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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

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AN ASTONISHING VERDICT.

The verdict of the jury in the infamous Shurtliff case at Provo will cause great surprise and indignation. The testimony both before the Justice's court and the First District Court was overwhelming against the defendant. The evidence of Miss Adams, the outraged victim of the defendant's brutal passion, was clear and damning and was not shaken in the least by four hours' rigid cross-examination. All the endeavors on the part of the defense to blacken the girl's character signally failed.

The strongest point made by the defense, was the testimony of Martha Lunceford—now Clark—the girl who swore before the Justice that she was violated by Ira Clark, at the same time the offense was committed by George Shurtliff upon Mary Hannah Adams. Having been married to the villain who committed the crime, and made friends with the other scoundrel, she came into court and gave evidence tending to imply that Miss Adams was not an unwilling victim to the wiles of Shurtliff. She thus denied what she swore to in the lower court, and exhibited a boldness and shamelessness that was disgusting to hear and behold.

The prisoner was defended by very able counsel, who used all the ingenuity and tactics of criminal lawyers to rescue their client from the dangerous position in which he had placed himself. The charge of the Judge seems impartial and fair. But the jury appear to have given the defendant not only the full benefit of every doubt, but of the thin testimony evidently arranged to screen him and injure his victim. The jury may justify themselves as to their verdict of acquittal, on the ground that it was possible there was some degree of consent on the part of the outraged girl. But the public will not look upon it in that light.

The effect of the evidence on the minds of the masses is that George Shurtliff should have been put where he could commit no more such beastly crimes for at least ten years. They do not doubt his guilt for a moment. They believe the evidence that while his wife was absent on a visit, he and his vile companion Clark drugged and outraged two girls who fell into their power. The efforts made to bribe the girls into silence, the marriage of the Lunceford girl to Clark to cover up his iniquity, and all the circumstances of the case go to corroborate the direct statements made as to the crime. Shurtliff could not follow the example of Clark, for he was already married, but he could and did induce his wife to offer Miss Adams the deed of a house to close her mouth against his villainy.

There is only one adequate penalty for such an outrage as that inflicted upon Miss Adams, and that is the death of the brute who has ruined her for life. The law does not permit this, as it ought to do, and the jury that tried him seem to have been more lenient than just. Of course it must be remembered that the hound Shurtliff was not accused of the lesser offense. He was charged with rape, and the jury had either to convict him of that or acquit. If they were not satisfied that he was guilty of the capital crime, they had no alternative but to find the verdict which they returned. But when the public is satisfied from all the evidence and circumstances that an unattonable offense has been committed, and there is no justice to be had in the courts, it is not surprising that there are threats of popular violence, and that in other communities such an outcome to a trial is not infrequently followed by a lawless execution.

In a law-abiding community like ours such things are not to be expected. They are contrary to good government and to the faith and teachings of the religion which guides the lives of the large majority. Mob law is to be deprecated on all occasions. It is to be frowned down in this instance. But the villains who have exposed their true character, even giving them the benefit of the small doubts which seem to have actuated the jury, have shown to all decent people that they are totally unfit for social recognition, and ought to be shunned as moral lepers by every decent man and woman who they may meet. The very air is contaminated by their presence, and if they have any sense of shame they will rid the scene of their depravity of their loathsome and most unwelcome presence.

If this shocking case does not prove a lesson to imprudent girls we do not know of anything that would take effect. If Miss Adams and her companion had not flirted with those crea-

tures in the shape of men, sat up late and played cards with them, drank wine and placed themselves in a position to be tampered with, all the sorrow and shame that ensued might have been avoided. Wise counsel is often treated with disdain, but the path of safety is within the lines of good advice. But notwithstanding the folly of the girls in their familiarity with the miscreants who effected their ruin, the diabolism of the deed if not palliated in the least, and there are no words that pen can write which would fitly describe the turpitude of those hell-deserving scoundrels.

THE EPISTLE OF THE FIRST PRESIDENCY.

The Epistle of the First Presidency, which was read to the General Conference at Provo on Tuesday and published in full in the DESERET EVENING NEWS of the same date, will be read with interest wherever it is circulated. It is comprehensive and thorough. It presents the situation graphically and in detail. The wrongs which are being endured by the Latter-day Saints are recited plainly and without exaggeration, and the unconstitutionality of the proceedings against them is established. It is clearly shown that the crusade now waged in the name of law is persecution in spirit, act and intent.

