

THE DESERET WEEKLY,

PUBLISHED BY
THE DESERET NEWS COMPANY.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Per Year, of Fifty-two Numbers, . . . \$2.50
Per Volume, of Twenty-six Numbers, . . . 1.50
IN ADVANCE.

CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Saturday, . . . April 4, 1891.

FIGHT FAIRLY.

ONE of the peculiarities of newspaper attacks on "Mormonism" is that its advocates are not permitted to define its principles, but its opponents claim the right to say what it is and then make war upon their own creations. This is particularly characteristic of its local enemies. By this method, of course, they have a free field and a clear sweep.

Their logic is not always convincing nor are their conclusions always justified by their premises. But when they make their own men of straw and proceed to burn them up at pleasure, a certain amount of success, in their own estimation at least, is of course of easy achievement.

But we do not see how any one of character or ability can gain satisfaction in such a course. The only thing accomplished by it is the deception of such persons who read as are unfamiliar with the subject, and the irritation of those who understand it and know that their sentiments are misunderstood and unjustly condemned.

Considerable surprise and no little chagrin is expressed at the failure, both of preachers and of writers, to make any impression upon "the old Mormons," as they style them. They remain unconvertible. All the ridicule, argument and abuse poured upon them is in vain. It is so much effort wasted. And why? Because usually there is nothing in it. Their belief is not touched. Their creed is not exposed. Their principles are not assailed. They are told that they believe so and so, when they know that they entertain no such notions. They are informed that they are under such and such obligations which they know they have never taken. They are baited and badgered about ideas that exist only in the words of their detractors. And the consequence is that they utterly despise their would-be censors and have no respect for anything that comes from such a source.

We can say with truth and confidence that we have never seen a book, or read an article, or

heard a sermon or lecture aimed against "Mormonism," which fairly stated the tenets of that system or correctly explained its objects and influences. So that whatever arguments or badinage might follow the pretended statements of fact or doctrine were utterly futile and only capable of exciting derision or disgust.

If any preacher or editor, here or elsewhere, has a sincere desire to turn "old Mormons" or "young Mormons" from the alleged errors of their faith, let him cease holding up for that faith a figment of his own imagination or a dummy of his own manufacture. Let him state truthfully the tenet or practice which he wishes the "Mormons" to give up, then bring forth his strong reasons and he may make some impression.

For it is a fact that the great body of the "Mormon" people are Latter-day Saints from conviction. They have sacrificed much for principle's sake. They love the truth. In its behalf and to its promulgation they have proved that they are willing to devote themselves and all they possess. Once make it clear to them that they are in error, and they will be as ready to throw aside their mistakes as they were to imbibe them. Show them something better and they will be eager to accept it.

But this continual misrepresentation both of their faith and their motives, confirms them in their convictions, drives down the roots of their creed deeper into their souls, and establishes the conclusion in their minds that truth cannot be invoked against the system they have embraced, because everything that is brought forward to oppose it is saturated with falsehood and heated with the fires of malice and of enmity.

Attack "Mormonism" fairly if you can, or if you dare, editors and preachers, and may be you can do some good or be yourselves convinced of errors which you would do well to part with. But your old fables and stupid vagaries with which you deceive the ignorant world are not any more believed by the people you assail than by the brightest minds of the age, and we are of the opinion that you know that as well as we do.

A FAMOUS CONFEDERATE GENERAL

THE pale horseman has been unusually busy of late, especially so, among distinguished men. The latest victim of his keen edged blade was Joseph Eggleston Johnston, the hero of a hundred battlefields. On the night of the 21st inst., at 11 o'clock he died, of heart failure. He caught cold at

General Sherman's funeral, and he had not been able to shake it off. It was this cold which brought on the trouble that culminated in his death.

Next to Beauregard, Johnson was the last of the six full generals of the Confederacy. He was born in Virginia in 1807, on Feb. 3rd, so that he had turned his 84th year at the time of his death. He graduated from West Point in 1829, and in the same class with Robert E. Lee. As a second lieutenant in the Fourth artillery he served in the Black Hawk Indian war of 1832. He was promoted to aid-de-camp on General Scott's staff in 1836, while serving in the Seminole war.

In the Mexican war he participated in all the principal battles, and was present at the assault on the City of Mexico. On April the 12th, 1847, he was breveted Major, lieutenant-colonel and Colonel, for gallant and meritorious conduct at Cerro Gordo, where he was severely wounded. He was mustered out as Colonel of volunteers in 1848, but was again reinstated as Captain of Topographical engineers by act of Congress. In the Utah expedition of 1858 he was acting inspector-general.

On the 22nd of April 1861, he resigned his commission in the U. S. army, and entered the Confederate service. His record in that army is well known. He was wounded at the battle of Seven Pines May 31, 1862. It is said that Jefferson Davis and he, did not understand each other in military matters. There were several very serious disagreements. When he asked for General Holmes' army of 55,000, stationed at Little Rock, to assist him in meeting Grant, Randolph the Confederate Secretary of War, complied, but Jefferson Davis countermanded the order. This caused Randolph to resign his place.

It is said that it was owing to Pemberton's disobedience that Grant was enabled to capture Vicksburg. Johnston did his best to avert the disaster. His retreat to Atlanta before Sherman is well known. He was relieved of his command on July 17, 1864, and John B. Hood was put in his place. From this to the close of the war, misunderstandings and jealousies among the rebel chiefs, helped considerably to hasten the end. On April 18, 1865, he and Sherman entered into a military convention, the terms of which the National Government subsequently repudiated. Another agreement was made, which was accepted at Washington.

After the war Johnston entered into business pursuits. In 1885 he was appointed a U. S. Commissioner of railroads. He has been a great favorite