

DESERET NEWS.

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 4, 1880.

FREEDOM TO WORSHIP GOD.

UNDER the above heading the *Hart* (Michigan) *Journal*, of January 15, has the following liberal and sensible leader, which coming from a non-"Mormon" source is refreshing when contrasted with the usual bigoted, bitter and intolerant utterances of the press on the "Mormon" question:

"It is not the purpose of this article to argue in favor of Quakerism, Shakerism, Dunkardism, Spiritualism, Mormonism, Catholicism, Calvinism, or any of the other religious isms of the day—only to say that while the acknowledgment of the right to worship God as men desire is reluctantly wrung in theory from all denominations, yet man is such a tyrannical animal that when it is possible for one sect or combination of them, to deny the right to others, history shows that it has been done. Look at the long interminable religious wars of past ages for inconceivable proof of this. And just now all of that same old persecution seems to be centered upon one poor, helpless religious sect, who in humbly following the lives and practices of the old patriarchs of God, so much exalted and glorified by all denominations, are anathematized, denounced as outlaws and criminals. Congressmen are trying to earn cheap adulation and glory in bursting forth in violent philippics against that despised, mobbed and martyred sect. And almost everybody rises up in holy horror and cries, why they are vile, they commit polygamy. But, hold on bigotry, intolerance, in your hasty popular, deathly prejudice, you forget that in branding them as vile and criminal, you pile up hetaombs of crimes against those you canonize and have and do now exalt and worship next to God himself. If it is such a hideous and blackening crime, Solomon, David and all of the old patriarchs and prophets of God, if not slain, and their memories perished and cleansed from the earth, should have been confined in prisons all of their lives, and then in death their bodies should have been embalmed and preserved in dungeons and chains until this day. 'Judge not that ye be not judged,' and remember that no infinite God sanctions, commands and approves a practice in one age which He is angered at in the next. 'Truth is stranger than fiction,' and man is a weak, strange and imperfect interviewer of God. Hate and despise polygamy in far away Utah as much as you please, but would it not be better if Congress would cleanse itself of the taint, treason and uncleanness with which each side charges the other, before wreaking imprisonments and dungeons upon a far away sect for believing in the religion of the wisest servant of God 'that ever lived,' and of all his inspired and saintly compeers—for in doing the latter, would it not strike at the right of religious conscience and freedom, and at the same time cast a reflection back upon and brand Solomon and all of the patriarchal hosts as criminals? Better tend to other and more important matters and wait and see. Let none say, that this article advocates polygamy. It does no such thing, or vice versa, but it states history and facts, and urges Congress and others to be consistent and not cowardly, hurl their power upon and against a few thousand frugal and industrious Chinese, and a powerless sect who a few years ago fled from the fury of mobs through a then trackless desert and wilderness to a resting place among the mountains.

PREJUDICE AND PLUNDER.

THE promise of the Savior to His ancient disciples that "The time cometh that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service" has been renewed to those of latter days. The prejudice against the work of the Lord dwelling in the hearts of such zealots will be conscientious, and therefore more

to be dreaded than that of the wicked; not that it is any more just, but its results are more disastrous. The prejudices of the sincere oftentimes arise from the most honorable principles of the mind, darkened indeed by false traditions, but when things grow out of bad passions, the most hardened will once in a while feel spasms of remorse which weaken their efforts and soften their resentments. Those, on the other hand, that arise from a conscientious, though mistaken source, are hugged close to the heart, and the most generous and compassionate natures will frequently feel a satisfaction in nurturing and cherishing a blind, unjust and frequently bloodthirsty resentment, which will neither listen to sound argument or be mollified by the most indisputable evidence of its unjustness. To this class belong many of the honorable men of the earth who conscientiously oppose "Mormonism."

It is the unwarranted, blind, ignorant prejudice of such minds, estimable in many other particulars, that gives strength to the hands of the rabid race of harpies who for plunder and profit, first by falsehood manufacture public opinion, and then seek to take criminal advantage of it. They kindle the fire, make others supply the fuel, and then warm themselves by the blaze. First amongst this class are those who are hungry for "Mormon" plunder, such who reside in our midst and who are ever looking with covetous hearts through lustful eyes, on all that the "Mormons," by thrift and the blessing of heaven, have acquired. For coadjutors they have those creatures who in every land fatten on the follies or misfortunes of their fellows, who are happiest when others are draining the dregs of the cup of misery; followers and successors of the contractors, agents, commissaries, etc., who at the conclusion of the late war of the rebellion, had grown rich through the sacrifice of multitudes and the expense of millions; whose equipages to-day shine like meteors and whose palaces rise like exhalations. These men or their representatives of this year of grace would like to grow yet more princely by stirring up sectarian bigotry and party animosity until perchance they overwhelm the "sober second thought" of the people of the United States and blood is spilt for their profit. They are they who without virtue, labor or hazard have been aptly described as rejoicing when obstinacy or ambition adds another year to slaughter and devastation; and laughing from their desks at deeds of bravery and science, while they are adding figure to figure and cipher to cipher, hoping for a new contract from a new armament and computing the profits of a siege or tempest. Yet they are scarcely so utterly lost to every honorable and humane sentiment as those who reside in the midst of the Latter-day Saints, who knowingly, wantonly and intentionally, day by day, year by year, add falsehood to falsehood, infamy to infamy, for the sole purpose of despoiling, violating and murdering a people whose virtues they have not the manhood to imitate, and whose wisdom they have not intelligence to comprehend. Of those who sincerely and conscientiously oppose the great work of the latter days, we can freely say, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do;" for the latter no extenuating plea of ignorance can be extended.

