

although described as "thoughtful and gentlemanly" by the "Liberal" organ, this would not relieve the appropriate officials from the performance of their present duty.

Nobody familiar with the usual official methods here doubts, as we viewed it, that if a "Mormon" had uttered such stupendous falsehoods under oath as were evidently perpetrated by Wardell, he would have been prosecuted, indicted and convicted for perjury in short order.

It was also a prominent fact of the investigation that although Judge Anderson admitted, while the proceedings were in progress, that the Wardell murder story had been disproved, he made no mention of the fact in his decision. Indeed that document was, to our reading, in the nature of an argument for the prosecution rather than a judicial paper. It virtually treated the other side as if no defense had been made, notwithstanding the evidence from that quarter was both voluminous and powerful.

#### A MORAL PROBLEM.

THE killing of Stephen L. Pettus of Brooklyn, a wealthy business man, by Mrs. Hanna B. Southworth, which occurred some weeks ago, in the streets of that city, was a sensational incident which has served to bring out the sentiments of many American newspapers relative to certain questions of right, wrong and justice which are involved in that tragedy, and in the conduct and deserts of such men as Pettus.

Mrs. Southworth is represented as an attractive widow about thirty years of age, having qualities and accomplishments calculated to inspire the admiration of "society" men. She was dependent upon her own resources for a livelihood, and probably found it difficult to "keep up appearances." Her reputation was unsullied.

Pettus was a "society" man. He had plenty of money and devoted much of it to pleasure and gaiety. According to representations that have been made of him, he was a libertine, having not the slightest regard for woman's honor, but rather glorying in the destruction of it. He was a married man, but his wiles, fascinations and persuasions overcame the young widow. He accomplished her ruin and then, quickly tiring of her, cast her adrift. She, filled with emotions of shame, remorse and bitter resentment at his treatment of her, shot him to death in the street.

Some of the papers take pains to apply the epithet, "murderess," to Mrs. Southworth, in commenting upon or referring to the tragedy. They speak of her as they would of any abandoned miscreant who had taken a human life in cold blood. Other papers are less severe in their treatment of her, but she is very generally spoken of by the press as a criminal of a very bad type. We have not yet noticed, in any eastern paper, any article in pronounced denunciation of Pettus.

The burden of guilt and condemnation is cast upon the woman, but the moral problem in the case is to apportion to each of the principals a just share. Both merit condemnation, but which is the greater sinner? That public sentiment which says the woman is, is wrong, unsound and immoral. According to the highest standard of morality which has prevailed in ancient or in modern times, Pettus deserved the fate that overtook him. His crime against the woman was greater than hers in killing him. He took her honor; she, his life. A woman's virtue is more precious than its destroyer's life.

The same drama is played very often in American society, except that the principal climax is not generally reached so abruptly. Usually, too, it is a female member of the cast who "dies" in expiation of sin. It is an unwholesome drama to witness, and an uninviting one to criticize. Its leading elements are repulsive, and it constitutes an unsavory mass.

While divine wisdom is requisite to the fixing of the exact degree of guilt attaching to the *dramatis personae*, and to the apportioning of a just punishment to each, the judgment of an intelligent man of sound and cultivated morality would never condone the conduct of Pettus while condemning that of Mrs. Southworth. Yet this is precisely what our American society and press are constantly doing, to the irreparable damage of the nation's moral tone and ethics.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

The Sunday school officers and teachers held their regular meeting Monday, December 2, in the Fourteenth Ward assembly hall. The attendance was quite large. Nearly all the schools of this city were represented, also the schools of Union, Big Cottonwood, Farmers and Sugar House wards. Elder E. F. Parry presided.

The opening and closing musical exercises were excellently rendered

by the Sunday school choir of the Ninth Ward. Superintendent Thomas Gerrard offered the opening prayer. The school exercises were given by members of the Ninth Ward Sunday School.

Sister Belle Gerrard conducted a class exercise on the catechism "One True Religion," followed by a song by the same class.

Elder John Alford addressed the meeting. He remarked, from personal experience, that he had seen much to admire and love in the Sabbath schools, and he took great pleasure whenever the opportunity offered to advocate its claims upon the Latter-day Saints. He urged the great necessity of observing the Sabbath day, knowing how to pray, and of the knowledge of the existence of our God and Creator. These things should be taught in our Sunday schools, and the children of the Saints made thoroughly acquainted with these principles so that they may grow up imbued with faith and confidence in the Lord and His work.

Miss Ella Evans recited in a very praiseworthy manner the "Parson's Vacation."

A duet, entitled "Light Beyond the Shadows," was well sung by Misses Emma Clark and Millie Groo.

Sister Effie Webb read a well prepared essay on the subject of "Prayer."

Brother Theodore Tobiason gave a brief address on the duty of our Sunday school teachers in instructing the children in the principles of the Gospel fully and thoroughly implanting faith in their hearts. He read a few verses from the Book of Mormon, showing the power of faith possessed by the children of the Lamanites, who had been taught from their infancy in the principles of the Gospel, and had such faith that their enemies could not harm them.

The choir sang an anthem, and Superintendent Charles Denney pronounced the benediction. The meeting adjourned for one month.

The Tenth Ward School will furnish part of the programme and singing exercises at the January meeting of the Union.

JOS. HYRUM PARRY,  
Secretary.

#### PRIESTHOOD MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Priesthood of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion convened in the Assembly Hall at 11 a.m. today—Saturday, December 7th, 1889; President A. M. Cannon presiding. All the wards of the Stake responded to the roll call excepting the Second, Third, Tenth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Nineteenth wards of the city, and the Mountain Dell, South Cottonwood, Bluff Dale, Brighton and Hunter wards.

The usual business being dispatched, remarks were made as follows by the speakers named:

PRESIDENT ANGUS M. CANNON

instructed those who had been recommended and sustained as worthy