

## EDITORIALS.

## AN OFFICIAL BLUNDER RECTIFIED.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND has rescinded his order removing from office M. E. Benton, District Attorney for Western Missouri. The gentleman was accused of "offensive partisanship," and evidence being adduced which appeared to substantiate the charge, the President summarily removed him. He has since explained his position and defended his actions, showing that he had not neglected any duty of his office, and that his partisanship was only exhibited in addressing some political meetings, on the solicitation of the active workers of his party in that State.

The President's reply to the Attorney's explanation is important, because it modifies the impression obtained from his noted order or warning to office-holders, that no official could safely engage in public political controversy, and it recognizes the liberty which every man, whether in or out of public office, would enjoy, of advocating that which he believes to be right and for the best interests of his country, and of openly supporting those men for office who, in his view, will best subserve the public interest.

To deprive a government official of that right is to make him a serf. No man of independence will willingly submit to such oppression. But on the other hand it is not right that an officer should use the power of his position for party purposes. As a man and a citizen he should be free, both in speech and action; as a public servant he should not use his office for party ends. The President's communication sets this matter right and draws the line in a way that all who have eyes can see it.

But the whole proceeding exhibits a weakness that is often to be observed in men endowed with authority. Action was taken on one-sided testimony. The President jumped too quickly at conclusions. The accused attorney was not heard in his own defense. His side of the matter was not considered. If that had been heeded before instead of after a decision was reached, in all probability the removal would not have been made and the President would not have had reason to rescind his own order. It was like the sending of troops to Utah to put down a rebellion that did not exist. Inquiry after the blunder was made proved that government folly had been committed. This was the case both in the great army fiasco under Buchanan and the little one under Cleveland. Hasty judgment is often imperfect, and the acceptance of one version of a story till the other is told usually leads to confusion and error.

However, the President has showed more magnanimity than some "great men" exhibit. He has been willing to correct his own wrong and acknowledge his own mistake. In this he has manifested true strength of character. It is only little minds that are ashamed to admit an error and afraid to make reparation. This example is not unworthy of imitation in smaller men clothed with less authority.

## THE TWO B'S.

THE "truly loil" of this Territory will have to feel down deep in their pockets again. The hat is being passed round for the benefit of two or more limbs of the law who are anxious to spend the winter in Washington. They would like to combine business and pleasure at somebody else's expense. They are ready to sacrifice their private concerns for a few months—and "a valuable consideration." They will stand as the champions of the "persecuted Gentiles" of Utah, provided they are duly remunerated. They are able to represent that the minority represented by 2,810 votes at the Delegate election, ought of right to override the majority represented by 19,005 votes—that is, if they are well paid for their sophistry.

They hope by means that have been planned and discussed and agreed upon, to push forward the Tucker-Edmunds bill and accomplish the political robbery which that scheme proposes, and more in the same direction. They are sanguine of success, conditioned solely upon the willingness of the "League" and other dupes to "put up." One devoted patriot is to pull wires on the Republican wing of Congress and the other on the Democratic, with the view to make them both flap simultaneously and produce an anti-"Mormon" shriek from the irritated eagle, that shall make the mountains reverberate with shrill echoes and all Utah to shiver with apprehension—for cash duly collected and delivered.

The twain who are willing to become one in this labor for glory and greenbacks are lawyer Baskin, an alleged Democrat, and attorney Bennett, a supposed Republican. The two B's, it is thought, will prove no drones, but will work like bees, buzz around Congressmen like the insects that neatly spread their wax, and by begging, bantering,

badgering, babbling, boring, bulldozing, blustering, bickering, bragging and bargaining, will bring about the bondage of the many for the benefit of the few.

So, anti-"Mormons," whether Democrats, Republicans, "Liberals" or nondescripts, hand out your dollars and dimes, and enable the two B's to siphoney and live in clover at the nation's capital and have a good time generally, while you furnish the "ways and means." The half-dollar League entrance fee and four bits a month tax, will not mount up to the requisite figure. You will have to respond or the Tribune lash will be applied, and perhaps the terrible name of "Jack-Mormon" will be hurled at you, to awe you into submission and liberality. The largest donation will be greedily received. Money for the two B's!

## COMFORTLESS INDICATIONS.

THE attempt to murder P. D. Armour and family, of Chicago, by poison, is a dismal pointer in the direction of horrible probabilities likely to arise out of the labor disputes in this country. This effort at assassination in its most atrocious and subtle form is a startling incident. It is a method of wreaking vengeance against which there is no adequate protection. Fortunately for the intended victims the cowardly deed was nipped in the bud, by suspicion of foul play having been aroused, but necessarily the sentiment of security must have fled from the breasts of P. D. Armour and his innocent family, for by what means can they be assured that some other process of revenge, equally villainous will be detected before its purpose is effected? And the terrible thought arises, like Banquo's ghost—if Mr. Armour can be thus assailed, what assurance have others assuming a similar position in the labor struggles by which the country is being agitated, and in some sections convulsed, that they will be exempt from attacks of the same character?

