

## A "CURRENT" OF FOLLY.

THERE is a paper published in Chicago called the *Current*. This will be news to many of our readers, in Utah and other portions of the United States. Occasionally the *Current* tries to enlighten the world on the "Mormon" question. And we notice that now the election is over, several writers for the press hard up for a subject, have returned to the ever interesting "Mormon" question, on which they can discourse *ad libitum* without knowing anything correctly on the subject. The *Current* is in the same "blissful" condition. But as there are very few people, comparatively, in this great country that are any better informed, its crass ignorance is only noticeable by a few.

Now the *Current*, like all these anti-"Mormon" quacks has an "only remedy" for the "Mormon" disorder. It is an heroic one. It consists simply of sending General Philip H. Sheridan to Utah "with such troops as he may deem necessary." What they are to do may be seen from the following extract. The *Current* says:

No one can long study the problem as a whole without running hard against the conclusion that when a vast and increasing area of country is sick with a religion which the nation holds to be a dangerous fraud, that area should be medicated with an army of soldiers, sent to root out the religion, to pull down its temples, to consecrate its estates, and to scatter its prophets.

We are afraid that the editor of the *Current* has run so hard against this conclusion that it has cracked his cranium. We do not believe that anyone but a few cranks have reached any such conclusion, as that as soon as "the nation holds" that a certain religion or system is "a dangerous fraud," an army of soldiers should be sent to "root out that religion," and do all the other dreadful things that the mad, rushing *Current* of Chicago wishes to carry the country to. We believe that any one who "studies the problem as a whole," will set the *Current* writer down as a lunatic or a rash and reckless scribe, who is as ignorant of the powers of our Government as he is of the problem that he thinks can be solved by the sword.

It would be a nice piece of work for a republican government to engage in, would it not,—"to root out a religion, to pull down its temples, to confiscate its estates and to scatter its prophets?" And this suggestion, which the author pretends to think is in accord with the opinion of "every one who has studied the problem as a whole," comes from a paper which stands on the freedom of the press, published in the free city of Chicago, in a country which guarantees freedom of religion to all its citizens! Suppose we were to apply the *Current's* doctrine to the *Current* itself. It would stand thus: "When the country is sick of a paper which it holds to be a dangerous fraud, it should send an army of soldiers to root out that paper, pull down its offices, confiscate its type and presses and scatter its editors." How would the *Current* like to be treated with a dose of its own heroic quack medicine?

And that other anti-"Mormon" crank, the *Tribune* of this city, has no better sense than to quote the *Current* rot approvingly, "as a specimen of how public opinion is now being directed," and to call that paper, "one of the most gifted newspapers on this continent!" It will now be in order for the *Current* to compliment the *Tribune* on its stilted bathos, attenuated gush and loud-smelling scandals, as the *ne plus ultra* of American journalism. If the *Current* runs much longer in this same direction it will soon exhaust itself, and not enough will be left to flow in a Chicago gutter.

## MR. BLAINE'S AUGUSTA SPEECH.

We have carefully observed the effect upon the Republican press of the speech made by Mr. Blaine at Augusta, Me., on the occasion of his being serenaded by a number of his friends and admirers. The result has been as we anticipated, the statements made by the defeated presidential candidate having been dwelt upon and indorsed with great unction.

The speech is of a character to create a great deal of trouble, and the fact that it contains an underlying current of truth does not make it any the less mischievous. This greatly increases its disturbing power, and, in our opinion, it will be a long time before the fermentation it has created will subside.

The chief points of the speech are: That the transfer of the preponderance of political power once more to the South is a misfortune.

That on the face of the returns the Democratic party is victorious, but in point of fact the Republican party should rightfully retain power, because the blacks of the South, who have an equality in political influence under the law, are practically disfranchised by white intimidation, thus giving the latter a greater proportionate voting power than the people of the North.

That the blacks of the South are kept in such abject subjugation by the whites that they are compelled to work for a pittance, and thus the wages

market of the North is affected to the detriment of the workingmen.

That the sentiment of the South is so disloyal that the Senators from that section of the country are all men who took a conspicuous part in the secession of 1861, and the war of the Rebellion to destroy the Union.

These are strong propositions, and they are being sustained and agitated in such a way by the republican press, and scouted and condemned by the democratic journals, so as to foment and increase ill feeling, until they will culminate in fever heat and result probably in open disturbance, and perhaps bloodshed.

Mr. Blaine demands a hearing of these questions, and a hearing will re-open the issues of the rebellion with its old hatreds, which should be buried forever. These views are calculated to hobble the coming administration of public affairs with a web of difficulties not easy to overcome. They tend, by agitation in the South, to bring about a war of races, and to increase the labor troubles of the North, by adding to the discontent of the working people, creating an anti-administration as well as anti-monopoly feeling, leading probably to popular outbreaks of a dangerous character.

