

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF IDAHO.

(Southern Idaho Independent.)

PARIS, Bear Lake County, Idaho, Sept. 8, 1886.

GENTLEMEN—In behalf of that part of the population of this Territory who are commonly called "Mormons," I address to you this communication. A political conflict is just about to commence that will determine for some time to come which party shall have the oversight of local affairs, the Democratic party which is in the majority, or the Republican party which is in the minority. If justice, honor and equal rights were allowed to prevail there would be no doubt as to the result, the established principle that the majority shall rule would at once settle the question, and under Democratic influences the Territory would rapidly and peacefully progress towards that Statehood which is its ultimate destiny. But these have been made subordinate to trickery, duplicity and fraud. Issues have been invented that should not be allowed to enter into political affairs, by which the public mind has been deceived and a large number of voters have been blinded in the exercise of their political powers. And thus the Democratic party has been weakened and the minority have gained many advantages.

For 16 years, the people with whom I have the honor to be connected, have united with and supported the Democratic party. They have done this because the true principles of democracy come nearer to their idea of correct government than any others adopted in this great country. Local self-government is a right dear to them in common with other citizens. Religious liberty they consider as essential as civil liberty. The freedom of the individual and also of each community to worship and serve any God, in any way desired, so long as human rights are not infringed upon, they hold to be an inalienable right. Taxation without representation they declare to be oppression. Government without the consent of the governed they look upon as tyranny. Laws, they believe, should be enacted to secure liberty, not to encroach upon it. And all public officials should be held responsible to the people and be the servants, not the masters of the people. Within the lines of the Democratic party they find these principles and therefore they desire to sustain it in every way that is lawful and consistent.

So long as that party remains true to itself it will be true to the "Mormons;" when it allows traitors and tricksters to influence it to the betrayal of the "Mormons," it will betray itself and deservedly lose its power. Recent indications and utterances of leading Democrats, intimate that the party is able to perceive this and to see who are its friends, who are its enemies and where its real strength lies. The party will prevail by being true to its own integrity and standing by its own principles, uninfluenced by other considerations. One of those principles is the exclusion of religion from politics. True democracy knows neither Catholic nor Protestant, "Mormon" nor Methodist, Christian nor Pagan. "Is he a Democrat?" is the only creed query it puts concerning any man.

But the "Mormon" question has been dragged into the politics of Idaho to the almost fatal injury of the party. It was a trick of the Republicans. "Polygamy" was one of the bugbears which they held up to frighten Democrats from "affiliating" with the "Mormons." They cared no more about that than they did about the real vices and flagrant immoralities which they winked at, and many of them participated in, when pretending the most violent and virtuous indignation against polygamy. But that practice now cuts no figure in the politics of the Territories. It has been effectually sponged off the slate by the Edmunds act of 1882. No polygamist, bigamist, or person who cohabits with more than one woman can now either vote or hold office in the Territories. It is a dead issue politically. He who raises it holds up a political corpse, and he who is frightened by it would run from a scarecrow. The monogamic "Mormons" only can vote and hold office.

But the party that pretend to be so anxious to suppress polygamy and yet keep it prominent in politics, have obtained the passage of an infamous and unconstitutional law of the Territory to prevent, by means of a test oath, the monogamous "Mormons" from voting. To encourage monogamy they disfranchise monogamists. To discourage a plurality of wives they take the voting and office holding power from the "Mormon" citizen who has but one wife. This is Republican consistency. And mark this: The much abused, ever maligned and always to be repudiated "Mormons," would be good enough for the Republicans, polygamists and all, if they would only cast their votes for Republican candidates. Their influence has been solicited by the Republicans time and time again. When polygamists had votes, and since they have been disfranchised, "Mormon" support has been sought by the very Republicans who have been the loudest to denounce them.

The whole anti-"Mormon" outcry is a political dodge to defeat the democracy. It is so with the false charge of "union of Church and State." There is nothing in it. Each is kept as separate and distinct from the other among the "Mormons" as the straightest democrat could desire. The Church

alarm is empty sound. It should not even irritate children. The pretense that Utah ecclesiasticism forces political issues in Idaho is a specious fabrication. There is no truth in it. Where is the man who has been compelled to vote or abstain from voting, to hold an office or vacate it, to do anything or refrain from doing anything by means of Church coercion? He cannot be produced. So with the charge of the use of Church money. I challenge our defamers to bring forward a man who has been bribed or offered a bribe by the "Mormon" Church. Let him be exhibited. Show us the political curiosity. Barnum would buy him for the greatest living wonder. He is nothing but a republican myth.

