

EDITORIALS.

ABIDE IN THE COVENANT.

In the latest Epistle of the First Presidency, the attention of the Latter-day Saints is called to the word of the Lord, given soon after the organization of the Church, saying: "I will prove you in all things whether you will abide in my covenant even unto death, that you may be found worthy; for if ye will not abide in my covenant, ye are not worthy of me." This decree of the Almighty is for the wisest of purposes. Those who attain to the great exaltation prepared for the righteous must be tested to see if they are worthy.

The crown of eternal lives, the glory and dominion of which have been measurably revealed to the Saints, is of such inestimable value that all earthly things fade into nothingness in comparison. Wealth, property, comfort, the praise of men, the honors of this world, the pleasures of mortality are counted as dross in the light of the eternal riches that will be the sure inheritance of the true and faithful. The trials through which those who endure unto the end may have to pass, the shame, the contumely, bonds imprisonment, bodily pain, mental anguish, an ignominious death, can all be borne with equanimity by those who have the assurance of the great reward.

How can any one be counted worthy who has not been put to the test? And how can the unworthy who appear to be worthy, be relegated to their own place until their failure to endure is proven to themselves and their associates as well as to the Eternal Judge of all? The ordeals we have to face are intended, because they are necessary. At intervals in the history of this Church these testing times have come upon us. They purify the people. They cause the true to cling closer to the Lord and put away evil from their hearts and homes, and they purge out the hypocrite and the traitor. They thus cleanse the individual and the community. In times of peace and ease, warnings are always given of the periods of trial approaching. They come in great plainness, yet they are often unheeded, and therefore many are overtaken unawares, as they will be when the Lord shall come suddenly to His temple, although the cry has gone forth "Behold the bridegroom cometh!"

Nothing that the Saints are now enduring should be surprising after the warnings that have been given by the leaders of the Church for many years. And we need not imagine that they are over, or that they are all comprehended in the few sufferings which a few of our brethren and sisters have undergone through the vindictive action of courts and officials. We are to be proven in "ALL THINGS." Shall we "abide in the covenant?" that is the question. It all depends on this. If we falter, if we turn aside, if we try to excuse ourselves, if we value the opinions of men rather than the interests of the kingdom, if we do not abide in spirit, in act, in our whole life and being with all we have and all our powers, in the holy covenant we have received, we cannot obtain the fulness of celestial glory, because we shall have shown ourselves to be unworthy.

Let this be remembered, in every trial and difficulty through which Zion may be required to pass: We must expect opposition. We must be ready to meet all that may come. Life is nothing, death is nothing, compared to the glory of the gift of endless lives, of perpetual increase, of boundless opportunities, of joys supernal, of eternal dominion in the society of the Gods. At the little trials of the present era we can afford to smile. They are trifling compared to what the Church has passed through, they are small indeed compared to those that are yet to come. But strength will be as our day, and the Lord, who has decreed that these testings shall come, will give us breathing time and opportunities to renew our strength and take courage. There is no need to fear.

Offenses must come for our trial. But woe unto them by whom they come. It had been better that a millstone were hung round their necks and they had been cast into the depths of the sea, than that they should have sealed their own damnation by wilful acts of injustice and wrong against the anointed of the Lord. But we must not indulge in revengeful feelings, to say nothing of acts of retaliation. Patient endurance is required in the test of the Saints. And if they can maintain the spirit of kindness, calmness and meekness in the midst of their oppressions it will be counted unto them for righteousness.

But there is a duty imposed upon them by the Almighty in the midst of their afflictions. It is that a record of the evil-doings of their enemies shall be kept. That all the sufferings and abuses, the damages to person and property, the names of all who take part in oppressions, and the nefarious and murderous impositions practiced upon the people may be recounted and presented to the heads of government. This, we are told, should be attended to with great earnestness, and the word of the Lord is: "Let no man count them as small things for there is much that lieth in futurity pertaining to the Saints which depends upon

these things." (See Doc. & Cov. Section cxxli).

There is a great deal connected with the present assault upon the liberties of the people that should be recorded. Affidavits should be made of the depredations of Marshals, the unjust and unprecedented examinations before Commissioners, the vile and insulting questions before grand juries, the wrongs imposed upon witnesses, the abuse of women and children, and numberless wrongs that need not be mentioned. These should all be noted and testified to in writing, attested by a notary or some other person having a seal and authorized to take acknowledgments.

In order to gain the help of the Mighty One, we must attend to all our duties and hearken to all His counsels. These chastisements are for our good and the benefit of His cause, and when they are over we will see how He has overruled all for His glory and our exaltation. Be of good cheer, Latter-day Saints. Fret not because of evidences. Let the trial of your faith work patience. Put the kingdom first in your affections. Let principle, not passion, rule you. Be diligent in every duty, and whatever comes, abide in the covenant, even unto death, if necessary. And when these present clouds clear away, as they will, you will see how the hand of the Almighty has been over all, and your joy that you endured in the covenant and are counted among the worthy, will be inexpressible and eternal.

