

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY
THE DESERET NEWS COMPANY.

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WEDNESDAY, - MAR. 23, 1881.

FATHER GAVAZZI AND FOOLISH PARENTS.

FATHER GAVAZZI, the famous Italian patriot, orator and evangelist, delivered an address on Sunday evening in the M. E. Church on the rise and progress of the "Free Christian Church in Italy." The building was packed with persons of various views and denominations, and close attention was paid to the discourse. Father Gavazzi is a natural orator and a skilful actor. He is about 72 years of age, and wears his long gray hair pushed back behind his ears. His voice is deep, sonorous and flexible, his face mobile and expressive, and his gestures odd, attractive and sometimes ludicrous and grotesque.

He is imbued with deep and implacable animosity toward the Church of Rome, which he denounces as "unreformable" and "gangrened from head to foot in every part," and denounces the Pope in unmeasured terms. He repudiates the title of "Reformer," and announces that he and his associates attempt no reform. They have established a new church to suit their own opinions, and have modeled it as near as they know how after the pattern of the early Church established among the Romans by the Apostle Paul. Indeed they take the Epistle to the Romans as their church catechism. Their creed, says Gavazzi, is a mixture of Presbyterianism, Congregationalism and Methodism, and although, as he confessed, their Church has no Apostles or Prophets, yet it claims to be an apostolic church. It has grown very rapidly and has about two thousand members, with excellent schools and a theological college, but is without funds; and although Father Gavazzi disclaims the title of "beggar," he proves himself an adept in the art of soliciting contributions for his society. He speaks rapidly, with a strong Italian accent, and frequently excites the risibles of his audience by his quaint manner and dramatic postures and gesticulations.

There was one part of his address which we consider worthy of special attention and of local application. He showed the power of Catholic influence over the minds of the young, and the folly of people opposed to Romanism in permitting their children to enter Catholic schools. After referring to the success of his endeavors to establish an evangelical school system in Italy, saying that to-day there were no less than 16 schools connected with their churches, with 1,800 pupils enrolled, boys and girls, two-thirds of whom were children belonging to Roman Catholic parents, who though Papists themselves preferred to send their children to these evangelical schools, where, he claimed, they could be better taught in mind and heart through Protestant instruction, he said:

"I must stop here for a moment to make a necessary digression. When my heart is gladdened in Italy at seeing Popish parents send their children to our Evangelical schools to better them, my heart was pained on coming to your country in actually seeing Protestant parents sending their children to Popish schools, and their daughters to convent schools. Shameful perversion! Why is it, my friends, that you send your children—Protestant children, to Popish schools? The common answer is, 'Because they acquire superior attainments under their tuition.' I do not believe it! American schools can afford all the superior attainments that Popish schools can. But it is claimed that the children may learn to read French and German from native teachers, and that they learn music, to dance, embroidery, and to make artificial flowers and other tom-fooleries. Are these, I ask, the 'superior attainments,' which are to make of your children good American Christian citizens?

But what of their moral education? Jesuits, priests, friars, conventism—this is what you give to your children, and this presented to them by those finished artists who are the cream of Popery, by those who must conscientiously believe that all Protestants, young or old, are damned heretics, and therefore it is their religious duty to do all they can, directly or indirectly, to try to convert the young hearts of your children from Protestantism to Romanism. This the way the Romish church is sowing its seed, which, if allowed, will germinate in due time and afterwards fructify, as it is doing in Great Britain and other Protestant countries. Therefore, as an independent Italian, who fearlessly stands up for truth and liberty, I am here to say, as a man not afraid of anybody or anything, that those who send their children to Roman Catholic schools and convents are not to be called the guardians, but are to be called the moral assassins of their unfortunate offspring."

