

or not, the note will have its effect, and young Utah will have done its duty.

It appears that all the flood-gates of villainy, obliquity and perjury are again thrown open, in order to overwhelm Utah by fair means or foul. Throat cutting, bowel opening and such operations are now being used as capital. Are we traveling in a circle, or does history repeat itself? When I read these foul fabrications about Utah, I cannot help reverting to the sad story of the early Christians. I have in mind two characters especially, the emperors Diocletian and Maximian, two men now remembered entirely for their ruthless and savage treatment of Christians. The Christians were actually charged with murdering and eating infants, and the pagan priests of the time gravely swore to its truth. I cannot do better than quote in full a chapter of ancient history dealing with this subject. The characters are Maximian, Tertullus, Corvinus, Fulvius, Calpurnius, priests, philosophers and office seekers. Only substitute the names of persons now prominent in Utah for the names mentioned in the ancient history, and the chapter will apply to Utah today, and will be considered truthful, accurate and impartial. It is from a distinguished writer. Here it is:

It was in the month of November, that Maximian Hercules convoked the meeting in which his plans had finally to be adjusted. To it were summoned the leading officers of the court, and of the State. The principal one, the prefect of the city, had brought with him his son, Corvinus, whom he had proposed to be captain of a body of armed pursuivants, picked out for their savageness and hatred of Christians, who would hunt them out, or down, with unrelenting assiduity. The chief prefects or governors of Sicily, Italy, Spain and Gaul were present to receive orders. In addition to these, several learned men, philosophers and orators, among whom was our old acquaintance Calpurnius, had been invited; and many priests who had come from different parts, to petition for heavier prosecution were commanded to attend.

Maximian was a native of Sirmium, in Scythia, a reputed barbarian, therefore of the lowest extraction, a mere soldier of fortune, without any education, endowed with little more than a brute's strength, which made his surname of Hercules most appropriate; he had been raised to the purple by his brother, barbarian Diocles, known as the Emperor Diocletian. Like him, covetous to meanness, and spendthrift to recklessness, addicted to the same coarse vices and foul crimes, which a Christian pen refuses to record, without restraint of any passion, without sense of justice or feeling of humanity, this monster had never ceased to oppress, persecute and slay whoever stood in his way. To him the coming persecution looked like an approaching feast does to a glutton, who requires the excitement of a surfeit to relieve the monotony of daily excess. Gigantic in frame, with the well known features of his race, with the hair on his head and face more yellow than red, shaggy and wild, like tufts of straw, with eyes restlessly rolling in a compound expression of suspicion, profligacy, and ferocity, this almost last of Rome's tyrants struck

terror into the heart of any beholder, except a Christian. Is it wonderful that he hated the race and its name?

Precedence was granted by religious courtesy, to the priests, each of whom had his tale to tell. Here a river had overflowed its banks, and done much mischief to the neighboring plains; there an earthquake had thrown down part of a town; on the northern frontiers the barbarians threatened invasion; at the south the plague was ravaging the pious population. In every instance the oracles had declared that it was all owing to the Christians, whose toleration irritated the gods, and whose evil charms brought calamity on the empire. Nay, some (gods) had afflicted their votaries by openly proclaiming that they would utter no more till the odious Naze enes had been exterminated; and the great Delphic oracle had not hesitated to declare "that the just did not allow the gods to speak."

Next came the philosophers and orators, each of whom made his own long-winded oration; during which Maximian gave unequivocal signs of weariness. But as the emperors in the East had held a similar meeting, he considered it his duty to sit out the annoyance. The usual calumnies were repeated, for the ten-thousandth time, to an applauding assembly; the stories of murdering and eating infants, of committing foul crimes, of worshipping martyrs' bodies, of adoring an ass' head, and inconsistently enough of being unbelievers and serving no God. These tales were all most firmly believed; though probably their reciters knew perfectly well they were but good, sound, heathen lies, very useful in keeping up a horror of Christianity.

