

We have had occasion to know for years that the *M.* and *E.* had on its editorial staff some person or persons who were anti-"Mormon," malignant and unprincipled, but being familiar with the professed piety of the proprietor, we did not think he was responsible for the falsehood and bitterness exhibited continually in that paper toward our people. We now see where the blame lies and the true character of the hypocrite who controls its columns. With a Scripture text at its head every day it is one of the most unprincipled and abusive sheets published in New York, and there is none that panders more to the depraved tastes of the lower elements of that seaport city.

That professedly religious person has not even the instincts of a gentleman, to say nothing of the graces of a "Christian." His language is coarse and abusive, he calls eminent men by vulgar nicknames which he picked up in this city and which indicate the class with whom he affiliated, and he indulges in personalities which no ordinarily respectable individual would resort to even if they were true, and which are utterly and contemptibly false.

For instance, in describing President Wilford Woodruff he says, "his right ear is beginning to refuse to hear and one of his eyes is somewhat turned outward." Of President George Q. Cannon he remarks: "His right eye is also turned outward." Concerning Joseph F. Smith he tells this: "One of his eyes also has an outward turn although it is pretty well concealed by a pair of gold spectacles." There are thousands of ladies and gentlemen throughout the United States who, from personal introduction to these gentlemen, will know how false is this description and who will estimate the effusions of Elliot T. Shepherd, if they ever see them, at their actual worth.

This will show the character of the man and the reliability of the rest of his tirade. He makes out that these veterans in the advocacy of Church doctrine were nonplussed at his questions, on subjects with which they have been as familiar for half a century as with the letters of the alphabet.

And he parades his own opinions on those points as though he was an authority that should be viewed as the end of controversy, when they are nothing but old, sectarian notions that the "Mormons" shattered and cast to the winds, years ago, by irrefutable arguments and scripture citations. Even "Mormon" Sunday school children could settle those questions for him, without a trace of the hesitation and confusion which he pretends he caused in the interview with those eminent expounders of our faith, the Presidency of the Church.

As a specimen we clip the following:

"He asked how they got over the warning contained in the book of Revelations not to add to or subtract anything from the canon of Scripture. This question was like pouring hot shot into the First Presidency. Each of them squirmed in his high-backed armed swivel rocking-chair, uncrossed and crossed his legs anew, and turned red in the face; but, as usual, Smooth Bore Cannon was the first to recover and find his tongue. He said that he thought the book of Revelations was written

before John's epistles, and before his gospel, and so, although in the collection of the Bible it was out last, those warnings only applied to that particular book, and not to the whole of Scripture. Something similar to John's warning was also said in the book of Deuteronomy twice over, and yet everybody knew that the canon of Scripture had grown since Moses' time."

"If this view of the case is correct, then it is simply a question whether the books of Mormon are authorized by God to be added to the canon of Scripture. Their earthly origin is too patent, and their teachings too beastly and confused ever to have been authorized of God. The original of the books was a religious fiction prepared by Rev. Mr. Crawford, an invalid minister in Ohio, who tried to make a little money by selling them to a Cincinnati publisher. In this he failed, and afterward the book fell into the hands of Joseph Smith, who altered them to suit his own purposes, and pretended to find them in a cave near Palmyra, N. Y. This he doubtless did, for he had put them there himself for the express purpose of finding them there himself. One of the beastly revelations is that the saints should establish a boarding house, and should never charge Joseph for his board and rooms."

It will be perceived that in even the exploded Spaulding story he is not correct, giving the name as Crawford and the place Ohio, while the Book of Mormon has nothing in it about the "boarding house" or anything like it. This shows that the man has not even the ordinary information of the commonest anti-Mormon writer. His ignorance is equal to his mendacity. Through all the four columns he flounders and blunders in the same fashion and ungrammatically exhibits his vulgarity and falsehood.

We do not care to follow him further. It would be a waste of time and space, and it would be giving him more attention than he or his batch of nonsense is worth. His reputation as a first-class hypocrite is established in the East. The West will now know something of his character. He is connected by marriage with the famous capitalist Vanderbilt. It is related that when the noted man was asked his opinion of the canting Shepherd he replied, "He is more kinds of fool than any man I ever met." If the blunt old financier had added the word "liar" to his description we think it would have been perfect and complete.

SOLOR OBSCURATION.

THERE is a Frenchman in London who is sometimes referred to as the "Prophetic Philosopher." Among his latest predictions, said to be based on astrological calculations, is one to the effect that a climax to the present season of floods will be a darkening of the sun. He holds that the sun has dark and bright areas scattered over its great surface. At intervals the black spots or "rayless areas of burned out sun matter," as he characterizes them, are turned towards us. Every ten years a dark sun surface of greater or lesser magnitude is turned in our direction, causing "loss of earth heat" and a gathering of many vapors.

In support of this novel theory he cites the fact that 1882, 1872, 1862, 1852, and so on back, were seasons of great floods and general epidemics,

followed or immediately preceded by great wars. As a usual thing the earth only falls partially within the shadow of the "burnt-out areas" the Professor mentions; but once in about a century we are directly under the region of greatest blackened surface, which gives us sun-darkenings of longer or shorter duration.

The editor of the *St. Louis Republic*, after reading the Frenchman's predictions, investigated the matter, with the following result:

"Plutarch says that the year 44 B.C. the sun was visibly paler for a whole year, but the next notice of a sun darkening occurred in A.D. 358, after a lapse of over 400 years. Schnurrer's *Chronik der Seuchen* records dark days for 536, 567 and 626 which are surely not at regular intervals of about a century. After the dark day of 626 we read of the next occurring on the 19th of August, 733, which for once nearly hits Fondurad's centennial point. But the next record spoils his guess, for after August 19th, 733, no mention is made of a dark day or days until the year 934, when 'the sun lost its ordinary light and heat for months.'"

"The next event of the kind is recorded in Humboldt's *Cosmos* as having occurred in September (21 or 29) in the year 1091. With Schnurrer as authority, however, it must be acknowledged that it was exactly a century later, almost to a month, until the next dark day occurred. This last sun darkening was in June, 1191, and the next of any consequence on the last day of February in the year 1206, after a lapse of only fifteen years.

"Then again in 1241, but little more than a third of a century after the one last mentioned, 'the sun darkened and the stars shone brightly at noon and up till about the third hour.'

"Between 1241 and the celebrated 'Dark Day of New England,' May 19, 1780, there are but three such phenomena recorded, viz.: April 23-25, 1547, Oct. 31, 1716, and Oct. 19, 1762."

Whatever may be the cause—sun spots or anything else—the atmosphere the world over is in a phenomenal condition. In this section today the situation is notable. Here is the third of June, with the air sufficiently chilly to suggest the propriety of wearing heavy overcoats. The atmosphere overhead looks quite vapory and the light is far from brilliant. Nature seems out of sorts.

DEATH OF MRS. T. R. JONES.

THE death of Mrs. T. R. Jones, wife of the well known banker of this city, which took place in San Francisco on Tuesday night, will be universally regretted. For a long time she has been an invalid and has expected her own demise, but has maintained her cheerfulness and continued active in her usual pursuits. She was of a literary turn of mind, charitable and practical, and will be sadly missed from the circle in which she moved. It was in hope of relief that she went to California, but death had marked her for his own, and her remains will be brought home on Saturday. We extend heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved husband and friends, and mingle our griefs with the tears of a host of people who mourn the loss of a noble woman.

THE Pope's palace in Rome has 4,422 apartments.