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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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SOUND PHILOSOPHY.

When the restored Gospel—otherwise called "Mormonism"—becomes the subject of careful study in place of being the object of unthinking denunciation, it will be found to contain principles of the highest philosophy. Its founder, in the hands of God, laid down many maxims the practical application of which would tend to elevate the world from its present degenerate state.

One of the aphorisms which he propounded was: "He only is competent to sit in judgment upon another who is himself innocent." Let it apply in this community with that universality that it will yet obtain and Zion would soon become a shining light, the brilliancy of which would begin to be seen and appreciated by the nations afar.

This axiomatic statement has not only an irresistible force in reference to those who sit upon the judgment seat, but as well upon those who lift their hands in token of ratification of the decree of the tribunal which has passed upon the case of an accused person. It has more potency, however, upon the former.

Following up the philosophy of the prophet, no man who holds an office which requires him to pass upon the misdeeds of others and who has himself been guilty of the aggravated offenses upon which he sits in judgment, is qualified for the position. The exceptions to the rule would be where he had properly purged himself from the position of an offender of the law by compliance with the conditions upon which purgation is effected. Otherwise the deposition of such a person from judicial station is a necessity for the effecting, preservation and perpetuation of the consistency of the judgment seat. Further, it is the inevitable result to be achieved if such is not the situation, otherwise the ecclesiastical body would be perpetually schismatic.

The presence in Church tribunals of unperfected officials is not only injurious to the body religious but is detrimental in the highest degree to such persons themselves. Every time they participate in an enforcement of the law of the Lord upon others, they are heaping up an ordeal of the future that will appal them when compelled to face it. Neither can they denounce wrong without being tormented by the terrible boomerang of self-denunciation.

As with the judicial authority, so with the members of the body, though in a lesser degree. When they lift their hands in token of approval of a judgment upon a brother or sister for an offense, of which they themselves are guilty, they pronounce upon themselves a humanly invisible decree, but of which the angels make due note.

The philosophy regarding the necessity for the purity of the passer of judgment, so forcibly elucidated by Joseph the Prophet, was also embodied in the challenge of the Savior: "Let him who is without sin among you cast the first stone." This covers the whole ground in its application to the judge, executive and endorser. Then, if the purification of Zion is the watchword, the incongruous elements in the higher and authoritative departments must undergo the first cleansing process, that they may properly occupy the position of an aid in leaving the whole lump with the heaven of righteousness.

HOW PREJUDICE IS CREATED.

A GENTLEMAN called at this office yesterday, who, in relating his experience in this city, well illustrated the truth of what we have often reiterated, namely, that the prejudice against the Latter-day Saints, existing throughout the United States, is mainly due to individuals and influences operating in this Territory. He came with the G. A. R. excursionists, and is a member of that organization. Like most of those excursionists he did not, on arriving in this city, meet with persons who were able and disposed to give him a truthful account of the "Mormon" people. On the contrary, he was made a listener to the most abominable misrepresentations regarding them. They were described to him as having few or no characteristics in common with ordinary Chris-

tian communities and among the stuff offered to him as reliable information about them, was the assurance that nothing but the power of the United States restrained them from massacring the 5,000 "Gentiles" living in this city!

In such cases were the "Mormons" pictured to him that, as the gentleman declared, he actually became somewhat solicitous for his personal safety. But, as he himself related, when he had walked the streets of this city and had seen with his own eyes what the "Mormons" had accomplished, his first impressions regarding them, created by what he had been told of them, were greatly modified. When he further observed the quiet and peaceable demeanor of the people, and the evidences of industry and thrift about their homes, which no art nor misrepresentation could conceal or disguise, he began to think he had been imposed upon. Subsequent circumstances confirmed him in the belief that his first information had misled and deceived him.

He candidly stated that the truth, as he had perceived it, with his own senses, aside from anything that had been told him, compelled him to admit that the "Mormon" people possessed, in a marked degree, many superior qualities, including what are called Christian virtues, and that they were a grossly misrepresented community. Such, in substance, is the expression given by him of his experience in this city, and of his present views and feelings regarding its people. He spoke with a candor and warmth which evinced considerable feeling and proved that he had a mind, which, though imposed upon by falsehood at first, possessed the innate power of comprehending and receiving truth when a fair opportunity to do so was presented. Instances of this kind by the score are occurring constantly among visitors to this city and Territory.

