

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

AN EXPLANATION TO THE PUBLIC

There have been many communications of late in the newspapers concerning Colonel Isaac Trumbo and his affairs. Charges have been made, emanating from various sources, that there has been some financial connection between himself and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It has been repeatedly stated in years past, and the story has been revived of late, that Colonel Trumbo has had large amounts of money in his hands and under his control belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; that he has been its agent in the expenditure of funds for the accomplishment of certain ends that were desired to be achieved.

We have remained silent upon this subject. It is well known that from time to time charges are made and circulated concerning us and our affairs, which we deem it unnecessary to notice. It would be occupying too much of our time to be contradicting stories which are put in circulation by one and another for their own purposes. This feeling has restrained us in the past in relation to Colonel Trumbo and his connection with us and our affairs. But it seems to be proper now, and just to ourselves, as well as common justice to him, that we should say something in relation to the association that has existed between Colonel Isaac Trumbo and ourselves as the representatives of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

First of all, we wish to state most emphatically that Colonel Trumbo has not had property of ours in his possession for such purposes as alleged. He has neither been our financial agent, nor had any control of our property. We have not entrusted him with amounts of money to expend for us for any such purposes.

In the time of our deep distress, when bitterness and hatred were manifested against us in almost every public quarter, Colonel Isaac Trumbo came to Utah, and showed interest in our affairs. Some of his own relatives were involved in cases that were then before the courts. One prominent connection of his was consigned to the penitentiary, on the common charge that was in vogue against so many prominent Latter-day Saints. The colonel's sympathies, it seems, were aroused, at least in behalf of his kinsfolk. This caused him to take interest in the whole question; and this interest absorbed him to such an extent that he withdrew from profitable business that he had at the time in San Francisco, and devoted himself almost exclusively to the labor of correcting the false impressions which prevailed and to the enlistment of the press in the correction of the many falsehoods and aspersions which were in circulation; and afterwards, on a wider field, using his influence with leading men of the nation. We may say here that Colonel Isaac Trumbo is a man of extraordinary energy. When he undertakes anything that he thinks ought to be done, he is untiring in his efforts to accomplish it. These characteristics were wonderfully illustrated in the labors which he took upon himself in behalf of the maligned and misrepresented Latter-day Saints. Being a man of means, he was able to travel from place to place, and especially to visit and sustain himself at Washington. We can never forget his

activity in visiting editors and using his influence to correct public opinion through the press. No man could have displayed greater zeal and disinterestedness than he did in the labors that he took upon himself. We felt that he was inspired; for, not being a member of our religious organization, and having no financial ends to accomplish that would be remunerative to him, there was nothing to incite him to these extraordinary exertions except a purely philanthropic desire to defend an oppressed and unpopular people and to roll back the tide of calumny and evil that threatened to overwhelm them. We felt thankful many times for the kind Providence which raised him up; for he seemed to come to our aid at a time when a man in his position and with his indefatigable energy was especially needed.

When the Mormon people were threatened with disfranchisement, Col. Trumbo spent considerable time in Washington, exerting himself to the utmost of his ability to defeat that infamous measure. And while there were other agencies also at work for everyone that had any influence in the community realized how necessary it was that this measure should be defeated, still Colonel Isaac Trumbo was the means of bringing powerful influences to bear against the enactment of that villainous bill. In the defeat of that proposed legislation every member of our Church had cause to be deeply grateful to the Lord and to the instruments which, under Him, were the means of bringing it to naught.

With the same zeal and devotedness he worked untiringly to obtain the amnesty; and also afterwards in securing the return of the personal property to the Church, and in preparing the way for the return of the real estate.

He threw himself into the accomplishment of all these ends with an energy and wholeness of soul that won him many friends and crowned his labors and the labors of those who worked with him with success.

Colonel Trumbo was most fortunate in winning the respect and admiration of influential men in the nation. By his representations of the condition of things in the then Territory of Utah and his enthusiastic defense of the Mormon people, he aroused the active interest and sympathies of very many of them. This was notably the case with General James S. Clarkson. This gentleman was deeply moved by all that he learned, and he entered with his whole soul and great influence, with Colonel Trumbo, into the effort to make the true character of the people known to the nation and to remove the widespread and deeprooted prejudices which existed so generally at that time against the Mormon people. It would be invidious perhaps to attempt to give names of other leading and influential public men who, by the powerful appeals which were made to them, were induced to examine what was known as the Mormon question from a different standpoint to that which they had occupied; but their names are cherished in grateful remembrance by the men of Utah, and their deeds will be preserved in the history of the people. All the influence which he had gained by personal acquaintance Colonel Trumbo used to make the people of Utah better known to the nation at large, and towards preparing the way for the admission of Utah as a State. It is not necessary for us to go into details concerning his labors in this direction; it is sufficient to say that probably no single agency contributed so much to

making Utah a State as the labors of Colonel Isaac Trumbo and his immediate friends.

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GEORGE Q. CANNON,
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A SEEKER FOR FAME.

"Do you know a man in Utah by the name of Jones?" was once asked of a gentleman from this city who was traveling in Illinois. "Jones—Jones—I've certainly heard the name somewhere in Utah," replied the gentleman, somewhat facetiously. There is an individual named Jones, whose home is in this city, and who seems to have determined to achieve such a degree of national distinction that there will no longer be any doubt in any state that Utah has a citizen of that name.

Mrs. Partington was once travelling on a train that was slowly passing through a large manufacturing town in New Jersey, when she read the following sign, painted in large letters on the side of a long building: "Jones Manufacturing Company." "Law sakes!" exclaimed the old lady, "I never knew before where all the Joneses come from!" Further than this bit of general information, the "News" has no knowledge of the ancestral antecedents of the Utah citizen of familiar cognomen, above referred to, who has set out to achieve fame; but since his residence in this city, which dates back some years, he has been reputed to possess scientific attainments, more or less profound, and has occasionally appeared in print on subjects pertaining to the fauna, flora, minerals and "bugology" of this region.

To tell the truth about him as it is currently understood in this community, this Mr. Jones has borne himself in rather an unobtrusive manner, has seemed to be quite devoted to scientific pursuits, has been employed occasionally as a mining expert, and has given no evidence of the ambition which a late effort of his proves to have been long smoldering within him. This effort materializes in the shape of an article, containing perhaps two thousand words, and printed in the Chicago Advance under the following caption: "The present situation in Utah as the result of Statehood, by Hon. Marcus E. Jones, Salt Lake City."

When Mr. Jones writes for a Utah publication, "Prof." is the handle attached to his name. How odd it is that when a political dabbler is about to say or do something dishonorable, he dubs himself "Hon." In his contribution to Mormoniana this one clearly shows himself not to be entitled to the latter prefix. He says, speaking of conditions that followed the dissolution of the old political parties:

"It was wonderful to see how the old-time prejudice melted away among the Mormons when the Church let them think and act as they felt. Eastern people were invited and made welcome in the various settlements of Utah, and invested their means in business. We who had known the Mormon people through long years of bitter experience and who would not accept their protestations as genuine, were openly called mossbacks and croakers."

"Within a few months after statehood was in sight, the new comers in outside towns began to complain of less cordiality from the Mormons. Some who were employed in banks and business houses were dropped gradually for Mormons. Soon the business men complained that the people were boycotting them, and one after another they failed and left. This was laid at the door of general business depression by some."

It is tiresome to try to expose this insufferable nonsense about the "Church"