

the falsehoods invented by the enemies of Mormonism. Theories can be overthrown and doctrines may be questioned; but historical data stand firm as the everlasting hills, unshaken while the storms in all their fury exhaust themselves against the lofty crowns. For these reasons among others the Life of Brigham Young is cordially recommended to the attention of the Saints. It is a book to be studied at home and to be sent to friends abroad as a testimony to the workings of a divine Providence through the master mind of the immortal founder of Utah.

FURTHER EVIDENCE

The News gives place with a great deal of pleasure to the following letter, which needs no introduction or comment:

1300 GIRARD AVENUE,
Philadelphia, July 16th, 1893.

Editor Deseret News:

My attention is attracted to an article in your issue of July 1st, under the head of "Leonard Soby is Dead," detailing incidents in connection with the revelation given to the Prophet Joseph respecting celestial marriage.

My name being mentioned casually in that article, I take the liberty of saying that I am familiar with the controversy regarding it, and an extended acquaintance of over forty years with the deceased cemented a friendship that existed up to the time of his death. Our relations during that period have always been most cordial. His integrity of character and truthfulness always commanded my respect.

In one of his visits to me he related the interview he had with Mr. Gurley and of the latter's discomfiture. I then and there asked him if he would give me a certificate to the effect that he was present at the High Council in Nauvoo and heard the revelation read. He gladly consented. I at once placed myself in communication with Elder James H. Hart, who was then in New York, who kindly consented to meet me at Mr. Soby's house in Beverly, as a witness, which he did. Elder Hart took down his statement, after which we went before a justice of the peace, and Mr. Soby made affidavit as to its truthfulness. It was signed by him and witnessed by Elder Hart and myself.

The affidavit was sent to Utah and is now in possession of the authorities of the Church.

Respectfully yours,
SAM'L HARRISON.

FALSE AS USUAL.

It must be among the "poor whites" of the South that the Mormon Elders make their converts, for the better class of Southern women would have nothing to do with polygamy. The "poor white" in the days before the war was despised even by the negro, for he did not fare so well as the slave of a rich planter. Education has spread but little among these people, who seem to have no ambition to improve their condition. That the women of such families should desire to go to some new place is not strange, for even Mormonism could be no worse than the life in which they have been reared.—*S. F. Chronicle.*

The *Chronicle* is evidently not much acquainted with the people of the South and, except as in the foregoing

extract, when it can gratify its hatred to some extent against another class, has usually no words of commendation for them or theirs. There are a great many members of the Church in Utah who came from the Southern states and among them are men who owned property and stood high; some who fought in the Confederate army and a few who were on the other side; some who were slave owners and some who were not; but we do not know of any that are illiterate or that were so poor that they were classed among the "white trash," to use a Congolese. Indeed, it is that class more than any other that engages in mobbing and lynching of the Elders in their midst, as the warnings served and the appearance of the men has fully shown; while among the people of intelligence, cultivation and thrift the Elders have rarely had any trouble at all.

The News can say with the utmost confidence that with very few exceptions the Southerners who have come to Utah have represented as good society as could be found anywhere, North or South. They are as a rule well educated, broad-minded, industrious and progressive, altogether free from that jaundiced bigotry which forms so large a percentage of the make-up of our San Francisco cotemporary and its Salt Lake prototype, meaning that they live in the late afternoon rather than the early dawn of the nineteenth century.

THE PENSIONS.

It is shown by a statement recently prepared by the pension bureau that the pension list has not only reached its maximum but has begun to decrease. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892, there were issued 222,297 original pension certificates, an increase to the rolls of 199,908. For the year ending June 30, 1893, there were 121,628 original certificates issued, being 101,309 less certificates than for the previous year. In addition to this, the loss to the rolls during the last fiscal year from death, remarriage, etc., will amount to at least 30,000, so the net increase for the year is but 91,628. This is not entirely the result of the Democratic policy of weeding out the service and excluding pensioners who are not meritorious, though it is doubtless largely so. Natural causes have contributed a full share toward cutting down the list, and it is quite probable that the two agencies combined will be the means of placing the pension bureau on a correct footing before the year runs out.

COME, ANSWER, DON'T WHINE!

The unnamable organ of vilification in this city does not attempt to deny this morning that its purported "special" of yesterday from Richmond, Va., was not a falsehood and a fraud. What it does is to spit forth a list of bad names, write in gentle frenzy, and beneath a shower of mud try to dodge away from its own infamy. But the public will bear in mind that the issues in controversy are just two

in number and are exceedingly simple: first, that the "special" referred to makes only two important assertions and both of them are false; and second, that the "special" was not a special at all. Perhaps it does well to avoid these issues. Yet, abuse of the News is no longer an acceptable answer to the News' plain charges; and while we persist in declining to enter into any contest of scurrility with the unnamable organ aforesaid, we are conscious of such measure of victory as comes from having shown the readers of that detestable paper how graceful, cultured and high-toned a concern it can be when thrashed in debate.

THE DILEMMA.

It is no wonder that the figures given in the News yesterday, revealing the alarming condition of the city's finances, proved a veritable bombshell in the camp of those who have been giving tacit approval to the method in which municipal affairs have been conducted by the present administration. Doubtless the friends of those who now direct the policy of the city never dreamed that such recklessness and imbecility was being exhibited by the officeholders as is shown to be the case. The masses of the people have all along felt that municipal finances were being manipulated with an extravagance that in some countries would have been called dishonest, and these will not be surprised at the partial exposure which has been made, and of which there is more to follow.

It is indeed regrettable that there is occasion for such an exposure; doubly so for the necessity which exists for it at the present time, when financial credit and confidence are so essential to safety in commercial matters. But that the city should be brought to the verge of financial ruin; that its credit should be destroyed, and an attempt be made to plunge it into hopeless bankruptcy, and that by those who have been placed to represent the people, is indeed deplorable.

With the condition which now exists, there need be no surprise than bond buyers will not take up the city's paper. The corporation which would reach the full extent of its limit of indebtedness, and then attempt to contract still further and illegal obligations, is one that capitalists everywhere deem it prudent to keep clear of.

OUR SPLENDID FRUIT CROPS.

The interview with Mr. O. W. Warner of Moab which recently appeared in the local columns of the News is reading matter worthy of the greatest attention. As a pomological center Utah no longer occupies a place in the rear of even California; indeed, except that that state has a citrus belt and an earlier season, we can claim and maintain superiority along all the more important lines, and it is the transference of such ideas—the results of practical experience and close study—that Mr. Warner has to impart that