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THOSE SILLY RESOLUTIONS.

What can be thought by decent people of the ministerial and journalistic deceivers who, not content with making slanders of themselves in their furious assaults upon an imaginary "Mormonarchy," tricked a number of ladies of this city into assuming an absurd position before the country and exposing themselves to public ridicule? Well-informed citizens of Utah are laughing at the spectacle presented by the misled women, and using very strong language as to the contemptible conduct of the deceivers.

Just think of a public demonstration (small and feeble though it was) to call upon the President of the United States to stop something that could not possibly take place, and to save the country from a "steal" that could not under any circumstances be perpetrated! That is what the "resolutions" adopted by the ladies and the preachers who tutored them, called for, as published with a great flourish of discordant bugle-blasts.

The cry was raised in one breath that the "Mormons" were attempting to "steal" the best lands of the Utah reservation to the exclusion of "Gentile" settlers who wanted a fair chance at them. In the very next breath and published on the same date, the positive official announcement was made that no "advantage" over the general public in selecting lands as homesteads on the Utah reservation, except in strict accordance with the law, had been taken or could be taken by anybody.

Yet the country was called upon to arise in resistance to an alleged attempt by the "Mormons" to take such advantage, and the Senators and Representatives in Congress from Utah, and the President of the United States, were appealed to to put a stop to the "steal" and expose it to the nation! Could anything be more ludicrous? Its stupidity would be marvelous coming from other sources. But the anti-"Mormon" pulpit and press may be expected to cut any number and kind of queer antics in their insane and venomous convulsions. But they might have spared respectable ladies from being drawn into the drift of their absurdity and making of themselves a general laughing stock.

The employment repeatedly in the resolutions of the term, "First Presidency of the Witches Stake," which has been ignorantly used day after day by a nautical sheet in its frequent ravings with other phrases of a similar sort, betray the hand that framed the nonsense for the women and preachers to father, or mother, whichever you please, and they show how easy it is to get voters to a resolution or signers to a petition, no matter what folly and falsehood either may contain so that it "itches into the Mormons."

The government methods of opening the reservations to settlement under the land laws are such that no advantage can be taken, as official announcements declare, by any person "of whatever creed, sect, denomination or political party." Every applicant will have the same opportunities to draw for and acquire under the laws, the lands thrown open for settlement. Advice as to the rules, prices, ways of proceeding, etc., may be and is offered by attorneys and others and that is perfectly legitimate. Nothing more has been contemplated so far as we are aware, and if it has it would certainly be in vain. The notion that the "Mormon" Church, or its Presidency, are trying to secure lands for anybody contrary to the laws and regulations in such matters, is one of those wild illusions which are common to the anti-"Mormon" mind, and frequently exhibited in other phantasies and extravagancies with which a disgusted public are familiar. We are sorry for the ladies who have been drawn into the folly so patent in their resolutions, and think it disgraceful on the part of the chief conspirators to impose upon them. The course of folly could go no further.

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE.

The attorney-general of Colorado has instituted proceedings against the owners and the editor of a couple of Denver papers, because of the unfavorable criticism of these papers of a supreme court decision. The complaint alleges contempt of court.

The decision in question declared an amendment to the constitution of Colorado invalid, and had the effect of dissolving a number of officials.

We are not in a position to pass upon the merits of this case, and that is not necessary. But, with every fair-minded paper we hold that it is the duty of the press to comment upon judicial decisions, as well as upon public acts of public officials, whenever public interest requires such comment. The

courts possess tremendous power, for good or evil. Their decisions sometimes affect every business interest, great or small, within the jurisdiction of the tribunal that makes them. Were they exempt from scrutiny through the intelligent press, grave wrongs might go without correction. It is a duty a public journal owes its constituents, to conscientiously and fearlessly expose errors and mistakes in public life.

But—and there is another side to the question—this duty is, too often, abused by newspaper writers who go far beyond what their calling requires, and attack persons instead of criticizing public acts. They are really character assassins who hope to escape their just doom, by pleading a right to "criticize." Criticism, however, is not slander. And public men have as sacred a right to be shielded from the venomous shafts of the slanders, as the fair critic has to review their official acts. This fact seems almost to be forgotten. The official, who is chosen by the people and who, in his office, represents the people more truly than many a hireling of a plutocratic press, is entitled to protection in his rights as a citizen, as much as any other citizen.

As before stated, we are not discussing the merits of the Denver case, but it appears that the justices of Colorado were charged with being controlled by corporations and partisan politicians, in rendering their decision. They were also caricatured and made the objects of nasty insinuations. If this is in accordance with the facts, the newspaper overstepped the boundaries of propriety. They did not "criticize" a public act. They made a charge of corruption, entirely irrelevant to the discussion of the validity of the judicial decision.

