

the consideration that will be attracted towards him in consequence will not be of an appreciable character or quantity.

This additional evidence of the lack of wisdom on the part of this gentleman leads one to wonder if he can do anything now with which the element of dignity is associated. It is certainly not an ingredient of this latest public transaction.

We do not believe that Mr. West has got so low down as to be capable of manufacturing those valentines with his own hand. It is a matter beyond question with us, however, that some of his friends belonging to the clique of "active politicians" with which he has seen fit to connect himself are the authors of these disgusting productions. The reasons for this opinion are plain. No Latter-day Saint would, in the first place, be guilty of so indecent and censurable an act as to pen and send such communications to the Governor or anyone else. Any sensible person identified with that class understands also that to do such a thing would be an injury to his own people.

The alleged valentines *smell* strongly of the source from which the notorious "Bishop West's" red-hot address emanated, and which indirectly led to a bloody massacre in the State of Tennessee, where that fabricated discourse, embodying threats against Federal officials, was widely circulated, and, as might naturally be expected, aroused the antipathy of the people of that section against the "Mormons." This intensity of feeling created in that way led up to one of the foulest murders of innocent people on the records of that State.

That "red-hot address" was proved to be a falsehood manufactured out of whole cloth. There was no Bishop by the name of West in the Church at the time the address was said to have been delivered; there was no meeting held at the place named on the day when the speech was asserted to have been made; no such sermon was ever enunciated. With these trifling exceptions it was, of course, true.

The manufacture of belligerent, threatening and filthy letters, purporting to emanate from Latter-day Saints, is an old and stale game of the opposition. It has been too often exposed to be received with credence by any class, in this community at least, no matter how any portion of the people may pretend to the contrary.

These two missives addressed to Governor West form a pedestal of such slender mould that their summit affords not the slightest particle of a base upon which a martyr can place his feet.

Try something else!

We have received at different times letters couched in blasphemous and blackguardly language, threatening our life. When they have come to hand we have simply torn them up, thrown them in the waste basket, and given the matter no further attention.

We would have been ashamed to give them publicity through these columns, and much more ashamed still to flaunt them as expressions of the Gentile sentiment. They were valued at their worth, as emanating from cowardly cranks who simply represented their own depraved and craven natures.

To have sought personal notoriety or cheap martyrdom by placing them before the public in the columns of a newspaper would have exhibited a species of babyism of which no manly person will be guilty. To have used them as a means of creating public sentiment against any class of the community would have been simply perfidious.

From this explanation of our own experience a fair estimate may be formed of the way we look at the use to which Mr. West's valentine incident has been put.

THE EXAMINER'S REPORT.

THE publication, in full, of the report of Judge Harkness in the matter of the investigation into the conduct of Receiver Dyer and his attorneys precludes the necessity of extended comment on the subject. All who have paid any attention to the proceedings, and are unprejudiced, will pronounce it an excellent document—a compendious statement of the case with conclusions in precise harmony with the evidence.

The standing of Judge Harkness in the profession adds weight to anything of a legal character that emanates from him. He is the peer of any practising attorney—we could also consistently say jurist—in the Far West. But the report he has just made to the Supreme Court of Utah, upon a subject that has created a great deal of interest in this section, needs no such auxiliary as personal influence to give it force. Being truthful and appropriate in spirit and essence it is intrinsically potential.

Having watched the proceedings of the investigation somewhat closely, we were enabled to observe what appeared to be a leaning of the Examiner, towards the close of the investigation, to the side of the accusers, as against the respondents. The former were practically denied nothing, being given all the scope they could ask and quite as much as could reasonably be accorded, while the latter were in some particulars curtailed. If we are not mistaken the Examiner could already see, from the bulk of the testimony adduced, that if the accusers were unable to furnish anything stronger they would utterly fail to make their allegations good. His course in giving them all the field they asked for, while restricting the other side, appeared to be that in the probable event of his finding in favor of the respondents the pursuers would have no shadow of ground for stating that they had been unfairly dealt with.

While Judge Harkness probably acted wisely in declining to allow the respondents to offer proof to the effect that their opponents were inspired by political motives in instituting the proceedings in the first place and making the wholesale and damaging charges of fraud, corruption and professional misconduct, yet it would have given a good deal of satisfaction to fairminded people to have seen the conspiracy unearthed. True, everybody understands that politics was a leading ingredient of the howl that was raised around the ears of the Receiver and his attorneys, but the production of competent testimony in a legal proceeding would have made the exposure of the hypocrisy of the instigators of the matter more complete and overwhelming. As it is, however, in that respect the result is highly satisfactory.

That the Receiver and his attorneys are not deserving of some censure we do not pretend to say. It is not, however, upon the ground of their accusers, but its opposite. While they were charged with not proceeding more harshly and graspingly in seizing Church property, the evidence proved a fact of which we were previously cognizant—that in pursuing the Church they had been inexcusably harsh and exacting, in that line exceeding both the spirit and letter of their duty.

An analysis of the proceedings brings three conspicuous motives of the instigators of the whole affair to the surface, and we here enumerate