And what of the alleged undue influence of the "Mormons" in Idaho politics? What have they ever demanded that was not fair? What have they ever opposed that was for the interest of the Territory? In what convention have they ever been overbearing or unreasonable? In what legislature have they lent their aid to support any job, or withheld it from any laudable project? I defy the enemies of the "Mormons" to show wherein they have ever done anything inimical to the best good of the public in all their political career in Idaho. The fact is, they have been always modest in their movements, and, considering their numbers and the influence they could wield by their recognized unity, they have been deserving of praise for their unselfish course. No fair man of any party can truthfully dispute this assertion.

All that the Republicans have alleged against "Mormon" influence in Idaho has been the baldest kind of balderdash. And yet some professing Democrats have been frightened by it into a most ridiculous attitude. They have joined in with Republicans to weaken their own party. They have violated their own political faith to assail the religious principles of others. The very name of "anti-Mormon party" is a sign of political heresy. A true Democrat knows no religious distinctions in politics. A true Republican will not mix religious with political issues.

The proper position for all non-"Mormon" democracy to take was defined at Boise, at the recent mass meeting, by Hon. J. H. Hawley. He announced himself in favor of a vigorous enforcement of the laws but against any interference with the voting powers of citizens. If a man breaks the law, let him be punished by the law. But while he does not render himself amenable to the law's penalties he should not be deprived of the franchise, whether he be "Mormon" or Methodist, Episcopalian or Baptist, believer or infidel. The position taken by this prominent, able and influential Democrat should be assumed by every sensible man in the party. It was admirably presented by the young men's democratic club at Boise, in their vigorous declaration that no man's franchise should be taken away by legislation. That is sound democratic doctrine, and is in accord with Mr. Hawley's views. The courts should decide on the conduct of persons charged with offenses. The elective franchise is property, and cannot be taken away without due process of law. That does not mean legislation, but a fair and impartial judicial proceeding. The test oath act is a disgrace to the Territory. Every true Democrat will determine that it shall be swept from the statutes. It was placed there by a political trick. It was designed to weaken and destroy the Democratic party in Idaho. Let no one professing to be a Democrat give it countenance for any purpose. He who does so is a traitor to his party and unworthy of the confidence of any honest man.

For the same purpose the recent assault on free speech was made by the Republicans at Oxford. It is claimed that Elder John W. Taylor is advising the "Mormons" who are not polygamists to vote, and if necessary to carry their case to the highest court in the land, and in stating he was the son of a polygamist, incited the people to rebellion against the laws of the United States. And for that he is under heavy bonds to await the action of the grand jury. Could anything be more preposterous? Is the Idaho test oath a law of the United States? Is it a law at all? Is it worth the ashes of the paper it was written upon? And if it were as sound, as it is hollow and void, would the advising of voters to test it be an incitement to rebellion? And what wrong can be construed from a young man's declaration of his parentage? But what can be thought of a cause that needs to bolster it up on an attack on the right of free speech? Freedom of speech is one of the guarantees of the Constitution of our common country which will be maintained at any cost by every true Democrat. And no matter what his politics, an adversary who would resort to such a contemptible trick deserves defeat and to be despised by all honorable men. This arrest and commitment were devised as a Republican club, to be held during the present campaign, over every man who would attempt to advise the "Mormons" to vote. And why? Simply because they will not vote the Republican ticket. Every lawyer and man of common ability can see that the charge is trumped up, and like the boy's big head, "there is nothing in it."

The "Mormons" do not intend to be scared from the exercise of a single legal right. They have no fears on that score. Will the Democrats whom they support also cast aside all fears and stand for what is right? Moral cow-

ardice at this juncture will wreck the party. These Republican bugaboos must be treated with the contempt they deserve. The dread of being charged with affiliating with the "Mormons," worked for all it is worth by plugging Republicans and apostate Democrats, must be thrown to the winds. Religious issues must be abandoned and all true Democrats welcomed regardless of creed. The bold and statesmanlike stand of Mr. Hawley must be taken by the party. The laws, even though harsh and unjust, must be enforced until repealed, but the franchise of men not amenable to the laws must not be interfered with. If the "Mormons" sustain the Democrats, the Democrats must sustain the "Mormons" in all that is lawful; not because they are "Mormons," but because they are Democrats and in spite of the cry that they are "Mormons."

