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IT IS "UN-AMERICAN!"

ON WEDNESDAY evening Feb. 13 a meeting of the Liberals was held at Ogden for the purpose of jubiling over the result of the election, which took place in that city on the previous Monday. Judge O. W. Powers was one of the speakers on that occasion. The *Standard* published what purported to be a synopsis of his remarks.

In the course of his speech he was credited by that paper with making the following allusion to an address delivered at a Fourth of July celebration at Ogden, by Apostle Moses Thatcher. We give the statement as it appeared in the columns of the paper named:

"On the day, years ago, when I had the privilege of speaking to the Ogden people upon the grandeur and glory of our situation, in this very place, a man named as one of the Twelve Apostles of the Church, [Moses Thatcher] yes, Moses Thatcher, a man whose name should only be whispered by American citizens, stepped to this platform and declared that the Declaration of Independence was false, and he repudiated it. Now I stand in an American city, notwithstanding the traitorous language he hurled into the teeth of American citizens on that day."

The speech of Apostle Thatcher was published in this journal shortly after its delivery, and we give herewith the only part of it to which the observations of Judge Powers could possibly relate:

"Our revolutionary sires digged deeply and laid solidly the foundation of the greatest Government on earth, making religious toleration the chief cornerstone. But some of their sons are fast drifting from the old moorings, while expedients and popular clamor override constitutional principles. These few in Utah are able to accurately calculate how long they may be able to maintain even a remnant of those sacred rights of conscience and freedom of action for which our fathers sacrificed property and blood, and to maintain which they pledged all they had.

How can our bosoms swell with patriotic enthusiasm, under that system of perverted Republican rule, that differs in no sense—save in

name—from the colonial bondage under which the British tyrant made our ancestors suffer?

In what respect is the administration of political affairs in Utah a rule by and with the consent of the governed? Having no voice in the election of the President who appoints, nor in the Senate that confirms those sent to rule over and judge us, wherein, then, consists to us the sweets of Democracy?

Popular opinion is a tyrant and coercion is his twin brother. We may kiss the hand of each, while praying for those who despitefully use us; but how shall we forget, while doing so, that American liberty is thus made to us but a farce?

In the midst of oppression, patiently borne, it has been hoped that President Cleveland, having been elected on the pledge of a return to Jeffersonian doctrines might afford citizens of Utah some relief and that a Democratic administration would reaffirm the principles enunciated in the Declaration of Independence, under the inspiration of which the nation carved its way to glory and led to the adoption of the greatest charter of human liberty this world has ever known. It has been hoped, I say, that a Democratic administration would again announce that citizens of this nation, and all others within its jurisdiction, shall be governed by principle and not prejudices, and judged with equity and justice. If President Cleveland and those sent to rule and judge us, have the moral courage to announce these principles, saying to the waves of popular clamor and religious prejudice, 'thus far, but no further can ye come'—all men being equal before the law—our children for generations to come will make garlands with which to decorate their tombs, and keep their memory fresh and green in their hearts. But if they choose not to do these things, we will still trust in our God while kissing the chastening rod, until the sons of Utah, faithful, true and loyal, shall stand on the backbone of this American Continent, and beneath the stars and stripes, save and maintain inviolate for all, the divinely inspired Constitution of this glorious land!"

Not wishing to do Mr. Powers the slightest injustice, we sent a reporter of the News to him recently to ask him whether or not the utterances contained in the *Standard* represented him correctly. The following is what was said at the interview:

Judge, I see by the published report of your speech at Ogden, that you are credited with having said that Apostle Moses Thatcher had "declared that the Declaration of Independence was false, and that he repudiated it." What have you to say in regard to that assertion?

I did not use the language attributed to me. I have a distinct recollection of what I did say. Gen. Kimball had referred to Mr. Thatcher's speech. I said I remem-

bered the historic event. It was a Fourth of July celebration. I had spoken, and had avoided any reference to politics or religion. On that occasion one of the Twelve Apostles of the Church—at this point some one in the crowd shouted "Moses Thatcher!" I said "Yes"—I then said that this Apostle had declared that the Declaration of Independence was a failure, and I repudiated that idea. I did not think it a failure.

In what way did you understand Mr. Thatcher to say it was a failure?

Why, in this—That the principles therein laid down had not been carried out; that they had been departed from by the government.

In what manner did he intimate that they were departed from?

In regard to the "Mormon" people and their rights under the government. The failure was that the principles of the Declaration were not carried out so that your people received the rights they were entitled to under them, and I do not think Brother Thatcher would differ with me in my interpretation of his remarks. I only differ with him in my belief that they have been carried out.

Then you say the report that was published did not fairly state your position?

It certainly did not; for that has never been my position. What I have said to you is the full substance and almost the exact language of what I stated in Ogden. It is the view I take of it—that the Declaration of Independence has not been made a failure by a departure from its principles in the treatment of the "Mormons." I know you take the opposite view, but that is mine. I gave you Mr. Thatcher's as I have said. It was very noisy at the meeting, and the reporter may not have understood what I did say, but of that I know nothing. I know I did not say he either renounced or repudiated the Declaration, but that he declared it a failure, as I have suggested.

It will be observed that the explanation made by Judge Powers places the matter in a somewhat different light; but it is not any more favorable, as we look at it, for him than if it had stood as originally. Judge Powers had in his mind a correct understanding of Apostle Thatcher's meaning, and he was quite explicit in his delineation of it to the reporter. It is more unfortunate, however, for him than for the gentleman upon whom he cast such an unjust reflection that he did not make his understanding clear to the audience to whom he spoke in Ogden. It was evident that he withheld this explanation purposely, and was thus guilty of an act which indicates that he is a political demagogue.

An analysis of the affair shows beyond question that the impression Judge Powers wished to convey