The duties of the Saints in regard to this assault are pointed out, and the necessity for their improvement spiritually and temporally is dwelt upon in an impressive manner. Heads of families are exhorted to put their houses in order and regulate their family affairs by the laws of righteousness and purity. The State and Ward authorities are stirred up to diligence. Individual responsibility is treated upon emphatically. The benefits of raising the best stock, field and garden products and all fruits of labor and skill, and of beauty and convenience added to utility in public and private buildings, are described.

A comparison is drawn between the criminal statistics of the "Mormons" and of their accusers, affording indisputable proofs that the charge of lawlessness against the Saints is false, and that it would be more fitly made against their defacers. The sacredness and perpetuity of the true marriage covenant receive due attention, and the distinction between "Mormon" plurality of wives and the ways of the wicked world is sharply drawn. The loyalty of the Saints, notwithstanding the treatment by the Government, is exhibited and encouraged. The course to be pursued is indicated, and all Israel is exhorted to faithfulness, patience, endurance and integrity.

The Epistle will, no doubt, be read to the Saints in distant settlements, so that those who were unable to attend the Conference may be made acquainted with its contents. Papers containing its full text should be widely distributed, and copies ought to be forwarded, either in newspaper or pamphlet form, to every part of the civilized world. It will bear diligent scrutiny. It should be perused until its statements and precepts are mastered by the people.

The Presidency cannot minister in person among them for reasons that appear in the Epistle. Therefore the sentiments they express and the instructions they impart by letter should be diligently sought after. And if those precepts are put into general practice, the good effects cannot fail to be seen by men and angels, and God will witness His approbation by increased blessings upon Zion, and by making bare His mighty arm for her deliverance. Let the Epistle become familiar to every household in Israel!

THE NEW GOVERNOR.

There are not many persons in Salt Lake who are acquainted with the nominee for Governor of Utah, but it appears that the gentleman is a fine looking man of about forty-five years of age, a widower with one child. He is a lawyer of some prominence in Kentucky, and was formerly in the Confederate army, serving under Morgan with distinction. He was recommended by Speaker Carlisle, and is said to be fair-minded, firm, and accustomed to do his own thinking. It is probable that he will be confirmed without much delay, and it is to be hoped that he will soon enter upon the duties of his office. It will take him some time to become acquainted with the people, their interests and requirements, and they should see to it that he is not left to the deceptions and allurement by which Federal officials are usually led into a one-sided and prejudiced view of local questions. The endorsement of Mr. Carlisle is greatly in his favor, and we have reason to believe that he has been selected because he is likely to be impartial and conservative. Time will tell. Anyhow, we are grateful for a change.

NOT COMMENDABLE ENTERPRISE.

ENTERPRISE excites admiration and is commendable when actuated by a worthy motive. It is stimulating to

those engaged in it and all who are affected by it. Newspaper and publishing enterprise has reached a higher standard than almost any other kind, and the public are usually benefitted by it. We do not think that this will be the result, however, in the case of a recent publication of a piece of characteristic French literature. Thereby hangs a tale.

Readers of accounts of Parisian life have learned of a woman known as Cora Pearl, who is said to be the daughter of Professor Crouch, of Baltimore, and is credited with the authorship of the far-famed ballad "Kathleen Mavourneen." She was a leader in the ranks of the *demi-monde* at the French capital, and Princes, and Dukes, and Counts, and Generals are named in the list of her followers and adorers. She was noted for her extravagance and the immense sums squandered at the banquets served up in her establishment. Her story has similar features to that of most of her class, but with one difference. She has lost caste, dwindled down to poverty and obscurity, but has suddenly come into new prominence in the ranks of literature.

She has written a book. It is the story of her life. Her avowed intention is not to create scandal, but to relate facts. When the news leaked out there was consternation in certain circles. But it was profitable to the author. Letters were written from "respectable" members of society, husbands and fathers who trembled for their good name, for they knew what she could relate concerning them. The letters contained substantial inducements to withhold names. The book came out and sold like hot cakes. And now comes in the enterprise of ye American publisher. A house in the East determined to be first in the field to put it into English. A copy was received from France, three translators were set to work on it, their copy was given to the printers as fast as transcribed, most of it was in type the next day, and in forty-eight hours it was printed, bound and published, and ready for that portion of the American public that delights in prurient literature.

Enterprise was prostituted to the retailing and circulation of scandalous stories. Energy, money and brains perverted to the purveying of nastiness and the gratification of a depraved appetite. It was casting a pearl before swine, in a very different sense to the meaning of the scriptural adage. If the book had been of a character to refine and improve the mind and morals of the "foremost nation on earth," it is not likely that its translation and publication would have been attended with such remarkable "enterprise." "Straws show which way the wind blows." The haste of supply shows the urgency of demand. And that gives evidence of the direction of the public taste in society which counts itself the embodiment of "Christian civilization."

