

the hearts of the rulers and people of this nation may be softened, to the end that they may be induced to deal justly and mercifully with the Saints, and be willing to hear our cause and grant to us those rights and privileges which belong to citizens who are true to the Constitution and institutions of the United States.

The fast is to commence at sundown on the 22nd inst. and continue until sundown of the 23rd, and it is expected that the members of the Church will have special prayer meetings at home, and in their ward assemblies, and in those places set apart for those purposes. The Presidency of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion desire the Bishops in the different wards to make arrangements for meetings on the 23d instant, according to their respective circumstances. In this city it is recommended that in addition to the regular meetings on Sunday evening, the 22nd inst., morning and afternoon meetings be held on the 23rd, and that in the early morning and between the meetings on that day, prayer meetings be held in the places specially set apart for that object.

All this should be done in the spirit of meekness and faith. There ought to be no expressions or desires for wrath and judgment upon those who have persecuted, reviled and falsely accused us and who seek to oppress us, but rather that they may turn from their wicked ways and be led to do right.

It is to be hoped that all business places conducted or controlled by members of the Church will be closed on the 23rd inst., so that persons employed there may be free to fast and pray and attend the meetings that will be convened. This is an important matter, and the results that will surely accrue will be of vastly more value than gold and silver and any material interests that may be involved.

That our God is approachable and ready to hear and help His people when they draw near to him aright, has been abundantly demonstrated in our chequered experience. Let us come to Him on this occasion unitedly, as directed by His servants, and we shall receive another proof of the truth of the doctrine of His Son: "When two or three of you are agreed touching anything, and ye ask it in my name, it shall be granted unto you." "Ask and ye shall receive; seek and ye shall find; knock and the door shall be opened unto you."

VILLAINOUS ANTAGONISM—A SCRAP OF HISTORY.

WE HAVE examined the statements of a large number of the newspapers of the country regarding the present situation of Utah affairs. One cannot help noting the similarity of their utterances. It is needless to state that they are against the "Mormon" people. There are reasons for this attitude of the American press. The position the papers assume is the popular one. It is much easier to float with the current than to buffet it by trying to swim up stream. Many of them do not manifest the slightest inclination to investigate the subject by considering the evidence pro and con. All they want to know is that a matter is against the "Mormons." When this is the case they shut their eyes, swallow the dose *holus bolus*, and deal it out again to the public.

A positive evidence of this careless and it might be said, from a moral standpoint, criminal method of dealing with important subjects, has lately presented itself to us, and to some extent accounts for the remarkable journalistic unanimity on the matter referred to. In scanning numerous articles upon the present political aspect of Utah affairs, we have discovered a large amount of plagiarism. One paper will publish an original anti-"Mormon" article and in the course of a few days the same production will appear in half a dozen other journals without the change of a single word; yet the reproducers present it as original editorial matter. This shows that there is some truth in the rejoinder of a journalist to another writer who quoted the worn-out phrase—"The pen is mightier than the sword." The retort was that the scissors and paste brush were not to be sneezed at in the same connection.

This little statement of the "me too" methods of some newspaper writers gives the public a peep behind the journalistic scenes. Echoism is, however, an inconsistent basis of unanimity. A little reason and fairness are essential ingredients. But thus the world wags, and the apparently weaker party in a controversy gets all the cuffs and kicks from the onlookers, without regard to the merits of the matter in dispute.

So far as relates to recent developments, the facilities for presentation to the public of statements connected with them have been almost ex-

clusively in the hands of the local anti-"Mormon" party. They have kept the wires hot in conveying to the country the most sensational, damaging and one-sided exhibits. Testimony given in court of an anti-"Mormon" color, no matter how distorted and untrue, was heralded abroad with a blast, while evidence that completely annihilated it, given by witnesses on both sides, was completely shut off from the scrutiny of the public throughout the country.

A flagrant instance of this diabolic process was the scattering of the bloody story told by Martin Wardell about the murder by "Mormons" of William Green, near Green River, in 1862. The parties who sent this defaming story over the nation have carefully suppressed so far as they have had the power, the fact that the tale was an atrocious anti "Mormon" falsehood, coined for political purposes, and to produce an outside effect. It never has been announced to the press at large, as a matter of justice to an innocent people, that William Green is alive and well, as witness his sworn statement:

TERRITORY OF UTAH, } ss.
COUNTY OF UTAH }

William Green, being duly sworn, on his oath says: I am an Englishman by birth, fifty-five years of age, and now a resident of Spanish Fork city, Utah County, Territory of Utah. I crossed the plains in 1862 in Captain Dame's company; I knew a man by the name of Wardell; he crossed the plains and came to Utah in the same company as I did. We traveled together until the company arrived at a point near William Kimball's ranch in Parley's Park, where I left the train ahead of the company, being anxious to meet my wife, who was then in Salt Lake City, she having traveled over the plains the same season with Captain Hoyt's company. I have lived in Salt Lake City and Spanish Fork City since I came to Utah. I was the only man by the name of Green, that I know of, who came over in Captain Dame's company. No man was killed in that company by the name of Green, or of any other name, nor did I ever hear of any rumor of any one being killed in said company, until I saw the statement of Wardell recently in the papers. I am not a Mormon nor have I been for several years. I am not a believer in Mormon theocracy, but do believe it wrong to have any religious sect or body of people assailed by falsehood.

WILLIAM GREEN.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 25th day of November, 1889.

WILLIAM CREER,
Notary Public.

On the ground of the alleged murder of Mr. Green, the newspapers of the nation are busy denouncing as cut-throats a peaceable community, who view murder with unmitigated abhorrence, yet who is