

That paper acknowledges its error as to the character and reputation of Mr. Barton, relates how the mistakes concerning him were made, claims that its information, now admitted to be false, in relation to that gentleman was obtained "apparently from most reliable sources," and also that "the truth of the charges was then established beyond a doubt to the minds of the manager of the paper and a number of other gentlemen," and that "in consequence, Mr. Barton was handled without gloves in the columns of the *Tribune*."

Mr. Barton was accused of all kinds of things. No epithet was too vile to be applied to him. Some articles on the Utah situation appeared in the *Chicago Herald*. They exposed the course taken by the "Liberals," at the time, which was during the heated campaign for the city election of 1890. The *Tribune* jumped to the conclusion that they were written by Mr. Barton, and refused to be convinced of the contrary. Mr. Barton came here under the direction of Captain Bonfield and that was enough for the "Liberal" organ. It continued to abuse Mr. Barton long after the election was over, and the gentleman decided to plant his suit for libel.

The *Tribune* now says:

"In due course the case was brought to issue and he took depositions in Chicago, which were returned here in September last, and were from men of such eminence and character, and were so positive, that they established beyond a doubt that during a residence of over fifteen years in Chicago Mr. Barton had acquired an exceptionally high reputation as an able lawyer and a gentleman," and the incongruity between such a reputation, untarnished, during such a period, and that which had been given him by the *Tribune's* informants, prompted a more thorough investigation, with the following results which are cheerfully published in the hope that every impression against Mr. Barton made by the previous charges will be thoroughly eradicated, and that he will be put upon that standing which we believe he is entitled to."

"Before any of the charges against him were published he moved his family here and we are satisfied that he intended taking up his residence and practicing law here, and conducted himself in such manner as would, if all the truth were known, cast no reflection on his previous character."

In reference to the articles in the *Chicago Herald* the *Tribune* says:

"We have before us an affidavit of Charles E. Chapin, now on the editorial staff of the *New York World*, which positively and unequivocally exonerates Mr. Barton from any complicity whatever in the authorship of the *Chicago Herald* articles and places it on Chapin."

This is the squarest backdown and apology the *Tribune* was ever known to make. We have no doubt that its publishers found they were in a financial hole from which there was only one way of escape. Mr. Barton had a clear case for damages. Hence this acknowledgment, with which we hope that gentleman will feel satisfied.

But we will say here that credentials like these which the *Tribune* now says are entirely satisfactory, were presented by Mr. Barton when he came to the Territory. Some of them were published in the *DESERET NEWS* in vindication of the gentleman, who had

come here to stay, bringing his family with him. They were from some of the best and most influential men in Illinois, including judges, lawyers and others in high standing. The *Tribune* simply cast ridicule upon them.

Proofs were also offered that Mr. Barton was not the author of the *Chicago Herald* correspondence, but they were treated in a similar manner. No man need to be ashamed of their authorship, for they were well written and, minus a few technical blunders which any new-comer might have made, they told a straight story which was not pleasing to the "Liberal" conspirators of that time.

Mr. Barton has vindicated himself by his gentlemanly and consistent course from the day of his arrival here. The *Tribune* will now, probably, let him alone. It never had the slightest actual reason for assailing him. The attacks upon him were most brutal and abusive, in fact they were in true *Tribune* style. Its falsehoods, as usual, came from "most reliable sources." Their "truth was established beyond a doubt." Therefore Mr. Barton was "handled without gloves." This is the history of numberless attacks upon persons as honorable as Mr. Barton, made with as little cause and therefore quite as libelous as in this case, but not prosecuted as it has been.

A few more experiences of this kind will perhaps tend to make the "Liberal" organ more cautious in assailing personal character, and we hope that in time it will be brought within the lines of journalistic decency and be ready to acknowledge other errors as frankly as it has confessed to having libelled Mr. Barton.

THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE

JOSEPH COOK and other agitators forwarded recently to the Massachusetts general assembly a petition praying for laws providing for the suppression of Sunday newspapers and for the suspension of Sunday trains. The House Committee on Judiciary reported that it would be inexpedient to act in a legislative way on the petition.

The Massachusetts Legislature has just passed a very sweeping anti-free-pass law, which was signed by Governor Russell a few days ago. The Attorney-general has given his opinion to the effect that the bill is entirely in harmony with the constitution of the State. The bill provides that no railroad company shall grant to any State official, from Governor and member of the Legislature down, any free pass or ticket entitling the holder to free transportation, or even to less than the ordinary fare. Any railroad official found guilty of forwarding any such transportation certificate shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$1000. And any public official found guilty of accepting or even soliciting free passes shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$1000.

The compensation is settled for each member of the Senate and House at \$750 for the regular annual session, and \$2 for every mile of ordinary traveling distance, the president of the senate and Speaker of the house to re-

ceive double the amount of compensation and the same amount for mileage as the members.

This completely demolishes the free pass system in Massachusetts, where it was shown that a member of the legislature never paid one cent of railroad fare since the first introduction of roads in that State. The law went into effect the morning after it received the signature of the Governor. It shows that public feeling among the descendants of the Puritans is opposed to alliance of State and railroad.

BAYARD ON THE SILVER QUESTION

MR. BAYARD, Secretary of State in the Cleveland administration, was interviewed at Wilmington, Del., on the silver question a few days ago. In no uncertain or doubtful words he denounces the proposed scheme of free coinage of silver. He says that there is no warrant in the Democratic party that values can be created by acts of Congress, or for ownership and forced coinage of the precious metals, or either of them, by the government of the United States. In the event of free coinage he asks "How long it would be before the suction pipes of demand for gold would drain the treasury of every ounce of that metal, and throw upon our silver currency and the various for paper substitutes the test of their actual value? If Congress can create values, ruin may be stayed; but Congress can do no such things; Congress cannot make a blade of grass. Yet such is the power claimed by such legislation as is now proposed."

He says it is time for Democrats to arouse themselves to the pending danger; that free coinage means national calamity, and the absolute destruction of the wage worker and small industrialist. All of which shows that great minds sometimes make great mistakes.

ARIZONA RAILROAD ITEM.

It will be interesting to those who have friends located in Arizona to learn that grading was begun a few days ago on the Flagstaff and Grand Canyon railroad, at Cliff Spur, fourteen miles northeast of Flagstaff. A recent issue of the *Democrat*, published in that town, has the following on the subject:

"A force of thirteen teams were put to work today, and the work will be rushed. Although all the details of the building of the road are not settled, enough has been to assure its construction beyond a doubt. Eastern parties will be here within the next month, when complete arrangements will be made. This is good news, and the building of it will greatly benefit Coconino county and northern Arizona. Our coal fields will no longer lie dormant, and the mineral deposits of the Grand Canyon will be unearthed. The tourist and scientist will no longer be deterred from visiting the wonder of wonders on account of the inconvenience of stage or back travel, but can ride in a palace car to the brink of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. The building of this road necessitates the building of a road north and south, tapping the great agricultural valleys of Salt and Gila Rivers. It would make Flagstaff a city of commercial im-