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WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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A NOBLE STRUGGLE.

The good people of Bear Lake County, Idaho, are taking a very intelligent as well as vigorous course in the presentation of the grievances under which they groan to the heads of the nation. They are inspired with the spirit of free men, who will resist oppression to the last. Should a deaf ear be turned to their entreaties by those who have the power to afford relief, the refusal to favorably act upon such a well-grounded and urgent appeal will be censurable in the highest degree, and will re-act upon those who treat contemptuously the pleadings of the oppressed.

The Bear Lake people have the sympathy of their co-religionists everywhere, and the good wishes of every lover of justice in their struggle against the liberty-destroying measures of conspiring tyrants. In this connection the annexed communication, from our Paris correspondent, and the appended statement of grievances and petition will be perused with interest. The document addressed to President Cleveland is *multum in parvo*, being a model of terseness and perspicuity:

PARIS, Idaho, July 20th, 1885.

Editor Deseret News:

A mass meeting was held here to-day which was the largest and most enthusiastic political gathering that has ever taken place in Bear Lake County.

The large new Court House was fitted up for the occasion and was filled to overflowing, many having to stand in the corridor and crowd together in the stairway.

The meeting was called by the Territorial Central Committee for the purpose of expressing dissatisfaction at the present condition of affairs as they exist in Bear Lake County, caused by the unjust and unconstitutional "Test Oath Bill," which was passed by the Idaho Legislature at its last session.

The speakers on the occasion were Amos R. Wright, E. A. Williams, Jos. C. Rich, Walter Hoge, James Athay and R. S. Spence.

The Paris Brass Band was in attendance and played some lively and soul-stirring tunes, being interspersed with the speeches, making the meeting lively and interesting.

The speakers dwelt largely upon the anarchy that prevails in the county, on account of the test oath law that disfranchises all persons belonging to the "Mormon" Church.

The District Court sat last week. A grand jury could not be obtained as there are not sufficient non-"Mormons" in the county, and the "Mormons" all being disfranchised it was found impossible to investigate crime, or put a stop to the lawlessness that is being perpetrated under existing circumstances.

We are in a deplorable condition in this county. Thieves and vagabonds are plying their nefarious vocations with impunity, and the law is powerless to protect life and property. Every right guaranteed to us by the Constitution of our country has been ruthlessly taken from us, and our lives and property left to the mercy of law-breakers without any protection or redress. The infamy of this "test oath" is more apparent when it is understood (as is the case in this county) that one out of every thirty whom it has disfranchised and left unprotected have broken no law, and why should twenty-nine innocent persons be made to suffer for one that may or may not be guilty?

A committee of five persons were appointed by the chair to make a statement of grievances and draft a petition to President Cleveland to be circulated throughout the county for signatures, asking President Cleveland to grant us relief, by removing those officious and unscrupulous partisans who have labored so diligently and successfully in bringing about the reign of misrule and anarchy that prevails at present, and appoint in their stead honest democrats who will administer the law without fear or favor, without respect to creed, sect or party, and who will not bring disgrace upon the Government they have been sent to represent by robbing the people of their rights and privileges, and conniving to steal their liberties for the express purpose of personal aggrandizement and the overthrow of the Democratic party in Idaho.

The statement and petition was adopted unanimously by the meeting.

RUSTIC.

The following is the

STATEMENT AND PETITION:

To His Excellency, Grover Cleveland,
President of the United States:

Your petitioners, citizens of the

County of Bear Lake, and Territory of Idaho, respectfully represent:

That we reside in a county which at the last November election, cast four hundred and one democratic votes and seven republican votes.

That the republican party of this Territory, headed by republican Federal office-holders, entered into a conspiracy last fall to defraud the people at the polls; and by ballot box stuffing, bribery and other corrupt methods, did steal the last Territorial Legislature and thereby made it republican.

That said Republican Legislature did enact laws of a most unjust and infamous character—(copies of which are attached hereto)—so much so, that the government of this county, represented by a majority which cast four hundred and one (401) Democratic votes, is to be turned over to the rule of an insignificant minority, represented by seven (7) Republican votes.

Nor is this all of the evil effected by this iniquitous legislation. Last week our District Court was compelled to adjourn, without doing any criminal business whatever, because it was impossible under the law, to get enough grand and petit jurors in this county, who can conscientiously take the religious test oath prescribed by said Republican Legislature for jurors or electors; and no one can be a juror unless he be a qualified elector.

The said Court did its utmost to get a grand jury, but was unable, under existing laws, to secure one.

A band of thieves are now living upon their plunder, stolen from us and other settlers, and we are unable to prosecute them; they feel perfectly safe, as they well know they are secure from indictment and trial.

