

lar. The right or wrong of this problem must be settled by test, money, and it is only recently that any attempt has been made to give the defendants a chance. The Mormons left their persecutors the gardens of the continent, and went by themselves to conquer the desert. They succeeded, and their old enemies have pursued them with slanders and great many vices that the Mormons had left behind. With polygamy eliminated, we believe the Mormons deserve all praise and encouragement, and sufficient evidence in rebuttal has not yet been adduced to destroy the weight of testimony that that evil will vanish sooner by natural processes than in response to violent measures.

### DEFENCE, NOT DEFIANCE.

THE attitude of the people called "Mormons" has been of necessity one of defence from the organization of the Church until the present day. It is a mistake to call our system aggressive unless the work of peaceful proselytism may be rightly termed aggression. It is also wrong to charge it with being defiant. It offers no defiance to any people, government or society. But it has been compelled to stand on the defensive or submit to be crushed and stamped out of existence.

The antagonism that exists, and the warfare that is carried on between so called "Mormonism" and its opponents, spring from the latter. This Church would interfere with no one if left alone to pursue its own course as an agent in the hands of a Divine power, to enlighten mankind, organize believers for their own benefit, and occupy such positions as are permitted by law and are in accordance with man's natural rights. And even when assailed by the vilest means and the cruellest of weapons, it only stands on its own defence, and does not retaliate by carrying the war into the camp of the enemy.

We admit that the announcement of its origin and its claims to divine authority are startling to the world and likely to provoke opposition. Coming to a professedly Christian generation boasting in superior light, learning and progress to all former ages, and confident in its assumption of orthodoxy and settled formula, this new thing to the period, professing to be the only genuine Church of Christ on earth with the only true Priesthood, naturally aroused hostility. The preachers of the various sects, antagonistic to each other, made common cause against the "Mormon heresy," and combined their forces for its overthrow. If this Church should prevail there would be an end to their churches, pretensions, influence and means of living. Though they differed among themselves on many important points of doctrine, discipline and authority, yet each gave a sort of recognition to the other as a part of great Christendom, venerable with age and powerful in wealth and respectability. But the new system was something different from all. It claimed no descent, direct or indirect, from any established creed or body, but reared its insignificant head as something independent of existing organizations and superior to them all because of its direct divine origin.

It was natural that they should be incensed against it, unless they would condescend to investigate it impartially, which they could not do without mentally admitting that it might possibly be a new revelation, a veritable restoration of the primitive Gospel, and that would in itself imply a doubt as to their own cherished systems. But though vehement hostility was what might have been expected, it did not necessarily follow that spiritual teachers should resort to carnal weapons. Argument, scripture, ridicule, sarcasm, all the powers of learning, eloquence, wit, logic and persuasion were allowable. But these appeared to make no headway against the innovation, and so falsehood, misrepresentation, abuse and then mobocracy and bloodshed were tried. So-called Christian ministers engaged in this nefarious work, leading crowds of passionate mad-dened ruffians to exterminate a people whose creed could not be put down by lawful methods.

But this did not have the desired effect. The adherents of "Mormonism" clung all the closer to their faith because of persecution. And through all the trying times and fiery scenes of Missouri and Illinois,

the destruction of their crops, the burning of their houses, the violation of their women, the slaughter of their children, the martyrdom of their chief men and the expulsions which they endured, there was no faltering as to their faith and no changing of their doctrines or their confidence in the divinity thereof. Neither was there any attitude of aggression or retaliation. They simply stood up in their own defense when necessary for the protection of their lives and property.

The position is the same to-day. The Latter-day Saints, unable in any of the United States to exercise that freedom of worship which the Constitution guarantees, fled to the wilderness and settled in these remote valleys of the Rocky Mountains. Here they practised their religion for a time in peace. They molested no one. The traveler who passed this way seeking for the gold of the western coast received succor and refreshment. The stranger who came here for business pursued his calling without molestation. Even the Indians were treated with due regard, their rights were respected, and they were never chastised except when necessary in self-defence. If any individual at any time committed an act of aggression and violence it was his personal wrong-doing and not that of the people or of their Church. The tragedy at Mountain Meadow, which has been made to do service in the work of misrepresentation for years, was not the work of this people nor of their creed, but was thoroughly abhorrent and obnoxious to both. It is as unfair to charge it upon the Church or its teachings as to brand any other ecclesiastical organization with the crimes of a few of its communicants.

But the people here have not been permitted to pursue their path in peace. Persons who are not of their belief have followed on, and in seeking to acquire wealth and position have settled down on places made smooth for their feet by the "Mormons." But the old spirit of aggression and hatred has come with them. They cannot leave the Saints to serve their God in their own way, but seek to stir up trouble and to oppose them by force. All manner of evil is spoken by them falsely, and they are bent upon mischief. They strive to deprive the "Mormons" of the commonest rights of citizens, and rob them of all that makes life dear. The men that have plotted for this, who have libelled the people, misrepresented them abroad, worked for the passage of inimical laws and heaped upon them abuse and contumely are well known. Yet they are not molested. No one attacks them. They are allowed to lie to their heart's content. They advocate violence but no violence is committed against them.

