

## THE "MORMON" CREED AND ITS EXPONENTS.

To the Editor of the "Deseret Evening News."

Sir:—During my absence in the country you published at the request of "American" a two column article regarding the Mormon people from the pen of Gen. John Eaton. I shall be pleased to have you, in the interest of fair play and justice, publish my reply, which I hope the Japanese papers will copy. Many of the statements of Mr. Eaton I know to be false, and will, therefore, be sure to deceive his readers regarding the true state of affairs in Utah.

The gentleman who signs himself "American," for the reason, no doubt, that he prefers to hide himself behind that name, or is ashamed of his own, takes it upon himself to refer to our people as the "dangerous Mormon plague." We are accustomed to abuse, but abuse is not argument. Our reputation, because of falsehoods "old regarding us," may be bad, but thank heaven the character of the Latter-day Saints is good. The reputation of our Savior was bad among the religious people of His day, and at their solicitation He was nailed to the cross, but His character and His teachings were above reproach and will live forever. He said:—"By their fruits ye shall know them. Do men gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles? Can an impure fountain send forth pure water? We are at the defense of the world to judge the Mormons by the standard given by our Savior and not by the highest character for honesty, industry, and virtue.

"American" gives Mr. Eaton a very fine character. I have no one here to do the same for me, and being desirous that your readers should have a good opinion of me so that they will give attention to my refutation of Mr. Eaton's statements, I respectfully ask you to publish extracts from letters "To whom is may concern."

(Here follow a number of letters of introduction from prominent non-Mormons resident of Utah.)

What was the object to be gained by Mr. Eaton in writing his article? I feel that any one with the least particle of discernment can see only too plainly that it is for the purpose of securing money for the Christian schools in Utah. I do not in the least blame the gentleman for trying to obtain funds for this purpose, but I most emphatically object to his maligning an entire community in his efforts to do so. He never seems to forget the "main chance" that of securing funds. After a full quarter of a column regarding Asia, Africa, etc., all of which is so much slush, he very appropriately says:

"This condition furnishes the added reasons for those who are raising twentieth-century funds, to safeguard the future with institutions for Christians." No doubt it was the natural modesty of the man, which modesty by the way, is very plainly(?) shown throughout his entire article, which prevented him from adding, "The Sheldon Jackson College, of which I have the honor to be president, will be pleased to receive as much of these funds as possible."

"There is not space here to rehearse the so familiar history of the Mormons, from their origin in the arch-impostor, Joe Smith; through their migrations from Palmyra, N. Y., first to Kirtland, Ohio then to Nauvoo, Illinois, where Smith was shot and finally under Brigham Young to the valley of Salt Lake, Utah."

One would think that a gentleman who has space for two columns, in small type, of abuse and falsehoods regarding an entire community might have found space to state a few facts, but facts would not secure money for his school, and so he passes them by. I cannot blame him for not wanting to relate anything about the history of the "Mormons" and their drivings and persecutions and finally their expulsion from the United States, after their prophet had been murdered with his brother Hyrum, in cold blood, while under a pledge of protection from the governor of the state of Illinois. The history of our people is a good thing to leave untold, by all those who dare not tell the truth. Mr. Eaton, however, finds time to refer to the Prophet Joseph Smith, as that "arch-impostor, Joe Smith." Mr. Joseph Quincy, in his "Figures of the Past," says that Joseph Smith "is not to be disposed of by pelting his memory with unavailing epithets." I give the opinion of Mr. Quincy regarding Joseph Smith, and place it against that of Mr. Eaton. He was an author, educator, lawyer, statesman, and philanthropist, and fully as great a man as the president of a college which has graduated "One Scholar" during the past four years.

Here is inserted the testimony of Hon. Josiah Quincy concerning the character of Joseph Smith, the "Mormon" Prophet, which has been published more than once in the "News."

