

# Correspondence.

[We have been favored with the copy of a letter written by Elder Orson Hyde and addressed to his friends in the East. The names and address of those friends are omitted.]

ED. D. E. N.]

Gentlemen: Though not members of the Church to which I have the honor to belong, you cannot look upon matters connected with our history from the same standpoint that I do; yet, from the pleasant and joyous scenes that transpired with us when I was a resident of your city, I cannot forego the inclination of writing to you.

It is now a little more than eighteen years since I left your busy and flourishing town. The vigor of manhood then animated our bodies and our minds; and though our pursuits and professions were diverse, a kindly feeling always existed between us. But now the sun of our existence is fast declining in the Western sky, and how soon it may set with some or all of us, none but that Being who gave us existence can determine. In view of this contingency, and from considerations of our agreeable associations, I am impelled to the pleasant task of giving you further reasons why my faith increases in the truth of my religion with the increase of my years. Then I was comparatively young and full of combativeness and zeal; but now experience has somewhat modified my feelings, and from a careful observation of men and things, I am taught calmness, consideration and faith in the true and living God.

There is a tacit acknowledgement by the American Government that our religion cannot be disproved by the scriptures of the Old or New Testament, nor yet, by the highest order of talent in the nation, aided by all the sciences that can embellish that talent; and so, despairing of the ability of men of science, erudition and theology to successfully refute it, they resort to penal enactments against its further development and progress. Now, the inquiry naturally arises: If men have not skill, learning, biblical knowledge and general intelligence to effectually expose its fallacy in the broad field of investigation, have they skill, learning, biblical knowledge and general intelligence enough to enable them to enact laws sufficiently potent to impede the onward march of truth? If might were right, they possibly could accomplish it. Are not the people of the United States the fountain from which all constitutional law issues? and are they not higher and stronger than the law itself? If so, can the law annul that which the makers of that law are unable to do? Stringent enactments against us might baffle us if the overruling hand of Providence were palsied; but there is an overruling Providence in this case and in all other cases pertaining to the family of man.

Some of you may yet remember that in the year '61, I published an article in the *Missouri Republican*, in which it was stated concerning the Southern rebellion, that the "demon of war would rage on the American continent till the material in which he chose to operate was consumed,—then he would depart and take up his abode on the banks of the Rhine." Has that prediction been fulfilled? If it has been, then I can assure you, in the name of that God that inspired that prediction, that every enactment of the American government prejudicial to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Utah Territory will prove more prejudicial and disastrous to the nation than to the Latter-day Saints. Keep your eyes open to the course and character of the legislation of Congress in connection with the foregoing sentiment. I am sorry to feel under the necessity of giving utterance to these words, but as further proof of the correctness of my position, I will here state, that any favors shown by the government to the Latter-day Saints will be answered on its head with more than equal favor by a providential hand. If the government would prosper and hush the discordant elements that threaten to rend it asunder; if it would settle the "Mormon" question and be happy and prosperous itself, and allow the Saints to be happy and prosperous also, let it graciously give to the Latter-day Saints the lands in this Territory which they possess and have reclaimed from the desert by honest toil. We have earned these lands by killing snakes, making roads, building bridges, fighting Indians and grasshoppers, making canals and water ditches. We have made an oasis in the desert which has afforded subsequent

travelers and settlers in the surrounding Territories a resting place and a base for supplies. Heretofore, our imports have been brought to us by ox and mule teams the distance of over a thousand miles, at heavy costs and charges, to enable us to form this base of supplies, and being first and foremost in these mountain regions, we have borne the burden and heat of the day.

I cannot think the morals of the nation will suffer very materially by the example of what is termed our "peculiar institutions." Therefore, let the government allow "Mormonism" (as it is called) to sink by its own weight or swim by its own buoyancy. If it can swim and exist on a boisterous sea with such a tide of opposition setting in against it from all quarters, it is pretty good evidence that there is a helping hand underneath it, invisible to the world, but felt by the Saints. If it cannot swim, of course, it must sink, without Congress interfering with it. But they tell us it is a stumbling block and rock of offense to the American people. No doubt it is so. But did God ever reveal any law or system of religion that was not a stumbling block and rock of offense at the time it was revealed?

Now, therefore, as the government and people of the United States treat the Saints, so will Heaven treat them. If they frown upon us, they will be frowned upon. If they smile upon us, they will be smiled upon. If they heap blessings upon us, blessings will be heaped upon them. If they heap curses upon us, curses will be heaped upon them. No man has ever lifted up his hand or voice against "Mormonism" or the "Mormons" and has continued to do so, but that has become a candidate for disgrace and dishonor amongst men, to say nothing of hereafter. A true and faithful Latter-day Saint is better thought of, to-day, by the outside world than a miserable apostate uttering the cry of "Mormonism exposed" or something else equally flaunting and false.

I am an American citizen. My father and grandfather were such before me. I love my country. I love her "stars and stripes;" yet as a faithful watchman upon her walls, I will utter the warning cry when I see her in danger.

