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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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AN ASTOUNDING DISCOVERY.

The San Francisco *Chronicle*, which always looks through green or yellow goggles, when it takes a glance at anything connected with "Mormonism" or the "Mormons," evidently has a very soft-headed individual on its staff. Anybody will be able to perceive this who reads the following comment from its columns:

"At the burning of a Mormon academy at Provo, U. T., it is stated that the 'nitro-glycerine' in the laboratory was fortunately removed before the fire obtained headway. This suggests a dark suspicion. Are the Mormons inculcating Nihilist doctrines, and was this pet explosive of the Russian conspirators to be used for manufacturing bombs to blow up Governor Murray? Here is a point for Congress when it comes to investigate the alleged libels against the Latter-day Saints."

The scribe who penned such an absurdity may let his prejudiced and discolored soul rest on the score of a "Mormon" educational institution being turned into a nitro-glycerine factory for the production of explosives with which to blow up the Governor. There was no nitro-glycerine removed, because there was none to take away, and His Excellency has for some time been sitting on a mine of his own making. The committee who are investigating the Kentucky materials are probably arranging the faze with a view to having the thing touched off.

When the "alleged libels" receive Congressional attention in the way of an investigation, the mammoth mare's nest of the *Chronicle* should not be forgotten. The Nihilist proclivities of the Provo Academy anent His Excellency should be laid bare before a wondering world. Now as the Latter-day Saints, like those of former times, must have all manner of evil spoken against them, won't the *Chronicle* and other papers and persons engaged in the "alleged libel" business please bring on the next? Only, for goodness sake, don't let them be so attenuated. Give them the appearance of truthfulness if they have it not.

A TRICK TO DIVERT PUBLIC ATTENTION.

The attempt to make it appear that the investigation into the official career of Eli H. Murray as U. S. Marshal of Kentucky has been instituted and promoted by the "Mormons," is very ludicrous, and at the same time gives strength to the case against the accused. The facts are that a committee of the House of Representatives, known as the "Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice," has been enquiring into the doings of certain public officers, and among them the acts of the former Marshal of Kentucky. Under the rules of the House it is made the duty of this committee, among other things, to examine,

"The accounts and expenditures of the Department of Justice and the manner of keeping the same; the economy, justness and correctness of such expenditures; their conformity with appropriation laws; the proper application of public moneys; the security of the government against unjust and extravagant demands; retrenchment; the enforcement of the payment of moneys due to the United States; the economy and accountability of public officers; the abolishment of useless offices; the reduction or increase of the pay of officers."

In the discharge of these onerous duties the committee had to examine the accounts of United States Marshals and their deputies. They reported that they found "great looseness in these accounts;" that a great number of suits had been brought on frivolous pretenses for the purpose of increasing the fees of those officers; and the investigation became so large and important that the Chairman, Mr. Springer of Illinois, had to apply for assistance. He moved for an increase of the committee to nine members and that the committee be authorized to appoint sub-committees, to send for persons and papers, employ a stenographer and obtain such other assistance as might become necessary. This was opposed by prominent Republican members, who did not relish the extension of powers in so searching a committee, but it substantially prevailed under a suspension of the rules, and the investigation will go on and be made thorough.

It was in the course of this official inquiry by a regularly appointed com-

mittee of the House that the accounts of ex-Marshall Eli H. Murray came in for their share of examination. Special attention was drawn to them by Representative White from the State where the fraudulent transactions are alleged to have taken place. It came to light that certain documents prepared by an agent of the Department of Justice, giving particulars of crooked doings in Kentucky during the official career of Marshall Murray, had been suppressed or kept back pending the appointment of the ex-Marshall to the Governorship of Utah. These papers, it appears, have been called for and filed, and the committee intend to examine them fully.

All this has been done in regular order. The "Mormons" have had no more to do with it than with the motions of the moon. We have been familiar with the allegations against Governor Murray for a long time, but have never, we believe, alluded to them until the present general exposure; certainly we made no accusations against him on this ground, even when he was intentionally misleading the public and the Administration in regard to the laws, actions and intentions of the people of Utah, whose interests he ought to respect and whose cause we intend to maintain, no matter by whom their rights may be assailed.

We have printed such things as have been made public on this matter, as in regard to other items of news which are of special interest to our readers. The leading papers of the country have commented upon the subject and we have copied some of their remarks. And now it is charged, not only that the "Mormons" have instigated these proceedings, but that the papers which have dared to express their views unfavorably on His High Mightiness the ex-Marshall of Kentucky and present Governor of Utah, and also the Associated Press which ventured to telegraph these items, are subsidized by the "Mormons." Thus the committee, the press and the telegraph are all charged with being under the influence and dictation of these wonderful "Mormons," because the first has discharged a sworn duty, the second has chronicled the proceedings, with comments, and the third has transmitted the news in its regular dispatches. Is not this the acme of absurdity?

