DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

LORENZO SNOW, TRUSTEE-IN-TRUST.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING.

Entered at the Postoffice at Salt Lake City, Utah, as Second Class Matter, According to Act of Congress.

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Horace G. Whitney, Business Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE.

One Year,	$9.00
Six Months,	4.50
Three Months,	2.25
One Week,	.25
One Month,	.75
Semi-Weekly edition, per year,	3.00
Semi-Weekly,	1.50

Remittances may be made either by postal or express money order, or by bank draft, or in cash, at our risk if sent by registered letter.

Address all communications and remittances to the DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.

SALT LAKE CITY, JANUARY 13, 1899.

DESPICABLE CONDUCT.

The "Secret Note" is in receipt of communications from several places, stating that Presbyterian and other preachers have made assertions which are libelous and evidently intend with malicious intent. They are addressed to the effect that, in spite of the announcements by the authorities of the "Mormon" Church, polygamous marriages have taken place in the locality where these reflections reside. When charged to be true by the officers of the law, or to the officers of the law, or to the grand juries having jurisdiction, they reply that the prosecution is in the hands of men who will not take proceedings.

In every case where the preachers have been pressed to name the parties thus accused, they have either refused to do so, or referred to other persons as their informants. When the time thus obtained has been followed up, the alleged informants have either stated all knowledge of the matter as admitted that they merely repeated a rumor.

In one or two instances where the alleged violation of the law were named, investigation proved that the individuals who opened the lapse were absent, alienated with the actual facts, and by jumping at unwarranted conclusions made themselves tale-bearers and scandal-mongers, and thus contemptible in the eyes of decent people.

We are of the opinion that not dubbed with the title "reverend" step outside their legitimate sphere, and add nothing to the sanctity or influence of their calling, when they tone around for some salacious story and retail the product of gossips and slanderers. Even for the pious purpose of maligning the "Mormons" they stand unjustified before God and the nation.

It may be necessary, in order to stop this miserable business, to prosecute some of the worst of these shifted tittlers, that it may be seen whether the officers of the law are willing to perform their duty. They are slandered, as well as the "Mormon" people, by these religious defamers, and their reputation is also assailed.

We know of several reports circulated in an adjoining county, aided by certain ministers, which led to unofficial charges against the prosecuting attorney for failure to do his duty. In every case thus renewed, the parties who had the most to say knew the least when questioned, and not a soul could be found to swear to a formal complaint.

The sectarian ministers of Utah who are now endeavoring to aid certain politicians in inventing a new anti-Mormon tempest are perhaps too small game to bag in a libel suit, but they are none the less violators of statutory and moral laws and deserving of public reprobation. False witness against a neighbor should be considered of such as it is condemned of Deity.

SENATORIAL ELECTIONS.

The legislatures of California and Montana are struggling with the election of U. S. Senators, and New Jersey will begin on the 24th of the month. In Utah the battle royal will commence on the same date, or one in Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Washington. On the 24th of January, Wyoming, Nevada, Texas and Wyoming will vote for Senators and also West Virginia, while Florida does not start till April 18. Very few of these men are dared to politically doubtful, but in all probability the elections in some of them will bring to sought some congressmen.

Some of our readers may be interested to see in the mass of conflicting and uncertain reports, that the 55th Congress will be composed of 90 Democrats, 1 Populist, 1 Silver Republican, 1 Independent, 1 Independent Silver, 1 Independent Democrat, 1 Independent Populist, 1 Independent Republican, 1 Independent Democrat-Populist, 1 Independent Democrat-Silver, 1 Independent Populist-Silver, 1 Independent Populist-Democrat, 1 Independent Silver-Democrat, 1 Independent Silver-Populist, 1 Independent Silver-Republican, 1 Independent Silver-Democrat-Populist, 1 Independent Silver-Populist-Democrat, 1 Independent Silver-Populist-Republican, 1 Independent Silver-Republican-Populist, 1 Independent Silver-Republican-Democrat, 1 Independent Silver-Democrat-Republican, 1 Independent Silver-Republican-Populist-Democrat, 1 Independent Silver-Republican-Democrat-Populist, 1 Independent Silver-Republican-Populist-Democrat-Silver, 1 Independent Silver-Republican-Populist-Democrat-Silver-Populist, 1 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