The expression of Mr. Blaine's views is likely to create a more sharply defined party line, a more unamiable divisional feeling in the Senate, and a disposition on the part of the Republican majority in that branch of the National Legislature to refuse to confirm Mr. Cleveland's official nominations, with a view to retaining all possible Republican hold on the administration of affairs throughout the country.

While it cannot be denied that there exists an ingredient of truth in the position taken by Mr. Blaine, his speech, coming from a man of such great influence, will doubtless have a revolutionary tendency, and if we judge his character aright, we have not heard the last of them from him.

But there is another source of apprehension. The Democratic victory will so elate the more rabid Southerners, that they will be liable to go to dangerous extremes.

One of this class, W. A. Kernan, former editor of the *Indiana State Sentinel*, has lately been ventilating his views on the subject in a very foolish fashion.

To a representative of an Eastern journal he is credited with having said:

"Not only have we captured the Capitol and White House, but I have no doubt we shall have a majority in the Judicial Department of the Government within a year from to-day. Cleveland will have to yield to the control of the Southern wing of the Democracy, whose sentiments were indorsed at heart by them to-day. Union Democrats and Beecher Black Republicans or Independents constitute a feeling faction in our camp, and we have only used them as tools."

When asked to give his opinion as to the ultimate object of the Democracy under the control of the Southern wing he said:

"The re-establishment of the doctrine of State rights, the subversion of the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments, compensation for slaves lost by the emancipation, and a gradual reduction of the tariff with a view to placing this league of sovereign States upon a free trade basis, at some convenient period, the pensioning of ex-Confederate soldiers."

He also is credited with saying:

"I am amused when I think of what is coming, and how cheap your Independent Republicans will feel when our party begins to reverse the last issues of the War."

Continuing in relation to the pensioning of Southern soldiers he remarked:

"It is an open secret in the Solid South that societies have been organized in that section for the purpose of demanding these pensions at the proper time, and likewise payment for the manumitted slaves. I know personally several prominent planters who have kept accurate lists of their former bond servants and the value of them at the time Lincoln set them free."

These ideas may be generally considered in the light of the mouthings of an erratic individual, but there can be no doubt that some of his sentiments at least largely impregnate the more inflammable part of the Southerners. An attempt to in some degree "reverse the issues of the war" is not unlikely, and any effort in that direction would cause a tremendous collision with the bloody shirt revivalists, of whom Mr. Blaine has sounded an inspiring key for note.

The times are momentous, and the crisis upon which the country has entered has, in our opinion, barely begun.

## NONSENSE AND NULLIFICATION.

The advocates of the ballot-box stuffers of Oneida County, Idaho, are claiming that the registration law of that Territory which those criminals have violated, is "unconstitutional." However, they do not show in what respect the law comes under this objection. It was complied with in all

the precincts but a few in Oneida County, and the returns from those places were lawfully thrown out for irregularity.

The registration law was passed to protect the ballot-box from the frauds that had previously degraded it. Wherein is that law unconstitutional? No body has given any reason for such a notion, yet. But this plea comes from the anti-"Mormon" ballot-box stuffers. How will that work? When the "Mormons" object to a certain alleged law of Congress, on the ground of its unconstitutionality, after giving reasons for that position that have never yet been fairly met, they are accused of being nullifiers, and are ridiculed for talking about unconstitutionality. Well, on this same ground, are not the supporters, apologists and defenders of the Oneida County criminals—who we hope will yet be prosecuted for their frauds, open to the charge of nonsense and nullification?

It looks so to a candid observer, and it's a poor rule that will only work one way. But let the nullifiers and election frauds try on, and cry on, they will find that their bellowing and bullyings will avail them nothing. And it is not at all unlikely that their villainy this time will carry them, not into stolen offices but into the Boise penitentiary.

## "PROOF" NOT "AS STRONG AS HOLY WRIT."

THE *Tribune* of this city cannot desist from its misrepresentation of the school system of this Territory. This morning it deals in some more generalities and its only attempt at specification is as follows:

"The *News* says no proof can be furnished that the public schools are sectarian. The affidavits of dozens of men and women could be obtained to establish the fact. Within a week a most accomplished teacher told the writer of this how he was denied a school solely because he was not a Mormon. When he asked what that had to do with his teaching the usual branches taught in school, the answer was: 'Everything; we want our children taught our faith in school.'"