Mr. Eaton says:

"He (Brigham Young) was at one time governor of the territory and Indian agent and yet was well known to

encourage, to the utmost, dissimulation to the flag. His treatment of the military expedition which he formed to winter at Fort Bridger cannot be forgotten. Perhaps the one Mormon act that gave greatest shock to the public was the Mountain Meadow Massacre."

Mr. Eaton simply tells a number of falsehoods in the above statement. When the "Mormons" were coming to Utah, after the death of Joseph Smith, they had been driven from Nauvoo, Ill., part of them in the dead of winter, a call was made upon them by the government for five hundred men to fight in the Mexican war, and Brigham Young said: "You shall have your battalion," and in three days these exiled patriots furnished a force of five hundred and forty-nine souls. The history of the world does not furnish a parallel. Think of a people, driven and stripped of their all and expelled from their homes and country, furnishing a battalion to fight the battles of the country from which they were being driven! The history of this incident, the hoisting of the United States flag on Ensign Peak by Brigham Young and the Pioneers as soon as they reached Utah and taking possession of the land, then Mexican soil, the name of the United States, give the lie to all such slanders as Mr. Eaton. As to the military expedition which was forced to winter at Fort Bridger, I am not surprised that this also was passed by without giving an account of it and stating why the army was kept there until the final settlement of the matter. I will give the history which has been omitted. The army was sent to Utah because of the false charge made by Judge Drummond and his associate Federal officials, to the effect that the United States court records had been destroyed by the "Mormons." Our people knowing the charge to be absolutely false, having suffered because of falsehoods in the past; having been expelled from Nauvoo, Ill.; and fearing a repetition of former outrages, detained the army until an investigation could be had. Col. Thomas L. Kane, having been sent from Washington, D. C., as the representative of the government, upon his arrival in Utah found the records intact, and the charge, therefore, without foundation.

No more dastardly thing on earth could a man do than to charge that terrible crime of the Mountain Meadow massacre to the "Mormon" people and their leaders, for the reason that they had been driven from Nauvoo, Ill., and that records in Utah show the very opposite. It would be equally as proper for the "Mormons" to charge the people of the United States with the terrible slaughter at Kean's Mill, one of the massacres in Missouri, from which they were expelled, and with many other crimes committed in that state; and finally for their expulsion from Nauvoo, Illinois, and the killing of their Prophet Joseph Smith. Mr. Eaton's charges are a direct thrust at the government and its officials, and carry the lie on their face, because if the guilty parties were not brought to justice the government would be responsible, as it had its own officials in Utah and all the machinery of the courts in its hands. I again give the facts, for which Mr. Eaton seemed to lack space, and these facts stand him with the outrageous attempt to fasten a terrible and heinous crime on an innocent community.

John D. Lee was convicted of this crime on "Mormon" testimony and a verdict of guilty was brought in by a "Mormon" jury. Sumner Howard, ex-chief justice of Arizona, and the United States prosecuting attorney at the second trial of John D. Lee, repeated what he had said at a former trial, that Lee had come for the purpose of trying John D. Lee, because the evidence led and pointed to him as the main instigator and leader of the Mountain Meadow Massacre, and he had given the jury unanswerable documents in evidence, proving that the authorities of the "Mormon" Church knew nothing of the butchery until after it was committed, and that Lee in his letter to "Mormon" Young a few weeks later, had knowingly misrepresented the actual facts relative to the massacre, seeking to keep him still in the dark and in ignorance. He had received all the assistance any United States official could ask on earth in any case. Nothing had been kept back and he was determined to clear the calendar of every indictment against any and every actual guilty participant in the massacre.

Mr. Eaton's talk of the "Danites," "Avenge Angels," etc., is simply a lot of falsehoods pure and simple. Nothing of the kind ever existed in Utah, and such a charge on a par with the claim that Brigham Young was responsible for the Mountain Meadow Massacre and can be classed, therefore, with all charges that are absolutely without foundation and without proof.

