

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

PRESIDENT CANNON'S STATEMENT.

Today the *News* presents to its readers the reply of President George Q. Cannon to the vicious assault made upon him through the *New York Times* by an anonymous Salt Lake writer. The lengthy *Times* article, the bitterness and vituperation of which has excited so much comment, was not reproduced in full in the *News*, the tenor of its statements being indicated by editorial mention. More of their character as to detail may be learned from the reply thereto, which is of such an interesting nature that we publish it in full.

The *News* seeks to be as cautious and conservative as is consistent with a courageous advocacy of the right and of the best interests of the people. But its caution is not of that character which publishes columns of detail in an unjustifiable and venomous assault upon a prominent citizen, and then waits for that citizen to make his own defense, but offers no word in his behalf or in condemnation of slanders heaped upon him. Hence, when the nature of the *Times* article was indicated in a brief telegraphic synopsis, as well as when the full text of the paper came to hand, the *News* presented the truth to the people by promptly and vigorously denouncing the outrageous publication. In doing so we have merely performed a duty to the community whose interests are our own, and of whose confidence we would have been unworthy had we failed.

The statement by President Cannon is clear, concise, and to the point. Its calm, dignified and vigorous discussion of the subject alluded to cannot but appeal to the sense of justice in all honorable men, and of the verdict of these after weighing both sides of the controversy there can be no doubt. The reply deals with the items of the arraignment in order, and to each responds with incontrovertible proof of the falsity of the accusations made, both direct and by innuendo. The refutation of every charge is so complete and overwhelming, being based upon facts of which the public has general knowledge, that not a shadow of the ghastly image raised by the *Times* writer will remain with any person of respectable aims and desires, if, indeed, it ever found lodgment there. We commend the document to the careful consideration and close criticism of our readers.

If a trustworthy public journal had been deceived into publishing the assault on President Cannon, now that this reply is forthcoming it would hasten to correct its error and make honorable amends by dealing out evenhanded justice. What attitude the *Times* will assume on this occasion remains to be seen. As for the author, or instigators and endorsers, of the document which has caused so much disturbance, a correction is not to be anticipated from that quarter. If there had been a spark of honor, of manliness, of fairness left in his or their composition, the slander never would have been published. And while reformation

from such a course would be exceedingly desirable for their individual benefit, the depravity they have exhibited does not afford much hope for prospective repentance. Their dastardly work, however, will fail, because its true nature must become apparent to all lovers of justice and truth.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

There were held in the city public schools today exercises in honor of Washington's Birthday, tomorrow, February 22, the 163d anniversary of the birth of the illustrious patriot, being a legal holiday, commemorative of the ushering of the Father of his Country into this mortal sphere. The holiday will be observed by a general cessation of business on the part of those imbued with feelings of patriotism, and will be utilized by some Sunday schools and other organizations of the younger part of the community in affording the children a time of special rejoicing.

Exercises of the kind referred to, both in the public schools and in celebrations by the youth, are highly appropriate observances of the natal day of the great leader in the victorious struggle for American independence. Each occasion of this nature is opportune for impressing upon the rising generation the importance of cultivating the sterling virtues that were pre-eminent in making of George Washington an immortal hero, the example of whose life should be a lasting monument in the heart of every son and daughter of the Republic, to remind them of a sacred obligation to the Almighty, to their country, and to themselves, to press on to works of generous patriotism and noble heroism, that they may preserve inviolate the heritage of liberty so gradually won.

The grandeur of the character of Washington comes in such clearness and in such simple form to the youth of today that it is a pleasant task for instructors who are inspired by a love of country to portray the virtues which made him great, and which are the common birthright of all. His strong love for truth as a child, when he would prefer to suffer rather than shield himself with falsehood; his fidelity to duty as a boy, shown by his thoroughness in every labor assigned him; his undaunted courage, his marked sense of honor, his love and tenderness for his fellowman, and his sublime faith in the Supreme Ruler, prominently displayed ere yet he had merged into manhood's estate; these, coupled with a realization of the fact that he had to overcome weaknesses and difficulties in human nature the same as do the boys of this period, combine to form a lesson that can be easily and forcibly impressed upon the minds of all children, leading them to adopt as a model the illustrious example of devotion to God, to country and to mankind.

To bring the youth into touch with the virtues of great men and women,

that they may emulate the same by making them part of their lives, is a necessity of the present age in the Republic. Great and good men and women of every time are suitable examples, but among those specially adapted as exemplars for the children of a free and patriotic people the character of Washington stands out in bold relief, pointing them not only to the grandeur and beauty of life as it should and can be in mortality, but also to the glorious thought expressed in the divine words which formed the inscription over the entrance to Washington's tomb, ere the body was removed to its present resting-place: "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live!"

The life's lesson of the great patriot is not for the schoolboy and the youth alone. It is for men and women of every age and condition in this broad land: the laboring class, the mechanic, the merchant, the professional man, the soldier and the statesman. From all these, reverence and respect for the principles exemplified in the work of the illustrious Washington require appropriate observance of his birthday as a patriotic duty, expressed in legal form as the nation's will. Under a sense of this duty, the *News* relieves its employees from obligations of labor on that day.

HOPE IN THE GOSPEL, NOT IN "SOCIETY."

A California contemporary, musing upon the present situation of mankind, thus expresses its thoughts:

Is the world growing worse, more vicious, more corrupt? Is wealth a crime and poverty the only virtue? Are there no brave men or virtuous women left on this round earth of ours? If so, the sooner there comes a universal deluge the better. In spite, however, of the denunciations of the pessimists it is not wise to concede that the world is worse than it ever was before. We know more about what is going on, and insist on turning on the calcium light of publicity on everything that seems to be out of the normal, but human nature is much the same as it always has been. If society would applaud virtue and frown on vice, instead of condoning the latter and disregarding the former, the pessimist would soon find his occupation gone.

"If;" and "there's the rub." "If society would" only do that which it does not—will not do; "if" it would cease that which it persists in doing and seems determined not to turn from, how different things would be! But "society's" course is not directed to the hopeful, happy condition; hence human nature being "much the same as it always has been"—as it was in the days when Noah's preaching of righteousness and warning of destruction for wickedness were unheeded—is rapidly descending to that state in which our friend says "the sooner there comes a universal deluge the better."

There is no occasion for a pessimistic view of the situation. Surely it is bad enough in the best light that can be turned on it. The world has been less vicious, less corrupt than it is today. The selfishness, the avarice, the baser passions