

THE RUTTER ROMANCE.

The Story as Published in Chicago.
Also a Presentation of the
Real Facts.

The letters of "Junius," our Chicago correspondent, are extensively and eagerly read. Doubtless many who have perused those recently published have been interested and captivated by the manner in which he has treated the Rutter sensational anti-"Mormon" story, which appeared in all the leading Chicago papers. The "horrible tale" has not yet appeared in its blood-curdling completeness in any local journal, the newspapers in this section having merely published brief dispatches of the startlingly dramatic Munchausenism; we therefore introduce it now as it was presented to the gaping public in the columns of the Chicago Mail:

"Will you please tell me where I can find the British vice consul?" asked a pale-faced little woman about 9 o'clock this morning, as she approached Officer Gibbons. Then she pressed her hand to her head, reeled backward, and fell fainting on the sidewalk. She was carried to a neighboring drug store and given a restorative, when she said that she had fainted from exhaustion having been without food for four days. Refreshed by a small dose of food, and when the woman had revived sufficiently she was taken to the armory police station, and the wagon was called to take her to the hospital. Seated in the chair by the lieutenant's desk the unfortunate woman told a horrible tale of life among the Mormons. Her name she gave as Elizabeth Turnbull Rutter. Five years ago she lived with her husband, Thomas, her son, then 12 years of age, and her 14-year-old daughter in North Shields, England, a few miles from Newcastle-on-Tyne. About this time Mormon missionaries made their appearance at her house and began to busy themselves in the work of proselytizing. Against the advice of herself and her husband, who was a Methodist class-leader of some repute, the son joined the new church and set sail for America in company with a number of converts who started out in care of a Mormon Elder. The boy made his parents a loving farewell and promised to write, but the time passed and nothing more was heard from him. Then the father, frantic with anxiety, left his wife and daughter and sailed for America in search of his boy. Soon after his departure a letter was received from the lad, saying that the Mormon Elders had taken away all his money and had guarded him so closely that he was unable to send a letter. "A lady had given him five cents and he managed to write to his mother to say that he was well and would come home when he could save the money. Mr. Rutter arrived in Ogden, but for a long time his wife heard nothing from him.

He found employment with a farmer named Joseph Holbert, but could not save any money, as but small wages were given him. Finally he consented to join the Mormon church, and went through the first stages of initiation. Then fortune suddenly smiled on him and he was able to send his wife a draft for \$5, which he enclosed in a letter, telling her that he would soon be home and take his boy with him. The letter was intercepted on the way to the post-office, and while the money was forwarded it was sent in care of a Mormon missionary at North Shields, and was accompanied by a letter purporting to come from Mr. Rutter, saying that the funds were to pay his wife's passage to America, and that she was to be baptized and join him with the next excursion of emigrants. The woman never doubted the authenticity of the letter and obeyed it implicitly.

"Oh, what a trip it was," said Mrs. Rutter. "We took third-class passage on the steamer *Lorado* and were herded like cattle. The elders treated us as they pleased, and the indignities offered us were something awful. When the women objected their arguments were overruled by the oft-repeated remark, 'Daughter, it is in the cause of God and the Saints.' I reached Castle Garden, sick in heart and body, but I got very little attention. I had been firm in my refusal to submit to the treatment accorded the women by the elders and I was in poor favor with them. Still, they were afraid to take any overt measures, as we were watched very closely by the sentinels at Castle Garden and it would not do to let any scandal leak out. For three days we stayed there pending some dispute with the railway company about rates. Then we started on the long trip to Ogden in the crowded emigrant cars. Oh, it was fearful. At Ogden I was met by my husband, who had been notified of my coming. Then for the first time I learned that the letter with the money to me had been intercepted by Joseph Holbert, the man with whom he was working. He was terribly angry, and we made a secret determination then to leave Utah as soon as we could. We knew from past experience that we would be unable to get away unless we pretended to join the church, and we accordingly attended meeting at Logan Temple. The religion was disgusting. After the services the first day, the saints congregated on the outside and swore terribly about some repairs which had not been made in Greenwall's headgate, an irrigating ditch from which the county was supplied with water. The profanity was terrible, and I never wanted to go to church again.