THE DEPTH OF DEPRAVITY.

We were prepared to see the *Tribune* of this city take a position on the side of the brute Shurtliff. A journal that advocates the rum-shop and the brothel, the gambling-den and the rowdy-haunt as antidotes to "Mormon" restrictions, might be expected to lean over to the outrager of women, and prefer the vile wretch who drugs and violates a helpless girl, to an honorable man who marries and supports and maintains the affections of two or more virtuous women. That is the position it takes on Tuesday morning, in a beastly attempt to garble and pervert what the DESERET NEWS had said to say in condemnation of the rape case at Provo. After a tirade of low abuse it says:

"Give the devil his due: Shurtliff is no worse than plenty of 'respectable' Mormons, and any law that would punish him ought also to punish them."

When a degraded ruffian who has no conception of marriage above the gratification of animal appetite touches on the question of the marital relation, he cannot treat of it from any other standpoint. He therefore can see no difference between marrying a woman and violating her person. Indeed, he prefers the beast Shurtliff, who has a wife and who drugged and raped a young girl that fell into his power, to a respectable "Mormon" who marries a plural wife with the same intentions and obligations that he had in taking the first. Argument with such a debased and besotted being is out of the question. We can only mingle pity with our deep contempt. He further says:

"When the NEWS goes farther, and proposes the death penalty as the only adequate measure of punishment for the brute who ruins a girl for life, it allows ranting folly to get the better of its religion. It doesn't mean that it would have every man who 'ruins a girl for life' killed; it only means it would have every non-Mormon who does so put to death."

What we mean is obvious to all who read our remarks. When we say that "the only adequate penalty for such an outrage as that inflicted on Miss Adams, is the death of the brute who ruined her for life," we intend the remark to apply to every such villain, whatever he may be called or whatever he may profess. A "Mormon" who would go down to the depths of such

a damning crime would be deserving of even greater punishment, if it could be inflicted, because in doing so he would not only violate the laws of the land and of humanity, but the law of God and his sacred covenants of chastity. "Mormon" or non-"Mormon," Jew or Gentile, refined "gentleman" or buffeted *Tribune* scribe, whoever commits such a crime as that perpetrated at Provo, ought to be put to an ignominious death, and the law is lame that does not provide an adequate penalty for that capital offense. No jury in any State of the Union would convict the father or brother of a girl outraged as in this case, who slew the wretch that committed the deed. This shows that under the statutory law there is an unwritten law in the heart, that prompts the extreme penalty under such circumstances, and justifies it when inflicted. If it is right it ought to be embodied in the enacted statutes, and no private citizen should be required to execute the law.

As to the filthy insinuations and foul innuendoes that link, in the *Tribune* mind, the horrors of this shameful case and the conditions attending a pure union of the sexes under the regulations, ordinance, preparation and mutual agreements of marriage, monogamic or plural, the mind that conceived the connection is too low down in debauchery and its advocacy to reach with an argument as to the infinite difference. We can only leave the animal to wallow in the iniquity of his own vile conceptions.

A FAILURE THAT MAY LEAD TO VICTORY.

It looks as though the great railroad strike will end in a fizzle. The Knights of Labor showed great strength at the start and appeared to have control of the situation. Their numbers and unity made them formidable, and their action struck terror into the ranks of mighty capital. But such a power requires more than ordinary wisdom to direct it to desired ends. Organization and union are indispensable, but without intelligent management even they will fail in great emergencies. Powderly and his associates exhibited much ability, but they were no match for Gould and Hoxie, and the indications are that the moneyed men have the advantage and the Knights will come out this time at the little end of the horn.

It is the first great battle, however, that the Knights have fought in the campaign which may yet result in a revolution in the labor world. It will teach them many valuable lessons and may lead to future successes. Grand victories often begin with a Bull's Run.

It is probable that if measures looking to arbitration had been adopted in the first place, the strike, which cannot fail to be disastrous to the workmen, might have been avoided. The numerical strength of the Knights was pretty well understood and was an object of dread to the plutocrats. The fear of what they might do, would have accomplished more than they have done, and terms and agreements might have been secured of great advantage to the laborers who have a grievance.

While there are so many thousands of unemployed workmen unconnected with the organization, the Knights will always be at some disadvantage. They have no right to prevent other men from doing the work which they refuse to perform, nor to hinder capital from selecting its own laborers. Violence will be met with violence, and the force of law is stronger than the power of illegal combinations. Strikes without sound reasons will prove abortive, mobs will be quelled by the military.

