

Swedenborgians, all have theologies of their own. Are they all blasphemers because they differ with the orthodox view? It was reserved for the party that prevailed at the council of Nicaea to hurl the anathema against all who dared to believe in doctrines not bearing the official stamp of that disorderly gathering, and the Herald seems to reserve the right for itself of branding as blasphemers the Utah Elders who may differ with its theories. That prerogative has generally been assumed by opponents of truth.

The position of the Saints' Herald is not to be wondered at. In the article under review the paper further ridicules the idea of believing in "living oracles." We are told:

"Jesus taught men to live by what 'is written.' Brighamism substitutes other Gods—the living oracles—for the God of holy writ, the God of Israel."

This throws a flood of light upon the position of the Reorganized church. It furnishes an opportunity to judge them "by their own mouth." If the paragraph quoted has any significance at all, it means this, that the "oracles" of that denomination do not believe in continued revelation to the Church. It means that the access to Heaven, to knowledge, to development, is closed. It means that our Reorganized friends accept the view of other Christians concerning the futility of looking for inspired servants of the Lord among the children of men.

But this view is contrary to both the Scriptures and the teachings of Joseph, the Prophet. The former point to the latter days as a time abounding in divine manifestations, and the latter has laid down as one of the fundamental principles of faith that revelations may yet be given. The articles of faith and the Doctrine and Covenants do not leave room for doubt on this subject.

History teaches with great force that churches not guided by the ever present light of inspiration are most easily made the victims of "tyrants." It is by the clever trick of denying the present authority of the Lord, as exercised through His servants, and appealing only to the past, that churches are held in a state of apostasy. It has been the tactics of the adversary for centuries to direct the Christian world by the chilly hands from the grave; to stifle development with the creeds of the dead past and thus secure in power the ecclesiastical autocrats that have ruled men's consciences. The litanies of the dead have been chanted automatically, but the effect has been death, spiritual inanition. The remedy, God's remedy, is living oracles, living Prophets, inspired servants of the Lord. And these the Reorganized church's oracles condemn!

The reason of the Herald's article is sufficiently apparent, however. In the introduction it is stated that the Latter-day Saints are "engaging in a missionary propaganda" throughout the world, and this must not be. The Herald feels bound to put all the obstacles possible in the way of the Gospel. A truly noble motive!

We can only say that the Elders of the Church are accustomed to opposition of every kind and expect nothing else. It is in the nature of the work to meet opposition. But so far, all misrepresentation, all persecution and martyrdom have only served to further the work of the Lord. Storms may bend the mighty oak and even sever from the trunk the unsound limbs, strewn on the ground to rot among the other debris, but their effect on the tree itself, as long as it is firmly rooted, is to strengthen it against each new attack and make its foliage all the more luxurious in the

spring. That is the effect of opposition to the Church of God. The Lord is with His people, manifesting His power and blessing them abundantly. The members of the Reorganized church should not envy their brethren, but seek, through repentance and submission to the Priesthood of the Lord, to be partakers of the same powers, the same blessings.

#### DESTRUCTIVE OF HEALTH.

The claim of the defenders of the chewing gum habit is that it is a powerful aid to digestion, but this is contradicted in *The Hospital*, an English medical journal. The paper says:

"The habit of masticating this filthy compound of flavored india-rubber is undoubtedly a cause of much dyspepsia. The constant titillation of the salivary organs kept up by chewing this stuff not only causes a steady drain of saliva, which is most wasteful, but, what is more serious still, in consequence of the frequently repeated stimulation to which these organs are thus exposed, they fail to respond to the normal excitation which ought to rouse them to action when food is taken. A constant dribble of salivary secretion is substituted for the healthy flow which should occur only at meal-times. The glands fail to respond to any stimulant less potent than the peppermint, aniseed, or other constituents found in chewing-gum; and the more insipid foods, such as bread and other starchy compounds, pass into the stomach unchanged. This is disturbing to digestion at its very commencement, and it is extremely probable that the indigestion for starchy substances, which is so commonly met with at the present day, is largely due to the waste of saliva caused by smoking and by the constant chewing of various substances, which we see going on all around. The chewing of gum is thus not only a nasty habit, but is provocative of ill-health. Unfortunately, when 'chewing-gum' is sold in the form of a sweetmeat it may cause still more serious consequences, being apt to be swallowed by children, who, like their first parents, when they see it is apparently good for food and pleasant to the eyes, are undeterred by the superscription 'not to be eaten.'"

