

## PROFANING THE DEAD.

The special committee of the Legislative Assembly, appointed at the beginning of the session, to draft resolutions of respect to the memory of the late Mormon prophet, reported a long screed on Saturday, which was adopted by both Houses. The former leader of this Litter-day Church being in his grave, it would be nothing more than decent for those subordinate priests to leave his memory and his remains unmolested. The evil that men do lives after them; so let it be with Brigham. He has left a record which is rarely equalled for turpitude, and now he has gone to his account, the sooner the recollection of his ill-deeds fades from the minds of the present generation the better it will be for the feelings of his multitudinous kinsfolk. But these ill-mannered priests must rake over his cold ashes, and produce such a travesty upon his original form and pressure, as will offend the judgment of all who have regard for his name. We will reproduce a few of the superlatives the committee bring together, and let the reader judge of the gross caricature they have produced.

They start out with saying: "As a veteran champion in promoting the good and happiness of universal humanity, and as an earnest, faithful advocate for justice and the equal rights of man, Brigham Young has stood pre-eminently without a rival." John Howard was nowhere beside him, and Abraham Lincoln, the Liberator, pales into a faint shadow.

"Long before the authorities at Washington considered the project of a railroad feasible, Governor Young, with the Legislature of the Territory, petitioned Congress to adopt measures for this purpose; and when Government inaugurated this movement, it was through the influence of Brigham Young that a contract was engaged and completed, by the citizens of this Territory, of more than one hundred miles of this stupendous enterprise." The deceased prophet has publicly boasted that he made \$300,000 out of this contract, and this sum he netted by subletting the work at a reduced rate, and then taking nothing from the defrauded sub-contractors. This vast sum was acquired at the expense of hundreds of his followers who were reduced to bankruptcy under the exactions he imposed upon them.

"His veneration for the sacred Constitution of the United States, which our noble, patriotic forefathers framed by inspiration of the Almighty, never wavered, even when, through mal-administration, it ceased to afford him protection." The eulogists forgot to mention that during the Rebellion his devotion to the Constitution was so overpowering, that he hoped the fight would continue until both parties had eaten each other up, like the Kilkenny cats; and that he waged war against an army of the United States sent to Utah to induct Federal officials into their seats.

The report says further: "On Feb. 2d, 1851, he took the oath of office as Governor of the Territory, Commander-in-Chief of the militia and Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

\* \* He performed the duties of these offices with integrity, until in the spring of 1857, he was superseded by Governor Cumming." That little adventure at Mountain Meadows, in which a militia regiment took a leading part, the details of which he refused to listen to, because they might "harrow up his feelings;" and his sale of the property left by the slaughtered emigrants for the benefit of the Church, instead of applying the proceeds religiously to the support of the orphaned survivors, are not mentioned as being too near the truth for inspired preservation.

The next goal at the expense of the deceased prophet is so extravagant as to be really ghastly. "In promoting education," says the Lord's parliament, "by the establishment of schools, both the primary and higher departments, he has been noticing in his efforts and un sparing of his means. Besides establishing the Brigham Young Academy, now in successful operation in Provo, he has made investments for educational purposes in other directions." He invented the Deseret alphabet to isolate his followers from the thought and literature of the world, and diverted many thousand dollars from the educational fund, appropriated by the Legislature for school purposes, to having the Book of Mormon translated into this unknown tongue. He has publicly declared that he was opposed to free schools and to all legislation in favor of free schools, and his influence has always been exerted against the spread of intelligence.

Dr. Johnson used to say he was a dead hand at a life. This Utah Legislature, if we judge by the way they dish up George A. Smith and the Mormon prophet, are perfect butchers of a man's memory, and the way they daub on the whitewash and distort a deceased gentleman's characteristics is a scandal to our common humanity.