

DESERET NEWS:
WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE
DESERET NEWS COMPANY.

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WEDNESDAY JULY 1, 1885

SECTARIAN MALICIOUS
BIGOTRY.

We have received the June number of the Utah Christian Advocate. This periodical is published under the auspices of the Methodist persuasion, but receives the sentimental, if not the substantial, support of most of the other sects, because of its senseless and unscrupulous opposition to the "Mormon" people and their religion. It is issued under the supervision of the following committee: T. C. Hiff, M. Nelson, G. M. Jeffrey and T. W. Lincoln. Aside from its anti-Christian spirit it is chiefly notable for being probably the most clumsily edited paper in the West.

An article in the number at hand leads off with a statement to the effect that "Polygamy is still boldly preached by the Saints." This assertion is followed up by this:

"It is becoming a serious question here whether this rigid enforcement of the Edmunds law is sufficient to meet the case. So long as the priesthood are allowed publicly to teach the people that it is their duty before God to disobey the law and to perjure themselves in order to escape its penalties, and that to suffer the penalty of the law is praiseworthy martyrdom, so long will its effects be lost upon this people. It is becoming clearer to all loyal citizens here that far more stringent measures must be resorted to in order to suppress the lawless acts of the Mormons, and nothing short of their disfranchisement and the appointment of a Legislative Commission, together with the continued enforcement of the law, will avail."

Without caring to discuss the alleged fact of the continuous preaching of the doctrine of plural marriage, it may be pardonable to direct attention to the true nature of these sectarian vituperations as indicated by the foregoing expression. Their appetite, which feeds upon the distress inflicted upon a people who differ from them in religious views, is not appeased. To see families disrupted and plunged into sorrow and their heads incarcerated in prison, for conscience sake, would be sufficient to glut the desires of natures impregnated with even an unusual degree of refined barbarity. Not so with these mild mannered Christians. These, to them, trifling incidents, of persecution, only tend to whet their hunger and cause them to call for more. Consequently, in addition to the suppression of action they call, in the fervency of their Christian zeal, for the blotting out of "Mormon" right to free speech.

But those unreasoning zealots can never produce an anti-"Mormon" piece of splenic literature without showing up their own flagrant contradictoriness. While asserting that the people are taught to disobey the law and "perjure themselves in order to escape its penalties"—a perfidious fabrication—they, with the most silly inconsistency, follow this up with, "and that to suffer the penalty of the law is praiseworthy martyrdom." Behold the brazen incongruity! What logic! The Saints, according to this mode of reasoning, are taught to commit perjury in order to escape suffering something that it is praiseworthy martyrdom to endure.

The amount of meekness which characterizes these pious persons is beautifully illustrated by the sneaking manner in which they assert that the "Priesthood are allowed publicly to teach the people that it is their duty before God to disobey the law." If they had possessed a spark of honesty they would have properly and justly defined the position of the Saints on this and every other question—That it is their duty and that of all other people to "obey God." But it serves the purpose of infinitesimal souled sectarians to throw up with malignant conspicuousity the absurd falsehood that the chief aim of "Mormons" is to commit breaches of the law, when the true position is that in following their conscientious duty to God they come in conflict with laws enacted purposely to entrap them.

The publishers of the Advocate belong to the religious wing of the anti-"Mormon" crusade. They assert that the present cruelties heaped upon the objects toward whom their sectarian hatred is directed are not sufficient. They are too tame, and therefore failure and not success will be the result of the onslaught. Consequently they howl for more stringent measures. Among these is the obliteration of "Mormon" free speech, total disfranchisement, the wresting from them of all power in the making of laws for

their own government, and that they be bereft of the power of having anything whatever to do with their own affairs. Men who hold such views are little if any better than theoretical murderers. Let their desires blossom into accomplished facts and life would become an unendurable burden to a God-fearing and truth-loving community.

What these unreasoning and unscrupulous bigots need are a little common decency, sense of the same quality, together with some degree of consistency. If these three were mixed with a little Christian charity, the compound would be an excellent specific for their complaint. There might be some danger in administering it, however, for the reason that, being the antipodes of their individual composition, the sudden contact of conflicting elements might cause a disastrous explosion.

ITS EDUCATIONAL RESULTS.

UNCOMPROMISING controversies in communities produce conflicting educational results, because one party must be more or less on the offensive while the other must necessarily assume a defensive attitude.

