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IN ADVANCE.

Saturday, . . . July 22, 1893.

THE OGDEN DEFACATION.

The wrecking of the Commercial National bank of Ogden was as unlooked-for at any time during the business hours of last week or at any previous time as lightning out of a clear sky, and it is as deplorable as it was unexpected. The cashier, Oscar E. Hill, is a man concerning whose probity, honesty and efficiency there was not the faintest suspicion. Everything seemed to be going as well as usual with the possible exception of some little shrinkage by reason of the prevailing state of affairs, when all at once the craft struck the unseen rock and went to the bottom, where it seems destined to remain. The large amount of \$53,000 being withdrawn from its ready cash resources added to its other and regular liabilities constitute such a burden that other concerns of the kind in Ogden do not care to run the risk of carrying any part of it.

The crime of the cashier in diverting if not appropriating the sums aggregating the amount stated above is understood to have been systematically planned and artistically executed. It was not detected or even suspected till Saturday evening last. It loses everything to the company and everything to its employee, who with one stroke is transformed from an honored and respected member of the community to an unmasked villain and hypocrite. The only words of comfort we can find for the situation are that it is the Territory's introduction to that kind of offense; it never before was disgraced with a defaulting bank cashier and we sincerely trust it never may be again.

A CORRECT VIEW.

"Do you know any good news?" was asked an acquaintance this morning who has much to do with the temporal affairs of the Church, and is rated as one of the soundest and safest and most reliable business men in Utah.

"Do I know any good news? Yes, sir!" he replied with emphasis. "I know that Zion is all right; and that our part of the country and its interests are experiencing a steady financial improvement. Why, there is as much money here as ever there was. The number of idle men is little if any greater than usual. The sun shines as brightly, the waters flow as peacefully, the soil yields as bountifully as ever. There is plenty of bread and dinner, with prospects of abundance for the future. Is not all this good news? The fact that some silly people here and there get frightened—people with lots of money as well as people who have less, but who are just as much scared over their little as the others are over

their pile—the fact that there is an element of this kind in our community as well as in every other does not affect my serenity and confidence a particle. If there were a famine, or any calamity of that kind, there might be more cause for anxiety. But all the gratification there is in the money business; our material resources are all right, and these cannot fly out of the country, neither will they consent to be locked up from sight and usefulness. Nor is the money business as badly off as some believe. I am amused when I hear of business men rushing off east or west to what are called the money centers to make arrangements for extensions of time on their obligations or to raise means with which to meet them. I have had occasion during a few days past to call by letter upon various parties in our valleys for such remittances as they might be able to make without cramping themselves. The responses have been in the highest degree gratifying; five hundred dollars from one, four hundred from another, three hundred from this source, two hundred from that, and so on and so forth from all directions. And when I paid over these sums, last week, amounting in all to several thousand dollars, the parties who received them looked as amazed as though the cash had actually dropped down from heaven—they said they hadn't thought it could be had. I mention the incident to show you that there is an absurdly erroneous idea as to the scarcity of money generally, and that there is no real reason for whining and fear."

REV. HILL'S ROMANCE.

A few days ago we published a dispatch from Findlay, Ohio, giving a story accredited to Rev. J. Wesley Hill, recently of Ogden, as to a vast Mormon scheme of wholesale bribery of Congress. With suitable apologies to our readers for noticing so insignificant an unworthy and object, we next day paid some slight editorial attention to the story and its author. The eastern papers containing the item are now beginning to come to hand, and some of their comments upon it are interesting. We quote today from the *St. Paul Pioneer-Press*, which no one ever accused of having any fondness for the Mormons or of going out of its way to defend them. It says, under the heading "Romancing Extraordinary:"

A benighted public may never have heard of the Rev. J. Wesley Hill before, but it knows him now. It has not only been informed that he is visiting friends in Ohio, but it is simply saturated with the startling information which he has decided to keep no longer in his exclusive possession. The Rev. J. Wesley has delivered himself of his secret, and revealed the outlines of a gigantic and terrible plot that no one had ever suspected. A nation stricken with terror at thought of its narrow escape is now put on its guard against the desperate plan of the Mormon Church, which has decided to buy up the entire United States government, including both houses of Congress, the President and the courts, and has collected for that purpose the magnificent and unprecedented corruption fund of \$100,000. With this the Mormon power will purchase statehood and be made

secure forever against the minions of the law.

We have heard something of the sort about the great Roman Catholic conspiracy, if we remember rightly, by which the control of these United States was to be turned over unreservedly to the Jesuits, to the complete destruction of civil and religious liberty. But that was a less startling performance, in one respect, since it was to be accomplished by indirection and oblique. This is far more liberal in conception. The idea of the outright purchase of the powers that be at Washington, by the despised and rejected Mormon church; the bargain and sale contemplated, and particularly the estimate of national virtue contained in the preparation of this colossal bribe of \$100,000 to undermine the virtue of the administration and the courts, all these things bespeak the artist. The Rev. J. Wesley Hill, hitherto unknown to fame, has done things up brown while he was about it. This sort of thing is immensely better for hot weather than tales of the tiresome old sea-serpent.

Another bitterly anti-Mormon paper, the *Boston Traveler*, has this to say:

The report that the Mormon Church has raised a fund of \$1,000,000 in order to bribe Congress to give Utah statehood is hardly to be credited. It implies that the Mormon leaders lack in shrewdness and worldly wisdom, and their bitterest enemies have never charged them with this. Utah is certain to be admitted as a state in the not distant future, but her admission is not a question of the size of a corruption fund. It is rather the attitude of the Church authorities on the question of polygamy. When once it is settled that polygamy is abandoned, and abandoned forever, Utah will get her coveted statehood without money and without price.

THE CITY'S CONDITION.

The explanation is made that the city has available taxes with which to tide over its present condition of complete depletion, and that by reason of this there is no real cause for alarm, that everybody will get a hundred cents on the dollar and more too if he has to wait any length of time for it, and so on—all of which neither explains, informs nor gratifies the loyal taxpayer. It is not understood that there has been at any time any real danger, and such a thing as a collapse never entered anybody's head, or would not if it had not been spoken of; and even then it most likely enters at one ear and departs by the other. A city with as many resources as this one, with as elastic a general condition, with as many public-spirited citizens and as much solid wealth does not need to contemplate bankruptcy; we are not there nor at the verge of it nor have we ever been. What the municipality owes it will pay, be sure of that. It is these explanations that do not explain, these suggestions of what we can fall back upon in a desperate emergency, that create the very state of mind which ostensibly they are given out to allay.

It is poor statesmanship and worse financiering to talk about making available an "unearned increment." Any man as well as any city can discharge an obligation by incurring another, can obtain what he wants with or without money by drawing against what he expects to get at some future time. But this does not account to his