

with the unsolved problems of society, the social evil, the liquor traffic, the prevalence of corruption or malfeasance in office, hydra-headed crime and a thousand other gigantic evils of today will die of inanition, not by force, not by suppression, not by law or legislation, but from the purification of the heart, the enlargement of the soul, the education of the race, by the indwelling of that Spirit of which it was said it is "God working in you to will and to do of His good pleasure."

This is the regeneration, this the power of the Gospel, this the work of the Priesthood; this will truly "bring again" Zion, and make of it, "the joy and praise of all the earth!"

THE FACTS GIVEN.

Through a somewhat lengthy public career I have made it a point never to notice or reply to articles or communications in which I have been assailed, especially those of an anonymous character.

An article has appeared in two of our city papers, clipped from the *New York Times*, in which in seven long mortal columns I am savagely attacked, and my life and conduct, my business relations and my family affairs are discussed with a malignity that exhibits some deep-seated purpose on the part of the writer to do me a personal injury and, if possible, destroy my credit.

If all that is said would only have effect upon me personally, I would not condescend to trouble the public with any explanation or defense. Experience has abundantly taught me that while it is true that a lie will go a league while truth is putting on its boots, it only requires time for an honest man, whose conduct is straightforward and upright, to outlive any falsehood. I would not even now say one word myself concerning all that has been written in this anonymous communication, did not dear friends, whose opinion I respect, urge me to do so, they thinking that I not only owed it to myself, but that I owed it to the people and to the enterprises with which I am connected, that something should be said. This is my reason, and my only reason, for trespassing upon public attention at this time.

Among my own people I trust I am too well known to be required to make any explanation or defense of my conduct. The people with whom I have been associated all my life have had ample experience in seeing the best motives misconstrued, the purest lives defamed, and the fairest reputations sought to be besmirched and defiled by venomous slander.

I shall confine my explanation to as brief a space as possible. The charges are so general, and many of them so loose, that it is difficult, without occupying more space than should be used, to properly notice them.

The first definite charge that is made is that I am a man of very large family, and that there are scarcely offices of emolument enough in the gift of the people to supply my progeny with positions, and it is hinted that I take care of that family, "even though it be at the public expense."

I can truthfully say that not one of my children has ever occupied a pub-

lic office through my influence. It is said that one of my sons is an Apostle. This is true. But those who had a voice in the first place in appointing Apostles to present to the general conference of the Church for their vote, can each and all testify that George Q. Cannon used no influence, in any form, direct or indirect, in public or in private, to favor his selection for that exalted station. And today there is not one of my sons that is in the public employ, neither has any of them ever occupied public office, excepting one who was at one time a member of the Legislature and subsequently a city counselor in this city, and another who was once a clerk of the Legislature and also a city counselor in the city where he lived; but neither of them received any assistance from me in any form. They were nominated for these offices because it was thought they possessed the necessary qualifications for the position; and, so far as I know, they filled them to the satisfaction of those who elected them.

Upon the question of using influence of office, either political or ecclesiastical, for the advancement of family interests or the promotion of relatives, I have always been peculiarly sensitive; and in view of the attack of this writer upon me and my methods, it gives me great pleasure to make public what my conduct in this respect has been.

I was Delegate to Congress from this Territory for a number of years. As such I had the right to nominate candidates for cadetship at West Point and Annapolis. When my son, John Q. Cannon, reached the proper age he was desirous that I should nominate him as a cadet to the military academy. He was physically qualified, and no doubt existed respecting his mental fitness for the appointment—he having received a certificate to that effect from the president of the University of Deseret. But I declined to accede to his request and that of others who befriended his candidacy; resolved that it should not be said of me that I had used my official power to advance the ambition or prospects of my own kin.

As further evidence of this, not one of my children has ever been employed in our large mercantile establishment, Zion's Co-operative Mercantile Institution, though I have been longer connected with that institution than any of the present members of the board of directors, having been one of its first incorporators.

I was one of the incorporators of the Utah Central railroad; not one of my children ever occupied a position in connection with that railroad.

I was one of the first organizers of Zion's Savings Bank and Trust company; not one of my children has ever been connected with that bank.

I have been a large owner in the Bullion-Beck and Champion Mining company for nearly thirteen years; not one of my offspring has had any position nor any employment from that company.

I took an active part in the organization of the Utah Sugar company; declined the position of president, and was elected vice-president of that company; not one of my family has ever had an hour's employment from that institution.

I can say the same with equal truth

about the Saltair Beach and the Salt Lake & Los Angeles railroad.

I have been one of the Twelve Apostles since 1860 and a counselor in the First Presidency since 1880; not one of my children, nor any relative, has been employed by the Church through my influence or because of his connection with me.

And with the exceptions above named, not one of my children has ever occupied a civil or political office, with the exception of my son Frank J., to whom I shall allude hereafter.

So much for the charge made against me that I have used my influence and power to forward the interests of or to furnish office for any of my children.

I might reply in much detail as to the manner in which this anonymous writer says I became the owner of stock in the Bullion-Beck & Champion Mining company. Mr. John Beck, without my solicitation or knowledge, has amply refuted, in both the *Tribune* and the *Herald* of this city, the allegation made by my assailant concerning the method by which I had become possessed of stock to John Beck's injury. To this statement I may make this addition: That President John Taylor and myself bargained with Mr. Beck for one-third each in that property. We paid him according to agreement, each of us becoming possessed of one-third interest. After the purchase we parted with one-seventh of our interest to other parties. Since then I have never sold a share of the stock in that property, and it is a sufficient refutation of the slanderous charges of this correspondent, it seems to me, for me to state—and the books of the company will fully bear me out—that though I have never sold one share of stock in that property, yet today I scarcely own one-sixth, through causes which, if they were of any public interest, I might relate. My share has decreased from but a little less than one-third, without the sale of a single share on my part, to about one-sixth of the property. This does not look as though I had taken advantage of any person.

I am next charged with being the owner of real estate, and though there is nothing definitely stated, it is hinted that by some surreptitious means I have become possessed of real estate which belonged to the Church.

This is so utterly false that I should be glad at any time for any committee of Church members to examine into every real estate transaction that I have ever had, and thus satisfy themselves as to the atrocious character of this falsehood. I do not own a piece of property today in my own right that ever belonged to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or to its trustee. There are two pieces of property that were bought by George Q. Cannon & Sons company, one where the office of the *Juvenile Instructor* now stands, and the other a little south of Zion's Savings Bank, which came through the trustee-in-trust; for these full value was paid at the same price at which other pieces of the same lot were bought. This is the only transaction in Church real estate that I can possibly be connected with; as I say, I myself was not the purchaser in