Now will not this apply on the same principle, to the Latter-day Saints who place their children under the tutelage and influence of teachers opposed, conscientiously or otherwise, to the institutions of our Church? These teachers, male and female, are avowedly hostile to the doctrines and system which we have forsaken everything to establish. They have conceded the point that it is impossible to do anything with "these old Mormons," but expect to accomplish their work among the youth. What is that work? To sow the seeds of doubt and distrust in the hearts of the children concerning the creed of their parents; to acquire an influence over the tender and plastic minds of the boys and girls placed under their care, so as to bend them in the direction of modern "Christian" thought and practice, and away from the faith and spirit and discipline of the Saints. This can be done and is being done, by no startling surprises or vehement opposition or denunciation, but by stealthy gradual and almost imperceptible methods, which are not seen by the parents and not noticed by the pupils, but which have their effect and must naturally tend in the direction desired by those who exercise them.

Now if the parents have lost faith in "Mormonism," and see no special beauty or divinity in it, we have nothing to complain of in this direction. But if they retain their convictions that God has set up a Church which is to grow into the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, and has commanded His people to come out of Babylon and be separate and touch not the unclean thing, with what consistency or propriety can they place their children under the influence of the sects which they understand to be part of Babylon, and in the care of men or women whose mission is to draw away the children from the Church of Christ and its institutions?

These parents have separated themselves from the creeds and systems of men, declaring them to be part of apostate Christendom and doomed to destruction, and yet put their tender offspring under the tutelage and power of the advocates of the very errors which they repudiate themselves. This is more than inconsistency; it is wickedness. These pretended Saints bear testimony before God and angels on the Sabbath that they know this is God's work, and that the whole world lies in error, and then send their little children all the week to be tutored in error and led away from the work of God.

If Father Gavazzi's remarks apply truly to Protestants who send their children to Popish schools, how much more forcibly do they apply to Latter-day Saints who send their children to "Gentile" schools, Papal or Protestant? They are the moral and spiritual assassins of their own offspring, and as God lives and justice rules, the blood of all their little ones who are led astray from the one strait path of life will be found clinging to their skirts!

SECRET COMBINATIONS.

It is difficult to see what the Nihilists have gained in the cruel murder of Alexander II, Emperor of Russia. The new Czar is the place of his dead father with the same power, authority, traditions and government as existed before the assassination. No reform has been effected, no change wrought in the administration of public affairs.

Not a single prisoner less toils out his soul in the slavery of Siberia, not a kopeck is paid in taxes throughout the Empire. Neither civil nor religious liberty has been advanced a step by this shedding of blood, but a sentiment of horror has been excited against the inhumanity and crime of the assassins, and the society which doubtless planned the catastrophe.

As yet no principles but those of destruction and anarchy have been advanced as the guide of the society which has been disturbing the Russian Empire for the past few years. Its name signifies nothing, and it really appears that its sole object is to break up, waste and dismember society without any formula of methods for reconstruction. Viewed in this light it is simply diabolical, and the murder of the Czar may be characterized by the same epithet.

The success which has attended the latest exploit of this secret society will be apt to stir up other conspiracies, and lead to other attempts at regicide in the European governments, which are honeycombed with schemes of destruction and pregnant with sedition and incipient tumult. One deed of terror is generally the precursor of others; for man is imitative, successful treason is contagious, and secret associations are widespread throughout the continent.

In the early days of this Church the Lord warned the Latter-day Saints against the "secret combinations" which would work destruction among the nations and would prevail even in this land of boasted liberty. In a revelation dated February 9th, 1831, this commandment was given:

"And even now, let him that goeth to the east teach them that shall be converted to flee to the west, and this in consequence of that which is coming on the earth, and of secret combinations." Doc. & Cov. sec. 42, v. 64.

