

shares as still the property of the company and not belonging to us.

With kind regards, your brethren,
(Signed) WILFORD WOODRUFF,
GEORGE Q. CANNON,
JOSEPH F. SMITH.

This should be sufficient to place the brethren right in the public mind. They are not promoters of this enterprise, neither have they bought any of the stock of the corporation. And in view of the influence that might be used by the use of their names they think proper to decline the gift of shares which the company generously made to them.

It is not unusual in organizing associations of this kind to place on the list of stockholders the names of prominent persons to give the corporation prestige. The shares are donated and the benefits derived from the use of those names are often greater than the price of the shares would bring. This is frequently done without any ulterior motive. But sometimes the purpose in view is to induce people to invest in doubtful or worthless projects, and is thus equivalent to obtaining money under false pretenses.

In the present case the company claim to have excellent prospects. But it should be understood that this is about the extent of the basis on which it is organized. As we understand it, the mines have not yet been worked. They may turn out all that is anticipated and they may not. It is a matter of speculation. Therefore people should be careful about investing on any other ground or expectation. If they think the venture is worth risking money in it and they have the means to spare for the investment, that is their own affair. And what they do should be done on their individual responsibility. That is the main point. They should not be induced to take chances on the plea that capitalists, or "big men," or church authorities are in it.

Every business institution, or manufacturing enterprise, or mining concern should stand on its own merits. Any investments in either should be made on business principles. A struggling home industry may need support without promise of immediate returns. In that case the matter should be understood, and no flattering prospects be held out to gain the help that is wanted. In the promotion of any scheme involving the investment of capital, the utmost candor should be used, and every investor should act with a clear understanding of the situation and not merely because of the use of great names in connection with the venture.

We are glad to see that the presiding authorities of the Church have set themselves right in this matter, and

we are sure it will be gratifying to a host of their friends and followers. At the same time we desire to do no injury or injustice to the company which placed their names on its list of stockholders, nor do we attribute improper motives to any one connected with it. If the properties owned develop into all that its most sanguine promoters predict, they will be none the worse off for the courteous return of stock which they so generously donated.

A RECOURSE OF COWARDS.

THERE is one form of falsehood and calumny for which all honest men ought to have the most unutterable contempt. When it enters into a newspaper the latter can only be properly designated as a journalistic monstrosity, and the men who resort to such a sneaking method as belonging to the most degraded of cowardly sneaks in human shape that make upright people ashamed of such specimens of their kind.

We refer to the dastardly recourse of defamers who concoct actions and circumstances which never had an existence. The leading figure in the fabrication may be a "high church official," a "certain Bishop," or "old Mormon," "an aged woman who has resided in this city for these many years," "at a meeting held at a certain place," etc. Names and dates and places are left out, in order that the utterly false character of the statements may not be subject to complete exposure. Where names and places have been given the diabolical falsehoods have been refuted, as in the case of the fabricated "Bishop West Red Hot Address." Such exhibits of the cowardly concoctions of these professional libelers have made them cautious, and names, places and dates are now carefully omitted, in order that the slanderers may avoid being caught.

A newspaper in this city, notorious for scurrility, constantly has recourse to the formulation of such manufactured individuals and circumstances. After constructing these fabrics of falsehood, it points to them with the exclamation, so to speak — "Now, doesn't that show the true character of the 'Mormons' and their religious leaders?"

To what a depth of depravity people have sunk who engage in such covert and contemptible means of controversy! It is safe to say that ninety-nine per cent of all such fabrications as these now referred to and which are, as already stated, made liberal use of in an anti-"Mormon" journal of this city, have no vestige of foundation in fact.

NOT A DESIRABLE INDUSTRY.

A FEW days ago the military department of France indulged in another sham battle. The soldiers played at the game of defending a great city on one side and carrying it by assault on the other. Germany, Austria and Russia have all been indulging in this pastime, while the French and English nations have also had great fun in dividing their respective fleets into hostile squadrons and going through maneuvers in imitation of real fighting.

It is evident that one of the leading aims of all the prominent governments of the world is to keep their fighting power up to the highest possible standard. Thus the spirit of war permeates the whole earth, probably to as great an extent as at any time during its history.

Even this country is catching the spirit of the times. The result of this is that there may be a great military display at the proposed World's Fair in 1893. The proposition of General Miles to entertain at Chicago on that occasion a hundred thousand men of the National Guard is being seriously discussed, with a prospect of being adopted.

It is natural that such a proposal should come from a soldier who is in love with his profession. It is questionable, however, whether a great military display is in unison with the real object of the approaching Columbian Exposition. The entire genius of the exhibit ought necessarily to be pacific from every standpoint, like the initial one of its class inaugurated in London in 1851 and of which Prince Albert the Good was the originator. The object of the Prince Regent was, by increased international communication and harmonious efforts, to encourage the arts and industries of the world, to bring about a time when recourse to warfare would be abolished. The general impression is that fighting—of which military displays are strongly suggestive—is not one of the industries the cultivation of which is desirable. Hence the propriety of a military exhibit on a gigantic scale at the World's Fair of 1893 would be somewhat questionable.

EXCITEMENT IN CANADA.

GREAT excitement prevails, it is said, throughout Canada, because of the resignation of Secretary of State Chapleau. He is the recognized leader of the French Canadians, and spent the day of the 29th inst. in Montreal consulting with his people. Earnest efforts are being made to effect a com-