

EDITORIALS.

"FRAUDS DETECTED."

THE Rev. Harlequin Talmage, the famous acrobat of the pulpit, keeps up his notoriety and replenishes his pocket, by furnishing to the American Press Association copies of the sermons with which he regales his audiences in the Brooklyn Tabernacle, and these being spread upon "reading matter plates" are distributed throughout the country, and appear simultaneously in many newspapers which contract with the Association for the plates. Of course these discourses do not appear until the Monday after the Sunday when they are supposed to be originally delivered. But they are all composed and sent to the Association at least a week ahead, and proof sheets are sent to and corrected by the sensational orator, all before they are preached from the pulpit. Thus the Brooklyn congregation imagine they are receiving something new on the spot, and the newspapers that buy the duplicate plates get credit for what is popularly called "enterprize," in securing for Monday a sermon delivered in the East on Sunday. And of such is the business side of sermonizing.

But "there's cheating in all trades but ours," and a rival printing and stereotyping establishment, noting the profits derived from this plate-selling, managed, by some underhand method then unknown to the American Press Association, to secure copies of these sermons for which that firm had the sole and exclusive contract, and to furnish plates to other newspaper concerns at the same time. The practical concern is known as the A. N. Kellogg Newspaper Company, which furnishes to country newspapers "patent insides" and stereotyped plates to fill up with from Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, St. Louis and Kansas City. This firm was warned that their surreptitious doings were known, but the trick was still kept up and the secret of its manipulation remained undiscovered.

But an alleged Talmage sermon, purporting to have been delivered by that clerical jumping-jack on the 18th of February, and entitled "Frauds Detected," appeared in the papers deriving their pulpitude from the Kellogg concern, which made quite a stir in the country, in consequence of the publication of the following card:

"NEW YORK, Feb. 16, 1887.—An outrageous fraud is being enacted. There is a sermon going the rounds with my name attached to it, entitled 'Frauds Detected,' and on the text, Numbers xxxii, 23—'But if ye will not do so, behold ye have sinned against the Lord; and be sure your sin will find you out.'"

I never preached a word of that sermon. I never preached from that text. The whole thing is a base deception.

T. DE WITT TALMAGE.

It appears that the sermon really delivered on that date was from the text: "Ye were bought with a price," and was totally dissimilar from the bogus article. Every one of the journals that published the deception has ground for a suit against the Kellogg Company for damages, while it is probable that Mr. Talmage may also sue the defrauding Company. The exposure is complete. The method adopted to catch the dishonest Company has been successful in disclosing the secret of the manner by which its weekly thefts were committed. The matter of the bogus sermon was set up in the usual way of the genuine by the American Press Association, and proofs were taken as customary. One of these must have found its way to the Kellogg company, which fell into the trap and the sermon was produced without a suspicion that it was not genuine.

There is another feature of this exposure which makes it doubly interesting. The moral of the bogus discourse smites the cheating company a most damaging blow. It was taken from Addresses to the Young and Innocent by Dr. Wells, of Glasgow, Scotland, published in 1878. The very title of it is suggestive and the text used is still more so; it is "Be sure your sin will find you out," and the language of the discourse contains continual thrusts at the thieving publishers; as for instance:

"Be sure your sin will find you out." What a solemn saying! How it grieves you! The very sound of the words strikes terror into us. The sinner skulks and flees, and does all that he can to hide himself, but sin is an avenger or detective on his track. The detective follows with slow and noiseless steps, but he is sure. He will not be bribed; he cannot be outwitted by the criminal! He may seize the trembling sinner any day, and seize him he shall some day. Every sinner has at last to say, like the frightened Abah: "Hast thou found me, O mine enemy!"

Again:

"Every page of history proves, that with the sinner it is 'like for like' and 'measure for measure'; the slayer is slain, the cheater is cheated, the doer dole, the biter bit, the snarer snared in his own net."

