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WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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On and after December 1st, 1883, subscriptions to the WEEKLY News will be required in advance. Payment for papers now being delivered to parties in this city who have not paid beyond that time will be collected, after the date named, by the carriers, weekly or monthly.

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SECRET LEAGUES.

We have frequently taken the position that those who seek to destroy the work of regeneration and reformation being established by the Saints not only fail in attaining their object but are finally, to use a familiar term, "paid back in their own coin." When the reimbursement takes place the interest is compounded, the return being "heaped up and running over." This may be safely accepted as a standing principle, based upon the proposition of the Savior about the measure meted out to others being returned in greatly increased quantity. It is also in accordance with an express promise by revelation, given to the Church in this dispensation.

The correctness of this proposition is susceptible of proof, so far as anything of that nature can be sustained by an array of incontrovertible facts extending throughout the entire history of this community. Discomfiture, disgrace and disaster have followed at the heels of those who have sought by every contemptible means to bring trouble upon an innocent and God-fearing people. This applies to individuals and combinations of every class. Had we the space or inclination we could furnish instances almost without number.

We are perfectly safe in predicting that, unless the "Secret League" for the suppression of Mormonism is itself suppressed, as an illegal and abominable institution, that secret agencies of this character will be one of the leading and most conspicuous factors in bringing destruction and distress upon the nation. They will take numerous forms, and their dark fomentations, conducted under the social crust, will burst forth in various localities like so many inextinguishable fires, spreading trouble and sorrow in every direction.

Already has this threatening curse commenced to crop out in the self-righteous city of Cleveland in another than anti-"Mormon" shape. No doubt there will be no end of imitators of the Ohio Leaguers, but the workers in the dark will have a multiplicity of aims, that will rack and tear and distress society from centre to circumference.

Notwithstanding our views on this subject, based on what appears in the revelations offered to this generation, we were scarcely prepared at this early day for the horrible depravity indicated in a recent dispatch from Cleveland and published in the eastern journals. It is dated the 12th inst., and states that Bertie Gaylord, aged fourteen, disappeared from the aristocratic home of his parents about a week previous, taking with him a couple of revolvers. He organized a secret society called the "Silver Skulls," composed of boys from eleven to fifteen.

The meetings were held in a barn, and each of the members on being admitted had to take the following oath:

"Cursed be friendship, cursed be fathers, mothers, sisters and broth-

ers; may the offspring of ourselves canker, blister and decay on its dying mother's breast; may the blood of each breed pestiferous plagues; may the hair of each fall from his head, the teeth crumble in his jaws, the brains rot in his skull, the eyes canker and fall from their sockets, and the fingers grow palsied, if we ever betray the secrets of the Skulls. So do I swear. Death to our enemies, life to the Skulls."

The fearful wickedness indicated in this awful oath is enough to make an ordinary mortal's blood curdle and his hair rise upon his head. It is a curiosity as an almost unprecedented specimen of diabolical ingenuity, especially when the youthfulness of its formulators is considered.

In describing the nature of the secret combinations that proved the cause of the destruction of the ancient inhabitants of this continent, and which he predicted would exist in the present day, the Prophet Moroni refrains, from prudential motives, from giving in the Book of Mormon the oaths which they took. If they were of the character of that imposed by those youthful Cleveland reprobates, the reason for his omission must be obvious.

The dispatch further says:

"Jason Casey, a boy who in some way incurred the wrath of the Silver Skulls a short time ago, received a warning written in red ink, signifying blood. A glaring skull and crossbones decorated the paper, and below was a bloody hand with the word 'death' written on it. The document read: 'Jason Casey, one month from to-night, if you don't join us, you will receive your death warrant, and two days from then your death. By order of the Skulls.'"

In contemplating the subject, one is almost led to exclaim—"If they will do this in the green tree, what will they do in the dry?"

We repeat that unless a salutary change takes place, the country will be racked and torn with internal dissensions until, in the words of the revelation given through Joseph Smith at Kirtland, Ohio, on March 7th, 1831, "It shall come to pass among the wicked that every man that will not take his sword against his neighbor, must needs flee unto Zion for refuge; and there shall be gathered unto it 'out of every nation under heaven; and it shall be the only people that shall not be at war one with another.'"

An army was sent out to Utah against the Saints, who were guiltless of the charges preferred against them. The crusade resulted in no special harm to the community, but as the sword was sent against the people of Utah, the tocsin of war was soon heard in the nation followed by great bloodshed and destruction, in harmony with the proposition laid down at the opening of this article.

That same war, together with the precise locality where it began and other exact details were predicted by Joseph Smith twenty-nine years before they were accomplished facts. So will the words of the same Prophet be fulfilled in relation to internal overwhelming disruptions occasioned by secret combinations and other disintegrating agencies, unless averted on the principle of genuine repentance.

