

"The 'Mormon' Church is possibly the most complete organization in the world \* \* We fear that the nature and extent of this danger are not fully comprehended by the nation at large. \* \* 'Mormonism' is rapidly growing. We believe that the growth of this anti-republican power is such that if not checked speedily it will cause serious trouble in the near future."

Now for the cure! Here is the reverend doctor's prescription:

"Any blow to be effective must be aimed at the priestly despotism. The power of the hierarchy is enhanced by the great wealth of the church. The sequestration of that wealth, therefore, would in some measure disable the hierarchy."

Isn't this beautiful doctrine to be advanced by a professed teacher of Him who gave the golden rule, "Whose platter is now befouled with the taint of despotism?"

The desired "blow" has been struck, and some of the evil effects of such infamous schemes are being felt by a loyal, God-fearing people today, through an attempt to rob them of their hard-earned property by a cat-pawed agency, instigated by blind guides and hypocrites. In the assertion that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is "the most complete organization in the world" the author is correct; but why didn't he tell us where its plan originated, knowing that experts in statesmanship among all peoples, in the incipency of their various governments, whether monarchical, republican, or ecclesiastical, from the day of Father Adam down, have puzzled themselves with this problem? Was it then left for an ignorant, deluded, despised people" to effect this most complete or perfect organization? Here arises a two-horned dilemma from which to choose: Either the wisdom of the unlearned boy Joseph Smith or the revelations of the Almighty through him. If this is not the kingdom that Daniel said the God of heaven should set up in the last days; if it is not the Church with apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers and deacons, which are necessary to bring us to a unity of the faith, then it must be of man, and will come to naught. "But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even fighting against God."

Coupled with a greed for gain is an outspoken hostility to the principles of unity taught by the Savior: "Neither pray I for these (Apostles) alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their words, that they all may be one as Thou, Father, art in Me and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us."

Because the various conglomerate sects refused to become solidified through the use of "untempered mortar" to hold themselves together, is it the fault of those who believe in the literal restoration of the perfect system? Or if we will not be "tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine," must we be reviled, scourged and robbed by other sects? So it seems, till God says, "Enough."

We will pass by "perils, intemperance and socialism," which thrive so spontaneously under the droppings of sectarian sanctuaries, and resume the vein of pleading for worldly power.

"In England there is an eager ambition to rise in rank—an ambition as rarely gratified as it is commonly experienced. With us aspiration meets with no such iron check as birth. A man has only to build higher the pedestal of his wealth. He may stand as high as he can build. His wealth cannot secure to him genuine respect, to be sure, but for that matter neither can birth. It will secure to him obsequious deference; it may purchase political distinction; it is power. Money is power in the concrete; it commands learning, skill, experience, wisdom, talent, influence, numbers. It is a modern miracle-worker. It has a wonderful multiplying and transforming power. Architecture, arts, constitutions, schools and learning have been largely christianized; but the money power, which is the most operative and grandest of all, is only beginning to be. God did not for the surrender of a part renounce all claims to the remainder. Many churches are never taught that the consecration of all our property to God is no more optional than the practice of justice or chastity or any other duty. Money is the sinews of spiritual warfare as well as carnal, and a sufficient amount of it would enable us to meet these perils with the Gospel. Money is power, which is needed everywhere for elevating and saving men. It is the duty of some men to make a great deal of money. \* \* They (sectarian societies) are kept constantly on their knees before the public, and with pleas so pitiful, so moving, the marvel to me is that when Christian men hold their peace and their purses, the stones do not cry out."

If these deluded people who are hungering and thirsting for the dollar wish to keep "constantly on their knees before the public," pleading so pitifully for the purses to be opened, we certainly ought not to object—"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily, I say unto you, they have their reward."

A paper called the *Arkansas Churchman*, says: "Our worship of mammon is as real and vicious as ever engaged the pagan devotion of any people, and that a period of spiritual eclipse of terrible apostasy threatens christendom. \* \* \* It must be admitted that there is a good deal of this sort of talk in these days. As a rule it comes from the country. The big \$10,000 a year city preachers do not take such a blue view of the situation."

With such a spirit as is manifest by some sectarian ministers of the day, and with power given them to carry out their "evangelizing and christianizing schemes," what would be the result of their insatiable lust? Lacking in spiritual

and moral fortitude, divested of charity and other graces which should adorn Christians, he declares against some unpopular religious opponent. Who can wonder at the increase of infidelity, if this may be called Christianity?

Let us see how free these religious sects are from political interference, according to the testimony of this reverend writer. He abuses the "Mormons" right and left because of their unity at the polls, and says this besides: "We are told that the native Catholics of Arizona and New Mexico are not as energetic as the Protestants, who are pushing into those Territories. True, but they are energetic enough to be counted. The most wretched members of society count as much at the polls as the best, and too often much more."

The italics are the author's, but the people mentioned by him are not of his faith; hence, why should they not be disfranchised? Read this also, speaking of a political opponent:

"He became a candidate for a second term. The prominent men as well as the press of both parties, and the ministers of all denominations, united in a Citizens' League to defeat him, but he was, nevertheless, returned to office. The union of Church and State tends strongly to paralyze some of the members of Christ."

It must be admitted that such defeats would "tend strongly to paralyze" the efforts of the vanquished, unless they were of the "hardshell" denomination.

Now here, indeed, comes a hard blow which this book gives to Utah: "Portions of the territory are as worthless as some of its people."

The writer may have been sincere in this assertion; but, while there are tracts of land which are sterile and almost valueless, there are also a set of religio-political scapegoats infesting this portion of our domain who are neither useful nor ornamental. Honorable members of all religious and other societies in Utah deprecate this circumstance more than those outside possibly can.

Such accusations as are contained in "Our Country," like all other shafts hurled at the Saints with the object of injuring them, will result in the final triumph of truth, and to the writer of the book referred to I would say, "Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth; thou art taken with the words of thy mouth."

D. T. L.

SOUTH CAROLINA, July 29, 1889.

## CURRENT EVENTS.

### Edmunds Law Prosecutions.

On Aug. 3 Deputies Vandercook, Cannon and Sprague made an early excursion to the Twelfth Ward, in the hopes of finding Mr. Hammer, for who they had a warrant of arrest. The charge is unlawful cohabitation. Mr. Hammer's family were aroused about 6 o'clock, but the gentleman whom the deputies were desirous of making an engagement with was absent from