

## THE COMMITTEE'S DEFENCE.

Most humiliating, too, is the defence of its policy which the officers of the Tract Society have lately issued. Several churches, associations, religious journals, and private individuals, members of the Society and contributors to its funds, having remonstrated with the Executive Committee upon their policy on the subject of slavery, the Committee have at length issued a document by way of vindication, entitled "Principles and Facts of the American Tract Society." This reply is a beautiful specimen of typography, embellished with a very pretty picture of the Tract House. But the document itself is a most remarkable illustration of the timid policy of the Committee upon the subject of slavery. It ignores the very question at issue. Only by the most remote allusion does it recognize any dissatisfaction with the course of the Committee upon slavery—a system which it does not so much as name in a tract of 16 pages. That allusion is in the following terms: "This Society was formed by Christians of various denominations, to publish the great evangelical truths in which they are agreed. It is thus precluded from publications involving subjects of controversy among evangelical Christians. Nor can topics of a local or sectional character be expected in the issues of a national Catholic institution."

It occurs to your Committee in this connection to suggest, that the crime of polygamy will soon become "a topic of a local or sectional character," through the political relations of the Mormon community to the United States. On the principle of this Catholic basis, as interpreted by this statement, the Society could not publish a tract upon the sanctity of marriage.

The remainder of this document treats entirely of the material interests of the Tract Society, of its mechanical arrangements, its evangelical character, and its general work; repeating the common places, of every annual report, of every sermon by Secretary or Agent, and of almost every number of the *American Messenger*.

Good men, men of standing in the church and in society whole churches and associations, the religious press, all ask of the Society: *Why do you not, in some of your many*