

convicts now confined is nearly equal to the whole number of cells.

The present mode of farming out the establishment will after it is completed become a source of revenue to the State. The convicts are well fed and clothed, and humanely treated. The keepers and inspectors will in due time report to you the condition of the prison and its affairs to which permit me to refer you.

Since your last session, the unpleasant difficulties between a portion of the citizens of our State and the Mormons have entirely subsided with the exception of some slight interruption on our north-eastern border.—After that infatuated and deluded sect had left our State, they industriously propagated throughout the Union, the most exaggerated details of our difficulties and the foulest calumnies against our citizens. In some of our Eastern cities, missionaries of their creed were employed daily in making converts to their cause by proclaiming the cruelties which they alleged they had endured at the hands of our authorities. The report of our alleged barbarities has not been confined to our Union, but even at this day in Europe they are made the ground work of proselyting, and their orators find it to their interest to distort the facts into a persecution, which in every religious excitement that has marked the history of the earth, has always been found the most effective weapon of conversion.

In all intestine commotions, particularly when mingled with religious fervor, it frequently happens that cases occur of peculiar hardship and unusual distress, and when public sympathy is excited in their behalf, these unavoidable consequences of civil dissension may easily be magnified into barbarous cruelty—that such cases arose in the course of that difficulty, I do not doubt.—But they must be attributed to the excited nature of the contest between the parties and not to any desire on the part of our constituted authorities to wilfully or cruelly oppress them.

These people had violated the laws of the land by open and avowed resistance to them, they had undertaken with-



out the aid of the civil authority to redress their real or fancied grievances—they had instituted among themselves a government of their own independent of, and in opposition to the government of this State—they had at an inclement season of the year, driven the inhabitants of an entire county from their homes, ravaged their crops and destroyed their dwellings. Under these circumstances it became the imperious duty of the Executive to interpose and exercise the powers with which he was invested, to protect the lives and property of our citizens, to restore order and tranquility to the country and maintain the supremacy of our laws.

We owe to our reputation, both at home and abroad, the duty of cleansing every aspersion that may rest upon it. Our State character should be held equally as dear as our individual reputation and we should use the same exertions in maintaining the one as spotless as the other. Full testimony as to all the necessary facts of that controversy has been preserved or can easily be procured. Written evidence on both sides has been filed among the papers of your last session and forms a part also of the records of several of our courts. The facts as they occurred, can be presented to the world upon proof perfectly conclusive, and the reputation of our State can be rescued from reproach by an exposition of the true causes and events of the difficulties.

In recommending the publication of this testimony, I have no care about its effect upon the principles of that sect. Our constitution has given us the high privilege of religious independence, and left the worship of the Supreme to the unfettered will of every member of the community. If true the creed of that sect will ultimately triumph, if false it will "die amidst its worshipers." To explain the attitude which we have been made to assume, I would recommend the publication of all the evidence relating to the occurrence and distributing the same to the chief authorities of each State.

I beg leave to call your attention to certain portions of the law, regulating general elections in our State, which I think require correction. I would suggest that that portion