

said truthfully that there is no more thrifty, temperate, industrious, or better disposed body of citizens in the territory. The practice of polygamy among them is now unknown, having long since been abandoned. They have done as much to bring about the prosperous condition, from an agricultural point of view, by which Arizona is blessed today, as any other part of the community, especially in the reclamation of the soil by irrigation, of which they are acknowledged masters as well as pioneers in the United States."

It would be no injury to the public school pupils to have provided in their libraries some literature of the character of the later instances given, saying good and truthful things of the people, Mormons and non-Mormons, Jew and Gentile. Instead of the class of books to which objection is here raised.

NEWSPAPERS IN SCHOOLS.

Speaking of the introduction of newspapers as text books in the public schools of Kansas City, the New York Mail and Express says this is not so much of an innovation as would at first appear. The use of newspapers as a basis of instruction in schools long ago suggested itself and has become common in all large cities where the journals have more than local scope. "What the superintendent of the Kansas City schools has done officially is to give his sanction to a practice whose very usefulness has made it frequent."

There certainly are reasons why newspapers could be used to great advantage in the manner indicated. Their news columns contain, from day to day, the history of the world, while other columns properly may be styled an encyclopaedia of useful knowledge on nearly every topic within the field of human research. The editorials of many papers furnish the proper key to the events of the day, and they are often written with an elegance, clearness and force, unsurpassed even by classical writers. In view of these facts newspapers may well be considered great educational agencies.

On the other hand some papers are unfit to enter either school or home, owing to the undue prominence they give systematically, by pictures and otherwise, to events of the world, the constant reading of which is unquestionably demoralizing, particularly to young boys and girls. Others are unsuitable as educators because they are, as it were, blinded to the broader principles of truth by the constant attention to only one side of it. But these defects would, perhaps, be remedied, were the papers to be adopted as text books for schools. Superintendents would in that case be likely to select only papers in every respect suitable for the purpose; a standard would be established, and the papers would probably endeavor to reach that standard.

OFFENSIVE AND DISHONEST.

On the 11th inst. the "News" protested against the absurd and offensive practice, indulged in by politicians and their organs in this State, of proclaiming that the people of Utah are "now" free. Our characterization of the political speakers and scribblers who indulge in this practice was not exactly complimentary, and on Saturday last the Democratic organ attempts to reply. It quotes a resolution adopted at the general Conference of the Church held in October, 1891, in which the statement is made that the members of the Mormon Church "are and have been perfectly free to unite with any

or no political party." A declaration by the First Presidency published in March, 1892, containing an expression of similar significance, is also quoted, and a bungling attempt is made to apply to the general Conference and to the officers of the Church the criticisms offered by the "News" on the individuals who are perpetually reiterating the assertion that voters in Utah are "now" free.

The declarations made by the general Conference, and by the First Presidency, upon this subject, referred to the past as well as the future and were dignified refutations of slanderous statements made by political speakers and writers, who had long persisted in asserting that the members of the Mormon Church were not free, but were the vassals of their ecclesiastical leaders. If the denials by the Conference and First Presidency of these assertions were to be quoted honestly and in a respectful manner, and in the spirit in which they were made, and with the application they were intended to have, viz., to the past as well as the future, no valid objection could be made, and certainly none would be attempted by this paper, to the use, however frequent, of the language of those denials.

But a dishonest use is made of the declarations promulgated by the general Conference and First Presidency, quoted by the Democratic organ, when those declarations are referred to by it, and by other political organs, and by the political speakers whom the "News" criticised. The dishonesty embraces these two elements: 1. The implication that the utterances quoted had reference to the future, and not to the past; that they were intended as a sort of proclamation of emancipation, and that liberty was unknown among the Mormons until these utterances were made. 2. The further implication that the Mormon people cannot properly use their freedom nor display their independence except by refusing to listen to any advice or suggestions about public matters, from any man who happens to hold a prominent ecclesiastical position.

By its express terms, the resolution adopted by the Conference, which the Democratic organ quotes, covered the past as well as the future, in repudiating control over voters; and like expressions from the First Presidency, often repeated, have also covered the past. When, therefore, a declaration to the effect that the Mormon people are free to vote as they choose, is made in such a manner, or in such a connection as to imply that this condition of freedom has been recently attained, it is a slander, a taunt and an insult.

The pretense of the politicians and their organs that it is necessary for the Mormons, in order to be free and independent, to refuse to listen to their leading men in reference to public matters, is merely another spider-and-fly strategem. It is a false pretense. It is an attempt to persuade the people to follow false lights, and to exchange old and long tried friends for new ones of a most doubtful character. It is a dishonest method of making political capital, and winning support at the polls.

The real spirit and meaning in which the Democratic organ reiterates the assertion that the Mormon are "now" free, are sufficiently shown by the following paragraph from its article of Saturday last:

There isn't a person in Utah but knows that beneath the smooth surface of our political and social life there are some currents, and that they run in the old channels. Nobody cares to disturb the smooth surface, hoping that eventually the currents underneath will cease to be and all become stilled and quiet. But there is no

use to tell people who live in Utah that our erstwhile troubled waters have reached absolute quietude, for they have not."

This means that the Mormons are not entirely free yet, that their freedom is more or less precarious, and that "erstwhile" conditions of vassalage may possibly supervene at any time. "There isn't a person in Utah but knows that beneath the smooth surface of" the oily assurances of political papers and speakers about freedom in Utah, there are more or less pointed insinuations that impeach the manhood of the men who founded this State, and the veracity of their religious leaders, and that are offensive and insulting in the highest degree.

The "News" again protests against such references to freedom in Utah as the politicians and their organs are in the habit of making. Let them speak of liberty among the Mormons as it has been, now is and always will be, or not at all, the highest, purest and best form of liberty that men have ever known. Insinuations that the foundations of our State were laid by slave labor, that its first inhabitants came into it by compulsion, were detained by force, were ruled by tyranny and afflicted by oppression; that they were compelled to vote for lawmakers and to submit to laws that were obnoxious to them, and that these deplorable conditions continued until the politicians got in their work quite recently, are so shamefully violative of truth, and so offensive in the estimate they put upon the people to whom they refer, as to be unendurable.

TOO HASTY, MR. NUTTING.

In Falkland, North Carolina, the "News" has a correspondent, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints a member, named Hannah M. Peaden. Some time since this sister wrote a humble testimony, which we published. This city then had, and still has, a Congregational minister, named John D. Nutting, the same being pastor of the Plymouth church over in the northwestern part of town. His eagle eye fell upon the published testimony above referred to, and under date of October 15th, and giving his address as 160 Third North street, Mr. Nutting wrote Mrs. Peaden, as follows, addressing her as "Dear Madame":

"I see in the 'News' a letter from you which shows that you are far from understanding the truth about this locality and about Mormonism. It is very painful to us who have been here in the midst of all the moral corruption of that system of belief and practice to find others honestly believing the opposite to be the case, as you evidently do. Permit me to say, however, that polygamy has never been abolished, but that one of the 12 Apostles, so-called, married his fifth wife a year ago, while 18 polygamous babies have come under my notice within a year and a half, perhaps—several of them born to those who belong in the two highest ranks of Mormonism. When the Mormon 'Elders' go east to preach they don't parade all of Mormonism, by any means—only the least offensive part, leaving the rest to be found out later. The system is as much opposed to the word of God as is any system of heathenism on earth, and I have yet to see any real uplift of character or life from it, while there is constant evidence in the profanity and intemperance and lewdness which is characteristic of multitudes among them, even up to the higher officials, that the system is ruinous to character and life.