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THE ACME OF IMPUDENCE.

THE impudence and rascality of some characters claiming to be men appear to leap all ordinary bounds and reach the point of sublimity. For some time past James McKnight, of pronounced notoriety in this part of the country, the ex attorney known as the great disbarred, has been floating around in the east palming himself upon public journalists as a "Mormon Bishop." Under color of this false representation, and to give weight to the fabrications he manufactures, he tries hard to imitate the "father of lies;" in which he is markedly successful. He makes some of the most outrageous statements in relation to statehood for Utah and other prominent subjects, and appears to be believed by some simple minded or willfully blind people

If the eastern gullibles knew him as well as he is known here, when he made a statement they would feel as if they were always on the safer side when they accepted as true that which was the antipodes of his representations It will be remembered that in a case in which he was the central figure in the third District Court, in this city, members of the bar who were placed on the witness stand testified to the effect that McKnight could not be believed under oath This unsavory person falsely representing himself as a "Mormon Bishop," says the climax of his effrontery and unblushing rascality by sending to this office copies of public journals containing accounts of his own villainy.

A BURLESQUE ON RELIGION.

OUR readers have been made aware, through the dispatches, of the unpleasantness that lately arose between the Rev. Dr Parker, who delivered the eulogy on Mr Beecher, and the Plymouth Church congregation, of Brooklyn. He appeared in the pulpit again on Sunday (the 5th) As he had sent his check for the $700 he had pocketed as the price of the eulogy the fund committee and other members of the congregation were in a mild and forgiving frame of mind. They are now, however, in a hotter temper toward the reverend Englishman than ever. They fancy that the noted clergyman from across the water deliberately supplemented his check with a gross insult to them. On Sunday morning the house of worship was crowded At the conclusion of his sermon, Mr. Parker said, in his ponderously impressive way, "Let us pray" Every head in the congregation was bowed while in deep, rapturous tones he recited the Lord's prayer. There was a marked change in his tone as he got half through, and throwing back his head he thundered forth "forgive us our trespasses." There was an impressive pause of several moments The preacher's chin dropped upon his breast. When his face was raised to view again the right hand was dashed across his eyes as though to wipe away unbidden tears, and then in a tone in which there was unmistakable significance, the sentence was finished, "as we forgive those who trespass against us" There was another long pause, and, without concluding, the preacher came to an abrupt termination. "Amen" Amazement was written on the faces of those who listened Dr Parker suddenly turned aside, and going quickly down the steps of the platform, hurried away without waiting for the benediction The astonishment then grew more intense, and many indignant glances followed his hasty exit. It was deprecatingly explained that Dr. Parker was obliged to hurry away to keep an engagement, but that did not mitigate the offense which it was believed had been deliberately committed. The whole business has the appearance of a semi religious burlesque.

TRESPASSING ANIMALS.

A STANDING cause of complaint in all or nearly all, of the farming districts in this Territory, is the nuisance of trespassing livestock. Few other causes exist which produce more irritation between neighbors than this One feature of it, which is referred to in a communication from Mr. Dee of Parson, which appears in another column, is the deliberate turning stock into fields before the crops are gathered, is peculiarly unjustifiable and exasperating.

In the early days in Utah, when settlements were small and most of the farms were in a joint enclosure, the custom of turning stock into the fields in the fall, became established. The feed in the fields was better, even after all crops were removed, than on the ranges, which, at that season, were commonly dried up to a great extent. But as the population of the settlements has increased, his system, for various reasons, has become ill adapted to newer conditions, and the greatest good to the greatest number, as well as the preservation of harmony, seem now to require that each stock owner shall take care of his own animals independent of pasturage on his neighbor's land.

Mr Done complains of the circumlocution of the present law in regard to trespassing stock But in civilized communities it is impossible to dispense with formality in attempts at executing justice. In cases of damage by trespassing animals, the forms necessary to be gone through with are unavoidably somewhat cumbersome. The animals must be taken care of; the owner is still entitled to repossess them; the amount of damage done by them must be ascertained; a legal and just method of collecting such damage must be provided.

Undoubtedly our present law on this subject might be improved. As the NEWS has repeatedly pointed out, it contains glaring verbal defects. Possibly also the processes by which to administer justice under it, might be simplified and expedited It might be well for farmers or other persons having a practical experience with the present workings of this law, to communicate suggestions to the Legislature, during its approaching session with a view to having the statute improved.

THE BLAINE INTERVIEW AND WHAT IT PORTENDS.

