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RIGHT THIS WRONG!

There is a practice among the lawyers of this city which seriously interferes with the gathering of news that is specially interesting to the local community and generally to the public. It is the cutting away of the documents sent with the briefs of the court. When a reported applies for access to such papers, that he may be able to make up his matter for publication he frequently receives the reply from the person supposed to have the papers in custody, "Oh, Attorney So-and-So has the papers, and he has taken them away." In more than one instance they have been lost. This is a question of public concern.

It appears to a lay mind, if not to those learned in the law, that such documents, when filed, belong to the court and are public documents, to which access should be free at proper times. It may be convenient to attorneys to carry off such papers for their private use, or the benefit of their clients, but the convenience of the public ought to have some consideration. The press also has some rights which should be respected, and we think it is time that the grievance, which is specially hard upon diligent reporters, should be investigated and that if there is wrong there it is it should be corrected.

If attorneys in any case require the use of papers placed on file, they should have duplicates for their own present. In these reportorial times that is not an exacting requirement, as two or three copies can be made at one writing.

We commend this subject to the attention of the judges and clerks of the courts of Utah, and think that a rule should be established requiring papers filed with the clerks to be left on file for inspection, under the guardianship of the proper functionaries, and open to inspection at reasonable times and under proper regulations.

THE FACTS IN THE CASE.

The Salt Lake Herald is doubtless able to the aim of eastern misinformation concerning Utah by publishing that:

"The State has not yet been created so far by which its citizens may be compelled to live in accord with the provision in the act by which Utah became a State, 'polygamy is forever prohibited,' or to suffer punishment if they fail to do so."

The Herald people ought to know something on the greatly misrepresented subject, seeing that they have had so much to say about it, but it appears they are as ignorant as the people whom they attempt to enlighten. If not, then they are endeavoring to use the weapons of falsehood, at which they have to complain when attacked by their sectarian adversaries.

The Constitution of the State of Utah not only embodies the provision required in the act under which Utah became a State, but legislates directly to give that provision practical effect and provides for the punishment of those guilty of its violation. This is the clause:

"The act of the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah, entitled 'An Act to Punish Polygamy and other kindred offenses, approved Feb. 4, A. D. 1896, in so far as the same defines and imposes penalties for polygamy, is hereby declared to be in force in the State of Utah."—Article XXIV, Sec. 2.

The law referred to above provides that:

"Every person who has a husband or wife living, who hereafter marries another, whether married or single, and who lives with such husband or wife, or cohabits with such husband or wife in the same or any other place than one cohabit, is guilty of polygamy and shall be punished by a fine not exceeding $500 and by imprisonment in the State prison for a term of not more than five years."

It will be seen from the foregoing that this statute, for the punishment of persons committing the offense of polygamy has been in force in Utah for about seven years, and that it cannot into practical effect the provisions of the Enabling Act. Therefore the statement of the Herald that the State of Utah has "purposely enacted no such law" is false in fact. The Deseret News has not only published this law before, but has mentioned it and quoted from it repeatedly. The Herald has had the Deseret News to refer to, and its ignorance or worse on this question is inexcusable to say nothing stronger. That paper has now an opportunity of setting this matter straight, if it chooses to do so, or and endeavoring to make known the truth.

The crusade now being waged by certain religious sects against the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is largely based on the morals which so have been exposed. Several public journals have given place to the falsehood here related, which has been set afloat by the ministers engaged in the present fight against the Mormons. We do not know of one that has been fair enough to give the facts after receiving proof that their issue is erroneous. This has been the difficulty in all the controversies on the Mormon question. One side only is given to the public by the press and by the pulpit of the country, and the truth is purposely suppressed or concealed, and there have been no more blood and so-called revelations of crime and concealers of the facts that those periodicals which claim to be religious and professes to be "Christian."

THE JEWS AND PALESTINE.