The "Mormon" vote is counted on as solid. It is therefore powerful and valuable. It is usually united on the true principle of unity. Each individual is free as air, but when brought to see as his friends see, and his sentiments unite with theirs, union and harmony of views make union of votes and actions, and this is the real strength of "Mormon" politics. Coercion cannot bring true unity. Pledges and promises were the heart is not interested care only like ropes of sand.

Gentlemen, if you want the support of the "Mormon" voters in this political crisis, you must be prepared to stand by them as they stand by you. There must be no flinching, no faltering, no cowardice. They want nothing but their lawful rights. While they break no law they must have the protection of the law. While they work with the party they must be recognized and sustained by the party. Free speech must be maintained. There must be no muzzle for the mouths of law-abiding men. Test oaths must be abolished. Religious liberty, when law is not invaded, must be upheld. Equal rights to all must be the watchword. No man must be counted a Democrat who affiliates with the enemy under any pretence. Let the party be true to its principles, faithful to its friends, fearless of all taunts, insinuations and threatenings, united in action, determined to sustain the best men, regardless of personal ends and preferences, and let the interest of the party and the Territory be the common end and aim, and a sweeping victory will crown the struggles of the Democracy in November, and Idaho will enjoy that peace and prosperity which have been withheld under Republican rule.

For the truth and the right,
Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM BUDGE.

LOCAL NEWS.

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY, SEP. 16.

Visit to the Penitentiary.—After visiting Fort Douglas yesterday afternoon, and meeting with a cordial reception from the officers there, tendered in a manner befitting so distinguished a guest, Chief Justice Waite was driven to the Penitentiary. While visiting the institution, an interview occurred between him and Apostle Lorenzo Snow, of the purport of which, however, we are not informed.

Pocket Picked.—A gentleman, one of the Cache Valley excursionists, had a little experience yesterday which made him think more than ever that Salt Lake City contains a great variety of metropolitan elements. While riding in a street car going to the Eleventh Ward, after paying his fare, he dropped his purse, containing about \$12, into his side coat pocket. He soon after missed it, and is certain that his pocket was picked.

Farewell Party.—The good people of St. Charles, Bear Lake Co., assembled at the meeting house on the evening of the 10th inst. to tender a farewell greeting to Brother C. A. Merkle, who was shortly to leave for the Southern States on a mission. They had quite an enjoyable time. The exercises consisted of songs, recitations, readings, speeches dancing, etc. During the evening lunch was partaken of. Brother Merkle was presented with a fine Oxford Sunday school Bible, as a token of esteem, by the Sunday school of this place.

From Scotland.—Elder W. D. Thompson returned as far as Provo from a mission to Scotland, with the last company of immigrants, and on his arrival there was appointed to conduct a section of the company, numbering forty-four, to the southern part of the Territory. After seeing the migrating Saints safely to their destinations, and visiting his home in Selkirk, Millard County, he has returned to this city, on a brief visit.

Elder Thompson left Utah October 11th, 1884, and spent nearly all of the period of his absence in the Glasgow Conference, Scotland, though he visited other portions of Great Britain. He reports that the progress of the work in Scotland at the present time is rather slow, though a few are being added to the Church by baptism.

Three-Score-and-Ten.—Yesterday Brother Wm. A. McMaster of this city celebrated his 70th birthday by having a reunion of his numerous children, grand children and great grand-children. In the evening he was presented with a handsome arm-chair, the presentation being made by Mr. J. B. McMaster, in behalf of the sons and daughters of their venerable father, in

an appropriate speech, to which the latter responded in a few touching and instructive remarks. After this an elegant and delicious supper was enjoyed by those present. The repast over, songs, recitations, speeches, etc., were indulged in till 11 o'clock, when the happy gathering broke up. We join the many friends of the worthy veteran in wishing him renewed health and happiness.