But why these ebullitions of rage and these charges recklessly trumped up and repeated, coupled with fierce invective? Every candid person who takes notice of the subject will say it looks very much like an attempt to divert the public mind from the charges and take advantage of general prejudice against the "Mormons," to screen the doings of an anti-"Mormon" champion. If there is no truth in the accusations, if the Governor can disprove them as easily as is claimed, if they have no real foundation, why this excessive abuse of those who mention them in the way of news and these whose sworn duty it is to enquire into such things?

The logic of the ranting of the Governor's apologists amounts to this: The accused is a prominent enemy of the "Mormons." He has assailed public sentiment against them by quoting obsolete laws as though they were still in force, and giving false renderings and interpretations of existing statutes. He has certified to the election of a person who was not elected. He has figured as the spokesman of a faction interested in the subjugation and political destruction of the "Mormons." The "Mormons" are unpopular and their suppression is generally desired. Therefore nobody ought to speak a word against this stalwart "Mormon"-fighter. If you investigate charges against him, you will please the "Mormons." If you prove that he has defrauded the government, oppressed many citizens, preyed upon the ignorant and taken advantage of the erring for the purpose of lining his own pockets, that will take him out of the crusade against the "Mormons." Therefore you ought to let him alone, and if you breathe a word against him you ought to be classed as a Jack "Mormon," and must have been bought with "Mormon" gold.

The following telegram dated Washington, January 30th, explains the position taken on this matter by Hon. J. D. White.

Representative White of Kentucky, testified before the House committee on expenditures in the Department of Justice, to-day, in reference to his assertions in the House last week, concerning the present Governor of Utah. He referred to charges of irregularities in the office of Murray while U. S. Marshal of Kentucky, and said the Government had been wronged out of thousands of dollars in consequence of the expense incurred by fruitless, unnecessary prosecutions against citizens of the State, by which they were harassed and embittered against the Government and its officers. False, fictitious charges for guards were made, and numerous prosecutions had been instituted for the most trivial violations of law, and the arrested parties taken from remote parts of the State to Louisville, passing en route Commissioners who could have heard their case on preliminary examination. This was done, he said, not in the interests of the Government, but apparently for no other reason than to make costs.

Such statements as these cannot be howled down by cries of "Mormon influence," and those who raise them are only damaging the cause they want to

bolster up. It may be possible for Governor Murray to get enough party white-wash daubed over these transactions to make dirt appear clean, but we very much doubt his success in that direction.

THE GOVERNOR AND THE P. E. FUND.

In the Governor's message to the Legislature he says: "I ask the repeal of the law incorporating The Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company, and the repeal of all laws making escheats result to this company." It was no doubt in consequence of this that the Judiciary Committee of the Senate incorporated in the new Edmunds bill that most absurd amendment reported by Mr. Hoar, annulling "all laws creating or continuing the association or corporation called the Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company," and providing that "all its assets in excess of its debt shall escheat to the United States."

The Governor knew well enough when he addressed the Assembly that there was no law in existence "making escheats to the P. E. Fund Company." Like other portions of his message it was not intended to have any effect in this Territory. It was designed to deceive people elsewhere, and chiefly the authorities at Washington and members of Congress. He counted on the general indisposition to investigate Utah affairs and the common willingness to believe anything prejudicial to the people here, and presumed also on the probability that anything presented in an official paper and read to the Assembly would be received elsewhere as undoubtedly accurate and entirely reliable.

When the utter falsity of the implication that such laws exist is made plain to those who have been deceived by it, what will decent people think of the man who had the hardihood to speak the words we have quoted from the message to men who were fully aware of their untruth? Will it not help in the estimate which will be made of Eli H. Murray's character, when reckoned up with his other attempts to mislead, his false certificate in the Utah Delegateship and his official doings while Marshal of Kentucky.

The Perpetual Emigration Fund was not "created" by act of the Legislature. It was organized for the purpose of aiding in the settlement of the Territory by working people from abroad, who would be stimulated to habits of thrift by the requirement made when money for their emigration was advanced, that they repay it as soon as able to do so. The population at that time was composed of Latter-day Saints, most of whom had been driven on account of their religion from the State of Illinois. They desired to assist their friends who had also been persecuted and were unable to take the whole journey to the mountains without aid. They also wished to help people from foreign lands who desired to cast in their lot with the colonists and would be in harmony with them in building up the country.

