

general sentiment of the American public. It goes dead against the political creed of Utah "Liberals," though, and they will not be pleased with it. In their policy, no person who entertains views in harmony with the tenets of the "Mormon" faith should be permitted to enjoy the rights of citizens, no matter how closely and rigidly he may obey the laws, or how exemplary in all respects his life may be.

We take pleasure in the thought that the American people as well as the *American* paper, are "content" with the regulation of men's "conduct," leaving them entirely free as to their opinions. This liberty is now the object of "Liberal" assault, but it is likely to be maintained in the United States, at least for the present.

### THE TELEPHONE TROUBLE.

THE inconvenience, to say nothing of the danger, occasioned by the cutting off of telephonic communication and the burning out of a large number of instruments on Thursday, has stirred the Salt Lake public to indignant protest. The blame seems to centre upon the street railroad company, because the general understanding is that the damages were caused by the contact of trolley wheels with the telephone wires. It is freely charged that this company should be made liable for the costs incurred.

We have taken pains to investigate the matter, and have come to the conclusion that the view generally expressed is incorrect. The following, from the city ordinance in regard to electric lines, will throw some light on the subject:

"Sec. 3. Any person, co-partnership or company who shall erect or place in position for telegraph or telephone purposes, any pole or poles, shall have the same of a height sufficient so that the lowest wire shall be at least thirty feet from the ground, and no pole for either of the above purposes shall be less than six inches in diameter at the top."

Electric light wires are required to be at least twenty-five feet from the ground, and provisions are made in the ordinance to prevent contact between telephone and electric light wires.

Now, it is claimed with what appears to be good reason, that the telephone company has not complied with this ordinance; that its wires are not thirty feet from the ground, and that if they were, there would be no danger of the trolley wheel bounding up so as to come in contact

with them. This fact can be easily determined by actual measurement. A glance at them conveys the impression that they are considerably below that standard.

If this is correct, as we think it is, the street railroad company would not be liable for damages through the contact which caused the trouble on Thursday. Also, if the cause was the falling of telephone wires upon the street railroad wire, the liability would not fall upon the latter company.

The remedy seems to be the elevation of the telephone wires to the designated altitude. And this must be construed so as to provide against the sagging of the wires below the height required. It is also suggested that the wires should be fastened inside the insulators, so that in case of the breaking of an insulator the wire would drop on the cross-piece upon the post, instead of falling below as it would if fastened on the outside of the insulator.

One thing is sure: The public are aroused on this question and demand some immediate action, that they may be protected against further danger and inconvenience of this character. One look at the instruments that have been burned out will be enough to explain the reluctance expressed by some persons to touch the concern again. It is a serious matter for the telephone company, in a financial sense at least. And it is also a serious matter for the public. The telephone has become almost a necessity in the rapid transaction of business, and it would be a very great drawback if the usefulness of this system was in any way permanently impaired.

We hope that the hostile feeling which has evidently existed between the telephone and street railway people will not continue, but that some amicable arrangement will be made that will cause harmony of purpose and unity of action. Suits at law are always expensive and often unsatisfactory, and much better results can be obtained by mutual concession and desire to do what is right instead of striving after victory. Let us have peace; also light, electric communication and rapid transit.

### BANCROFT'S UTAH.

THE numerous subscribers in this Territory to the great historical work of Mr. H. H. Bancroft, the *History of the Pacific States*, have been looking for a long time for the volume on Utah. It is now in cir-

culcation. A cursory examination of its eight hundred and odd pages, leads to the opinion that the author has taken even more than his usual pains to make his work complete, and to gather up all that has appeared in print relating to this Territory and its people, and has compiled from every available source facts, opinions, theories and predictions, historical incidents and statistical data, which he gives to his readers with very little expression of any views he may entertain concerning the people and their religion who have made Utah what it is.

The volume commences with a relation of the incidents of modern visits to the region now known as the Territory of Utah, the earliest reliable account being an exploration in 1776 by two Franciscan friars, who from New Mexico penetrated as far as Timpanogos or Utah Lake. Half a century later, fur hunters and trappers came to the borders of Salt Lake, then came Fremont and others, and finally the "Mormons," the first to settle here and attempt to till the soil.

"The story of Mormonism" is then related from 1820 to 1844 and so on to the present date, with facts and figures about the Territory, its organization, government, relations with the Federal authorities, products, industries, politics, social system, educational system, religious system, etc.

In treating the philosophical, social and theological tenets of the "Mormon" Church and people, and the rise and progress of the organization, both sides of the controversies on these points are presented, the author having evidently exerted himself to the utmost to present all that has been said by the opposition, as well as a fair epitome of the claims of the supporters of "Mormonism." While he has stated the chief doctrines and principles of the Church from the "Mormon" standpoint, as nearly as could be expected of one not in the faith, he has been very careful to give the statements and arguments of the anti-"Mormon" side, so as to leave no room for complaint as to any bias in favor of "Mormonism."

The number of authorities consulted is something astonishing. The index to them occupies twenty-six pages of close print. There are many more anti-"Mormon" than "Mormon" references. Works that the oldest and most erudite of "Mormon" preachers and writers probably never heard of, are mentioned by their titles and their