

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

A SUGGESTION TO THE SAINTS.

The last number of the Millennial Star to hand—that for May 28—calls attention to the fact that it is forty-six years last month since the first issue of that publication in Manchester, England; and since that date the Journal has appeared regularly, preaching with fidelity the Gospel of Christ. In an editorial in the number referred to there is a brief review of Church history for the past sixty-six years, in which are pointed out many of the remarkable evidences of the divine inspiration which has directed the Church authorities, and which has vindicated every official counsel that has come to the Church from its presiding quorums. There are cited some of the illustrations where the Church leaders have advised the people in a manner that seemed adverse to all human judgment so far as their best interests were concerned, and it is also indicated how that in every case that advice has proved to be absolutely the safest rule for the Saints to follow. The Star goes on to say:

Other instances are numerous where the Saints have been guarded against perils that have threatened them, both before and subsequent to the events referred to; and some of them are of quite recent years, and within the recollection of the young people of the Church. Ever since the Church has been organized the powers of evil have sought to overthrow it. Yet there is not a single case that can be pointed out where the Saints have been unwisely advised by those who have the authority to counsel them. This fact cannot be considered as a matter of chance. It must be admitted that the Church leaders have been guided by revelation, or their judgment would have erred at times. If in the past the Saints always have been safe in keeping the counsel of their leaders, they should feel confident that what they may advise at the present time or in the future will also be for their welfare and advancement. The history of the past should teach the Saints to place confidence in the Lord and His servants. It should cause them to refrain from passing judgment too hastily upon the counsel they receive, or questioning the wisdom of suggestions made for their benefit.

In connection with this subject Saints of experience will remember how that on various occasions there have been members of the Church who have not comprehended the inspiration of the advice given or the soundness of the policy outlined; and the least wise of these have come out in opposition thereto, having such an over-abundant confidence in their own shrewdness that they ignored the example of others who had done as they were doing and had mislaid the mark. The fate of these has been as uniform as the success reaped by—the body of the Church has gone on steadily, while they were left behind. In many instances the failure which came on them was largely because they listened to the advice of individuals who fed their vanity by calling them courageous in their opposition, when in fact their antagonism was un-

called-for and foolish, as subsequent results showed.

The repetition of these things goes on from time to time, following in the same general trend of events and ending in the same fashion. The past should warn the Saints how to act in this regard. When they discover men "kicking over the traces," it is well to remember that there is a cause therefor, although they may not have full knowledge of what it is. When they see Church councils and quorums take action, they should not forget the care, the patience, and the forbearance that always is exercised before final conclusions in such cases, and realize that for such action there always is good foundation. Then, where they note that members out of harmony with the Church are being flattered and patted on the back, and encouraged in their inharmonious procedure, it is well to recall the scriptural injunction that "the kiss of an enemy" leads to destruction where heeding the reproof of a friend would have brought release from danger.

This is a good time for the Saints to contemplate these matters and to refrain from hasty action in thought, word or deed. The Lord's blessing has been with the Church; those who have strayed from the latter have not been recipients of the former, while those who encourage them in their straying soon have no further use for them except as tools for their own purposes. The wicked boy who would entice a lad from school or from home without proper consent being gained, always prates of the "maulwies," and the "independence" of so running off, and laughs with "cowardice" and with being "tied to his mother's apron string," the youth who will not yield to his unholy desires. The same procedure gains among men, especially where it is sought to lead them from proper religious influences. Then the "manhood" is not with those who yield but with those who resist the tempter, who have the "courage" and "independence" to conform to proper and timely regulations, commanding the satan who would lead them off by fair words and promises, to get behind them.

ABOUT THE BIRDS.

The friends of the birds ought to make themselves heard now-a-days, when there seems to be such a demand for extermination of the feathered songsters and insect-destroyers. It is not quite sufficient to rest on the common understanding of the utility of this class of creatures; for people can be educated into an enmity toward their best friends if the antagonism is allowed to go too far and obscure those virtues which should be a protection. This latter procedure is being carried to a great extent against the feathered tribe.

In another part of this issue is a letter from a highly esteemed correspondent at Moab, Grand county, who expresses sentiments that are held

by many people. Evidently he is no friend to the birds, and the reason is the actual or supposed injury they do him. First, he commences with the crow, whom nobody is particularly fond of, and tells of its peccadilloes. Yet if all that he says of this bird is true and no more, the result made is a justification for its existence. Every farmer who has had experience in Utah with potato worms and grasshoppers must realize that the

one good trait attributed to the crow in this regard entitles it to protection in a country where the insects named have wrought much havoc. Beyond all this, the carrion-devouring propensity of the ebony bird ought to be sufficient for its salvation in most localities because of what it contributes toward preventing disease and preserving life. When it picks out the eyes of a sheep it is when the latter is so near dissolution that there is no commercial value to the animal; and the crow isn't the only chicken-killer, or the worst, even if it were thought necessary to kill all the chicken-killers. Of course the crow will eat grain, and so will other birds; but it is a mistake to say that birds never eat insects when they can get nice fruits—they want variety, as well as does anyone else, and insectivorous birds depend more on worms and insects than on fruits and grain for a living, only we do not trouble to catch them eating insects and complain therefor.

Our correspondent has less use, apparently, for the hawk than for the crow, since he knows no good of him. Perhaps his locality has no field mice or gophers; but in places that have them the hawk is thrice welcome, even at the expense of the unprotected hen-yard. Its war on gophers alone, which has prevented a vast amount of damage that otherwise would have been done by the rodent burrowing into canals and gardens, is enough, when known, to insure the friendship of people here who do not want their gardens and fields torn up by gophers or their irrigating canals and reservoirs utterly ruined by them.

Our friend evidently believes that his "city cousin" is a non-producer of anything that birds eat; but in this he cannot be acquainted with the facts. Besides, among the greatest lovers and friends of birds are the gardeners and fruit growers in and close to the larger cities, where birds are vastly more numerous than in sparsely settled sections. If a more intimate acquaintance with the good and injury the birds do than can be acquired away from cities where the feathered tribe most do congregate makes people better judges, then the increased friendship in those localities for the birds must be based on good foundation. "The man who has to work to make it possible for birds to exist" lives in towns as well as outside, and when he knows the facts all around he is the best friend the birds have. He even urges that the destruction of sparrows should be checked lest the green bugs that infest orchards should thereby receive too much protection from their vigorous enemy. Perhaps our Moab friend's "city cousins" do not have the same kind of birds that he does; but of a greater variety, they also have a greater