It does not appear, while men are to be found so utterly lost to every principle of humanity as to resort to such measures to obtain revenge for grievances, real or imaginary, that the law can afford commensurate protection. Such crimes are so managed as to enable their perpetrators to readily escape detection. All the facilities that can be obtained should be employed to identify those who made the attempt upon the lives of Mr. Armour and family, that they may be punished. The general moral effect upon such depraved characters would be good, but success in ferreting out the wretches is, doubtless, remote.

Events of a similar class during the last few years indicate that attempts of the character that occurred so recently in Chicago are liable to become more or less epidemic, unless something potent is done to check the murderous disposition out of which they spring.

While no expression but denunciation can be properly applied to such crimes, it will be well for the class to which Mr. Armour belongs to consider their share of the responsibility for their production. The course that has been pursued towards the strikers who resume work is most exasperating. It really introduces a species of white slavery into the midst of a free and civilized community. The workmen are required to sign an agreement requiring them to leave in the hands of their employers a stated proportion of their wages until the aggregate amounts to one hundred dollars. Unless they comply with certain conditions they forfeit whatever amount of these deposits has accumulated. By this arrangement free men are converted into bondsmen, and they are subjected to a species of galling slavery.

In this way the men are placed between two fires. On one side are their employers and this peculiar agreement, which, owing to the one-sided character of the monetary obligation, is no more elastic than a bond, and on the other are the trades combinations whose behests they have voluntarily bound themselves to obey. In the event of these labor unions issuing orders to their members contrary to the agreement, the men would be in a perplexing dilemma, being subject to disaster no matter how they might elect to act. That kind of treatment is bound to manufacture a desperate and reckless element, capable of doing incalculable mischief. It will contribute to bring about a time when every man's hand will be against his neighbor, and when peace and safety will be driven out of the nation.

## A "MERCIFUL DESIGN" FOR "MORMON" DESTRUCTION.

WE expected that the review of the chapter in Bancroft's History of the Pacific States devoted to The Mormon Battalion which appeared in this paper, would be misrepresented in that portion of the Daily Liberator which is occupied by the chronic inebriate whose vulgar pervasions disgust even the regular readers of that disreputable sheet. Therefore we are not surprised to see the statement made in it this morning, that the News admits that a "statement through which runs as plain as the sunlight the merciful design

and desire of the government is 'a plain statement of the facts.' Of course this assertion is a falsehood. The Tribune was never known, in its daily abuse of the News to state its position fairly nor to meet its arguments squarely.

Reference to the article in question will show that we simply considered the author of the chapter and "not aimed at sensational effect, nor made any attempt at embellishment, but rather to offer a plain statement of facts and give due credit to all concerned." That this was his aim is clear, from the fact that he has given both sides of the dispute as to the intent of the promoters of the Mormon battalion scheme. The side which sets forth the inhumanity and cruelty of the call for five hundred able-bodied men from the debilitated camp of the Saints just driven from their homes and sojourning in an Indian country, with need of all their male strength for the arduous and unknown journey before them, the Tribune scribe carefully suppresses. But the portion which seems incidentally to support the idea that the demand was "a merciful design," is set forth in glowing colors and we are made to say that this is a "plain statement of facts." Such a willful and dishonorable distortion of an opponent's language would appear in no journal that has the slightest claim to respectability.

Now to the facts. Previous to the call of the government upon the homeless "Mormons" for five hundred men to march to Mexico and aid in the war with that country, Elder J. C. Little had made an appeal to President Polk for aid to the exiled Saints in their journey across the great American desert to an asylum in the West. This is cited by our opponents as proof of the "merciful" theory. The nature of that request may be judged from the instructions given that gentleman by President Young, and quoted in the chapter revised, as follows:

"If our government should offer facilities for emigration to the western coast, embrace those facilities if possible. As a wise and faithful man, take every honorable advantage of the times you can."

Col. Little's application was for "assistance in the great crisis" which the driven Saints had reached. The pledge given was that if this assistance was afforded by the government, should the territory to which the "Mormons" were moving be invaded, they would hold themselves ready to defend it by force of arms. And this is the kind of aid that was extended to the destitute "Mormons" just driven from their homes and with a journey of more than a thousand miles before them through deserts and over mountains and inhabited only by savages and wild beasts: A call was made for five hundred of their youngest and strongest men to go to another spot to fight the battles of their country, leaving the camp of the Saints depleted and crippled and more helpless than ever! Mr. Bancroft says of this:

"The Mormons, however, not receiving the aid to the extent or the kind they had hoped for, regarded the action taken as a mere requisition for troops, and in numbers out of all proportion to the population that was to furnish them."