The American Press Association has achieved a complete victory over the "patent insides" manufacturers, and will most likely for some time to come, enjoy its monopoly of supplying that portion of the country that admires the Brooklyn pulpit de-

claimer, with those sensational utterances that draw crowds to his Tabernacle as the theatres attract multitudes seeking for amusement. It is to be hoped that the deceiving Company will not only lose the patronage which it acquired by these disreputable proceedings, but also be made to suffer at the hands of outraged law and justice.

"UNITED WE STAND."

THE split in the "Liberal" ranks is denied by the chief organ of the divided plotters. That is one of the best proofs of its existences. The penny whistle evening defender of the clique has endeavored to conceal the rent which gapes wide open, but finding this useless, now squeaks out shrilly the damaging fact, and charges the defeat of the Tucker bill, which it says was "acceptable to all the Gentiles of this Territory except a few who dared not openly express their dissent," upon Senator Edmunds and some local Republicans. It is pretty well known that there are some officials here belonging to that party, who did not want to see a Democratic Governor handling the despotic power which the Tucker bill proposed to give him, and filling the offices with Democrats. The loss of this naturally irritates the Democratic faction, and hence the fracture of that brotherly love which blended the votaries of the two parties into one lying League.

The whole squabble turns on the local offices, which neither party now feels sure of securing. "When rogues fall out, etc." The squabble, and the vain efforts to cover it up, are vastly amusing to lookers on. But these are not so funny as the attempt to jubilate over a bill that suits neither faction and which both are ready to curse, only it would not be politic to indulge in such anathemas. The *Tribune* remarks:

"Altogether, the bill is a strong one, and when it is applied it will be found to be much more efficient than many are disposed to judge. We feel grateful for its enactment, and to those concerned in furthering it we extend in behalf of the loyal people the most hearty thanks."

Here is what the *Democrat* has to say on the same subject:

"The bill formulated by Mr. Tucker and which passed the House by an almost unanimous vote, was exactly the thing that was needed, and if it had become a law, in less than two years Utah would have been redeemed; every local officer would have been conducted in harmony with Federal authority, and this Territory would have been practically as American in its government as Washington, Montana, Wyoming or Dakota. Who is to be blamed for the failure of this measure? It is charged, and to a certain extent justly, upon Senator Edmunds. It is true that his was the hand which caused to be stricken from the bill its very vitals, leaving it an emasculated cadaver, which while it may emit an inodorous effluvia, unpleasant to the Mormon nostril, is divested of every element which gave it life or power to effect the one necessary result."

There is scarcely less doubt that the motive which actuated him was a partisan one, originating from partisan sources in this Territory. This is made evident by the readiness and zeal with which his course is defended by a small but active political clique, which assumes to have a corner on all of the loyalty here and which is as uncompromisingly opposed to Democratic as Mormon rule. Perhaps after a few more years of unsuccessful effort and disappointment, the patriotic people of Utah will awaken to the consciousness of the selfish motives of some of their self-constituted leaders.

"How sweet it is to see brethren dwelling together in unity!" Let "some secular offices" be open to loving Democrats and Republicans, and what a scramble and a fight there will be! From the foregoing, it can be plainly seen how harmonious the fifty-cent Leaguers are, and with what unanimity of sentiment they rejoice over the great victory they have achieved—in a horn.

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.

THE letter from Mayor Hewitt of New York to the Young Men's Democratic Club of Brooklyn, now given to the public, is a sound and sensible paper. Its suppression at the dinner given by that body, by its President, because of its imagined reference to a distinguished guest, was a great mistake. But the letter has received greater prominence and much wider attention in consequence of the blunder. Everybody wanted to see what was in it, from the fact that it was suppressed. The human mind is naturally excited by mystery and anxiously longs for its disclosure.

There is nothing mysterious or demanding inclusion in those utterances of Mr. Hewitt. He is an able and well known Democrat who deserves something more than local dignity. He is a natural man and has a natural reputation. He should figure in the politics of the country rather than

those of an individual State, even though it be the leading State of the Union.