For many years a copious stream of travel has poured through this Territory, and travelers who could do so have made it a great point to stop over and spend from a few hours to a few days in Utah. They are met on trains, at railroad depots and especially at hotels, by a class of persons who make a business of abusing the minds of strangers with falsehoods and misrepresentations regarding the Latter-day Saints. This class are peculiarly favored by circumstances in their nefarious work, besides being vigorously aided in it by a local press. The result in many cases is that the visitor, whose stay is almost always too brief for thorough inquiry into the subject, leaves Utah with a prejudice increased and confirmed, rather than diminished.

But the re-action which took place in the mind of the gentleman referred to, is but a type of a re-action in the opinion of the world at large, regarding the "Mormon" people, which will ere long occur. This re-action will be brought about by the operation of forces greater than the power of human beings or organizations. It will or may be hastened by the persistent and energetic efforts of that people made in self-vindication, and in the promulgation of truth. But it will be greatly accelerated by wars of elements and nations, and the occurrence of events that will make the Latter-day Saints the only people on the earth in the enjoyment of peace and security; and the system sustained by them the only one under which refuge and protection can be found.

PROPERLY EXPLODED.

The detention of Latter-day Saint immigrants at New York as an anti-"Mormon" movement is practically exploded. Forty-six of the fifty-one who were detained are now on their way hither, and the remaining half-dozen unfortunates who have been caused no end of unnecessary worry by an unwarrantable and senseless action, are expected to be released soon. Those who originated and operated the silly and vicious proceeding are thus left to chew the end of disappointment. Even if success had attended the ridiculous effort, it would have been a small-potatoe victory anyhow, and could have had no relative bearing in the suppression of "Mormonism" in the bulk. Judge Andrews of the Supreme Court of the State of New York is to be congratulated upon the justice and legality of his decision.

FAILED IN THEIR OBJECT.

THAT the local political agitators who recently sought to make a catpaw of the G. A. R., on the occasion of the visit of its delegations to this city, overshot the mark and failed in the attainment of their sinister object, is becoming gradually apparent. The bulk of the ex-soldiers were doubtless keen observers and took the size and shape of the anti-"Mormon" scheme. One of the visitors furnishes the Brooklyn Times with a well-written description of the entire trip, including the proceedings at San Francisco. In his graphic and intelligent article the following occurs:

"There was a hearty greeting given the excursionists all along the route, but the first organized reception was accorded them at Salt Lake City. There the local Grand Army posts turned out in a body, with music, to receive their visitors, and even the Mormons had a pleasant word of reception until they were assailed by speakers. It was unfortunate for the New York delegation that in its ranks were a few orators who seemed possessed with the idea that part of the mission of the Grand Army delegation from their State was to assail the Mormons before the Mormons assailed them, forgetting that the General Government was itself dealing with the subject of polygamy. A large proportion of the delegation itself felt chagrined and mortified at the words used and the position taken by the speakers from the New York delegation because it was remembered that the delegation were but guests, and nothing had been done or said to warrant an attack upon the Mormon residents. Neither did they consider the delegates to the National Encampment had been charged with cleaning out the Mormons, as one of the speakers alleged that the Grand Army was ready to do if called upon. The result of the offensive language was that the Mormon papers criticized the speakers very harshly, but it is not true that the delegation was threatened with violence, as some correspondents have intimated. The whole affair, as it appeared afterward, was engineered by some of the Gentile population, who desired the Eastern people to become fully aroused to the importance of more stringent measures of polygamy repression by the Congressmen to be elected this fall. This was the only unpleasant feature of the trip.

It was evidently a great mistake on the part of the anti-"Mormon" clique of this city to take the bulk of the grand army people for an aggregation of fanatics and simulators. As it was, according to the writer in the Times, they only made a success in one direction—furnishing the "only unpleasant feature" of the entire trip of the G. A. R. The recollection of those who provided it will not be a green and refreshing spot in the minds of the more thoughtful among the visitors.

THE GREAT REFORMATORY PROCESS.

Who can comprehend the grandeur of the work, the nucleus of which has been formed, and with which the Latter-day Saints are associated? It is now beyond the grasp of mortal understanding, but men are permitted to perceive a glimmer of the light, as from a distant star.

The final object of the latter-day revelation or dispensation is to bring this creation in line with the normal condition of the universe of God, in whose constitution is embodied the principle of eternal justice, to which every existing thing must eventually conform. Behold that which is true, and that which is just, and you see that which will endure for ever, while that which conflicts with them is destined, in the very nature of the economy of the Most High, to pass away. That is the reason why the nations that will not serve Him are doomed, for the only service which He can accept is the placing of all constitutions and laws and their operations upon the bases of truth and justice, by which His government is characterized.