"They kept at it to be endowed, but I put them off until I should be in a state of grace, and my husband said he would wait for me. We didn't know at that time that we would have to go through the endowment house to keep up appearances, but soon after a lady, who had been through, told me all about it, and I determined I would die first. The ceremony was too indecent to talk about. It was awful. Every one went to the Logan Temple, where the women were taken in one side and the men entered another apartment. The women were all undressed, bathed, and anointed, after which they were led in a nude condition to the endowment chamber proper. This was decorated with trees and ferns painted on the walls, and in front was a large curtain. Sisters of the church went to each of the novitiates and whispered in her ear her sanctified name, which she must never reveal." The curtain arose and the balance of the ceremonies were so indecent that Mrs. Rutter would not speak of them.

Under their promise to join the church the Rutters were treated very well, with the exception that Joseph Holbert wanted them to occupy the same bedroom with himself

and his wife. This the Rutters would not consent to and instead slept in the barn until they could build an addition to the house. All this time they carefully guarded their secret plans to leave as soon as the crops were in. Rutter had a share of the growing grain, which was just about ripe. He had a little currency, a horse, cow, and agricultural implements, which he intended to sell, on the pretence of going into the mountains. But one day last August he, in an evil moment, confided his plans to a young Mormon with whom he was intimate. Two days later he was brought home dead. It was said that he was drowned in the creek and his clothes were wet and dragged, but in the back of his head was a ghastly wound, and the blood was still issuing from his eyes, nose and mouth.

The wife was terrified, and tried to sell the grain and farm property. She was met by the response that she owned none of it. The church took it all. She was urged to join the church, and was promised a young husband. She pretended to hesitate and that night fled to Ogden City, where she secured employment in a hotel and worked until last month to save money enough to pay her passage home to Newcastle. She managed to purchase a ticket to Lincoln, Neb., and steered passage from New York home. At Lincoln, she paid her fare to Chicago, and had but \$12 left, just enough, she was told, to pay her way west, half-fare, from Chicago to New York. Intent on her purpose, the poor woman would not break into her little hoard for the purpose even of buying food, and so arrived here fasting from hunger.

Her story told, Mrs. Rutter almost fell from her chair with fatigue. The patrol wagon was called and she was taken to the county hospital to gain the needed rest before continuing her journey home.

The fact that people claiming to be intelligent can be found who receive such a bungled tissue of falsehood for truth, exhibits the fact that such persons have not the mental power of analysis. If they had they would discard such a story—which has almost countless parallels in the anti-"Mormon" line—on account of the preponderating evidence it gives of its own improbability—we might say impossibility. It should not be necessary for us to point any of the incongruities out, they are so conspicuous.

Fancy, for instance, a twelve-year-old boy setting the wishes of his parents at defiance by joining a church they had forbade him to connect himself with, and in the same spirit of disregard of parental authority to under take a journey of 6,000 miles, more or less, to take up his home among strangers in a strange land. And the parents whose opposition to the whole business was unutterable, took "an affectionate farewell" of this precocious and undutiful son.

The story of the "fraudulent" father setting out for a strange country in search of his disobedient son is intended to be deeply pathetic, but its absurdity completely smashes that sentiment. This fraudulent father had not heard from his son because the Elders had taken all his money and guarded him so closely he could not send a letter. A lady with a large heart, however, broke through this conspiracy by giving him a nickel, by means of which he was enabled to send a letter. It appears that that small coin of the realm was the talisman by which he made a breach in the guard, but it is not explained whether or not it was applied on postage or whether he used the fund for the purpose of bribing the sentinel.

Those Elders who took the small boy's change intercepted Mr. Rutter's letter to his wife, but wrote another enclosing the money, and directing that it was to be used to pay Mrs. R's passage to Utah. This communication which indicated a deep anxiety on the part of people here to bring others along in order that they might employ their time in standing guard over them and sitting up at nights to see that no letters were sent out by mail, was believed by this versatile woman to be authentic. She probably had never seen the handwriting of her husband.

The innuendoes indulged in by Mrs. E. T. R. in relation to the conduct of the Elders on the voyage are exceedingly disgusting, as she alludes to conduct for the perpetration of which an Elder would subject himself to excommunication from the Church.

And so on, every statement could be disposed of from introduction to climax, the alleged visit to Logan and the incidental assertions connected with it being absurd and utterly and totally untrue. The avowal that Mr. Rutter was murdered, the taking of the farm property "by the church," and the flight of mother and daughter to Ogden, seven miles from West Weber, where they had been living, and where all four of the Rutters had been treated hospitably and in a way that showed much solicitude for their welfare, are all of a piece. Everybody in this region knows that the whole story is a fabric of falsehood, erected on a slender base of fact.

