

The attention of the members of the Reorganized Church was by this incident called to the fact that the leaders of that church had been misrepresenting the facts in regard to the ownership of the Temple lot, and at the April conference of 1891, an explanation was asked for. This called forth the statement that the Reorganized Church had the title, but the 'Hedrickites' had possession of the property, that there was a cloud on the title which could easily be removed, and the church would get possession of that property as it did the Kirtland Temple. The conference promptly instructed the bishopric to take the necessary steps to remove the cloud from the title to the property in Independence. In accordance with that instruction suit was commenced in the U. S. District Court at Kansas City in September, 1891."

If it had not been for the vigilance of the Hedrickite President, the trick by which the "Josephite" Bishop endeavored to appear officially as the owner of the Temple lot as trustee for his sect, would have prevailed and an appearance of title to the land would have been made. The "Josephites" gained possession of the Kirtland Temple by a bold stroke and because the suit went by default, the Church in Utah not making an appearance in the case. Success in that instance has emboldened the "Josephite" leaders to take steps to grab the Temple grounds in Independence, to which they have no more moral right than to the private property of any citizen of Missouri. The intrinsic present value of the land is not much, but its historic and prospective worth is great in view of past incidents and future expectations in connection with that sacred spot, which is the centre of attraction for many thousands of Latter-day Saints.

THRESHING OLD STRAW.

TALK about "threshing old straw," what has the "Liberal" organ been at for several days past? It has been welting away at "dead issues" and stubble that has not the ghost of a living grain in it, and all that is accomplished is the raising of a cloud of dust with which it hopes to hide its own folly and falsehood. Today it attempts to bolster up the balderdash of the swashbuckler who insulted this community in an address to General Alger. Of course the coarse and abusive talk that disgusted all who heard it furnishes sweet morsels to the *Tribune*, and nearly a column of equally false and flimsy material is devoted to its endorsement.

There is nothing in it to answer but one sentence, which repeats an old, stale and empty slander that no one, so far as we have heard, has ever taken the trouble to reply to. It has been told over and over again by the *Tribune* as an admitted fact and yet there is not a syllable of truth in it. It is that "John T. Caine brought back that bogus Constitution from Washington and a convention of priests was called to ratify it."

This refers to the Constitution adopted in 1887 by the delegates elected by the people of the whole Territory. It was modeled after the Constitution of 1882, which it closely followed, with two notable exceptions,

the clause forbidding polygamy and that in relation to the separation of Church and State. The *Tribune* has charged, with nauseating frequency, that John T. Caine brought home in his pocket this Constitution, or the portion of it relating to polygamy, and that the convention merely ratified what he brought.

We happen to know that there is not the faintest shred of truth in the statement. It would not matter much if there was. But the folly and nonsense of the *Tribune's* continual statement are patent to all the members of that Convention as well as many others. Hon. John T. Caine did not bring it, or any part of it, or any reference to it from Washington or elsewhere. He had no more to do with it than any other member of the Convention, and not so much as some of them, for, being President of the Convention, he was not even one of the committee that prepared it.

Why has it not been denied before? Simply because it was not worth the trouble. We notice it now because the *Tribune* talks about "threshing old straw," and we thought we would enter a denial so that it may have no excuse for banging away at this old, rotten and musty straw any longer.

HAVE SCURED THE THEATRE.

THE public are respectfully informed that the Presbyterian Church in New York is now safe from disruption. After having been asked for and granted, for the service of the New York clerical exquisites, the use of the Tabernacle has been declined. These high-toned holy men have secured for the occasion the Salt Lake Theatre. How sublime and magnanimous is their condescension. Perhaps these gentlemen are not aware of the fact that "Mormon" actors have performed in the Theatre, and "Mormons" compose a large proportion of the audiences that convene in that building. Should they learn of these facts, the contract for its use on the 15th of May might be cancelled, so we are not yet out of the woods.

We do not believe that the pharisaical disposition exhibited by the New York Presbytery is a fair basis from which to judge the men of the Presbyterian Church. We believe that it embraces, both in its clergy and laity, many broad-minded people, imbued with the spirit of Christian sympathy. We do not cast any reflection upon the denomination because of this exhibition of mental contraction on the part of some of its ministers.

MID-AIR WARFARE.

In this progressive age one invention suggests another and forthwith it is produced. This being the case we may look with confidence for the production, at an early day, of guns and mortars that will throw balls and bombs skyward, and bring balloonists down from their aerial flights to terra firma with a velocity that will make their heads swim. This thought has been suggested by the present military reconnoitering tactics of Germany.

The Prussians, it seems, have so far learned the secret of control in mid-air transit that they are enabled to mount to such an altitude as to render them safe from molestation, float over the Russian frontier encampments, and take a birds-eye view of the movements of the muscovite troops.

In these times of international claims and counter-claims it is possible that the Czar may insist that this Prussian air-sailing is an invasion of his empire, on the ground that the atmosphere immediately over Russian Territory is an adjunct of the real estate, and may not be violated with impunity.

Should other nations soon obtain the proficiency now reached by Germany, in balloon control, we may look for the next great war to include the novelty of a battle in mid-air, unless reconnoiterers of this kind can be scattered by skyward-firing ordnance. Perhaps the author of Cæsar's Column was not so far out, after all, in his extraordinary stretch of imagination with regard to future possibilities.

MILLS IN THE SENATE.

ROGER Q. MILLS, the great tariff reformer is, perhaps, one of the best known public men in the United States. For twenty years continuously he held a seat in the House of Representatives at Washington. He was an earnest candidate for the Speakership of that body in the present Congress, and his defeat was a great surprise to the country.

Less than a week ago the Texas Legislature elected Mr. Mills to the United States Senate, to fill the place made vacant by the resignation of Senator Reagan. It is expected that he will take his seat in the Upper House early next week. Reagan's unexpired term is only one year, so that if Mr. Mills desires to succeed himself he must prepare to enter another campaign in a few months.

In the contest just closed he had two formidable competitors, Judge Culbertson and Senator Chilton, and in the next they will also be in the ring. But it is said that the next canvass will be conducted after the manner in which Senator Palmer of Illinois was chosen. The entire State will be canvassed and the United States Senatorship made an issue in the campaign during the election for members of the State Legislature.

Senator Mills is an able man, an actual worker, of great nervous force, aggressive, but courteous, persevering but patient, a strong politician, and a shrewd, alert and liberal legislator. He was a prominent man in the House and will not be silent in the Senate. He is a great accession to the Democratic minority in that body.

JEWS IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE Eleventh Census divides the Jews of the United States into two sects, Orthodox and Reformed. The former comprise those who adhere to the ancient rites and ceremonies, observing the Bible as expounded and elaborated by the prophets and rabbis. They also accept the Sepulchral Arouch