Even murder could be committed with impunity, and it would be impossible to bring the murderer to trial.

We submit to your Excellency, whether such a state of affairs ought to exist in free America in this year 1885.

We have paid, and still pay, our taxes, and we get in return anarchy and chaos, instead of a government "by the people, and for the people."

It may be said we should appeal to the courts. That we have done, and to our regret, find a judge who is a Republican, sustain that which a fraudulent Republican Legislature enacted.

We expect to continue our appeal; but we ask your Excellency what are we to do for county and precinct government for the two, three, or more years it may take us to get a case before the Supreme Courts of the Territory and United States?

Our case is a desperate one and demands immediate attention.

It is not even claimed by any one that your petitioners have broken any law of the land. We candidly admit, however, that perhaps one person in thirty of the members of the Church (in this Territory) to which we belong, do not conform to the provisions of the Edmunds law. But as Congress has legislated fully on that question, is it reasonable, or competent, for a Territorial Legislature to supplement such Congressional legislation, by enacting laws which punish twenty-nine innocent persons, because one is supposed to be guilty?

We believe your Excellency, and all good men, will agree with us in saying that it is not American to proscribe and disfranchise any citizen for merely belonging to any sect or organization whatever; it is, says the Supreme Court, only when his belief leads him to commit any "overt act" against the peace and good order of society that he can be legislated against.

But while our alleged offense is, that we belong to said unpopular sect, our real offense is, that we have always voted the Democratic ticket. We call upon the Democratic party of this Territory to witness that this is true. Had we been Republicans, the present religious test oaths, which disgrace Idaho, would not have had an existence. From the beginning it is a scheme to turn this Territory over to the Republican party.

During the time it will take to reach a decision in the Courts, the Republican conspirators will have accomplished their purpose, unless your Excellency will at once give to the Territory honest, Democratic federal officials, who will not hold laws to be Constitutional, which disfranchise law-abiding citizens, simply because they are members of an unpopular religious organization.

No court can be held, no jury obtained, no criminal punished in this entire county so long as existing laws are declared valid.

Your petitioners implore your Excellency to give us relief from such unjust and tyrannical oppression.

The chief object of our glorious Constitution was to secure justice to the citizens; therefore, laws which bring to pass such terrible injustice cannot be constitutional.

Immediate relief can only come through the action of your Excellency; therefore, we beseech you to give early and favorable consideration to the subject and matter of the foregoing; and as in duty bound your humble petitioners will ever pray.

IS IT GROWING WORSE?

It is common with those disposed to condone general criminality to assert that the world is improving morally as well as in other respects. Others not quite so advanced in the same direction speak apologetically, by comparison, of the fearful corruptions under which the earth is groaning. People

belonging to that class hold that the monstrous practices which now so largely obtain, have always existed, and it is probable they always will. The less enlightened ages of the history of our globe are pointed to as examples of the truth of this position.

If it be admitted that most if not all of the debasing immoralities now so prevalent have existed in every age, and even in some generations to a greater extent than in this, it should notwithstanding be apparent to every intelligent observer and thinker that the present era is one of surpassing wickedness. In this respect it is doubtful if it has been paralleled in the past.

The present age is one of vastly greater enlightenment than any that has preceded it. So great is the advancement that comparisons must be absurd.

In judging of the enormity of an offense against the laws of nature and of God, justice demands that the measure of intelligence and culture of the perpetrator be taken into account. Hence what would be an enormous and inexcusable crime when committed by a civilized, educated man, would be little more than what might be expected from an uncivilized barbarian. If it can be successfully shown that the gross offenses against morality which prevail to-day have been common in less enlightened times, still the burden of comparative wickedness belongs to the generation of the greatest advancement in enlightenment, the heinousness of sin being measured by the larger degree of understanding of right and wrong. So with the amount of responsibility attached to the commission of wrong. Viewed from this consistent standpoint the present generation is probably the wickedest since the flood.

While probably every immoral practice that ever did exist, is perpetrated in these times, there are doubtless new ones in addition of a more refined character that belong to what are called the higher planes of civilization. The developments that have been brought to light by the *Pall Mall Gazette* expose, and the Dublin monstrosities of a short time ago, are but symptoms of the horrible moral rotteness that exists in every civilized nation, and that must rise as a stench in the nostrils of an offended God. Considering the picture of moral putridity the world presents, what a spectacle it must be for the heavens to gaze upon.

Instead of growing better, in a moral sense, in spite of the greater enlightenment, the facts go to show that the world is gradually growing worse. Its entire social structure demands a radical process of reconstruction, or, better still, needs to be supplanted by wane condition. The urning of the flood of destruction must come soon, else "no flesh would be saved" from its frightful consequences.

THE ALLEGED INTENTION.

