

DESERET EVENING NEWS

PUBLISHED DAILY, SUNDAY MORNING,
AT EIGHT O'CLOCK.

THE DESERET NEWS CO.

CHARLES W. FISCHER, EDITOR.

Tuesday, February 17, 1861.

UNDER "MORMON" INFLUENCE.

It will be remembered that during last year's emigration of Saints from the east world, several attempts were made by fanatical agents of New York to stop "Mormons" from leaving, and failing that, to prevent some of them from continuing their journey to Utah. Special efforts were put forth to detain some girls who were with relatives, and many ridiculous stories were told by reporters about those travelers to the West. One of these girls was named Ross Knous, and now the annexed statement is going the rounds:

"Colonel Weber, superintendent of the Harper's Ferry Immigration Bureau, received a letter yesterday from Ross Knous, the pretty little Mormon girl, who came in with her sister and brother-in-law to Salt Lake City.

"Ross' father in Germany wrote a letter to Colonel Weber, in which he stated his belief that Ross had deserted against her will.

"Ross writes that she is among the Mormons from choice, and that she is well, happy, and earning \$1 per week as a dressmaker. The letter comes from another sister from a gentleman in Salt Lake City, whom Colonel Weber asked to speak for Ross.

"The gentleman writes that the girl, in spite of her letter, is absolutely under Mormon control, and she could write only in accordance with their wishes."

This is a new variety of the old story that no one could write from Utah to friends outside unless their hands were examined by the "Mormon" authorities. In this case the story is self-refuted. The letter of Ross Knous was "forwarded" in another letter from a gentleman in Salt Lake City, whom Colonel Weber asked to speak for Ross.

We do not believe anybody here made the statement, which New York papers have been repeating, that the belief that the girl could not write freely about her condition and surroundings. If he did so it is simply lied. The notion that anybody can be detained against their will in any part of Utah is too nonsensical for serious consideration, and any paper that publishes such stuff must be devoid of principle or desire to mislead.

If the word went out here that some young girl was under such influence as is stated in the New York Herald, from which the paragraphs given above were taken, all the secession preachers, with the anti-Mormon papers and the foxy old women, would raise such a howl that, if necessary, the treacherous Fort Douglas would be brought out to aid the United States Marshals, and all its host to capture that girl and give her liberty.

It seems that almost the entire newspaper fraternity in the East has either their editors openly or their columnists, whenever they make a statement, to teach on anything that relates to Utah and the "Mormons."

CONSPIRACY OF INEXACTITUDE.

"A Concise Dictionary of Religious Knowledge" is to be published by an eastern firm, for the alleged purpose of diffusing correct information on religious subjects. It is to be entitled "Anti-Mormon," written by Prof. Whipple. It is so erroneous that it has excited the animadversions of the Campbellites or "Disciples," and one of their papers, the Christian Evangelist, published in St. Louis, thus discusses upon it:

"Prof. Whipple, desirous, expected Prof. Whipple to write an historic sketch. Instead of this he has betrayed his trust and made a futile effort to teach the anti-Mormon to the Disciples, and says that the Book of Mormon is a book of Disciple Theology. Again, and again he returns to the charge. Of course Hyder Higginson, the "Bible Lawyer" of Boston, and the author of Whipple's book, will be the first to notice. Whipple will sell the book of Mormon. He was the publisher. Do you want the proof? Here it is, abundant, clear and convincing. Prof. H. says that our Anti-Disciple press should cease to exist. Feb. 7. Now there may be such overwhelming testimony!"

If R. K. Thomas had written the article before he had any personal knowledge, but, after all, we hardly consider that a theological professor could turn himcself?"

The next attack you make, my friend, don't hide yourself behind the house walls of a respectable library, and claim what would otherwise be a respectable book!"

There are two things in this connection which seem strange to us, and we believe, they would appear in the same light to all candid persons who would take time to think on this subject. One is that within the past months of books and papers, designed to convey correct information, will continue to go to anti-Mormon for arguments on "Mormonism," and thus make sure

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IN UNION, THE DEATH OF LIBERTY!

or obtaining something, at least colored with the antagonistic views of the writer, if not a totally incorrect exposition of the system treated of. And the other is, that these anti-Mormon writers persist in repeating the marks, especially exploded years ago, that Brigham Young wrote or uttered the doctrine of separation.

It would be just as reasonable to argue in an anti-slavery fanatic for a dissertation on Free-Masonry, as to engage a proselyte of any orthodoxy sect to write up "Mormonism." In the first place there is not one of them that understands the subject. In the second place, most of them are so charged with hostility to it, that they are incapable of dealing with it fairly.

It has been established beyond reasonable doubt and sufficient evidence, that Sidney Rigdon knew nothing about the Book of Mormon until many months after it was printed and published. And no one who has carefully examined the Book would rationally come to the conclusion that a proselyte and writer with the scholarly attainments of Mr. Rigdon, had anything to do with its compilation. It is certain, too, that even if the book is of human origin, it was not produced under the influence of any so-called "Disciple" or "Campbellite" doctrine it contains are opposed to a right of man to his slaves.

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