And in support of this, the historian quotes from D. Tyler's work at length, one sentence of which will here suffice:

"The assertion which has been made by their enemies, that they desired and solicited the privilege of joining the army to go against Mexico, leaving their wives and children homeless and destitute wanderers on the banks of the Missouri, is a base libel on the character of the Saints."

It is also utterly absurd on its face. The idea that the assistance asked for was the weakening of their own ranks, the privilege of leaving themselves in a more destitute condition than that from which they desired to escape, the diversion of their main physical strength that they might be better able to pursue their journey and defend themselves by the way, is so preposterous that it could never be conceived by any one but a fanatical anti-"Mormon." Col. Kane said, of the demand, as quoted by Mr. Bancroft:

"The call could not have been more conveniently ill-timed. The young and those who could best have been spared, were then away from the main body, either with companies in the van, or, their faith unannounced, seeking work and food about the southwestern settlements to support them till the return of the season for commencing emigration. The force was therefore to be recruited from among the fathers of families, and others whose presence it was most desirable to retain."

The nature of the aid expected from the Government is thus explained by Mr. Bancroft, and his explanation is sufficient to refute the notion that the "Mormons" wanted to supply recruits for the army in the Mexican war:

"The Latter-day Saints believed they had just cause of complaint, that the national government had refused to protect them against the oppression which forced them to quit their homes in Missouri, in Illinois, and they did not hesitate to apply at Washington for aid in their enforced exodus. There were roads to be opened, forts to be built along the highway to Oregon, military and naval stores to be transported to the interior and to the west-

ern coast; in fact there was work to be done for the government which the exiles could do as cheaply as anybody, and their compensation would be of the greatest assistance to the emigrating families."

The plot behind this call for the Mormon Battalion was disclosed by reliable gentlemen at Washington who became acquainted with it. Violent anti-"Mormons" suggested the demand. It was expected that it would be resisted. This was to be construed as proof of "Mormon" disloyalty. In this case, it was learned, that Thomas H. Benton received a pledge from President Polk that he might have the privilege of receiving volunteers in the upper counties of Missouri to "fall upon the Mormons and use them up." If the demand was complied with it was thought the "Mormons," in the absence of the bulk of their able-bodied men, would fall an easy prey to the red men and succumb to the various agencies of destruction by which they were surrounded. This was "the merciful design" of Benton, Douglas and other politicians and so highly extolled as a favor to the persecuted and exiled Saints.

It was because this side of the question, as well as the view that the Government sought to aid the "Mormons," was set forth by Mr. Bancroft, that we expressed the opinion that the gentleman had endeavored to give "a plain statement of facts and due credit to all concerned." How this has been distorted, perverted and falsified, in the columns of the daily prevaricator readers can readily perceive.

Whatever opinion may be entertained by the public as to the motive that was behind the call for the Mormon Battalion, one thing stands out clear and undeniable. That is, their prompt compliance with the demand was a proof of the patriotism and loyalty of the "Mormon" people and their leaders under circumstances of great trial and provocation, that will stand for ever in refutation of the calumnies of their foes. If, as claimed, they desired to enlist five hundred men for the war against Mexico when they were banished from their homes and houseless and destitute in an Indian country, they manifested a heroism and love of country that is unparalleled. And if they yielded to the demand under the same circumstances but with the understanding that it was a cruel and merciless call, designed for their destruction and yet a test of their loyalty, their compliance, with such alacrity and self-sacrifice, is no less worthy and remarkable, and it challenges the admiration of mankind.

## THE IMPENDING STRUGGLE.

A TELEGRAM from Dublin says the Nation gives details of the operations which will be carried out in the event of a Russian war. If Russia should resort to arms, says the Nation, an Austrian army will invade Serbia, the fleets of England, Austria and Italy will occupy the Euxine Sea, Germany will watch Poland, and if France should ally herself with Russia, the Italian will occupy the Alps. This is mapping out a pretty big programme.