In view of the recent action of the Zionists, and of the position assumed by many prominent Jews in this country, having an effect (intended) or supposed to be adverse to the re-peopling of the land by the Jews, the report of U. S. Consul Burchard, from Jerusalem, to the State Department, from Paris, is of special interest. The consul states that prior conclusions of the publication of Palestine are Hebrews, amounted to 10% twenty years ago; there were only 14,000 there. In the city of Jerusalem there are 25,000 Jews, half of whom have gathered from various European countries. Commenting on the situation there, Mr. Burchard says as quoted in a dispatch from Washington today:

"Entirely irrespective of whether or not political Zionism will succeed, there exists in the Jewish people a national spirit and become a Jewish monarchy in Palestine, or whether the Jew, half-citizen, the present agitation makes probable the development of a country which is only a shadow of its former self, and which will gradually revert to modern Hebrews. The action taken recently by the railway and telegraph concessions and the increase of immigration are conditions to the Jews in Palestine. They are no longer content to study the Talmud and live on charity, but are willing to tie the Jew up Hebrew, and to do, that is, to do the utmost to provide for God."

The consul gives a statement of the condition and mission of some of the principal Jewish schools, and says that, while their number is very small, they have a great influence in the cause of peace and prosperity in Palestine. In fact, political is declared and today the prospects are brighter than ever before for the Jews in Palestine and for the country itself.

The report, coming from one on the spot and in a position to secure accurate information, is valuable as showing the progress of the Jews in their own land. Some people may feel overenthusiastic, and think that the restoration of the Hebrews, if accomplished at all, should be brought about in a short time with the wealth and influence at the command of that people. But the prophetic word which has predicted the return of the Jews has also indicated that it is a work which will require time to accomplish, not only because of the actual gathering, but of colonization operations in the world's progress toward the condition foretold for "the dispensation of the fulness of times." The divine work instituted in latter days is going on, and the gathering of the Jews, with all other details of the great plan of restoration, will be wrought out in the Lord's own time.

SAMOAN STATISTICS.

The importance of the Samoan controversy depends entirely on the position of the islands. They furnish excellent naval stations for the powers interested in the Pacific. Otherwise some of the governments would deem it worth while spending diplomatic energy on account of the affairs of that remote little kingdom.

The group consists of thirteen islands. The largest, Savaii, has about 22,000 inhabitants. Upolu is smaller in area but has a population of over 16,000, while the third, Tutuila, has only in the neighborhood of 4,000 inhabitants. The entire area of the island kingdom is placed at 1,331 square miles with a population of about 34,000. Of these very few are of foreign stock. Great Britain being represented by 200, the Germans by a little over 100, and America by about 50, only permanent residents being included in these statistics.

The trade interests of the three countries are represented as follows:

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
British Empire	$50,000	$48,334	$53,175	$ 4,811
Germany	100,000	98,000	200	111
United States	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Total	$168,000	$165,334	$53,000	$18,000

It is now supposed by some that the only way of settling permanently the Samoan difficulty, is by dividing the kingdom between the three powers, assigning Tutuila to the United States, Savaii to Great Britain and Upolu to Germany. Under this arrangement the native wants ought considerately to be provided for with as the inhabitants the seeks of which the group has quite a number.

LOOKING TO GERMANY.

A year or more ago, when Great Britain made representations to Germany regarding some matters in the Transvaal republic that were not quite satisfactory, the news was credited with going so far as to say, "Whether or not so is to a cause of war is another matter which Germany now is likely to be developed which a few days. But this time the most reasonable interpretation of events and the United States will give the opportunity to show how it is.

It was announced a few days ago that Great Britain and America would send to the German Empire offers a direct connection, the Cabel from the Germany's connection to the Samoan islands has violated existing treaties. This is to be accompanied with a demand for a disapproval of the consul's acts, and a request for his recall. As it is clearly understood that both the United States and Great Britain have determined to stand by the present treaty and if it is abrogated or modified, a refusal to comply with the demands would result in serious complications.

It cannot be said, however, that there is any serious prospect of hostilities between the three nations over the Samoan affair. The German kaiser has to date sought and secured peaceful, while he can make a display without serious excuse to his country. But he has also exhibited considerable skill in statecraft, such as leads to the presumption that he will not especially embroil the other two powers interested in Samoa. He may delay for a time and then propose a division of the islands, and might even succeed in securing their possession, but he is not likely to fight over them.

SELF-EXPOSED.

An anti-"Mormon" local newspaper, in its editorial and dramatic columns is guilty of a false representation upon the words of another, in order which it discusses an immoral story alleged, falls back upon its old trick of years and years ago, by making responsible for the falsehood the "Mormon" people in this city. It goes so far as to charge "a number of the leading men of this city." It goes so far as to charge "a number of the leading men of this city." It goes so far as to charge "a number of the leading men of this city."