

## EDUCATION IN UTAH.

Mr. Riggs' History of the same—  
Brigham Young a Champion  
of Common Schools—  
A Heathen Editor  
Frequently  
Sold.

Eds. TRIBUNE: Through the favor of some unknown friend, I have received a copy of the *Utah Educational Journal*, published in your city, and edited by Professor J. M. Coyner. He tells the reader the object of his publication is "to collect and disseminate such general information as will promote the best interests of home and school."

A VERY LAUDABLE OBJECT, and one in which every friend of Utah must wish him success. In this first number he seems to have depended largely upon the contributions of others, and acknowledges his own responsibility for all that he inserts by declaring that "as an editor, I shall always claim the privilege of making any explanation, or correcting any erroneous statement that may be made."

Among the contributed articles, I find one written by Mr. O. H. Riggs, school superintendent for the Territory, in which he gives the first chapter of a

### "HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN UTAH."

Mr. Riggs occupying an official position gives weight to his utterances; and as the editor, Mr. Coyner, in his watchful care to collect and disseminate only such facts as will promote the best interests of home and school, has not availed himself of his editorial privilege to correct or explain his correspondent's statement, we are led to the belief that

HE ENDORSES THE ENTIRE ARTICLE, and supposes that in publishing it he is carrying out the avowed object of his journal.

Mr. Riggs starts out with the arrival of Brigham Young and 143 pioneers in Salt Lake Valley on the 24th of July, 1847. The arrival of Orson Pratt with another body of pioneers the day previous, is not mentioned. He then gives a resume of the legislation by Congress and the Territory

### IN AID OF EDUCATION

and other purposes. He tells us in an ordinance incorporating the University of the State of Deseret, approved March 28th, 1850, it was made the duty of the Chancellor and Board of Regents, as soon as funds arising from donations or otherwise might justify, to establish a free school institution for the benefit of orphans and other indigent worthy persons. But he does not tell us whether this free school was ever established, or what amount of money was subscribed by wealthy Mormons to so laudable a purpose. As Brigham Young has publicly declared that

HE WILL NEVER GIVE ONE DOLLAR to educate another man's child, it is not likely that he was a donor to the proposed fund. Mr. Coyner would have done well in the exercise of his editorial supervision to explain that no such fund was ever raised, and that no orphan or other indigent worthy person was ever educated under this ordinance.

Mr. Riggs then gives a string of memorials to Congress, signed by the Governor (Brigham Young) and the Legislative Assembly, asking liberal grants of money for educational purposes, which petitions seem in no case to have been complied with. But he does not mention that the Territorial Legislature, December 29th, 1855, appropriated \$2,500 to procure fonts of type

IN THE DESERET ALPHABET, which type was used by the *News* for awhile, in mystifying its readers in every issue with columns of what they took to be the Choctaw language; nor does he tell that Orson Pratt was employed at an expense of nearly, or quite, \$10,000, to translate the Book of Mormon into the Deseret Alphabet, and that

SEVERAL THOUSAND COPIES of this worthless book were printed in New York.

Mr. Riggs plays possum upon the confiding editor, and gets in an extract from a message of Governor Brigham Young to the Legislative Assembly, delivered December 11th, 1854. Therein we have this high and divinely inspired official expressing the warmest solicitude in the promotion of educational facilities, and urging the establishment of

### "GOOD COMMON SCHOOLS"

in every ward and district in the Territory, to be kept open, not three or six months in the year, as was then the practice, but to be in full operation ten or eleven months out of the twelve. But Mr. Riggs omits to say that this recommendation was not acted upon; nor does he venture upon the surmise that when the Committee on Education of the House called upon his Excellency to learn his views in carrying out his suggestions, that the man of God burst into a hoarse laugh in the honorable members' faces, and told them to go about their business, as such a recommendation was

### ONLY PUT IN FOR DENYANCE.

The people of Utah know, and Mr. Riggs ought to know, that the educational committees of several Assemblies have consulted their master Brigham about framing a law to provide a school system for the Territory, and that he has imperiously ordered them to drop all such mischievous business.

### "I AM OPPOSED TO FREE SCHOOLS,"

he tells his followers in the Tabernacle, and to all legislation in favor of free schools," and early education, when the habits are to be formed and the mind is most plastic, he condemns because it renders our youth maudlin and addicted to yellow covered literature.

Mr. Riggs has not finished his "history of education in Utah." Suppose he tells us in his next chapter how he and Dr. Park and Rev. Mr. Haskins, of St. Mark's school, as a committee appointed by the Teacher's Association to draw up an ordinance for adoption by the Mayor and Council of Salt Lake to provide a common school system for this city, and how when the draft had been approved by the Teacher's Association, it was delivered to Mayor Wells for introduction to the City Council, but that perverse individual

### PERSISTED IN KEEPING IT IN HIS

POCKET.

Other interesting facts it would be well for him to mention. The Teacher's Association, in the fall of 1873, prepared a petition to the Legislature praying for the passage of an act to establish a common school system for the Territory, and by the efforts of Professor Macner, and, I believe, one of THE TRIBUNE editors, upwards of a thousand signatures were obtained to the petition. After all this labor, a bill supported by this numerous signed petition, was presented to the Legislature, and the Committee on Education, of whom the ruffian John Taylor was chairman, summarily buried the bill by a report declaring such a measure

### INEFFECTIVE AT THE PRESENT TIME.

It would also be profitable to give some of the sayings of Brigham and his chief ecclesiasts at the Conference, in April last. Free schools are

### THE HORROR AND REPROBATION

of the entire Mormon hierarchy. Brigham says that boys and girls educated in such establishments grow up maudlin, indolent and worthless. Apostle Cannon says

they pauperize a people. Apostle Woodruff declares that the support of free schools would eat up all the property in Utah—real and personal—in twenty years.

If Mr. Coyner is honest in his assertion that he publishes this paper to promote the educational interests of Utah, he should guard against scattering broadcast to the country any such

### WORTHLESS AND UNSTRUCTURED "HISTORY

of Education in Utah" as Mr. Riggs has furnished him.

One point more, and I have done.

The writer closes his article with the following sentence:

While we are suffering in the meantime in consequence of the lack of assistance in our educational department, the public lands, reserved for schools in this Territory, are increasing in value, and are not sold and the revenue consumed by carpet-baggers. So we can but acknowledge the wisdom of Congress in withholding the public lands for the schools under a State Government.

Will Mr. Coyner prevail upon the School Superintendent to explain in his next contribution what he means by this apparently perfidious stab at the Gentile Element in Utah?

MILES'S BOX.

OGDEN, July 19, 1875.