

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### WHEN REVELATION IS EXTINCT.

The Latter-day Saints hold, as is well known, that the continued guidance of the Divine Spirit is as necessary for the well-being of the Church in this age as it ever was. Enlightened by the Scriptures and experience, they feel convinced that the education of the children of the Almighty can not be accomplished except by His never-ceasing, fostering care, revealing His will as the varying circumstances, in which they find themselves, may require. The impossibility of success in the mission entrusted to the Church on earth, if actual communication with the Founder of the Church be cut off, is to their minds perfectly clear. Revelation there must be, in the same sense of the word as it is admitted to have existed in the days of the Prophets and Apostles of old.

Those who take an opposite view of this important subject are forced to a position full of contradictions. They admit the divinity of the revelations given in the beginning of this age and all through the older dispensations, but deny that similar divine manifestations belong to this time. They argue that the Church in the beginning of its stormy voyage had to be guided according to the charts and compass carefully adjusted by the Divine hand, and that its course had to be set in obedience to the commands of the great Captain; but, the voyage well begun, they think the ship can go on without such commands, drifting before the winds and currents and yet reach its destination. Many devout advocates of the no-revelation theory feel their own dependency on the Lord. They will pray for wisdom and enlightenment; they will invoke His aid in the pulpit and in their pastoral duties; and yet they loudly declaim against the possibility of that for which they ask. They will maintain, with a faith not to be shaken, the orthodoxy of their creeds, the all but infallibility of their churches; and yet they claim that such desirable results have been attained by frail mortals without the aid of immediate and continued revelations. Was there ever such inconsistency exhibited in any other cause of so much concern to the human family?

Fortunately for those who aim at truth in this matter, the question is not one of theories and opinions but one of facts. The whole ecclesiastical history teaches us that churches without revelations have gone lamentably astray not only in dogmas and doctrines but, what is worse, in the practices and the awful effects of these among men. If we open the pages of history we find nations thrown in the darkness of ignorance because false priests have been engaged in extinguishing every spark of light among the people; we see countries devastated by armies led on to plunder, murder and black crimes by isatrical leaders; from the reeking dungeons of inquisitors tales of horror reverberate through the ages, too deeply infernal almost to be repeated; to our wondering

eyes are presented the facts that philosophers have been compelled to perjure themselves in order to hide the light sent in their hearts by God Almighty; homes destroyed, innocence murdered, kings and queens, otherwise noble, made into cruel persecutors, and all by whom? History answers, by just such persons as have claimed to be expounders of a religion not guided by revelations. The history of the "war" against the Waldenses and Albigenses, in which thousands of unoffending men, women and children were slain like wild beasts; the sanguinary persecutions in Spain, France, Germany, the Netherlands, England, all testify to this. The lesson conveyed to the generation of this age, which enjoys liberty to a degree not dreamt of by former tyrants, ought to be, it would seem, to render powerless forever a system that is responsible for such atrocities by falsely claiming to rule by Divine authority. There is need for earnest men and women to point out this lesson; for should the time ever come that the nations again find themselves enchained by the power that held sway during the middle ages and reveled in blood and flames, the last will be worst than the first.

The appearance in this age of inspired servants of God is the signal to all, who honestly seek the welfare of men, to abandon a course that always has led to disastrous errors and to rally to the standard of religious truth and liberty as raised by the Almighty Himself. The claims of Joseph the Prophet to be a servant of the Lord are beautifully illustrated in the results of his teachings as contrasted with the results of the doctrines of uninspired men. Among the latter we find oppression, persecution, death and all the powers of hell, while the Church that is founded upon the rock of revelation enjoys liberty and gives liberty to all, laboring for the salvation of all, forgiving even its enemies and striving to exemplify the happiness of heaven on earth. If these things are duly considered, who can escape the conclusion, that the man whose life was given for the promotion of the true happiness of his fellowmen, was in these efforts guided by Him who has declared Himself to be the fountain of love, of peace, as well as of life?

### AS TO SEWAGE.

The subject of sewage may not be as interesting as some others, but it is very important; and the talk of the early completion of the system for this city will not fail to attract to the matter its full share of notice. Properly constructed and controlled, such a system should be a powerful safeguard against epidemics of various forms; but a system imperfectly handled would be almost sure to develop a terrible scourge. Salt Lake is not situated so as to have its sewage carried off by some swiftly flowing stream to a safe distance or to lodge it in the ocean depths, though even the latter is not always satisfactory; for, as in the case of San Fran-

cisco, the health authorities now report that conveying the sewage into the bay there is a menace instead of a protection to the health of the city. It is asserted that the bacilli of disease are developed by the sea water, rise to the surface and are conveyed back by the winds, finding lodgment in the city, at some time destined to burst forth in a dreadful plague.

An instance of a city where danger from this source is reduced to a minimum, is Berlin, Germany. The Germans have made a profound study of disease germs and their development, and the leading authorities of that country assert that Berlin is as near proof against epidemic as any large city can be, because of the manipulation of its system of carrying off and disposing of the sewage. Though the city is on a river, the latter is small and sluggish; and the system of sewage farms is regarded as far superior to carrying off the waste matter by any waterway; and the immunity of the city from epidemic at the recent cholera visitation indicates that there is virtue in the sanitary precautions taken.

The city is divided into sewer districts, from which the sewage is pumped off on to land specially prepared for the purpose. One of the farms, the Blankenburg, contains 2,700 acres. The process of utilizing the sewage is simple and comparatively inexpensive, and consists chiefly of a system of irrigation by which the sewage is distributed over the land and plowed under for fertilizing purposes. The amount of material that has to be disposed of by burning is consequently very small. On the land are produced staple crops of hemp, mustard, winter rape, winter and summer wheat and rye, oats, Indian corn, barley, buckwheat, peas, beans, clover, grasses, potatoes, beets, cabbage, chicory, etc. Land which formerly was of little value is thus rendered very productive, and it is estimated that the 10,000 acres of sewer farms there yield a net profit of about \$18.50 per acre per annum, and give support to nearly 84,000 people.

The objections which formerly were raised against the sewer farm project have been entirely swept away. The water of the neighborhood, which it was thought would be poisoned by the drainage from the irrigated farms is found to be not affected, and such an eminent authority as Dr. Koch asserts that by the farming process the bacteria is rendered innocuous and thus effectually disposed of. The stench which it was asserted would become unbearable has not fulfilled that prediction, and the fear that the soil would become so impregnated with sewage matter that it would not yield has passed away, for the workers have been able to adapt their crops to the strength of the soil, and exhaust it as fast as the city can restore it.

Of course Salt Lake needs only small sewer farms compared to those of Berlin, but the disparity between the cities is not anything like as great as the different proportions of the land utilized. Enough by all means, and even much more than enough, should be had, in order that all sewage may be properly taken care of, without occasioning any complaint from neighbors. And when this is accomplished the land could be made