IN today's issue of the NEWS appears a lengthy interview with James G Blaine, in which he gives quite fully his views on the President's message and correlative subjects. The genuineness of the interview may for the present be undoubted, for the reason that the Maine statesman is known to be very communicative and approachable, particularly when his political welfare is in the issue, and that it was brought about by a representative of the New York *Tribune*, which paper is not only the leading Republican organ of the United States, but has all along especial and avowed champion The theme is one that admits of expansion, whether treated analytically or superficially, and with new opportunities stimulating his naturally grand vocabulary, it is not to be wondered at that he, in the language of the stump, "just spreads himself."

Mr. Blaine has done more, perhaps, than any other one man living to train the American idea in the channel of extreme and unqualified protection After the war, he had other material out of which to manufacture startling and immediate issues, and he used them without stint; but with the slowly fading reminiscences of the struggle came the necessity for something more vital, and the tariff issue seemed about the only subject available. It is due to the gentleman to say that he has devoted great care, attention and study, to it, and that in his public expositions of the doctrine he has been at once lucid, copious, argumentative, every thing but convincing. The great crowds that applauded and cheered him did so under the immediate influence of his sweeping oratory and magnetic presence, and when they went home to think after all stir and excitement had ceased and their minds were normal it excellence had been the result of great labor, and the Presidency could be defined as excellence, Mr. Blaine would have been the Chief Magistrate of the nation many years ago; but the terms are not interchangeable and the laborer received the price for his toil that those for whom he labored placed upon it, not what he conceived it to be worth. In other words, the people were not backward nor sparing in the matter of bestowing praise and reward for merit richly won, but they showed by their ballots that they preferred not to advance the principles he espoused or himself any further.

It looks now as if the issue for the great struggle of next year was fully made up, the battle ground chosen and the respective champions were selected. The Republicans will adopt a platform declaring in no uncertain terms for a continuation of the present tariff on nearly every imported article, and this will wrongly be labled "protection;" the Democrats will declare in favor of revision in the interest of laborers and small manufacturers, and it will be baudied about under the false title of "free trade." In the absence of any unforeseen chance, and taking things as they stand today, James G. Blaine will lead the Republican column and Grover Cleveland the Democratic—the 1884 fight repeated with the same leaders and the same principles a little more clearly defined the President's message and Mr. Blaine's elaborate criticism of it make the result almost a foregone conclusion.

The conventions of the great parties will be held early in the coming summer, and then will undoubtedly be inaugurated one of the hottest, fiercest and most exciting campaigns the country has ever passed through. As to the outcome, it would be rash at this time to venture even a prediction. The late election in New York placed the Democrats a long way in the lead, but there is ample time for lines to be reformed and positions changed There will be the warmest part of the fight, as, without a complete breaking up of conditions and proclivities which have existed ever since the war, neither of the parties can win without capturing it. It may be something of a dampener upon the "plumed knight" to know that the preponderance of the revenue reform sentiment there is, as it has been all along, unshaken. But he will beyond question go into the struggle as zealously and valiantly as ever, and if he cannot command success he will go a long way in the direction of convincing the world that he did more—that he deserved it. He has another hope, however; this is a nation of politicians, and politicians are capricious people sometimes, so that the measures involved may this time be overlooked in the determination to do something substantial for the man. We shall see.

OPPOSED TO SOUND POLICY.

THERE appears to be a growing inclination in favor of the Government assuming control of certain lines of business in which the public is largely interested because of being widely affected by them. Mr. Powderly appears to be impregnated with views in that direction. He sees no reason why the telegraph system should not be under the immediate control of the Government. Others go further than he in this line and would, if they had the power, include in this direct governmental control, the railroad system of the nation.

The chief reason advanced in support of his position is that the public is subjected to unbearable abuses at the hands of these mammoth corporations, who are imbued with the sentiments of the late Mr. Vanderbilt who, when his attention was drawn to the fact that the people would frown upon one of his large transactions, exclaimed contemptuously—"The people be d—d." There is that similar sentiment of the late Mr. Tweed, of the same color, only perhaps a trifle more defiant—"What are you going to do about it?"

There is no denying the fact that the public are made more or less the victims of these mammoth corporations and money kings of the country. The people are practically powerless to help themselves in the way of obtaining redress, except occasionally when they raise a storm about the ears of the perpetrators of the wrongs that brings them to their senses. But, "It is better to bear those ills we have than fly to others that we know not of."

