

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

LATTER-DAY SAINTS AND WAR.

While it is true that the Latter-day Saints, ever since they became an organized religious body, have lived in expectation that the leading nations of the earth would, within the life time of many members of their Church, become involved in war, they have desired, and have prayed to God, that peace might be preserved to the utmost limit of the time for which war could be postponed without thwarting the purposes of the Creator in regard to the changes that must come over the world to free it from wickedness and restore it to its original paradisaical condition.

War is a thing which every Latter-day Saint, imbued with the spirit of his religion, regards with dread and horror. It is a calamity to avert which the sacrifice of everything less than national safety and honor, is justifiable. Peace to a nation as to an individual is one of the greatest blessings known to an existence in mortality, and few indeed are the advantages that can offset its loss. War means more of all that good men fear and abhor than can readily be conceived save by an eye-witness; and in these days of destructive inventions it is impossible to foresee what a sanguinary struggle between two powerful nations might develop.

War means a sudden and awful death to many men; the maiming and mangling of many more; the ravishing of pure women; the murder of innocent children; the reign of blood and fire; hordes of devils from the nether regions holding triumphant carnival among the children of men. War means the quick transformation of kind, gentle, refined and civilized people into brutish beasts capable of any crime; the staining of the souls as well as the destruction of the bodies of multitudes of God's children who, but for war, would have been by the kind processes of nature, ushered into the presence of their Maker in a state of innocence and peace.

All the skill, wisdom and patience of a nation's statesmen should be exhausted before war is consented to, but a people claiming to cherish principles that entitle them to the respect of mankind, should not forget that there are calamities which may come upon a nation that are worse than war. The American people especially, with their lofty ideals of liberty, human rights and national obligations, should not forget this; and rather than sacrifice a principle whose maintenance is, in the "considerate judgment of mankind," necessary to the preservation of national honor, they should not shrink from a deadly encounter with any nation.

It is not the anticipation of the Latter-day Saints that an overruling Providence will place upon them the duty of engaging, to any great extent, in the killing of their fellow beings. They understand that their calling is to save rather than to slay; to build temples rather than to man warships; to preach repentance rather than to spread carnage. But they believe, too, that God has purposed the preservation and extension among mankind of the principles upon which the American government was founded, and that a menace to those principles by a foreign power would impose upon them the sacred duty of responding to their country's call with a patriotism as lofty and a purpose as holy as ever warrior felt.

If our glorious Union shall become

involved in war, she will never number, in all her armies, a truer, a braver, or a better soldier than the Mormon recruit. In discipline, in obedience, in patience under privation, in sound and practical judgment, in the absence of rashness, in the calm courage with which he will do his duty, and above all in his unwavering faith in ultimate results, he will prove the peer of, if not superior to, the finest soldiers in the world.

PROHIBITED MARRIAGES.

The Tribune yesterday (Wednesday) printed the following questions from a correspondent:

"1. Is the marriage of first cousins prohibited by law?"

"2. How are the degrees of consanguinity counted from first to fourth?"

"3. What is the nearest degree of consanguinity in which the law permits persons to marry?"

Our contemporary answered as follows:

"1. Yes.

"2. This can be illustrated as follows: A has two sons, B and C. Their children would be in the second degree from A, and the fourth degree from each other. You can always ascertain the degrees of consanguinity between two persons by running the degrees back to a common source, and adding them together.

"3. Second cousins.

These answers relate only to the law as it exists in Utah. In some states first cousins can marry."

Section 1183, page 329 of the Revised Statutes of 1898 prescribe the degrees of relationship within which marriage is forbidden, as follows:

"Marriage between parents and children, ancestors and descendants of every degree, brothers and sisters of the half as well as the whole blood, uncles and nieces, aunts and nephews, or between any persons related to each other within and not including the fourth degree of consanguinity, computed according to the rules of civil law, are incestuous and void from the beginning, whether the relationship is legitimate or illegitimate."

Persons related "within and not including the fourth degree of consanguinity" may not marry. The first, second and third degrees are prohibited, but the fourth degree is not, being expressly excluded from the prohibition. The Tribune is correct in saying that first cousins are related in the fourth degree, but it is in error in stating that the nearest degree of consanguinity within which persons may marry is that of second cousins. First cousins may marry in this State, and such marriages occasionally take place without a question as to their legality.

To make the matter still clearer: The first degree of consanguinity is parent and child; the second is brother and sister; the third is uncle and niece; the fourth is first cousins and is expressly excluded from the prohibition of the statute. Second cousins would be the fifth degree, third cousins the sixth, etc.

MORMONISM IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Elder J. D. Killpack Jr. writes from Oriental, Pamlico county, North Carolina, under date of the 22nd inst., enclosing a clipping from the Christian Sun, evidently a Presbyterian organ published in Raleigh, the capital of the state named. Elder Killpack reports

that the missionaries in that state are meeting with excellent success. During last year nearly 200 baptisms occurred, 14 Sunday schools were organized and about 5 church structures were built. It was the most successful year in the history of the conference, but this one promises even better. Elder Killpack says:

"We have a zealous crowd of 'boys' enrolled in this conference. Some are holding 12 and 15 meetings per week and selling from 20 to 30 copies of the Voice of Warning. In this county alone we have held over 200 meetings and disposed of about 225 books; organized two Sunday schools; erected one church and baptized 15 since December. Truly do we find the Lord preparing the way.

"Since the visit of the Apostles to the South, a wonderful change has taken place, both among the people and the Elders, especially the latter."

The clipping which Elder Killpack encloses is an article over a column in length, bearing the caption, "Mormon Activity—or the Devil at Work." The first paragraph is as follows:

"Perhaps at no time in the history of our country have the home, society and soul-wrecking Mormons been more active in their efforts to extend and establish themselves than at present. Seldom do we pick up a newspaper without seeing an account of their aggressions. For several years they have been quietly and gradually working their way into North Carolina and Virginia, and Christian people have thought very little of it, but recently the re-inforcements sent out in these states have been so numerous as to cause some alarm for the welfare of those who are more ignorant, superstitious, and easily deceived. Their purpose seems to be to place at least two 'missionaries' in each county in these and other states—and in North Carolina, at least, they seem to have succeeded pretty well in their efforts, as it is estimated that there are now two hundred of these 'false prophets' within our borders."

The article quotes with a strong endorsement, a communication written by "A Pastor" and printed in the North Carolina Presbyterian, in which the numbers and labors of Mormon missionaries in the South are dwelt upon, and in which the following sentences occur:

"It is useless to deny that we are confronted in these facts by a crisis. There must be an active anti-Mormon work done, or these sly and cunning proselyters will have it largely their own way with the very classes we are trying to reach, the neglected people who are not affiliated with any other church. Already they have made startling gains, and it is success that has emboldened them to undertake to storm the very centers of Christian culture in our state. In Franklin, es, Surry and Randolph, and perhaps in other counties in our state, they have organized strong churches, and have erected substantial church buildings. They have come to stay.

"They are actuated by a zeal that is as genuine and as sincere as that of our own missionaries to the heathen. It is part of their religious belief that the salvation of all souls under this dispensation depends upon their acceptance of the new revelation which

claim is contained in the Book of Mormon. There must be a concerted effort to turn on the light. And in this we cannot hope to be altogether successful. The mere whisper that there is in the Mormon faith a belief in polygamy will be of itself sufficient to attract to their standard some low fellows of the baser sort, and their talk of a new revelation will gull mul-