The principle feature of Mayor Hewitt's communication is the sound advice it contains in reference to the pernicious power exercised by certain secret labor organizations, which though established with the ostensible design of benefitting the working classes, really injure them by interfering with their personal liberty. But, incidentally, many good things are said in the letter which deserve consideration apart from the main question. Among them the sayings, not new of course, but expressing genuine Democratic doctrine, that "the individual is the unit of society," and that its integrity "depends upon the personal liberty of the citizen."

The notion now sought to be established is that "the family is the unit of society." This is not the true Democratic idea. Mr. Hewitt's declaration is correct if we view the matter in the light of republican institutions. That is the basis of the doctrine of manhood suffrage, and it includes woman suffrage of necessity. Every matured person is a unit in the sum of the State, and has a right to a voice in public affairs, unless rendered unfit by crime or mental incapacity, to be judicially determined. The protection of the individual in his personal and political rights is one of the chief ends of government. And the powers of the State are prostituted when they are used to destroy or curtail those rights, whether in the interest of a party, a sect or a race, or for the gratification of bigotry, prejudice or ambition. Individual liberty compatible with the rights of others, is the very essence of Democracy, and to secure and maintain it is the great object of true Democratic organizations, whether local or national.

Those societies, secret or otherwise, which interfere with the liberty of the individual, ought to be discouraged and, if necessary, suppressed. Working men have the same right as others, no more, to band together for mutual protection and support, and to gain and maintain proper remuneration for their skill and handwork. But they have no right to compel anyone to join with them, or to injure in any way such persons as decline to do so. If a laborer or artisan or any number of such individuals choose to abstain from working below a certain price, they may do so lawfully and in some cases, perhaps, consistently and wisely. But they have no right to prevent other workmen from performing labor at any price or no price at all. And when they attempt to do so they become enemies to society and antagonistic to Democracy.

Labor organizations which keep within the limits of law and the principles of self-support and self-protection, may exist and operate within Democratic lines. But when they break out with overt acts against the liberty of the individual or of other societies, they cannot consistently be recognized by the Democratic party, no matter how popular or numerically strong they may be. Mr. Hewitt's caution is wise and timely, and yet only the Club to which it was addressed but the whole Democratic party of the United States, will do well to heed the warning.

There is trouble ahead to come out of this very question, which will in all probability become one of the most potent political questions of the age. And careful consideration of it before it looms up in all its potency and magnitude, will be the part of wise and prescient statesmanship.

RATIONAL REMARKS ON ANTI-"MORMON" MEASURES.

IN spite of the deep-rooted and intense prejudice which prevails in the country against "Mormonism," springing chiefly from ignorance of its true spirit, teachings and institutions, there is a very general feeling among the better classes that the methods employed in the present crusade against the "Mormons" are wrong and indefensible. But so great is the power of clamor that few comparatively have the courage to speak out and openly express their convictions. Yet there are some public journals that do not disguise their condemnation of the extreme and harsh measures, legislative and judicial, which have been adopted in the spirit of religious persecution. The *New York Standard* has the following on the latest piece of anti-"Mormon" legislation:

"The conference on the Edmunds-Tucker anti-polygamy bill have agreed upon a measure that repeals the charter of the Mormon Church, and instructs the Attorney-General to institute proceedings to recover property not acquired by that corporation in accordance with the laws of the United States. It leaves the election laws substantially as they are, except that it authorizes the President to appoint the new elective probate judges. The elimination of polygamists from the registration is also included. It is in effect a measure designed to enable the 'Gentile' minority to govern the Mormon majority by excluding their votes, and to try them for offenses before packed juries, from which Mormons are excluded. The system it establishes differs but slightly from that in

vogue in Ireland, and it offers a most dangerous precedent. Polygamy is bad enough, but the weapons forged to crush it are just such as have ever been used to overthrow civil liberty on other pretenses."

