not find some resource in the weakness of his understanding. We owe it to the bounty of Providence that the completest depravity of the heart is sometimes strangely united with a confusion of the mind, which counteracts the most favorite principles, and makes the same men treacherous without art, and a hypocrite without deceiving.)

This letter was written on July 8, 1766, on

the Wilkes-Luttrell election in Middlesex. Mr. Wilkes received 1143 votes, Mr. Luttrell 296. The sheriff returned Wilkes as the elected member, but the House of Commons seated Luttrell. Junius wrote the famous letter which commences with the above sentences. U. S. senators and Congressmen generally would do well to read the letter in full before proceeding to legislate on the Utah question. Let them remember that Utah carpet baggers are depraved in heart, confused in mind, prostituted in politics.

In the case of Mr. Wrecker, is not the utterance of Junius realized? Do we not see a putrid heart and an imbecile mind in one body? He says the world has not heard of Mormonism or read of it. Then what has become of the millions of tons of perjured literature scattered broadcast, traducing, vilifying, defaming and denouncing Mormonism? Is there a quarter of the civilized world free from the venomous slanders of the Utah carpetbaggers and their friends? Yes, Mr. Evarts did issue a kind of papal allocution to the powers of Europe, but what did Gladstone, the G. O. M., say in reply? He said, substantially, that Mormonism would come out all right, and that the government could not interfere with the emigration of its converts.

It is only a few weeks ago that Governor Thomas of Utah passed this way to Washington. He was accompanied by one Caleb W. West and one R. N. Baskin, both creatures of the Decker-Wrecker type. They visited our newspapers here and of course discharged a volume of their rancorous bile on the Chicago public through the pages of some of its press. They succeeded especially through the *Inter-Ocean* newspaper. That journal published as editorial matter one of Governor Thomas' screeds about public buildings in Salt Lake to overawe foreign tourists. This paper is run by a man named Wilhelm Pendennis Nixon. It is read largely by farmers, though its policy is of that protective nature which helps the farmer to mortgages in plenty. It has built up a large circulation not by protection, but by bounty. Every subscriber used to get a washing machine, a potato peeler and sometimes a "Curiosity Shop" dictionary. The farmers stuffed themselves with something that stole away their brains, and gave them mortgages and washing machines in abundance. They begin to see their folly, and the *Inter Ocean* has changed its tactics. It is endeavoring to infuse new talent into its asinine staff. It picked up a railroad laborer recently named Pat Grant, who is galvanizing its moribund pages into a kind of sickly vitality. This is the kind of paper and these the kind of patriots who revile Mormonism.

As to the action of Governor Thomas, I don't know how to characterize it. It is beyond belief to think that the Governor of any Territory within U. S. jurisdiction should proceed to Washington and by underground means attempt to disfranchise a community of American citizens. In a country of free speech, and where the people are supreme, it is positively scandalous to do as the Governor of Utah has done. In an official way he

may have imagined himself justified in making political reports of any nature, and of suggesting methods of disfranchisement of any kind, but in this underhand way he has degraded American citizenship and the American government to the level of rum-shop politics and bagnio statesmanship. In the letter already quoted from, Junius says of Grafton's conduct as minister:

"You have degraded the royal dignity into a base dishonorable competition with Mr. Wilkes, nor had you abilities to carry even this last contemptible triumph over a private man, without the grossest violation of the fundamental laws of the Constitution and rights of the people. But these are rights, my lord, which you can no more annihilate than you can the soil to which they are annexed."

The tory Grafton and republican Thomas are brethren. Thomas has degraded American democracy to a base pettifoggery, and the contemptible triumph recently obtained over the private conscience of a citizen is one that will forever disgrace the pages of American history. But as Junius says, the rights of the people are as firm as the mountains of Utah, and cannot be dislodged by the miniature straps of Utah and Idaho. And furthermore, as the infamous and odious Pigott was the means of bringing Gladstone and all fair-minded Englishmen into a sense of duty toward their sister isle, so the contemptible Baskins, the depraved Deckers, the rewarded Powers, the unregenerated Wests, will be and are the means of propagating Mormonism, and of calling attention to the inroads made upon our laws, liberties and Constitution by a horde of ruffians devoid of shame, dead to honor and blind to common decency. The street walker tries to disguise or conceal her calling because of the instincts of womanhood still left in her, but the Utah carpet-bagger glories in his meretricious banner and lifts it aloft because the instincts of man are dead him, the divine essence is entirely crushed out of him, and he would be a fitting illustration for the Saratoga Presbyterians to demonstrate that there are still children of perdition, still human beings totally depraved, still bipeds in human form who soil their own nests, foul wolves who return to their vomit. This is the plain truth about Utah, though spoken in homely phrase, and the sooner it is known the better. JUNIUS.

CHICAGO, May 18, 1890.

EXCEEDINGLY SUGGESTIVE.

Is it not possible to anticipate a period in the distant future when Chicago will be looked upon as an ancient city? Certainly it is. And in the year 2500 A. D., which will also be reckoned 670 L. D. S., some antiquarian of the *DESERET NEWS* will fish from the musty, moth-eaten tomes of a Chicago newspaper the following item:

A group of lumbermen at the lumber exchange were talking about the recent election frauds alleged to have taken place in the Twenty-fourth Ward.

"I never had any business to transact with the city council but once in my life," said one. "That was twenty or more years