

One can have some respect for the extreme partizan, and even for the bigot who bitterly attacks something he believes to be wrong or detrimental to the public interest, even though he be clearly in error and evidently carried away by feeling instead of being led by truth and governed by reason. But for the greedy and unprincipled creatures who care nothing for the falsehoods they may spread, or the harm they may do, so long as they rake in the dimes that count up into the dollars they worship, there can be nothing in a just mind but detestation.

We have alluded two or three times to an eastern illustrated magazine which has published articles purporting to be written by a "Mormon." And we have shown that they were not and could not have been written either by one who had ever been a "Mormon," or by a person familiar with "Mormon" doctrines and history.

Now it appears the publishers of the magazine in which this palpable fraud was perpetrated, are endeavoring to circulate these deceptions upon the public by unusual means. Postal cards are being addressed to individuals all over the country, specially drawing attention to these libelous articles, and closing with this sentence:

"Their intention is to show by the evidence of history and of contemporary witnesses that the Mormons prefer war with the United States to an abandonment of polygamy."

The idocy of this, in view of the action of the Church on the polygamy question and of the present situation altogether, is evident to every intelligent observer. But some people are not intelligent and others are not observing, and, from among these the publishers are likely to obtain what they are after—purchasers for their magazine.

A correspondent of the *Omaha Bee*, writing from this city, very pertinently says:

"There is a story going the rounds of the eastern press that for pure and simple prevarication takes the cake. It is entitled: 'Will the Mormons Fight?' The man who wrote it never saw a Mormon in his life and probably bases his tale on some old history of Utah and Nauvoo printed in 1843."

Whoever is the author of these stupid fabrications mixed with plagiarisms from well known books, he has reached the lowest plane of journalistic meanness. And the sordid persons who to make money, are palming off this trash upon the American public for a "Mormon" statement of past history and present sentiment, are just as debased and despicable as the wretch who wrote them for pay.

A VERY IMPORTANT RULING.

THE Supreme Court of the United States has once more sat down heavily on the Utah courts in an important legal question. Readers of the *DESERET NEWS* will remember the Cope case, which went through the courts here from the Probate Court up to the Supreme Court of the Territory, and turned on the question as to inheritance of a deceased father's estate by the offspring of a polygamous marriage. The courts ruled against the right of such children to inherit.

This paper took the ground that the intent of the Edmunds act of 1882 was to render legitimate, to all intents and purposes, the children of such marriages up to the date mentioned in that act. That the clause relating to this matter was framed for the protection of such children, in their rights of property as well as in other things. Of course our taking issue with the courts was ridiculed by the "Liberal" organ. It appears from our dispatches today that the Supreme Court of the United States takes the very ground we occupied in reference to this case. The dispatch says:

"The Court holds that a son by polygamous marriage did have the right, and reverses the judgment of the Territorial Court. The Court says the Edmunds Act declared legitimate all children of Mormon parents born within less than twelve months from its passage. The object, the Court says, was to make these unfortunate children an especial object of care and to make the parents relinquish polygamy by fixing the period until after which their children should be legitimate."

The opinion was delivered by the new Associate Justice, and we suppose it was an unanimous ruling, as no dissent is mentioned. It is of great consequence to the people of Utah, as it establishes the rights of a large number of children born before Jan. 1st, 1883, who are declared legitimate in every sense of the term.

We are pleased at this decision of the court of last resort, not only for the settlement of property rights which it secures, but for the evidence it affords that the court is still disposed not to use any "strained construction" of the laws in its adjudication of the "Mormon" question.

AN UNJUST DEMAND.

On January 19 we published a condensed statement of the aims, objects and demands of the Farmers' Alliance. Some of the measures they insist upon are glaringly inconsistent and manifestly unjust. To grant them would bring ruin to the Republic.

Among these incongruities is the

sub-treasury plan. This means the erection, by the Government, in every county where demanded, of warehouses in which the products of the farmers can be deposited—such as cotton, wheat, corn, oats and tobacco. When such deposits are made the depositor receives a treasury note for eighty per cent of the value of the products. These notes are to be legal tender for the payment of debts and receivable for customs.

The objections to such a measure are so numerous and potential that it is difficult to find an argument of any weight in its favor. It would transform the government into a vast machine for dealing in the products of the soil. The multiplication of officials—to say nothing of the initial expenditures—would increase the incubus that is, in that respect, already devouring the vitals of the nation. And again, why should the nation as a whole be compelled to take care of and find markets for that which is produced by the labor and enterprise of but one class of the people? Granted that those who would be enormously benefited belong to those who constitute the foundational basis of prosperity, this fact presents no argument in support of the Utopian sub-treasury system.

The Alliance proclaims in the most denunciatory terms against class legislation, which has done much toward injuring the country, and perhaps more particularly the agricultural population. The remedy they would apply as a curative is legislation of the same kind more distinctively of a class character than any statutes on the books, unless it be those barbarous measures that have been enacted against the Latter-day Saints and which aim at robbing them of their property. It is certainly the acme of folly to seek to remedy an evil by increasing it.

The abuses possible under the sub-treasury system are so enormous as to be incalculable. For instance, the products are to be deposited in the public warehouses and to be taken at the market prices prevailing at the time, and eighty per cent of the value of the perishable goods to be issued to the depositor. This proposition is made by an organization sufficiently powerful to precipitate within the brief space of a few days, a political revolution. This places its potency beyond the region of doubt. Political power commands almost, if not quite, every other kind of influence. It would therefore be absurd to take the ground that such an association could not also control the markets. Hence it would be to the personal interest of the Alliance at