

### THAT AWFUL CYCLONE.

The elements, every one of them, are destroyers of life and property. Each and every one when not under complete control is an agent of destruction and even when controlled is a continual menace, a source of apprehension, a cause of dread. It adds to the gravity of the case that with all his cunning, native and acquired, the control which man fancies is placed upon the destroyers or one of them is sometimes eluded and when he least expects it, havoc has fullway and the reaper holds high carnival.

One of the elements, however, we have not yet sought to control for the simple yet effectual reason that we know any such effort if made would be futile—idle. The air, which one moment kisses a fevered brow as a grateful zephyr, the next becomes a raging monster scattering devastation and death far and wide. We cannot contrail, cannot subdue it; indeed, it is rarely the case that we can escape it when its fury is wrought up to the topmost pitch about us. The storm king is an absolute despot, not only this, but a treacherous, cruel and devouring one.

The details of that storm's awful work in Oklahoma yesterday are enough of themselves to make the heart sicken, the mind waver and the soul weary. Being so terrible in words and so far away from the ghastly scene, what must that scene have been to those who passed through it whether with life or without? It is not a rash statement to make that those who pass through such an agonizing situation and come out alive experience more suffering than do the slain, particularly if they are slain early in the conflict, for of all the dangers that threaten humanity, that of the uncontrollable element when it lashes in its fury all the subjects within a certain radius is the most terrible. Those who have ever passed through a destructive windstorm realize this, but they cannot describe their own feelings—the awful sensations which arise as the storm rises, the forebodings, the dread, the anguish of soul, the fear which even the strongest must feel, these can only be imagined where they are not remembered.

The Oklahoma tragedy at this writing seems to have been the most severe of any in recent times. Sixty persons killed outright, many more mangled and suffering, homes destroyed and property ruined for miles around! It is dreadful, and the fact that, like lightning, we know not where it may strike next—that, like a thief in the night, it comes unawares and as if possessing the intelligence as well as the vindictiveness of a demon, it selects the times and places where there is least expectation of or preparation for it. A destructive storm used to be an unusual occurrence, now "one doth tread upon another's heels, so fast they come." We are living in troublous times.

### THE RABIES AGAIN.

There is at present, as is well known, a great gathering in Ogden. Representatives of the West have met to

consider the interests of this part of the country, and among the questions to be sifted is that of statehood for the territories. Further, a congressional committee is soon coming West to inquire into the qualifications of the various territories for the boon of local sovereignty.

These facts account, to some extent, for the recurrence in the columns of the Salt Lake *Tribune* of the bitter articles in which that sheet daily assaults an unoffending, long-suffering people, the object evidently being to impress the visitors with the foolish idea that the Mormons are a criminal class, dangerous to the government, insincere in all their pretensions and not worthy to be trusted as citizens of the great Republic.

Of course everybody who has been following the exploits of that paper "during the years" knows that there is not an iota of truth in such statements; knows that the paper itself does not believe them, because out of its own mouth it can be shown to be most unscrupulous when it has an end to gain; that it has by long years' practice succeeded in reducing the art of violating the truth to an almost perfect system, and that its bitterness to the people of Utah is equalled only by its own depravity. But, of course, the articles referred to are not written for the people who live here and who are acquainted with the real facts. Upon such readers the effort would be wasted; they are published in order to deceive, if possible, strangers, who are supposed to be easily blinded by mere phraseology.

In today's issue the charge is made that Mormons are still practicing what once was a peculiar tenet of their faith, and United States Marshal Benton as well as his predecessor are by implication made parties to the violation of the law. And this is done on the authority of what the paper calls a "certain prominent Gentile." It used to be a "certain respectable old woman" before—this probably being a new device to hide the identity of the individual at the *Tribune* office who is the real inventor of the statement. It would seem to be but a poor testimonial to the intelligence of the scribe to suppose that he can entertain the hope of bringing conviction to any of his readers by making such serious charges on such flimsy authority.

The fact of the matter is that the people of Utah as a class and as individuals compare favorably, morally and otherwise, with any people on earth. The Mormons have nothing to conceal from the view of the world. Investigation is always courted, provided it is fair and in good faith. They were never known to break their promises. Their history is a narration of the growth of a community whose only safeguard is and always was truth and righteousness and whose success so far is the exemplification of the victory of those engaged in a just cause. The Mormons have failings and have had such, as other mortals. They do not profess perfection. But in vain will any one look among them for the crimes and criminals with which writers of the *Tribune* class have filled the imagination of many not residing in the Territory. They never did exist.

Statehood immediate or remote or

not at all is not the question. If the *Tribune* opposes the admission of Utah to the Union, as it of course does, that is its own business. It can be respected and may secure a decent following if it bases its opposition on legitimate grounds, if such there be. But to hurl false accusations against the Mormons; to tear open sores scarcely healed; to stab the people; and the Territory's interests again and again to the heart with daggers poisoned in venomous falsehood, that is a proceeding against which all must protest, and which every honest soul ought to feel to strongly condemn.

### DOST LIKE THE SMOKE?

A correspondent asks the News' attention to the fact that at 7:30 last evening East Temple street and the whole northwest portion of the center of the city was shrouded in smoke emitted from the chimneys of the Electric Light power house, said smoke being dense and well-nigh stifling. What our friend observed last night and regarding this one smoke-producing establishment may be seen almost every evening and morning from a dozen other factories or power houses within the thickly settled part of the city. The evil is a growing one; but since it seems necessary that it shall get much worse before heroic measures shall be taken to cause it to grow better, we can only give publicity and emphasis to the complaints as they come in, in the hope that at some time in the near future they will constitute such a mountain of indignation that smoke prevention or consumption shall be made sternly compulsory.

### A SILVER CHAMPION.

According to a circular which was being distributed among the delegates to the Trans-Mississippi Congress at Ogden yesterday a proposition has been presented for "carrying the war into the enemy's camp." From the circular we learn that "it has been decided by a number of gentlemen to start a silver paper to be published at Chicago. It will be a weekly paper, after the style of the first-class New York weeklies, with a subscription price of \$2 per annum. It will be intelligent and aggressive, and by cuts, cartoons and illustrations, in addition to its reading matter, will make silver a live issue. Under the head of Press Opinions it will copy editorials from the leading Western papers that are now handling this subject so ably. Its circulation will be pushed into every portion of the United States, and special attention will be given to Congressman Harter's district in Ohio, and all other districts where gold-bugs are candidates for Congress. Premiums will be given and every ingenuity adopted to widen its circulation, and solicitors will be put in the field in all parts of the United States."

Mr. W. H. Harvey, at present the chairman of the executive committee of the Trans-Mississippi Congress, will be in charge and control its editorial and business management.

The first number of the paper will appear about June 1st.