We plead guilty to having High Priests, Seventies, Elders, Deacons, and other officers working with energy for the Church of Christ; also to having Sunday schools, with 120,000 enrolled in that good cause. We also plead guilty to having thousands of "little tots" in our Primary associations, where they are taught the pure principles of the Gospel of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. We also plead guilty to having over 50,000 young men and young ladies in our Mutual Improvement associations, all of whom

are studying the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and a great majority of whom, both young ladies and young gentlemen, would be perfectly willing to meet Mr. Eaton or any of his highly educated Christian friends and discuss either of the following propositions: "The Gospel of Jesus Christ as taught by the Latter-day Saints can be substantiated by the Bible," or contrariwise: "The doctrines of so-called Christians cannot be substantiated by the Bible," and I will guarantee that Mr. Eaton or his friends will be "knocked out," if you will please pardon the expression, by thousands of these boys and girls.

"Methodists, Episcopalians, Congregationalists, Baptists, Presbyterians, Christians, unite in one deplorable testimony. The preaching of the Word found little encouragement among the adult Mormons. After all the hard work and all the money which has been raised time and time again to reform the dreadful 'Mormons' it almost makes me sad to read this 'united' and 'deplorable testimony.'"

That which follows the above "deplorable testimony" plainly shows that Mr. Eaton does not lose sight of the "main chance" by stating some excuse for the securing of funds. He therefore adds, "But the children, the growing youth, could be reached and so schools were added." I brand it as a cowardly thing after admitting that they can do nothing with the adult "Mormons," for our Christian friends to try and steal our children from us and break up families, yet I have not the slightest fear of their success, but expect to read in years to come another "deplorable testimony" in which they will all unite in saying they have had no encouragement among the children as well as the adult "Mormons." Those fearful institutions, the Sunday school, the Primary, the Improvement associations, which the "Mormons" will do their work and prevent any success attending their efforts with our children.

It is a part of my duty when at home to meet with and give instructions to the missionaries who are going to preach the Gospel and I have never failed to instruct them that they were not, under any circumstances, to baptize a child without the free and full consent of its parents and never a woman without the consent of her husband. We "Mormons" are willing to do our preaching by appealing to the Bible and to men's reason, and have no necessity of resorting to the children from the faith of their parents.

Mr. Roberts was not elected by polygamists, but after being regularly nominated by the Democratic party, was elected by that party, and received as high, and in some places, higher majorities in precincts where the non-"Mormons" were in the majority. No attempt was made to introduce a law in the legislature to protect polygamy; the State Constitution prohibits polygamy. A law was introduced simply to protect the men who had more than one wife prior to statehood, from a hired informer who was trying to make them trouble. The governor vetoed the bill to prevent just such men as Mr. Eaton from mis-stating the law and its effects. Non-Mormons on the floor of the legislature proclaimed themselves decidedly in favor of the law, but said they voted against it for the very reason that they knew it would be misused by men, whose stock in trade and only hope to secure money by misrepresenting the "Mormon" people. "The Mormon" witness it, understood that they had given up polygamy. The secrecy of marriages rendered proof difficult. Plural marriages have been given up, and a non-"Mormon" paper in Utah published a standing order offering a reward for proof of a single plural marriage as an off-set to the libel that the "Mormons" were not true to their promise that there should be no more plural marriages. No one claimed the reward.

We are much obliged to Mr. Eaton for telling that the governor of Idaho testifies of the excellence of our people as citizens. There are some men, (who do not have funds to raise for schools), who are willing to tell the truth about us. Not only does the governor of Idaho speak well of us, but I am pleased to give the testimony of the governor of Arizona. "All concede that we need an energetic, industrious, economical, and self-relying people to subdue and bring into use the vast unproductive lands of Arizona. These Mormons fill every one of the above requirements. Tea, coffee, tobacco, and spirituous liquors they do not use. They are spoken of by those living nearest to them as the kindest of neighbors, and all strangers receive a hearty welcome among them. They have a splendid robust looking lot of children, and are very desirous of having schools."

