

of their importunities for office. Such persons were denounced by leading "Mormons," but those who told the truth about such men, did not think for a moment that they were saying anything against the Government or the nation.

We would be glad if we could think that the authors of the later misrepresentations of the "Mormons" believed what they set forth as "Mormon" doctrine. There might then be some probability that they could be convinced of their error. But the wilful perversions of fact and speech which are common to their paper and its methods forbids any such belief. They will, no doubt, go on in their way of deceit until they have filled up the cup of their iniquity. Once in a while we deem it proper to notice their aspersions, but usually we pass them by as foul or idle wind, and our silence must not be construed by any means into assent.

IT IS TOO MUCH.

Two of our local cotemporaries appear to be engaged in a hot controversy over the merits and demerits of the head of the fire department. We suggest that the proportions of this polemic battle is altogether out of proportion to the person to whom it refers, and as he still keeps up his process of self-puffing, and voluntary propositions through one of the papers referred to, the discussion appears to be feeding his egotism, which is nauseating a discriminating public. If this thing is kept up, the upper part of the major will be in danger of bursting. Those who are not inclined to this belief may be converted by a perusal of the following, which is a sample expression from him:

"I intend familiarizing my men with the large buildings in town, so that in case of fire they will know just how to take advantage of the situation. There is a good deal in that, and, moreover, I propose getting the merchants to support a patrol wagon like the insurance patrol outfits in the larger cities, though, of course, on not so extended a scale. This wagon will be equipped with tarpaulins, fire extinguishers, patent door openers, etc., and its men will know that it is their business to reach a fire and have the goods covered with the water proof tarpaulins before the regular firemen get there. Salt Lake needs something of that kind very much."

The operators of a patent patrol wagon armed with "patent door openers" would, unless conducted by insurance companies be placed in an uncomfortable fix occasionally in these days of crackmen's ex-

ploits. But then, all the chief has to do is to make known his wishes and he will "get the merchants."

From the aspect matters have assumed of late, people are asking whether there is any other officer of the city besides Major Stanton. It is nearly three days since the city cleaner up—Mr. Showell—has blazed forth in the public prints. Why this unjust discrimination?

THE "MORMONS" AS COLONIZERS.

THE following, which appeared in the Phoenix (Arizona) Gazette, as correspondence written at Tempe, May 16th, gives a fair idea of the quality of the Latter-day Saints as colonizers of new and undeveloped portions of the country:

"We hear much these days about the Mormons, and their habits, industry, etc., but not many people understand them.

"The writer was here when the Mesa Mormons arrived at their now beautiful surroundings.

"The handful of Mormon emigrants, who located at Mesa, as the site of a colony, had a keen insight into the future. The little band consisted of about nine families, and a few camp followers. After pitching their tents on the river bottom, and making an inventory of their worldly goods, which was comprised chiefly of a few head of stock, they went to work with a thorough appreciation of the adage that labor conquers all things. Doctor Jones, an old timer and civil engineer, surveyed the route of their proposed canal. This done, the work of cutting it through rock, cement and soft earth for a distance of nine miles, commenced in dead earnest, in the month of February, 1878.

"The total force mustered on the canal for the first few months never went above twelve men, yet in the face of almost insurmountable obstacles, laboring under the midday blaze of a tropical sun, without the shadow of a shade, with insufficient food at times for men or beasts, that handful of wanderers, in search of a permanent abiding place, kept on day by day, working on the problem of turning a barren desert into a vast orchard and vineyard.

To a wealthy company, such an undertaking would be but a trifle in the annals of its transactions; but to those twelve hardy sons of toil who mustered on that February day, on the banks of the Salt River, to dig and delve for many a weary day and month, it was an undertaking on their part fraught with the weal or woe of their future destinies. Pluck and perseverance, however, triumphed over all obstacles, and the final result of nine months' labor was the proud satisfaction of seeing water flowing over our present townsite. The flow of water was then but a mere trickle to what we have now, and what with breakages and rat holes, it required two or three shares of water the first two years of settlement, to irrigate a five acre patch in a week. Taking this into consideration, and the fact that with the exception of a few teams left after their long and weary task, as well as the little band being financially down to bed rock, it is no cause for surprise that but little progress was made in improving and

cultivating their holdings, during the first three years of settlement.

Soon, however, well-to-do settlers began to arrive, and with the usual generosity so proverbial among Mormons, of aiding one another, combined with what the younger members of the family could bring in by freighting, the elders managed to start little patches of fruit trees and grape vines, which have since, and now are being rapidly developed into immense orchards and vineyards, and which before many more seasons roll by, will be proof positive, of the Mesa being the best fruit-growing portion of North America. It will be seen from the above that the Mesa was almost at a standstill during its first three years of colonization; with a canal that required continual repairs, a broken exchequer, and without a permanent leader, such as they had been used to in the hills and valleys of Utah, it is surprising indeed that they did not disperse, family by family, until they had scattered far and wide over the coast.

The early teachings of the founders of their creed—frugality, sobriety, industry and patience—came in right here to their aid, and with a grit worthy of the cause—the colonization of the desert, and the spread of their creed—they kept on right manfully in improving and enlarging their canal, until they have now one that is capable of irrigating 35,000 acres of land.

The results of the labors of these pioneers can now be daily seen in the grain and hay fields, in our orchards loaded down with fruit of every description; in our vineyards bearing five to eight tons of luscious grapes to the acre; in our bees, producing our honey; in our sorghum mills, turning out our syrup; in our strawberry beds, yielding abundantly; and, on every rancher's table fat looking "spuds" of his own raising; and at this season of the year, neat cottages on every hand, fronted by mazy walks and flower beds scenting the air for rods with a fragrant perfume, until one imagines he is in some fairy land, instead of sitting under his own cool fig tree.

THE PRESENT SITUATION.

THERE appears to be some misunderstanding among many as to the effect of the latest action of the Supreme Court of the United States on the Church property case. In postponing the matter to the next term of court they have left the matter *in statu quo*.

The constitutionality of that portion of the Edmunds-Tucker act which disincorporates the "Mormon" Church, and authorizes the escheat of its real estate above the value of \$50,000 and not specially exempted by the law, is affirmed. But the scope of the decree is to be reviewed. The law does not mention what is to be done with the personal property of the Church, which the Utah courts placed in the hands of the Receiver. Therefore the court will look into this part of their decree, and it may be that some modification will be made.