

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### THE LAND AND CITY ZION.

In a News editorial of some weeks ago, discussing difficulties which some people seemed to discover in the Bible and could not surmount easily, this language was used:

As a universal rule, it is safe to place implicit reliance on the word of God, even when it at first seems obscure. When all errors due to human agencies are excepted, the revealed word remains, the rock on which to build for time and all eternity.

Accepting this rule as correct, some who oppose the Church but profess to regard as divine the calling of the Prophet Joseph Smith, assume to quote modern revelation, and are claiming to prove thereby (1) that Utah is not the land of Zion; (2) that in coming here the Latter-day Saints "went wrong," and their leaders thereby lost authority; and (3) that the Saints regard Salt Lake City as the "city of Zion," and therefore have departed from the revealed word.

Now there is no reason either for anxiety as to the attitude of the Saints upon these three propositions, or for misrepresenting their views upon either, as a very brief statement upon each point raised will clearly show. First: The Lord revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith, and he so announced it at the last General Conference of the Church which he was permitted to attend—in April, 1844—that America, both North and South, is Zion. As Utah is not apart from the American continent, it most assuredly is a portion of the land of Zion. It is as much so as is Missouri, Illinois, or any other part of the country.

As to the second proposition referred to, the gathering of the Saints in latter days is to be upon the land of Zion; and as Utah is in that land, the Saints could not be going wrong when they assembled upon any portion of it, in obedience to the counsel of those whom the Lord had placed in position to open up the authority of His kingdom upon the earth. Upon this latter point, the Lord said to the Prophet Joseph Smith, in a revelation given at Nauvoo, January 19, 1841:

I give unto you my servant Brigham Young, to be a President over the Twelve traveling Council, which Twelve hold the keys to open up the authority of my kingdom upon the four corners of the earth, and after that to send my word to every creature.

This statement of the divine will has never been revoked, modified or changed in any respect. The Council specially mentioned in the revelation took up the work assigned to it, and continued without interruption. There was no change in its procedure after the death of the Prophet, and as it held "the keys to open up the authority" of the Lord's kingdom upon the earth, those who presume to engage in that work without having been authorized by the Council of the Twelve, on which the keys were conferred, are wholly without justification in any claim they may make of divine au-

thority, and are mere pretenders. Regarding the Saints coming westward, the Prophet Joseph stated, on August 6, 1841:

I prophesied that the Saints would continue to suffer much affliction and would be driven to the Rocky Mountains, many would apostatize, others would be put to death by our persecutors, or lose their lives in consequence of exposure and disease; and some of you will live to go and assist in making settlements and build cities and see the Saints become a mighty people in the midst of the Rocky Mountains.

There was nothing informal, obscure or indirect about this statement of the Prophet, as some allege. He calmly, deliberately and forcefully declares it to be a prophecy. Had it failed he would have been subject to impeachment of the most serious character; but the prediction has been verified, fulfilled to the very letter, and the world has the fact before it as an unimpeachable witness to Joseph being a true Prophet. The Saints were compelled—"driven"—to leave Illinois and come to the Rocky Mountains; the few who gathered and remained in Nauvoo for a time were forced out by the musket and the sword. The exiled Saints stopped at the first place of settlement which offered them a respite from the fury of their persecutors—the valley of the Great Salt Lake; the first part of the prophecy had been fulfilled. Then the years rolled by, years of hardship and trial; but they wrought a complete conformity with the second part of the prophetic declaration, and those who heard the word of the Prophet in Nauvoo assisted in making settlements and building cities in these valleys, and saw "the Saints become a mighty people in the midst of the Rocky Mountains." Those not associated with the Church organization which fulfilled the divine prediction made through the Prophet Joseph Smith are not of the people whom he designates as Saints.

Regarding the third objection which has been noted, it may be said, as the fact may be easily learned by any inquirer, that the Latter-day Saints do regard Salt Lake City as the "city of Zion," nor Utah as the place for the holy city. This has been made so clear in all their history that any assertions to the contrary must be regarded as wilful misrepresentation. Utah is the land of Zion; so is Missouri; Mexico is also, and all the American continent. Salt Lake City is in one of the Stakes of Zion, and a Temple of the Lord has been erected there, "in the tops of the mountains," as foreseen by Prophets of old. But the great city of Zion is to be built in Missouri, near the western boundary thereof, where the Lord has indicated, and from whose word there has been no departure. In the due time of the Lord the Saints will "return," and Zion will be redeemed by power—the power of the Lord and not of man. But that is not saying that any of the Stakes of Zion will be relinquished. On the contrary, these will be strengthened, and the borders of Zion be enlarged by the redemption of the whole land thereof;

and her cities and towns shall be beautiful for habitation for they that serve the Lord.

The Almighty has designated places on the land of Zion for the gathering of His people. They assembled in independence, Jackson county, Missouri, in obedience to His command; in Caldwell and Daviess counties they did likewise. Under the same guidance they gathered to Illinois when expelled from Missouri; driven from there, the gathering place was in the Rocky Mountains. So far as each place of assembling is concerned, the Lord has blessed His people, manifesting to the world His approval of their course. The praises of the Latter-day Saints, as an industrial community, have been and are being sounded in various nations of the earth, by persons not of their faith. "Mormon industry and thrift" are known the world over, and to that men attribute the success which has attended the settlements of the Latter-day Saints. But far and beyond all this, the Saints know that the real cause of all their prosperity is in the blessing of the Lord which attends them as His people, living in conformity to His will. Their lands are fruitful because they have been selected by Him for the gathering place of the Saints. And in all places designated for this purpose, among which Utah and the surrounding country certainly is not the least notable, the Almighty proclaims to all men His approval of the Latter-day Saints in their location, by choice manifestations of His favor in their happy homes, numerous flocks and herds, and fruitful fields. They are established on the land of Zion, and operating in and extending their work by the direct revelation and guidance of the Lord.

### HORSEFLESH FOR FOOD.

It is not long since a warning came from San Francisco that young sharks were being caught there, canned and sent to the intermountain and eastern market as food; of course it was not labeled "canned shark," but was placed under different saleable titles. A little later came an announcement that a number of eastern epicures had accepted a friend's invitation to dine on choice horse-steak. There are not many people, however, who have an idea that any great quantity of horse-meat is utilized in this country.

Belgium and France are two great eaters of horseflesh; and some of them gets into restaurants in Great Britain, though it is prohibited by law. But while the British have no love for horse-meat as food, they have no objection to supplying a very large proportion of the French and Belgian markets. The British government, however, seeks to have the business carried on with due regard to sanitary regulations, therefore only healthy horses are permitted to be slain and exported for food. In the great horse-slaughterhouse at Leeds, for instance, every animal has to be officially inspected; and those found to be diseased are taken to another slaughterhouse, where they are killed and the carcasses destroyed. Thus the British horse-meat trade with the continent, being under scrupulous official