

There are many persons, well informed on other things, who entertain the same incorrect ideas on this matter as those expressed above. Prominent national legislators, on visiting this city, have been crammed full of such stuff by "Liberal" liars of supposed respectability. And when told the contrary by "Mormons," they have received the refutation with an air of very doubtful credulity.

Of course the comments of the *Telegram* are in line with its statements of what it supposes to be facts. They are to one informed simply idiotic. But they would go very well with similar remarks from the organ of the "Liberals" in this city.

We state to the *Telegram* and other papers that have been thus deceived, every Latter day Saint or "Mormon" who possesses property, holds it in his own right, and it is not signed away or given in any way to the Church. If he secedes and desires to leave, he can dispose of his property in any manner he pleases and the Church does not interfere with him or his. There is not any substantial foundation for the assertions of the *Telegram*, and its reasonings are as vain as its "facts" are mistaken.

It is also entirely untrue that the "Mormons" are under compulsion in any form whatever as to voting at the polls or elsewhere. They are perfectly and entirely free in this respect, all assertions to the contrary notwithstanding. No one tells them that they must vote for a certain person or a certain ticket. Elections are conducted as elsewhere, except that in Utah all the machinery thereof is in the hands of the political enemies of the "Mormons." Tickets are made up in the usual way, and the "Mormons" are urged by their friends to vote the People's ticket and not to vote for their enemies. The ballot is completely secret. But all the assertions about oaths, obligations, covenants or agreements, which render "Mormons" any less free and untrammelled than other citizens, are either great mistakes or wilful and baseless falsehoods. There is no truth in them whatever. They have been concocted for purposes of deception and their authors were inspired by the Father of Evil.

So our friends in the far north need be under no concern in regard to our people who have settled in Canada. They are a good people who own what they hold, and who will be found obedient to the laws

of the country in which they dwell. It is to be hoped that they will remain united in every respect, for in unity will be found their happiness and prosperity. But that unity will not consist in communism nor in compulsory association of any kind, but in that voluntary union which comes from similarity of sentiment and conviction, and that brotherhood which modern Christians profess to admire in theory but condemn when they see it put into practice.

A BRACE OF VILLAINS.

ONE of the most contemptible swindles on record was recently uncovered in New York. The result of it was the arrest of P. Arnson, proprietor of a "bank and passage office," and Louis Silikowitz, his soliciting agent. The victims of the pair have always been among the poorest and most ignorant. The method employed by these precious rascals was to go among the recently arrived Russian and Polish immigrants anxious to bring their relatives to this country, and sell them, on the instalment plan, railroad and steamship tickets from various obscure and far-away places to America. When all the hard-earned money had been paid over the tickets were furnished the purchaser and sent to the absent relatives in Europe. The railroad tickets were good to Hamburg, which was always named as the embarking port, but the steamship tickets were fraudulent, and were invariably dishonored by the ostensible agent of Arnson at Hamburg. Of course, the unfortunates were left destitute at Hamburg, while their relatives on this side spent many anxious days wondering why their loved ones did not come. Arnson always had some smooth story to tell whenever they went to him for information, promising that he would make it all right. The victims finally got tired of his promises, which were never fulfilled, and determined to take matters into their own hands. A mob of several hundred Russians and Polish Hebrews gathered in front of his "bank" on Canal Street a week ago last Saturday night, and it would have gone hard with Arnson and Silikowitz had not the police arrived just in time. They found the two skulking cowards hiding behind a counter, and they were marched to the station-house, followed by many of those whom they had so cruelly swindled. Many pathetic stories are told of the confidence placed in these two rascals by the poor immigrants.

GROWTH OF CRIME.

THE Government directs attention, by published circular over the signature of Postmaster Wanamaker, to the frequency of armed attacks upon the United States mails, for purposes of robbery. The West is specially named as the field in which mail robbers flourish and operate. It is often the case, however, that dramatic performances of the kind in question occur in the east, where the country has been settled for a long time.

This form of crime has become so common that the Government feels impelled, in a general way, without reference to any special case, to offer graded rewards for the arrest and conviction of the desperadoes who engage in it. This bare fact is a sad comment upon our times and civilization. This will be seen at once, when it is considered that it only refers to one phase of criminality, while thousands of other forms are rampant and the country is full of individual and factional violence.

A quarter of a century since it was common for the youth to read with avidity highly colored descriptions of the criminal exploits of such novices in thievery and highwaymanship as Jack Sheppard, Claude Duval, Dick Turpin, *et al.* Now the boys can get much more thrilling and romantic literature in the same line by reading, in the newspapers of the day, accurate descriptions of actual transactions that are of almost constant occurrence. Such men as those named were specially noted because of the scarcity of their class in the times when they flourished. The notoriety of many of their kind in our own day and who excel them in daring, in the extensive character of their transactions and in almost every other direction, lasts but a few hours comparatively, because of the great number of criminals of that kind. It seems as if no sooner is some remarkable criminal operation perpetrated than another which eclipses it follows upon its heels and causes it to be lost sight of. And yet popular preachers assert, because of the soothing character of the announcement, that the world is growing morally better. Only a few days ago a local professed dispenser of Gospel truth made this absurd assertion, and thus placed himself in the category of false teachers who cry "peace, peace, when there is no peace." Crime of every kind seems to be increasing with alarming rapidity throughout the country.