Such is the position in Utah to-day. The enemies of the Saints are the aggressors in the conflict in progress, and they bring to bear exclusively the tactics of tyranny and coercion. They attack the rights and privileges, then the liberties of the people, in order to bring about their subjugation, that they might rule over them with a rod of iron. Yet their programme is not completed as they have intimated their intention of engaging in the hazardous game of stealing their property. Failing in that they would probably cast about for excuses to rob them of life. With many of them the will in that direction has been evinced by unmistakable expressions already. There are some in the ranks of the rabid who, in theory, consider that a "Mormon" has no right to live. These, when "Mormons" have been ruthlessly assassinated, have condoned the horrible crime of murder, and mocked at the grief of the sorrow-stricken relatives and friends of the martyrs. They trample constitutional principles in the dust, and clamor for more encroachments upon that sacred instrument. Thus they are rocking themselves in the cradle of injustice and drinking copious draughts at the fountain of tyranny. They educate themselves in the methods of bigots who reach decisions by the rules of passion and prejudice in place of weighing every question in the scales of even-handed justice, and measuring matters by the standard of freedom and equal rights.

How different must necessarily be the effect of the contact upon the defenders of correct principle who are assailed from every quarter. It is their province to thoughtfully consider every issue in the controversy, and when right is assaulted to vigorously combat the innovations of the oppressor. The struggle constitutes a school of experience that acquaints them with the correct principles of human government that is of the most practical character. If they are wise it will teach them to abhor everything that is opposed to the maintenance of right. It will learn them the grand fact, imbedding it in their very souls by what they have to endure, that every human being has rights, no matter what may be his faith, or whether he have any, and that justice demands that they be respected. It implants within the mind of the man who stands up unflinchingly for the principles of human privilege and right the grand fact that all differences and questions should be adjudicated by no other method than on the basis of the recognition of the rights of all concerned, prejudice and passion being elements, foreign to all questions or issues, that should never be allowed to enter them.

There is, however, a different result that might ensue to those who are made the victims of an unwarrantable and corrupt aggression, such as the Latter-day Saints are being subjected to. Should they tamely submit to have oppressive wrong heaped upon them, without an effort on their part to scan every question intelligently, and resist to the last—exposing betimes the villainy of those who are seeking to enslave them—every effort to deprive them of that to which they are entitled under the genius of Republicanism, they would gradually become accustomed to the fetters forged for their limbs. They would become immured to the condition of semi-serfdom until they would eventually be unworthy the name of freemen.

But no such effect as the one last defined will be produced. The outcome will be a triumph for liberty. How far it may be distant it is hard to tell. But those who will yet assume the position of champions of constitutional rights are being rapidly qualified for their prospective work. And it is well occasionally to look upon the inevitable outcome and not brood too much upon the roughness or length of the road that will have to be traveled before the goal is reached. And by all means it should be borne in mind that fitness for future activity will be attained only by those who intelligently analyze the various issues that arise and boldly defend the truth, while passive acceptance of the designs of tyrants begets a slavish dis-

position. The genuine man may be held down by main force by being placed at a disadvantage for a season, but his being conquered by a process of cruel coercion is an impossibility.

A SOCIAL PROBLEM THAT DEMANDS ATTENTION.

MR. KIRKPATRICK, in his argument before the Supreme Court of the Territory, in the cases of Brothers Cannon and Musser, made a remark that is worthy the attention not only of that Court but of the world at large. It had been asserted by the Prosecuting Attorney that the monogamous form of marriage which generally obtains throughout Christendom, was menaced and imperiled by the polygamy of the "Mormons," but Mr. Kirkpatrick pointed out the fact, which ought to appeal to the reason of all intelligent readers, that it was not polygamy or the extension of marriage, that monogamy had reason to fear, but the growing disregard of marriage as a sacred obligation that was likely to prove destructive to it. In addition to those who are disinclined to assume the responsibilities of married life there is a large percentage of the people of this nation, who, as he remarked, regard the marriage ceremony as a simple civil contract, no more binding in its nature than a small promissory note. The readiness with which people ignore or apply for a dissolution of the marriage contract, throughout this nation especially, illustrates the truth of this remark.

It will be remembered that Senator Brown, of Georgia, while opposing the Hoar amendment, to the Edmunds bill, took occasion to show, before the Congress of the United States, from reliable statistics, that in certain States one-eighth of the marriages contracted were between persons who had been previously married and divorced. By the way, this same Senator Brown not long since in a convention of Baptists held at Atlanta, declaimed against the divorce evil and urged that a law should be adopted by that religious denomination declaring that none of its members previously divorced should be suffered to marry except where the divorce decree had been entered for adultery. And after some discussion the rule was adopted by the convention.

But then there are persons who look so lightly upon the obligations of marriage that if such a rule were adopted generally they would not scruple at resorting to perjury or other means worse still to relieve themselves of a responsibility which had become irksome to them.