In order that the fund for this purpose might be properly applied, a company was organized, and that it might have a legal status to do business, it was incorporated. The act of incorporation by the Legislative Assembly was passed Jan. 12, 1836. The fund was formed by voluntary donations and made perpetual by the return to it of means advanced to immigrants when they were rich enough—and honest enough—to refund the amount. At the time when the Territory was sparsely settled, when the people here had a common interest, and persons not of their belief were few and far between, lost property, the owners of which could not be found, property left by deceased persons for which there was no legal claimant, and proceeds from the sale of estrays, were turned into this fund to aid in the settlement and development of this region. But when people of diverse views and faith and politics began to increase in the Territory, these provisions of law were repealed and the district school funds, instead of the P. E. Fund, received and now receive the benefits of stray sales, unclaimed property of decedents, etc. There are no escheats to the P. E. Fund and if it be claimed that Governor Murray was not aware of this it speaks as loudly for his deplorable ignorance as the other view does for his dishonesty of purpose.

The idea advanced by the Governor that the incorporation of a company for the encouragement of immigration is a law "respecting an establishment of religion," within the meaning and prohibition of the Constitution, is too absurd to waste time in rebutting. The statement that by this act of incorporation "the whole system of immigration is placed under the control of church authority" is as false as the other notion is foolish. The act gives no such power or authority. It gives a legal status to the P. E. Fund Company, and the control only of such funds as belong to it for its own specified purposes. Any other company for immigration purposes may be formed and incorporated under the general laws of the Territory, and there is nothing in this act of incorporation which would stand in their way in the least. There is no law which can prevent the organization of such a society as the P. E. Fund Company whether by the "Mormons" or any other body, religious or secular. And if the Act of Incorporation should be repealed—for which there is not the

slightest shadow of necessity by any intelligent reason that can be advanced in law, morals or expediency—the company would still exist and carry on its work, though it might be trammelled by legal technicalities in case it should appear in a court of law.

If Governor Murray wants to organize an immigration society, the existence of the P. E. Fund company will not stand in his way. He or any other anti-"Mormon" is just as free to establish such a society as to organize a mining company. And we think it would be far more reputable to engage in such a work than to participate in wild-cat mining schemes, or in conspiracies to misrepresent and injure the great body of Utah's citizens. But whenever did Governor Murray perform any work or become associated with any interest that was for the public good? His apologists cannot point out a single act he has ever performed for the benefit of the Territory. And the message which we have taken occasion to criticize, shows that his aim and desire are to break down instead of build up, and to vent his petty spite upon institutions which he has no disposition to displace with better ones, and to spread false reports about them for personal ends, which are of the most infamous character.

The more this message is examined the clearer are its covert falsehoods and mean attempts to deceive Congress and the public at a distance made apparent. It is shameful work for any man to stoop to, and when we consider that it was done by an officer who is paid by the Government to do good where he is striving to do evil, it appears in a still more unfavorable light. We hope that the Legislature to whom it was officially addressed, but who were only made the vehicle through which its accusations and misrepresentations could be sent forth to the country, will take it up and fully demonstrate its fallacy and iniquity.

CONSISTENCY.

UNDER this caption the Breckenridge, Colorado, *Journal*, contains the following incisive and pertinent article:

In common with all citizens of this country we are compelled to take note of the growing crusade against Mormonism in this generation. A generation ago these same people "not practicing or preaching plurality of wives," were persecuted and driven to the wilderness, then supposed to be uninhabited. By industry, thrift and perseverance, they brought the great wild, unknown heart of the Rocky Mountains to blossom like the rose, and now persecution is again set on them and nothing short of the crushing power of the strong arm of the national government will suffice the fanatics who are hounding these people.

While the almost universal intelligent public sentiment of the country denounces the system of polygamy, it must still not be overlooked that the practice had universal endorsement in the land and among the people of whom, to the exclusion of all others, the Almighty made the connecting link between the godhead and the human race. The practical polygamist Abraham was promised great things, his grandson the real polygamist with his eminent descendants David and Solomon, through whose loins the victim of Calvary passed, were noted polygamists. The veins of the babe of Bethlehem were filled with the blood of polygamists of a thousand years practice. It therefore is not consistent to denounce the practice as one of the cursed things prompted by the prince of darkness, while the only hope for man's salvation came through blood a thousand times polluted by the same sin. Make polygamy a crime against law, but not against religion; if against religion then take from religion the present book on which it is founded. It is monstrous to denounce polygamy from the pulpit, at the altar before which men and women worship the Man Child who was born of a polygamous parentage running back to the misty traditions close up to the first sunrise. Either put away our long enshrined patriarchs, prophets and kings or cease the religious clamor of godliness against the practice for which Jacob, David and Solomon were noted.

