

"cantankerous." They were sour, sullen and ill conditioned. They'd leifer say no than yes—leifer give pain than pleasure. The thought they were going to heaven gave them less of joy than the thought that everybody else was going to hell. They maintained a certain kind of virtue which in the eyes of a right thinking God was worse than other people's vices. They maintained a certain kind of malignant morality because of their devilish desire to punish somebody. The Mormons were as good as the average men of their time and infinitely better than the Puritans of 200 years before."

The Baltimore, Maryland, *American* has this brief paragraph on the furore over the matter:

"President Elliot's sudden champlionship of the Mormons is creating surprised discussion. Without entering into the merits of the case, it may be remarked in passing that university presidents might for the present profitably leave the Mormons in Utah and devote their crusading energies to the Turks at home."

FOR GENERAL OBSERVANCE.

THE circular letter of the First Presidency of the Church is received with lively pleasure and satisfaction by the Latter-day Saints. No one acquainted with the circumstances under which the last general special fast day was appointed, can fail to perceive how truly the prayers of the Saints on that occasion have been answered. The changed conditions are apparent to every observer. The hand of the Lord is manifest in the blessings enjoyed by His people, and the presence and counsel of their leaders are not among the least of these favors.

It is fitting that the Saints should assemble as directed, and offer up their prayers and thanksgivings unitedly before the throne of grace. It is suggested that meetings be convened in all the Wards, in all the Stakes of Zion, at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning, May 1st, 1892, and continue for three or four hours or less, as the presiding officers at the meetings may be led by the Spirit of God. Prayer, praise, thanksgiving, testimony and instruction may be blended as the occasion may prompt and the spirit direct. Clerks should be prepared to take note of the subscriptions of those who desire to make offerings for the completion of the Temple.

At the conclusion of the services the people should repair to their homes, and in partaking of food rejoice before God, give thanks for His mercies, enjoy themselves in the family circle and recognizing the hand of the Lord in all things.

The Tabernacle in this city will be closed that day, there will be no Sunday schools held, and the home missionary appointments for that day will be suspended. It is hoped and expected that through the generous feelings which the day will bring forth liberal donations will be made, assuring all the means necessary for the completion of the Salt Lake Temple, that it may be dedicated at the next April Conference.

We are sure that the letter of the Presidency will meet with a cheerful and universal response from the Latter-day Saints wherever it is received. The attention of the Bishops of this Stake of Zion is directed to the notice

from the Presidency of the Stake to be found in another column.

Let us all unite to make May day in the year 1892 a notable season in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints!

THE WYOMING SITUATION.

EXCITING reports are still afloat in reference to the cattleman-rustler war in Wyoming. The situation appears to be that Sheriff Angus, of Johnson County, refuses point blank to deliver up to the military authorities the persons belonging to the raiding party arrested before the surrender of the stockmen. It is stated that the troops will take them by force, and asserted that if such an attempt be made, blood will flow. The sheriff of Johnson County has, on the other hand, demanded that the cattlemen now in custody of the troops be handed over to his care. This of course will not be done, as it is tolerably clear that such a step would amount to handing the stockmen over to their death, so intense is the popular feeling against them in Northwest Wyoming. Rumors of the probability of the troops being attacked by the incensed rustlers are still current.

Taken all in all, the situation is anomalous and critical. If the trouble existed in an older and tamer part of the country there would be a prospect of its blowing over in a short time, but such anticipations can hardly be indulged in when the scene of the warfare is the "wild and woolly West," in some portions of which human life is not regarded as an article of very great value.

The animosity between the two classes in the conflict is so bitter as to render them practically irreconcilable for a time. In the event of the raiders not being brought to trial, the rustlers will be fired with increased resentment. Should they be tried and acquitted, then the "fat would be in the fire" in still greater quantity, and they would conclude to remain on the war-path against the class whom they cordially hate and who unfortunately went outside of the law in inaugurating the assault that precipitated the present critical situation.

"RASH ASSERTIONS AND WILD CONCLUSIONS."

WE are in receipt of a letter from Mr. Charles Crane, of Kanosh, in reference to some remarks of the *DESERET NEWS* upon a letter written by Mr. Crane to the Probate Judge of Millard County. In that communication he gave some reasons for leaving the "Liberal" faction and uniting with the Republican party. We referred to him as one "largely governed in his opinions by his pecuniary interests and also a person of rash assertion and wild conclusion." To this he strongly objects and in such a manner as to justify the latter part of our comment and also to forbid publication of his letter in full.

He asks whether we know, of our own personal knowledge, that he is "a person of rash assertion and wild conclu-

sion," that he has ever committed any crime that would justify such an assertion, that he has ever sold his opinions or offered them for sale, or that his ignorance ever caused him to arrive at a wild conclusion. These questions we will frankly answer. But the "rash assertions and wild conclusions" in his letter which follow them we will pass by.

Of our "own personal knowledge" we have become acquainted with his utterances through their publication in a rabid "Liberal" newspaper, the views of which he shared in many "wild conclusions," and which he supported with many "rash assertions." They are public property and we with others who have read them are at liberty to form our opinion of the writer and his mental calibre.

It does not require the committing of crime to constitute the rashness and wildness alluded to. Many persons who would scorn to commit a crime, often act wildly and speak rashly and jump at conclusions not warranted by the premises. Many otherwise estimable persons do this, and when they rush into print they lay themselves open to public criticism.

Neither is it necessary that a man should have sold his opinions or offered them for sale, in order to justify the statement that his opinions are largely governed by his pecuniary interests. Are not many sheep men largely influenced by their interests or supposed interests on the question of the tariff? Are not many advocates of free silver largely governed by their connection directly or indirectly with silver mining? Are not the opponents of free coinage often largely influenced by the benefits they derive or think they derive from the maintenance of gold as the single standard of value. Is not the question of protection or free trade largely affected by pecuniary interests and by local considerations? In the letter to the Probate Judge, Mr. Crane expressed some partizan opinions and we viewed them as prompted largely by the writer's sheep and other material interests. But we did not intimate that his opinions were for sale.

Nor have we stated anywhere that it was "ignorance" that caused him to say or do anything in public or in private. If we had, there would be no cause for the annoyance which he seems to feel over the matter. We are all ignorant of some things, and even Mr. Crane will not, we think, claim that he knows everything and never makes mistakes.

After reading his letter carefully, we are more than ever of the opinion that he makes "rash assertions" and arrives at "wild conclusions" and we believe every unprejudiced reasoner, after a little reflection on the matter, would form the same opinion. As to what we know of the gentleman and his course we prefer not to say anything. We do not desire to enter into personalities. But we know more of him than he is perhaps aware, and therefore he should not presume on our supposed "ignorance" concerning him.

There was no need for any acrimony over what we said. We supposed he would be pleased to see his letter in print, and as it shows that he has emerged from the darkness of so-called