

CHARACTERISTIC SMALLNESS.

THE commitment of Mr. C. W. Penrose, by Judge Anderson, for contempt because he declined to answer a question which the Court ruled to be proper, aroused a great deal of sympathy in the community for that gentleman. The whole movement which led to his being placed in custody of the U. S. Marshal is political, but into it religious and social affairs have been dragged by the "Liberal" party, some of whose most active leaders have conducted the proceedings thus far.

While Mr. Penrose's offense is constructive contempt, he is, to all intents and purposes a political prisoner, being in durance because he declined to personally give publicity to his domestic affairs. He is a gentleman of well established ability and standing in the community, and all decent people even among those who differ with him in religion and politics, will regret the position in which he is placed.

It is an unspoken understanding among the journalistic fraternity that outside of differences arising from divergence of opinion upon public matters, there should exist among them, whenever occasion demands it, a certain degree of professional amenity. When one member is presumed to be at a disadvantage, especially if he be placed in a tight position on account of being adjudged guilty of a mere technical offense, such as refusing to answer a question regarding his domestic relations, it is not the rule for journalists with souls to jump on him with both feet and gloat over what they might consider his discomfiture. To act in such a brutal fashion would not be magnanimous nor professional. In such case the least indication of generosity that could be manifested would be a semblance of decency in the shape of silence. There is nothing of that manly sentiment in a half-expressed wish that the position of the person placed at a disadvantage be rendered worse and more irksome.

But fresh water cannot be drawn from a dry well. On the same premise you cannot extract comity from where it does not appear to exist. Consequently circumstances have long ceased to justify an expectation of anything like magnanimity from the leading "Liberal" journal of this city towards those it esteems to be its antagonists. It carries on the conflict in a personal sense with

an opponent whose hands are tied. It is not pleasing to see journalism thus disgraced.

These comments have been superinduced by the following, which appeared in this morning's issue of the chief "Liberal" organ of this city:

"Penrose was not taken out to the Penitentiary until 8 o'clock, and the action of the officers in allowing him to remain in the city until that hour was severely criticised by some. Deputy Marshal Vandercok, who has charge of the office in the absence of Marshal Parsons, explained this by saying that the penitentiary wagon had to wait until that time for a prisoner, who was brought up on the train."

We hope the indecent haste exhibited under cover of the expression: "was severely criticised by some"—did not exist to any extent beyond the corpus of the writer of that paragraph. We are of opinion that it was confined to the more unmanly and vindictive class of "Liberals," to whom magnanimity toward political opponents is almost a deadly bane. If a little of that lofty sentiment were to be injected into their composition the effect might be disastrous, so perhaps it may be well enough to leave them to wallow in the juice of their own malignity.

THE USUAL DISH OF SENSATIONS.

IT APPEARS that Alvin Crockett, a reputable citizen of Cache County, has been arrested on a charge of having been connected with the alleged murder which occurred at Payson in 1857. George W. Hancock has been committed without bail on a similar charge.

It is perhaps unnecessary to remind our readers that the main facts in the case are as follows:

A young man named Jones committed the horrible and unnatural crime of incest with his mother. As a result of this foul deed, a child was born. The community where the offense was perpetrated were disgusted and greatly incensed against the parties. This condition of moral sentiment culminated in a mob surrounding the house where the brutal mother and son lived and dispatching them. For alleged participation in the doings of the mob Mr. Hancock and Mr. Crockett have been arrested on a charge of murder.

As a matter of course the act of the mob was lawless, and therefore wrong. In that respect it was on a similar footing to like transactions that are daily occurring in almost

every part of the United States. The public journals furnish abundant proof in that regard.

Most of the cases of recent occurrence differ from the stale Payson affair in the fact that numbers of people are being lynched now-a-days all over the Union who are merely suspected of committing gross or heinous crimes. In the Jones case the guilt of the parties was clear and indisputable.

There is still another distinction between the old Payson affair and many similar circumstances taking place at present throughout the country. In many of those current cases, prisons are broken open and officers of the law overpowered before the obnoxious criminals can be dragged out and strung up or shot to pieces. These preliminary auxiliaries are all additional lawless and criminal elements, tagged on to the lynching proper. It does not appear that any of these extra conditions attached to the antiquated Payson homicide.

There is still another feature that has a distinguishing aspect about it; modern lynching cases, even when aggravated, are seldom traced up that the participators may be legally dealt with.

Then why is it that the Payson matter is being resurrected and worked over? Is it because of its ancient character? Well, not for that reason exactly, notwithstanding that there is a class of people in this Territory who deal exclusively in criminal antiquities. They must rake up the dead embers of the past, because the live coals of the present furnish no opportunities. We are now in the last half of November, and Congress meets in December. The anti-Mormon bloody shirt must be waved in the face of the National Legislature. Hence we are in the very harvest of sensations manufactured from old and tattered materials, which are clutched, patched over with blue and red rags, and flaunted by the minority political party in Utah. This is the stock in trade of the "Liberals."

We have no other idea than that this accounts for the resurrection of the Payson case, which is but a part of the "Liberal" dish of rotten eggs and decayed fish served for political purposes to Congress and the country. It is a constituent of the regular December anti-Mormon meal upon which the country and its Legislature is fed at opportune intervals. It is a wonder that the nation does not