

shots went directly into the breast of the deceased, in a straight line, more than half of them penetrating the heart, showing that when shot he must have been standing erect, fronting the man who slew him. Had he been in any other attitude, or in the act of raising a gun the shots would have taken a slanting direction and some of them would probably have struck his arms.

We do not undertake to state that Gilmor, in taking the life of Joseph Walkey, a lad not quite eighteen years of age, was guilty of murder, but we do hold that the commissioner ought to have held him, that a more thorough and searching investigation might be had. Of course the case could be taken up again, if deemed necessary, but that does not alter the fact that the committing magistrate was plainly wrong in discharging him from custody.

There are features outside of the investigation of this case that are discreditable. The newspaper whose reporter repaired to the scene of the tragedy with the officers almost immediately began to present reasons for the theory that Gilmor was innocent. Only a few days ago it went still further and insinuated that there was an intention on the part of the "Mormon" residents of North Point to mob Gilmor. The idiot who penned that unfounded insinuation had not the sense to see that, the accused being then in custody, he had practically announced the prisoner's release as a foregone conclusion. People of that locality are a long-suffering and law-abiding class, and we think we judge them correctly when we anticipate that they will maintain their character in these respects and let Charles Gilmor, *alias* "The North Point Terror," severely and entirely alone, so far as a character of his stamp will permit them, as he has gained the reputation of being an Arab whose hand is uplifted against his neighbor.

A POPULAR QUESTION.

We have seen a great many comments on the circular issued by the leading authorities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in relation to the doctrines and discipline of the Church and the misrepresentations thereof which have recently been made to the country. Some papers give a synopsis of the circular without comment. Others proceed to make

remarks which are utterly irrelevant to the subjects treated of.

As a sample of the latter class we clip the following from an editorial in the St. Paul *Pioneer Press*, which is a journal of influence and ability.

"Every man who wishes to live under this government should either obey the laws with which that position is reinforced, or remove to some country where he can be free to enjoy the loose customs of earlier and more primitive ages. He cannot be a good citizen, and he ought not to be a citizen at all, unless the laws of this country can command from him both respect and obedience. So far, the Mormon Church refuses to acknowledge or obey the law on the subject of polygamy. That is the whole issue, and no access of patriotism in other directions will cover the failure. Every Mormon understands the situation perfectly well. Let the Mormon society abandon polygamy, and publicly direct its members to obey the law in this particular, and the Mormon question will no longer exist. Until that is done, nothing need or can be said."

The *Pioneer Press* makes these remarks with special reference to the denial of citizenship to certain "Mormon" applicants for naturalization, against which it says the "Mormon" authorities protest. If that paper will take the trouble to look fairly at the decision, it will find that the "polygamy" matter, which it says is "the whole issue," is not the question at all. Neither of the applicants for citizenship was or ever had been a polygamist. It did not appear that they even believed in polygamy. The decision was that no member of the "Mormon" Church, however moral, sober, industrious or capable can be naturalized. The sole disqualification was membership in the "Mormon" Church.

Those papers which are commenting on the endowment ceremonies, under the mistaken idea that it is only "endowed" "Mormons" who are excluded, should pay attention to this. They are as much in error on this point as they are in regard to the ceremonies. The findings in the decision go far beyond that matter, as they do beyond the facts and the testimony in evidence. "Mormons" are excluded because of their membership in a Church; that is the issue, and the press of the country lose sight of it when they go into the polygamy question or the endowment question.

It is not claimed by any one that the men who were refused naturalization had not obeyed, or that they would not obey, the laws of this government. Their acts showed that these laws had commanded their "respect and obedience," in the past, and they were ready to

take the oath required concerning that respect and obedience for the future. There is nothing in this matter but a square violation of that Constitutional guarantee which secures religious liberty—that is, freedom of faith and worship, to every body in this republic.

And we suggest to the *Pioneer Press* that the "Mormon" Church does not violate law; that the "Mormon" Church cannot be required to make any declaration upon any subject; and that it is idle and foolish to make any such demands upon it. That Church is an ecclesiastical organization composed of men and women who are responsible for their acts, but not for their belief, to the civil law. If any of them violate the law they can be prosecuted and punished. Their faith is and must of necessity be free. And their worship, or their acts springing from their belief, must also be free so long as they are not in violation of law.

The Church cannot be proceeded against. It cannot be ordered, or compelled or dictated by law to do anything. The individual members may be proceeded against, persecuted, marked out for invidious distinction, deprived of rights that should be equal, denied the uniform operation of the laws because of their religion. But it is nonsense to indict or arraign or make demands upon the Church.

We expect our religion to be misrepresented and our views to be distorted, because the moulders of public opinion—the press writers of the country—persist in listening to false reports and closing their ears against the truth. But we think, on the simple question of the denial of citizenship to worthy and law-abiding men, against whom nothing can be charged, simply because they are members of the "Mormon" Church, the press of the land ought to stand on the side of justice, liberty and equal rights, free from anti-"Mormon" or any other prejudice.

THAT "CHRONICLE" STORY.

THE tale told by the San Francisco *Chronicle* of the career and suicide of a man named William Martin, who is alleged to have married "the daughter of a prominent Mormon Elder," is probably a piece of fiction so far as it seeks to connect Martin with a respectable family of Latter-day Saints. The article gives no clue to the name of the family of Martin's alleged wife,