A REVOLUTIONARY ELEMENT.

THE increasing struggles between labor and capital, combined with the socialistic agitations that are causing widespread commotion, are of broader and deeper significance than is generally attributed to them. They indicate the inauguration, before long, of a revolutionary epoch of terrible portent. For ages the ruler and the capitalist have held the reins of power. They have wielded the sceptre, as a rule, with an unscrupulous and unmerciful hand, selfishness being the controlling incentive to action. After long ages of abuses and oppressions that have verified the saying of the Scottish bard, that: "Man's inhumanity to man, makes countless thousands mourn," the turning point has come. The signs of the times say plainly to him who reads them aright, that the masses are the masters of the future. No earthly power can prevent it. They have struck the key to their prospective power—organization. Solidified by that process they are as resistless as the ocean tide. If they continue to progress in that direction they will sweep down all opposition as straws before a flood. It is not to be expected that, as they begin to feel a growing power increasing in their hands, they will exercise it with greater magnanimity than their former masters have done. Strikes and boycotts are but the incipient symptoms of open violence in the enforcement of their decrees. Force has already been resorted to some degree and an application of it is sure to extend. Meeting it by the same means may check its earlier stages, but so soon as the masses become sufficiently aggravated in temper and intelligently aware that on that ground they are, in a combined capacity, invincible, bloody operations will extend until the most woful condition will be inaugurated. If there is a pacific solution of the labor and socialistic question, now a striking feature of the times, it has not yet been enunciated. It is no longer a one-sided issue, a portion of the power being already in the hands of the masses. It is no longer monopolized by the rulers and capitalists. A struggle for the mastery must continue until one side or the other is victor, or both are destroyed by the varying phases of the gigantic controversy.

This Republic bids fair to be one of the chief battle grounds of the fight. It presents a fruitful field for the combatants on either side. The fact that the civil authorities have, even so far as the dispute has proceeded toward the ripening point, been insufficient to cope successfully with the disturbances that have grown out of it, is a discouraging symptom. The intervention of the military has been necessary. But even that force may yet be found to be a featherweight in opposing the operations of the masses. In a great crisis dependence would have to be solely placed in the national troops, as it would be discovered that the States' militia would soon exhibit their sympathy for the side of the bulk of the people. It augurs poorly for the safety of a Republic when it becomes necessary to introduce the military wing of the government to preserve the peace of the country and prevent internal uprisings.

CLASS DISTINCTIONS.

A THOUGHTFUL parent, solicitous for the welfare of his own children and those of others has a communication in to-day's News over the signature of "Inkbotle," in which he calls attention to a practice lately adopted by a morning paper of this city, which he and many other good citizens are by no means prepared to endorse. The custom

which arouses his apprehension is that of aping and pandering to the ways of Babylon by publishing in a commendatory manner the details of social gatherings of various titles held about town, including the names of those who attend them, and alluding to the latter as "society people." We shall not attempt to answer our correspondent's questions as to who are entitled to the distinction of "society people." Being opposed to class distinctions among the Latter-day Saints, the News never makes use of this term, not that of "our best families," "the upper ten," or any such expressions as would indicate that such distinctions exist or were desirable. We do not wish to impugn the motives of our enterprising cotemporary in encouraging card parties and such other convivial gatherings as are usually attended by persons of various creeds and grades of respectability, and tickling the vanity of those who attend by publishing their names and alluding to them as "society people," but we have no hesitancy about expressing our condemnation of such a practice, for we feel assured that it will lead to evil. To be convinced of the demoralizing effect of such parties, one need only carefully scan the names and inquire into the character of those who frequently attend them. However harmless the nature of the games indulged in at such parties, the indiscriminate association of "Mormon" and non-"Mormon," innocent and designing, chaste and immoral, cannot be otherwise than bad in its results, and they ought to be frowned down and discouraged by Latter-day Saints generally, and every publication that claims to be in the interest of morality. And we would advise our correspondent and all others who value the purity of their sons and daughters, to keep them from the contaminations of all such badly-mixed gatherings.

We cannot help viewing with apprehension any departure among the Latter-day Saints from the primitive innocence, genuine sociability and absence of style which characterized the early social gatherings of these valleys. Would that we could see a complete return to those old customs so far as the Latter-day Saints are concerned. Would that the barriers between the pure and impure, between Zion and Babylon, might be rendered stronger and if possible impassable, but that class distinctions among the people of God, and any tendency thereto, might be abolished entirely.

DODGING THE ISSUE.