The *New York World* says, editorially:

"The President has upon his table now the anti-Mormon bill, which Mr. Edmunds has finally brought to a state of perfection, but which is regarded by several able Senators as highly unconstitutional. What will he do with it?"

The *Alexander, (Va.) Gazette* in its outspoken way remarks:

"The President, who is handy with his vetoes, should read article first of the amendments to the Constitution, and then put an emphatic one on the anti-Mormon bill—the bill to break up the Mormon Church and confiscate its property. Polygamy is a crime by the laws of the country, but it can be punished without resorting to such outrageous measures as those provided for in the bill referred to."

On the wicked and stupid action of the Nevada Legislature the *New York Times* makes these comments:

"The Legislature of Nevada has passed, with only three opposing votes, a resolution proposing a constitutional amendment whose adoption will disfranchise all members of the Mormon Church in that State. This amendment provides that no one shall be allowed to vote who will not swear that he is not a member of that church. Such a test-oath law is in force in Idaho. A similar law was enacted in Arizona two years ago, and in response to the recommendation of the governor was repealed last month. The action of the Nevada legislature is not to be commended. No man should be disfranchised for the sole reason that he belongs to a certain church or because he holds certain opinions. But if those opinions lead him to violate the law by practicing polygamy, he should be prosecuted with all the vigor the laws allow."

In regard to the infamy which was stopped and declared unlawful by the Supreme Court of the United States, Pomeroy's *Democrat* says, under the head of "Persecution Stopped by Justice":

It is indeed gratifying to observe by the decisions that come from the Supreme Court of the United States, as it passes upon various questions brought before it, that opinions very positively expressed from time to time by the editor of *Pomeroy's Democrat*, though violently denounced by partisan spendings of intellect and rampant retailers of prejudice, have in all cases been sustained by the highest judicial tribunal of this country.

In the wicked persecution of Mormons now going on at the instigation of a non-Christian prejudice that is aiming at a general confiscation of the property and homes of honest pioneers in Utah, our readers will remember that Lorenzo Snow, a Mormon, was tried in a very low United States Court in Utah for polygamy, and as charged in the indictment, found guilty of three violations of the law, and sentenced to a fine of \$300 and a period of six months' imprisonment for each of the three offenses. Total, \$900 fines and costs of three cases, and eighteen months' imprisonment. He might as well have been charged with 300 offences within the years that he had lived in polygamous relationship as with three, but the Prosecuting Attorney was content to rest on three.

At the time the decision of the Third Judicial Court of Utah was rendered, we stated the action of the court to be an error founded on malice or ignorance, and therefore a greater wrong upon the people than were the individual offences of polygamists; as Mr. Snow, if guilty of an offence at all, was guilty of only one offence in the law—a term rather than an incidental offence. Then we were howled at.

On the 7th of February, 1887, the Supreme Court of the United States unanimously declared that the offence of cohabitation is inherently continuous and does not consist of isolated acts, and that Lorenzo Snow had committed but one offence. That the decision rendered by the Third Judicial Court of Utah must be reversed and the case be remanded back to that court, for such action and reparation as would leave its decision in conformity with law and consistent therewith.

What should be the punishment for a court, that for pay or to gratify a prejudice thus masquerades, under the ermine, to detract from justice and trespass upon the rights of citizens?"

ATTEMPTED DESTRUCTION OF THE "MORMON" CHURCH.

THE political crusade which is now in progress is a dishonest and deceptive movement. It is ostensibly directed against a practice alleged to be detrimental to the welfare of society; it is really another effort to destroy the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. From the very date of the organization of that religious body there have been strenuous efforts to disrupt and demolish it. The enemies of the Church have adopted various tactics and resorted to many different expedients to effect their purpose. But so far their labors have been in vain. In-

stead of suppressing, they have aided in spreading the principles of our faith, and persecution has been part of the propaganda of the Church.

