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## AN "ESCAPED NUN" EPISODE.

A NUMBER of good, pious people of Pittsburg are clothed in sorrow and covered with ashes of bitter disappointment over the doings of Miss Frances Cusack, an "escaped nun." Her labor of love in uncovering alleged Catholic corruption was sweet to Protestant fanatics, who, being willing to believe anything, no matter how bad or how untrue, in regard to the vileness of a church to which they are opposed, obtained money and credit for the female exhibitor of the sins perpetrated under cover of Romanism.

Some of Miss Cusack's victims obtained subscriptions paid in advance, for a book which this alleged female heroine asserted she was about to publish. Now she is *non est*, having probably gone to a new field to work the nun role under another name. Doubtless she will readily find plenty of gullible people to victimize. Indeed there are lots of human beings not only willing but anxious to be deceived, so long as the deception feeds their prejudices.

We never had any faith in the escaped nun business any more than we have entertained a belief in thimble-riggers and confidence men. The respective businesses are different in some respects but similar in others—they are deceptions practiced to procure money.

It is probable that Miss Cusack never was a nun at any time, and even if she had been, it is a parody on justice to accept the *ex parte* statements of the enemies of a religious community as true without the consideration of evidence from those against whom the charges are preferred. To do this is wrong in principle, and none but narrow-minded, selfish and bigoted people pursue such an unwarrantable course.

It may be said that this one-sided conduct is so common as to include the majority of the human family. If so, that does not make it right,

and renders it all the more deplorable.

Escaped nuns and apostate priests are on the same list as renegade "Mormons," who travel about exhibiting anti-"Mormon" blood, thunder and blue smoke. As a rule they end in smoke, as did young Stoddard. They blaze up, attract popular attention for a moment, so to speak, the flame subsides and they disappear in the gloom of their own perfidy.

Down at the bottom of the heart of humanity there is a feeling of repugnance toward men and women who have been connected with a system—especially a religious one—leave it and then, in a spirit of bitterness and enmity, seek to tear it down and malign its adherents. Even those who, in the bigoted smallness of their souls, gloat over the falsehoods uttered by the recalcitrants, do not in reality place confidence in those who utter them, their position and conduct being intrinsically inconsistent and unmitigatedly ungenerous.

No word of condolence should be expressed for the Pittsburg dupes made by Miss Cusack. It is only, according to her own showing, another of her escapades, of which there has doubtless been a series. The first she claims to have been from a nunnery, the balance have been from her creditors and dupes. If the Pennsylvania incident shall decrease the sum of confidence ordinarily reposed in her class by thin brained Protestants, the affair will not be devoid of profitable result.

## THE LOCAL POLITICAL FIELD.

EITHER on account of a confidence that the "Mormons" of Utah will shortly be disfranchised, or because of the fact that long continued harmony among the uncongenial and contentious elements that were amalgamated beneath the carpet bag emblem during the last city campaign, warring factions are fast forming in the "Liberal" camp. Of course if the "Mormons" are all to be excluded from participation in the political privileges that, under the Constitution, belong to American citizens, the motive which produced temporary unity of action among the rank and file of their foes, will be wholly lacking.

A glance over the local political field reveals a remarkable scene. With what they believe to be good prospects of success, some of the minority are working

for the disfranchisement of the members of the party which is in the overwhelming majority. This minority comprises one of the most extraordinary conglomerations of disjointed and incongruous parts that were ever seen engaged in united action in the politics of this country. Republican political hacks, who tried to gain a living by their wits where they formerly resided, but failed for lack of capital to start with; Democratic schemers who became odious to the communities that came to know them best, and showed their respect for public opinion by running away from it; prohibitionists and preachers who posed at their former homes as opponents of the rum traffic, but who, in Utah, engage in a Saturday night political jollification in company with saloon-keepers until they forget that Sunday follows the last day of the week; greenhackers, goldites and silver money men; free traders and protectionists; Catholics, Protestants, infidels and Jews; Sunday school workers and gambling den proprietors; class leaders and bunko steerers; colporteurs and libertines; all these with many other elements between and among whom an equally striking contrast exists, including a sporadic sprinkling of honest men, were gathered into the fold of the "Liberal" party for the purposes of the late city election.

If the disaster of disfranchisement shall actually be precipitated upon the "Mormon" people by the efforts of their enemies, it will be a consolation which will go far towards offsetting the deprivation for the former to realize that one result of it is to relieve them of the necessity of mingling in political contests with such uncleanness. This is, indeed, a world of compensations.

Now that its common opponent may possibly be placed *hors de combat*, a commotion is agitating this mass of warring materials, until it presents something of the aspect of a menagerie, which, in a moment of common terror, has huddled together in the same retreat, but engages in the uproar natural to the animals included in it, as soon as the danger is past. There were very few lions embraced in the aggregation which went to the polls under the carpet-bag emblem, and what few there were seem to have retired out of sight into the woods of private pursuits. But in the local arena of public life and political strife there are a