

The Saints vs. the Saints.

The Utah bill: A bill founded on false pretenses, oppressive in its provisions, and demonstrating the utter ignorance and casual indifference to their duty of the majority of the Senate of the United States, was taken up and passed on Wednesday.

It should have been entitled, "A bill to oppress and oppress the people of Utah; to interfere with their domestic relations; to religiously believe and drive them, if possible, into a war in which they may be stripped and pillaged." Whatever may be the theological arguments, they are their own. With the one the Constitution expressly forbids all interference; the other—as any one in legislation ought to know—does not fall within the province of law-making. It lies below the place where government begins.

The people of the Territories of the United States are at the mercy of Congress, being without representation. They should insist upon members of the obligation they are under to treat them with that consideration to which the helplessness entitles them. They are a common constituency, whose rights each is bound to see protected. However justly or sincerely the shining rights of the world—of which Congress has its proportion—may condemn the belief or the practices of these subjects of the government, there is no denying their humanity. They are men and women, endowed by nature with the same rights as other men and women; rights which no man or woman, right or wrong, should withhold from them.

It is not the duty of those who would condemn them to remember the provocation. Few people of modern times have been so unjustly slandered, few more perseveringly pursued; and the slanders have been invented as the means to justify the persecution. Parting them as they have been represented: they have been surrounded and tormented by those who are evil. Human wolves follow and snarl at their heels all the way of their wearisome pilgrimage from Illinois: such a pilgrimage as no people, from any other than a religious purpose, would ever have undertaken.

Human beings who have made such sacrifices for their faith are apt to be resentful in their enjoyment with bitterness. There are no hatreds which bear any comparison in their intensity with theological hatreds. The Mormon has been intense against the blasphemy of his creed and the defamer of his practices, and he would have been either more or less than human had he been otherwise. "Is he to be punished for this?" is this a justification for robbing him of his rights, whose sacredness and inviolability we, in the persons of our ancestors, claim to have been the foremost to discover and declare? Is it here that we find an excuse for laws, not to punish and punish guilty individuals, but to establish that which is itself persecution, and leads directly to conflict and robbery?

It is humiliating that in the advancement of this movement, its prompter and the force which gave it a spirit compounded of covetousness and intolerance into a legislative fact, is the President of the United States. It is here that the country encounters the danger which comes from having at the head of the State a man whose religious fanaticism and who is compelled to rely upon the promptings of others for the direction of his acts. What feelings of private dislike General Grant may have against the Mormons, it is not in order to inquire; but why a man who is in general pleasurable, should, in this case, exhibit the phenomena of combined malice and bigotry, is a question that many have found difficult of solution. That he will interfere with his dissent to this bill of abominations is not to be expected.—Washington Capital, March 2.

Exit Schuyler Colfax.

Schuyler Colfax has returned to the shades of private life, where it is not probable he will emerge to play another part upon the political stage. If Colfax is not a disappointed, disgraced man, we are very much mistaken. Certainly the country is tired of him, and will not again allow him to adorn a post of honor. After a careful perusal of all the evidence in the case of Ames vs. Colfax growing out of the Credit Mobilier business, we are at a loss whether to set down Schuyler Colfax, ex-Congressman and ex-Vice President, as a knave or as a fool; or whether his complicity is not made up of both well mixed together. Circumstances taken by themselves would lead a jury to either conclusion, and it would be simply a question as to the preponderance of testimony. The Senate committee did not criminate Colfax—that was to be expected—but that Colfax would have been successfully impeached, had time permitted, is not a question of doubt. The habit of suspicion was directed towards him, and though he leaves the Senate Chamber without official fault, it will cling to his skirts so long as life shall last. Colfax, in his testimony, made himself out a sufferer, and when a man will descend to falsehood it is fair to presume he will do worse. To estimate him from the Credit Mobilier dilemma he plunged deeper in the mire and brought forth facts most disgraceful to any man of decency and self-respect. We find that Colfax was a subsidized Vice President. In other words, a private citizen, Nesbitt, graciously accorded him an annual subsidy of four thousand dollars, in consideration of the fact that Colfax had endorsed to become the Vice President of the United States; and when Nesbitt died his heirs continued the subsidy, all of which Colfax received as a matter of course. This was a spontaneous gift or series of gifts from one friend to another, but it will be difficult now to convince the people that Nesbitt did not receive a quid pro quo somewhere. The disgrace of Colfax for to-day has stained a disgraced man before the people—is to be regretted. No man in the nation has been so petted, courted and favored; no man ought more faithfully to have sustained the dignity and honesty of the government than Colfax. History will write him down as a vain, weak, yielding man, who was unable to withstand temptation when presented in a sugar-coated form. Should ever the position of Vice President or Speaker of the House come to become offices of trust or honor, and men be chosen for their simply on account of their knowledge of parliamentary law or ability to keep their tempers under trying circumstances, Colfax may be named therewith, for these qualifications he possesses. But the people will despise him, and his integrity as essential to the faithful discharge of duty.—San Francisco Chronicle.

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