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DOING THEIR DUTY.

WE are pleased to see the City Councilors elected by the People standing up for reasonable taxes and economy in public expenditures. That was part of the platform on which they were elected.

It must be evident to all close observers that the estimates for expense for the current fiscal year were largely exaggerated, and that provision is being made for funds that are not needed. It is much more evident to the ordinary taxpayer that the valuation placed upon property is most exorbitant, especially considering the depression in the real estate market. Much property is being assessed considerably in advance of what it would fetch on a forced sale. The rate fixed, under these considerations, is beyond what is necessary and reasonable, and the endeavor made to reduce it will be approved by the majority of our citizens.

It is a great pity that one member of the Council is still absent from his post. We have no doubt he is reasonably detained, but nevertheless his presence would have been valuable on several important occasions. Last night his vote would have made a majority in favor of a reconsideration and the Mayor's vote to defeat it could not have been cast.

It will be seen that on the question of economy and low taxes, as against extravagance and heavy public burdens, the dividing line is drawn by party, the "Liberal" members holding up the latter, while their opponents maintain the former.

The oppressed taxpayers ought to understand this, thoroughly. If they want exorbitant taxes, great expenditures, unnecessary offices, big salaries, with few public improvements and no new public buildings or enterprises, they should hold up the "Liberal" faction and the "Liberal" administration. And as another evidence of "Liberal" influences and effects they should note the undeniable fact, that values in real estate have declined with the

prevalence of "Liberal" control and influence.

We hope the People's City Councilors will keep up their efforts to carry out the principles on which they were elected, and that they will not be discouraged. If they do their duty they will stand approved, whether they are successful or not. "Do what is right," etc.

CERTAINLY WHY NOT?

"THE NEWS insists that we shall prove what we assert, that is, that polygamous marriages are certainly celebrated in this Territory. There are some things we know that we cannot prove."

Certainly. We do insist that some proof shall be given for assertions like this, which appear from time to time in the *Tribune*:

"We know that the Temples in St. George and Logan are being used all the time for the celebration of polygamist marriages."

We say emphatically that the writer of that sentence does not know what he pretends. We say it is totally false. We challenge him to prove what he says. Is there anything unreasonable in that? Would any gentleman who claimed to know of things alleged to be continually occurring at given places object to being asked to give his proofs? When a person who seems to take delight in spreading false reports to the injury of the people among whom he lives, declares that he knows certain things, which nobody else knows and of which there is not the slightest perceptible evidence, should he not be required to prove what he says or stop his everlasting lying?

"There are some things we know that we cannot prove." Was there ever any more cowardly attempt to excuse a malicious libel? If a decent person has reason to believe something that he cannot prove, he will either hold his peace about it until he obtains evidence, or say he believes it, not make direct assertions which he cannot substantiate.

All the surmises about past occurrences which the *Tribune* hazards, would not justify its present statement, even if they were true, which they are not. We do not think the writer who claims to know about polygamous marriages, even believes that they are taking place. There is not anything existing as a ground for such belief, and knowing that, every day, statements are made in the *Tribune* which are intentionally false, we have reason for our belief in regard to the present subject.

If the Temples at Logan and St. George are being used all the time for "the celebration of polygamist marriages," surely one case can be proven.

We are certain that they are not being used for that purpose, and therefore we are equally certain that he who claims to know that they are, and will not make any attempt to prove what he asserts, is merely ranting for an evil purpose, and is undeserving of notice, to say nothing of respect.

HOW THE "TRIBUNE" RETRACTS.

EVERYBODY is familiar with the cowardly sort of unbrin who, when caught in a bad act, tries to escape punishment by implicating some other boy in his guilt, and who illogically pleads, in justification for lying, that "Johnny drowned the cat." That is the sort of craven, who is now trying to dodge the damaging proofs of his meanness and mendacity in the editorial columns of the Salt Lake *Tribune*.

We have given a plain statement of the facts in relation to the bogus "Bishop West" letter, and traced its way into Tennessee, where it stirred up the populace to such rage that they brutally murdered five men and mutilated an aged lady in a Sabbath meeting of Latter-day Saints. We have furnished names and dates and particulars. They are too plain and conclusive to be overcome.

Now what is the reply? Simply columns of billingsgate and false charges against other people. Tirades of abuse, a few partial facts mingled with wholesale inventions, and an exhibition of impotent rage, in the language of the coarse and brutal black-guard.

It is of no use. If all the untruths rattled off by the column in the *Tribune* were statements of fact, they would not change the proofs we furnished, nor form an excuse for the course of the *Tribune*, nor make "American gentlemen" out of vulgar and venomous lumps of meanness and mendacity.

The *Tribune* claims that when the discovery was made that the "Red Hot Address" was a forgery it made a frank and full and fair retraction. That is about the only thing in its column and a quarter of vituperation, that is to the point. And that is not true. When the proofs that the "Address" was bogus were made so positive that there was no chance for denial, the *Tribune* pretended it had been imposed upon, but also claimed that the address was made up from "Mormon" sermons, and said:

"There was not a thing in that bogus sermon which has not been taught in the Tabernacle harangues."

That is the kind of "apology" that