

ness up so long, they appear finally to believe their own statements. They know the accusation is false when first they promulgate it, but in the end they convince themselves—whether they convince other people or not—and to their distorted minds the lie becomes a truth. It is a miserable fate to happen to men that they should become the victims of their own hallucinations. Yet they do. I have before my mind at least one man who is in this predicament. He has fabricated so many stories about the Mormons, defaming them in every possible way, attributing to them the worst of motives and the blackest of intentions and accusing them of a willingness to commit any deed of violence upon those whom they dislike, that he appears to have, at last, fallen a prey himself to the fears which he has been doing his best to arouse in the public mind. He has worked himself into a frenzy on this subject, until he is like a man who suffers from *delirium tremens*—he is pursued by phantoms and is full of a fright which he does not conceal as to his future fate should the Mormon people ever obtain power. This is a terrible retribution, and it illustrates the truth of the saying of the Bible: "The wicked flee when no man pursueth." And yet these fears are baseless.

Revenge is a feeling which does not have place in the Mormon character. No other people of modern times have suffered such wrongs and outrages as have been inflicted upon them, and those, too, in direct and palpable violation of law and human rights; and no people have shown less vindictiveness or less of a disposition to retaliate. Instances are very numerous where, instead of doing injury when they had the power to do so, they have extended kindness and help to those who have done them wrong.

Within eighteen months after the organization of the Church in these days, the Lord, in speaking about forgiveness, said to the Latter-day Saints:

"I, the Lord, will forgive whom I will forgive, but of you it is required to forgive all men; and ye ought to say in your hearts, let God judge between me and thee, and reward thee according to thy deeds."

Upon this principle they have acted throughout their entire career, and though they have had many faults, they cannot truthfully be reproached with returning evil for evil, or injury for injury. Situated as they have been, they have not lacked the opportunity to pay back old scores if they had been thus disposed. But their conduct has proved that they have been superior to taking advantage of any one's weakness or necessities.

In the history of the Latter-day Saints one of the most pertinent illustrations of the power of falsehood and its success in bringing trouble is found in the case of the sending of the army to Utah under the administration of President James Buchanan. In those days communication between Utah and the states east and west was tedious and sometimes difficult. It required weeks to carry the news to and fro, and this made the plot which was entered into more easy of accomplish-

ment than it would have been had communication been speedy. I say the plot, for there was a deep-laid and well-planned conspiracy against the peace and happiness of the people of Utah, and there were many interests represented in the combination. The time will come when its details can be better explained and made public than at present. A chief justice of low character, and who afterwards became infamous, was one of the principal agents in furnishing the basis of falsehood for the scheme. He was utterly unscrupulous and did his part of the business thoroughly. He was an adventurer but had married into a respectable family in Illinois, some of the members of which resided in Utah. He did not, however, bring his wife to Utah, but was accompanied by a woman he had picked up. His conduct in the Territory was simply disgraceful, and if it had occurred among any other people less patient and forbearing it would have provoked an outburst of indignation that would have made the country too hot for him. What is now the state of Nevada was then a part of Utah, and the judge left this part of the Territory and went there to hold court. From there he went to California and never returned to Utah. But he circulated the story that he had been driven out of the Territory—that the court records and the territorial library had been destroyed, and that the Mormons were in such a state of rebellion that no Federal authority could be exercised among them. These, with tales of other outrages which had been committed, were widely circulated. They aroused the anger of the nation. They were designed to have that effect, and to create a public opinion that would justify the use of the harshest and most severe measures against the people of Utah. Without taking a step to investigate affairs or to test the truth of these charges, the administration sent a body of Federal troops to Utah. Their coming was preceded by the announcement that their mission was to break up the Mormon system and that they had the ropes with them with which to hang the leading men. It was also reported that the chief topic of conversation in the camps was the manner in which they expected to treat the Mormon women.

From all that could be gathered as to the objects which the troops were expected to accomplish, it appeared plain to the people of Utah that they were to receive from the army the same treatment they had so often suffered from in the past and to escape from which they had come to Utah. In other words, they were led to conclude that the administration had sent the Federal troops to perform the same deeds which mobs had so unhappily and so cruelly committed in previous years.

No human pen can describe the physical and mental sufferings which this expedition entailed upon our citizens. The destruction of homes and improvements, the spoliation of property, the expulsion from dearly-bought and toil-won possessions were still so recent as to be very vivid in the minds of the great bulk of the people, and to keep them on the strain of fearful and agonized expectation during the autumn and winter.

It was seen that it was useless to longer try to check the entrance of the troops into the settled portions of the Territory, and the resolve was made to abandon Salt Lake City and the settlements north, and make every preparation to destroy, if necessary, all the houses, the orchards, shade trees and other improvements and leave the country as desolate as it was when the Pioneers found it. Then was witnessed a spectacle rarely seen among men—an entire people abandoning pleasant, well-furnished homes, earned by severe and frugal toil, and orchards which were beginning to be fruitful, the trees of which had been nurtured with incessant care, and loading their provisions and other indispensable things into wagons, and, in some instances handcarts, starting out to find, in some new and distant wilderness, a home where they could be free from oppression and violence and enjoy that liberty to which, as a people born free, they were entitled. The conduct of the Latter-day Saints at that time was sublime. They exhibited a union, a love of liberty, and a willingness to make every sacrifice for freedom of conscience and its rights which ought to stand as a perpetual and never-to-be-forgotten example to all their descendants and co-religionists. Those whose forefathers participated in this sacrifice should ever be proud of their ancestry and should emulate the heroism which they displayed.

Salt Lake City and the settlements north were not destroyed, but they were abandoned and prepared for burning with the full expectation that every improvement would go up in flames. Before it was necessary to do this, however, commissioners sent out by the administration reached Utah. A conference between them and the citizens was held. An understanding was reached. Camp Floyd was selected as quarters for the troops, and they marched through the empty city to occupy them. Governor Cumming, the newly appointed executive, was installed in office, and among his first acts, he examined into the charges which had been made concerning the court records and library, etc. He reported that all these charges were false—that he found the court records and library intact and that there had been no such rebellious acts and defiance of Federal authority as had been reported.

Governor Cumming was deeply touched by the sufferings of the people; for the spring in which the move south was made was a stormy and inclement season. He implored the people to return and occupy their homes. He did what he could to allay their fears and to reassure them; but they moved, nevertheless, and it was not until an understanding was fully reached between the citizens and authorized commissioners of the government that they would consent to return to their homes and occupy them. The labor of that entire year was nearly all expended in making this move. Comparatively little of the grain sown in the fall or early spring yielded any crop; for the fields, gardens and orchards were neglected in making preparations for the journey.

Who can estimate the cost of all this? Who can relate the privations endured,