Owing largely to the indefatigable efforts of our Chicago correspondent to unearth the foundation of the Rutter romance, we requested Mr. Joseph Hall, of Ogden, to hunt up the facts so far as they could be ascertained. Owing to the absence from home of some of the parties familiar with the circumstances, he has been unable to reach them until now, and we here-with present the result of his efforts. We take occasion to state that if a similar course were taken regarding all the anti-"Mormon" blood-and-thunder stories published abroad, a similar result would be attained. But they are so numerous that their refutation would not only be a Herculean, but an almost impossible task:

Statement of Charles H. Greenwell.

OGDEN CITY, Utah, July 26, 1888.

In the early part of April, 1881, I left my home in West Weber, and started on a mission to preach the Gospel in England. I arrived in Liverpool on May 13th, the same year. In the early part of July, 1882, I went to North Shields, and shortly afterwards became acquainted with Mr. John Thomas Rutter and family. Mr. Rutter was at that time a member of the Salvation Army. Mrs. Rutter, his wife, was then a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as also were his daughter Ann E. and his son John Thomas. Mrs. Rutter was very anxious for her husband to join the "Mormon Church." During my visits to the family I had a number of conversations with Mr. Rutter on the subject of "Mormonism." He became impressed favorably towards the doctrines of the "Mormon" Church. On the 21st of December, 1882, I again visited the family, when Mrs. Rutter told me her husband desired baptism, and that he wished me to perform that ordinance for him, which I did the same evening. I also, at her request, re-baptized Mrs. Rutter. Subsequently Mr. and Mrs. Rutter expressed to me a great desire for their son John T. being under age, to go to Utah, in my charge, when I returned home, as his protector. I consented and promised to either provide him a home with me or some of my friends. The parents furnished the bare passage money for him, and I provided him with food and all other necessities he required from New York to Ogden. We sailed from Liverpool May 16, 1883, in the steamship *Nevada*. We arrived in Ogden on the 3rd of June following. I took the boy, Rutter, to my house and gave him a home. He remained with me until the latter part of March, 1884, during which time he was treated with great kindness; he expressed himself highly satisfied with the treatment he received from me when he was with me. I provided him with clothes, food and spending money. At this time having nothing for the boy to do, I procured him a situation with Mr. Joseph Alvord in West Weber, with whom he stayed until the latter part of 1886. He afterwards came to Ogden and obtained a situation in the broom factory of H. B. Scoville. He remained there until he returned to England. While living with me young Rutter corresponded with his parents in England, and urged them to come to Utah as soon as they could.

In the fall of 1884, Mr. Rutter came to Utah. Shortly after he arrived he found employment with Mr. Joseph Alvord of West Weber. In the spring of 1886, Mrs. Rutter and her daughter, Ann E., came here and went to their husband and father at Mr. Alvord's farm. They remained there until after Mr. Rutter was drowned in the Weber River. At the death of Mr. Rutter the neighbors, indeed, the people of the entire settlement, were very kind to them, giving them food, clothing, etc., for their comfort.

(Signed) CHARLES H. GREENWELL.

The foregoing statement was produced, subscribed and sworn to before me this 26th day of July, A. D. 1888.

[SEAL] N. TANNER, JR.,
Notary Public for Weber County, Utah Territory.

Joseph B. Alvord's Statement.

OGDEN, Utah, July 23, 1888.

I first became acquainted with the late Mr. John T. Rutter in the fall of the year 1881. His son John, T. Jr., was living with me at my home, on my place in West Weber, Weber County, Utah. His son was, at the time I took him, in the spring of 1884, without a home, and had no kinsfolks in this country. The boy did chores for me about the farm yard and on the farm, assisting, somewhat, when I needed his help. I found him bold, clothing and some spending money, and paid his school tuition.

Mr. Rutter, Senior, arrived in Utah in the fall of 1884. Soon after his arrival I met him in Ogden City. He was without employment, had no money, and was without the means of obtaining a living. He looked downcast and dejected. As his son was then at my house, I invited Mr. Rutter to go there with me. He gladly accepted my invitation. On our way to West Weber I asked him what he intended to do for a living. He replied that he did not know. He saw no prospect of obtaining any employment. He remained with me during the winter of 1884-5, and did chores on my premises. He assisted to haul out manure to the field, and did what odd jobs he could. I did not, of course, pay him much by way of wages, as his services were not of much value to me as a farmer, especially in the winter season. I found him in food and clothing and furnished him with tobacco, etc.