The *Inter-Ocean*, of Denver, is enlisted for the crusade against, not polygamy, but Mormonism. Crude tales are made illustrated facts, casual remarks are distorted and made church canons. The same spirit that controls and directs these fanatical persecutors drove Christ, all blameless as he was, to the cross, the Christians of early Rome to martyrdom, the Puritans to New England, the Quakers to Rhode Island, the Mormons from Illinois to Utah. In every case grave charges were trumped up against the persecuted by their persecutors. Now forsooth that the Mormons do not fall down and worship the hand that would crush them, they are to be crushed. Let us ask in all candor does any one suppose the *Inter-Ocean* or its fellow fanatics who are giving tongue to this "on to Utah" cry, care for the morality part of the question? Not a bit of it; they live in an atmosphere, and are surrounded by a community in which more crime against morality is committed than that for which Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed, and yet these would be Mormon destroying reformers raise not their voices against the stench which surrounds them but are horror stricken and violently angered against the sin they imagine exists in "away off" Utah.

The real kernel of this nut is, the republican party at the coming election will need something that will bring to its support the fanaticism that is ever latent in the minds of too many professing Christians. These political howlers for religious reforms care nothing for the absurdity of the position into which they inveigle their dupes so that they win. Any corpse is a good Morgan for them."

MACMILLAN'S MUNCHAUSEN-ISM.

OUR Chicago correspondent, in his letter which appears to-day, makes mention of J. D. MacMillan, a Presbyterian priest who used to be located in San Pete County, Utah. He will be remembered as the unmitigated hypocrite who formulated and published a budget of fabrications out of whole cloth about mounting the pulpit armed with a revolver to protect himself against the "wicked Mormons," and who stated that an attempt was made to enter his room by parties with the object of taking his life.

Mr. MacMillan perpetrated this foul slander upon a community who had treated him in the most courteous and liberal manner, the Latter-day Saints giving him the free use of their meeting house in which to hold services. When he was confronted with the evidences of his black ingratitude and wilful falsification he said the stories published as purporting to come from him were all untrue, that he never made the statements attributed to him, and that he would correct them. Instead of doing this he went to Denver where he repeated the falsehoods and was lionized as a hero of hair-breadth escapes.

Mr. MacMillan's falsehoods did not even have the merit of originality, as we have heretofore shown, one Lyford, a Methodist preacher, having palmed off similar deceptions upon a gaping public, and made money out of the investment. On the strength of his wonderful and dangerous experience among the "Mormons," he sent the hat around and gathered in considerable sums from soft-hearted and softer headed Eastern dupes, whom he inspired with a fervent wish to do something for the reclamation of the terrible Latter-day Saints.

Mr. MacMillan is simply emulating Mr. Lyford's example, and is palming off upon gullible newspapers and people a budget of Munchausenisms as an investment on which he can make a financial raise.

Such characters as Lyford and MacMillan are living contradictions of their own statements. When they lived among the "Mormons" had the latter had any desire to demolish them, nothing could have been easier, but the fact of the matter is that in no part of the world is there more liberality and religious toleration than among the Latter-day Saints. If the Elders of the Church received a hundredth part of the kindness and courtesy when in the States or anywhere abroad, as the priests and professors of other religions receive at their hands, they would be led to imagine the Millennium was at the doors, or at least that it had begun to dawn on this creation.

SHIFTING THE RESPONSIBILITY.

It is amusing to note the nature of the chief point of defense set up for Governor Murray by some of his friends as against the charges of malfeasance in office while he was Marshal of Kentucky. As it becomes more and more apparent that the allegations are well grounded, it becomes necessary to get a scape-goat. The "ram in the thicket" has been found in the person of one of the ex-Marshall's deputies. What a magnanimous method of slipping out of a grave difficulty; and how handy it is to have a deputy upon whom the responsibility of disreputable doings can be deftly placed, while the chief in office takes the credit of everything that is praiseworthy and meritorious. This theory of defence is but little better than the common one of insanity, and should it be held good, what an opening it would make for designing officials to hire unscrupulous subordinates through whom to accomplish ulterior objects, and go scot free themselves. This method of defense places the matter thus: If a series of gross irregularities can be conducted over a lengthy period by a subordinate in an executive position without the knowledge of his superior officer the latter must be an official imbecile. If done with the connivance and consent of the chief it removes no responsibility from him as he should be answerable for the misdeeds of his tool as well as his own. The scape-grat theory has neither the merit of magnanimity nor ingenuity.

According to Prof. Loomis, of Yale College, the average diameter of violent storms in the United States is 1587 miles, and on the Atlantic Ocean 2022 miles. Severe storms in the interior of Europe have nearly the same geographical extent as those which occur on the Atlantic.