All that is done by the "Mormons" is to stand up in their own defence. They appeal to the law when the law is in question. They appeal to the Scriptures when their religion is in dispute. They never have resorted to physical weapons to assail anyone, nor in their own behalf except when it was absolutely necessary for self-defence. And this will be their future course. They will not exhibit shrinking or timidity or go backward in their course. They will preach the gospel, gather the Saints, build up Zion and serve the Lord. And they will always stand ready to defend themselves and their holy religion against all assaults. But they will not be aggressive. They will not make attacks. They will as they ever have done, act under the simple motto elsewhere adopted: "Defence, not defiance."

### MUCH ADO ABOUT! NOTHING.

THE Spring City tempest in a teapot has not yet subsided. The agitation will probably continue until the newly elected municipal officers receive their certificates, which we have no doubt will be duly forwarded when the Commission have looked into the matter, or have decided that there are no grounds for withholding the certificates and no basis for a formal inquiry.

We have just received the accompanying communications, which show that the officials of Spring City have taken some action in the matter, and that the Secretary of the Commission has been officially notified thereof.

SPRING CITY, Sept. 22, 1883.

Editor Deseret News:

The copy of the enclosed statements dated Sept. 13th, 1883, and

signed by twenty-three legal voters of Spring City, was sent by mail on the said date to Secretary Thomas, together with the affidavit of Geo. W. Brough, of which you also will please find a copy inclosed, but as neither of the said documents have appeared in public print, we forward these copies to you for publication.

We also send you a copy of the document written and forwarded to the Hon. Secretary on the 21st inst., and signed officially, by the old as well as the new city officers, which is at your disposal.

It now remains to be seen how the Hon. Commission will dispose of these statements, as they are simple and true facts; and how the Commission can possibly set aside the city election and legalize the county and precinct, which they have done by issuing certificates to the precinct officers, is more than we can comprehend, as the election took place the same day, under the same judges, the same rules and registration list was used, and the same voters had their votes deposited in the two different ballot boxes, (county and city), at the same time, and both tickets (county and city) were interfered with and scratched by the same J. Johnson at the same time.

It is not very likely any complaint would have been made about the municipal election of Spring City, at least not by the noted presiding judge, if he only had been nominated for City Treasurer, which he so much desired, and for which he himself so faithfully electioneered; but notwithstanding he spared no time in telling the people that this was the office he coveted, no one took enough notice of it to even nominate the "old shell" at the caucus meeting, and in the failure of which might perhaps be traced the outcroppings of some of his trade and abuse.

We understand that James Commander has written a letter to Secretary Thomas, wherein he is laying the blame of the disturbance on the election day to L. Larsen, present mayor of the city, which is natural enough for him to do, as L. Larsen is one of a committee of three, appointed by the County Central Committee to look after the interests of the People's Party, and in that capacity, together with other citizens, made objections to the course persisted in by J. Johnson, and allowed by the judges—the scratching of the tickets.

LAURITZ LARSEN,  
J. F. ALLRED.

The resolutions signed by twenty-three legal voters of Spring City, and the affidavit of Mr. Brough one of the judges of election referred to above, have been published in this paper; following is the official communication sent by the municipal officers to the Secretary of the Commission:

SPRING CITY, Sept. 21, 1883.

Arthur L. Thomas, Secretary of the Commission:

DEAR SIR:—We wish to call your attention to the letter of Jacob Johnson, in relation to the late municipal election of August the 6th, dated Spring City, Aug. 7th, 1883, and also to the certificate of the judges of election.

Without referring in detail to the various charges against certain parties claimed by said Jacob Johnson and judges to have been committed on said day of election, we will simply state that after due consideration, the only conclusion we can arrive at, is that the letter of Jacob Johnson, and also the certificate of the Judges of Election, from beginning to end, are willful and malicious falsehoods, as we know and do testify that every voter had full liberty and free access to the polls.

We cannot keep silent when persons, seemingly void of principle and honor, misrepresent us before the Honorable Commission and the public. All we ask is our rights as American citizens and that the votes cast by legal voters at the late municipal election be respected.

If it should appear to the Honorable Commission that they must take cognizance of the said statement of Jacob Johnson and Judges, and if these should, in any way affect the municipal election of Spring City, then we shall expect that the Honorable Commission will give this a thorough investigation. We are, at any time, fully prepared to refute the allegations made by Jacob Johnson and Judges of Election.