It is not for the Saints that we specially dread the consequences of the present attitude of Ohio, combined with a somewhat general position throughout the country. They are safe, in life or in death, but not so with those who conspire against a people who are seeking to serve God in the way he has appointed. The fate of such is not a pleasant subject for contemplation. We would greatly rejoice, for their own sakes, to hear of their repentance.

POOR VANDERVOORT.

It will be remembered that Paul Vandervoort, of the Grand Army of the Republic, got off a "fire, blood and smoke" speech at Denver about the "Mormons." He made use of the basest falsehoods, thinking to gain a little popularity. Shortly afterwards he was kicked out of a post-mastership and thus his living was unceremoniously cut off. One would have supposed that the poor fellow had got enough, but the Custer Post of the G. A. R., of which he was a member, have passed resolutions denouncing the Grand

Army reunion at Hastings for attempting to uphold him, in the face of his misconduct in the railway mail service. The Custer Post members, who ought to know him, paint him a fraud. They do not seem to have much mercy on him. The anti-"Mormon" press should champion his cause, and not let one of its model men be strangled and extinguished without a struggle.

NOT PRACTICABLE.

"BAPTIST BROTHER," whose letter appeared in yesterday's issue, advocated a union of "Mormon" and orthodox (sectarian) brethren in erecting a suitable building and combining in prayer meetings and general reformatory work. His theory looks fair on its face, but those "orthodox" brethren are not the kind of men he appears to take them to be. Why cannot "Baptist Brother" get it through his head, seeing he has been here, and is evidently a pretty good kind of a man, that there is a strong effort being made to correct "Mormon" morals the wrong way about. It has been advocated by the organ of the "orthodox" brethren, that dens of prostitution, saloons and gambling houses are desirable factors in bringing about that object desired. He should remember that if the "Mormon" sentiment prevailed, no such degrading adjuncts of modern civilization would exist here. The "Mormons" have striven to keep them out and down, but the "orthodox" brethren have never lifted a little finger to help them do it.

THE "MORMON" EMBARGO ADVOCACY.

SOME time since the N. Y. Mail and Express took the Utah Commission to task for not recommending Congress to enact a law that would place an embargo upon "Mormon" immigration to the United States. We took the ground that such a recommendation would have been an impractical absurdity. The same journal comes after the News on the subject and says:

"Whatever Mormons do not wish the Federal Government to do is likely to be the thing which ought certainly to be done. Let Congress note the fact."

Such a reason as that is no reason at all, and is unworthy a capable and reputable journal like the one named. It took the affirmative on the question of the advisability of the recommendation for an embargo law, and to take the ground that it should be done because "Mormons" object to it is supremely absurd. Let some reasons be given, but do not resort to a flimsy subterfuge like that. Let the Mail and Express try at least to make a substantial point or two, and we believe we can, without difficulty, show that such a recommendation would have been an impractical absurdity. The paper whose remark is now considered is not the only one by a large number that has indulged in such ridiculous advocacy, but we have yet to see the first sensible basis advanced in its favor.

CONSPICUOUS INCONSISTENCY.

TO-DAY we present an article from the St. Paul and Minneapolis Pioneer. It is conspicuous for clearness. There is a potent point, however, which it omits to mention. Several of the anti-"Mormon" bills that have been at different times presented for passage through Congress, have incorporated an amendment to the Constitution forbidding the practice of polygamy within the confines of the United States. In advocating legislation of that character, the Ohio anti-"Mormon" Leaguers have but followed in a track already well beaten, and responded to the clamor of a maimed portion of the public.

The point we wish to draw attention to now is the fact that the anti-polygamy proposition is in the character of a huge joke upon Congress and all that class that goaded that august body into passing legislation forbidding the practice of polygamy. The proposal to make such an addition to the "Supreme Law of the Land" amounts to saying, in so many words, that

all legislation heretofore passed for the suppression of polygamy is unconstitutional. If it were otherwise why should Congress be asked to pass an enactment to render it harmonious with that instrument. It would be a simple work of supererogation. We are to conclude then that the law of 1862, against polygamy and all statutes subsequently passed to render it operative (notably the Poland and Edmunds laws) are in direct violation of the Constitution as it now stands. No other deduction from the position of the amendment advocates can be logically reached. If the Constitution warrants any legislation of that character, the warranty cannot be increased, and the anxiety to insert an authorization amounts to an admission that it does not exist there now, nor ever has.

So far as that point is concerned this is precisely the position we have taken on the subject—that the legislation alluded to was in opposition to the whole genius of the Constitution, but we hardly expected to find our views supported—even unwittingly—by those who manifest such strong anti-"Mormon" proclivities.

We do not know that a Constitutional amendment would alter the situation one way or the other, any further than it might, by rendering the question more permanently conspicuous, increase the clamor against the Saints. But such an addition would be a repulsive wart on the face of the sacred instrument. It would mar its beauty and be out of harmony with all its legitimate features. Consistency would require also that an insertion of that description would necessitate the elimination of one of its most glorious constituents—the religious freedom clause.