PROJECTED ENTERPRISES FOR 1880.

SHOULD no unforeseen disasters occur to cause renewed stagnation of trade and unexpected complications in financial affairs, 1880 will probably see the commencement of many of the great engineering works now seriously projected in this and in other countries, besides an energetic continuation of the works now in progress.

To commence at home, we may expect to see work vigorously prosecuted on the Utah and Northern and the Utah Southern Extension, and possibly the commencement of the road between this city and Coalville.

Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Montana and Dakota are all objec-

tive points of railroad schemes of inestimable advantage to this vast western region. In Canada the through route to British Columbia is all the time assuming a more tangible shape. In Brazil, a considerable amount of new construction is progressing.

The tunnelling of the Hudson river has been commenced, and engineers appointed by the War Department are considering whether a bridge or tunnel would furnish the best means for rapid transit over or under the Detroit river.

In the old world, Northern Asia is to be penetrated by Russian railroad lines, whilst English capitalists and engineers are working zealously in favor of the Euphrates Valley route. A line from Joppa to Jerusalem is also seriously talked of. Germany proposes to obtain complete governmental control over all its lines by purchase. Italy is preparing to make extensive additions to her railroad mileage, and pierce the Alps with new tunnels. In Africa, the French are considering plans to build long lines from the coasts of the Mediterranean into the centre of the continent, whilst the English propose to extend a railroad westward from a point nearly opposite Zanzibar.

Last, but far from least, is the gigantic scheme of M. De Lesseps for uniting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans by a canal at the Isthmus of Panama. Probably in the near future there will, in some quarters, be less necessity to excite activity than to counsel prudence and caution.

ANCESTORS AND POSTERITY.

AT the first view it will astonish most people when they consider the number of lineal ancestors which every man has within no very great number of degrees; and as many different bloods is a man said to receive as he has lineal progenitors. Every person has two parents, four grand parents, eight great-grandparents and so on, it being evident that the number is doubled at every removal, because each of our ancestors had also two ancestors of his own. When the tenth degree is reached the number is 1024, and thence, as follows, to the twentieth:

11th degree	2,048 ancestors
12th "	4,096 "
13th "	8,192 "
14th "	16,384 "
15th "	32,768 "
16th "	65,536 "
17th "	131,072 "
18th "	262,144 "
19th "	524,288 "
20th "	1,048,576 "

On the other hand if our posterity double each generation, in twenty generations our descendants will number as above stated, by simply inverting the idea and calculating forward instead of backward. However there are but very few, except those who receive special promises from Heaven whose posterity double at every generation; in fact but few can calculate that it is probable they will have posterity to twenty or an indefinite number of generations.

This is an interesting subject to the Latter-day Saints, whose mission it is to perform a necessary work for the benefit of their ancestors, as well as to lay an immovable foundation upon which their posterity can build, and who expect to continue their works in eternity, for the ultimate redemption of the whole race of Adam except the "sons of perdition" who wilfully sin to the uttermost against their own understanding of the truth.

The blessings promised to Abraham in the number of his posterity will never be fully comprehended until the light of eternity discloses its immensity. The promise made to Phinehas of the everlasting continuance of the priesthood in his family line is of a similar character. And when men who have received like promises in subsequent times to those in which the above-named worthies figured in the earth's history, obtain the fulfillment thereof through faithfulness they secure a blessing which reaches into the regions of immortality and is rich in glory and power and dominion forever.

The magnitude of the labor to be performed in the Temples of God in behalf of the dead who passed away without the benefit of the ordinances necessary to redemption, is beyond the capacity of the mortal mind to depict or comprehend. The few figures given above will give some faint idea concerning it, and may perhaps

have some influence in stirring up those who should be active in this direction to do their part in the great work which will have to be continued throughout the glad millennium.

WHY DON'T THEY "MOVE ON."

THE *Chicago Journal* has a new nostrum to cure the country of "Mormonism." It is to send a swarm of negro voters to Utah. The *Journal* says: "Nothing will so speedily extinguish polygamy as such an influx of negroes. The Mormons would flee to New Mexico." Putting aside the impracticability of the scheme, just look at the object to be achieved. "The Mormons would flee to New Mexico." How much cure would be effected by merely shifting the seat of the difficulty? What would be the difference between a "Mormon" community in Utah and the same community in New Mexico, seeing that both are Territories of the United States? None whatever. Why then desire the mere removal of the "problem" without doing anything towards its solution?