On the 13th inst., a statement, signed by twenty-three registered voters, and an affidavit of Geo. W. Brough, one of the Judges of Elec-

tion, were forwarded to you by mail, which we trust, have been received.

We remain, yours respectfully,  
LAURITZ LARSEN, Mayor.

ISAAC M. BEHUNIN,  
N. B. ALDER,  
MAD E. NIELSON,  
Members of the City Council;  
J. F. ALLRED,  
City Recorder;  
JOHN FRANTZEN,  
J. F. ALLRED,  
Justices of the Peace;  
ISAAC M. BEHUNIN,  
Mayor.

### —Old Officers at Home.

N. B. ADLER,  
JOSEPH DOWNARD,  
LEWIS CHRISTIANSEN,  
ISAAC N. ALLRED,  
HANS L. RASMUSSEN,  
Members of the new City Council.  
JOHN R. BAXTER,  
City Recorder.  
ISAAC N. ALLRED,  
L. BURDICK,  
Justices of the Peace.  
HENRY L. ACOED,  
Assessor & Collector.  
HENRY W. PUZEY,  
Treasurer.  
SIDNEY H. ALLRED,  
Marshal.

### —[New Officers at Home.]

We do not suppose that any notice would have been taken by the Commission of the highly colored and partizan assertions of Jacob Johnson, who is accused by the other side of being the real disturbing element in the Spring City election, if it had not been for the unanimous certificate of the Judges of Election. That is an official document which called for some investigation. The subsequent contrary affidavit of one of the Judges makes the situation somewhat different. It also illustrates the folly of signing any paper the contents of which the subscriber does not fully understand and endorse. The plea of being weary may be sufficient for the charitable, but unkind people will regard it as a little thin. However, the document itself is very attenuated, and being vague and indefinite as to persons as well as facts, it will probably be ignored and the certificates issued. And in view of the issuance of certificates to the county and precinct officers who were elected at the same time and under the same circumstances as the city officers, we do not see how a difference can be consistently made in the case of the latter.

It is very evident to those who have examined both sides of this dispute, that an unwarranted attempt has been made by some disappointed "Liberals" to hedge up the way of the People's elected officers, and that the motive was spite and chagrin, because, however much the obstructionists lust for office, the voters would not have them in any capacity. If the disappointed soreheads want an investigation, they can make complaint to the City Council before the newly elected officers are qualified, when the whole matter can be officially inquired into and determined, as the Council has legal power to judge of the qualifications, elections and returns of its own members. Until that is done we think further action on the part of the people and officials of Spring City is unnecessary, unless the Commission shall see fit to make a formal investigation, when it will be needful to see that the facts are properly presented; but we do not believe that there will be found sufficient grounds for any such inquiry. It is a case of "great cry and little wool."

### ABATING A NUISANCE.

THE summary course pursued by the Governor of New York, as detailed in our despatches, in regard to the establishments at Hunter's Point which have long been a nuisance to the public, will be hailed with delight by the people who have been compelled to endure the offensive odors that have poisoned the air of that vicinity.

Whenever any unsavory business is carried on it is claimed by its managers to be not only non-injurious but positively healthy. In this case the people, not the proprietors, have been allowed to decide this question, and the horrible stenches have been ordered abated as a nuisance. The officers have given notice to the proprietors of the establishments complained of that unless

they cease their business their machinery, utensils and stock will be destroyed by the Sheriff.

If the owners of these places were carrying on their business in Utah, they could snap their fingers in the faces of the officers and cite the rulings of the Federal Court here in regard to the abatement of the prostitution nuisance, which took place some years ago under a municipal ordinance. The destruction of their property would be a paying business to the proprietors, and an expensive job for the sheriff. They would be able to pursue their stinking occupation, no matter how many people might be sickened or killed by it, and have no fears of the abatement of the nuisance after the New York method.

We shall watch for the outcome of the Hunter's Point abatement business, to see whether injurious nuisances can be maintained in spite of law and public opinion.

### AN ANTI-CHINESE DECISION.

THE decision just given by Judge Field, sitting in banc with Judge Sawyer, in regard to the case of the landing in this country of Chinese subjects of Great Britain, is altogether different from the ruling of Judge Nelson, in Boston, Massachusetts, but is in accord with the opinion of the New York court on the same subject. There can be no doubt that the object and intent of the anti-Chinese law was to exclude for a period of ten years all Chinese laborers. But the ruling of Judge Nelson, that this would not apply to British subjects of Chinese birth, was based on something more than the Restriction Act. It covered existing treaties with other Powers than China, and the Constitutional provisions relating thereto. Notwithstanding Judge Field's decision, and the evident intent of the law excluding the Chinese, the question of the extent of the law's application will not be finally settled until it has been passed upon by the Supreme Court of the United States.

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Terrace, C. P. R. R.



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