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IN ADVANCE.

CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

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## A PUBLIC SCANDAL.

THE course which is being pursued in reference to the United States Marshal proclaims one fact in unmistakable tones. It is that the arrest of "lawless saloonkeepers" and gamblers is resented as a grievance by the "Liberal" faction, or at least by its managers and officials. The attempt now being made to incriminate a "spotter" in order to prevent his giving testimony against the arrested gamblers, is proof of what we have stated. So also is the effort to damage the Marshal's reputation, on the ground that he is part owner of a building that is said to be used for unlawful and immoral purposes.

The use of spotters and informers is not generally approved. And those who engage in this kind of work are not usually considered the most high-toned of society's favorites. But in the detection of some kind of public offenses and secret crimes they are considered indispensable, and their employment has been common in all the great cities of the world. The time is not distant when the very same persons who are now crying out against "spotters" and seeking to punish them as criminals, were applauding individuals engaged in this work, though in a different direction. They were spotters and informers all the same, and were well paid for their work and also praised for their success.

We do not know whether the Marshal is responsible in any way for the use of the premises alluded to in the way that is described. But we do know that he is amenable to the law just like any other individual, and that if he has violated the law there should be no exception in his case. But it is also very plain that until he endeavored to perform a duty which devolved upon him because of the failure of the city authorities to enforce the law, no outcry was raised about his alleged part ownership of a building used for improper purposes.

These attacks and this prosecution of the "spotter," make it very clear that it is part of "Liberal" policy to shield those agencies for evil that have

flourished under the influence of that faction, and that its promoters are enraged because that protection does not exclude the action of officers uncontrolled by "Liberal" influence.

The owners of buildings used for unlawful purposes can and should be prosecuted, when they become aware of such uses, if they do not take measures to remove the evil. We have heard of several persons in this city who are said to be the proprietors of such places, which have been leased to individuals who defy the law. It does not matter whether they are officers or private citizens, professing "Mormons" or "Gentiles," they are liable to prosecution and should be proceeded against, provided they know of the wrong and will not take measures to remove it.

But it becomes a public scandal when one branch of the public service arrays itself against another, for striving to execute the laws, and when an effort is made to smirch the reputation of a public officer for the same reason. The people of Salt Lake City should take notice of these proceedings and determine to correct these glaring evils at the ballot box.

## HOAXING THE PUBLIC.

THE Boston *Herald* publishes a communication from Salt Lake over a signature which only lacks the letter a to make it appropriate; it is signed "Hox." It is a pity that so respectable a journal as the *Herald*, published at the hub, does not discern a *hoax* when it is as evident as in this instance.

The purpose of the article is to make it appear that the "Mormons" are "dodging the question of polygamy." But in order to do this the writer not only has to dodge the facts, but to repeat old stories that are positively untrue. One of these is stated thus:

"And in the past, before the issuing of the Manifesto, there were numerous cases where women on the witness stand swore that they did not know who was the father of their children, in order to screen the accused, the reputed father; and that when not one person in the court room had the least doubt but what the accused was the father, and in the community from whence they came everybody so understood it."

Either "Hox" has been hoaxed or he, she or it is trying to hoax the Boston public. There is this much truth about the story: On one occasion, and one only, a woman placed on the witness stand for the purpose of extorting from her evidence to send to the penitentiary the man alleged to be her husband, sought to screen him by evading questions of a very personal character. And being baited and

badgered by the attorney and pinned down to an inquiry as to the paternity of her child, she answered petulantly, "I don't know." This occurred several years ago, and persons who, like "Hox," want to malign the "Mormon" people, have since taken advantage of this circumstance and exaggerated it, as has been done in this instance.

The purpose in view of such persons is to make it appear that the "Mormons" are an untruthful and insincere people and that their agreements are not to be relied upon. And yet in business matters their word is considered as good as their bond, and their sincerity has become almost proverbial.

In the same spirit as that in which this story is told, "Hox" gives a garbled account of the testimony of the "Mormon" leaders before the Master in Chancery. The Boston *Herald* has given place to these perversions, but would be doing more service to the reading public by obtaining the facts from proper sources, or securing a more reliable correspondent.

We are in reasonable hope that, before very long, reputable journals will repudiate these hoaxes on "Mormon" matters, and that the fashion will so change that facts will take the place of falsehoods, and the simple truth be found more desirable than such distorted statements as the exaggerations of "Hox."

## THE SILVER QUESTION.

THE Silver Congress at Denver resolved in favor of the free and unlimited coinage of silver. This is a step in advance of the resolutions adopted at the Congress held there last June. The Utah delegates received much criticism for joining in the endorsement of the semi-silver policy for the free coinage of the American product only. But they acquiesced in it on the theory that "half a loaf is better than no bread," and this time they united with the advocates of the thorough and more rational policy. What the effect of this declaration at Denver will have upon Congress cannot yet be determined, but it would seem that it must affect the disposition of the matter to a considerable extent.

The silver question is one of the vital issues of the times. It is an economic question and greatly concerns the people of the United States and also to a large degree the whole civilized world. There is much to be said by the advocates on either side that is worthy of consideration. But in our opinion, while we do not profess to be any authority on the subject, the