

the *Advance* assigns as an agent in the production of crime is the newspaper. This may sound strange, but the charge, nevertheless, is not entirely groundless. The average editor ridicules the temperance movement and religious reform more than he does the saloon. He hurls his coarse jokes at the advocates of morality.

The *Advance* says that newspaper editors who are helping the devil must change sides, preachers who are decrying religion must uphold it, and literary people who are sowing the world with unbelief and pollution should quit their wickedness and plant it with faith and righteousness.

### UNDER FALSE PRETENSES.

PROMINENT people and several papers in Boston are being deceived by the plagiarist preacher, J. Westley Hill. His rival and whilom associate, Sam Small, has been pushed to the rear as a champion and money-gatherer for the Ogden University, and Hill comes to the front with as much assurance and mendacity though with less smartness and originality.

We have no objection to the collection of funds in the East for the purpose of erecting a fine building in Utah for educational purposes. That means so much capital brought into the Territory, and employment for a number of local workmen. Nor have we anything to say against a denominational college, whether it be in the interest of the Methodist or any other religious association. But we are opposed to the obtaining of money under false pretenses, whether it be by a common confidence man or a sleek religious charlatan.

Universities, academies, schools of learning are all right for Utah. Good public buildings of any sort help to improve the appearance of our cities. But they ought not to be established at the expense of truth and through the defamation of the "Mormon" citizens of this Territory. If the Methodists want the credit of building a university here, whether it is a public necessity or not, they have the right to build it and make as much noise about it as they please. But no man has the right, after the fashion of the Hills and the Smalls, to lie about the "Mormons" in order to raise the funds that are wanted to pay for the work.

It is not true, as represented to the people of Boston, that there is no education among the "Mormons." It is not true that the building of a Methodist university will be likely to do anything towards converting the "Mormons" to any sec-

tarian form of modern Christianity, certainly not to Methodism. For the purposes pretended by Small until he was retired for alleged fraud, and now set forth by the smaller wit but greater humbug, Hill, the projected establishment can have no probable effect.

The ministers and editors who are boosting Hill, and echoing his stories about "Mormon" ignorance and the good to be done among the "Mormon" people by aid of the University—when it is built, are only helping to deceive the public and aiding in obtaining cash solely to benefit the Utah Methodists, unless it be in the way we have indicated, that is in doing material good to the Territory.

"President" Hill, as some of them call him, is not President of the University. Sam Small was—on paper, until his defalcations were discovered. Hill is simply a very common itinerant Methodist preacher, who is noted in Ogden chiefly for plagiarizing sermons and a coarse manner of attacking the "Mormons" in the pulpit, and even in that, borrowing his vituperation from abler clerical blackguards.

If any of the Boston "Christians" think it is a good thing to help the Utah Methodists in building a university for the benefit of their sect in Ogden, and are liberal enough to make donations for the purpose, that is all right, so long as a close watch is put upon the expenditure. But this should be done on the square, and the benevolent public should not be induced to give their money on any such false pretences as lack of schools among the "Mormons," or their probable conversion to Methodism, through an institution that none of them are likely to enter and a creed which they well understand and for which they can have no possible use.

### SPITEFUL SECTARIANISM.

A JOURNAL entitled *The Christian Cynosure* contains an article, said to have been prepared by the "Home Board," whatever that title may refer to. It is headed "Facts in Mormonism," and consists of a rehash of old, stale, flat and unprofitable trash. A few extracts will suffice to exhibit the nature of the anti-Christian journal. It is a conglomerate. It says:

"The Mormon men have far less difficulty in persuading the young Mormon women of today to enter into polygamous relations, than their mothers and grandmothers."

Of course this continuous flaunting of polygamy before the public by professing religionists is to keep up the old antagonism and prejudice against the "Mormons," at the sacrifice of truth. It is of a piece with the

occasional attempts to make it appear that the Book of Mormon is an adaptation of Solomon Spaulding's story, in the face of the fact that the original Spaulding manuscript was discovered several years since, and is now in the archives of the Oberlin (Ohio) college. It is no more like the Book of Mormon than a molehill is like Mount Nebo. However, *The Christian Cynosure* itself shows the absurdity of the fulminations of the "Home Board" to which it gives space. In the same issue as that in which the abusive article appears is the following:

"Judge Charles S. Zane, the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Utah, has presided at the trials of all the Mormons who have been tried for polygamy. He has reached the conclusion that, when the President of the Church and his advisers formally renounced polygamy (President Woodruff having had an inspiration that the Church no longer required polygamy as a doctrine), they were sincere, and that this institution is now dead forever. In the November number of the *Forum* he explains the slow process by which the rulers of the Church were forced to come to this conclusion, and he shows that their conduct and subsequent events prove their sincerity."

The "Home Board" of professional falsifiers also makes this statement:

"The vulgarity and obscenity of Mormon preaching, in the presence of hundreds and sometimes thousands of women and children, is shocking."

The hundreds and thousands of intelligent non-"Mormon" people—residents and visitors—as well as the Latter-day Saints themselves, know that that quotation embodies a vile and foundationless slander. It shows well for a cause, religious or otherwise, when the principal weapons with which its opponents seek to render it odious consist of tissues of falsehood.

### THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

GENERAL J. S. CLARKSON is in Washington arranging the preliminaries for the National Republican Committee, which meets on Monday, November 23rd, in that city. Four claimants—Cincinnati, San Francisco, Minneapolis and Omaha, are already actively working to get the National Republican Convention next year. Chicago and New York are also said to be in the field, but formal claims have not yet been lodged with the secretary.

Personally, Mr. Clarkson reports himself to a *Mail and Express* correspondent as favoring New York. That city, he says, has not had a convention in many years. Chicago has had so many that her claims save too much of monopoly. San Francisco offers to pay all the expenses of the delegate attending. Omaha and Minneapolis are both working hard, and will be represented by large delegations before the committee. The objection raised to Omaha is lack of hotel accommodation, but Nebraskans claim that there are so many hostels now in process of construction that by next year their city can accommodate two conventions if held there at the same time.