What mobs failed to do in Missouri and Illinois, and what ministers of all denominations have been unable to accomplish anywhere, legislators, judges and lawyers are now trying to achieve in Washington and in Utah. Polygamy and politics are pushed to the front to figure in the fray, but behind them all are the forces of religious bigotry and that hatred against the truths and authority revealed from heaven which they have always excited in the breasts of the majority upon the earth.

Disguise the measures adopted by Congress as they may, the legislation now awaiting action from the President is directed against "an establishment of religion" and designed to prevent the "free exercise thereof." Such portions of the bill as are aimed at the marital relations of the Latter-day Saints, commonly called "Mormons," are purposely and intentionally devised to interfere with customs and institutions that have grown out of religious faith and the doctrines entertained as divine by an unpopular Church. And it is because that Church happens to be unpopular that this invidious legislation has been conceived and adopted. The spirit of persecution against an unorthodox ecclesiastical body animates and has animated the whole movement. The enactment that relate to family concerns are framed to apply specially to the tie that have been formed under the auspices and regulation of a religious society. If it were not for the howl that has gone up from sectarian throats, and the shrieks that have rent the air from disappointed place-hunters and adventurers who lay their repeated defeats at the door of the "Mormon" Church, there would not be any such insane excitement over the alleged doings of a small religious body that which has disgraced the walls of Congress on more than one notable occasion.

That the test oath which has been carefully worded so as to appear fair and consistent in its letter, is really directed in spirit against the people called "Mormons," as members of a Church which holds to certain tenets obnoxious to the multitude, must be clear to every candid observer. Its object is to deprive Latter-day Saints from voting, serving on juries or holding any office, local or national. Whether it will accomplish the end in view counts for nothing in the argument. The purpose and design are now in question.

Then examine the sections framed to disincorporate the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Perpetual Emigration Fund Company and involve the Church in expensive and vexatious litigation. It will on take an ordinary mind to perceive the purpose lurking behind the words put together by cunning lawyers, as to make them plausible as to appear within the limits of the Constitution. That purpose is the spoliation and destruction of the Church named in those sections. There can be no doubt of this to anyone who can discern the spirit that animates the letter of this legislation.

Even the provisions in regard to dower are devised to aid in accomplishing this purpose. They are to prevent men who have contracted or may contract plural marriages and Church auspices, from providing fairness for their plural wives and innocent offsprings of those unions. The shame with the section debar the children of such marriages in future from inheriting their share in father's estate at his demise. It is in the same direction, promoted by same malice and bigotry, urged by same sectarian and scheming influences against the members of a Church obnoxious to the unthinking multitude and the reflecting sectaries.

Much of this legislation may be construed as conformable in word to the provisions of the national Constitution. But, as ably argued by Senator Call his masterly speech against it, "The letter of the law killeth, but the spirit maketh alive." "Every law has a life," has a spirit. It is not to be determined by the letter of the law, as it sought to be justified here, and that the very first thing a student of law learns." Said he further, "The acute sophists who have written this bill do no credit to the intelligence, the age or the faculty of reason when they declare in this bill that it is not violative of the Constitution that it is not a law 'respecting an establishment of religion,' that it is an intolerant proscription of religion that it is not an unjust denial and a discrimination between different citizens in their political rights, because the language of the bill carefully avoids the open statement of any or all of the things. If the effect of a law—its object and effect—accomplishes the results, then it is equally liable to inhibition of the organic law and of honest and wise public policy, as if reached these results by the use plain and direct language."

Thus the whole purpose of the bill, as we have stated, to cripple and destroy the "Mormon" Church, is this is attempted under the disguise of law in line with the letter of the Constitution, while it departs entirely from its spirit and intent. As Mr. Call said "it is evidently to affect the Mormon Church, the Mormon religion." "If a bill to suppress a form of religious belief, a bill to make a law respecting an establishment of religion, and