We have mentioned the fact of the members of the families of President Angus M. Cannon and Brother A. M. Musser having been subpoenaed to appear before the grand jury in October. The cause of this action of District Attorney Dickson cannot, as a matter of course, be definitely stated. We did not, in consequence, intend saying anything regarding the matter by way of comment. The subject has, however, been one of such general conjecture that we may at least take the liberty of stating what is the prevailing idea regarding it. So far as can be learned the opinion appears to be nearly universal that the two gentlemen named—imprisoned victims of the anti-"Mormon" crusade—are to be proceeded against on a similar charge to that upon which they were convicted, so soon as they emerge from the Penitentiary, if not before.

Should there be a real foundation for this current opinion, the new charge will be presumed to be based on evidence that the hapless victims have been guilty of "holding out," or, more appropriately speaking, acknowledging their wives during the time that intervened between their being indicted and sentenced. And the reason for the double prosecution would be their declination to renounce or cast adrift portions of their families.

The public are perhaps aware that there are few things of a spiteful, and even malignant character, but what those who constitute the head and front of the anti-"Mormon" raid would descend to—men who mercilessly imprison helpless and innocent women—and their babes—who are not even charged with the commission of any crime (the only offense alleged against them being that they have sought to screen their husbands from suffering the rigors of the law,) and who, were they to take any other position would show themselves untrue to their womanly nature. Notwithstanding those forbidding evidences indicative of the small-souled character of the crusaders, charity forbids that we should give full credence to their alleged intention of opening a new prosecution against the two gentlemen named, who are now suffering the result of their machinations because they will not perform a cruel and dishonorable act toward their families, whom they have covenanted to protect and cherish. Such a proceeding would

be so cruel and utterly paltry, that it seems almost an insult to humanity to believe that men can be found mean enough to perpetrate so contemptible a deed. It appears so totally unprincipled, and must seem to all whose minds are not jaundiced with hate, an utterly unwarrantable stretch of the most elastic law in history. This double application, with a prospective indefinite renewal of the extreme outside limit of its penalties is a scheme worthy only of demons. Those who would resort to it are proof against the appeals of human distress. Upon such the mute suffering of a conscientious man held in the trammels of an unjust law, the tear-stained faces of the sorrowing wife and the pleading eyes of the innocent children of the victim, would have no moving effect. So we will hold on to the hope that the popular idea of the subject under consideration is a mistaken one.

Should such be the case, however, and our charitable effort be baseless, there can be but one opinion in relation to the intent of the proceeding. It is a process akin to the cruelties of the Spanish inquisition. The stony hearted inquisitors applied numerous torture-inflicting devices for the purpose of forcing their victims to confess to having committed crimes of which they were not guilty, and compel them into an allegiance with the Roman Catholic religion. The doubling of the proceedings and inflictions in such cases as the two referred to, would be the intensification of the method resorted to for compelling men to relinquish religion and family, and conform to popular usage. An analysis of the comparative conditions shows not so wide a disparity as might be supposed upon a cursory glance. Doubtless the cruel inquisitors of a past age, as those of the present day, considered themselves justified, and that the "end justified the means," because neither stopped to consider the subject in a light sufficiently humane to cause them to place themselves, even in imagination, in the position of their victims.

The intent of such a step as that indicated would also be, in addition to squeezing the immediate victims into a recreant condition, to terrorize others who are now in jeopardy into apostasy by erecting a bugbear of surpassing prospective hardship. But such a purpose would fall far short of the mark aimed at, for no degree of persecutive barbarity will alter the situation so far as that is concerned.

But if the idea as to the intent of the proceeding referred to be correct, why might it not be expected that such a process would be followed by rendering the offense of a "Mormon" cohabiting with his wives—"holding them out" in that relation and acknowledging them—a capital crime, with the penalty of death attached? What is life worth anyway, when a person is deprived of every privilege that is dear to the properly constituted human being, including the jewel of personal freedom? The death penalty would be but a limited step in advance of the present and alleged intended methods, and not so much more infamous or cruel on the part of the inflictors.

THE GRANT MONUMENT.

It will be seen by announcement elsewhere, that that "boss" monopoly, the Western Union Telegraph Company, is interesting itself in the matter of gathering funds for a national monument to General Grant. It makes a good start by heading the list with a five thousand dollar donation. The system proposed for managing the matter of receiving and disposing of subscriptions not only looks feasible, but as if it would be quite effective. Probably the W. U. T. Company is as complete a channel as could be found for the proposed task. Its thousands of offices are distributed throughout the entire country, and as the receivers are all connected with one system, the work will be simplified. If there were numerous channels through which the fund would have to flow, complications would doubtless arise, and opportunities would exist for crookedness.

