

emies for they will have all these things to answer for. Exhorted them to purity of life in view of the great labors required at their hands in regard to both the living and the dead.

Sunday, 10 a. m.
President W. Budge, of Bear Lake, was the first speaker. He reviewed the experience of the Latter-day Saints in receiving the principles of the Gospel, being line upon line and precept upon precept; showed that it is necessary to become familiar with the receipt of continued revelation to enable the mind to receive without mistrust.

Apostle George Teasdale spoke of the many seasons of rejoicing of the Saints in this Stake, also of the many blessings enjoyed by the Latter-day Saints, and said that every one must learn for himself of the truth of the gospel of Christ. It is necessary to obey the law ourselves, before our acts will benefit others for whom we may administer. Each one should discharge his obligations to the law of tithing before seeking the blessings to be obtained in the Temple of God.

Counselor D. H. Wells testified to the growth of the people, and that God had blessed the land and water for their sake. He referred to the erroneous idea some have entertained in regard to the manifestations of the gifts of the gospel at home among the Saints and out among the branches abroad. Said it is quite a mistake to suppose the preponderance is in favor of the latter. The cases of benefit and blessings received are so frequent here among the Saints, and so much a matter of course that we pass them by with but little notice. He spoke of the treatment the Saints have invariably received from their enemies; believed this harsh treatment to be inspired by fear.

Elder Lorin Farr testified to the feelings of pleasure it gave him to meet with the Saints and listen to the voice of inspiration, of his acquaintance with the Prophet Joseph, his purity of life, and kindness of disposition. He knew him to be the constant friend of man.

2 p. m.
After singing and prayer, Counselor Maiben presented the General and Stake Authorities, all of whom were unanimously sustained.

C. W. Peterson was sustained as Stake Clerk. The members of Freedom Ward were attached to the Moroni Ward, under the jurisdiction of Bishop J. W. Irons and Counselors.

President Joseph F. Smith said he was truly thankful for the privilege of meeting with the Saints. Said we are all dependent on the Lord, whether we know it or not. In all our labors we are dependent on God for his blessing thereon. He gave the case of Ancient Israel; how they were prospered when they kept the commandments of God, and when they turned therefrom the curses pronounced against them as surely followed. He recalled the abundant blessings God had bestowed upon this people since gathering to this land, in moderating the climate, especially in the higher valleys, also in the increase of water, etc.; admonished the Saints to fidelity to God and his kingdom; recalled the case of Job, how God rewarded him after he had proven that the devil could not make him rebel against Him. None of the riches of the world can man take with him into the spirit world, but if a man receives the Holy Ghost, and is faithful to its promptings, also the priesthood; those he will enjoy hereafter. He admonished the Saints to be faithful, as all depends upon that, for those who rebel against any law that God has given or may hereafter give, and say they will go no further, after having covenanted to keep the whole law of God, their former work will avail them but little.

President Taylor said many principles had been dwelt upon by the brethren during this conference, all of which are necessary for us to understand. A man's responsibility was governed by that which the Lord revealed to him, as in the case of Moses and Aaron, and the children of Israel. The latter could murmur and complain and the Lord did not seem to take much notice of it, but when Moses forgot to sanctify the Lord He would not overlook it, as neither he nor Aaron were permitted to enter the promised land. The Saints should not be over anxious to assume additional responsibilities, as they will come fast enough, but to live to what we

have for the time being, and prepare for the revelation that is to come, and to sustain the Presidents of the Stakes, the Bishops of the Wards, and not murmur at them, for if they do they will go down as God lives. He invoked the blessing of God upon Israel.

President Peterson said conference would adjourn to meet at Mantle on the 16th and 17th of February, 1884. Benediction by President Woodruff.

GEO. TAYLOR, Clerk.

OPEN LETTER TO MR. TALMAGE.

SALT LAKE CITY,
November 21st.

Editor Deseret News:

The open letter to Dr. Talmage herewith enclosed was written for the New York press, and was duly perused and refused with the liberality that is customary when anything is presented in favor of our faith. The New York Times said the letter would cause endless controversy, it must therefore decline its publication. The writer suggested that it was probably "too salty" for its readers.

Knowing your independent character, and fearless advocacy of the cause of truth I submit said letter to your judgment, and if you think proper to publish it, will pledge myself to meet Mr. Talmage on the issue, either in Brooklyn Tabernacle, in some first class Hall, or through the press. And suggest to Mr. Talmage, in the language of Brother Wm. Shakespeare—

"Lay on McDuff, and d—d be he who first cries, hold, enough."

Yours, etc.,
JAMES H. HART.