On paper, it looks like what has been expected in reality for a long time and which is only in process of ripening if the tempers and acts of peoples and powers are to be the criterion—a general European war. It was broached when France and Austria measured lances and the latter retired with her's broken; but it ended with involving only Italy. The murmur of impending battle again floated throughout the entire European atmosphere while the remaining powers were eagerly watching the arms of France wither slowly but surely before the determined hosts of Germany, but the victory of the latter was so impetuous and crushing from the start, that there was no time to perfect the proposed alliance between Russia and Germany, cementing the bond with a bid of defiance to all the rest of Europe. Then, in the war of subjugation brought by Russia against Turkey, complications, combinations and confusion generally reigned all around and about the arena, wherein the combatants were locked in a bloody embrace; but out of the disorder prevailing, the diplomacy and intrigue, a semblance of coherency at last appeared, and it was in substance the same as what appeared in the Franco-German contest—an alliance between Russia and Germany, they twain, hand in hand, to check, to command and to direct, if not to absolutely control all disputants thereafter.

Such a combination would of course be the ruling factor of the European continent, not by means of direct warfare with all or either of the powers, but by deciding any dispute that might arise and coercing the unwilling into submission to any terms that might be proposed; as what nation could undertake to defeat its immediate opponent and oppose two of the greatest powers of the Old World beside?

That Europe is in a very unsettled condition, more so than perhaps at any other period in modern times, must be apparent to the least careful reader and student; that it is in a state of fomentation which must reach a crisis in the death and misery of many souls in the near-

at-hand future, is equally visible. It has always been the theatre of petty contentions at and near home, and gigantic and bloody enterprises far away. The little dukedoms and principalities, as well as the smaller nations, have no guaranteed safety forty-eight hours ahead; all that maintains their autonomous condition now is the fact that there has as yet been no open rupture between two or more of their powerful neighbors, and to gather one of them in at such a time would be to virtually declare war, and none of the powers are anxious to take the initiative, while perfectly willing to step in if any other should do so and her own rights be thereby menaced. Let but a formal declaration of war be promulgated between say Russia and Austria, or Germany and France, the Muscovite would make haste to take into his fold Roumania and Bulgaria, while Serbia, adjoining Slavonia and Bosnia in Southern Austria, could easily be added to the realms of Francis Joseph; this would leave to Turkey proper but one-third of its former geographical limits, perhaps one-half its ante-bellum population—and these the least efficient and enterprising of all—and thus she would become an easy prey to any one of those that have looked upon her with a longing eye for many years. England, and perhaps France, would intercede, but this would only broaden the arena of the strife and make more immediate what is now pretty certain to come before the present generation passes away—a general European war.

## IS THERE ANY PARALLEL?

An enterprising swindler has been arrested and committed to prison in Philadelphia, to answer to the court on a number of charges of fraud and larceny. His name is William Smith, prefixed with the title of reverend, and he belongs to the colored persuasion. According to his own admissions the pastors of fifty-three churches of various denominations were ready victims of his schemes, which have netted him the snug sum of \$3,700 during the past two years.

His favorite method was to introduce himself as a worker in the missionary field of South Africa, and he invariably received an invitation to address the congregation. He would then inform his hearers that in the African regions, under his care, it was the general custom among the natives to throw superfluous female children into the river to feed the crocodiles, and it was his aim to found a home for these unfortunates in their own country. At the end of the services he stood at the door with his hat in hand, receiving contributions. It was shown that he obtained from a number of churches in the city various amounts ranging from \$2 to \$25.

This circumstance reminds us that, at the last session of Congress, representations were made to the effect that many "Mormon" women were ready to renounce polygamy if some provision were made for the support of themselves and their children of tender years. An appropriation was asked for the purpose of providing a home for these alleged unfortunates, in their own country. Congress fell in with the scheme and \$30,000 was set apart for the object represented—"To provide means of self-support for the dependent women who renounce polygamy, and the children of such women of tender age, in said Territory, with a view to aid in the suppression of polygamy therein."

An effort is being made by some of those who interested themselves in securing the appropriation to use it for other purposes than the one so clearly defined by the law. Viewed from a moral standpoint, to say nothing about the legal aspect, it may be asked whether there is any parallel between their position and that of the colored man who reclines in jail in the city of Philadelphia? The premises are presented, and there should be no difficulty about reaching a logical conclusion upon the question.

## AN UNAUTHORIZED PUBLICATION.

In another column will be found a notice from Elder Moses Thatcher of the Council of the Apostles. We direct general attention to it, because there has been a great deal of comment over some remarks attributed to him which have been copied and circulated, and lately have been printed and distributed among the Saints. It is very unfair to take this course unauthorized, and we consider such proceedings worthy of severe censure. Those who have printed and distributed the alleged extracts from a sermon delivered by Elder Thatcher in Cache Valley some time ago, have in our opinion exceeded their right, and those who rely upon the purported remarks as authentic and to be discussed as prophecy or doctrine, may be led into error, as the report thus disseminated is without authority of the speaker. We are pleased to receive the notice from Elder Thatcher and cheerfully give it a prominent place in our columns.