But, at length, up rose the man who was considered to have most deeply studied the doctrines of the enemy, and best to know their dangerous tactics. He was supposed to have read their own books, and to be drawing up a confutation of their errors, which would fairly crush them. Indeed, so great was his weight with his own side, that when he asserted that Christians held any monstrous principle, had their supreme pontiff in person contradicted it, every one would have laughed at the very idea of taking his (the pontiff's) word for his own belief against the assertion of Calpurnius.

He struck up a different strain, and his learning quite astonished his fellowsophists. He had read the original books, he said, not only of the Christians themselves, but of their forefathers, the Jews, who, having come into Egypt in the reign of Ptolemy Philadelphus, to escape from a famine in their own country, through the arts of their leader, Joseph, bought up all the corn there and sent it home. Upon which Ptolemy imprisoned them, telling them that, as they had eaten up all the corn, they should live on the straw, by making bricks with it for building a great city. Then Demetrius Phalerius, hearing from them of a great many curious histories of their ancestors, shut up Moses and Aaron, their most learned men, in a tower, having shaved half their beards, till they should write in Greek all their records. These rare books Calpurnius had seen, and he would only mention a few facts from them. This race made war upon every king and people that came in their way, and destroyed them all. It was their principle, if they took a city, to put everyone to the sword; and this was all because they were under the government of their ambitious priests; so that when a certain king, Saul, also called Paul, spared a poor captive monarch, whose

name was Agag, the priests ordered him to be brought out and hewed to pieces.

"Now," continued he, "these Christians are still under the domination of the same priesthood, and are quite as ready today, under their direct on, to overthrow the great Roman empire, burn us all in the forum, and even sacrilegiously assail the sacred and venerable heads of our divine emperors."

A thrill of horror ran through the assembly at this recital. It was soon hushed, as the Emperor opened his mouth to speak. "For my part," he said, "I have another and a stronger reason for my abhorrence of these Christians. They have dared to establish in the heart of the empire, and in this very city, a supreme religious authority, unknown there before, independent of the government of the State, and equally powerful over their minds as this. Formerly all acknowledged the Emperor as supreme in religious as in civil rule. Hence he bears still the title of Pontifex Maximus. But these men have raised up a divided power, and consequently bear but a divided loyalty. I hate, therefore, as a usurpation in my dominions, this sacerdotal sway over my subjects. For I declare that I would rather hear of a new rival starting up to my throne than of the election of one of these priests in Rome."

This speech, delivered in a harsh, grating voice, and with a vulgar foreign accent, was received with immense applause; and plans were formed for the simultaneous publication of the edict through the west, and for its complete and exterminating execution.

Then turning sharp upon Tertullus the Emperor said: "Prefect, you said you had some one to propose for superintending these arrangements, and for merciless dealings with these traitors."

"He is here; my son Corvinus." And Tertullus handed the youthful candidate to the grim tyrant's footstool. Maximian eyed him keenly, burst into a hideous laugh and said: "Upon my word, I think he'll do. Why, Prefect, I had no idea you had such an ugly son. I should think he is just the thing; every quality of a thorough-paced, unscrupulous scamp is stamped upon his features."

The Emperor rose to depart, when his eyes caught Fulvius, who had been summoned as a paid court-spy, but who kept as much in the background as possible. "Ho there, my eastern worthy," he called out to him, "these Christians will afford you plenty of game, so make yourself ready and let us see what you can do. The property of the convicted will be divided between the accusers and the treasury, unless I see particular reasons for taking the whole to myself. Now you may go."

There are many red-headed Maximians in Utah, and many scamps of the Corvinus and Fulvius type, and of course Calpurnius runs a newspaper there, and her stories are but reproductions of Moses and Aaron half-shaved, writing Greek. But did the early Christians give way? Not a bit of it. They were the only people who did not fear the savage Maximian. They were but a handful, but they held together, and they triumphed.

Will these Latter-day Christians be overawed by a vulgar speaking Maximian, whether he be an Orlando Powers or a General Murray? Will they come under the yoke of