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A CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION?

In one of the articles prepared for Christmas reading by a professed minister of the Gospel and published in a daily paper, it is asserted that "In 1847 there was not a Christian organization in Utah."

This is not a broad and sweeping statement, and it is made in such positive terms that it calls for some inquiry into its truth. And so the Latter-day Saints, a religious body, had repudiated their valleys even since 1847, the statement carries the declaration that these saints either were not Christians or that they had no church organization. It is not the first time that an attempt has been made to exclude the Latter-day Saints ("Mormons," from the pale of Christianity. Coming at this season of the year and on the day of good will to all men, it brings a lack of the true Christian spirit which is particularly striking.

The people who sit planted villages on that portion of Mexican soil which was afterwards called Utah, were not only citizens of the United States and believers in the material and divinity of Jesus Christ, but they were organized as the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which had existed under that title for many years. In those days were large numbers of meeting houses which were used and had been dedicated for church purposes, in which the saints gathered together and worshipped, every Sabbath day at least, in the name of Jesus Christ. This is beyond dispute, as far as the question goes, as to whether there was a religious organization in Utah previous to 1847.

But was it a Christian organization? Will we call it a Christian organization that might be different in a different way than professing Christian denominations? It would not do to let such a question determine as to whether other sects claiming to be Christians were really Christians or not. There must be some general definition which would fairly cover the ground of inquiry. Is not that a "Christian organization" in a general sense, which is formed for the purpose of promoting Christian doctrine and worship and observance according to the best understanding of its members? If so, how can the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints be excluded from the category of Christian organizations?

The very name of it is suggestive of its character. Its existence is dependent on the fact of saved revelations from God through Jesus Christ in Joseph Smith, and the corporate existence of the sons of God in all the affairs of the Church. It claims to have been set up and organized and governed under Christ's immediate intercession. Does not this give it a right to at least the name of "Christian organization?"

"But," it may be objected, "we do not believe there was any such revelation as we pretended, but that the whole matter was either a delusion or a fraud." What of that? Is belief or disbelief of any number of opponents will not alter the truth. And if they are right, the best remains that the members of the Church in question do really believe it is the true Church of Christ, that they have joined it as such, that they have proven the sincerity of their faith beyond controversy and it is known to all things to their Church in the full name, is whether they be mistaken or not they belong to a "Christian" church as much at least as the members of any other body professing to be Christian. In a general sense, then, they cannot be justly denied the title of a "Christian organization."

When we come to the question of what is truly Christian in doctrine or organization, we enter upon a wide field of controversy. What has the Catholic to say of the Protestant, the various denominations of each other as to this point? We need not go to Jerusalem where the Moslem sects only have to guard the Holy Sepulchre, and by force of arms, prevent "Christian" or opposing sects from entering such other to place on the spot sacred to the Prince of Peace, for an answer to this question. It will illustrate much easier to us and serve a better purpose in some of the articles written from a sectarian viewpoint for home Christians reading.

But the Latter-day Saints believe in Jesus Christ as the son of God and the Savior of mankind, in His divine earthly birth, in His sacrifice for sin, in His resurrection from the dead, and in His ascension into heaven as the Great Mediator. They live their faith in the present world, and attest to the near future. They are baptized in His name, they partake of His supper as a sacrament every Sunday, they have their children blessed in infancy under His ministrations, they pray in their families morning and evening and in all their public religious services, through Jesus Christ as their Redeemer. They believe that all persons must believe in and obey Christ in order to be saved, and that even those who are dead and must accept the Gospel and the ordinances and eight beatitudes, or they cannot be exalted.

On account of this faith, in Christ, they build temples where ordinances may be performed for both living and the dead as part of His plan of salvation. It is because of this that their ministers travel over the earth "without pause and rest," without salary or other earthly reward excepted His respect. And it is because of this that every good deed and mission going to the places where ordinances can be performed by His authority for their departed kindred.

