

AN UNSAVORY AFFAIR.

WE have received, as intimated in yesterday's issue, a communication from "A Private" of Company D., Sixth Infantry, stationed at Camp Douglas. It quotes a notice which appeared in the *Salt Lake Tribune* a few days ago of a marriage performed by a Methodist clergyman of this city, the presiding elder of that church in this District, the Rev. Mr. Iliff, being out of town at the time. The parties who were wedded were a private soldier of the Sixth Infantry and a colored prostitute. Some person sent to us the same notice that appeared in the *Tribune*, but we threw it into the waste paper basket.

Our correspondent goes into detail and states, beyond the fact of the marriage, that the soldier for whom the ceremony was performed was grossly under the influence of strong drink at the time and therefore not in his right senses. He characterizes the whole affair as most disgraceful, and passes some severe strictures upon the clergyman who officiated, and further states that the Sixth U. S. Infantry feel disgraced by it, as it might be considered a reflection upon that part of the army, notwithstanding that the men as a body look upon the affair not only with regret but disgust.

We did not publish the communication in full, because of its severe reflection upon a minister of a religious denomination, and our not having heard anything from the other side of the question. Since then we have seen the gentleman who officiated at the marriage, and he states that the male principal in the affair was not, so far as he could discover, under the influence of liquor to any extent. He also says, in further extenuation, in reference to the miscegenation part of the matter, that he thought the soldier, whom he describes as of dark complexion, was a colored man. In addition the gentleman regrets exceedingly that he performed the ceremony; he is sensible of having made a mistake, which he would not commit again under similar circumstances.

We consider this explanation due to our correspondent in view of our declination under the circumstances to publish in full his communication, which is forcibly written and extremely caustic. We will further say that no people of sense will be so unjust, and lacking in the power of discrimination as to condemn a whole regiment or any part of it on account of one soldier connected with it being associated with a very disreputable affair. The Sixth Infantry need not pay attention to the animadversions of people of such small judgment, who, however, are in our opinion, comparatively few. And as the gentleman who performed the ceremony under such improper conditions acknowledges his error, we do not consider that it would be proper for us to flaunt his name before the public in that connection, that having been already done by the paper in which the notice appeared.

As we have stated that no stigma should attach to the Sixth Infantry as a body on account of the ill conduct of one of its soldiers, so do we also in reference to the Methodist Church. No blame should attach to that religious body on account of an error committed by one of its clergymen.