Now my friends, (for such I esteem you) let me say to you, and what I say to you, I say to all,—that Joseph Smith was a true and faithful Prophet of God. His mantle fell on Brigham Young, not in a corner, but in the presence of thousands of people. I saw him myself when it fell, and he has worn it to this day, and will continue to wear it while he lives. I am no stranger to you. You know me, and knew me for years. Did I ever tell you a lie? did I ever attempt to defraud or deceive any of you? and when I left you, did I leave any debt unpaid? Not to my knowledge; but I have no righteousness to boast of. I, as well as you, am dependant on the mercy of our God; and while I am not much given to proselyting, I cannot withhold from you a scriptural invitation: "Come, go along with us and we will do thee good, for the Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel."

I remain, Gentlemen,  
Most respectfully,  
Your sincere friend,  
ORSON HYDE.

THE researches of geologists and other scientific men are continually adducing proof that the Great West of America, including the Rocky Mountain region, is one of the richest, geologically and paleontologically, in the known world. Almost every week richly prized mementoes of prehistoric ages are being brought to light, proving that America, the "new world," is by no means an infant among God's creations, and once teamed with as numerous races and forms of life, human and animal, as any other portion of the earth could ever boast.

The *Colorado Tribune*, of the 7th inst., has an account of the discovery of the remains of a mastodon at the Fort Lyon Reservation in that Territory. This denizen of the ancient world, supposed to be a relic of the pleiocene period of the earth's geological formation, was of enormous magnitude: One of the teeth weighed six pounds, and measured six by twelve inches. The *Tribune* says that the tusks were four feet in diameter; but this must be a mistake, and may mean four feet in circumference, which would be enormous, and almost incredible. The openings in the several vertebrae for the spinal marrow, were three and a half inches in diameter. The bones crumbled to dust on being exposed to the air.

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## Gross Assets, Dec. 31, '70, nearly 45 Millions. Increase in Net Assets, for the 7 1/2 Millions, year.

# MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK,

144 and 146 Broadway,  
For its Twenty-Eighth Fiscal Year, Being for the year ending Dec. 31, 1870.

## Richard Goodhind

Offices.—Opposite Salt Lake House,  
Agent for Utah Territory.

Net Assets, January 1, 1870.....\$35,211,593 71

### RECEIPTS:

Premiums and Policy Fees	\$12,168,717 34
On Bonds and Mortgages	1,988,398 38
Stocks and Trust Companies	886,344 57
Premium on Gold and Rents	108,029 73
Total Cash Receipts	\$14,647,490 02

### DISBURSEMENTS:

Claims by Death	\$1,982,724 62
Matured Endowments	27,500 00
Paid to Policy-holders—Additions to Death Claims and Matured Endowments and Post Mortem Dividends	292,846 84
Cash Dividends in Reduction of Premiums and Annuities	2,584,896 87
Surrendered Policies	1,256,111 86
Commission to Agents	\$284,609 15
Paid Agents for Purchase of Future Commissions	440,456 87
Taxes, Law Expenses and Office Expenses	224,997 39
Salaries	221,845 72
Advertising, Printing and Stationary, Exchange and Postage	132,271 69
Physicians' and Medical Examiners' Fees	45,894 66
Total Cash Disbursements	\$7,476,656 47

Net Assets December 31, 1870.....\$42,382,487 56

### INVESTED AS FOLLOWS:

Cash on hand in Bank and Trust Companies, at Interest	\$2,608,910 74
Bonds and Mortgages on Real Estate	33,999,421 62
United States Stocks	4,203,108 75
New York Stocks	570,000 00
Real Estate	945,883 07
Balances due by Agents in the course of transmission	55,593 38
Actual Cash Investments	42,382,417 56
Add:	
Interest accrued, but not due	\$24,542 00
Interest due and unpaid	41,322 15
Premiums due, but not yet reported—chiefly for December	312,676 30
Deferred—Quarterly and Semi-Annual Premiums	1,119,573 77
Market value of Stocks in excess of cost	423,624 00
Total	\$2,226,738 22

I have carefully examined the foregoing statement, and find the same correct,  
ISAAC F. LLOYD, Auditor.  
New York, Jan. 18, 1871.

### INSURANCE STATEMENTS:

Number of policies issued and restored during the year	1,463
Amount insured thereby	\$33,458,217 00
In force at the end of the year	71,271
policies, insuring	222,423,254 00

The foregoing is a statement taken from the Actuarial Records.  
SHEPPARD HOMANS, Actuary.

The Board of Trustees have authorized a Dividend for the year of 1870 of two millions of dollars, CASH, which amount may be subsequently increased.

These Dividends will be paid to policy-holders as they may elect, in cash or in the purchase of additional insurance, as soon as the equitable portion of each can be determined.

## THE MUTUAL

Life Insurance Co. of New York,  
FREDERICK S. WINSTON.....President.  
144 and 146 Broadway, Corner of Liberty St.  
RICHARD GOODHIND,  
Salt Lake City,  
Agent for Utah Territory.

Mr. GOODHIND will visit Ogden and Corinne monthly, to receive applications.

EFFICIENT AGENTS WANTED.