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## AN ASTOUNDING STATEMENT.

THE following appeared in the latest issue of the *Wasatch Wave*, published at Heber City, Wasatch County:

Hon. A. Hatch was home from the Legislature Sunday. He arrived Saturday evening and returned yesterday. He delivered a discourse in the Stake House Sunday, to a good sized audience. He seems to be in good spirits, and from the tone of his remarks, we should judge that he does not anticipate any serious damage to Salt Lake City during the next two years by reason of the Liberal victory. He said a great many thought that Salt Lake was irretrievably lost to the People's Party, politically speaking, and a great many accused the Liberal party of fraud in the election. He was unable to say whether this accusation was true or false, "but," he said, "we know the People's Party got badly whipped in the late election, and when Sullivan licked Kilrain in Louisiana last summer, the friends of Kilrain said he was sick or Sullivan could not have licked him so easily. Whenever a party gets beat it always has some excuse for it."

The foregoing is, to say the least, extraordinary. The charitable view to take of it is that the expressions of the gentleman, alleged to have been made in a meeting held for divine worship, are not properly represented. It may be stretching a point to take that position, however, because of Mr. Hatch being, as we have been informed, virtually the owner of the *Wave*, and that the vulgar comparison of the Louisiana [Mississippi] prize fight is given in what purports to be *verbatim* shape, being within quotation marks. Aside from the fact that for the figure to have any application to the recent contest, it would have to be shown that Kilrain was actually in the controversy with his hands and feet tied while his antagonist shouted "Come on," the reference was low-toned as well as unjust. If the *Wave* has misrepresented the honorable gentleman from Wasatch, it should not delay in setting itself and him right before the people, as the latter would not like Mr. Hatch to be placed in the position of one who wounds them with insult after they have been deeply and cruelly injured.

## DEBASING ANTI-"MORMON" LITERATURE.

WHEN a record of our times shall be made by an impartial historian, the Latter-day Saints shall be completely vindicated, while their traducers will be held up to everlasting execration. When this meet of justice shall be given, the generation then living will read with amazement the base slanders that have been and are being uttered against a worthy and misunderstood people, of whose true mission and genius there seems to be but little apprehension.

So striking will this phase of the history of the Latter-day Saints be that the diabolical falsehoods formed and circulated against the primitive Christians will be comparatively forgotten. The fulness of the Gospel revealed anew in this age has come to stay, and the powers of evil will consequently be exercised to their fullest extent in supreme efforts to stop its progress and prevent the accomplishment of its mission and the attainment of its destiny. The refuge of lies must be extensively erected as a protection to those who engage in making assaults upon a community who are entitled to the highest consideration, but instead of being accorded it are the victims of the largest possible measure of vilification, abuse and maltreatment. In course of time the tables will turn and the stream will run in the opposite direction.

These reflections were superinduced by turning over the pages of a book entitled "The Two Elsie," by Martha Finley, and published by Dodd, Mead & Co., of New York. It is designed for juvenile readers, whose minds are liable to be poisoned through it with unjust prejudice by the unmitigated libels which the volume contains. As an anti-"Mormon" publication, especially as it is in the guise of a book for young folks, it is one of the most contemptible and slanderous ever given to the public.

In one part of the volume a young couple on a bridal tour are represented as meeting with two young girls on a train who had left their home in Norway to seek another in Utah, having been converted to the "Mormon" religion by the preaching of an Elder. They had taken the wrong route, and were accordingly in great mental distress. In conversation with them the groom is represented as making to them an expose of "Mormonism" with special reference to polygamy. Here is an extract:

"It is a well-established fact, replied Edward; and it is well known also that they conceal this doctrine from those whom they wish to catch in their net; to them they exalt the Bible and Christ; but when the poor dupes reach their promised paradise, and are unable to escape, they find the Bible kicked into a corner, the Book of Mormon substituted for it and Joe Smith exalted above Jesus Christ."

All who are familiar with the religious peculiarities of the "Mormon" people know that in their reverence for and adherence to the Bible they are not surpassed by any other community; neither is there any other class of people who, as a whole, are more conversant with its contents. While they accept the Book of Mormon as an ancient record given to this generation for the benefit of all who will accept of its truths, it is not taken nor viewed as a substitute for anything else either sacred or secular. As to the Prophet Joseph Smith being exalted above the Savior, the fact that "Mormon Church" is a misnomer, its proper name being the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, ought to be sufficient answer to that absurd charge.

The following exhibits the author's fertility in the production of slanderous fiction:

"The missionaries procure photographs of the single women whom they have persuaded to embrace Mormonism, and these are sent on in advance of the parties of emigrants. The Mormon men who want wives are then invited to look at the photographs and select for themselves. They do so, and when the train comes in, bringing the originals of the pictures, they are there to meet it; each man seizes the girl he has chosen by photograph, and drags her away, often shrieking for help, which no one gives. I have this in the testimony of an eye-witness, a minister of the Presbyterian Church, who has lived for years in Utah."

Of course it is hardly possible that a sane person who has reached the years of maturity could be impressed with the idea that there is a grain of truth in that most pernicious falsehood, but the wickedness of any person that would, in a publication designed to operate upon the minds of the young, make such a diabolical statement must be apparent to every reasonable mind.

But the crowning infamy of the author is reached when she puts into the mouth of one of her characters the following blood-curdling and appalling sensational fabrication.

"One day a Mormon and his family, consisting of one wife and several children, were seated about their table taking a meal, when the husband remarked that he thought of taking a second wife.

"His lawful wife—the mother of his children sitting there—objected. Upon that he rose from his seat, went to her, and, holding her head, deliberately put her throat from ear to ear."