The answer is, the cultivated lands and pleasant homes of the industrious "Mormons" are wanted, and because the Saints have fled before their persecutors several times, leaving property to an immense value as a prey to the "Christian" wolves who howled for it, the same course is desired and expected now, and the people who have redeemed these wastes from barrenness and silent worthlessness, are now invited to again "move on," in any direction so long as they leave the fruits of their toil to be enjoyed by their enemies.

Here is another notion which is going the rounds of the press:

"The Mormon Church in Utah, has sent an agent to Mexico to negotiate for territory to which the Mormons may emigrate in the event that Congress should legislate so as to further interfere with the Mormon Church fiction of plural marriage."

The papers are all on the wrong track in this matter. "The wish is father to the thought." Let the "Mormons" go anywhere, so long as they deliver up Utah to the sway of those who covet its control. That is the sentiment. But all those adventurers will find that we came here to stay; that we propose to keep what we have, by the blessing of Almighty God, and increase as He may so order in His providence, and as opportunity affords, to send our missionaries to any part of the earth where there is possibility of access to the people, and offer them the message of salvation revealed from heaven in our own times and there is as much reason to suppose that we are all going to emigrate to Denmark, or New Zealand, or the State of Pennsylvania, as to Mexico, New or Old, just because our missionaries are laboring in those places to promulgate the gospel which we have received from God.

The press, determined not to obtain correct information on Mormon affairs, from the proper source—the only one from which the truth can be learned—goes on falsifying, mystifying the public, copying from one paper to another absurd rumors, and uttering ridiculous prophecies which never receive fulfillment, and thus become agents of falsehood instead of being the expositors and champions of the truth.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN UTAH.

THE biennial report of the Territorial Superintendent of District Schools presented in the House on Friday, is a very comprehensive document, which when printed will form a valuable pamphlet to all who desire reliable information on the educational status and prospects of Utah. We have gleaned a few items from the report, which we think will prove interesting to the public.

It appears that the school population—that is, the number of children between the ages of 6 and 16—at the close of the year 1879 was 34,929, and the enrollment 23,124 or

66 per cent.; that is, 66 per cent. of the entire school population attend the district schools during some portion of the year. The average daily attendance during the year was 18,076, or 47 per cent. of the school population. Comparison with the statistics of former reports shows a gratifying increase, not only of the school population but of enrollment and average daily attendance. The number of days that school was taught during the year ranged from 100 to 183, the average being 139.

There are 373 District Schools in Utah, an increase of 46 since the last report. The number of male teachers employed therein is 261, and of female teachers 248. The amount of Territorial school tax for 1879 was \$67,639 35, of which sum \$68,365.10 has been allotted to the several counties towards the payment of teachers. The average amount of the local taxes during the past two years is \$31,715 08; of building fund, \$28,348.98. Adding to this the salary of the Territorial Superintendent, \$1,500, and \$250 for stationery and incidentals, with the sum of \$75,000, a low estimate of the amount for private and mission schools, there is expended annually for school purposes in Utah the sum of \$293,515 10. The total value of District Schools' property is \$292,934.57, and of private schools' property, \$175,000, making a total of the value of school property in the Territory of \$568,934.57.

The Superintendent makes some important suggestions to the Assembly in relation to the school lands given by the Government to the Territory—on paper, but which have not been given in fact, and on the necessity of memorializing Congress on this subject; also on the propriety of passing a law in reference to the title to land claimed as school lands by trustees, on which meeting houses have been erected, so as to aid in settling all such disputes; and on the best general plan of erecting schoolhouses with their necessary accommodations, and many other important subjects.

The Superintendent gives reports from the Deseret University, also the Brigham Young Academy at Provo and the Brigham Young College at Logan, founded by the gentleman whose name they bear, and offers some timely hints as to aid for the Provo institution— which he highly eulogizes—from counties principally interested.

We have not undertaken to give a synopsis of the Report, but only to offer a few points from it as a guide to those who wish to refer to the educational condition of this Territory. When the report is printed, it will be obtainable by those who take proper interest in such matters.

The facts and figures it contains form the best refutation that can be given of the falsehoods that are circulated in regard to school affairs in Utah. We do not expect that those who repeat, year after year, the slander that the "Mormons" take no interest in the instruction of the young, and that there are no schools in Utah but those of "Christian" missionaries, will be any the less mendacious in consequence of the publication of the truth, but the data in this report will be sufficient to correct in all candid minds that see it, the impression which has been made, for the basest purposes and with the most mercenary object, that there are no means provided by this Territory for the education of its children. Utah will stand comparison with any other section of the country with similar population and circumstances, and shine gloriously in the contrast.

IMPORTANT TO WELSH AND OTHER LATTEE-DAY SAINTS.

DURING the past two years, a large number of persons who were suffering from the depression of trade in Wales has been brought to Utah, by means of pecuniary aid rendered by the Saints in this Territory. The donations to the Welsh Fund were placed in the hands of Elders Morris and Evans of this city, who proved themselves faithful custodians of the trust reposed in them. Their names having thus become identified with the movement for the deliverance of the Welsh poor, many who still remain in poverty