We believe that the society called the Knights of Labor will develop into a powerful foe to monopoly and money-grubbing. But we think it will not reach its strength until it assumes a political standing. The ballot is a force in this country which the powers that be are bound to respect, and we look for great changes to be wrought within a very few years, in which the labor question will figure as the chief issue. The Knights have much to do and much to learn, and the struggle in which they have not yet come off victorious will not have been in vain if they profit by the experience they have gained in the conflict.

PENSION FOR "BATTALION BOYS."

The bill which has been passed by Congress giving eight dollars per month pension to the surviving soldiers who served in the Mexican War, will no doubt be signed by the President. It is a good measure for a worthy object. Its text was published in the EVENING NEWS of Tuesday. It is applicable to officers, soldiers and sailors who served in the war with Mexico for any period during the years 1845, 1846, 1847 and 1848 and were honorably discharged, and their surviving widows, during their natural lives.

This will include the veterans who served in the "Mormon" Battalion, and will be some little compensation for the hardships they endured in their unparalleled march across the country, for which they have never received the full and deserved credit. The living

widows of those Battalion heroes who are dead will receive the same amount, and though it is but a little, it will be of some comfort to them in their declining years. We congratulate our friends on this slight token of regard for their services, and if it comes rather late in the day, it is "better late than never."

THE LATE CONFERENCE.

The General Conference, which closed its session yesterday, was a gathering of potent significance. The attendance was large, the building in which the meetings were held being much too small to accommodate all who were anxious to attend. The people were courted by tellers appointed for the purpose and placed at the entrances, on Tuesday morning. This afforded an excellent opportunity to test the capacity of the Provo Tabernacle, and also to ascertain how many were enabled to be present at the meetings. The footing was 3,563. This, taken in the abstract, is not a large showing, but combined with the masses of people who were unable to get within the structure, it makes a fair numerical exhibit. If it had not been generally understood that there was nothing like commensurate accommodation in the Provo Tabernacle for a gathering of the usual dimensions on such occasions, doubtless many thousands more than did would have flocked together to be refreshed and renewed in their faith and determination to walk the strict line of religious duty.

On no previous similar occasion was ever greater unanimity of spirit exhibited. So far as the Saints were concerned, every man on every hand seemed "to meet a brother and a friend." The good people of Provo showed a hospitable disposition to visitors that could scarcely be excelled. The meetings were lively, the instructions spirited and to the point, and the proceedings passed off without a jar.

The great feature of the occasion was the Epistle of the First Presidency. It was listened to with rapt attention, and pronounced to be one of the ablest papers of modern times. The fact that, although unable to see the Presidency in person, the Saints were enabled to receive so grand, eloquent and instructive a communication from a majority of them, was a source of great joy to the assembly. There was among the people a general, and it might truly be said, universal desire to see the Epistle spread broadcast throughout the land, the belief being strong that it would be the means, if liberally disseminated, of doing a large degree of good.

A significant feature of the Conference was the powerful determination to sustain the principles of religious and general freedom, even, if need be, at the risk of personal liberty or life itself. There was no appearance of fear, the reign of terror now operated against the Saints to the contrary notwithstanding. This condition is but another of the numerous evidences which history furnishes of the fact that religious conviction cannot be crushed out of the human heart by wanton cruelty and iron-handed tyranny.

THE LADIES' MEMORIAL.

The Memorial of the women of Utah, presented in the Senate of the United States on the 6th of April by Mr. Blair, of New Hampshire, has been printed in the *Congressional Record*. It cannot fail to impress all who read it with the grievances it sets forth, and the necessity for some relief from the wrongs which have been imposed upon suffering Utah. The outrages that have been perpetrated in the name of law have pressed with particular

severity upon the women and children of this Territory. They have been exposed to insults and abuses from officers of the law that would have provoked extreme violence in any other part of the Union. And such proceedings are alike disgraceful to those who have personally engaged in them and those who have aided and abetted or officially permitted them.

The ladies have done well to utter their protest and to present their petition for redress. The facts they set forth cannot be successfully disputed. They have exaggerated nothing, and in the recital of their wrongs they have maintained a moderation that must command respect. The Memorial will be widely read and will certainly have a good effect. We congratulate the ladies on the prominence already gained for their movement in the cause of justice and equal rights.

GLADSTONE'S GRAND EFFORT FOR IRELAND.

GLADSTONE, the greatest living English statesman, has placed the capstone upon his lofty monument of fame. The crowning effort of his life is the measure he has proposed for the settlement of the perplexing Irish question. Placed in a position of immense difficulty, he has taken a stand that must be admired by friend and foe. It is a bold step in advance without being in the least revolutionary. While dealing out a measure of justice to Ireland, he