Some people seem to be unable to perceive the difference between just criticism and vile personal attacks. But there is nevertheless a wide difference. It may be absolutely necessary to pull a diseased tooth, or to operate for the removal of an abnormal growth. But then skilled doctors, responsible for their acts, are called upon to perform that duty. But the necessity that at times arises for the performance of surgical operations is no justification for drunken ruffians to cut and slash, and shoot and howl, right and left, without reason. Those who indulge in such wild performances should be properly taken care of.

THE GENERAL OPINION.

"Senator Smoot made a splendid impression during his day's visit at Nampa. He is a large, bearded, generous man, with plenty of brains, and of good character mentally and morally."

The foregoing is from the Nampa Leader-Herald, which published the speech in full. It voices the sentiments of the people of that section of Idaho, who were present in large numbers when the oration was delivered. We have heard nothing but praise of the speech from anybody but a few sneerers in these parts, who turn green when the Senator's name is mentioned and then yellow when the speech has passed. He made hosts of friends of all parties and creeds by his visit to Nampa, and the people in that vicinity hail with gladness the establishment of the sugar interest, in which prominent men of Utah are interested. Nampa is getting to be a big rival of Boise, and has prospects for rapid growth within the next few years, to which its magnificent hotel will doubtless largely contribute. It is right on the Oregon Short Line and is a pleasant place to visit.

SPEAKING FOR HONESTY.

The season of "commencement" exercises always brings an abundance of oratory on more or less timely, and important topics. One of the notable addresses of the season was delivered a short time ago, at Oberlin college, by Hon. James H. Dill, a prominent corporation lawyer of New York. Mr. Dill discoursed forcibly on certain evil tendencies of our time, and he spoke "as one having authority," having had extended experience in the building up of some of the monopolies he condemned.

Discussing the tendency toward great aggregations of capital, he contended that this in itself is not wrong but that the real evil is found in men, in character. "While originally," he said, "men sought consolidation for the purpose of added strength, later combination was sought as a method of covering up weaknesses, to conceal fraud, to hide delinquency, to join the weak with the strong, and to pass the whole over to the public as a sound proposition. Aggregations of capital and corporate or other combinations are often the centers where such evils become most apparent. But these are not the things which are wrong. The real evil lies in men, in character. The trouble is with you and me—it is personal."

But although this is true, the speaker admitted that some combinations are unscrupulous. They use their forces, he said, "to accomplish their own ends without due regard to the rights of individuals or of the public. This they do naturally. Power always carries with it an instinctive human desire to adopt the theory that might is right." Some of our foremost men are working on that theory."

Dr. Dill had found that honesty is no longer held to be the best policy, and that of pretenders, deceivers of the public, grafters, the most skillful and dangerous are found in the ranks of educated men and educated women. Men—and women—of high social, financial and political standing, he said, have established for themselves a code of conduct at variance with the good old-fashioned, somewhat obsolete Ten Commandments. As a consequence, a large part of our modern prosperity consists of an over-production of fraud and sham. The crisis is acute. A feeling of distrust is growing throughout the country. Many branches of financial business have been in one way or another taken possession of by the unscrupulous for the purpose of deceiving the unwary. The speaker, briefly stated, intimated that there is altogether too much hypocritical pretence of loving virtue without practicing it among us; that a craving for "the easy dollar" has become a passion with us; that

graft has become well nigh universal, its common form being the illicit use of power or authority; that the effort of directors or managers of syndicates or corporations to do, as such, what they would not do in private life, on the theory that syndicate or corporate morality is one thing and individual morality is another, results in "the total suppression of individual honesty and morality."

Dr. Hill, further, pointed out the evil consequences of the lowering of the business standards of morality. This, he said, in a corresponding lowering of the private moral standards, and the corruption of legislative bodies. Concerning the part played by the lawyers in the drama he confessed:

"The lawyer too often advises his client, his corporation and the directors how far they may go without subjecting themselves to a civil or criminal liability. Less frequently he raises the question of right and wrong. He says he is not here for that purpose. In so doing the lawyer commits his clients to the doing of things against a third party for which if the lawyer himself were the third party, he would feel justly resentful. Too many lawyers are forgetting today the high standard set for them in the doctrine that the attorney is the keeper of his client's conscience. And these lawyers are prosperous, some of them are the leaders of the bar and as such they are admired by the most of us."

The speaker, notwithstanding his pessimistic views of the situation, felt confident that an effective remedy will be applied to the evils he perceived. The American people, as a rule, appreciate, he said, character. The rank and file not only believe in but stand for right living and a conscience undimmed and unfettered by business environments. "Therefore," he concluded, "right and honesty will triumph, a saturnalia of graft and an era of grab will find itself short lived, eliminated by the uplifting influences of educated men and women of character, a consummation which will receive fresh vigor and renewed impulse from those who today are 'back to beginnings.'"