Those who are deep in sorrow because of the oppression, error and violence that keep the affairs of men in constant and increasing commotion, will not remain in sadness forever, for a change will come as sure as the sun shines in the firmament of heaven. The tyrant, the liar, and corrupter of morals will finally find no place on earth, they will go to their own sphere because they will be out of harmony with the prevailing condition. A great struggle between the opposing forces of truth and error is in progress. Until the culminating point is turned humanity will be tossed about upon the billows of the storm, to be succeeded by an exquisite calm, which will rest upon this creation and continue eternally with an intermission divinely permitted for a purpose.

The reformatory process which this earth is about to undergo is upon a gigantic scale, although it is initiatively small. Its forces operate through material as well as invisible channels. The nucleus out of which its powers will evolve is in a state of crudity. Influences are operating to bring it into better, purer and more efficient shape. It is necessary that it should embody, in exemplification, all the great virtues and principles incorporated in the normal constitution of the universe of the Almighty.

Do the Latter-day Saints understand the reason for the struggle in which they are involved? Those who do, are not easily discouraged. If they know they possess the priceless jewels of truth, they may know also that those principles will survive, and the survival of those who embody them is a natural result of the outcome. On the other hand, upon a principle that is perfectly natural, those who do not place themselves practically in harmony with the greatest of all reformatory works ever inaugurated, must be thrown out of the heap as incongruous material.

Conformity to the demands of God is attained by continuous effort. There must be a never-ceasing endeavor to learn the true and the just. He who possesses this knowledge has in him the thought of God, when he acts upon it his conduct is in accordance with the divine will. In connection with the effort to gain a correct understanding of principles there must be a rigid analysis of motives and self-scrutiny, that rescuing from false bases to provide self-deceptive apologies for being governed by ulterior purposes may be abolished. There is an unwritten law by which the Saints will be eventually governed. It will yet be written on their hearts, and when they are controlled by that, the rigidity of outward forms of rule will have an end so far as they are concerned. Each individual will be his own ruler, under Christ.

This high plane of action may be considered as being in the region of the ideal. Speaking in a comparative sense, we are afraid that such a criticism would be largely just. But it is a summit that must and shall be reached. And if the Saints are wise they will look upon the buffetings to which they are now subjected and of which they will continue for a little season longer to be the victims, as so many sturdy blows administered by the forces wielded by a divine hand to warn us of the necessity of keeping in line with the principles of the Constitution of God's universe, or to direct our attention to the consequences of even temporary deviation from that imperative pathway to eternal peace.

If the lessons are learned, the results will be glorious. Then will truth, justice and consequent purity radiate from a central point, and that which is despoiled and rejected of men become the wonder and delight of the whole earth.

JUST ONE STEP BETWEEN.

We give to-day a detailed account of an inhuman butchery of natives of a couple of South Sea Islands, by the German ship *Albatross*. The outrage was committed on the ground of three white men—two Germans and one Englishman—having been murdered on the islands. The perpetration of these crimes by some of the savages was avenged by a wholesale slaughter, many of the victims of which, without doubt, had no hand whatever in the assassination of the three white men. Yet the article from the *Sydney Herald* states that those poor ignorant people were made to "feel the heavy hand of justice." They were made to feel the heavy hand of barbarism not much higher and much less excusable than their own. In fact there appears to be no redeeming feature in the act of the German Government, through the operations of the *Albatross*, whatever. That a coat which was the property of the murdered Englishman found in the vicinity where the first slaughter took place furnished the evidence that those so mercilessly slain were the guilty ones, is almost past belief. But the ground for the destruction of a village with all it contained, and the consequent impoverishment of a mass of helpless men, women and children, was the crowning part of the savagery. An arm chair that belonged to the deceased German was the proof of the guilt of all the inhabitants. The third brilliant achievement of the refined barbarians of the *Albatross* was justified on the ground that the guides and interpreters, who had been procured from another island, said that the men slain for the murder of the German mate were the guilty parties. But how the residents of another island could possibly come in possession of the information is not explained.

