

this instance, it having been done by the company. As to the real estate which I own in Salt Lake City and county, those who are curious to know how I became possessed of it can easily learn all the particulars from the county records. Every piece was bought and paid for by myself, and was not obtained through any Church influence or through my ecclesiastical position.

The next charge is that I am a banker, and that I became such through using improper influence and taking advantage of people's confidence.

My connection with Zion's Savings Bank & Trust company is the same as that of all the other stockholders and officers. I cannot be attacked without other men of the community—men, too, who are held in the highest esteem—being attacked also, because I have had no connection with that institution different from the others who are interested in it. It is true I was one of the original incorporators, and that for seventeen or eighteen years after it was established, neither myself nor any other stockholder derived a dollar's profit from it. Several became discouraged and disposed of their stock. I thought there was a future for the bank and retained mine, and encouraged others to retain theirs. This is the height of my offense in connection with the banking business. The stock that I own I paid for, and no human being can truthfully say that I personally, or that myself and associates, ever took the least advantage of the people or in any manner made profit out of their confidence.

The next charge is that I am a merchant, because I am connected with Zion's Co-operative Mercantile Institution.

If connection with that institution makes me a merchant, then I suppose I am a merchant. When the idea of co-operating together for mercantile purposes was first broached, I took hold of it earnestly and used all the influence I had, both in writing and in public addresses, to set forth the advantages to the people of such a method of doing business. It is a matter of great satisfaction to me that I have been connected with Zion's Co-operative Mercantile Institution from its inception to the present time. For many years I acted as one of the board of directors without receiving a cent of compensation. In fact it is only within the past six or seven years that I have received any remuneration for services, and in that time have only received the same amount as the other directors.

The next charge against me is that I am an editor. And though this anonymous writer gives me credit for ability, he complains that I have an excess of caution, which destroys my gilt for writing and speaking, and that when people turn to me for light I deliberately refuse to emit it.

This is unfortunate—for me at least; it may not be so great a loss to the public.

The next accusation is that I am a publisher, and this is set down as a something that is very wrong—at least

I judge so by its being made one of the counts in the indictment against me.

I am a publisher. I started the *Juvenile Instructor* nearly thirty years ago. My chief motive in doing so was the deep interest I felt in the education of the young. I saw them growing up without suitable literature. I aspired to furnish the children with a periodical that would be of benefit to them. For years I spent means on this little magazine, in order to get it started. Of course, I did my own printing. But it occurred to me, as my children were likely soon to be at an age when they would require employment, that I might provide them with the means of making a living through an establishment of this character. I have always had a dislike to having my children dependent upon my influence for positions in which to earn their bread. I have seen the painful consequences which have followed the death of men whose influence had furnished their sons employment, and I have desired that my children should learn to be self-sustaining. For this reason I have endeavored to make the publishing house of George Q. Cannon & Sons company an institution which would furnish employment for those of my children who might have a taste for such work. Is there anything improper in this?

The next charge against me is that one of my sons is the editor of the *DESERET EVENING NEWS*, and another has business control of varied publications, including the *NEWS*.

When these young men proposed to lease the *DESERET NEWS* property, no one connected with that paper imagined they were obtaining a good thing. On the contrary, it was feared that they would lose heavily, or be compelled to throw up their lease. This was my own fear, for my experience in this line of business was sufficient to make it clear to me that there was no money in the undertaking with the conditions which then prevailed. Yet I studiously avoided having anything to do with the leasing of the property to them. Throughout the entire transaction, as president of the *Deseret News Company*, I left everything to a committee, explaining to the board of directors my reasons for doing so—that it might not be said it was at my suggestion or through my influence that these young men obtained this lease. All who are familiar with newspaper publishing in this town must know how puerile is the charge of family aggrandizement in this, for if any one has made money out of newspaper publishing in Salt Lake City, the fact has not yet come to my knowledge.

Allusion is made to my brothers' holding Church positions, and to distort this fact to make it appear that through my influence this was done, is as baseless as the other charges. At the time my brother Angus was appointed president of the Salt Lake Stake, I was in Washington; I knew nothing of the appointment until it had been made. I had never heard his name mentioned in connection with it, and his appointment was quite as unexpected to me as it could have been to anyone else. I can say the same respecting the position that my

brother David holds. He was not placed there at my instance; it was done in the first place by President Brigham Young, and altogether without my prior knowledge.

I am accused of being a prime factor in establishing the sugar factory, and it is intimated that I derive, in some way not described, great advantages from it.

In order to obtain an attendance of the members of the board of directors of the sugar company it was decided to allow \$2.50 to each member who should be present at regularly called board meetings. It has not been my good fortune to attend very many of these meetings; consequently, I have not had as many items of \$2.50 as some of my friends on the board. But this is the only emolument or benefit of any kind that I have derived from the sugar factory. A more despicable falsehood never was uttered than that which intimates that the "faithful" were improperly invoked and induced to take from their little savings to contribute towards the encouragement and establishment of this institution.

It is intimated that I became a railroad proprietor through the use of certain moneys given for the express use of the Temple, but converted to the uses of the Saltair railroad and Beach interests.

The writer who thus slanders me gives credit to President Woodruff as being "absolutely honest, but not worldly wise." Now, such a conversion of funds as is here spoken of could not have taken place without the knowledge of Presidents Woodruff and Smith, yet neither of their names is coupled with the transaction. I am the person singled out as guilty of having done this; at least it is cited as an instance of my wrong-doing, and of the means used by me to become a "railroad proprietor." Nothing more clearly exhibits the animus of my nameless enemy than this single paragraph. Transactions of this kind, or of any financial character with which the Church is connected, are not attended to by me alone; they receive the consideration of the First Presidency, of which I am only one. I state here that this charge is absolutely and unqualifiedly false, and that there has been no such conversion of Temple funds, nor any use of Temple funds in any way that cannot be fully accounted for to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Allusion is made to the "colossal power-dam scheme" projected at Ogden, and I receive the credit of being a "promoter" because of my connection with that.

Respecting this, I have only to say that I am no more the promoter of that enterprise than eight other highly esteemed gentlemen who are connected with it.

The next accusation is that in order to secure to myself financial aid and the political control of the Territory, and also to secure money for my projects, I have been willing to pledge such a manipulation of politics in the new State as will answer all the desires of those advancing the needed funds.