The Constitutional amendment craze is but another instance of anti-"Mormon" thoughtlessness, inconsistency and blindness.

A REMARKABLE BATTLE.

The individual who is spoken of as the "False Prophet" and is fighting the Egyptian government, is looming into importance. We do not know much about his prophetic it just right when he said he would whip Hicks Pasha's army of over 10,000 men, with British officers, Krupp guns and other auxiliaries. He simply annihilated the force. He said he would, and went to work and fulfilled his prediction. He was not prophetically false in that instance. It is stated that he forbade his men using the more modern class of weapons of warfare and instructed them to confine their means of slaughter to the sword and spear. If this is correct the overwhelming victory is all the more wonderful.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CRAZE.

THE St. Paul and Minneapolis Pioneer, one of the most able journals in the country, has the following forcible article:

"That precocious infant which styles itself the National League for the Suppression of Polygamy appears to be about on a par with the average prohibition union, from which it borrows its cardinal principle: that is all that is needed to forever banish any evil from the sacred precincts of this favored land is to pass a constitutional amendment forbidding it. This curious body, which is said to be a secret organization, has issued an address to the public such as should delight the hearts of the Mormon lobby at Washington. The greater part of the precious document is devoted to abuse of Mormonism, and is therefore outside of the limits of any consideration with a view to possible legislative remedies. It asserts incidentally that 'Congress has taken little interest in the matter,' whereas the interest taken is such as to have become slightly wearisome to the country; and it concludes with the appeal already referred to, asking that petitions be everywhere circulated for the submission of an anti-polygamy amendment to the national constitution. It would be cruel to inflict at present any further discussion of the polygamy question upon a long-suffering public. The matter is now in proper shape for congressional action, and no doubt such measures will be passed

as will aid in enforcing the laws of the United States in Utah. But the spread of the idea that anything and everything can be done by constitutional amendments is something worthy of public attention. How this flimsiest of all fallacies can find lodgment in the brain of any intelligent person must remain as much of a mystery as if educated people were to call in an Indian medicine man to heal them of their ills. Everybody knows that a constitution is no place for specific regulations aimed at particular practices. Everybody is supposed to know that a constitution is merely so much waste paper until legislative acts are provided for enforcing it; and that, if the laws of a state or nation are disobeyed, to call in the aid of the constitution is as silly as for a man to conclude himself a millionaire because he holds a promissory note signed by a bankrupt unable to pay one cent on the dollar. But mysterious law of nature has brought us to the cycle where the amendment craze reigns supreme, and the Cleveland league only follows where the prohibition party leads the way. Of course, could such an organization ever amount to anything, it would but fight the battles of polygamy as prohibition is fighting the battles of free whiskey.

NOT SO CHARMING.

ONE of the arguments used by Governor Murray in favor of a legislative commission for Utah was that the absence of popular rule in the District of Columbia had worked to a charm. The people of that part of the country should be allowed to be better judges of that matter than Mr. Murray. They appear to have a very different opinion, as evinced by a strong popular movement just inaugurated in favor of suffrage for the District. An executive committee of one hundred citizens has been organized to agitate the subject and take steps toward the attainment of the object desired. Meetings are to be held in each of the subdivisions of the District—namely, the work of canvassing for names to an appropriate petition to Congress is to be at once begun and a hearty response is anticipated.

What a pity that the people of the D. of C. are not convinced of the correctness of Mr. Murray's theory. He should labor with them and assume a similar role to that of a man undertaking to convince a lot of famishing people that their stomachs are full, or at least that hunger is a charming situation, and should therefore be made a permanent and extended condition.

A man who assumes the ludicrous position that the absence of a popular form of government is a desirable political situation is an anomaly as an official in a Republic.

The people of the District of Columbia appear to be quite anxious to break up one of Mr. Murray's theoretically charming estates. However, their action was not needed to demolish such a flimsy bolster to a self-evident absurdity.

THE ATTEMPT ON JULES FERRY'S LIFE.

THE attempt made by the young anarchist Currien, of Haguenau, of Alsace, to assassinate Jules Ferry, Premier of the Republic of France, was happily conducted most bunglingly. When the young fellow was captured, revolver in hand, he managed to place a couple of pieces of paper in his mouth, one of which he succeeded in swallowing before he could be prevented. The other was secured and on it was written a portion of this address. Had the fellow succeeded in reaching M. Ferry it is not improbable that he would have accomplished his object. An attendant, M. Philibert, at whose breast he presented his weapon, only saved himself from death by instantly grappling his assailant.

The frequency of these murderous attempts creates a most uneasy feeling among the crowned heads and leading government officials of European countries. Anarchical societies form one of the darkest and most unpromising phases of modern society. They constitute a prominent sign of the times.