

which the very name of Joseph Smith is received by men who knew him not, are scarcely to be received as evidence to his discredit. And it is not unlikely that future generations will do justice to the Prophet of the nineteenth century, who must indeed have been "a man of some force of character," or he could not have "gathered about him" so great and fervent and devoted a body of disciples, and given to this age the most vigorous and scriptural system of faith and practice that the world has ever seen since the opening of the Christian era.

It is marvelous that such a mind as Prof. Huxley's should accept, without investigation, the estimate of so remarkable a man as Joseph Smith made by his religious opponents. So unfair and unscientific a proceeding on any agnostic subject or individual under discussion by antagonists, would be denounced by Prof. Huxley himself.

Those who were familiar with the life and character of the latter-day Seer are to this day enthusiastic in his praise. Although at the beginning of his prophetic career he was uneducated in the learning of the schools, he was by no means "low-minded," but of a lofty spiritual nature, a youth of strong faith and devotional mind. He was no "scamp," but a hard-working lad and an active, persevering, vigorous man, who acquired no inconsiderable learning and culture in the midst of a busy life, in which all his powers were taxed to an extraordinary degree. There was nothing "despicable" about him. Large-hearted, generous, hospitable and free, he bound men's souls to his own with indissoluble bonds, and was always on the side of progress, material and intellectual.

The "contemptible stuff" he brought forth consists of principles that have remained incontrovertible, and imbued with a spiritual influence that is abiding and mighty. Though he is dead, slain by wretches who reviled him, the religion he was instrumental in giving to the world is a living system, pronounced by its bitterest antagonists the most complete on earth and the most difficult to assail. That "contemptible stuff" is in perfect harmony with the revelations of the Book venerated in name by the Christian world, and with the demonstrated facts and truths of science, if not with the hypotheses and guess-work of that vain philosophy which sometimes passes for science.

The trouble with men like Prof. Huxley in treating "Mormonism" is, that they accept common fallacies for granted facts. They take no pains to enquire critically into their merits. "Mormonism" is assumed to be a mass of "contemptible stuff" and Joseph Smith "a most despicable creature," on no other ground than the misrepresentations of prejudiced enemies. The most deplorable ignorance prevails concerning both. And it is great, if not greater, among the educated and upper classes than among the masses. Many of the most vigorous anti-"Mormon" writers know absolutely nothing of the "Mormon" creed. Legislation against the "Mormon" people has been framed and voted for by men who could not, for their lives, explain correctly one tenet of the "Mormon" faith or cite any proven fact against its devotees. The "consensus of opinion" which crucified Christ, killed the prophets, burned the martyrs and pelted and pilloried the reformers of all ages, is the same aggregation of ignorant and prejudiced rumors by which "Mormonism" and the "Mormons" have been condemned in these latter times.

Even Professor Huxley, without intending it, adds to the volume of misrepresentation which has produced the results he depicts and deplores, by echoing the unproven slanders against the founder of "Mormonism," which originated in that common desire to persecute when arguments are futile or not forthcoming.

It is perfectly true that the treatment of the "Mormons" finds a parallel in the treatment of the early Christians. Also that until recent years there was no ground whatever on which to base a reasonable excuse for the course pursued by their enemies. And even now the position assumed by their assailants is of shadowy tenure. It is chiefly the relations formed years ago, when the "Mormons" were "wholly within the law," or when the validity of that law was everywhere doubtful, that are now the object of so much intemperate opposition.

In both periods the cause of the general hostility was the same. "Mormonism" is primitive Christianity restored. The principles of both are identical. The spirit of one is the spirit of the other. Naturally the present system evokes the same opposition, and the parallel holds on throughout. It is certain that the professors of modern Christian-

ity have not been Christian in their treatment of the "Mormons." And it is equally clear that the "Mormon" question, in some of its aspects at least, has not been treated in a scientific manner by the scientists of the age, including the prominent agnostic scientist and philosopher Professor Thos. H. Huxley.

### SANITATION.

FAILING to frighten the four non-"Mormon" members of the City Council into the resignation of their offices, the organ of the obstructionists is particularly savage against the NEWS for its exposure of the weakness and impertinence of this radical element which has done so much to retard progress in this City and Territory. As usual its anger is manifest in misrepresentation, an ever present symptom of chronic mendacity.

The DESERET NEWS, in recently pointing out the necessity for a fuller water supply for this city as of primary importance, did not pretend to utter anything new, as the back files of this paper will testify. We have urged attention on this matter for many years, and have supported every practical and feasible measure that has been presented with that object in view. And we did not oppose sewerage while we advocated a greater water supply. We objected to an ill-advised measure which the city was urged to adopt without due reflection.

Time has proven that our position was sound, and that which the organ aforesaid treated with ridicule a few months ago, it now supports and wants credit for applauding. The DESERET NEWS showed, then, the terrible distress in certain parts of the city for lack of water. The organ pooh-poohed the grievance and made light of it, but now echoes the very words of the NEWS and claims them as its own.

As to our opposing measures for the removal of filth, the record shows that the DESERET NEWS has advocated measures for the cleansing of the entire city, for many years, and pointed out practical taxpayers are entitled to the benefits of any public measure dependent upon general taxation.

The movement of the City Council to secure additional water supplies meets with our hearty approval, and we would rather exclaim "better late than never," than growl because our suggestions in this line, made years and years ago, have not been followed with the celerity we