

ism" have warped its judgment and influenced its veracity. The *Boston Herald* and its echoes have probably been deceived by the partisan report of the anti-"Mormon" Commissioner of Schools (resigned) from which the language of the second of the above quotations was taken by these papers.

There are sentences in that report which are calculated to carry the impression they have effected, and yet they cannot be denounced as literally untrue, while they were evidently intended to mislead. Everybody who is acquainted with the school laws and the school system of this Territory knows that they are non-sectarian and, further, that no religious doctrines of any kind are taught in them. Also that the Legislature has not "persisted in refusing to make adequate provision for the support of the public schools."

Provision is made and has existed for many years, by which the district schools may be "adequately" sustained. The territorial tax for the payment of teachers, it is true, is not of sufficient amount to establish schools entirely free to all comers. But, supplemented by the local tax in each school district, to be determined by the resident taxpayers therein, funds can be raised to cover all the expenses of maintaining free public schools, including the building and furnishing of school-houses, the payment of teachers, the supply of books and all the appurtenances necessary. The option is with the people chiefly interested—the taxpayers. If free schools, in the common acceptance of the term, are not established the fault is with the people, not with their elected representatives in the Legislature.

It is not true that "free schools are utterly unknown in Utah," as repeatedly stated by the press. Such schools have been opened and kept up by taxation in different parts of the Territory, and the plan could be made universal under existing territorial laws today, if the public chose to have it so. But the "consensus of public opinion" here has been in favor of the present system, which supports schools partly by taxation and partly by tuition fees. No religious tenets are taught in the district schools, and the text books in use are selected as the best to be had in the United States by a convention authorized by law.

There has been an occasional and spasmodic outcry for free schools in Utah. But when it has come to the test of taxation, the pretended

champions of the free system have been the first to vote down any proposition leading to its establishment, if it was to take money out of their pockets. And the greatest cry against the present system has been from those who had no wool. Persons who had nothing to tax wanted the taxpayers to bear all the burden of school expenses as well as other public costs.

That there is room for improvement in the educational system of this Territory no one has denied. But that the statements which have been made to the country in regard to it are false, we most emphatically maintain. And in many of the States whose papers are declaiming against Utah's school affairs, there are far greater imperfections than in ours, less school accommodations, a lower educational standard, and in some of them the very same local option law which they are finding fault with in Utah.

Improvements have been in gradual progress here for many years. They will continue. The true friends of education, instead of misrepresenting existing conditions will endeavor to introduce reforms and encourage those which have been commenced. The people here, in the mass, are in favor of educational progress. None of them, however, are greater friends to general and thorough education than the "Mormon" leaders. And the subtle, cunning and malicious official misrepresentation of the facts and of their intentions and doings, by which the press and the public have been deceived concerning them, has not arisen from any friendship to the cause of school improvement in this Territory, but from a spirit of intense hostility and hatred against men and a system infinitely superior to their maligners.

We assure our contemporaries throughout the county who have been led to believe that "Mormon" doctrines are taught in the district schools of Utah, that they are greatly mistaken, and also in their statement that the Utah Legislature has refused to make provision for the public schools. We do not expect many papers to correct the errors which they have been instrumental in disseminating, for there is very little disposition among them to "take back" any mistaken statement about the Mormons. But we feel it our duty to tell the truth and expose the falsehood and place the blame for the deception where it justly belongs.

A NEW KIND OF PRIDE.

THE idea that Congress or the Administration will be influenced by numerous signed petitions, when the merits of the case or person in view are exceedingly slim, ought by this time, we think, to have been entirely dissipated. Yet the organ of the applicant for the occupied Chief Justiceship of Utah, giggles with unrestrained glee over the fact that three thousand names have been secured to be tacked on to his petition. Why, no one knows better how such signatures are obtained and of how little value or significance they are, than the statesmen and high officials to whom such lists are sent.

While they were about it, the manipulators of the latest petition humbug might just as well have made the number six thousand. But it would have had no more weight in Washington than if it were but a dozen. Politicians understand the whole business. The smiles of derision with which cartloads of such rubbish have been consigned to the lower receptacles of the Capitol and the dark cellars of the Departments, are evidences of the estimate which public men place upon these bogus expressions of unthinking sentiment.

Signatures can be obtained in the so-called "loyal ranks" to almost any document for the pulling down of some official and the overturning of some authority. The saloons and the mining camps may be counted on for any number of names that may be wanted, and the eager applicant for another man's place must feel highly flattered at the number of bibulous carousers and callow juveniles who have endorsed the claims of his peculiar fitness for judicial functions.

If this is "a proud thing" for the eminent place-hunter, what a different significance "pride" bears now, to its meaning in the days when a high-minded jurist would have scorned to intrigue for the possession of another man's shoes! It is a new kind of pride which swells over a mob-applauded effort to oust a gentleman from an office and crawl into his place.

And it shall come to pass, that if you shall ask the Father in my name, in faith believing, you shall have the Holy Ghost, which giveth utterance, that you may stand as a witness of the things of which you shall both hear and see, and also that you may declare repentance unto this generation.—*Doc. and Cov.*