Every time of their road can be accounted for by the sayings of Jesus Christ as the apostles as recorded in the New Testament, and there is not a single instance to be found in all Christendom which has been recorded as an evidence to show to the contrary. It does not appear that on the earth today that lesser critical comparison with the organization called Christian in the first century of the Christian era, B. in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as its Apostles, Prophets, Elders, Bishops, Evangelists, Teachers, Deacons, etc., still with its doctrinal and ecclesiastical institutions. And it was this Territory seventeen years before the time when, we are greatly informed by a "professing" Christian institute in a Christian article, the first Christian organization was founded in Utah.

And now we cannot further remarking that up to the time he mentions as the period when the first "Christian organization" was formed in Utah, the Territory was also without the first house of ill fame, drinking saloon, gambling den and confidence-trap. It was without fraudulent elections, and the union of professing Christians with professional political wife-givers and the other elements of society. And we must say that although Utah was lacking in many of the so-called refinements of a higher civilization, in her simplicity and purity and freedom which has followed, she is more firmly rooted and better off, and we believe while other lands and the wings man since the coming in of what we regard as conventional Christianity and all its corollaries.

But we will not take the general statement that the saints in the name of the Lord, as we say, have a want to hinder or impede their neighbors or others in their efforts to spread what he believes to be the welfare of mankind.

We are pleased at the prosperity of everything Christian, and we are sure that there is no Church in the world that more than that of the Latter-day Saints is deserving of the name of a Christian organization.

OPENING OF THE NEW B. Y. ACADEMY BUILDING.

The opening and dedicatory exercises of the Brigham Young Academy, in the new building, will be held at Provo on Monday, January 4th, 1892. We consider the event to be of importance, and therefore beg or with satisfaction the preparation under way in making the event a memorable one. A great many invitations are out, and doubtless there will be a large number of invited guests present in various parts of the Territory. The inspection was particularly violent and accompanied with several shocks of earthquake. A number of houses in the city of Collings were shattered. Even the streets were left so disturbed as to be almost impassable, many miles farther down the road. The governor of the province ordered the residents of the town adjoining thevalens to abandon their homes and move further away.

The volcano consists of two cones, named respectively the volume of snow, and the column of fire. The latter is causing the present alarm. It has an altitude of 12,000 feet. The first destructive eruption of which there is any record took place in 1811. A great deal of property was destroyed at that time. Ashes and scoriae were thrown out for a distance of one hundred miles in circumference. In 1851 a great belched out, high columns of steam and dust, and stony masses of rock, and scoriae were thrown out for a distance of twenty-four miles east in width. The tree is grey copper and is found in the lava.

The workings consist of one shaft and three timbered drifts, one above the other, and are about 1,000 feet long. The upper drift is 12x12, the middle 10x10, and the lower 8x8. These four drifts extend in an east and west direction for a distance of one hundred miles in circumference. The tree is grey copper and is found in the lava.

The building is large and commodious, being admirably adapted to the purpose for which it will be used. Its completeness and decoration constitute the leading event in the history of the institution, which stands as a monument to the foresight and philanthropic ability of its founders.

THE WORLD WE LIVE IN.

A noon-day lecture was said about the present condition of the world's health. In the majority of the states made in that regard are still, it is evident that the days of the present condition will be but few. He is very old, and his physical machinery must be so far worn down that he will be able to stand but few more of the fainting spells with which he has been lately afflicted. He has proved himself to be during his incumbency of his high office in the Catholic Church, a man of great ability, integrity and industry. He belongs to a class of characters who never run out. He holds on valiantly as long as the lamp burns in him.

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The present Pope, exceedingly anxious, is taking measures by his policy throughout. His administration and government make it to be the drift of the times, which is in the interest of the papacy, to be the instrument of temporal power. The papacy are becoming assertive and aggressive, and the logical result of the papacy is to make them the masters of the world. As a consequence, those who are affected by the papacy will be the masters of the situation. Hence the papacy will be the leaders of the world.

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