

and eminent object of "Liberal" literary adulation. Verily, the "conditions" have "changed!"

Is it not about time that the decent Republicans and Democrats who have hitherto joined effort with the abusive clique that seeks to run this city and Territory and also direct in national politics, should train with their own party and be consistent? That disreputable cabal is now rejected and without a reasonable object for continued existence, and wise and respectable citizens should not wait until it tumbles to pieces, but, while they can do so consistently, take their places in the regular parties to which they rightly belong.

### THANKSGIVING DAY.

A TIME-HONORED institution in American history is "Thanksgiving Day." It extends back to the very cradle of our nationality. After the first harvest of the New England colonists in 1621, Governor Bradford made provision for their rejoicing specially together with praise and prayer.

The circumstances that led up to this event were these: James the First was on the English throne. In England religious excitement ran high. The Reformation as far as that island was concerned in its relation to Rome was complete. But Protestantism itself was now torn by feud and faction, sect and party. There was great excitement about the wearing of vestments, genuflexions, and the making of signs of the cross in service. A large party demanded the abolition of these "Popish symbols." The party is known in history as the Puritan. From these spring the Brownist or Separatist party. Puritan, Presbyterian, Episcopal and Armenian joined hands to persecute the Separatist.

In Scrooby there existed a congregation of the obnoxious sect presided over by a Mr. Brewster. The insults, outrages and indignities these people were subjected to forced them to leave the country. Their first attempt in 1607 failed. They were betrayed and the King's troops prevented them from leaving. In 1608 they tried a second time and succeeded in getting away to Holland. There they remained until in 1619, John Robinson reformed the doctrine and modified the political views of the sect.

In 1620 there was a kind of peace made with the King and the Established Church, whereby 102 persons of the Robinson congregation, now known as Independents, sailed from Plymouth on September 6. They reached New England December 21, and settled at

a place which was naturally called Plymouth. That they had great difficulties to surmount and serious obstacles to overcome no one will deny. In the spring they put in a crop, and after harvesting it, we can imagine the earnestness, the fervor, and the intensity with which these few colonists gave praise and thanksgiving to God for His providence.

In 1623 a great drought prevailed. A day of fasting and prayer was appointed in order to invoke the Almighty for relief. The people gathered and joined in prayer to the Most High. In the midst of their earnest supplications rain came, and the day of fasting and prayer was changed into one of thanksgiving.

Then gradually the custom of observing a day of thanksgiving annually after harvest was adopted. The appointments of these days were made by proclamation of the governors of the several New England colonies. During the revolution a day of national thanksgiving was annually recommended by Congress.

After the adoption of the constitution, Washington recommended such a day. Many subsequent presidents followed his example. During the war Lincoln recommended the observance of Thanksgiving day after victories. In 1863 he made a proclamation for its national observance. Since that time a similar proclamation has been annually issued, and custom has fixed on the last Thursday of November as the time. The governors of States and Territories now usually appoint Thanksgiving day by proclamation, and making it a general holiday. It is as much a national institution at present as Congress itself.

This year the day falls on Thursday, November 26th, and it is to be hoped that all will duly observe it, and remember the circumstances under which it was born. It is a day that can be celebrated by atheist and agnostic, infidel and heretic, Armenian and Puritan, "Mormon" and "Gentile" alike. The energy, the bravery, the perseverance, the tenacity and indomitable will of its first institutors should command the veneration of all lovers of freedom, progress, and religious development.

### IS IT NOT WORTH THE TROUBLE?

THE *Oregonian*, published at Portland, Oregon, frequently has something to say about the "Mormons." But it rarely manifests any correct understanding of the subject. Recently, it tried to draw some contrast between the opinions of Utah's Chief

Justice and those of a female journalist, who is known to be in the pay of a corporation to whose interests her pen is pledged, and of a faction that is interested in maligning the "Mormon" people. The idea of naming the two individuals together and of placing their utterances on the same plane, is about as reasonable as most of the remarks of the *Oregonian* in reference to the "Mormons."

In the same article, however, we find the annexed paragraph:

"While talking about the Mormons, it may be mentioned that there has been some recent discussion of the origin of the Book of Mormon which appears to add something to the stock of information on the subject. It has always been believed that the original of the book was a romance written by Solomon Spaulding an eccentric preacher, who, in the early part of the present century, lived in Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio. It has been asserted that this original was discovered in 1834, and that comparison shows only a very slight resemblance between it and the Book of Mormon—much slighter than hitherto asserted or supposed. Still it is admitted that there is similarity enough to prove that the latter was developed to an extent from the former; but there has been no exhaustive comparison, and perhaps the subject is not worth the trouble."

As the *Oregonian*, while writing on this subject, does not think it is "worth the trouble" of investigating, we will impart a little information that this "trouble" may be saved but the truth be made clear. The original Solomon Spaulding story was discovered and has been printed. It can be had in pamphlet form at the office of the DESERET NEWS. The original is deposited in Oberlin College, Ohio. It has been carefully and exhaustively compared both by "Mormons" and by non-"Mormons" with the Book of Mormon, and found to have not even the "slight resemblance" which the *Oregonian* supposes to exist between the two works.

It is not admitted that there is any "similarity" between them, and no one who has taken the trouble to compare them claims that "the latter was developed to any extent from the former." In fact, the discovery of the Spaulding manuscript was a blank disappointment to all who held the theory that the Book of Mormon was derived from it, and the *Oregonian* is sadly behind the times in information on this subject.

The trouble with most of the editors of the country who find it convenient every now and then to write about the "Mormons" is, that they do not think it is "worth the trouble" to get at the facts. Therefore they repeat the stupid nonsense that is started by some sectarian preacher, or hired lecturer and defamer like the female whom the *Oregonian* foolishly places on a par