The following spring I learned that Mr. Oscar Short needed an engineer to run the engine at his steam sawmill, at White Pine, in the mountains. I visited and talked with Mr. Short on the subject on behalf of Mr. Rutter. Mr. Short promised me that Mr. Rutter should have the situation if he was competent to run the engine. Mr. Rutter was engaged, and after a trial he was found unable to manage the machinery properly. However, Mr. Short did not at once discharge Rutter, but kept him at work until he had earned a considerable sum of money. After he left Short, Rutter came again to my house and made it his home.

In the fall of 1885, a situation was obtained for him to work in the coal mines at Almy, Wyoming Territory. He remained there till some time in January, 1886, when an accident occurred in the mines and Rutter got scared and left there. He returned again to West Weber, and again made my house his home; in fact, he would not go anywhere else to live.

By this time he had saved a little money and was anxious to obtain more money and send for his wife and daughter, who were then in England. He handed over to me fifty dollars. I put fifty-one dollars more to it, making in all one hundred and one dollars, which amount I sent to the immigration agent to bring them here. They came. They arrived at Ogden in the early part of June and were there met by Mr. Rutter with my team. On the night of June they all came to my place, where they were made welcome by myself and family. They remained at my house about three weeks, during which time I boarded them free of charge.

In the month of July they rented a house in the settlement, to which they removed. Mr. Rutter, however, continued to eat his meals at my house for some time afterwards.

Soon after this time the mother and daughter being desirous to "work out," they obtained a situation at the Broom Hotel, in Ogden City; but Mr. Rutter still remained with me, and helped me to harvest the first crop of lucern-hay.

On August 11th, 1886, when the sun was about an hour high, he lighted his pipe, and started out on horseback to fetch my cows from the pasture.

As he did not return after a reasonable time of absence I became uneasy about him and sent another man on horseback to look for him. He met the cows and returned with them to the corral, supposing that Rutter was some distance behind and would soon be home. A considerable time elapsed and he did not appear. I became alarmed for his safety and started out with the same man on horseback to search for him. We hunted in vain until eleven o'clock at night. We then returned to the settlement and procured more men and continued the search. We traversed the river bottoms, and wherever we thought he might be. We shouted, hallooed, and called his name, but all to no purpose. I went to Plain City and inquired of some acquaintances if he had been there, but no one had seen him. We continued the search till two o'clock in the morning and then returned home for a little rest. At daylight, we resumed the hunt. About nine o'clock in the morning the body was discovered by Wheatley Gibson, William Telford and Hyrum Hogge. Mr. Gibson took it out of the water. It was found in a hole in the river between West Weber and Plain City north. It was about seven feet deep, and 12 feet from the north bank of the river. The body was in a standing position when found. Deceased had his hat in his right hand which he must have grasped by the crown or top. The pasture is on the south side of the river, but Rutter had evidently missed the cows and crossed on the horse to the north side to look for the cows there. He had followed in his search along the bank for a considerable distance until he came to a place where it was overhanging with willows, at which place the animal must have gone off the bank and both horse and rider fallen into the deep water and in this way Rutter was drowned. We found the tracks of the horse but did not find any tracks of Rutter's feet. The horse escaped and was not recovered until two days afterwards.

A team was procured and the body was taken to the town and an inquest was held over the remains. The body was thoroughly examined by the jurors and no marks of violence whatever were found upon it. It has been stated by some newspaper that when the body was taken from the water a hole was found in the back of the head. This statement, however, is not true.

After a close investigation the jury returned the following verdict:

WEST WEBER PRECINCT,
Weber County, Utah,
August 12, 1886.

The undersigned on their oaths do say that (John) Thomas Rutter, whose body is now lying here dead before them, came to his death accidentally by drowning in the Weber River on the 11th day of August, 1886.

GEORGE JAMIESON,
WHEATLEY GIBSON,
JAMES HOGGE,
Jurors.

J. B. ALVORD, Justice of the Peace.

On August the 13th the funeral services were held at the house of James B. Ririe; the wife, son and daughter were present. A good coffin and burial clothes, etc., were prepared for the remains, which were respectfully interred in the West Weber burying ground. I paid the entire expenses of the funeral, without receiving one cent of remuneration. I did this freely.