The objection applies equally to other filthy habits by which the salivary secretion is artificially stimulated.

#### GOOD TIMES ARE COMING.

Just now the people of this State are experiencing a financial pressure on account of being obliged to raise money for taxes, and in many instances the strain is rather severe, particularly in this city. It is no worse, however, than it was last year, and it is thought to be not quite as bad, taking the State as a whole; though in this city the increase in the levy pretty well offsets the effects of better times.

When people are passing through financial stringency they are apt to feel gloomy, and to indulge in sombre forebodings of the future; and it is therefore opportune to suggest that the burdens of taxation are heavier in this State, and especially in this city, this year, than they are likely to be for many a year to come. The State, and the school system of the State, including the district schools, the Agricultural college and the University of Utah, will shortly begin to derive revenue from public lands in amounts sufficient to afford perceptible relief, which will be in-

creased from year to year as the lands are sold or leased. Then there will be the increased value of realty that now yields little or no revenue to either its owners or the public treasury, which must from now on help both. This applies particularly to the vast tracts of land that are beginning to be improved and made valuable under extensive irrigation systems. Then there is the mining industry whose net product is taxed, and which has grown this year and gives every assurance of continuing to do so at an annually increasing ratio.

While the public revenues are certain to increase, the expenses of government are as high now as they ought to be for many years to come. This applies to the State and all or nearly all of its subdivisions; and in many municipalities, including this city, the spirit of retrenchment and reform is so strong as to afford reasonably certain assurance of a reduction of public expenditures. Weighing all the elements of the situation, we have fairly conclusive evidence that our taxes will grow beautifully less from now on until the people consent to have it otherwise.

Utah as a State, and her capital as a city are in good shape, all things considered. They are in better condition than any of their neighbors, and have surer prospects of prosperity ahead than have almost any other of the intermountain states and cities. We have heard a great deal said here of late about the burdens of taxation, and while much of this sort of talk has only been too well justified by facts, the people ought not to be discouraged by it. Their relief is largely in their own hands, and can be obtained through the ballot box. Good times are coming!

#### POPULATION OF HAWAII.

In replying to objections offered to the annexation of Hawaii on the ground that the population of the little republic would produce extensive and very undesirable competition with American labor, the *Sacramento Record-Union* gives the following figures: The total population of the Hawaiian Islands is 106,000. Of this number 31,000 are natives, 24,000 are Japanese, 22,000 are Chinese, 15,000 are Portuguese, 3,000 are Americans, 1,800 are subjects of Great Britain, while the rest are miscellaneous.

"In 1875 an official census showed that there were about 75,000 native Hawaiians. Since that time they have diminished at the rate of 1,000 a year so that in thirty years at that rate they will disappear."

The *Record-Union* claims that the native Hawaiians are largely engaged in fishing, and do not care to engage in other kinds of labor; that as soon as annexation is consummated all contracts under which foreign laborers are employed would cease to be operative, would, in fact, become unlawful, and the laborers would be deported. In this way the islands would be relieved of their Mongolian inhabitants, and the *Record-Union* claims that they would afford employment for many American laborers. It says: "If the islands are put under American rule with a stable government established and the rights of property well secured, there will be opened opportunity for the employment of about 60,000 workmen."

This heavy demand for American laborers would be created by the deportation of 45,000 Chinese and Japanese, and the impetus with which the resources of the islands would be developed under American rule. The showing which our *Sacramento contemporary* makes is 'certainly well cal-