Court Proceedings.—In the Third District Court to day, in the case of Thomas McBride vs. Joseph Baker et al., the motion for new trial was allowed.

Anders S. Hyrup, John Bridge, Jos. Pringle, John Pringle, James Parkinson, Jonathan Pyrah and William H. Hirst were admitted to citizenship.

Frederick Crowton vs. John T. Lynch; motion for a new trial argued and submitted.

C. E. T. Johnston vs. Emma DeMar; demurrer withdrawn and 20 days allowed to answer.

The People vs. Frank M. Treseder; attempt to murder; two cases; demurrer to indictments argued by Arthur Brown for defendant and W. H. Dickson for the prosecution.

A grand jury for the September term was impaneled.

R. S. Conference.—The Quarterly Conference of the Relief Societies of Salt Lake Stake convened in the Fourteenth Ward Assembly Rooms at 10 a. m. to-day, Mrs. M. I. Horne presiding. There was a large attendance and reports from the Relief Societies in all the wards of the Stake had been handed in. After the usual exercises and reading of reports the meeting was addressed by President Horne and Counselor E. S. Taylor and by Sister Bathsheba W. Smith. The remarks were mostly upon the duties of the sisters in the society and encouraging them to persevere in well-doing and also upon the events now transpiring and the signs of the times. Another meeting was held this afternoon and to-morrow the Young Ladies' M. I. A. will hold their conference at the same place. A cordial invitation is extended to all interested to attend.

Killed by a Horse.—Mr. Chris C. Jensen, of Montpelier, Idaho, met with a fatal accident on the 13th inst. A friend called at Mr. Jensen's place and requested him to go with the former out to the north fields to see about their horses that were running at large and doing damage to the grain. Mr. Jensen said he would go, and made the remark that he would like to see his colts again before he died. After eating breakfast he saddled up his horse, a high-spirited stallion, and mounted the animal. The horse being so spirited Mr. Jensen held the reins too tight and the horse reared up and fell over on his back, crushing the rider beneath him. The horse lay in that position for some time before he rolled over. Mr. Jensen gave a groan and tried to get up. He breathed his last about 20 minutes later. Dr. Hoover called to see him and found that his back was broken. He was about 35 years of age, a native of Denmark, and leaves a wife and one child.

Improvements in Montpelier.—A correspondent says that there has been quite a change in this lively little town since last fall, especially near the railroad depot. An addition has been built to the roundhouse. Quite a number of new stores and a large hotel have been recently built. The Knights of Labor have just put up a large two-story building for a hall. Ed. Burgoyne, Esq., the popular merchant, has just completed a nice large building for a store, at the depot.

Considerable hay land has been jumped on this side of the valley. A brass band has lately been organized, consisting mostly of young men; Mr. John Bailey, formerly of Ogden, is the leader. They are making very good progress. Dr. Hoover has lately sold his drug store to Wm. Driver & Son, of Ogden.

The people have succeeded in getting the postoffice up in town again, and Mr. Joseph Robinson is the newly appointed postmaster, and gives entire satisfaction.

From Tennessee.—Elder W. H. Robinson, of Sallua, Sevier County, who reached this city from a mission to Tennessee with the company of detained immigrants, Tuesday evening, called upon us this morning. He was returning home and fell in with the company at Pueblo. Elder Robinson left Utah April 8th, 1884, and labored principally in Middle Tennessee, his travels some of the time taking him into Kentucky. During the first four months of his mission he endured a great deal of persecution, having often to spend the night without shelter, and frequently obtaining not more than one meal in a day. He was laboring not far from where Elders Gibbs and Berry were killed, and the hostility of the people towards a "Mormon" Elder was marked. During the remainder of his mission, however, he was always well treated.

Elder Robinson says that, in the region where he has been laboring, there are many people who believe the Gospel and would embrace it, were it not that they lack the moral courage to defy the opposition they would have to meet.

A Hyde Park Fire.—On Monday, between 12 and 1 o'clock, while Mr. Andrew Christensen and wife, of Hyde Park, were from home raking up some loose wheat in the field, one of the children, a little girl about seven years of age, took a match and set fire to his hay stack. The stable caught fire from

the hay and the wheat stack from the stable and soon all was consumed, together with his horses, a new set of harness, and a calf. One of the neighbors immediately on seeing the fire ran and took one of the horses out of the stable; but it got loose from her and went back to the one remaining in the stable and both perished in the flames.