At the funeral I asked Mrs. Rutter, in the presence of the congregation, if she and her children were satisfied with the manner in which I had acted in relation to the funeral.

They expressed themselves fully satisfied with it.

After the funeral Mrs. Rutter and her daughter returned to their employment at the Broom Hotel in Ogden City. The boy remained with me about three months longer. At the end of that time he went to herd sheep for the Messrs. McFarland.

After the death of Mr. Rutter I always treated the widow with courtesy

and kindness and assisted her to the best of my ability when she was in need.

A few days before she left for England I met her near the First National Bank in Ogden, and had a friendly conversation with her, during which she said she intended soon to make a visit to my family in West Weber. I told her she would be welcome, and invited her to visit us whenever she wished to do so. I have never seen Mrs. Rutter since.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of July, 1888.

N. TANNER, JR.,
Notary Public, Weber County, Utah Territory.

Statement of Wheatley Gibson.

OGDEN, Utah, July 26, 1888.

I was present at the discovery of the body of John Thomas Rutter, who was drowned in the Weber River, Aug. 11th, 1886. I took the body from the water in the presence of a number of other citizens of West Weber. The body was found in an upright or standing position. In one of the hands of the deceased he held his hat, which he had evidently seized by the crown or top part. I was also a member of the jury at the coroner's inquest held over the body, which was thoroughly examined by us—that is the jury—and I solemnly declare that there was no hole in the back of the head of deceased, neither were there any marks of violence whatever on any part of the body.

[Signed] WHEATLEY GIBSON.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of July, A. D. 1888.

[SEAL] N. TANNER,
Notary Public, Weber County, Utah Territory.

EUROPEAN NOTES.

French Projects—Death of Queen Esther—Increase of Cremation—Eastern Question—Bismarck's Schemes—Winds and Storms.

The Emperor Charles V once said, "There is no nation does more to ruin itself than France, and yet everything turns out for her salvation. France is never so near success as when she seems beaten down by fortune. Unceasingly on the point of perishing, she rises up again with incredible vitality."

A fulfillment of those words was seen in the years following the terrible defeats of the Franco-Prussian war and the still more terrible scenes of the Parisian Commune in 1871. With her military prestige gone, a portion of her territory appropriated by the enemy, the government weakened by the dissensions of political factions, many of her public buildings, in ruins, and her finances crippled by a debt equal to four thousand millions of dollars, it seemed for a time that France must cease to be a prominent nation of the earth. Yet in eight years that enormous debt was paid, her commerce revived, and she, a sadder and perhaps a wiser nation, entered upon a career of prosperity which may give her a truer glory, and more grateful remembrance among the nations of the earth.

The works of the great sculptors, painters and architects of Greece and Italy have won for those nations the world's sympathies. Whatever may happen to them, their sciences, arts and literature will inspire feelings of veneration toward either, which will increase from generation to generation. In like manner, the fine arts constitute for France an admirable propaganda. To these France seems destined to owe her greatest conquests. The check which French militarism has received may prove a lasting benefit to the world, or directing French genius to a nobler and more peaceful field. Whatever may be said against the French schools of painting and sculpture, we should not forget that if the nobles of England or the merchant princes of America did not patronize these works of art, they would soon fall into disrepute. When a higher morality and juster conceptions of the beautiful shall prevail we may expect to see a change in this direction. M. Lockroy, in his speech before the "Societe des Artistes" the other day, and the president, M. Bailley, in awarding the prizes to the various competitors, indicate that a reform has already commenced. Meanwhile, the preparations for the great International Exposition go gradually forward. That vast space known as the Champs de Mars, is quite covered with magnificent structures of iron and glass. The Eiffel Tower built exclusively of steel, makes itself daily more and more conspicuous. From its top when finished will be presented the grandest panorama of Paris that can well be imagined. The exposition itself will be not only the centennial of the French Revolution but likewise an attempt to surpass all previous expositions; and from the vast preparations now in progress it seems likely to succeed.

The project of building a grand maritime canal through France at a cost of five hundred millions of dollars may seem at first as very doubtful, but M. Jules de Douhet has demonstrated its feasibility and the manner in which the cities of France and financial societies have endorsed this plan is an earnest of success. This new ship canal is to start from Havre and by utilizing as far as practicable the Seine, the Loire and the Rhone will proceed in a nearly direct line to

and