WITH its common shuffling and prevarication the Tribune tries to wiggle out of its position in regard to the three young men who declined to sign the conspirators' petition to Congress for the disfranchisement of all the "Mormons." It says now, "We claim no right to force any one's opinions or action on this or any other question." Yet it still calls the young men "disloyal" because they would not sign the petition, and is using all its blackguard influence to get them discharged from their employment in consequence of their refusal. Its idea of "loyalty" is acquiescence in all its schemes and deviltry, and failure to endorse anything it favors is sufficient evidence of "disloyalty to the nation." The liberty which it shrieks about is freedom to abuse everything "Mormon," but not to disagree with any of its projects.

A few plotting villains want to get hold of the local offices and the money of the tax-payers, and the only chance for them to succeed is to procure the disfranchisement of everybody who will not vote for them. Their rapacity is only excelled by their ineffable impudence. Their memorial is an expression of both. And their organ is so loud because three young men employed at the Post Office declined to support this most damnable scheme, that it seeks to injure them personally. If this is not trying to ruin where it cannot rule, what is it?

The Tribune says we have dropped the Bergen hall case to take up this matter. We made our argument on the bail question, which proved beyond dispute that on the Tribune principle the Bergen hall was excessive. But it is of no use to wander off into side issues and follow the track of a journalistic serpent that never pursues the straight path in a controversy. Both in the Bergen case and the case of the three young men the Tribune representative of pot-house "loyalty," dodges the point in question, switches off into a side track, tries to divert attention from the main subject and throws mud. When we have made our point there is no necessity to waste time and space on vain repetitions and inappropriate chattering.

INTERESTING TO SHEEP MEN.

THE call to the wool growers of Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho and Nevada, which appears in our advertising columns is worthy of special notice. A mass convention is appointed for Monday, May 3rd, at 10 a.m. in this city. All wool growers and wool dealers are interested in the subject which will then be discussed.

The Morrison bill, which is shortly to come before Congress, proposes to put wool on the free list. The reduction of the tariff on wool has already dam-

aged the sheep interest considerably, and the admission of foreign wools into this country free of duty will ruin it in many places entirely.

It may be for the greatest good of the greatest number that American wool growers shall be brought into competition with foreign producers. If woolen goods would thereby be sensibly cheapened, the masses of the people would be measurably benefited. But it is not sure that this would be the result of such a reduction in the price of the raw material as would be occasioned by placing it on the free list.

It is quite likely that the chief profits would go to the manufacturers. It is in their interest that the change is proposed. What would be a rich thing for them would be a poor thing for the sheep men. The latter cannot well compete with the foreign wool men who have the advantage of cheap labor and low value of the stock.

The sheep industry of the United States has grown into large dimensions under the limited protection which the tariff has afforded, but if that is withdrawn under present circumstances the sheep interest must decline and disaster overtake many people.

The object of the meeting is to take action so as to bring this matter properly before the attention of Congress and to protest against the proposition in the Morrison bill. Everybody who is engaged in the wool-growing industry should be present or be represented at the Mass Convention.

THE LETTER STEALING.

A SPECIAL from Washington to the Salt Lake Herald announces that the Best-Fordham letter stealing matter is to be officially investigated. Other cases of tampering with the mails will also be the subject of inquiry. This is so far satisfactory. People who have cause for complaint should prepare themselves with facts and data to present when the investigation takes place. The times when lost letters were posted, and all known particulars should be noted, so that the cause of their disappearance may be traced and the letter thieves if possible be brought to grief.

In referring to this matter a few days ago we spoke of a letter mailed at a Post Office in Idaho, which had failed to reach its destination in this city and said it was not known whether the fault was on the Utah and Northern, the Utah Central or the Salt Lake Post Office. We have since learned that the letter has been recovered and that the fault in that case was not with either. Postmaster Browe exerted himself with praiseworthy diligence to obtain light on the matter, and we take pleasure in stating that no blame whatever can be attached to his office in relation to it. As the District Attorney is fascinated with the work of pursuing the "Mormons" and has neither time nor inclination to notice the robbery of the United States mails, it is gratifying to learn that the Postmaster General intends to probe the matter to the bottom.

THE PARDONING OF PRISONERS.

THE action of Governor Murray in extending executive clemency to a number of inmates of the penitentiary yesterday created considerable interest. The step was not taken prematurely, the reasons for it having been carefully and attentively considered. An exceedingly large number of petitions for pardon of different convicts had been before him for a long time. He was about to step out of office, and he felt it to be but justice to his successor that he should dispose of those applications in some shape, and not leave them as a species of "unfinished business." In disposing of them he discarded those that did not, in his opinion, present reasons of sufficient force to justify the interposition of the pardoning power, and after a due consideration of all the points for and against, acted upon the remainder. The Governor did not act precipitately, and not without some apprehension lest he might make mistakes. If he has committed any errors in his recent action they are entirely unintentional. Besides the strength of the points presented in the applications, those taking part in behalf of most of the applicants have been generally persons of more or less influence, including Judges, District Attorneys, members of the bar, U. S. Marshal and others.

