

declarations of living witnesses. Why cannot the various sects of Christendom content themselves with reason, argument and evidence that appeal to the judgment and intellect, in their efforts to check the growth and spread of Mormonism? Why cannot they take the teachings of that people and show the fallacy of the same? Why do they not offer a religion to the Mormons which bears better fruit in every day life than does the faith which that people cherish? Why do professed Christian teachers perpetually resort to the un-Christian means of slander and false witness in dealing with the Mormons?

These reflections are suggested by a special dispatch from Boston which appeared in the Tribune this morning, as follows:

Rev. J. A. Hamilton, D. D., editor of Congregational Work and secretary of the Congregational Educational society, has made a special investigation of the present status of Mormonism, and today made a report in which he stated that the hope that Statehood in Utah would result in the essential ending of Mormon domination is not well grounded. Apparently the Church has already come to be the practical balance of power between the two great parties, and according to its own pleasure it ordains victory for one and defeat for the other. Officers, laws, administration—all seem to be more and more within its gift; and while this is not ostensibly operating to the formal re-establishment of the 'peculiar institution' of Mormonism, it is clearly operating to foster and promote its essential spirit.

"The church leaders are not slow to see that the continued establishment of non-Mormon schools must be prevented, and that as far as possible, every essential condition to life and prosperity must be withheld from those already in existence. Every effort has been put forth to secure the predominance of church representation in the boards of education. So far as the State University is concerned, the movement has been successful. To effect the same in lesser schools seems also to be determined. Can it be doubted that the one effective remedy for the traditional and deep-seated evils of Utah is found in the principles represented in Christian schools?"

The quotation from Rev. Mr. Hamilton's report is a mass of mendacity. The Mormon Church is not "the balance of power between the two great parties;" it does not "ordain victory for one and defeat for the other;" "officers, laws, administration" are not "within its gift;" and the reference to the "peculiar institution," by which it is presumed polygamy is meant, is a fitting climax to this series of misstatements.

The alleged opposition of the "Church leaders" to the "continued establishment of non-Mormon schools" is another misrepresentation. All schools drawing support from public funds must, under the law, be non-sectarian, and no "Church leader" among the Mormons desires the repeal of that law.

"The one effective remedy for the traditional and deep-seated evils of Utah is found in the principles represented in the Christian schools." What are those principles? Are they truth, love, justice and charity, or are they falsehood, slander, hatred and false witness? If the "Christian schools"—and in this term we include "Christian" theologians and exponents of religious thought—would put in practice in their treatment of Mormonism and the Mormons the precepts of the Savior, the change from some methods that are fresh in mind would be so radical as to amount to a revo-

lution. How pleasant such a change would seem!

#### CURFEW LAW OF INDIANAPOLIS.

A few days ago the capital of Indiana adopted a curfew ordinance. While the bill was under discussion it was so amended as to punish parents by a fine of from one to ten dollars for allowing their children on the streets at night in violation of its provisions. This is an original feature of a curfew law, and its practical operation will be observed with interest.

The chief objection to the usual legislation of this character is that it shifts from the parent to the police the duty of caring for and controlling the rising generation; but a provision punishing the parents for not properly training and governing their children—in other words, for allowing them to be upon the streets at night, subject to the temptations and associations inseparable from the thoroughfares of a large city after dark—though a novel feature of legislation, is looked to with some hope that it may prove beneficial.

During the debate on the bill one of the councilmen said 80 arrests of minors under the age of 20 years are made every month in Indianapolis. Counting 5 "crimes" for each child, he said this made 400 "crimes" committed each month by children whom the curfew ordinance would restrain. Such was the showin that aided in overcoming the strong opposition in the city council to the passage of the ordinance.

