

read the accurate synopsis of it which appeared in Monday evening's *DESERET NEWS*, knows the statements of the *Tribune* concerning his remarks to be absolute falsehoods and the very reverse of his utterances.

This is a trick that the unprincipled writers on that paper have played for years. First, they will report the exact opposite of an Elder's remarks. Next they will comment upon the report as though it was an undisputed reproduction of his words. Then they will repeat, month after month, the same arguments (?) based upon the same willful falsehood, and keep up the pretence that they are combating "Mormonism." Fine and again they have been exposed, but that makes no difference in their contemptible work; they persist in a course which proves that they are utterly destitute of manhood and without the faintest spark of honor or decency.

Here is what President Cannon said on this subject as reported in the *DESERET NEWS* and heard by thousands on Sunday:

The Latter-day Saints would be the most ungrateful and unworthy people in the world if they did not honor the Priesthood. But there was a difference between honoring the Priesthood, the authority of God, and giving away their manhood, and doing such things as they were accused of. No people on earth valued free agency as did the Latter-day Saints; they preached it and taught their children that they were free agents—free to choose and act for themselves. They would not bind a man by a single hair to do something which his own free will would not prompt him to do."

Contrast that with the ravings of the writer who fabricated the deliberate misrepresentations above, and say if such a creature is entitled to an atom of respect. President Cannon did not reassert any "old rule" or "old notice" that "the people were absolutely bound," and there is no such old rule or new rule in the Church. Neither did the speaker make any reference or allusion to the *News* or the *Herald*, "the Mormon press" or the "Mormon platforms."

The allusion to President Woodruff is as indecently false as the assertions concerning his First Counselor. He is not "decrepit," but remarkably vigorous, healthy and active. Every visiting writer for the press who has seen and conversed with him, dilates upon his hale appearance and his bright mentality, describing him as not looking to be over sixty years of age.

In reference to the previous speak-

er's remarks he made no "ifs" or "buts." Alluding to the falsehood that "the First Presidency told every Latter-day Saint how to vote," he said:

"He had resided in this valley some forty-four years, and he could safely say that during the whole of that time, so far as he could recollect, he had never told any man or woman how to vote. If he had told anyone, it had only been some of his own boys who might have asked his advice; but he did not remember even that."

Now read again the rant of the *Tribune*. How much "jugglery" is there in President Woodruff's plain and simple statement of fact? The same creature that now attacks him has charged, day after day, that "every Mormon votes as he is ordered by the Mormon President," and on that falsehood bases his infamous argument that, therefore "every Mormon should be disfranchised." If any "Mormon" has been ordered to vote for or against any person or measure by President Woodruff, now is the time to bring him forward.

The statements about "obligations to implicitly obey a certain priesthood," the manner of making a ticket and the notice that "it is the ticket agreed upon by the First Presidency," are all equally false with the perversions of the speakers' remarks. They are made up for foreign consumption, like most of the rubbish that is daily dished out for the readers of that perpetual libel.

And the manufacturer thereof, with that peculiar logic for which he is notorious, in a vain effort to prove that the speakers on Sunday advocated something that was foreign to their words and to their belief and sentiments, quotes some remarks alleged to have been made by a deceased "Mormon" more than a third of a century ago! His logic is on a par with his veracity, but his malice and villainy overshadow all.

It seems strange to us that there is not some one connected with the sheet that almost every day maligns the great body of the people here, that has sufficient regard for honor and the rights of his neighbors, to interfere and stop this incessant stream of wilful lying against them and their leaders. That the contempt felt for it is not confined to the "Mormon" people has been demonstrated during the recent election. Hundreds upon hundreds of non-"Mormons" refused to vote for the person who is

held responsible for this perpetual defamation. No fair or ordinarily decent man can approve it, no matter how pronounced may be his anti-"Mormonism."

Any species of coercion; any influence that hinders the exercise of free agency; any power, whether of priesthood or something else, which binds the souls of men so as to fetter their action, is not "Mormonism," by whomsoever advocated, but its very opposite. If anyone disbelieves this, it is his right to try to disprove it by every legitimate means. But no person or paper has the right to make this attempt by deliberate lying; and such a course as is pursued by the *Tribune* perverts places him beneath the level of the ordinary criminal and ranks him among the most despicable of our fallen race.

THE GREAT INDIAN SCARE.

The recently developed religious movement among the Indians is producing innumerable absurd phases and effects. The statements regarding it in general and in detail are so conflicting that it is difficult to reach anything like a reliable idea of the truth in relation to the subject. The contradictions embodied in the reports are not only contained in assertions of different individuals, but in numerous instances the disparity exists between statements purporting to come from the same person. The wildest rumors as to apprehended Indian revolts is the result of all this commotion, the agitation seeming to be more pronounced among the whites than among the red men. From different points comes the sensational rumor, "It is reported that the Indians are arming," etc., followed by other dispatches to the effect that all is peaceful and there is "no danger of an uprising," etc., from the same localities.

The best course to be pursued under the circumstances is to remove existing causes for revolt and be careful not to multiply other sources of irritation. We are afraid that the reverse of this humane policy is being pursued. Instead of making an honest inquiry into the abuses to which the Indians have been subjected and seeking to rectify them, a new cause of dissatisfaction to the red men is being pushed upon them—menacing them by pushing United States troops into the Territory occupied by them. It is hoped that this will have the effect of overawing them into continuous submission.