It was in consequence of these secret and lawless societies that destruction came upon the ancient governments on this continent, as recorded in the Book of Mormon, and these renewed in the latter times will have a similar effect. Moroni, after describing the wickedness prevailing within those secret organizations which worked mischief among the Jaredites, the earliest colonists on the land, uttered the following prediction concerning such societies in our own times:

"O, ye Gentiles, it is wisdom in God that these things should be shown unto you that thereby ye may repent of your sins, and suffer not that these murderous combinations shall get above you, which are built up to get power and gain, and the work, yea, even the work of destruction come upon you, yea, even the sword of the justice of Eternal God, shall fall upon you, to your overthrow and destruction, if ye shall suffer these things to be; wherefore the Lord commandeth you, when ye shall see these things come among you, that ye shall awake to a sense of your awful situation, because of this secret combination which shall be among you, or woe be unto it because of the blood of them who have been slain; for they cry from the dust for vengeance upon it, and also upon those who build it up. For it cometh to pass that whose buildeth it up, seeketh to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries; and it bringeth to pass the destruction of all people, for it is built up by the devil, who is the father of all lies; even that same liar who beguiled our first parents; yea, even that same liar who hath caused man to commit murder from the beginning; who hath hardened the hearts of men, that they have murdered the prophets, and stoned them, and cast them out from the beginning."

Any of these societies that countenance murder is of the devil and will lead to perdition. Their aim is destruction, which is the work of that Evil One. God's work is to organize, create and build up; Satan's, to disorganize, dissolve and break down. One is the power of life, the other the power of death. We are approaching the great crisis in earth's affairs; nearing the time of the end. Evil doers will wax worse and worse. Thrones will be cast down, dynasties destroyed, kingdoms dashed to pieces. Secret plotters will combine their forces and many high in worldly power will be smitten to the dust. The God-given power of comprehending and utilizing the laws of nature will be prostituted to the purposes of murder and rapine, and the talents bestowed for the benefit of mankind will be turned by many to promote division and bring about social and political chaos.

But in the midst of all the troubles of the latter days there will be the gently but surely growing kingdom of our God with its saving powers, spiritual and temporal, for the humble and pure in heart. And while the world waxes old and its powers and glories fade, the heaven-born dominion will increase its strength and spread forth its influence until it shall extend to the uttermost parts of the earth, and the secret and public powers of evil will be swept away forever. Blessed is he who can discern the signs of the times, recognize in mundane affairs the purposes of the Great Jehovah, and work in harmony therewith for the establishment of the divine government which shall be universal and everlasting!

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

WE notice that some of our exchanges have fallen into error on the effects of the recent ruling of the United States Supreme Court in the Kilbourne case. They think it has sustained the right of the National Legislature to punish witnesses for contempt. The ruling is to the exact reverse. The case in question was this:

Hellet Kilbourne was summoned as a witness before a committee of the House of Representatives, in an investigation into the affairs of the District of Columbia. He was supposed to have some connection with a "Ring" that had run the District in its own interest, and he was required to produce some books and accounts which he refused to present. Continuing his "contumacy," he was ordered into the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms and placed in jail, where he remained forty-five days, when he was released on a writ of habeas corpus by the Supreme Court of the District.

He then commenced suit against the Speaker of the House and the Sergeant-at-Arms for false imprisonment, and lost his case in the lower court. But he took an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States, which reversed the former decision and laid down the law that neither House of Congress has the right to punish a witness for contempt. Congress may enact laws for the punishment of private citizens for contempt, but the courts only can inflict the penalty. An attempt was made to introduce in evidence the rules of procedure in the English Parliament, but this was ruled out, Justice Miller holding very properly that Congress was not governed by such rules nor anything else not in accordance with the Constitution. It was decided that the action of Congress in the matter was not "due process of law," and as the Constitution provides that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, that the course taken with Mr. Kilbourne was unlawful and actionable. The ruling was to the further effect that neither House of Congress has the general power to inquire into the private affairs of citizens.

Of course this ruling does not apply to cases of impeachment or of claims which either House has the legitimate right to decide. But it will have the effect of preventing the pressure which has been frequently brought to bear upon newspaper correspondents and others, with the view to the tracing out of secret matters that Congress desired to uncover. It is an important decision and tends to preserve the rights of citizens, the sacredness of private papers, personal correspondence, telegrams, etc., and will be a bar in the way of the National Legislature from encroachments upon individual rights.