Mr. Christensen is a poor man; he lost about 12 tons of hay, from 125 to 150 bushels of wheat, his only span of horses, harness and a calf. He was living about a quarter of a mile above the ditch, and no water could be obtained. The loss is therefore a great one to him, and there is presented a fine opportunity for the exercise of true charity in assisting one whom misfortune has suddenly overtaken.—*Logan Journal, Sept. 15.*

Shocking Accident.—The Provo Enquirer of September 14th, contains the following:

On Wednesday night, about 9 o'clock, an accident occurred here which has since occupied the exclusive attention of the discussers of miracles and wonders; and many of the sages as well are willing to acknowledge their astonishment at the appearance in this age of feebleness and universal degradation of something that bears the mark of genuine heroism. The episode approaches so far within the domain of couched romance that we hesitate to give the particulars as they really occurred, lest we be accused of sensationalism.

For some time past Mrs. Webb of Payson and her youngest daughter, Zella, have been residing in Provo in the house formerly occupied by Isaac Bullock, Jr. On Wednesday, Mrs. Webb had occasion to go to Payson, leaving Zella alone in the house. The latter was a little nervous over her situation, and as she retired, left a lamp burning on a chair beside her bed, intending to read until she became sleepy and then extinguish it. This first part of her programme was admirably carried out, with the latter. She succeeded in extinguishing her mental humanity before she did her physical one. Whether the lamp exploded or was knocked off the chair by the sleeper is not known; however, when she awoke, her bed and garments were in flames and the room ablaze with ignited oil from the lamp, which lay in fragments on the floor. The scene that followed can only be surmised from the appearance of the premises and the condition of the young lady when the accident was discovered, for she seemed to have forgotten what she did or how she did it, in the state of exhaustion, consequent upon the task she performed and the terrible burns upon her person. She went through the entire ordeal without even calling for help, and nothing was known of the circumstances until she herself ran to Mrs. Bullock's, and told the people there what had happened. Those who answered her at the door say she was as black as soot itself, and had nothing on but an old dress of her mother's, which she had thrown loosely over her shoulders, having torn her under garments from her person in flames. She came in and sank upon the sofa, when for the first she began to realize the pain from her wounds. An examination revealed two large patches, one on her back, the other in front just below the neck, that were baked hard as sole leather; and besides there were numerous less serious wounds on her face and neck and shoulder. She had run over glass and stones with her bare feet while carrying water and they being already blistered, were raw and badly lacerated. The doctor predicts some heavy scars but expresses no doubt as to a speedy recovery in other respects. On examining a large heap of half consumed clothing and bedding was found in the yard; the room where the fire occurred was black with soot, and the carpet and some of the furniture burned, but nothing more serious was observed. The episode, besides displaying a feat of heroism, embodies a moral on the coal oil question, when if heeded may save others from a similar experience.

B. H. Schettler Bound Over.—The preliminary examination into the charge of unlawful cohabitation against B. H. Schettler was held before Commissioner McKay yesterday afternoon. Mr. Dickson conducted the prosecution and Mr. Moyle the defense. The defendant entered a plea of not guilty.

Caroline Morgan was the first witness. She was the defendant's wife's sister. Had heard that he had another wife a long time ago, but did not know her or anything of her. Her sister, Mrs. Schettler, lived with the defendant.

Mrs. Mary Schettler was next called. She was the defendant's wife; did not know his other wives; had heard it reported that he had married Elizabeth Parry and Agatha Peters; the defendant lived with witness as her husband, and had done so ever since the prosecutions under the Edmunds law began.

Catherine Davis was sworn. She did not know the defendant, his wife, or his alleged plural wives, and was excused.

Elizabeth Parry, the next witness, said she was not the defendant's wife, but supposed that her daughter Elizabeth was; her youngest child was over three years of age; witness had seen Mr. Schettler in her daughter's house on one occasion; this might be a year ago, or more, she didn't know; had seen Azatha Peters; knew nothing of her relationship to the defendant; witness did not know where her daughter was living at present; defendant never asked her consent to marry her daughter.

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