

piety have devoted their lives, a subject I am sorry to say as little understood by the average newspaper writer as is the subject of the source of the sun's heat. It is a fact that thousands of our American citizens swallow whole the most absurd stories provided only that they are about the Latter-day Saints; as instances—the story about Joseph Smith's walking on the water apparently, but really on a plank just under the surface.

"Utah harems"—"No schools for females in Utah." "Mormon exodus to Mexico." "Disloyalty of the Mormons." The story of the "Danites" or "Destroying Angels," which ludicrous absurdity never existed only in the minds of men as poorly informed as Mr. Gregg.

I can name a score of other similar fabrications cut from whole cloth that are believed by thousands of the reading public, and I can agree with you when you say Mr. Gregg's "Prophet of Elmyra" "unfolds a romance to which the wildest delusions of the middle ages were as child's play."

Several anti-Mormon books are on sale, which appear on their proper shelf only when placed beside "Gulliver's Travels." Happily for the Mormons and for all who dislike to "blush in ignorance," a change is being worked by the efforts of observing and broad-minded travelers who step out of the custom of flying tourists who spend one night in Salt Lake and come away and tell a lot of stories about Utah which they got from "Hell on Earth" or some other reliable work on Mormonism!

In your last line you characterize the faith of the Latter-day Saints by the very harsh and apparently thoughtless phrase: "The lowest of all religions." By the side of this let me place some of their chief articles of faith:

"We believe in God, and in His Son Jesus Christ and in the Holy Ghost."

That is the first article.

"We believe that through the atonement of Christ all mankind may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel. These ordinances are, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, repentance, baptism by immersion for the remission of sin, laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost." "We believe the Bible to be the Word of God." "We believe in being subject to presidents, kings, rulers and magistrates, in obeying, honoring and sustaining the law."

"We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous and in doing good to all men. Indeed we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul: 'We believe all things, we hope all things.' We have endured many things and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely or of good report or praiseworthy we seek after these things."

(This is the 13th article entire.)

You may refer to polygamy. True, until Congress passed the Edmunds law it was practiced. About two or three out of every hundred of the

men had taken more than one wife, which they did with the knowledge and consent of the first wife. Since the passage of the Edmunds law the great majority of them have served a term of from six months to two years in jail, and paid fines ranging from \$100 to \$600 for following the example of Abraham, Jacob and David. They cared for and educated their children, and did not send them to infant or foundling asylums and compel their neighbors to pay taxes to support them, as is done in some distant regions that might be named.

If the Latter-day Saints were let alone, if newspapers and Congressmen would strive to get the truth about them, and if there were not so many carpet-baggers whose sole means of existence is a salary from the government paid them for filling offices which should be filled by the men who killed the snakes and were the real makers of the Territory, Utah would be admitted into the Union of States, the "Mormon" question would settle itself and the present outrageous attempt to rob the people of their Church property under cover of anti-American legislation and to make of the Territory a young Republican czardom would be denounced and detested by every true American and lover of liberty and justice throughout the earth.

Very truly yours,

SAMUEL H. ALLEN, M. D.

### THE "MORMONS" IN IDAHO.

As further evidence of the falsity of the rumor, spread for political purposes that the "Mormons" in Idaho intend in spite of the test oath to vote at the State election in support of the Democratic party, we clip the following, which appears in the Bear Lake *Independent* under the heading of "Notice to all Mormons in Idaho:

"Read the following which is part of the sixth section of the 'Declaration of Principles' issued by the Boise Democratic club."

"We denounce the Republicans of Bingham and other counties who have admitted to the counsels of that party the offspring of polygamous Mormons."

"The foregoing is an indication of a disposition the most devilish yet made manifest in anti-'Mormon' procedure. The Democratic leaders of a forlorn hope continue their childish and cowardly tactics of denouncing the 'Mormons,' while putting their hands behind their backs for 'Mormon' votes.

"It is not enough to state their determination to sustain the law to which we have no objection, but they wish to keep from participation in public affairs the children of those who may have offended.

"For men, dastardly vindictiveness the above is the most perfect specimen, among the many, which we have ever seen.

"Republicans, it is now your turn, but you cannot beat the Boise Club.

"It is certainly unnecessary to advise the 'Mormons' of Idaho from endeavoring to sustain a party which proclaims itself an enemy to themselves and their children, no matter how innocent they may be."

### ANOTHER OPINION.

TODAY we have the legal opinion of another attorney, on the question of the powers of the Board of Equalization to lower the entire list of property values. The document will be found elsewhere in this paper. Without passing upon the gentleman's style and illustrations and manner of putting the question, we must say we endorse his conclusion, as the result of the exercise of common sense and of allowing the law to speak for itself, without interjecting other language and resorting to lame logic.

If the board can change and correct any valuation, why can it not change all valuations, even if it has to do this one at a time, to satisfy the technical, who hang to the letter instead of clinging to the spirit of the law?

Perhaps there will be further learned opinions and more legal arguments and quotations for the edification, or obfuscation, of the County Board. We hope, however, that justice will be done, and that no needless burden will be heaped upon the taxpayers, many of whom will be really and cruelly oppressed if collection of the enormous amounts assessed against them should be enforced.

### CHOLERA IN JAPAN.

A PAPER published in Japan states that there had up to July 25th, occurred in that country, 1001 cases of cholera, 471 of which had proved fatal. On the 24th, 76 new cases and 34 deaths were reported in Nagasaki and district. Twelve seamen on the Turkish frigate *Erbougroul*, in Yokohama harbor, succumbed to the disease, which was caused by two liberal indulgence in Japanese lemonade, raw fruit and ice.

It may, perhaps, be well to remember that our western coast is more or less endangered by the epidemic in Asia, owing to the lively traffic between the two continents across the Pacific Ocean. The danger is imminent enough to call for the greatest vigilance on the part of the authorities in keeping the dreaded guest away from our shores.

Cleanliness is the best preventive. It has been pretty well demonstrated that the cholera bacillus is not very dangerous in localities where the air is pure and everything is kept clean. The little animals that cause the epidemic need a contaminated air in which to develop their destructive powers. Without this medium of transmittal they are comparatively harmless.