

trol of Mormon women or use Mormon men to fill their own purses, wilfully and maliciously lied to Buchanan until they made him believe that the Mormons were in rebellion against the government. There was no rebellion and that fact was Brigham Young's excuse for keeping the approaching army out of the Territory until the President should send men to see what the real situation was. It took them about two days to see that the Mormons had been clearly in the right, and when the army came into the valley, as it did a few weeks later, it came on terms proposed by Brigham and accepted by Buchanan's special ambassadors.

Had the Mormons been in rebellion nothing of the kind could have occurred, because one of Mr. Buchanan's commissioners was so prejudiced against the Mormons that he expressed himself to the effect that he would like to see them put to the sword, and yet they were so clearly right that he had to consent to giving them their own terms in an honorable peace.

Hollister, alluding to the coming of the California volunteers in 1862, says "government at Washington thought best to station troops here." He conveys the idea that the troops were stationed here because there was danger of a Mormon uprising against the government. The intimation has no basis in fact. If I were to say that government sent the California volunteers here because it was afraid to trust them at the front, so full of the spirit of rebellion was California, I would, in all probability, be nearer the truth than Hollister is in his insinuation.

In 1862 the Mormons were just beginning to recover from the terrible scourge that had been upon them from the summer of 1854—first grasshoppers, and then what was worse than grasshoppers, the malice of lying bigots and adventurers who succeeded in getting an army sent out against them. One of the best Federal officers ever sent to Utah was Governor Cumming, and the Mormon Utah Militia kept him snowed in at Camp Scott living on mule meat without salt for months. He no sooner saw the Mormon people and the real condition of affairs than he sent word to the commander of that army that there was no rebellion. Hollister is now as he has been for twenty years an unreliable writer on all matters touching the Mormon people.

Again, Hollister is withholding something when he gives the origin of the church that laid the cornerstone on the occasion named above. The "Young Men's Literary Association" was a company of infidels. Independence Hall did not, as a matter of fact, belong to any church in the outset. It was to be an independent hall in which any and everybody who wanted to speak should have a hearing. That a lot of men who called themselves "Freethinkers" should deed their property as a gift to a church that has been working ever since in conjunction with all other churches of its kind on the continent to obtain control of the government and banish freethinkers from the country, only proves how little "think" there was among the "frees" and is evidence that, as a matter of fact, they were only adventurers who

would serve any power that would gratify their wishes.

The freethinkers of Utah are undoubtedly the most idiotic freaks in the country. In playing into the hands of the Liberal party they are simply helping to put into the control of the United States government a combined priesthood that has declared that no "infidel" or "atheist" should be "tolerated on Christian ground."

As to Iliff, I want to call attention to what I believe to be fraudulent statistics. He says the Congregational church has had 7000 children in its schools in this Territory, "three-fourths of them being of Mormon parentage." The Episcopal church, he says, has had 8000 children in its schools, "three-fourths of them of Mormon parentage." The Methodist church, he says, has "educated 10,000 children, two-thirds of them Mormon parentage." He is particular to say that in the Methodist schools the children have been "educated," while at the others the children have only "attended." At the Presbyterian schools he says "9000 have attended, two-thirds of them of Mormon parentage." Swedish Lutheran, 1000, two-thirds Mormon parentage. Baptist, 1000, two-thirds Mormon parentage. Jews and Catholic not in it.

Now, I deny the statement made by Mr. Iliff that two-thirds and three-fourths of all these children were of Mormon parentage and ask for proof. I also ask for proof of the numbers of children accredited to these various schools. Since it is all used in evidence against the Mormons, it is fair to make this demand, not because the writer of this is a Mormon, but because he wants fair play for all sects.

Next, I want to call attention to Mr. Iliff's figures on church property. In 1864, says Hollister, there was no anti-Mormon church or school in Utah. Today, says Iliff, the Congregational church owns property in Utah worth \$250,000 and spends \$60,000 annually; the Protestant Episcopal church, \$300,000, \$40,000 annually; the Methodist, \$450,000, \$50,000 annually; the Presbyterian, \$350,000, \$60,000 annually; Swedish Lutheran, \$45,000, \$10,000 annually; Baptist, \$40,000, \$10,000 annually. This makes a total of church property among the anti-Mormon churches, exclusive of the Catholics and Jews, of \$1,435,000. The annual expenses of these churches and schools is given as \$230,000.

I believe Mr. Iliff's well known modesty has led him to understate this property valuation. I believe the Methodist church in Utah would not take less than \$1,000,000 for its church property. The Catholic church owns Utah property worth \$2,000,000. The Episcopal church owns property worth \$1,500,000 in Utah. Altogether the anti-Mormon churches own church property in Utah worth not less than \$5,000,000.

The law against the holding of church property in the Territories over a valuation of \$50,000 includes all churches, and yet while the United States government, led on and backed by all anti-Mormon priests and all officeholders in Utah, has robbed the Mormon Church of property worth \$2,500,000, not one word has been said, not one effort has been made, to take a dollar from any of these other churches

Yet, as a matter of fact, all or practically all, of this anti-Mormon church property has been accumulated by malicious misrepresentation of the Mormon people!

Mr. Iliff was kind enough to say that theologies, like plows, are to be measured by their value. I had supposed that the theology of the evangelical churches was without money and without price, but Mr. Iliff must know. He says: "If the theologies make narrow bigoted souls, they are bad. . . . If, on the other hand, they make large, generous, pure souls—souls that don't slander—any church that makes such characters is God's elect." I really believe Mr. Iliff is facetious. If his own church for instance, were tried by this rule it would have to be put down as "bad," for of all churches on the earth, the most meddlesome, mean and slandering is the Methodist! On the other hand, the church that most completely minds its own business on earth, indulges least in slander and most thoroughly gives every man and woman a chance, is the Mormon Church, that Church which all other churches in Utah have worked so hard to rob and destroy for their own aggrandisement!

As to character, what Mormon Elder was ever pilloried as was the first Methodist priest who figured in Salt Lake? Dr. Iliff lovingly refers to him as "The Rev. G. M. Pierce." If the people of today want to know something of the evangel who started Methodism in Utah and prepared a soft snap for Mr. Iliff, let them read the *Herald* of Nov. 7, 1883; same paper Nov. 8, and 15; *Tribune*, Nov. 24, 1883, and Nov. 7, 1883; *DESERET NEWS*, Nov. 7, 1883, and Nov. 10, 1883.

To stand up in Salt Lake as the representative of the anti-Mormon churches of Utah and talk about a theology that has not made Christianity a stink in the nostrils of all fair-minded men and women, is to talk about Mormonism only. Mr. Iliff cannot do it! Mr. McNiece cannot do it! Mr. Thrall cannot do it! The Catholic church is the only non-Mormon church in Utah that has come near manifesting a "Christian spirit" towards the Mormon people.

If Hollister, Iliff and those who listened to their misrepresentations at the laying of yon cornerstone were for an hour imbued with that burning contempt for shame and fraud and hate and wrong that marked the young Nazarene as He stood above the mediocrity of His day, they would put on sackcloth, sprinkle ashes on their heads and beg pardon of the Mormon people, against whom they have labored and He! for all these many years.

CHARLES ELLIS.

BAR HARBOR, Me., August 1.—Mr. Blaine has been taking exercise in walking, but does not drive so much as formerly.

Is the phonogram mail matter? The customs officials of Ottawa, Canada, seized one on the 30th ult., which was mailed from New York to Holland Bros. of Ottawa. The recipients in declining to pay duty said the cylinder should be regarded as ordinary mail matter. The case has been referred for ruling by the minister of customs.