A stream cannot rise higher than its fountain. The family is the fountain from which flows the commonwealth, and it is the family that should give form and tone to legislation, instead of legislation reforming the family. The police power of the State can never take the place of that relation between parent and child out of which, under normal and proper conditions, arise the love, reverence and authority all combined, by means of which the child is trained and governed. If the law of nature which makes parents solicitous for their offspring has so far lost its sway as to fail in producing that result, no law of man can take its place nor successfully work the desired end. It needs no profound acumen to foresee the failure of the experiment the Hoosier capital is trying.

#### A BROKEN HEART.

There is a serious quarrel between the leaders of the American Volunteers and the Salvation Army. Mrs. Ballington Booth, wife of the commander of the first mentioned organization, is sick, and her husband states that she is suffering from a broken heart caused by intense grief on account of slanderous attacks upon her by members of the other religious body. It is charged that the Salvation Army people have been accusing her of being the chief promoter of the schism that separated the American division of the Army from the British and have also assailed her character in various ways; she has been attacked in anonymous letters and had her meetings interrupted by Salvation Army officers; and although she has complained of the treatment received, no redress or protection has been extended to her. At last, according to her friends, she broke down under the strain and is now seriously ill at a hospital.

Mr. Booth-Tucker, commander of the Army, denies the charges made by the leader of the Volunteers, and says they are just as cruel as it would be to state that the sickness is a judgment of the Almighty sent upon her

for leaving the Army. Colonel Ferris believes the motive for the publication of this matter at this time is that Ballington Booth knows his father is coming over and he wishes to head off the effect of the demonstration that will follow.

Whatever may be the cause of this unfortunate dispute, it is certain that the affliction under which Mrs. Booth suffers brings sadness to many who have been the subjects of her tender care. Thousands of the outcasts of society, both within and outside prison walls, have learned to look up to her as to a messenger from a better world. It is a pity that an organization with the aims of the Salvation Army should ever allow personal or national consideration to enter into its aspirations or determine its modes of labor, especially to such an extent as to cause division, strife and bitterness to be displayed in the face of the foe, so to speak. It is this division and subdivision that has weakened the whole Protestant world and brought down to a minimum the results of its efforts for good. The Salvation Army people cannot escape a similar fate, if their labor is to be divided between philanthropic enterprises and contention among themselves. First unite, then conquer.

#### ISS WEBSTER'S DEFENSE.

In the daily "News" of the 9th inst. appeared an editorial in which were recounted and refuted false and slanderous statements alleged to have been made at the expense of the Mormon people, by Miss Rose Glen Webster, at a meeting in a private residence in Indianapolis. Miss Webster has been laboring in Provo, Utah, in connection with the Baptist mission there, and a report of her remarks at the meeting referred to was furnished to the "News" by Elder Fred B. Brook, a Mormon missionary, whose home is in this city, and who was present.

Today Rev. Mr. Steelman of the Baptist church in this city, and Rev. Dr. Wishard of the Presbyterian church, a missionary worker, called at this office in behalf of Miss Webster, and tendered for publication in the "News" two affidavits, one signed by her and both by several other persons present at the meeting reported by Elder Brook. One of these affidavits alleges that Elder Brook, for the purpose of gaining admission to the meeting, represented himself as a reporter of the Christian Recorder, a periodical which he said was published in Chicago, whereas no such publication is known in that city. This affidavit is evidently intended to impeach Elder Brook's veracity and honor.

The other sworn statement takes up, seriatim, a number of statements attributed to Miss Webster, and specifically denies that she made them. It also gives a series of statements which she did make, in reference to the Mormons, and is signed by several of her auditors but not by herself.

The review of Miss Webster's alleged utterances, as reported by Elder Brook, did not appear in the "News" until his account of them had been corroborated from other sources, and as the case stands there is a serious conflict in the evidence. The "News" is perfectly willing to do full justice to Miss Webster, but in an attempt to do this does not wish to do injustice to Elder Brook, nor any other source of information. Therefore, pending further steps to clear up the matter, and to learn the facts necessary to the placing of all concerned in a true light, the publication of the affidavits will be deferred, with the understanding that full justice to all interested will be meted out as soon as the "News" is in a position to do it.