There's proof for you! It is the usual *Tribune* proof. "Some one told us so within a week." Conclusive evidence, is it not? We do not believe the story, anyhow. We do not believe anyone told the *Tribune* that any trustees of a District School in this city said to a school-teacher: "We want our children taught our faith in school." If such a story was told, let the name of the teacher who told it be given and of the trustee who made the alleged objection, so that the truth of the yarn may be tested. We are justified from the course of the *Tribune* in believing that the whole story was made up by one of its own scribes.

But even granting the truth of the statement, this appears to be all the "proof" that can be adduced to substantiate the falsehood that the District Schools of Utah are sectarian. If the charge was true, it would be an easy matter to prove it by showing the sectarian studies, the sectarian textbooks, the sectarian exercises. But no such things exist in those schools, and they are much more strictly secular than many of the common schools of the States, for even the Bible—over the use of which in schools so many disputes arise in other parts of the country, is not used as a text-book in the Utah District Schools.

It is not long since the *Tribune* repeated frequently the story that the only text-books in use in these schools were the standard books of the "Mormon" faith. This was a lie, straight and unclouded. It has been so clearly exposed that it is now dropped from the list of anti-"Mormon" deceptions, even the pious preachers who have raised heaps of money on the strength of it, having discarded it from their pleas for financial aid in rescuing "poor Mormon children from ignorance."

The *Tribune* continues to shout: "The District Schools in Utah are sectarian," but all it can adduce to prove its senseless outcry is, "A teacher told us within a week that he couldn't get a school because he was not a 'Mormon'!" Why, there are scores of "Mormon" applicants who fail to get an appointment, and they might complain, with just as much reason, that they were rejected because they were "Mormons." If the *Tribune* wants to substantiate our position on this point, all it needs to do is to adduce a little more of the same kind of "proof."

## OFF THE TRACK.

THE Sacramento *Record-Union* says:

The Utah Commission is puzzled how to decide the question "shall polygamists be permitted to vote at school elections." As we read the law, it was intended to disfranchise polygamists at school elections.

The *Record-Union* is an able paper, but it manifests the same inattention to details when touching on "Mormon" matters as that exhibited by most of the public journals. The question before the Utah Commission was not as stated above. Polygamists are not permitted to vote at school elections in Utah, and no question as to their rights in this regard has been presented for adjudication either be-

fore the Commission or any body having lawful jurisdiction.

If the *Record-Union* had given the matter to which it refers even a cursory examination, it would have learned that the territorial school law provides that at all school elections—that is, school meetings for the election of trustees, only "registered voters" can deposit their ballots. And as there are no registered voters but those who take the anti-polygamy oath, with the clause exempting all who cohabit with more than one woman "in the marriage relation," polygamists are barred from voting at school elections.

The question put before the Commission was whether taxpayers who are polygamists can lawfully vote on the assessment of a tax on their property for building a school house, at a meeting which the law says shall be composed of "the property taxpayers resident in the district." It is a most absurd question, but that is its substance; just that and nothing more. It was sprung by some anti-"Mormon" obstructionists for the purpose of evading payment of a lawfully assessed tax to build a school house. Our Sacramento contemporary should not comment on a matter, even affecting so unpopular a community as the "Mormons," without first understanding something about it.

## JOURNALISTIC IMBECILITY.

It is a compliment to the "Mormon" community that the Salt Lake *Tribune*, their habitual and persistent slanderer, has to constantly resort to the silliest and most wishy-washy stuff to keep up its assaults. It is fearfully impoverished for powder when it can insert such drivel as the following, purporting to come from one of its alleged correspondents of Tooele. Of course the wretched rubbish appears over a *nom de plume*:

"With much trembling fear do I chronicle the following revelation, which has been lately received by one of our fathers in the church. Knowing that none of the priesthood ever make mistakes in taking these heavenly (?) messages from the wires, the thought of the foretold trouble fills us with terror. Here is the document:

"In the near future—let those who are concerned take notice—a terrible visitation of vengeance will fall upon the Gentile population of Utah. It is to come in the form of fine flakes of snow, and will so poison the air that all, except Saints, who breathe it, will fall dead. So poisonous will it be that whole families will be found dead at their tables, and persons will drop in the streets and everywhere."

I can hardly tell which the Mormons are the most jubilant over, the prospect of pure Mormon settlements, after the destruction of the Gentiles, or the result of the late election, and we, as Gentiles, hardly know which will be the worst for us.

But if it were possible the following nonsense is still more indicative of softening of the brain on the part of the scribbler. It appeared in the same issue:

A lady came to the *Tribune* office yesterday with a most bitter complaint against her husband. The burden of her disconsolation was that a Mormon girl had alienated his affections from his lawful wife, and was spending his hard earnings upon his new love. She thought the proper thing for all Gentile women to do when they bring their husbands to Salt Lake would be to chain them up every night, at least for one year. "If this is not done," she added, in bitterness, "they are gone, sure, and other souls are lost, for the Mormon girls will get away with them sure."