It may be interesting to know that the governor of Wyoming also has a good opinion of the "Mormon" people and at present there are a very large number of them making settlements in the Big Horn country in that state, and they are doing so at the special request of his excellency. Not only do the governors of three states want our people as citizens, but the officials of Canada have gladly welcomed us, and gentlemen from there have come to Salt Lake a number of times and solicited colonization.

It will be time enough for our friends to reject us when we make application for admission to their fold. As to our aspirations in this direction I quote the words of the Prophet Joseph Smith at the time of his (Smith's) first vision, to show that we have none: "When the light rested upon me, I saw two personages, whose brightness and glory defied all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name, and said (pointing to the other): This is my Beloved Son, hear him. 'My object in going to enquire of the Lord, was to know which of all the sects was right, that I might know which to join. No sooner, therefore, did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak, than I asked the personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right (for at this time it had never entered into my heart that all were wrong), and which I should join. I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong, and the personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight."

Mr. Eaton says the "Mormons" have in their hands the system of state courts, the police and the schools from the smallest district organization to the highest. All of the Supreme Court judges are non-Mormons and have been from the day we secured statehood. The president of the State University and a majority of the professors are non-Mormons.

They have one vote in the national House of Representatives, three in the presidential college, and two in the Senate.

The Representative in Congress and both United States Senators are non-Mormons, and the "Mormons" do not have three votes in the presidential college. Such glaring mis-statements as the above brand Mr. Eaton as one whose other statements are unworthy of respect from honest men.

The resident Christian missionaries may be expected to see things as they are, but others who have business with the "Mormons" and learn to know

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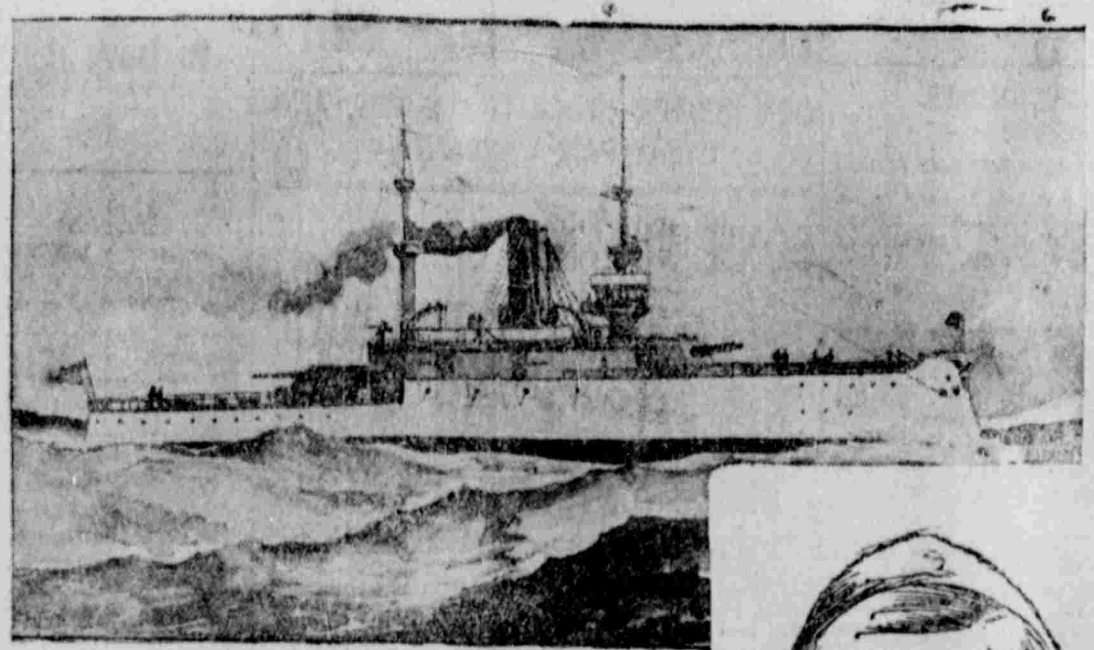
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Admiral Casey.

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Yours respectfully, HEBER J. GRANT, Sept. 20th, 1901.

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