Just how the mutineers are unusually mute.

Has work on the canal also been arrested?

People sitting on the lid will choose the ice box this weather.

That cotton report leak investigation report seems to be loaded with gun cotton.

That Colusa, Cal., negro who is turning white must experience delightful sensations.

Japan objects to China butting into the peace conference. She wants her to mind her P's and Q's.

John Jacob Astor says that the automobile will be succeeded by the airship. Success to the successor!

There seems to be, in some of the western states particularly, a revival of wild-cat banking. Kill the wild cats!

France and Germany have reached an agreement on the Moroccan question, and each thinks it has overreached the other.

While speaking in Kansas Tom Lawson was strained his voice. In his strenuous life he is always straining something or other.

If Russia ever gets those mutinous sailors she will make of their punishment a compensation for her reverses and losses in the Far East.

At Iola, Kan., where a bitter anti-saloon fight is on, three saloons have been blown up with dynamite. Such outrages only injure a good cause.

A lone robber in Idaho tried to hold up a Pullman palace car and failed. He should turn porter if he wants to hold up Pullman palace car occupants.

Since it has been decided that the sessions of the peace conference are to be held in Portsmouth, N. H., people will begin to look up their geographies to find out where Portsmouth is. So, geographically, peace is as valuable as war, and more valuable every other way.

Some of the navy men want the government to spend two hundred and fifty million dollars a year in building up a great navy. But why limit the expenditure to that sum per annum? Why not use all the government revenue in building up and maintaining a "great navy?"

The University of Utah has issued a little illustrated folder containing a brief outline of the work done in that institution. Catalogue with full information is sent on application. It is one of the great schools in the intermountain region. Its growth has, during the last years, been almost phenomenal.

Certainly water should be used with economy and husbanded in every way, but there is no reason to fear any "water famine." Nor does the statement that there is less than half as much water coming into the city as there was at this time last year seem credible. And last year the people were given the same kind of talk they are being treated to this season.

DECLINE OF A GREAT RIVER.

New York Sun.
The Niger is the third largest river in Africa and one of the great rivers of the world. If a channel as long as the Niger were to be cut across our continent in the latitude of New York it would make an island of the northern part of North America. But the Niger is now showing more evidence of the dedication that is gradually spreading over large parts of Africa than any other large river. For it is the run off waters of a great part of the western Sudan, where the decline in rainfall has been uncommonly marked for a considerable period. The British have made several futile attempts in the last two years to reach Zebba from the Niger mouth with their steamer Nube. Ten years ago this point, where

the railroad from Lagos is to cross the Niger, was accessible at all stages of water to light draft steamers. At Timbuktu, some 1,200 miles up the river, the French report that the water level is slowly but steadily sinking. This is very apparent among the islands that divide the Niger into many channels from 100 to 300 miles above Timbuktu. As long as we have had knowledge of these islands some of them have been completely covered at high water, so that the native inhabitants have been compelled to make an annual sojourn on the mainland until the fall of the floods. Not a single island is now abandoned, for none of them is covered even when the flood is unusually high.

THE SENSE OF TRAFFIC.

London Lancet.

Every town dweller should cultivate his "sense of traffic." At first this means that he will take every step in a crowded thoroughfare with a reasonable consciousness. He will never think of his business or his pleasure while he is in the street, but only of the way in which he is going, of what he is doing, of what is on either side of him, and of what he is leaving behind him. At every crossing he will settle his course, so to speak, and look out for dangers from every point of the compass. After very few weeks of this careful self-regulation he will develop the "sense of traffic." Without knowing it he will see and hear and realize all that moves about him. He will automatically avoid collision and it will be as impossible for him to take a step at the wrong time as it was formerly difficult for him to take it at the right one. He will at the same time preserve his power and lighten the labors of the policeman. Street accidents occur to those who have no "sense of traffic."

"THE LEVEL OF EXPENSE."

Pittsburg Gazette.

A new catch phrase has been coined which should be as popular as the "simple life" or the "new thought." This phrase is "the level of expense." It represents that keeping of one's expenditures of all kinds in a correct ratio to one's income. The woman who has ascertained her proper level of expense will not be paying an inordinately high rent, as compared with her income, merely for the sake of a good locality. She will not purchase a velvet gown and sable fur, even though she has the money to pay for them, because those things do not accord with her style of dress. She has found a way to proportion her income so that all she has and does may seem in keeping. There is in this a wisdom which the student of domestic economy will do well to ponder over.

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