A case of this kind, illustrating how unscrupulous some persons are, was reported a short time since from Philadelphia. Mark Elkin, a wealthy manufacturer, disagreed with and separated from his wife, and in order to obtain an excuse upon which to secure a divorce, he employed men and women to shadow his wife's actions, and if proof of infidelity to the marriage vow could not be found, to seduce her. To accomplish this object the detectives employed engaged rooms near Mrs. Elkin's and gradually formed her acquaintance and secured her confidence. It was arranged among them that one of them was to take her to a disreputable house, where they were to be captured by the others who would swear to her guilt. Some of the detectives were not secretive enough to enable the plot to succeed; it leaked out, and was exposed in court, and the fact shown that private detective agencies existed in the "City of Brotherly Love," which depended upon this sort of work for their support. Nor are they limited to that city, for they are reported from other places throughout the nation.

Here is something that may well occupy the attention of the moralists of this great nation. How can this divorce evil be checked? How can men and women be made to understand the sacredness of the marriage vow, and the necessity of being true to it? This is a problem that may well occupy the attention of the wisest of this nation or any other, for there is abundant proof of a general decadence in this respect and of corruption growing out of it, which, if not checked will bring upon those who are guilty the avenging wrath of an offended God.

THE VETERANS.

THE Old Folks' excursion party which left this city this morning, on their annual trip in search of pleasure, was unusually large. These special "outings" for the aged have grown in popularity since their organization. The custom of giving the veterans an annual treat for the purpose of making the shady part of their existence more agreeable is a commendable one, and there is no prospect of its ever falling into disuse. The lives of most of the aged are more or less monotonous, and these annual trips, which have become a fixed institution, serve to relieve the almost unbroken sameness that would otherwise characterize the lives of most of them. These seasonable treats, besides other advantages, give the participants opportunities of renewing old and agreeable associations and friendships, formed in

days of yore, and are otherwise like oases in the more unfruitful and least enlivened portion of their career.

The committee are to be commended for the vigor they display in making all the arrangements to render the excursions successful in every respect. It is also to the credit of the community generally that they give a hearty response to the invitation to subscribe in order that the needful means may be at hand with which to provide refreshments and presents for the excursionists. The railroad companies are entitled to special credit for the generous gratuitous accommodations tendered.

The day has been gloriously favorable for the excursion, while all else appears to have been equally propitious, and doubtless the affair will be a gratifying success throughout.

A CHARACTERISTIC ASSAULT.

Thus far the prosecution has been unable to make a case against Charles White, there being a complete failure in procuring testimony against him. This brings down upon the heads of the witnesses a torrent of abuse from the organ of the anti-"Mormon" crusade. They are called "liars," and other vulgar epithets are applied to them because they did not perjure themselves and testify to what they did not know.

Not satisfied with this scurrilous mode of abuse, the Salt Lake Tribune vents its spleen by publishing a still more vile slander upon the accused and several of the witnesses. Were it not that the matter in question appears to need some notice, we would not now allude to the ruffianly and unprincipled sheet, which is a reflex of the character, not only of its conductors, but of those who are operating the diabolical raid upon the "Mormon" people. We must be excused on this occasion for quoting from its columns. It may serve to show its malicious and lying tactics, whose object is to blast private character locally, and spread a prejudicial impression abroad in regard to the "Mormons." Appended to its account of the preliminary proceedings before Commissioner McKay in the White case yesterday, is the following scandalous statement:

The report that is circulating in the ward where White lives is to the following effect: Some months ago, the alleged polygamist wife, Elizabeth Ann Starkey, found herself as Sarah of old prayed to be, and liable to reveal evidences before long that might go far towards landing Elder White in the penitentiary for unlawful cohabitation and polygamy. A general fright had seized upon the hearts of the polygamists in consequence of the vigorous prosecutions just instituted against this class of offenders, and White was among the number. He was too poor to run, and in his own judgment, too obscure to be seen and caught if the growing evidences could be suppressed. The services of Mrs. Coneli, the woman who gave her testimony in the examination reported above, were engaged, and so well did she do her work that an accident befell White's youthful polygamist wife. It was a narrow escape for her, as she was very ill and came near dying. When she sufficiently recovered her strength she went home to her mother at Hooperville, near Ogden, accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Wing, and to her she related what had happened, calling the result by a name commonly given to accidents of the nature indicated. But the details as related by the young and inexperienced girl, showed plainly to the mother the real truth of the matter and the reasons for it. But whether it was excused or approved by the parents does not appear. On returning to the city it seems Mrs. Wing told a neighbor, and by degrees the story got to flying about the ward until it finally reached White's ears. He undertook to suppress it by going to Mrs. Wing, in her husband's absence, and abusing her for circulating false reports about him and his family. What then transpired was related to Wing on his return from work, and, as told him by his wife, was sufficient to raise his ire. He went to White's house and called him outside, and the scene between them occurred in the street. It was not a fight, but it was the next thing to it, and attracted a crowd of spectators, who heard the criminations and recriminations, interspersed with vile epithets, that passed between the two men. The difficulty passed off for the night, but was called by White before the Bishop's court, where it was settled of course in the polygamist's favor, and the monogamist brother-in-law was given a meal of humble pie. It was from this story getting current that White's case reached the ears of the law authorities and brought the officer down upon him. That he is a pious saint there can be no doubt otherwise the regularly employed church attorneys would not be deferring him in court. That the church authorities know the facts there can be no doubt, in view of the investigation by the Bishop's court, but they are not abandon White, for, though he has newly-made polygamist, holds his hands a lash which he might apply to the back of the priest of high greece who solemnizes polygamist marriages. Hence we behold a life of Mormon witnesses under church pressure committing perjury in a art of justice to shield a brother who is the