Probably the most interesting case of any of those on which the clemency of the Territorial executive was exercised was that of John Emerson. Many people have all along believed in his innocence, and others had grave doubts as to his guilt. Among those who became convinced of his innocence were Bishop Clawson and Mr. Nicholson, who arrived at that conclusion after a close examination of all the facts. They, with Judge Hoge and others, made strong efforts toward obtaining his release.

The effect on Emerson when first notified of the action of the Governor was indescribable. The other seven had been notified in the afternoon in relation to their having been pardoned, causing him to get the idea that his case had not been favorably

acted upon. In consequence he completely broke down. Later the two gentlemen named as having interceded in his behalf, arrived at the penitentiary. Emerson was brought out and the news of his pardon conveyed to him. He tried to speak, and after a great effort said: "This is the happiest day of my life." His face began to work with the influence of powerful emotion, and the tears ran down his face like rain. Finally, in broken accents he said: "Gentlemen, I have been in this place nearly six years, and I declare before God I am innocent; I am innocent; I know nothing about that crime for which I was put here." Then he broke down altogether and sobbed and cried like a child. Mrs. Dow, a sympathetic, kind hearted lady, was so overcome by the spectacle that she could not refrain from weeping, and the few other spectators of the dramatic incident were also greatly affected.

It is a matter of great regret that some of those who were pardoned should have so far forgotten the kind act of the Governor as to disgrace themselves by getting into a drunken row last night in a place of ill-repute. Such conduct is disgusting and reprehensible. It should be remembered, however, that this incident should not be used as reflecting upon the Governor for the interposition of his clemency, as the conduct of these men last night has no bearing upon the reasons for his action. It was based solely on facts and representations connected with the crimes for which they were held in durance.

PAYING THE LEGISLATORS.

THE rule or ruin clique are endeavoring to raise a breeze over the payment of the members and officers of the Legislative Assembly from county funds. It appears that Salt Lake and Weber Counties have already made appropriations for this purpose, and other counties will probably do likewise. The matter has been duly considered by the County Courts where the payments have been made, and the legality as well as the justice of the movement has been decided upon.

We do not think that any person, unless influenced by one-sided, vindictive and party motives, would offer the least objection. The Legislative Assembly was composed of members elected by the people in the various counties and legislative districts. They were the servants of the people. They discharged the duties of their office to the satisfaction of those who voted for them—the large majority of the citizens. They labored faithfully during the time allotted by law. They passed such measures as were desired by their constituents. They lost money in performing this work. The meagre salary of four dollars a day was, in most instances, far below the value of their time, and they served the Territory at a pecuniary loss even with the payment of their dues.

To compel them to work for nothing and board themselves would be gross injustice. The attempt to do so was the work of a few malignants who made Governor Murray their tool. They succeeded apparently for a time. Because the legislators could not be browbeaten into bowing down to the dictates of that clique of conspirators, a paltry revenge was attempted, worthy of its authors. A clause in the Congressional appropriation bill of 1875, which only related to that measure and had no application to any future appropriations, was wrested to affect the appropriation of 1885, and the petty schemers rejoiced that the members of the Legislature of 1886 were robbed of their just and lawful wages.

Some of the county courts have come to the rescue. We hope the rest will imitate the good example. What is proper in a few instances is right for all. In 1876, Salt Lake County and a few others paid the members and officers; Weber and some other Counties were not then liberal enough to do so. This time we hope the movement will be general. There is no reason why it should not be so. There is no law to prevent it. The money is the people's and the people, by their lawfully elected officers, have the right to use it for legitimate public purposes. When the amount is recovered from the United States Treasury, as we have no doubt it can be if proper steps are taken and due diligence used, it can be paid back to the counties that have advanced the funds. There is no intention to pay the legislators any compensation beyond that which is fixed by law, that is, four dollars per day. There is no earthly reason why they should not have that, and only carping objectors and rancorous malcontents will attempt to make a fuss about it.

If the members should receive their pay, the officers no less should receive theirs. They were employed to do certain work for a fixed sum. They earned their wages and are entitled to them. It was a public service and should be paid out of public funds. The scheme to deprive them of their salaries was an attempt at robbery and ought to be frustrated. Let them have their pay, and then let the dishonest growlers get it back from them if they can.

The county courts have power conferred upon them by law, "to direct the use or disposition of the property" of each county "as the interests of its inhabitants may require." It is in the interests of the inhabitants to be represented in the Legislative Assembly.