

York papers which admit such trash to their columns, should be informed by the company as to the truth, and if they will not retract and cease the libels, action ought to be taken against them, both at civil and at criminal law. The company is on the spot, has the proof and details at hand and must have some influence that can be properly exercised.

We suggest to the New York *Journal* that, in fairness to the Gulon Company if not to the "Mormons," investigation should be made as to the statements that appeared in its columns on the 13th inst., and that a proper apology should be made for the dirty and untruthful paragraphs that some scrub penny-a-liner palmed upon it for news.

IDAHO AND THE "MORMONS."

THE Boston *Post* of July 11 contains a long and newsy letter from Soda Springs, Idaho, signed "J. C." The writer is well known to the people of Utah and Idaho as a correspondent on "Mormon" affairs, and, barring a few peculiar notions of his own, he usually presents his subject in an impartial and able manner. We clip the following from his communication to the *Post*. After describing the celebration of the Fourth at Soda Springs he says:

"The inhabitants are about equally divided; half Mormons, who were the original pioneers, and half 'Gentiles' who have followed the track of the railroad. Over the principal saloon, kept by one of the latter—a place where drunken cowboys congregate and fight, and where three murders have been committed in the past three years—the American flag waves in all its glory, and its proprietor shouts 'Hurrah for the new State of Idaho!—the Mormons. Now we've got 'em.'"

J. C. thinks it doubtful whether they have "got 'em," and that Congress, which is the judge of the election and qualification of its own members, will yet have some knotty questions to settle connected with test oath complications. He says further:

"There is no tyranny equal to that of a majority. The admission of Idaho under any pretence whatever, even if a fair vote of her people had been registered, may have been temporarily politic from a partisan standpoint, but it is not advantageous to the people in its bounds. They have foolishly listened to the buncombe of their leaders and have been beguiled by an appeal to the independence they would enjoy as a State. Their leaders were thinking all the time only of themselves. A baker's dozen are probably all who will be benefited by the change. One man expects to be the Governor; two or three to be Senators and Representatives to Congress; a few more to be judg-

es and hangers-on about the courts. The salaries of these latter not in Congress which were formerly paid by the general government must now be paid by the State, and the same result will be that which has come to pass in Nevada, where nearly one-half of the income of its people is swallowed up in taxes. The consequence is that no body is going into that rotten borough, but everybody that can do so is getting out, and thus making the burden heavier for those who remain. I doubt if the census will show that there are more than 50,000 remaining there. If Nevada could throw up what she once considered the inestimable boon of statehood, she would most gladly do so, and so would Idaho in less than two years from this time. Even under the most favorable conditions of Territorial regime the progress of Idaho has been slow. The development of mines which at one time favored Nevada may likewise temporarily favor Idaho. But miners are uncertain, and they may 'peter out' in Wood River and the Cœur d'Alene, as they did in the Comstocks. The farms, which consist of irrigated patches here and there, are chiefly worked by the disfranchised Mormons, whose growth is more steady than rapid, and to whom encouragement of increase is vouchsafed by Congress. The rest of the population are sheep herders and cattle men. The former are few, because one man is sufficient to care for three or four thousand sheep, and cattle raising having already reached its highest point is now on the decrease. The 'Big Four' of Chicago have killed the goose that laid their golden egg. They have ground down the profits of the ranchmen to such a low figure that they have to a great degree abandoned the business and turned their attention to sheep raising. In order to obtain admission as a State the population of the Territory was vastly over-estimated by the promoters. It is doubtful from the returns already at hand if it will greatly exceed 100,000, and of this a great deal is migratory. As a Territory the taxes were not light, but still there was a very gradual increase of numbers. As a State the taxes will be enormous, and the increase of population will be likely to cease. A decrease will follow, and then the story of Nevada will be repeated. These are plain facts which I present without fear of contradiction. They afford a sad but truthful exposition of party rapacity on the part of Congress, of the rascality of Idaho politicians, and of injustice and stupidity—the one almost as criminal as the other, evinced by their misguided adherents."

A WAY OUT OF THE DIFFICULTY.

A MEETING of the school trustees of this city is called by the county superintendent for July 19th, at 8 o'clock in the Thirteenth District schoolhouse. The object of the meeting is laudable. It is to unite upon some plan to settle the serious difficulty which has arisen in relation to the special school taxes assessed for the present year.

The trouble arises from these facts: That when the special school taxes were assessed in the different school districts of this city, it was not known that a law would be enacted

amalgamating all the districts, and turning over to a Board of Education all the property of the several districts. That when the law was passed, these varied assessments were not apparently taken into account, or the law was not made sufficiently plain in regard to their disposition. That the very high valuation placed upon property by the Assessor was not anticipated when the special school taxes were levied, and that much more money than is necessary will be squeezed from the taxpayers if the taxes are collected. That while the amount obtained in some districts will be enormous, in others they will amount to comparatively little, and if they are turned into a common fund, great injustice will result to different taxpayers. That the Collector does not feel justified by the law in turning over the results of these several levies to the Board of Education, and will probably decline to do so. That if the money should be collected and turned over, it will be much more than is required for educational purposes in the city for the current year.

The great question is, what can be done to settle the difficulty? The law requires the special taxes levied to be collected as other taxes are. This we have already explained and proven. But may there not be some judicial discretion which, in a court of equity, can be exercised for the correction of the evil that everybody can see is arising? We think such power exists, and believe that if properly invoked it will be used in the required direction.

Courts of equity may interpose by way of injunction to correct mistakes or prevent fraud. There is no allegation of fraud in this case. But there is evidently a grave mistake. And the mistake is not one of law, which the court will not perhaps correct, but one of fact which the court may correct.

The mistake arose through the expectation on the part of the trustees in certain districts, that a levy of a one per cent. or a one and a quarter per cent. tax would only secure the amount necessary in the district for educational purposes, and the supposition that it would be expended in the district for district school purposes. The passage of the new school law changed all the conditions, and the difficulties arising are the consequence.

An injunction against the Collector restraining the collection of