

the case, it follows that every Christian in Idaho and every non-Christian who aids Christian work based upon the acceptance of the Bible as the will of God, is equally guilty with the Mormons, and should be deprived of all rights taken from the followers of Joseph Smith. Every man who teaches that the Bible is the word of God teaches polygamy. Every person who aids such a teacher aids polygamy. If the State of Idaho were honest it would disfranchise all such. That once done, the only voters in Idaho would be theatheists and infidels who refused to support preachers and Christian missions. But if Idaho were to execute this law in this manner for one election day, the law would be declared unconstitutional. The unconstitutionality of it is not lessened at all by the fact that it is executed only upon the unpopular Mormons. Thus the injustice of the law is seen at once, and all fair-minded men must insist that it is a barbarous and despotic law, that should be annulled.

I have pointed out that the real culprit under this law is God. But no procedure can be had there. What remains? The Bible. It is the foundation of polygamy. Every acceptor of it as the will of God teaches, aids, encourages polygamy. If polygamy is a crime, if teaching and aiding polygamy is criminal, proceed against the Bible. Suppress its publication, circulation and use in Idaho and the cause of the "crime" is at once removed. But if such a thing were attempted Christians and Mormons would join to prevent it. The Christians would gladly accept Mormon votes in such a contest. It could not be done. If, therefore, Idaho cannot execute its law against the real culprit, if she cannot suppress the cause of polygamy in her borders, she should forever cease to rob and persecute the victims of an evil that she is powerless to remove. If the Bible is to remain as the infallible word and will of God, not only should no civil right be withheld from a Mormon because he believes in polygamy, but no law should be enacted against polygamy and Mormons should be left to their own sense of the proprieties and the fitness of things as to how far or how long they shall continue their faith in and practice of polygamy. This would be justice and nothing else would. Congress should either condemn the Bible as an aid and teacher of crime, or restore to the Mormons the property virtually stolen from them by its unjust and despotic law. But Congress cannot enact a law condemning the Bible. Very well, let it then do the other thing; that is, let it undo every act it has passed against the Mormons and leave the whole Mormon question to be settled by the influences of civilization. That would be the right thing to do and it would be the wise and speedy solution of the problem.

CHARLES ELLIS.

FINER weather for conference it would be unreasonable to ask for.

OUR CHICAGO LETTER.

The Chicago press is at present furiously indignant that New York merchants should resort to the petty tricks of the bunko steerer to make the projected exposition a failure. The representatives of New York houses in Europe are charged with circulating reports most derogatory of Chicago. One of these reports is that Chicago is still a wilderness, while life and property are unsafe, and where anarchists and Clan-na-Gels hold high carnival all the year round. But when news of the latest criminal development reaches Europe, the New York drummers will have something to corroborate their Munchauseisms. The news of this, too, will be received from Chicago papers themselves.

The latest development in crime here is the "holding up" of a street car. At one o'clock a.m. an Ogden Avenue car, manned by John Lynch, conductor, and Charles Swanson, driver, rumbled into town. Three men got on at Homan Avenue, paid their fare and settled themselves for a snooze. At Albany Avenue two men sprang from a dark corner, one jumped on the front platform, the other on the rear. Both these men wore handkerchiefs over the lower parts of their faces. This did not occasion any surprise, because faces bandaged in Chicago are not unusual. When the car reached a quiet place, the masked man on the front presented a revolver at the driver and demanded his money. The car stopped. The conductor started to walk through the car to ascertain the cause of delay, but the masked man on the rear presented a revolver at the conductor and also demanded road toll. The conductor drew out two dollars saying that amount constituted his pile. The robber examined for his own satisfaction and found \$7.10 company money and \$25, Mr. Lynch's own private fortune. The driver gave up \$2.50. The other three men were not molested. The robbers got away, but the three men were arrested as accomplices, and finally discharged. The Black Hills cannot boast any slicker work than this.

Another robbery occurred here on broad noonday, which for uniqueness had a humorous feature about it. A teamster was hauling a load of green hides along Chicago Avenue. Another teamster drove up beside him and began to transfer the hides to his own wagon. He transferred some twenty bundles or more and then was not detected by No. 1 teamster. Even a policeman saw the transfer taking place and thought nothing of it. When No. 1 got to his store the shrinkage in his hides was to him inexplicable. The matter was placed in the hands of the police, and at last the thief was detected. But it is a robbery that one man can't speak of to another without laughing. And if the hide thief comes before a jury his chances of escape are good. It will be hard to tell whether the somnolency of the hide teamster is more criminal than the daring of

the hide thief. At all events lawyers will have a chance to show their humorous sides in the case.

There are no deep canyons in Chicago, but there is a foul smelling river which does just as well. This river is a puzzle to visitors here. They encounter it everywhere and they wonder what kind of river it is. Well, the river is a puzzle certainly. First there are two branches or creeks, one flows from the north, one from the south. Both unite about a mile from the lake and form what is called the Chicago River. Strangers are puzzled to find that they encounter bridges no matter which way they go. These bridges, too, are an annoyance. They are all moveable, and when sailing crafts go up and down the bridges are turned. When turned, the traveler comes to a fearful chasm with a black, dirty, sluggish pool below. If in a meditative mood he is likely to walk in, because there is no protection when bridges are turned. There is a policeman on the look out, but he is generally engaged discussing the chances of Frank Saeler, the congressman, for sheriff of Cook County, or perhaps the policeman is sampling a new brand of chewing tobacco.

Some two years ago a fire engine in full chase going to a fire drove into the river, the bridge at the time being open. Two lives were lost, that is, two human lives besides the two horses. Then there was a cry for protection but nothing came of it. A short time ago a woman walked right into the river, but she was rescued. A few nights ago a street car and two horses tumbled in. This occurred at Clark Street bridge. Coming from the north the approach to the bridge is a down grade. The driver broke the brake chain, and lost control of his car. There were fifteen inside passengers. The driver finding that nothing could prevent the car from going into the river yelled at the passengers to jump for their lives. They did jump. One man who was asleep was near going to the other side. The commotion aroused him. Just as he jumped from the rear platform, the car being tilted, and about the time he landed on solid ground, the car and horses were at the bottom of the Chicago River.

Lately we have had a mild sensation here in the religious line—a Christian turned Jew in order to get a wife. His name is Vere V. Hunt. He has already changed himself several times. He is a native of Dublin, Ireland, and claims to have been ordained an Episcopalian minister. Not liking theology, he became a lawyer. He is not more than a few years in this country. He came into notoriety as a champion of the anarchists, and he posed as the chevalier of Mrs. Parsons. The next we hear of him was as a poetry producer for the *Catholic Home*. Now he turns up a Jew. He is a physical monstrosity. He has a fine intellectual head, but his face a furtive, treacherous expression. He has a hideously malformed foot. He denies that his conversion comes from anything but disbelief