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CHARLES W. YOUNG, Editor.

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THE "UNKNOWN."

There is also that Paul would have written, "The Christ who came for us is not known, but we know him, and we know that he loves us." I do not know, and I do not know that he loves us.

That is a sentence from an article by Dr. Edwin A. Abbott, in defense of the position taken by a number of learned friends who represent the doctrine of the liberal reconstruction of the body, and yet desire to have fellowship with the church which made that doctrine part of their creed.

The degradation consisted in that sentence because it is that which the writer of it strongly desires to believe. It is, in fact, not so much as the argumentation which divides the body, but only as the "Unknown." It virtually says, "What I don't know about you, I do not care, and I do not know that you care."

A spiritual body is understandable. Mysteriously it can be understood in this life. Certainly it will be fully comprehended in the life to come. And while the natural man may not understand the things of God because they are spiritually discerned, he should hesitate to deny the power of perception in others which may not have been developed in himself. Surely it is not wise or foolish as Christian, for one who claims to be a teacher in Israel to declare that something he does not know is not known and never can be known, and he should ponder on the words of the great Teacher, "What things knowest thou that shall know hereafter?"

A REFLECTION ON CHIEF JUSTICE ZANE.

Brooks is the expression by the moral, and "Mormon" begins to affect the effect that after the verdict of the jury, Alice "stands legally innocent," there lies his unqualified approval of the action of the jury and of the attitude of certain others associated with the recent trial for election fraud. The case shows such a glaring miscarriage of justice that the "Liberal" journals do not, in the face of just developing proofs, defend the reputed "Liberal" election judges. We do not believe there is an intelligent person in Utah, unconnected with the facts that has not slighted leaning toward a belief in the innocence of Alice. We are also satisfied that, taking all the circumstances together, no different opinion prevails in relation to the position of St. Calum. The general conception of the case is to him, with the following expression from Judge Zane quoted, in our article of yesterday:

"He speaks before the court under my supervision, and I am satisfied that Mr. McWhorter's evidence is correct, and his arguments reasonable. As far as I can judge, no one ought to be allowed to say he is ignorant, or at least he is ignorant of the action of Alice."

Such an expression as this from one of the most capable jurists that ever sat in the bench of Utah ought to carry weight with it. The force of the statement ought to be increased by the fact that in politics the Judge is a "Liberal," although he speaks as a jurist and not as a politician. Yet there was a direct political party influence in the expression of regret that any party should be so damaged in reputation, as it seems to have been by this action of Alice."

We will say, in behalf of the falter members of the "Liberal" party that many of them have defended the conduct of Alice, and are disgraced at the result of the trial. They have reason to be if they have a spark of judgment or a glimmer of respect for the law. If Judge Zane was coerced in his estimate of the conduct of Alice in relation to the fraud charged against him, and of the effect of the transactions of the ex-factor, with the many others upon the reputation of the "Liberal" party, the injury to the character of that political organization must be intensified by the result of the trial. Everything connected with it was "Liberal." We do not wish to say whether or not we believe this combination influenced the verdict. There is not the slightest necessity for any expression on that point. It may, however, be considered as an element of the subject as a whole. But take my word for it. If the conduct of Alice damaged the reputation of the "Liberal" party, the acquisition of the same was caused an additional stark blow of reprobation to fall over the organization line, and injure the cause.

When Judge Zane decided that Mr. Young and Mr. Williams was correct, notwithstanding the fact of the "Liberal" party, the same was based on Alice's side. There was no other foundation upon which to rest her. Mr. Williams, who was evidently too hasty in his conclusion, says he "knows that no one in the world can know it," for he apparently assumed an equal and plenteous himself in the ranks of dogmatic atheists.

"A spiritual body" as the old authorities describe it, and as explained in modern bibles, is a body quickened by spirit instead of blood, and though composed of the same or similar elements, operates that make up the natural body. So changed in their arrangement

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that

it is capable of things that the natural body could not perform, and it is free from the limitations and bonds of the laws that govern this lower sphere. An illustration of this change, though not complete, is found in the difference between the learned and the unlearned, both in our country, but one almost entirely above the other, in value and beauty.

The chief difficulty in the way of understanding anything about spiritual bodies and bodies is, that spirit is supposed to be material, and therefore incomprehensible. An immaterial substance—such contradictions of terms—being no properties in common with matter, and yet having substance and quality, cannot be blamed to begin to know. Therefore it may be classed, by persons who hold this view, as unknown, as well as unknown. But the suggestion that spirit is in no sense material will be found to be false, though differing in important particulars from what is commonly called matter. It is a tangible, material, extended and limited reality, existing in space which cannot be occupied by another body at the same instant, and possessing other characteristics of those grosser substances we call natural things.

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Another man may reasonably acknowledge his own ignorance. He may reasonably confess his inability to see an object or perceive a principle of understanding a proposition. But he has no right to deny that power in others. It is irrational to say it is impossible for another to comprehend something that one cannot grasp, or to deny the existence of an object which a strong-eyed man describes but which a near-sighted man cannot behold. As there are differences in the scope of natural vision among different individuals, so there are in the capacity to comprehend a truth or to perceive things that are spiritual.

The person who has no spiritual perception is in an abnormal state. The rule all over the world among all races and in all ages is, that the spiritual faculty by which faith is exercised exists in greater or less degree. This is the normal condition manifested as natural vision is manifested. And it may be that a few still greater anomalies are here occasionally found. However,

it is our opinion that spiritual disease of vision can be cured, by the effect of the individual and the power of God which responds to it, while physical blindness is in some cases inherent in the present state of human kind.

He that as it may the degradation which comes besides the power to behold physically, morally or spiritually what one or a few may be able to perceive is unnecessary, unnatural and impudent. Yet it is common among avowed atheists and is not infrequent among professing so-called "Christians."

It is quite likely that Dr. Abbott, and others of his school, may be entirely ignorant of what Paul spoke of as "a spiritual body." But how does he know that nobody else knows what it is? And if it be conceded that no one now knows what "a spiritual body" is, how does he know that nobody ever can know it?

If it is not probable that Paul knew what he was talking about when he said, "There is a natural body and there is a spiritual body?" And speaking of the resurrection, "It is even a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body?" And if one man can know what is, that is, what there is to hinder any number of men from knowing the same thing?

If Dr. Abbott believes the New Testament, or the Christian religion at all, he must acknowledge that Jesus of Nazareth knew what "a spiritual body" is. If he was not raised from the dead with a "spiritual body," then the whole testimony of His Apostles fails, and a vital and binding pillar of the Christian religion is a delusion and a snare. That Jesus Christ is "the resurrection and the life," that he will "change our vile bodies and fashion them like unto His glorious body" are essential elements of the Christian creed. And whatever may be our lack of understanding now as to the nature of a spiritual body, when God has done small to us we shall surely understand it as Christ himself demands it. "For we shall see we are seen and know as we are known."

Paul learned and saw many things which need not command attention in his day. Others may have had similar experiences. That which was understood then, may also be understood now. The same power and light that revealed those things to Paul can reveal them to anyone prepared to receive them, but we will today leave the reader to that. This, it appears to us, requires no argument. It is very nearly self-evident. In Paul's time what a spiritual body is, he well might not know it now, and when they now, however learned and important, says he "knows that no one in the world can know it," for he apparently assumed an equal and plenteous himself in the ranks of dogmatic atheists.

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