Such imbecile scratchings as these are so transparent and attenuated that they defeat the object of their publication. Of course, as usual, names and particulars which would be nearly always attached to authentic matters are not given, as these would serve to prove the foundationless character of the statements, which have all the appearance of being concocted in the slander factory—the *Tribune* office. But even if this be not the case, the publication of such brainless and pointless journalistic fiction reaches the extreme limit of absurdity.

## A SINGULAR CRUMB OF COMFORT.

THE Philadelphia *American* mourns over the election of the Democratic candidate, and among other comments on the disaster to Republican interests offers this small crumb of comfort to its desponding friends in the situation which it describes as a "calamity":

"That the Senate and the Supreme Court will be Republican through the whole of Mr. Cleveland's Presidency must be a comforting consideration to many who have helped to make him President."

This "comforting consideration" appears to us one of the features of our national government much more in the light of a "calamity" than any change of parties in power.

It is a shame and a disgrace to any Administration that party interests should govern the administration of public justice. If there is any depart-

ment of State from which such considerations should be entirely excluded it is the judicial. But the Republican party has made its interests paramount from the beginning of its accession, and the appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court from party adherents and for party reasons, is one of the strongest proofs of this selfishness and anti-patriotism.

When the policy of granting rewards in the shape of public office to party supporters was carried as far as the judiciary, and positions in the highest court of the land were given as acknowledgment for services rendered the party, one of the broadest steps was taken in a downward direction that has been made since the nation had an existence. The motto, "To the victors belong the spoils," ought never to have influenced appointments to office in a court to which all creeds, parties and classes look for the final arbitrament of important legal disputes. That confidence in the court of last resort has been greatly weakened by the policy which rejoices the *American*, is far from being a "comforting consideration" to the average citizen.

## WE CONCUR.

THE Salt Lake *Tribune* concludes a most ridiculous string of assumptions and sophisms this morning with these appropriate words: "What fools we mortals be!" That will be the conclusion of everybody who reads the article and understands the subject on which the *Tribune* displays so much ignorance and folly. That paper has truthfully estimated the mental calibre of its own scribes for once. We concur.

## A LAWYER'S VIEW OF THE TENNESSEE MASSACRE.

AND THE STEPS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN IN RELATION TO THE MURDERERS.

The gentleman whose name is appended to the following article is a reputable and capable member of the profession in New York:

It is fair to assume that the great part of the American people in most cases care but very little about persecution of Mormons.

The assumption is warranted by the face of the Mormon question as discussed by the people and press. For that reason it is perhaps idle to discuss the murder of Mormon Elders by a Tennessee mob. But for the reason that in this country the greatest danger to public peace consists in that element of society which is liable to be inflamed by prejudice or passion, so that overt acts of violence will be performed both against property and life, the murder of Mormon Elders in Tennessee should not only be disapproved most markedly, but the members of the mob should be brought to justice and punished.

The constitution and laws of Tennessee guarantee religious liberty to all. They also say that murder shall be punished with death. They define murder as the unlawful taking of life. See then what a position Tennessee is in before the world; her constitution and laws are a farce or powerless unless she puts her foot down on mob violence leading to murder, by bringing those who deliberately killed unlawfully four men because of their religious belief to punishment.

It is no excuse to say that these men taught something that is contrary and repulsive to the laws of Tennessee for two reasons—the first that they did not attempt to practice any unlawful act in Tennessee. And the second, if they did the laws themselves afforded ample relief.

If any community for a moment tolerates mob rule and murder, how long can society feel safe? What time may not the spirit which animates mobs turn and tear those who now so complacently look upon the killing of a few men simply because they taught a doctrine of religion that society does not approve? How can Tennessee assure us that if we for any purpose go within her borders, we will be safe from the same fate? It will not do to say you are talking about a peculiar case, I am talking about a great principle, and if the laws of any State are not strong enough to protect themselves in one case, how are we to know they will be strong enough to do so in another?

An Infidel, Mohammedan, Buddhist or Mormon should be just as safe anywhere in the United States as a Methodist, so long as his practices conform to the law of the place, without regard to his religious faith. And no State can afford to let such a crime as was perpetrated on Cane Creek, Lewis County, on August 10th go unpunished. Its own life is involved in the principle, and until that crime is punished every good citizen must believe that lawlessness and mob rule are more potent than law and order in a State which furnished Andrew Jackson to the Union.

I am not making an argument for polygamy, am not a Mormon, and have no relations with them, but I appeal to the people who love their country and its institutions to beware how they allow mobs to murder without cause and then go unpunished. If such things continue some day a volcano will open that will work destruction to that which is so dear to every American.