Doubtless the great German Empire simply desired to impress a lasting lesson of its potency on the savage mind that would serve for all time to come. It was not particular how it was enforced, so it was strikingly given. It elected to place itself while thus engaged, on the low level of the barbarian's, and provided another instance of a fact that is becoming more and more apparent in these singular times—that as there is but one step from the sublime to the ridiculous so is there a similar short intervening space between civilization and savagery. How can untutored man be consistently condemned who, because a white man does him a wrong wreaks vengeance upon the head of the next person he meets of the same color, when civilized nations, without investigation, adopt the same line of procedure on a large scale? The work of the *Albatross* was shameful.

"THE DESPOTISM IN UTAH."

OFTEN a criminal finds that his most successful line of defense is to charge the crime of which he himself is guilty, upon an innocent person. The more brazen the real malefactor is in this policy, the more likely he is to secure from the jury a verdict in favor of himself. In the truth of this lesson, so often repeated during the proceedings in criminal cases before the courts, is found the motive for a cry that is

raised by a faction and a local press in Utah, with such senseless frequency, and on such inappropriate occasions, as ought, for no other reason, to excite suspicion towards those who raise it. We refer to the charge so often made in reference to the "Mormon" church, and especially its leaders, that "a despotism prevails in Utah," and the declarations that usually accompany this refrain, to the effect that disobedience to their leaders on the part of the "Mormons" would be followed by direful consequences on the heads of the recreant members of that church; that "Mormons" are awed into submission to their leaders, and that true liberty is not known among them.

That the wrongs implied in these charges exist is most true; but upon whom lies the responsibility for those wrongs?

That a despotism exists in Utah, which is utterly opposed to the intent and spirit of American institutions, is true, bitterly true. But who are the despots?

It is true that disobedience upon the part of the members generally of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to the counsel of their leading men would almost certainly be followed by misfortune and disaster upon the heads of the disobedient. Why? We will answer presently.

It is true that the face and form of the fair goddess of Liberty are hidden from the view of the oppressed people of Utah Territory; but what power banished her from among devotees who so devoutly adore her?

The despots in Utah are the persons who are undermining the foundations of law and jurisprudence in order to send good men to prison; who are invading peaceful homes, intent on destroying them, and breaking the hearts of their inmates; who are plotting and scheming with an industry exceeded in its diligence only by the wickedness of its purpose, to place entirely within their power the property, liberty and even the lives of tens of thousands of people. Such a despotism as exists in Utah is unparalleled in modern times.

Disobedience on the part of their followers to the advice of the leaders of the "Mormon" people would be followed by disaster to those manifesting it, because that people are held together and solidified by an outside pressure so tremendous that it would crush to powder any other community on earth; and under these circumstances, as with the stones of an arch, unity is the only means by which their organized existence can be continued. Annihilation by their enemies is the imminent danger which threatens to follow schism among the "Mormons." By being united only can they hope to survive.

When the destruction of liberty in Utah is charged upon the "Mormons," an accusation is made which is so characterized by mocking cruelty, by refined and at the same time ferocious cunning; and by such a devilish delight in falsehood, as makes it difficult to frame a refutation appropriate to the charge. Suffice it to say that no people whose rights are not daily invaded; who have not drank from the cup of oppression the bitter draught which they have swallowed; who have not had such a discipline as the Latter-day Saints have had, can possibly love, appreciate or hold as sacred as they do the principles of human liberty.

A TROUBLOUS TIME.

THE present appears to be a general time of trouble and perplexity among the Saints. Their afflictions are not confined to those immediately imposed upon them by their enemies who seek their overthrow. The trouble and sorrow thus heaped upon them are grievous enough, but they by no means stand alone. Their appears to be a prevalent sinister unseen influence at work seeking everywhere for vulnerable or assailable points; and making the most of opportunities. Nearly every family of standing has its own perplexity, and each is more or less apt to consider its own case among the most discouraging. In numerous instances the only relief that occurs consists simply of a change in the nature of the affliction, and the causes of grief and annoyance are generally of a character that carries them beyond the control of those whom they afflict.

Some people inclined to mental morbidity may be disposed to think that this pretty general situation is necessarily a token of divine displeasure. On the contrary it may be the expression of infinite love. In every affair of life it is desirable that the Saints should preserve self-poise and control, and not permit themselves to be overwhelmed with excitement and disconsolate fear. They should be constantly on their guard, and under all circumstances keep in mind that alarm and faith do not dwell together in the same breast, being the antipodes of each other. By pursuing this course they will gain by the experience through which they pass, bitter and unpalatable though it may be at the time.

In these times it will be found profitable for afflicted Latter-day Saints to peruse and ponder upon the revelation beginning upon page 425 of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants—