

WE SIMPLY DEFEND AND VINDICATE

ONE of the fairest, most consistent and conservative statements of the local situation we have seen for some time appeared in the *Times*, in the shape of a correspondence, on Saturday evening, January 31st. On account of its quality we give it space:

"The fact that the city council, chamber of commerce and real estate exchange have felt it due to the public interest to make an open and emphatic protest against the unwarranted and outrageous canard of the *Illustrated American*, is ample evidence that journalism has a very vital relation to the general welfare. As to the aspersions of the *American*, there is even less ground than many gentiles resident in Salt Lake City might imagine for supposing that the Mormons are contemplating resistance, preparing for war, or that they have a single thought in that direction. Aside from its falsity and libelousness, it is singularly absurd and preposterous. We can travel to the utmost corners of Utah, put in at places the most remote and obscure, cat and sleep unprotected, and have no reason for feeling less secure in person and property than around our own fire-sides. The effect of such libels against a whole community or Territory is to retard settlement and prevent the influx of capital. It does a vast injury, besides being a pernicious defamation of an entire people.

"Now that ample measures have been taken to refute and denounce these base reports, it behooves us to say that there is a great deal of Utah journalism, Mormon and anti-Mormon, that is a positive injury to the business interests of our city and Territory. It does not occur to us that this constant ringing of the changes by some of our Liberal journals on the question of disfranchisement of the Mormons is either practicable or prudent. There is not the remotest shadow of a likelihood of disfranchisement at the present time, or with the present outlook. We take the manifesto to be measurably sincere, and whether it was or not on the part of all the leaders makes no difference as to the general result. It will be accepted as sincere by the government until the contrary is fully shown. But it disposes of the question of disfranchisement at present, and most probably forever. Hence the constant flaunting of this obnoxious disqualification before the eyes of Mormon residents is no less pernicious and useless than it is futile. This was freely demonstrated at the last election. The subject matter, and animus of the canvass failed to enlist the sympathies of at least some thousands of voters on the liberal side of the question. These men are anxious for the right; but they can't see the right along such lines of journalism. They all feel that there ought to be a better and quicker way out. They all denounce priestly dictation in politics, and the Mormons disclaim and asseverate against such practices. At all events business associations of Gentiles and Mormons are developing a tendency to unite on issues other than those which are advocated by the ultra-Mormon priesthood or Gentile fanatics. This tendency of business interest and association to eliminate bitter antagonisms and reject the counsels of cranks and mischief-makers is bound to set into a strong current that will soon free the city and territory from a strife which is as hurtful as it is useless."

Whoever the writer of the foregoing is, he evidently possesses a clear head, while his heart is properly situated. He alludes to a point in the present

agitation in reference to the slanders perpetrated against the people of Utah that seems to have been overlooked by those who simply consider the effects brought to bear upon their pockets. He alludes to the injustice done by the "pernicious defamation of an entire people." We will perhaps, at another time give some reasons for so few being willing to recognize the element of injustice to an "entire people" involved in the question that is now awakening a powerful interest in business circles.

It is admitted that there is much in local journalism of a nature to work injury to business interests. A thorough and impartial investigation will disclose the fact, however, that the cure of this wrong must, to be effective, be applied to its source. It is notorious that a "pernicious defamation of an entire people" is a matter of daily perpetration. If what the correspondent calls "Mormon" journalism were to be silent in relation to those infamous slanders published upon the people, the falsehoods would be taken for granted abroad as being true, and the injury to business would be still more pronounced than it is. If it were not for the villainous and deceptive untruths told notably by the morning "Liberal" organ of this city, "Mormon" journalism would not of necessity engage in a defensive conflict. An examination of our columns will prove that the policy of the *News* is not one of assault, being in its genius essentially defensive and vindicatory.

The calumnies that are perpetrated against an entire people constitute but a means to an end, the object being political. The correspondent has struck the intent of the hour when he alluded to the advocated disfranchisement of the "entire people" who are so basely subjected to "defamation." So long as the attainment of that purpose is sought the process of defamation will be applied, justified and sustained by the enemies of Utah. It is not to be presumed that the "entire people" subjected to the foulest vilification and the journalists who voice their sentiments propose to sit idly and allow such villainous wrongs to be perpetrated without a struggle. God forbid that we should, by slavish inactivity, indicate that we do not love freedom and esteem truth sufficiently to defend both and expose the perfidy of their enemies to the extent of our power.

The Swedish Riksdag was opened by King Oscar January 15th.

The Riksbank of Sweden has made a clear profit of 3,707,000 *kronor* during 1890.

SELF-CONVICTED ONCE MORE.

THE *Tribune* has turned its chief blackguard loose again, and he runs riot through a column of choice abuse of the *DESERET NEWS* once more, after the style of rant which he commonly mistakes for argument. He repeats the falsehood that the guns which were fired off in the streets during the "Liberal" parade were "toy guns," in spite of the fact that every "Liberal" who pulled a trigger knows all about it, and that thousands of people of all classes saw and heard the firing.

He also repeats the falsehood he has uttered over and over again, that "an Apostle told the Chief of Police to take a prisoner from the United States Marshal," and that this was the cause of troops being sent for to be quartered in this city. No Apostle did anything of the kind. No Apostle had any authority to interfere with the Chief of Police in the discharge of his duty. There was no need for any one to prompt the Chief of Police in the matter, for he held the warrant of the proper court to arrest a defendant against whom a sworn complaint had been made. The United States Marshal, as soon as he knew the police held this paper, illegally and without any warrant hunted up the defendant, hid him from the lawful officer armed with a lawful warrant, and, in defiance of all law, prevented the police from serving the warrant. He also gave his official word that he would produce the defendant before the court that issued the warrant, at the time appointed, but broke his word and so violated truth and the law, at the dictation of the *Tribune* gang that ruled him. These are the facts of record. This was before the passage of the Edmunds-Tucker law, and therefore the United States Marshal had no more right to hold the defendant than his *Tribune* masters had.

In reply to our statement that the *Tribune* caused "the bringing of troops here when there was no more probability than now of the need of them," he exclaims in his common pot-house style of reply: "The shameless liar!" Let us see who is the liar. Here is a quotation from a *Tribune* editorial of December 1st, 1885, at the time and the occasion in dispute:

"The Gentiles should *en masse* petition the President to place this Territory under martial law, and giving some discreet, just and brave soldier the position of military governor, back him with such force as may be necessary to command peace and to enforce the laws."

The soldier there referred to was Eli H. Murray, then Governor of Utah, who was just as much under the leading strings of the *Tribune* gang as the Marshal was. He jumped at the sug-