The views of Mr. Powderly and those who think as he does are opposed to the genius of genuine democracy. They are against the doctrine of decentralization, which should never be lost sight of in a republic, otherwise it is in danger of becoming but little less despotic and dangerous to popular freedom than a monarchy. If the telegraph system and other institutions largely affecting the public convenience were in the hands of the government, there would be within the grasp of any prevailing administration an immense place patronage that would open an additional door for political corruption. And so far as it extended it would be a bar in the way of a practical expression of the public will. Thus a party whose means and real numerical strength might be in the majority over those of the party in power might by that means be defeated and denied its constitutional rights. It might be considered practically possible for the rule in republics to be reversed, and minorities to remain in and perpetuate their control of public affairs.

Any clear headed publicist should be able to perceive the necessity of preserving as far as practicable the simplification of the affairs of state. That which would render them ponderous and cumbersome should be studiously avoided Of necessity they are already, on account of the natural growth of the country, becoming more and more intricate and unwieldly. To render them unnecessarily so by undertaking to transact business that can be done by private individuals or corporations would lead to inevitable confusion and disaster.

It is not only necessary to take into consideration on this subject the political abuses that might grow out of the adoption of the policy favored by Mr. Powderly, and the encumbering of the government with a load that it would find it difficult to carry, but also the effect such a course would have on private enterprise. It is the genius of free government for the people to immediately transact their own business so far as practicable, for other reasons than the mere relief of the political rulers. It is an established fact that people who have everything done for them, and are thus relieved from immediate responsibility, are less enterprising than those who have an open and unobstructed field for the activity of hands and brains. That is one reason why the enterprise and business ingenuity of the American people are pre-eminent as compared with those qualities as exhibited by any other nation. The scope they have had under our system has contributed more than any other cause to produce this result. For the government to undertake to invade the field of private enterprise would measurably stultify this marvelous popular energy. This truth can be realized by a comparison of the people of this country with those of such nations as Austria, where they are relieved to a large extent by the government from performing public service. Popular business activity is necessarily stagnated and the people are comparatively nonprogressive.

The principle involved in this idea is perfectly natural. It is a fact in physical nature and mental philosophy that when work that might be performed by any thing, person or nation is performed outside of itself, the door is closed to the operation of its own powers and the natural energy not only lies dormant, but fails to enlarge by legitimate use. On this principle a person who is helped along in the world from childhood to age is deprived of the opportunity to exert the energies of his own nature, or at least he generally fails to put them forth, and is in consequence a practical failure in the battle of life. He enters it on crutches and continues to advance with their aid. If in an advanced stage of his career those props are removed he is helpless.

There is no such thing now, in a practical sense, as democracy pure and simple, as that consists of the people directly making and administering their own laws and transacting their own public business. In an extensive nation it is impracticable, the representative system having to be resorted to. There is, however, a marked and growing disposition to depart not only from the letter but the spirit of democracy. This should not be. The ship of state should as closely as possible hug the shore of free popular government. The tendency should be toward the line of decentralization. Unhappily it seems to be in the direction of its opposite. Thus while the tendency of the monarchial and despotic nations is in the direction of popular government, that of republics seems to be toward the genius of monarchy. Of course in the latter there is some inclination to a condition a thousand-fold worse—that is, toward anarchy. The great effort of statesmanship should be toward the maintenance of popular equilibrium, in which the assumption by government of the transaction of business that can be done by the people would make an irreparable breach.

However, "it is an ill wind that blows nobody good." Agitations which are intrinsically in the wrong direction have the effect of placing interested parties, on their good behavior. The chief corporation involved in the present issue is the W. U. Telegraph Company. It is not for us to say that it has been influenced by the dim possibility of the business being swallowed by the government. We are free to state, however, that there has been, of late, in our judgment, a material improvement in its service.

LIGHTS AND SHADES OF A GREAT CITY.

THE other day Chicago absorbed one of its outskirts, a place which had a charter and name of its own till then This was accomplished by means of the swelling growth of the former city, running it up to the latter's line and making the two one in all but name, and now the union has been completed and the taking in and assimilating process was accomplished before a majority of the people of the country knew anything about it. The Chicago papers referred to it as the "absorption of a village," and by comparison the place was a village, though in reality it was nearly as large as Denver, containing 60,000 inhabitants. This accession makes Chicago the third and it may be the second city of the Union; it claimed three-quarters of a million population before, and the other amount added would place it close to Brooklyn in point of numbers. This is a wonderful showing for a western city; it would be wonderful for a city located anywhere. It points to the possibility of the metropolis of the nation, like that of France, being near the central point within the coming decade, as New York can spread but little more, while Chicago has vast tracts of adjacent prairie ready for the overflow as fast as it comes along.

