

manner in which the men were punished bordered on the incredible. But he belonged to the ranks himself and knew whereof he was writing; and late developments are substantiating his portrayal of the causes that produce desertions from the army.

#### THE RECEIVERSHIP STORY.

WE PUBLISHED Oct. 17, an exceedingly readable paper from the pen of one of the able correspondents of the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*. The information it conveys has been published in various shapes and detachments in Utah journals. Yet this letter is remarkably fresh and attractive. This is because of its being a model statement of a formidable array of important facts. It is *multum in parvo*—an extraordinary piece of journalistic condensation. So much so that the article will do to paste away in a scrap book for reference, should occasion require an advertence to a most singular series of events in the history of the community of Latter-day Saints and of the American nation.

The comments of the writer upon the confiscation scheme are as succinct and pointed as his relation of the story of the receivership, being embraced in the concluding brief section of his paper. He very properly refrains from discussing the question of the constitutionality of the action of the government in seizing the property, as that must be legally determined by the Supreme Court, which is expected to reach a decision some time in the present month. From an individual standpoint, the person who takes an intelligent glance at the subject must be governed in his estimate of the justice of the confiscation process on the basis of the question as to whether he considers the "Mormons" have any rights which the government are bound to respect. Should he decide in favor of the negative of the question, his position must necessarily be opposed to the basis principle of our political system—equality of all citizens before the law. Mr. Phelps, a former minister to the court of St. James, truly said, in a lecture on American institutions, delivered in the Calton Convening Rooms, Edinburgh, that any measure that infringed upon a natural right was and must be unconstitutional, "no matter if any one department of the government, or all of them combined, should decide to the contrary."

The three natural rights that are inalienable, unconferrable and inherited are the right to life, liberty, and to hold property, of none of which can any citizen be deprived by any process than applies equally to all others. This position is unassailable, and on that ground the law that seizes and appropriates the property of the Latter-day Saints must be unconstitutional. It may be made otherwise in a legal sense, but never as a matter of fact and justice.

Aside from that of constitutionality, another phase of the question is being discussed. It is touched by "W. B. S." We refer to the utility of confiscation in the attainment of the object said to have been the incentive to the creation of the law. Its passage was based upon the erroneous theory that the genius of "Mormonism" is inimical to the American commonwealth. This impression has been created by a flood of misrepresentation proceeding from designing politicians and jealous sectarian religionists. But be this as it may, the idea was that the religious system must be put down, and robbing its adherents of their hard-earned property was deemed an effective method by which the purpose could be accomplished. The theory was necessarily a false one. A serious and dangerous blunder was committed. The question is being agitated from that standpoint by journals which are noted for unfriendliness, amounting to antipathy, toward the "Mormons." Even the New York *Mail and Express*, remarkable for anti-"Mormon" bias, declaims against confiscation as a means of suppressing the religion of the Latter-day Saints, properly holding that it does not touch the question at all, and that it is a detriment instead of a benefit. Straws show the direction in which the wind is blowing on the subject of the confiscation scheme. The breeze has begun to blow, and it is not too much to expect it to develop, at no distant day, into a hurricane.

The measure is an outgrowth of the operations of the active "Liberal" politicians of Utah, who have worked like beavers, using any amount of political mud to accomplish the overthrow of popular or majority rule in this Territory. They have maligned and slandered the majority, exerted all their powers to give them a bad name in the country, under cover of which to safely carry on their schemes. Confiscation is one of their pet theories, and they have

frequently held it up as a threat. Unfortunately their object was partly attained in the enactment of the Edmunds-Tucker Act, but it is likely to take the shape of a huge white elephant in the hands of the Government.

#### LEAD MINING INDUSTRY.

By dispatch from Washington, D. C., we learn that Secretary Windom, Oct. 17, gave a decision in the question associated with the importation of lead into the United States from Mexico. It was held that this base metal has been smuggled into the country by amalgamation with metal upon which there is no duty, and lead has thus escaped the impost. It has been contended that this has not only been a breach of the law, but a serious detriment to the lead mining industry of the United States.

The text of the decision of the Secretary is not given, but its effect is in favor of those engaged in importing lead from Mexico, and consequently antagonistic to the lead mining industry of this country.

Several prominent gentlemen of this city, interested in lead mining, were seen by a representative of the News this afternoon. They were unanimous in stating that the decision was a serious blow to the West. One went so far as to express a belief that one of the largest mines of this section would be compelled to shut down. All of them held that the decision would materially injure the administration politically in the Western States.

#### SENATOR STANFORD'S VISIT.

SENATOR LELAND STANFORD, the most prominent citizen of the Pacific Coast, paid a brief visit to this city October 14th. He was accompanied by Col. Towne, Mr. Mills and a few other gentlemen of note. The object of the Senator's visit was to meet and escort to San Francisco the Senatorial Railway Committee. The shortness of Mr. Stanford's visit to Salt Lake suggests the hope that he may come again when he will be able to spend more time in our city.

His practical mind, ripened by experience, grasps with readiness the material situation of our Territory, and he expresses himself upon her greatest need in that respect. It is the establishment of manufactures, for which he holds we have unsurpassed facilities. He regards the inaugura-