

may desire to have appear for ulterior reasons. Our cotemporary displays considerable animus to the Mormon Church, and closes its editorial utterance as follows:

The Mormon Church has never been more actively engaged in spreading its doctrines than it is now, nor was its missionary spirit ever so alert. Even in this city it has missionaries actively at work and nothing will check its efforts to control the state affairs of Utah. If any one supposes that Church has surrendered any of its doctrines or practices he is ignorant of the spirit of the institution. In no essential does Mormonism in 1896 differ from Mormonism in 1870.

The Chicagoan may deem it a crime for any church to display such active missionary spirit as to have "missionaries actively at work" in Chicago; but if the state of affairs in that city as described in the columns of our cotemporary, be anywhere near accurate, then the missionary spirit of Mormonism would be a glorious boon of saving grace to people there, if it were only in the industrial improvement it brings to those who heed it, to say nothing of its betterment in matters moral and spiritual. Of course the Church has not surrendered any of its doctrines, neither has it professed to do so. One of the doctrines is obedience to the constitutional law of the land, and since that obedience required the cessation of a practice to which the Chicago writer seems to hint—that of plural marriage—the practice ceased; and none who have regard for the truth will assert to the contrary. But it is not a Church doctrine or practice to control State affairs of Utah or elsewhere; neither is it a doctrine to allow the State or politicians to control or make a cat paw of the Church, affirmatively or negatively—hence the fluttering of some who tried it. Our Chicago friend need not fear the active missionary spirit of Mormonism; it is destined to bring only the true and the good to him and to all who receive it with honest hearts.

NO FIGHTING JUST YET.

President Cleveland has disappointed a great many people by the conservatism of his utterances, in his message to Congress, upon the condition of affairs in Cuba. There have been hints and suspicions that he had been intentionally deliberate in interfering in the disturbances there existing, preferring to wait until near the end of his term when by a few vigorous diplomatic or other strokes he could close his administration in a blaze of patriotic glory. Even many who have not held this view of his probable action have expected him to adopt or to recommend a firm jingo policy and aggressive measures in behalf of the insurgents—something, in short, that would stir the prevailing national sympathy into an enthusiasm that might prove tangible.

There is nothing of all this, however, in the lengthy allusion which he makes to the subject. He is as conservative and non-committal as the most sensitive Spanish grandee could desire. He conveys, it is true, the intimation that a time may come when patience on the part of the United States may cease to be a vir-

tue; but if the Spaniards are at all adroit such a time need not soon arrive under the conditions he states. The prospects of a brush with Spain are materially clouded by his pacific observations, and the fire-breathing element of the American population, who have been anxiously hoping for a call to arms to go and liberate the island, may safely lay their old muskets and sabres back on the shelf again.

DISMISSAL OF CHIEF PRATT.

In the opinion of the News, Arthur Pratt has, in the main, filled the office of chief of police of this city in a manner satisfactory to the public and creditable to himself; and our belief is that Capt. Samuel Paul, his successor, will prove an efficient head of the police department. He was once tried in that position and was not found wanting.

It is not of the merits or demerits of these two men, however, that the News wishes to speak at this time, but rather of certain peculiarities that have attended the proceedings which have resulted in the change. Two vacancies occurred some months ago in the board of police and fire commissioners. One of the remaining members was agreeable to the Mayor's wishes, but the other one was not. In order that the Mayor might be enabled to execute his purposes, it was necessary that the two men chosen to fill the vacancies on the board should be subservient to his will.

If rumor can be credited, and in this instance it seems to be entitled to a fair degree of credence, the Mayor made a somewhat extensive canvass among his personal acquaintances with a view to finding two of them who would lend themselves to his plans, and it was some time before he succeeded. Rumor further says that several gentlemen rejected his proposition to appoint them on the board, because of the terms exacted.

After a long delay, during which the public interests suffered, the board was filled, and one of its first important acts after being thus reconstructed was to remove the chief of police and appoint his successor. The dismissal is not claimed to be for cause. Not a charge has been made against the removed official, at least so far as the public is aware. No open contest has been made against him.

The spirit in which all this has been done is wrong. It favors of secrecy, "the badge of fraud," and of jealousy and malice. It creates and promotes strife and ill-feeling in departments of the city government which should be entirely free from them, and it makes the strongest and bitterest of partisans in circles from which the law, as well as public interest, requires partisanship to be rigidly excluded.

Mayor Glendonning is pursuing a mistaken policy, and the majority of the board of police and fire commissioners have not added to the esteem in which they were held by their fellow citizens, by aiding him to accomplish it. Packing such bodies as the board, for the purpose of carrying out the executive will in such cases, and in such a manner, will not reflect credit on any of the parties responsible

for the proceedings. Furthermore, it will bring into contempt the law under which the business is done, for the spirit, if not even the letter, of that law is quite at variance with the latest operations under it.

MAKE THE PENALTY MORE SEVERE.

For some years past the courts of Utah have shown an increasing leniency in dealing with defendants known to be guilty of despoiling female virtue. In some instances of recent occurrence, in which defendants convicted of the offense named have been dealt with, the penalty has been so light as to create the impression that a woman's honor is regarded by the courts as of such trifling value that its destruction is a mere peccadillo.

In one aggravated case which lately occurred, in which a lecherous and treacherous scoundrel had accomplished the ruin of one whom he had promised to make his wife, a fine of about one hundred dollars, including costs was inflicted. In another case in which there was strong presumptive guilt on the part of the defendant, who was charged with an attempted rape upon the person of a girl aged about thirteen years, the justice of the peace, sitting as a committing magistrate, fixed the bonds at only \$200.

Had the culprit in the first named case been convicted of stealing a piece of jewelry from the young woman he wronged, his punishment would probably have been even more severe than that which he suffered for stealing what was worth more to her than all her earthly possessions could possibly be; and had the defendant in the second case been charged with robbing his victim of a watch or purse, on the highway, instead of the crime alleged against him, probably not a justice of the peace in the State would have made his bonds so low.

These two cases are selected almost at random, from a long list of similar ones that might be made; and the effect of such precedents, established and followed by the courts, tends very strongly towards lessening, in the minds of many people, the value which intrinsically attaches to the honor of woman. When the courts show more severity in punishing a petty thief than they do in cases of the character above referred to, it is a sure sign that corroding influences are attacking the foundations of civilization.

Now, the masses of the people of this State do not approve of this excessive leniency on the part of the courts in dealing with scoundrels convicted of crime against woman's chastity. In Utah, offenses of this character have always been regarded by the majority of the people as among the gravest and most dangerous crimes from which a society suffers; and in dealing with them as if they were only slight misdemeanors, the courts are out of line with the wishes and sentiments of the overwhelming majority of citizens.

Make the penalty more severe! Make more emphatic the law's condemnation of such crimes! Thieves who steal valuable property are put where they can steal no more for a long term of years. On what principle, then, are