There are plenty of people of not the most advanced age who can remember the time when there was not a building where that enormous city now stands. In fact, after it had got under fair headway it never exhibited any such disposition for marvelous expansion as it has since the war. That epoch may be said to have given it its impetus. True, it was large enough and attractive enough to command the sitting of the first National Republican convention, which was held in 1860, but it was its centrality more than any other consideration that secured this prize for it. After that the city became better known; the event advertised it, made the world better acquainted with it, and its onward progress has been, omitting the great fire of 1871, one continuous, uninterrupted "boom." It might as well have the pseudonym of "Convention City" applied to it, as within the past twenty-eight years it has been the place of more national political nominating conclaves than all other places in the Union combined; in saying this, we refer of course only to the great parties. In 1884 both the Democratic and Republican National gatherings were captured by Chicago, as the former was four years previously, and it has now secured it for next year, the National Committee in session at Washington yesterday having decided to hold the convention there on the 19th of June next. The Democrats will probably again follow suit, although the wisdom of such a step is very doubtful; it looks like partiality, as though all hands were beginning to concede that there is only one place in the Union where a convention can properly be held. Of course other cities were presenting, even urging their claims, but they did this with the Republican committee to no avail. San Francisco has claims and is preparing to offer unusual and unequaled inducements for the honor; but Omaha, or Richmond, or Indianapolis, or any other of the ambitious third-class cities of the United States would do the same thing, and it about amounts to their neutralizing one another's efforts, leaving the City of the Lake a long way in the lead in the matter of choice.

Chicago is truly a highly favored city in most respects. It is a bulky and thoroughly cosmopolitan population with growth so rapid as to be almost discernible from day to day, and such a bulk and flood of trade and traffic as are almost inconceivable, be blessings it may be said to be blessed. It is not only novel in the matter of rapid increase and expanded limits, but has imparted to social life, political practice and legal principles some new if not startling features. It has suddenly conceived the idea that "bucket shops," or limited stock brokerages are a species of gambling dens, and has after the proprietors vigorously Perhaps these men are no worse than other stock manipulators on a larger scale, and they have been plying their vocation openly and without disguise for years, meeting with no interruption whatever from officers or guardians of the law until within the last few days. The other forms of gambling—those practiced with cards and other devices and which differ from stock gambling only in the means employed—are not disturbed, but perhaps they will be reached if the virtuous spasm of which the great city is now possessed does not evaporate too soon. The social and other evils are as evil as ever without great restriction or the fear of it, but no matter. The legal Juggernaut is in motion and victims in sufficient numbers to keep up the metropolis' newly acquired reputation for stern dealing with offenders can be found elsewhere, even if the least offensive among a myriad of law-breakers be selected. But this is only part of a very long story. The things done by Chicago which it might profitably have left undone, and the matters left undone which should have received attention before attaining to such proportions that to attempt to grapple with them now would be to transcend the Augean feat of Hercules, are beyond the reach of enumeration. It does not offend the average Chicagoan to tell him that his is the wickedest city in the world; he receives the statement with the calm demeanor of one who is told that there is quite a rain going on out doors, and then he says in reply to your allegation—"I know that, my dear sir; but just see how we boom!"

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

NOT long since the NEWS drew attention to what it esteemed as a valuable work, especially adapted to young people of this region, as it would enable them to compare other religions with the one under whose teachings they have been reared from infancy This volume is entitled, "What the World Believes." This journal was taken to task by some of the possessors of a former edition of the same work, which contained a distorted and misrepresentative statement of the faith, history and organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Those who took exception to the commendatory notice that appeared in the NEWS were not aware that the publishers had, in a spirit of honor that did them credit, taken immediate steps to rectify the wrong as soon as their attention was directed to it.

We are satisfied that in taking that step the publishers were not actuated by any hope of pecuniary benefit, but solely by the purpose of doing justice and rectifying a grave and mischievous error. This worthy sentiment is further evinced by the following letter, which will be of general interest because of the comparatively few instances in which kindly and liberal treatment is accorded to the Latter-day Saints by publishers of books—because of popular prejudice—and of special concern to the holders of the first edition of the work in question:

NEW YORK, Dec 6th, 1887.

To the Editor of the Evening News:

Dear Sir:—The article appearing in your paper of November 21st, entitled "An Explanation" has been called to our attention. We have to thank you for the fair and thorough explanation you make therein relating to our publication entitled "What the World Believes."