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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Saturday, July 2, 1892

## BE THESE MISTAKES?

If an explanation be necessary for making reference to statements which, during the last few days, have had space in the columns of the anti-"Mormon" organ, published in this city, it is that occasions arise when it appears necessary to defend the innocent against the satanic attacks of unscrupulous defamers. To do this is one of the functions of the NEWS.

This is the reason why, in the first place, we denounced the use by O. W. Powers, at Chicago, for political purposes, of the bogus Bishop West address, which originated with the organ of the Tuscarora "Liberal" Democrats. The information regarding the use of this base forgery by Mr. Powers came over the wires. This brought his organ into the subject, it being the author of the vile slander. It rises in rage at the exposure of the inwardness of the matter which has appeared in this journal. Its fulminations of this morning are as passionate, illogical and incongruous as usual. We lay this assertion down as a proposition and will proceed to prove it.

The anti-"Mormon" organ remarks:

"The so-called sermon was published in the *Tribune* more than eight years ago; there was nothing remarkable about it, except its close similarity to a thousand Mormon sermons that have been delivered in this Territory; so close was the similarity that the *Tribune* believed it was a real address, and so published it, and immediately corrected the error as soon as it ascertained that it had been imposed upon."

If heedful we will reproduce the vile forgery. That would be sufficient to prove that it is not like anything in heaven, on earth or under it. We will, however, reserve that point for the present. There was no possibility for any intelligent person residing here to have been deceived by a subterfuge the clumsiness of which was only surpassed by its baseness.

The "Liberal" Tuscarora Democratic organ makes an assertion that has had no parallel for hypocritical effrontery except it be when O. W. Powers, in the course of one of his speeches, turns up his eyes with an air of sanctity and quotes the Scriptures. It says this:

"The NEWS has been trying for twelve or fourteen years previous to catch the *Tribune* in a mistake of this kind. It has been trying through eight years since to do the same thing, but this is the only instance on record."

This is all wrong. We have not taken exceptions to the mistakes of our fanatical cotemporary. What we have objected to and still contend against

is the gross wrongs it commits on purpose. Some excuse is admissible for blunders, but none for acts which are the outgrowth of malice prepense. We here benignly forgive our cotemporary for all the mistakes it has made and express our regrets for the injury it has inflicted upon itself by the many willful wrongs it has perpetrated.

When, in yesterday's issue, we reproduced a correspondence from a "Gentile" in which the writer denounced the manner in which our cotemporary distorted and misrepresented "Mormon" sermons delivered in the Tabernacle, our object was not to exhibit mistakes in that line, it was simply to show what it has done for many years wilfully, wickedly and on purpose. No mistake about it at all. We have made no complaint whatever about mistakes.

Now we will give a little more non-"Mormon" testimony in relation to what our contentious cotemporary calls mistakes, of which it claims to be spotlessly free from making, except in one notorious instance. This is from the *Salt Lake Times* (Gentile) of about a year and a half ago.

"We are heartily ashamed of a species of journalism not to be found outside of Salt Lake City that revels in the most infamous, outrageous and blasphemous travesty in its reports of certain religious worship. We are ashamed of a species of journalism that ignores the difference between a devotional service to God and a political mass meeting. We are ashamed of it because it is calculated to advertise us broadcast as a horde of barbarians without sense of honor, decency or reverence.

When occasion requires it the *Times* does not hesitate to strike the most powerful blows at the Mormon hierarchy, and they are all the more effective because they fall direct; but it would no more think of invading the sanctum of the people with foul language and cheap sport than it would of desecrating the graves of its dearest friends. It takes a human jackal to do that. We would not even quote, in order to show the total depravity of Lannan's Own, any part of the report printed therein upon the Tabernacle service printed last Sunday. It is by all odds the most contemptible piece of journalism ever perpetrated in America.

"Of course Pat Lannan knows no better. Graduating from a beer bar and a butcher block to the position of an editor does not necessarily elevate one's morals or sense of decency. Beyond that, he is in distress. He has built up his organ on venom, and when that fails of effect, as it lately does, the circumstances having changed, he ascribes that failure to a lack of malignity, and whoops up the boys to 'such vile, base practices.'

"The wonder is that Lannan's amenity did not rebel against this degradation of a newspaper; this prostitution of a power; this defamation of a city. For shame!"

The nonplussed "Mormon" sermon manufacturer and distorter springs this point:

"Again the NEWS repeats the assertion that this address was circulated all over the United States, and especially in the South, where numbers of Mormon missionaries were laboring, and that it so inflamed the minds of the populace of Lewis county, Tenn., that in that county, where a number of Elders were preparing to hold divine services, an armed and masked mob broke into the house and cruelly murdered four persons. The NEWS has not, and never has had, the slightest

evidence that one man in the house had ever seen the *Tribune*."

This last quotation embodies another mistake (?). That "Red Hot Address" was handed about in the locality where the massacre occurred, and wherever the Elders went they were confronted with it. It was specially used and circulated by a Baptist preacher named Vandever, of Howenwald, Lewis county, Tennessee. He read it to the people and made it a text for his anti-"Mormon" sermons. A request was sent to Vandever by John H. Gibbs, one of the victims of the massacre, and William H. Jones, a survivor of the tragedy, now living in this Territory, but so far as known the rabid Baptist paid no attention to the solicitation for him to correct the injustice to which he had been a party. Following is an extract from a letter from W. H. Jones, published shortly after the massacre occurred:

This villainous, slanderous fabrication was circulated over the country. Parson Vandever worked up prejudice against us in that section by giving it (the "Red Hot Address") wide publicity, and by his pretended credence to the falsehood, causing great excitement. Elder Gibbs and I sent by mail to Vandever an exposure of the address in question, but he did not show it to anybody that we know of.

This proves that the NEWS has had evidence of the circulation of the West address in the neighborhood where the massacre occurred.

We will give one more sample of the mistakes of our cotemporary. Our readers will agree that it is a peculiar one:

"He says the editor of this paper stated in a committee in Minneapolis that if the Mormons had not been afraid to attack him he would have been killed because of his opposition to them. That is altogether false. In reply to an insolent assertion by one of the Mormons present in that committee, that the fact that the editor of this paper was alive was a proof of Mormon forbearance, he did say, 'You would have killed me long ago if you had thought it worth the trouble; you thought it would cost you more eventually than it was worth.'"

This is singular reasoning, exhibiting the fact that the editor of our innocent cotemporary is much more adept at feathery word-painting than journalistic polemics. He denies the truthfulness of a statement and concludes by proving its correctness. For instance, he denies that he

"stated in a committee in Minneapolis that if the Mormons had not been afraid to attack him he would have been killed because of his opposition to them."

He immediately admits saying this in committee:

"You would have killed me long ago if you had thought it worth the trouble; you thought it would cost you more eventually than it was worth."

If there is any difference between the statement which is denied and that which is admitted, it is so slight as not to be visible to the naked eye.

When the editor asserted that there ever has been any disposition to kill him, on the part of the people he has so often and so outrageously maligned, he knew he was guilty of a *Tribune* mistake, which means something wilfully and designedly done for a purpose.