

## THE TRIUMPH OF TRUTH.

Among the evils of our times there is one which strikes the most indifferent observer, as being unusually large: it is not a particularly new habit, failing or sin, but it appears to be now out of all proportion, and yet to be looked upon as quite a venial thing.

This thing is called exaggeration, at times prevarication, this by way of softening or toning down the plain English of that habit which is known as lying.

There is quite a variety of the genus lie, some are simply an extension of the truth—exaggeration, this is most common among gossips, who color and distort or distort facts, without any serious intention of harm.

There is the "white lie" as it is called, often used in business circles, this is at times direct, then there is such a juggling with words that the person addressed is allowed to draw his own inference, which is meant to be contrary to the real truth in the case.

This might be called the lie by innuendo referring mainly to things which are not very material at best; but when it steps away from this, it often is made to reflect upon character, personal matters or intent, a quiet insinuation, a shrug of the shoulders, a significant wink speaks volumes, without either word or sentence on which to hang the fact of libel, though more may be meant or intimated than the actor would dare to convey in words.

Nothing is proof against this form of lying, because nothing is said, "a nod is, however, as good as a wink to a blind horse," and to a soul blinded by prejudice or jealous from any cause, this silent pantomimic charge may be sweeter than is honey in the honey comb!

From this cause men persons in almost every walk of life, have rested under the ban of suspicion, have suffered without any possibility of ever divining the cause; a specific charge could have been met, analyzed, disproved, overturned, but it is impossible to bring into any court a shrug of the shoulder or a suggestive wink.

It is believed that this habit has outgrown individuals and become somewhat chronic in society, at least a common reader of the daily press could easily reach this conclusion; every day and many times in one day, will this fecundity of lying exhibit itself, it is mainly however through after corrections that these untruths are realized or detected, of the vast number of statements which may go uncontradicted "no man knoweth," enough is done to make a truthful man stand appalled at the audacity of misrepresentation, the perversion of opinions and facts, and the riotous imagination of so-called intelligent men, interviewers, correspondents and others.

Yet deceived daily, omnivorous readers, partisans, interested cliques and individuals, seize upon those wicked, deliberate falsifications, and use them to further extend public unrest or private gain, as if this was perfectly legitimate and had in it none of the elements of perversion or fraud.

The old divine, when preaching in his day from David's remark, wherein he sadly expressed himself thus, "I said in my haste all men are liars," quaintly commented thus, "had you been here David, ye might have said it, at your leisure," caustic though this may be, it is far from unlikely, that truth is much

less valued today than it was in the days of the outspoken Psalmist.

The spirit of greed, of speculation, of unmitigated selfishness, is doubtless at the bottom of much of the falsehood of modern times; a rumor affects trade, a perverted fact changes the price of stocks, commodities rise and fall on fictitious reports of crops or prospects thousands of miles away, every slight controversy between nations rouses to inordinate action the manipulators of stocks and bonds, actual war would be deemed a godsend to the cormorants and vultures of society which fatten on controversy, and grow rich on the bare shadow of a clash of arms.

Wild rumors of calamity are given currency because of the ascendancy of this or that political party, and false prophets proclaim disaster as sure to follow infinitesimal and unimportant things, with all the assurance of those who come with a, "Thus saith the Lord!"

No community on the civilized earth has suffered more from this devilish misrepresentation than has this; the oldest, the best of the community have endured it for a life time, and when this consumely was transferred from individual leaders in part, the people have been denounced en masse, their religious rights have been denied, their political rights withheld, and their intentions have been so persistently misrepresented, that this nation and other nations looked upon them as the pariahs of mankind, fit only for execration and extermination.

"How this world is given to lying," said one of Shakespeares characters, and from one standpoint few need marvel, particularly where as in this otherwise favored country, there is so unscrupulous and untamable a spirit of party, a spirit which hesitates at nothing which may stand in the way of success, the more flagrant a statement the more readily is it swallowed, in the fever and delirium of contending factions, and in their lust for power.

The simple homogeneity of the Latter-day Saints first prompted in the political realm the hostility of party; and with their increase in number, influence and possibilities, this spirit raged unrebuked and unchecked until in the program of divine purpose this acerbity and opposition was in great part neutralized, and rights too long withheld were granted, each party hoping to receive of their suffrages as a sin qua non for concession.

There is really but little credit due to politicians for the present situation, the reason given above was the surface one, the real cause was the moving of spiritual force in influential circles, "that Israel my people might be free, saith the Lord!"

Throughout the entire contest, one of the influential factors in "the law delay," was the religious element of our country swayed as it was and is by a jealous, unthinking, probably, but unscrupulous class of pulpitering propagandists; and yet strange to say they should have been the most pronounced against public injustice and popular clamor; for they claimed to have the oracles, to be believers in the Bible and New Testament, which from end to end denounces lying and liars as among the most despicable of all men, and subject to retribution and penalty, because they by their acts declare themselves to be the children of

the devil, who was and is "the father lies."

The worldling, the man of no religion, the selfish rebel against morality, may rail against strict integrity, honesty and truth, they may neither fear God, nor regard man, but in regard to religious teachers and professedly religious people, no such conduct is explainable; it should be theirs to avoid "bearing false witness," to be sure of the statements they make, to so con and study the pages of history, as to "restrain from these men, and let them alone, for if this counsel or this work be of men it will come to naught, but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God!"

"The Lord hateth a lying tongue," said the writer of the proverbs, "lying lips are an abomination to the Lord" said the record; and finally declares that there is a law made for "the lawless and disobedient," and he classes with criminals of the deepest dye, such as murderers, whoremongers, mansteatous and manslaughterers, those guilty of perjury and lying, and in the revelations of St. John speaking of the penalty made for sin or sinners, there is included "whosoever loveth and maketh a lie," these have no right to the tree of life, and "may not enter through the gates into the city."

Much is said during these times about the necessity of confidence among men, and wishes are expressed for its return; it was urged upon ancient Israel "speak ye every man the truth to his neighbor," "the Church is the pillar and ground of truth," said one of the ancients, and all its parts should be of truth, for "the lip of truth should be established for ever."

Every man in Israel should be a lover and doer of truth, he should be reliable, "his word ought to be as bond," like St. Paul he should be able to say "I speak the truth and lie not," so that as confidence warns among the children of disobedience, it may increase among the Saints; according to the development of this characteristic so will be the favor of the divine, and while the politician, the trader, the false teacher, the children of the evil one, may seek to build and flourish by expediency, subterfuge and lies, their "refuge of lies" shall finally be destroyed. "Truth and righteousness are the foundations of His throne," and when "His kingdom comes, and His will is done on earth as in heaven," the same elements will enter into the foundation and make that superstructure which men will call Zion, the city and people of the living God.

OCCASIONAL.

## DOWN IN MISSISSIPPI.

SHIREY, Newton County, Mississippi, January 6th, 1897.

I left my home in Deseret, Millard county, Utah, June 27th, 1895, and have labored since in various parts of the state. W. N. Eyre, my companion, arrived in Newton Mississippi, on October 14th 1896.

As we were urged by Elder F. T. Pomeroy, our president, to hold as many meetings as possible among the people, we started out, resolved in our minds to let none of the grass of idleness grow under our feet while the Lord gave us strength to work. At first our efforts brought us but two meetings per week, the three, then five and six; we are still striving to climb the ladder of progress. Many of our meetings are held in school