

situation of course, but they disclose an animus not to be misunderstood.

We hope the gentleman spoken of—who has seen some public service here and elsewhere and is accustomed to gauging men's words and act—has not yet attributed the recent exhaustive outflow of gold to Europe to the Mormon Church or its emissaries. Let us hope he has not yet made the discovery that had it not been for the hand of the Mormon Church the awful cyclone in Oklahoma would have spent its fury on some desert waste. And may we further indulge the fond hope that the Church may be relieved from the possible imputation that it is its hand that keeps the island of Zante rocking as a cradle? Also, we beg leave to disavow on the part of the Church any connection whatever with either putting up or hauling down the Stars and Stripes at Honolulu, with the present insurrection in Cuba, with the recent Belgian revolt, or the downfall of Emperor William's cherished military hill. In any and all of these cases we enter a plea of not guilty, with the expectation that the trials will go on just the same and a verdict the other way be found by the same old jury that has done so much yeoman service here all along.

Mr. Letcher is a gifted man, in some respects a very gifted man. If his expressed thoughts are the registered creations of a permeating, an acquiring and a divining soul—if it be the case that he can truthfully say

I see a form you cannot see,  
I hear a voice you cannot hear,

he is an extraordinarily gifted man. One of his faculties—that of divination—must have been in active play when he breathed forth the suggestion that the Church was responsible in the manner, to the extent and at the time spoken of. Or was it his legal instincts that prompted such a surmise? Lawyers are very much addicted to relying on precedents; and when it comes to precedents for charging up everything bad whose paternity has not yet been discovered to the Mormons, while relieving them of the credit, honor and profit resulting from any good work in which they have been engaged, the precedents are so voluminous as to be cumbersome. As Burdette once put it, regarding any walk in life or any performance in which one may be engaged, don't forget to occasionally hit the Mormons a lick; Burdette was able to speak more advisedly later on, as he put his own precept into practice. Having complied with the custom, and made the most of an extensive residence of two years or thereabout in Utah by helping to show the world how bad we all must be out here, we presume Mr. Letcher's right to be considered "in the swim" will not now be contested.

### THE BRIGGS CASE.

The celebrated heresy case against Dr. Briggs will soon be finally decided. It is one of the principal questions before the Presbyterian general assembly which convenes today at Washington, having come before that body on an appeal from a former decision by which the learned divine was acquitted of all charges. It is to be expected

that this decision will be sustained. The time is past long ago, when it is considered "heresy" to entertain views somewhat diverging from those held when old creeds were formed. The principle now recognized among confessors of Protestantism is, "Unity in essentials, liberty in minor points and charity in all." Were this not so, there would be no end to charges of heresy among the sects. Hardly two leading men can be found among them who agree on anything. Their only occupation would therefore be to excommunicate each other until every sectarian church were broken up into fragments. A trial for heresy in a church that disclaims divine inspiration is a bad farce. For who can tell, without that inspiration and the authority it confers, which of the parties is wrong? As long as there is a possibility that both the judges and the accused are equally in error, it would seem to be but consistent with modesty to decline the doubtful honor of officially pronouncing a brother in the faith a heretic.

### THE PRIVILEGES WE ENJOY.

We wonder if anybody ever stops long enough in his regular pursuits to consider how highly favored in all respects is the land in which we live generally and that portion of it enclosed by the boundary lines of Utah particularly? It does seem at times as though the human animal were so unreasoning and inconsiderate that he is in almost every case better off than he thinks he is; being blessed in many ways and the road of life made as smooth for him as is consistent with his real welfare, he only considers the rough places, the uneven surfaces, the annoying occurrences, the trying situations, and wonders, scolds and chafes because of them; and with some people everything that is wrong—other people's mode of living, their practices and beliefs, the laws and their operation, the seasons, the temperature, the open face of nature and even the glorious light of the sun—all are bad or at least defective if they are not cut and fluted to the peculiar formation or malformation of the complainant's mental structure, and if it could be otherwise they would then be dissatisfied with something else.

Few are duly appreciative of what real advantages they possess, and it is questionable if there are any but what think they could improve them. There may be a few not in the latter class, but they are not numerous. When Colonel Ingersoll was asked in what particular he could suggest an improvement on natural things he replied—"I would have health catching instead of disease." There is about as much depth in that as in anything else the noted infidel says, for he is essentially a shallow man. Disease being a result of violation of natural laws, and health a result of the observance thereof, Ingersoll would create anarchy in the midst of perfect order and plunge all created things into chaos in order, perhaps, that he might get rid of a cold that was just then troubling him!

In the United States we have a form of government which is the practical

application and realization of the thought, the study and the research of inspired men. It is a form in which the strength of parties is made most effective by being bound together, and yet the identity and separate station of each party is sought to be preserved without infringement or deprivation. It strikes out one form of blasphemy in mortal government by having no lords to bow down to and no divine rights accruing to any household by reason of lineage, but occurring to all through obedience to the Author and His mandates. Its law, when squared to the great charter, curtails no man of any part of his natural freedom or his acquired property until by his own act such are subjected to curtailment, always excepting his necessary but proportionate contributions to the state in time of need. There have been many departures from such principles when partisanship ran high, bigotry found expression or sufficient consideration was not given; but these did not make the institutions themselves any the less right nor the wrongs perpetrated under them any the less flagrant, and in the long run the wrongs have nearly always been righted in one way or another.

It is right and proper that there should be divergences of opinion regarding subjects with which we have to deal, and that argument and reasoning should follow; hence political parties, each presumably having the welfare of all in view but holding to different views as to the best methods by which it can be accomplished. Thus a politician should be a patriot first, making his partisanship a means to an end and that end the welfare of his people. How different from this is the career and practices of the one who engages in politics for politics' sake—who makes it his practice by day and his dream by night, his religion and his guide! So steeped in the practice of the slums does he become that to belong to another organization is considered by him as equivalent to being a criminal and in furthering the welfare of his particular organization any trick, any departure from law that can be accomplished with safety, any perversion of fact or maneuver whether right or wrong in itself, if it but aids "the cause" is either practiced or encouraged. More: Those men and newspapers that decline to enter the slums, that don't care to handle mud belligerently if at all, that do not care to be bound by others' opinions as to the right and wrong of every question, that have their own ideas and their own preferences and will not permit themselves to be "gently led by the nose as asses are" become the special mark for the assaults of the knights of the pothouse, and no misrepresentation is too wide of the mark, no insinuation too vile and no falsehood too contemptible to be employed against such independent citizen or paper. The design is to either force them to quit being independent and unconditionally champion one side or the other, or give the assailants some little fancied prestige by showing how little they exercise the small amount of mental power they possess when the bosses cut the pace for them.

We are glad that this is a great, big free country; for notwithstanding the abuses which have grown up by rea-