Rev. T. De Witt Talmage:

Sir:—The bold and vigorous attacks made by you, from time to time, against the "Mormons" have fairly intitled you to the champion's belt, for that special warfare, and has made you par excellence the incomparable hero in your wordy battles. The action with which you have urged the nation to slaughter that almost friendless people; who after being driven from their homes in Missouri and Illinois, have again made themselves comfortable homes; is certainly remarkable, as showing the depravity of the human heart, and its destitution of those fine and noble feelings of human nature, that are so much admired by mankind. Some might suppose from the sacred nature of your profession, that you sustained the character of a peacemaker, and was governed by the spirit of charity, loving kindness and mercy; and that you were in sympathy with the sentiments enunciated in the beatitudes, by the great Teacher of Christianity. But not so. If any persons have entertained such ideas, they need only read one of your merciless attacks upon the "Mormons" to have such illusion dispelled—for nothing is more certain than the evil and corrupt source, of evil and corrupt fruit. The spirit of hatred malice and murder is not the fruit of the tree of life, but is the product of wild branches. And it is thought by the writer that a brief review of some of your bold and blood-thirsty utterances may shew what spirit you are of, and peradventure lead you to moderation and charity.

The New York Herald reports you as saying among other unkind and cruel things. "That God and civilization demand of the political parties of the day a plank anti-Mormonistic, and that nothing but the surgery of the sword will cure it." It will be self evident that your statement concerning God demanding this anti-Mormon plank, is either true or false. If it be true, you should be able to prove it by chapter and verse, and show us when where and to whom He gave this revelation. But as you contend that no revelations from Him have been received for eighteen hundred years, the revelation with such a theory is simply impossible. I therefore deny most emphatically your reckless and groundless statement, and say understandingly that God has demanded nothing of the kind. The idea is a ridiculous freak of your imagination, and has no foundation to rest upon but your bald assertion. It is a grave offense to bear false witness against your neighbor, and how much more culpable to bear false witness against God. To prove that God has made any such demand is absolutely beyond the power of any living soul,

and if he has not, you stand convicted of falsehood and blasphemy in the first degree.

If, peradventure, you have received a revelation demanding said plank, it certainly did not come from the God of Abraham and the Prophets for during all the ages when He freely communicated His will to them, on no occasion did that August Being express one word of disapprobation against plural marriage. It must therefore be some strange God that makes this demand. These considerations force us to the conclusion that in charging God with the phantom of your imagination, you are grossly mistaken and have displayed both ignorance and folly. But does not civilization demand this Anti-Mormon plank? Ah, yes, the civilization of the age is a paragon of inconsistency, and makes strange demands, and strange bedfellows. It nearly chokes itself straining at the polygamic gnat, while it follows the Cyprian and Sodomite camel almost without an effort. It is the opinion of many thinking men that the condition of Christendom is fast approximating the civilization of Sodom—Justice Brady of this city said not long since, that if it were not for the police, New York would soon be as bad as Sodom and Gomorrah, in fact it was nearly as bad now. A civilization that has grown up around your churches, that can boast of one saloon for each 150 persons, gambling dens out of number, and houses of ill-fame on nearly every street, is a sorry jade to demand a thing of this kind. You are not ignorant of these evils and a thousand more of like character that flourish under your corporations, invade your churches, permeate your Christian homes, and spread their poisonous miasma throughout the land, and a thousand fold more in Brooklyn than in Utah, then why not stop howling about the sins of the latter and commence to clean up your own platter?

In your Friday evening lecture it is said you waxed eloquent, and wrestled mightily with a gigantic error, from which you drew conclusions and passed judgment, that do credit neither to your head nor heart. In a fit of assumed anger and alarm you announce 23,040 Mormon converts in six months, for which statement there is no foundation in fact. Cut off one cipher, and the figures will give the number of births for the six months, namely, 2,300, in round numbers. The figures had no reference to the increase by missionary efforts, but simply the statistics of births. And the figures you gave were just 20,740 too many; you therefore misrepresented figures as well as facts. And what becomes of the thunder and lightning and moral dynamite that you discharged on the strength of this erroneous statement, and these exaggerated figures? Following up this ridiculous error you ask: "How long can we allow this organized crime in Utah to progress at the rate of 20,040 increase every six months?" Just keep yourself cool, Mr. Talmage, cut off one cipher, get some one to fan you, and get down to the real facts in this Mormon problem, and you will find there is no immediate danger, for these juvenile Mormons your figures represent are all under eight years old, and not supposed to be very dangerous.

In conclusion it will be proper to notice the culmination of your pulpit eloquence, the object of your fervent prayers—the consummation you so devoutly wish, "the surgery of the sword," and the extirpation and destruction of the "Mormons" by brute force! Would it not be a grand spectacle to the enemies of free speech and liberal government to see General Phil. Sheridan in the role your depraved instincts would place him, booted and spurred, mounted and armed, trailing the flag of our Union through your filthy pool of bigotry, and leading the army of this great nation against a few thousand non-combatants in the Rocky Mountains, who being commanded by the Almighty to build Temples are forbidden to shed men's blood? Have you not read that those who take the sword shall perish with the sword? And what have these people done that they should be sacrificed to the Moloch of your intemperance and bigotry?

