

repeated it in public, and in August, 1885, published it in a pamphlet. Proof was demanded and the *Tribune* came to the rescue. Here is what it said then:

"A lady told the writer of this, and she told a hundred other people the same thing, that she with several other women and men were at work in the Theatre, preparing, if we remember right, for a performance, when the news of the assassination came and the order was given to drape the Theatre in black. A man whose given name we think was Jacob, was arranging the work when Brigham Young came in. Dancing on one foot and then on the other he said: 'Drape her Jake; drape her; another enemy of our people is gone, and the Lord still reigns in Israel.' This lady was known by all the old settlers, and there is no doubt of her perfect truthfulness."

We at once sought for the facts, and demonstrated that there never had been anybody connected with the Theatre who was known as "Jake" or "Jacob," and showed that the statement about President Young was utterly false.

On the 21st of August 1886 the truthful (?) *Tribune*, challenged to produce its veracious female, came out with this labored explanation:

"Mrs. Hunt was working at the Salt Lake Theatre. She was our informant, and at the time we gave her statement in the *Tribune*. We have not yet found that statement in the files, but it is not necessary, as her relations abundantly confirm the main points of it. The only changes they make are trifling ones. They say the man's name which was quoted as 'Jake' was Robert Neslen, costumer at the Theatre, that as Mrs. Hunt has often repeated to them: Brigham Young went into the Theatre where a good many people were at work, told the startling news, and then when something was said about draping the Theatre, he seized a long piece of some dark print and mockingly winding it about him, danced first on one foot and then on the other, exclaiming, 'Drape her Bob, Drape her! Another enemy of our people is gone, and the Lord still reigneth in Israel.'"

For once the mendacious organ forgot its cunning. While it pursued its usual dark way of obscure generalities as to its sources of information, it was comparatively safe. "A truthful woman" or "a reliable gentleman" is sufficiently indefinite for its sinuous purpose. But this time it gave names. Unfortunately its "truthful woman" was dead. But Mr. Robert Neslen, the well-known costumer of the Theatre was very much alive, of which the annexed communication from him gave "the best of proof:"

Editor Deseret News:

"The following statement appeared in the Salt Lake *Tribune* of Sunday, August 21st, purporting to embody a remark made to me by the late Brigham Young, on the day on which the news of the assassination of the late President Lincoln reached this city:"

"They say the man's name, which

was quoted as 'Jake,' was Robert Neslen, costumer at the Theatre, that, as Mrs. Hunt has often repeated the story to them, Brigham Young went into the Theatre, where a good many people were at work, told the startling news, and then when something was said about draping the Theatre, he seized a long piece of some dark print and mockingly winding it about him, danced first on one foot and then on the other, exclaiming, 'Drape her, Bob! Drape her! Another enemy of our people is gone, and the Lord still reigneth in Israel.'"

"I hereby assert, without qualification, that the foregoing is utterly untrue. Brigham Young never, at any time or place or under any circumstances, made any remarks of the kind, either to me personally or in my presence. And at no time, on any subject, did he ever address me by any other than my real name, which is

ROBERT NESLEN,

Formerly costumer of the Salt Lake Theatre.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah,
August 22, 1886."

The *Tribune* has since been discreetly silent as to the "Drape her, Bob," part of its chapter of fiction. But it still revives the other part of the exploded libel.

As to the veracity of the departed lady whose alleged remarks were the sole source of the *Tribune's* "best of proof," we have nothing to say. When people are filled with bitterness against a Church from which they secede—no matter from what cause, they are apt to be extreme in their remarks and sometimes highly imaginative in their narrations. The witness Wardell is an instance of this. His story told in court about the "blood atoning" of Wm. Green was proven without doubt to be entirely without foundation. It is barely possible that he told it so many times that he fancied it was true.

The *Tribune*, notwithstanding the fact that William Green is alive and has disproved the story, with its accustomed lack of honor and decency has continued to repeat that bald and naked falsehood as it does this Lincoln fabrication. Its "best of proof" for other stories is of similar value. The wild-eyed fanatics who when in the Church were as extreme in one way as they now are in another, are not to be depended upon for fact or theory. And yet their unsupported statements, made with evident animus and often with equal incoherence and vindictiveness, form to other and different but just as fiery fanatics "the best of proof."

When the news of the tragedy that plunged the nation in grief reached this city, the DESERET NEWS came out with turned rules and with the following announcements:

OUR NATION MOURNING.

Upon the reception of the horrifying intelligence that President Lincoln had been assassinated, throughout the city business generally was suspended, flags were draped in mourning at half-mast, stores and other public buildings were closed and craped, the management of the Theatre announced that the bill for Saturday evening was postponed to Monday, and deep gloom palpably rested upon the minds of the citizens.

On Sunday the stand and organ in the Tabernacle were clad in the habiliments of woe, as were also many of the congregation, and Elders W. Woodruff, F. D. Richards, and George Q. Cannon delivered feeling and appropriate addresses upon the solemn occasion.

In accordance with the recommendations of the acting Secretary of State, and the desire of the people to testify their respect for the memory of President Abraham Lincoln, there will be public service in the Tabernacle Wednesday, at 12 o'clock, noon. Elder Amasa M. Lyman will officiate on the occasion. All classes of our citizens are invited to participate in the ceremonies.

We do not believe there are any people more appreciative of the life, labors and character of Abraham Lincoln than the "Mormons" are. They admire his sterling qualities, his unshaken courage, his plain, blunt truthfulness, his magnanimity of soul and his broadminded statesmanship, and they cherish his memory as a martyr to a glorious cause.

It is time that either the managers or supporters of the *Tribune* put a quietus on this guerilla mode of journalistic warfare, this bravo style of character assassination. At least the dead might be protected from the pen-stabbing and mud-throwing slanderer, and when grave accusations are made against men or a church, something more than the ravings of seceders should be required as "the best of proof."

THE INDIAN REMOVAL.

A DAY or two since a dispatch was published stating that the Senate bill providing for the removal of the Uncompahgre Utes over the Colorado line to Utah would not be favorably reported during the present session. It was alleged as being doubtful whether the measure would ever be enacted. A local virulent anti-"Mormon" paper asserted that in consequence of this prospect the "Colorado contingent and the brethren were feeling blue." The same journal has frequently and falsely stated that the