THE "PROBLEM" AND ITS SOLUTION.

WE recently alluded to an article from a "Gentile" source in the Chicago Times reviewing "Mormonism" from an independent and unprejudiced standpoint. The following are the chief points made in the article, condensed from the full text by the Cleveland Herald. They show that the writer has examined the subject much more closely and fairly than the general run of newspaper correspondents:

"1. The great mass of the Mormon people implicitly and honestly believe in the divine origin of the religion they profess. 2. It is the Mormon's belief that his theory of marriage is sanctioned not merely by the latest, but also by the earliest revelations of divine will. 3. Polygamy rests absolutely upon the preference of the very persons upon whom, as a class, it most heavily presses—the women. In 1870 the right of suffrage was extended to all American citizens without distinction of sex, and it is entirely within the power of the women by uniting their suffrage with the anti-Mormon, or liberal party, to overturn the existing order of things. 'Although a citizen, she votes with her husband; she votes for her religion; she votes to rivet more closely the shackles which bind her.' 4. Nearly contemporaneous with the entrance of 'Gentile' population and influence, a gradual deterioration in the external morality in the larger cities has taken place. 5. If the Mormon does not exhibit towards his American fellow-citizens that abounding love which we think ought to exist among brethren, he has, in truth, some reason in his antipathy. He has suffered wrongs for which no redress has been given him, and broods over his injuries. These are the 'points in the Utah problem.'"

"What is the solution? Simply this, according to the writer in the Times: 'Treat polygamy precisely as we treat concubinage—as an infringement upon social law; bring to bear upon it all those influences which, by concerted and continuous impulsion, will undermine that public sentiment which alone supports it; churches, schools, fashion and argument will do the work.'"

"STAR" ITEMS.

The *Millennial Star* of February 28 announces the departure as follows of two Elders released on account of ill-health:

"Elders Edward Kay and Joseph G. Cutler, having been released to return home on account of ill-health, took their departure on Saturday the 19th inst., on board the S. S. *Wisconsin*, of the Guion line.

These brethren had labored assiduously in the ministry, but failing health demanded that they should return home. Elder Kay arrived here on April 29, 1880, and was assigned to the Sheffield Conference, to labor under the direction of President Henry Margetts, in which field he continued till his release. Elder Cutler arrived on November 6, 1880, and was also assigned to labor under the presidency of Elder Margetts, where he remained until released. We trust that the health of the brethren will recruit during their journey, and that they will be speedily restored in safety to their friends in Zion."

The annexed appointments appear in the same number:

"William D. Williams and Gronway Parry are released from being traveling elders in the Welsh Conference, and are appointed traveling elders in the Sheffield Conference."

This is an extract from a letter written by Elder Samuel Roskelley, President of the London Conference Feb. 17th:

"I take pleasure in reporting the baptism of four adults by Elder Thomas C. Griggs, in the Whitechapel Branch, London, on Thursday, Feb. 10th, and three adults by Elder Moroni F. Brown at Newbury Berks, on Sunday, February 6th. We held some very interesting meetings at the last-named place, Sunday, February 13th, organizing a branch of the Church of between 20 and 30 members, setting apart Elder Elijah Whornham as president thereof. The gift of tongue was manifested causing the hearts of the Saints to rejoice, the interpretation exhorting the Saints to faithfulness in carrying out the covenants before the Lord, for the Son of man cometh in an hour ye know not of. The day's service wound up in the baptism of three fine intelligent men by Elder Charles F. Wilcox, and their confirmation in the Church of their choice; we also visited the branches of the Church in Ramsbury and Cadby, holding meetings at both places, and preaching to attentive audiences of Saints and strangers. Elders Wilcox and Brown are energetically distributing tracts and preaching to the people in this extensive district."