The Omaha Herald of March 28th says: "The Mormons as a religious body, exceed every other religious body in these States, in morals, peaceful industry, and honesty in their religious belief. They have no paupers, no poor houses, no houses of ill fame, no drinking saloons, and no law suits for collecting

debts among themselves." Now tell me Mr. Talmage, for which of these characteristics would you kill them? But you will say it is not for any of these things, but because of polygamy. Well, there are 12,000 polygamists in Utah, according to the last report of the United States Commissioners of that Territory, and you want them all killed off to save their souls. If you are authorized to kill polygamists you need not incur the trouble and expense of going to Utah to find them. Brooklyn and New York could furnish all you will be able to murder comfortably. In fact, these Christian cities could outnumber Utah ten times over and still have many to spare. They may not call them wives, but the pious rascals cohabit with them all the same. The offspring are too often slaughtered in the Tukesbury style, prenatal and otherwise, but that is of no particular consequence, as Mr. Toots would say. This is all agreeable to your Christian civilization. All this can be tolerated, and what is worse a thousandfold, but these "Mormons" must go, for they are pestilent fellows, and unless we kill them off they will take away our congregations and our means of living.

As evidence that other persons regard your utterances as sanguinary, a menace to popular government, dangerous to society, and under certain contingencies dangerous to yourself I quote the New York Evening Post as follows: "The Reverend Howard Crosby, a year or two ago if we remember rightly, was disposed to try the sword on the Mormons, and now the cruel and blatant Doctor Talmage of Brooklyn, wants to have General Sheridan sent out to slaughter them all as the only way of putting down polygamy, and strongly urged this policy from his pulpit last Sunday. If he is wise, however, he will drop this view, because if the practice of suppressing disagreeable people by 'the sword' should ever creep into American life, he himself would certainly perish by violence. Thousands in this city already favor the use of the army against him, and are only restrained by that general peaceableness and humanity of the American character which he is trying to break down." It will be seen by the above, and by many other journals that your clamor for the blood of the Latter-day Saints, is disapproved and condemned by thoughtful and right-minded men, which should teach you to abandon your Gospel of gunpowder, and the sword, and learn from Col. Robert Ingersoll or some other humanitarian, the gospel of humanity.

Yours, very truly,
JAMES H. HART.

SPICKS OF SPICE.

A woman has challenged Robert Ingersoll to a discussion, and he has crawled off.

Tooters of brass instruments are the banditti of American villages. —New York News.

When a man kicks a can of nitroglycerine he gets a large amount of information, but so suddenly that it does him no good. —N. Y. Herald.

A woman at Racine was cured of color-blindness by having her skull fractured. She had lived with a man 22 years without suspecting he had a red nose.

The season of the year is near at hand when Boston young ladies cannot go out of doors without some suffering, on account of the trees appearing in bare limbs.

Some wag perpetrated a joke upon Rev. Mr. Bell, of Chambersburg, Pa., Sunday, by placing among the notices to be read from the pulpit an announcement of a minstrel performance.

"There are some things as old as the hills, anyhow," said Uncle Reuben. "What are they?" asked his niece. "They are the valleys between 'em, child," solemnly answered the old man.

Somebody has brought home from Europe an opera cloak made of light fur and lined with quilted satin. people have no idea what a nice garment this is until they hear that it cost \$2,300.

An inveterate wag seeing a heavy door nearly off its hinges, in which condition of negligence it had been left for some time, observed that when it had fallen and killed someone it would probably be hung.

"Do you ever gamble?" she asked, as they sat together, her hand held in his. He replied: "No; but if I

wanted to now would be my time." "How so." "Because I hold a beautiful hand." The engagement is announced.

"Good morning, Mr. Brown, how are you?" "Nod ad all well thag you. I've a fearful code id by 'ead." "It's a strange thing about colds isn't it?" "How do you head?" "Why, they always settle in the weakest place." —Ex.

"You look tired, Todd," said a friend to the inimitable Marquis as he emerged from the First National Bank yesterday, mopping his Websterian brow with a red bandanna. "Shouldn't wonder," answered Todd, "I've been lifting a mortgage." —Butte Union.

A lady returning home later than usual, found her little girl three years old, in bed. The latter was asked: "Lillie, have you said your prayers?" "Yes." "Whom did you say them to, Lillie?" "There wasn't nobody here to say them to, 'so I said 'em to God."

Enquirer: You want to set Mr. Snaggs and his next door neighbor to fighting. Easy enough. Some dark night just take a load of ashes and oyster cans and dump them in Snaggs' back yard. He'll lay it to his neighbor and sling 'em over the fence. The neighbor'll be madder than a candidate for office beaten by one vote, and will sling 'em back. Then things will hum; law suits, pulled noses and bloody heads will result, and you can sit back and see the fun. —N. Y. Post.

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