

"active politicians" to draw official chestnuts out of the fire.

By consenting to be used in this second-hand way these magnanimous trustees have been rewarded by the burning of their fingers. So far as present appearances go, the scorching has been so severe that the chestnuts had to be dropped; and they, together with those who inspired the proceedings—which could scarcely be characterized by any other name than an infamous public scandal—are a disappointed lot.

What took place Feb. 14 was a striking offset to the intention indicated by the conduct of Mr. Baskin, to proclaim that a close investigation had been smothered by his being ejected from the proceedings. Who is it that has smothered the investigation now, in view of the rulings of Examiner Harkness, to the effect that the inspiring motive of those who have instituted this side-show shall not be exhibited by convincing evidence? What is the reason that he declines to allow the lid of the political pot to be lifted that the seething mass of hypocrisy and corruption bubbling under it may be shown, and its true character estimated?

Certain parties and a certain paper have been clamoring for the making of this examination as complete as it is possible to render it, but this demand has been made that it might merely relate to the alleged misconduct of the Receiver and his attorneys. It is a poor rule that does not work both ways, and why should the people and the court not be treated to a manifestation of the true inwardness of a nest of political conspirators who are a disgrace to human kind? It is the old story—"Patriotism on the lip and sinister and selfish motives in the heart." The pretension was that the protection of the public schools was the sole object. When it is proposed to show, however, that the subservience of certain political ends was the object in view, an estoppel is put on the effort made in that direction.

Let there be no more exclamations regarding alleged attempts to smother facts in relation to this scheme of robbery and political jugglery in which a particular class of "active politicians" are steeped to the neck.

The anti-"Mormon" organ of this city would now do well to withdraw its nomination of Judge C. S. Zane

for the chief justiceship of this Territory, otherwise let it come out flatly and state that the consummation of the selection of that gentleman for that office was one of the fundamental causes of the trustees making application to let them into the Church case.

### ANOTHER EPISODE.

ANOTHER fantastic episode occurred on Feb. 13 in connection with the examination into the conduct of the Receiver and his attorneys, in the Church case, before Examiner Harkness. It consisted of the elimination of R. N. Baskin. He presented himself, as usual, in the capacity of attorney for the petitioners "by courtesy" of counsel for the court.

His first appearance in that role was decidedly interesting on account of his presumptuous manner and insolent bearing, which were complained of by the other side as "unprofessional, ungentlemanly and discourteous." We stated at the time that his peculiar antics were done for a purpose, and these are the words which were used in reference to it: "The extraordinary manner of proceeding of Mr. Baskin ought to be coupled with the fact that he is, in the most pronounced sense, what has been aptly designated 'an active politician.' Consequently, it is more than likely that his ferocity, passionate explosions and spluttering interruptions were the green fire introduced into the tragedy for the purpose of producing a ghastly effect. Men of his class deal more in effects than in facts. In their line of business the former are frequently of more use than the latter."

The ulterior motive of Mr. Baskin was that he should be thrown out of the case, and thus be placed in a position to assert that the Court was afraid of a scrutinizing investigation. The reason for his wishing to be placed in this situation was that he had discovered, so far as the examination had progressed, that he could make no point, the testimony as elucidated being, as a whole, a heterogeneous mass of unintelligible statements forming a combination out of which nothing could be evolved likely to be of any material service to the parties who had inaugurated the scramble.

The point taken, however, by Judge Powers and Mr. McBride as to the reason why Mr. Baskin should not be permitted to appear was well

chosen. The petitioners, or, in other words, the school trustees, had been adjudged in contempt. He had appeared at a previous stage of this farcical business as their counsel. The Court had appointed counsel to conduct the inquiry, so that the doings of the Receiver and his counsel might be laid bare before it. After the alleged contemptuous trustees had been shut out of the proceedings, to admit them in the shape of legal counsel would be an insult to the Court itself. Mr. McBride scored a kick against his former colleague which ought to have made the latter feel as if on this occasion at least his legal feet were not metaphorically encased in moccasins, but in Number 13 brogans! It was in the shape of an insinuation to the effect that Mr. Baskin, legal counsel for the trustees, was attempting to creep into the examination surreptitiously in another guise.

The irrepressible Baskin was granted the privilege of descending from the character of the chief muck-a-muck in this matter to that of prompter to the court attorneys—a species of Mephistopheles to Messrs. Marshall and Critchelow. This aroused his indignation, to accept the offer being, according to his statement, beneath his dignity—Save the mark! There are not a few who consider that element in his case to be what mathematicians term "an unknown quantity."

It may be deemed a questionable proceeding, so far as the wisdom of it is concerned, to throw Mr. Baskin out of this investigation, for the reason that that step was exactly what he desired. If the dignity of the Court must be preserved in that way, why not take the action solely on the ground of his overbearing and insolent manner, his alleged ignorance of correct deportment, presumed to exist among people of almost every grade of society? Surely that, coupled with the protection of the witnesses and the attorneys on the other side from needless, perpetual, and petulant interruptions, should constitute sufficient ground for his not being allowed to continue to appear.

These proceedings remind the spectator of the variegated forms, shapes, and colors observed by looking into a revolving kaleidoscope. It is a sort of "Now you see it, and now you don't" arrangement. It is one of the most ridiculous and incongruous mixtures ever presented in any country, under any circumstances, for the perusal of a disgusted public.