

All this is a libel upon the Latter-day Saints. They have no such belligerent feelings or intentions. They are not deserving of the imputations cast upon their veracity. They intend to obey the law and sustain good government. They revere the Constitution of our country and desire to promote republican institutions. They are under no church obligations or restrictions which interfere with their perfect freedom, whether in politics or in business. Their faith is different from that of the orthodox sects and they claim the right to worship as they choose without hindrance from any earthly power, while conceding that right to all who differ with them. If any one of their number violates the law he is amenable to the law. But a community should not be condemned for the unapproved wrongful acts of individuals. That our views on the subject of civil government as it relates to religion may be understood, I quote from the Doctrine and Covenants of the Church, which with the Bible and Book of Mormon forms our standard of religious principle.

"We believe that religion is instituted of God, and that men are amenable to him, and to him only, for the exercise of it, unless their religious opinions prompt them to infringe upon the rights and liberties of others; but we do not believe that human law has a right to interfere in prescribing rules of worship to bind the consciences of men, nor dictate forms for public or private devotion; that the civil magistrate should restrain crime, but never control conscience; should punish guilt, but never suppress the freedom of the soul.

"We believe that all men are bound to sustain and uphold the respective governments in which they reside, while protected in their inherent and inalienable rights by the laws of such governments; and that sedition and rebellion are unbecoming every citizen thus protected, and should be punished accordingly; and that all governments have a right to enact such laws as in their own judgment are best calculated to secure the public interest, at the same time, however, holding sacred the freedom of conscience.

"We believe that every man should be honored his station: ruler and magistrates as such, being placed for the protection of the innocent, and the punishment of the guilty; and that to the laws all men owe respect and deference, as without them peace and harmony would be supplanted by anarchy and terror; human laws being instituted for the express purpose of regulating our interests as individuals and nations, between man and man, and divine laws given of heaven, prescribing rules on spiritual concerns, for faith and worship, both to be answered by man to his Maker.

"We do not believe it just to mingle religious influence with civil government, whereby one religious society is fostered, and another proscribed in its spiritual privileges, and the individual rights of its members as citizens, denied.

"We believe that all religious societies have a right to deal with their members for disorderly conduct according to the rules and regulations of such societies, provided that such dealings be for fellowship and good standing; but we do not believe that any religious society has any authority to try men on the right of property or life, to take from them this world's goods, or to put them in jeopardy of either life or limb, neither to inflict any physical punishment upon them, they can only excommunicate them from their society, and withdraw from them their fellowship."

The following are the Articles of Faith of the Church as published for many years, and re-affirmed and adopted at the last General Conference:

1. We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression.

3. We believe that through the atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.

4. We believe that these ordinances are: First, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

5. We believe that a man must be called of God, by "prophecy, and by the laying on of hands," by those who are in authority, to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.

6. We believe in the same organization that existed in the primitive church, viz: apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc.

7. We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, etc.

8. We believe the Bible to be the Word of God, as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.

9. We believe all that God has revealed, all that he does now reveal, and that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

10. We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes. That Zion will be built upon this continent. That Christ will reign personally upon the earth, and that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiac glory.

11. We claim the privilege of worshipping Almighty God according to the dictates of our conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where or what they may.

12. We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers and magistrates, in obeying, honoring and sustaining the law.

13. 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."—JOSEPH SMITH.

I am eighty-three years old. I expect before very long to meet my Maker and give account for my earthly acts and words. In view of this I testify before God and all mankind that the foregoing articles of faith and discipline are the true doctrines of our Church, that God has established that Church by revelation and has given authority to His servants to administer its ordinances; and that it will prevail against the errors and forces which are used for its destruction. But its weapons are not carnal, it claims no civil authority, it wields no political domination, and it seeks no quarrel with any earthly government. All men and all nations are responsible to the Almighty for their acts, and with Him I am willing to leave the issue between us and our enemies and defamers.

WILFORD WOODRUFF,
President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

ANTI-MORMON CALUMINIES REFUTED

SALT LAKE CITY, January 31, 1891.

To Messrs Colburn, Pembroke and Donnellan, Committee. — GENTLEMEN: The articles you submitted to me which have appeared in the recent issue of the illustrated journal printed in New York and Chicago are announced by that journal to be the reply of the Mormon people to that portion of the last message of the President of the United States referring to the Utah affairs. They are plausibly written and calculated to create a widespread impression that the Mormon people are about to break out into open rebellion, and that life and property are in danger in Utah. These articles will, therefore, have an injurious effect on the prospect and welfare of our Territory.

In my official report to the Secretary of the Interior, for 1889, I said, among other things concerning our Territory. "The climate is unsurpassed, the material resources are unlimited, and life and property are perfectly safe." I considered that statement true at that time, and subsequent developments have shown that it was, and still is true. In 1890, in a like report, I took occasion to speak of the resources and developments of the Territory and to predict an era of great prosperity, and the continuing prosperity of the Territory justifies all that I have said.

There is no part of the Union in which life and property are safer than in Utah, and there is not the least danger of any civil commotion or resort to violent conflict.

I join with you and all good citizens in protesting against the injustice done to the people by the publication of the articles referred to.

ARTHUR L. THOMAS,
Governor of Utah.

We fully concur in the above.

ELIJAH SELLS,
Secretary of Utah.

C. S. ZANE,
Chief Justice.

JOHN A. BLACKBURN,
Justice.

JAMES A. MINER,
Justice.

E. H. PARSONS,
U. S. Marshal.

ELLSWORTH DAGGETT,
U. S. Surveyor-General for Utah.

FRANK D. HOBBS,
Register United States Land Office.

HOYT SHERMAN, JR.,
Receiver United States Land Office.

BOLIVAR ROBERTS,
Territorial Treasurer.

ARTHUR PRATT,
Territorial Auditor of Public Accounts.

GEORGE M. SCOTT,
Mayor of Salt Lake City.

L. C. KARRICK,
H. PEMBROKE,
City Council Committee.

From our observation we are satisfied that there is not the slightest prospect of a collision between any portion of the people of Utah and the United States. The laws are thoroughly enforced. Life and property are as safe here as elsewhere, and an era of prosperity seems to have begun which promises much for the future.

ALVIN SANDERS,
JNO. A. McLERNAND,
R. S. ROBERTSON,
Members of the Utah Commission.

SALT LAKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
By J. T. DONNELLAN, Acting President.

SALT LAKE REAL ESTATE EXCHANGE,
By C. H. LETT, President.
SALT LAKE STOCK EXCHANGE,
By R. C. CHAMBERS, President.