personal enemy of some of those witnesses. Hence we see the priesthood covering up individual crime and exacting perjury to maintain the general crime of the church and shield its arch criminals. This case has in it a book on the Utah beast."

The fellow who penned that article is known to be one of the most abject cowards that ever crawled, and his journalistic associates can be made of metal scarcely less base to allow such a production to appear in the columns of their paper. They are character assassins of the most contemptible hue, their attacks being largely upon the weak and helpless, hence an inoffensive young woman is one of the victims of this assault.

But there is something due to those who are thus so villainously slandered. The statements of the Tribune, reduced to a few words is that Mrs. Coneli, at the instance of Charles White and Elizabeth Ann Starkey, procured an abortion upon the person of the latter. The prosecution is said to be given to taking from as well as being accused of giving cues to the Salt Lake Tribune. Let us take this. It is but justice to the victims of this slander that the matter be promptly and searching investigated, either before a Commissioner or the Grand Jury. If such a crime has been committed as alleged, let the guilty be punished. If they are innocent, this fact should be exhibited that they may be free from the stigma that has been cast upon them.

This morning a representative of the News questioned the following persons upon the subject: F. Starkey and wife, parents of E. A. Starkey; Charles White, Mrs. Coneli, Mr. Wayne (called Wing in the Tribune article). All of these stated unqualifiedly that they knew nothing whatever of the alleged crime having been committed.

In addition we are informed by Bishop Watson of the 19th Ward that no such case has ever been investigated by him.

The insinuations about "Mormon" perjury and covering up crime are known by the miserable being who penned them to be false aspersions. Some of the witnesses who are the victims of abuse are not "Mormons" at all, while probably a portion of the balance claim no standing in the Church and but little if any sympathy with it. We propose to show who are the coverers up and advocates of crime, the being a fair opportunity to exhibit the truth in that direction. And we should the truth be smothered with its enemies manifest so much such anxiety to bring it to light?

Since the foregoing was written we have received a call from Mrs. Coneli. This lady holds a diploma as a professional midwife, obtained by passing through a collegiate course in Sweden. She is naturally indignant at the scandal upon her character, and is anxious for an investigation of the slander of which she has been made the victim. From all that we can learn, the whole superstructure of venomous aspersions was built upon an expressed suspicion on the part of Mrs. Wayne, sister to Elizabeth Ann Starkey. The intimation was groundless, and in the investigation should proceed, it would make a good witness.

In place of the Church covering such crimes as the one alleged, no guilty of them can retain a standing in the community when the offense is established by competent evidence.

THE OLD FOLKS' EXCURSION.

A GALA-DAY FOR THE VETERANS, AND ASSEMBLED WITH THEIR FRIENDS THE NUMBER OF 1,700 AT GARFIELD.

Yesterday morning dawned upon the capital of Utah as one of the most pleasant and beautiful days of the season. The bounteous rain that fell on Monday had settled the dust, purified the air and left a most agreeable and health temperature. It seemed as if a kind Providence had taken special delight in controlling the elements for the benefit of the aged sick and matrons of our mountain homes, in order that they might have a genuine day of joyment and recreation.

About 7 a. m. the streets around the Utah & Nevada Railway depot began to preserve a very busy appearance. Cattle and vehicles of all descriptions beside the street cars, brought in the aged from the various wards in both city and country, and the members of the committee with their aids were active as bees in having them seated in the cars, which the railway officials had kindly furnished for the occasion. While this was going on, the Sixth Ward Silver Band treated the crowd to some cheering and excellent music. Precisely at 8:20 the train moved slowly out from the depot grounds with its precious cargo, consisting of upwards of 600 persons over 70 years old, and a goodly number of others who had been successful enough to secure tickets for the occasion, thus swelling the number to about 900 souls.

The engine was tastefully decorated with small flags, and on either side was stretched a white canvass on which "Old Folks' Day" was written in bold letters.

After a most pleasant ride, which lasted about an hour, the train arrived at Garfield, on the shore of Salt Lake, the place of destination. Here a long, comfortable bowery, well supplied with seats and tables, was left to the free disposal of the excursionists, who sat down to partake of the picnic which each party or family had provided, while the committee served hot water, coffee and tea to all who desired