

departure, for we would like to have said some plain things that might have been profitable to him by way of caution, still we may make a few mild suggestions that may lead him to trim his discourses in public to at least somewhere near the line of apparent veracity.

In his Sunday evening speech Mr. Iliff greeted his audience with the statement that he spoke "out of a heart of charity." But as charity "thinketh no wrong," "doeth no evil," "speaketh the truth," and is the "pure love of Christ," it is not difficult to discover just how "charitable" he was. In almost his opening sentence he asserted (we take the report of his address as given in this morning's Tribune):

The Mormon Pioneers found here one of the most beautiful and fertile sections of our glorious country, rich in gold, silver, copper, lead and other precious metals, and with a soil so productive that all they had to do was to thrust in the plough and sow the seed, and a few months later reap a bountiful harvest. It is not surprising that when they reached the heights of the mountains and looked over these valleys and the Great Salt Lake, they said, "This is our promised land."

This "charitable" statement is wholly untrue, and Mr. Iliff ought to know it. The Mormon Pioneers "found here" on their arrival nothing of beauty, of fertility of soil, or of richness in mineral wealth; it was not all they had to do to plough and sow and a few months later reap a bountiful harvest. The scene was one of the utmost desolation; everywhere in the valley there appeared a baked and barren soil. So discouraging was the outlook that from a natural standpoint the Pioneers would have turned away in despair; and some of them did express their hopelessness of being able even to eke out an existence here for any great length of time. It was only by a supreme exercise of faith in God, awakened by the prophetic utterances of a leader known to be inspired, and who declared what had been shown to him in heavenly vision, that the Mormon Pioneers remained in the valley of the Great Salt Lake. They ploughed and sowed and watered, but failure and gaunt famine stared them in the face for years before bountiful harvests came, and it was only the mercy and power of the Almighty that sustained them till they did achieve success. And in the valley where they first set foot there still is a large area of the section of the State which they gazed upon which has not yet been reduced to fertility because of its saline character. If gold, silver, copper, lead or other precious metals exist in quantities in the Salt Lake valley, the Pioneers found them not; neither did they know of precious metals in the surrounding mountains for years after their settlement was permanently fixed here, Mr. Iliff's statement to the contrary notwithstanding.

This is a sample of the reverend gentleman's method of drawing on imagination for his history; we remember how he has drawn at times on other men's brains for his sermons. His word-twisting and insinuations against the Mormon Church in other parts of his speech are equally discreditable to him, and we may have occasion to pay further attention to them;

for if he continues that kind of business in the East he may expect the treatment such a course deserves.

As to the Mormon Church, it is attending to the business of its own members, and does not interfere with, or propose to interfere with, the Methodists or any other religious body, nor non-religious people, either. If other professed religionists would mind their own affairs as strictly, there would be no bull-buloo about the Mormons. The trouble with Mr. Iliff is that the Mormon Church is not the "burned-out volcano" which he alleges it is. It has a vastly deeper spirituality than he is willing to concede, or perhaps able to conceive, but which is clearly manifest in its growth and progress in spite of the opposition it has to meet. Perhaps in this steady advance Mr. Iliff and others of his kind realize that their own craft is in danger religiously. The recent Y. M. C. A. episode was a part of the scheme, but it did not pan out very well for those who created the disturbance. If Mr. Iliff would not meet a similar fate he must change his line of operations and deal truly in word and sentiment with Utah's people, refraining from an uncalled-for assault upon any part of them. We still truly hope he will choose this wiser course.

A SAD ANNIVERSARY.

On this day, thirty-one years ago, while sitting in a box at Ford's theater, Washington, and enjoying a slight surcease from the sorrows and cares of his official station, President Abraham Lincoln was shot and mortally wounded by an assassin. The great military genius of the Southern Confederacy, Robert E. Lee, had but recently laid down his arms, and the war, save an occasional brush between detached fragments of organizations here and there, was at an end; peace was about to spread her white pinions over the land, the dark clouds were breaking up and drifting away, when like a thunderbolt out of a clear sky the blow descended which robbed the nation of its faithful executive and plunged the land into the depths of mourning and wrath. Those who can remember that day will now for a brief moment again experience the vague wonder, the indescribable terror which nearly all experienced when the fateful tidings came; the echoes of the blow still linger in the land.

Abraham Lincoln was evolved from comparative obscurity and placed all at once and with but little time for preparation in one of the most trying and exacting positions to which any man in this world was ever called. As in the case of the first rebellion, one-third of all the hosts of our land had withdrawn from the national compact and with the two-thirds who remained factional strife ran high; what was satisfactory to one was not to another, and an element of discontent to this group was comfort and gladness to that one. To unite these contentious elements and bend them unremittingly to the duty of overthrowing entrenched and determined resistance was a task requiring at once and all the time the patience of a saint, the courage of a

hero, the wisdom of a philosopher, and the unyielding determination of a Nemesk. The country lawyer, raised up by destiny and directed by Providence, proved himself equal to all this; and while at times he may have faltered, may have sought some method more peaceful for ending the awful carnage, and may even under the constant pressure have seemed to be weak, he always emerged from every ordeal with fresh determination to conquer all obstacles in the way of restoration of the Union through the establishment of peace with honor. He died with the full fruition of his patriotic work before him; earth could bestow no greater renown than was already his, expansive as itself and enduring as the pyramids.

HIS MEMORY WAS BAD.

Our attention has been called by Mr. Albert Merrill of this city to recent publications in the South Norwalk, Conn., Sentinel, respecting the Mormon people. These publications are of a class that was common some years ago in journals ignorant of the truth regarding Utah, or those having a vicious tendency; hence we do not often care to pay much attention to them further than to suggest that the chief trouble is that they are not true, and their inspiration is wholly devoid of the Christian spirit which is commonly supposed to actuate the preachers and reverends who frequently start the stories.

One incident related in the Sentinel is with reference to Rev. W. H. Boole, of the First Methodist Episcopal church of South Norwalk. The gentleman had arranged a lecture on his visit to Utah, made in 1871, in company with Rev. J. S. Inskip and others who held a Methodist camp meeting on Third South street. Mr. Boole had set the day for his address on "Experiences among the Mormons;" but a few days prior to the date of its intended delivery he died suddenly from heart disease.

Dr. Boole being dead, the Rev. A. S. Kavanagh presented the lecture. In it Mr. Boole was made the lion of the alleged events related. It was told how President Brigham Young warned the Mormons against going to the Methodist camp meeting; how that when Mr. Boole made an assault on the Mormon religion he was greeted with an angry outburst from a thousand throats, and as he went on there "came again the hoarse roar of unaccounted voices, the gnashing of teeth and shaking of fists;" now Mr. Boole was in danger of being shot down, but was saved by the knowledge "that Camp Douglas had its batteries trained upon every street in the city," and by "miners and Gentile citizens" surrounding and threatening "cold lead" for the alleged disturbers; and how that the house where Mr. Boole stayed was "mobbed that night," but that before the week was over "the Mormons were conquered."

All of which goes to show, to state it mildly, that the Rev. Boole had a very short memory. The incident of the Methodist revival in Salt Lake