

sale or gift as a beverage, any intoxicating liquors, and no person, association or corporation shall import any of the same for sale or gift, or sell or offer or keep the same for sale, or gift, barter or trade as a beverage.

It will be observed that the prohibition refers only to the manufacture, sale, giving away or importation, etc., of intoxicating liquors as a beverage.

This question and every other ought to be treated with fairness and candor. The people very properly resent any attempt to mislead them.

ATTACK ON PRESIDENT CANNON.

The much-discussed attack of the *New York Times* upon President George Q. Cannon, and incidentally upon the sons who bear his name, and the enterprises with which he or they are associated, has at length been received in all its slimy length of venom and falsehood. The honored names of many leading and influential men are also mentioned in flippant and sarcastic criticism and by a scheme of distortion that is without even the merit of ingenuity, the nameless slanderer seeks to cast suspicion upon events and transactions that are in truth as open and honest as the day. President Cannon's great crime in the eyes of this defamer appears to be that he has had a successful life, and that as a result of half a century of association with and labor among the people of Utah, he has acquired influence among them. The head and front of his offending is this—and nothing more. Beginning with a lie, the assault is continued in the same strain through several long columns, and almost every paragraph concludes with the charge that thus has this "remarkable man" become an owner of mining or mercantile or bank or manufacturing stock, an editor, a farmer, a railroad proprietor, a cattle raiser, a promoter, a politician, or a counselor in the Presidency of the Mormon Church, as the case may be. Such attainments are the very essence of atrocity, this base scribbler would have us believe! And yet President Cannon's mail is at present heavy with congratulations from far and near—as the leader of a great banking house in New York expresses it, congratulations "on past achievement in the advancement of mighty enterprises for the welfare of your part of the country, and congratulations on the influence to institute and carry on new enterprises, which even an enemy is forced to give you credit for."

Each and every charge of fraudulent, dishonest or even questionable conduct in the accomplishment of the purposes with which President Cannon is accused, it is safe and easy to deny, to brand as false, and to prove to be false to the satisfaction of any fair-minded person. An honorable man's life and record are of themselves a sufficient answer to any lies that envious and degraded souls may put in circulation. And as to the fact that the assault in this case happens to be anonymous, we imagine that a close analysis of his work will go far toward showing the animus and motive behind it, if not indeed disclose the very identity of the hand itself.

We shall hardly have time or space to go through the whole article today, or to subject it to the searching analysis above hinted at. But the first two or three columns may receive a little attention, and meanwhile the observant reader will be able to note, we think, certain evidences that will lead him to the conclusion that not the Church itself, not the Mormon people as such, not the leaders of the Church with whom President Cannon is associated in all the various enterprises mentioned, but he and he alone is the object of the villainous assault. Primarily, then, jealousy of or hostility toward him personally may be looked upon as the motive; he appears to have full reason for the mental soliloquy that "some enemy hath done this thing."

That some of President Cannon's family or relatives have had a measure of success in business, literary or political aspirations, is cited with great unction. But surely this is not to be charged in dishonor to him; yet it is one of the subjects on which he is attacked. Nor does it appear plain why he alone should be blamed because Gen. J. S. Clarkson and "Joe" Manley gave offense to the *Times* writer by coming to Salt Lake City last year. As a matter of fact, other gentlemen also came, some of them from the East, some from the West, some from Europe and we think we call a few diplomats from far-off Japan and one or two learned men from India. The arraignment should have included all these.

Mr. John Beck's statement as to the charge of fraud in President Cannon's acquirement of mining stock will probably need no additional endorsement; he is the man said to have been injured, yet he insists that he wasn't swindled at all, that any charge of fraud is ridiculous, that the transaction was in every way straight and legitimate. As to the romance of any deal in "consecrated" stock in that mining property, there were various other stockholders in the company and all had the same understanding as to the "consecration" of the stock. President Cannon again is the only one mentioned; yet each and all the others can testify that the *Times* account of his profiting by it is utterly untrue.

As to his real estate belongings, either of property that at one time was supposed to belong to the Church, or any other property, President Cannon's purchases have been in every case open, legitimate and according to contract. He is not the only real estate owner in Utah; there are others who have bought property at the same time and in some cases from the same parties that he did, while he and his family are alone mentioned; his right of possession is as unclouded and as free from suspicion as anything of the kind ever was in the world. The same may be said of ownership of banking stock and stock in Z. C. M. I., both Church concerns the *Times* wishes it understood, and both we beg to say, good sound institutions in which no one need be ashamed to be either a stockholder or an official.

The next count in the indictment is that President Cannon is an editor, the possessor of "undoubted literary abil-

ity," and that the establishment which bears his name prints a good many books, magazines, etc. Well, is there any crime in all this? And is there anything so heinous in the fact that two of his sons are the principals as lessees (not owners) of the *DESERET NEWS* and its publications? President Cannon himself had the least to do of all the parties concerned in the arrangement of that lease; he knew nothing about it until its consummation was well under way, and certainly there is not one of the stockholders of the original company who raised his voice against the conclusion of an agreement which they regarded as highly favorable in that it relieved them all of the financial risk and responsibility, which the lessees took upon themselves.

The Utah company comes in for a tremendous attack, so do the sugar factory, the Salt Lake and Los Angeles railroad, Saltair Beach (which is described as magnificent but of which the infamous falsehood is told that it was partly built by money donated for the completion of the Temple). In all of these vast enterprises President Cannon's connection is referred to as though it were blameworthy; and yet there is no scintilla of truth in a single unworthy motive attributed to him or in any charge of a single improper or suspicious business transaction. He is the arch-conspirator who, of all those associated with those companies, is the one that has to occupy so much of the *Times* writer's attention and so much of the *Times*' space.

We have not yet reached the charges of his political influence, ranging not only all over Utah, but developing itself also in the Idaho politics of a few years ago; what with "test oaths," and constitution-making, and change of front and so on and so forth, the Salt Lake correspondent of the *New York Times* has found much matter for his poisonous assimilation. But the continuation of the subject will do for another day.

DEPOPULATED CITIES.

A recent issue of the *New York Mail and Express* contains a long article on the depopulation of cities and towns in the United States that once were thriving centers of business, but have been almost or quite deserted. There are hundreds of these scattered over nearly every part of the Union. Some which once had a population of 12,000 to 15,000 now are entirely without inhabitants. Of one city which occupies a prominent place in the history of the Latter-day Saints, the paper says:

Nauvoo, on the east bank of the Mississippi, in Illinois, was less than two generations ago the capital city of the Mormons. It had a population of 15,000, the \$1,000,000 temple of white limestone and the massive "House of Joseph." Here Joseph Smith had his revelations authorizing polygamy, and here he reigned as a Prophet under a state charter which granted his community its own courts and its own militia. But in 1844 the mob rose and massacred Joseph Smith, and in 1847 the Mormons were forced to emigrate to Utah. A colony of Icarians succeeded them, but they departed for Iowa, and now Nauvoo is a straggling