

plains street station were given the same increase. Two justices were put on at the Second district station at \$5000 a year, or at a net increase of \$3000 a year. Two justices were put on in place of one at the Fourth district station at a net increase of \$3000. The justice at the Fifth district station received a salary of \$2500, an increase of \$500. Two justices were supplied at the Sixth district station at a net increase of \$3000. The pay of justices in the annexed territory was increased from \$4500 to \$9000. The pay of the clerk at the Third district station was increased \$300. The remainder of the \$17,200 is variously distributed.

The comforting assurance is given that not one of the justices named would have resigned if his pay had been reduced one-half. Perhaps not; we have had some little experience out here in officeholders holding on when their pay was cut down more than that. Chicago should remember that she is the cynosure of the world just now, and it is high time she was getting things straightened out.

AN EX-EDITOR'S SATURDAY TALK.

Recurring to the subject of my Talk of last Saturday I may say that those whose aim it was to inspire the people of our own and other lands with an aversion to and hatred of the Latter-day Saints, shrewdly and cunningly selected the best means of doing so. They knew that men generally have a great horror of secret assassination and general blood-thirstiness, and especially of fanatical combinations bound together by unlawful ties to accomplish such deeds of violence as priestly leaders might dictate. Therefore, they exhausted their imaginations in describing such a condition of affairs as existing in Utah as would most forcibly appeal to the prejudices of all classes. They told dreadful stories about the "Danites" and "destroying angels"—how unsafe it was for any man to remain in Utah who had in any way incurred the dislike of President Young or any of the leaders of the "Mormon" people. These stories were so often and industriously repeated that many persons imagined they were in great danger in coming to Utah and that they might at any time be secretly murdered. Many of the old settlers will remember the ridiculous boast of Schuyler Colfax and his friends after he had made his speech in front of the old Townsend House, that "he had bearded the lion in his den"—a feat, they alleged, that had never been done before. Under the impressions of which I speak—that it was only at the risk of life that and one dare utter sentiments in Utah antagonistic to President Young or the people—that speech of Vice-president Colfax appeared to himself and friends as an act of the greatest courage.

This incident illustrates how successful the opponents of the Latter-day Saints had been in giving the world false views of their character and of the state of society in Utah. Yet every one in the Territory who had resided here for any time knew that the Vice-president was deceived, and

none knew better than those with whom he associated at the time.

For years every deed of violence committed in Utah, or even out of Utah if the "Mormons" could in any way be accused of it, was made to do duty before Congress in deepening the bad impression concerning the "Mormons." As an instance, there was the case of Almon W. Babbitt, who was killed upon the plains, hundreds of miles east of Utah, by the Indians. As he held an official position under government at the time, it served the purpose of a certain class to attribute his death to "Mormon" vengeance, and a number of imaginary reasons were fabricated as motives for his murder. The testimony of credible persons as to the circumstances of the killing, as well as the testimony of his family and kindred relieving the "Mormons" from even the suspicion of being in any way connected with his death, was quietly ignored and passed by as though it had no existence.

Some years ago there were several bills introduced into both Houses of Congress having for their object, in one form or another, the almost complete annihilation of every right which, as citizens, the Latter-day Saints possessed. In making an argument before the Senate committee on territories in favor of the passage of one of these, a prominent citizen of Utah gave such a blood-curdling account of the murders and atrocities committed in the Territory by the "Mormons" that the senators listened horror-stricken to the recital. Mr. Cragin of New Hampshire and Mr. Christianity of Michigan, both of whom were the putative authors of bills against the "Mormons," were members of the committee and were present, and they, doubtless, found ample justification for their action in this argument. As Delegate from the Territory I was present, and obtained the privilege of occupying the few minutes remaining before adjournment. As the gentleman who had made the argument had, to add force to his statements, told how many years he had resided in Utah, I asked him to be so kind as to tell the committee how many murders had occurred in the Territory during those years of his residence. He had made sweeping charges, would he not now descend to details? He attempted to enumerate them, but failed to mention one or two of which I had to remind him. Yet the whole list, covering the years he had lived in the Territory, was so short, that to bolster up his statements he had to fall back on Hickman's book. This called forth the remark from me that if he was going to use romances as authority I could not follow him. It is worthy of notice that in no future argument before committees of Congress in favor of this legislation did that gentleman again refer to the murders committed in Utah.

All the deeds of violence of which he had any knowledge as occurring during the years he had lived in the Territory could be almost counted on the fingers of one hand, while in our neighboring state of Nevada there was, in those days, scarcely a town where a night passed without some one being shot down.

I positively assert that in no part of

this broad continent was human life and property any safer than in Utah Territory, in the years concerning which so many stories (some of them fearful) have been told. Murders were committed, yet they were comparatively few when contrasted with other frontier places; but for many of these, not the men guilty but the whole "Mormon" people were blamed. The determination was to fasten every crime upon the leading "Mormons," and to make the country believe that every deed of violence was only a feature of a system which was persistently and devilishly carried out against all who were so unfortunate as to interfere with the policy or to cross the path of the "Mormons."

Not only were these statements widely published, but not a stone was left unturned to implicate President Young and other leading men in the guilt of planning or being accessory to some of them. This was particularly exhibited in the case of the Mountain Meadow Massacre. Though I was in California, where I had resided nearly three years at the time of this massacre, I afterwards was in a position to know President Young's feelings, as well as the feelings of all the leading men among the Latter-day Saints, concerning that dreadful occurrence; and I know that no man or men could view that massacre with greater horror and abhorrence than did President Brigham Young, and this feeling was shared by all those around him. Could his counsel have been known and listened to, that affair would have had a very different termination and not a drop of blood would have been shed that could have been saved.

Another occurrence which has been used in every possible way to create indignation against the "Mormon" system and people is the murder of Dr. Robinson. Under the charge of having committed this crime several "Mormons" were arrested and every possible effort was made to convict them. That they were not convicted, when public feeling was so thoroughly aroused upon the subject, is very good evidence of their innocence. Yet it was openly charged that this gentleman had offended the "Mormon" leaders because of his attempt to possess himself of the Warm Springs, and for this cause he had been put out of the way. I was in President Young's office in the morning when the intelligence came there of the murder of Dr. Robinson, and I well remember the effect it had upon the President. He stood aghast at the news. No man who knew President Young, whatever he might think about his willingness to use violence to gain his ends, could think that he would be in any way a party to the killing of that man. It would have been a most impolitic deed for the "Mormon" leaders to have consented to, much less to have prompted, at that time; for there was nothing to be gained by them through Robinson's murder. President Young has been charged with many things; but I do not remember ever to have heard of his being charged with a want of sense; yet it would have been a most senseless proceeding, when a quarrel with Dr. Robinson was pending, to have in any manner countenanced his murder.