This idea of "striking the iron while it is hot" is a shrewd one, the appreciation of General Grant now being at its zenith, so far as activity is concerned. Consequently contributions are likely to be larger and more numerous now than they would be a year or so hence. A great deal of admiration for the soldierly qualities of the dead hero is being expressed by the public, and the present movement for a monument to his memory says: "To what amount do you admire him?"

SURPLUS WATER CANAL.

ADMONISHED by the losses sustained last year, through the high water submerging a great deal of the low lands in the vicinity of this city, to provide against a repetition of the same this year, a number of interested and public spirited citizens last spring mooted a project for conveying the surplus water from the Jordan river by means of a canal directly to the Salt Lake. When their proposition was shown to be feasible it was warmly seconded by the county and city officers, and in order that the work of construction might be prosecuted with system, and that there might be responsible parties to manage the canal after it was con-

structed, an incorporated company was formed for the purpose, and the citizens were invited to take stock in it. The County Court and City Council each subscribed \$3,000, and quite a number of citizens subscribed liberally, and the work was undertaken with confidence that what was still lacking of the amount necessary would be forthcoming as the work progressed. The contractors engaged in the work in good faith, and though unlooked for difficulties were encountered and much greater expense incurred in the work of construction than had been calculated upon, the work in due time was finished, the water turned in and the canal declared a success.

But as the work approached completion the ardor of the land-owners who were chiefly to be benefited by it cooled off, and no additional stock was subscribed for. The result was, the contractors who did the grading only received about 30 per cent. of their pay. According to the financial report rendered by the secretary and treasurer, and which we published two weeks ago, there is still due for work done on the canal after every cent collected has been paid out, \$7,352.64.

Every one will acknowledge that it is not right that the contractors should be left in the lurch. They have honestly earned their money and they should have it. And the amount mentioned is not all that will be required in this connection. It has been found since the water was turned into the canal that the old slough which extends from the terminus of the canal to the Salt Lake will require some cleaning out or levelling the sides of it, to prevent the water spreading out too much and injuring farms in that vicinity. To make a thorough and secure job of it, will probably require an expenditure of \$2,500 more, and this is actually necessary, for it is not proper that people in one part of the county should have their land submerged for the benefit of others, without compensation, an effort being made to prevent it.

It will now be seen that upwards of \$10,000 will be required immediately for this surplus canal, and a call will be made upon the people for it. The canal is a necessity as a protection to roads as well as a great deal of valuable land near this city. The value of the land heretofore subject to inundation has been greatly enhanced by its construction, and the owners should require no urging to induce them to pay their proportion of the cost, and in view of the benefit to be derived by the county and city from the canal we think it will be very proper for further appropriations to be made to it from the public funds also. A petition to this end will probably soon be put in circulation.

IAN, UNSATISFACTORY EXPLANATION.

On the 2nd of July we drew attention to a speech delivered by Mr. Joseph Smith, at an anti-"Mormon" meeting in Chicago. Among other things he was credited, by the *Chicago Tribune*, with casting some of the most false, foul and infamous aspersions upon the virtue of the young women of Utah, as well as accusing officers of the Church, among other charges, of the most abominable sexual corruption. The gentleman requested space in the *News* to enable him to give an explanation, and it was, as a matter of course, accorded him. The following extract from his communication of July 2d, embodies the gist of his entirety:

"Neither the *Times* nor *Herald* gave the sentence in the obnoxious form used by the *Tribune*. I had twice before been misrepresented by the same paper, and tried to have them set me right, and failed; and so did not try this instance; but in the issue of our own paper, the *Saints' Herald*, for June 1st, 1882, as soon after the presentation of the matter in your issue for May 13th, 1882, as it was possible, I published this correction, of which a copy of the paper containing it was sent you, with the denial of having made the statement; using the following language concerning it: 'The statement as given in the *Tribune* report, and which the *News* denounces as an 'atrocious lie,' was not made as stated. The *Times* and *Herald* each published a report, and neither of them got the remark in the form given by the *Tribune*. As given it is a harsh remark, of which we do not object to the *News* finding fault.'

The virtue and purity of the women of Utah, aside from plural marriage, were not questioned by me and never have been.

I hand you herewith a copy of the *Saints' Herald* for June 1st, 1882, that you may see that I made the correction of the improper statement as soon as I could after my attention was called to it. Had I made the remark I should justly deserve censure; but not having made it, you should in honor to yourself and justice to me permit this to go before your readers.

We had no idea of giving any further attention to the subject, but it has been revived, by the following correspondence:

SAN BERNARDINO, Cal.

July 19th, 1885.

Editor Deseret News:

I am much pleased to see by this week's *News* that the brethren in Utah